

Highlands Newspaper

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Thurs., Oct. 23, 2025

HNC's new focus is to advocate for Highlands' residents' livability

By Kim Lewicki

Two members of the five-member Highlands Neighborhood Coalition Board presented

the Town Board with the results of their 2025 Resident Survey last Thursday. It was disseminated over the last 60 days to an estimated

5,000 people through various routes. A little less than 300 surveys were returned.

• See HNC page 10



The Highlands chapter of Indivisible joined 2,700 "No Kings!" rallies nationwide Saturday protesting what they claim is Trump's gravitation to an authoritative and corrupt regime. Hundreds of people gathered at the corner of 1st and Main streets. This photo was taken at 1 p.m. Saturday.

A tale of two ... rallies

By Kim Lewicki

Horns honking in solidarity, drums beating, and people chanting marked the second "No Kings" rally in Highlands and across the nation, Saturday, Oct. 18. The first nationwide "No Kings" rally was June 14, 2025.

Millions of Americans took to the streets on Saturday in mass

protests against what they perceive to be rising authoritarianism and corruption under President Donald Trump.

More than 2,700 "No Kings" rallies were held in all 50 states in what is thought to be the largest mobilization against the Trump administration over the president's two terms.

Huge crowds were reported in Asheville, New York, Washington, D.C., Los Angeles, Chicago Boston and elsewhere. Protests were also seen in deep red states — in Birmingham, AL and Billings, MT. Some experts have speculated that the demonstrations could be the largest in modern U.S. history.

• See RALLIES page 7

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HPD arrests suspect in Sept. Main St. burglary

On the morning of September 21, 2025, All About Bagzzz, located at 374 Main Street, was broken into and burglarized to the tune of about \$200,000 in merchandise during the early hours.

Following a solid lead from the Rabun County Sheriff's Office, a detailed investigation involving multiple search warrants was launched by Detective Am-

• See ARREST page 19



Bodie Catlin, head of Highlands GOP and the "Pro Trump" faction, had a rally Saturday, too, at the corner of 3rd and Main streets in front of Applachian Harvest. This photo was taken at 1 p.m., Saturday. Three protestors left the corner to cross stand on the embankment in front of the Highlands Wine Shop.

Photos by Kim Lewicki



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• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• MAYOR ON DUTY •

There is only so much a mayor can do

I get a lot of emails and text messages about town issues. Last week, I received feedback about two events. Instead of responding to the messages individually, I am responding publicly here.

One set of messages centered around the protests that occurred on Saturday. Many of the texts were anonymous, flash messages that disappeared instantly. I do not like communications where people do not name themselves. Even at our Town Board meeting on Thursday, one speaker wanted to remain anonymous. State statutes do not allow anonymous comments during a public comment period. Speakers must identify themselves. Not so with an email communication, but neither does an elected official have to respond to or address anonymous feedback. Nevertheless, I will when it comes to the "No Kings" protest and counter protest.

Many of these messages chided me for allowing the protests to take place here in our wonderful and peaceful Highlands.



Highlands Mayor
Patrick Taylor

Several went on to state that all the protesters were coming from other areas and did not even live in the Highlands area. A few even went on to declare that Antifa groups would be here. Their fear was that these outside invaders intended to loot and burn the downtown area, and the mayor was standing by and letting things get out of control. One message proclaimed that I had even invited these sinister protesters to come to Highlands. All the false information that those people received makes one wonder where it comes from and why people send it when they know it is not true.

I first worried that I had somehow forgotten I had invited the protesters, so I checked with my wife, town staff, and others to see if I had inadvertently done so. Fortunately, they confirmed I had not. I did not invite the No Kings or the counter protesters.

I am not the Monarch of Highlands. I cannot stop people from peacefully assembling to express their grievances against the government, or their political or religious views, no matter what they might be. Even during that tragic time when Charlie Kirk was killed, some suggested I should not allow signs to be displayed in the downtown area. My conviction was that people had every right to assemble and express their concerns during that period of mourning. The critical concept in all these situations is that people have the right to assemble and express themselves peacefully. Peaceful assembly by citizens is a constitutionally protected right under the First Amendment.

Despite rumors that there may be disruptions during the protests, there were none. I want to thank the Highlands Police Department for their presence to ensure these protests were peaceful and did not impair commerce during this beautiful leaf season. And to the messenger who thought protesters might loot and burn stores in Highlands, I can assure you that our highly trained police force, in a tactical response, would do everything in their power to make sure that never happens.

The other issue that generated messages this past week was the closure of US 64 from 7 pm to 7 am between Highlands and Cashiers to replace failing culverts. The

• See MAYOR page 14

• LETTERS •

Why the presence of our military in our cities should be alarming to all

Dear Editor:

Last week I met with the congressman of NC 11 Chuck Edwards for a short conversation. I asked his opinion of the military incursion into Portland, OR, and he asked me if I lived in Portland. For a beat I was stunned, as if I shouldn't care about what was happening in any American city.

No, I responded but I have a niece who lives there. I told him that Portland wasn't burning to the ground, that the video the president was using as justification to send soldiers to Portland was from 2020. The congressman responded that he didn't believe me.

In the 10 minutes allotted to me I asked our congressman where he got his news; he told me he didn't read or watch news, but he got his news from people like me. People who called him or wrote to him or came to talk to him. Stunned again, I suggested there were numerous media outlets other than Fox News or CNN, those he referred to as the reason he doesn't watch the news.

As a military brat who grew up living on Army bases, as an Army nurse and an Army wife, I have always felt safe among military soldiers. In all the years my father served I never once saw a gun in our home, or in the hands of any soldier other than the military police in our community. I learned from my father that munitions were locked up in the barracks where they could be accessed in an emergency. There was never such an emergency. When I joined the Army and had to demonstrate my proficiency with a sidearm, I realized, with surprise, that my father must have similarly qualified throughout his career. The man who never carried a gun.

I explained my experience growing up in the military to our congressman and suggested calling on our military to carry guns in American cities and proposing they might use US cities as a training ground, must feel bizarrely uncomfortable to military soldiers. His response? None. A blank

• See LETTERS page 7

• WEATHER •

Thu, 23-Oct	Fri, 24-Oct	Sat, 25-Oct	Sun, 26-Oct
			
60°F 33°F	59°F 29°F	58°F 37°F	56°F 38°F
Plenty of sun	Some clouds, then sunshine	Cloudy	Mainly cloudy
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High: 62° Low: 31°	High: 64° Low: 30°	High: 60° Low: 32°	High: 58° Low: 40°

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Is Highlands calling your name (shhhh)?

If it is, then listen for it. What does it sound like, and how will you know? If you're here full time (aka "a local"), or own a second home here, you know the sounds I speak of. If Highlands is calling

your name, here's what it sounds like, and here's what to do.

I don't know where you are right now but let's face it, there's a lot of noise out there. It might be traffic, it might be a leaf

blower next door, maybe it's a construction site (like the Catholic Church across from our office), or there could be a protest going on at the Post Office! My point is you live around a constant decibel level of audible sound almost all of the time. It's not healthy!

When you come to Highlands, you come here for the "hush," not the rush. Hush meaning calm, quiet, tranquility, and solitude. Highlands is more of a gentle whisper than it is a loud voice with too many words.



Pat Gleeson
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Wherever you live now is not that, unless you're the one in the Corona commercials.

Here's my best attempt to describe the "hush." It's the sound of the leaves beneath your boots when you hike Whiteside Mountain or the Bartram Trail; or it's the crackle of firewood around the hearth of your firepit as you look up at the stars; listen especially to the wind at night which brings us the next cold front or thunderstorm; it can also be the long-range sound of a hoot owl at

6am when you first take the dog outside; and in the shadow of a full moon, you will hear all kinds of wildlife, especially in a fresh winter snowfall; and of course there's the ever-present sound of the black bear knocking over your garbage can. Lastly (and I say this out of 100% guilt), you'll need to discipline yourself to put down the iPhone and turn off all your screens to feel the hush, so please join me as I try to get better at this.

If you're reading this column from a building in downtown Atlanta, Birmingham, Tampa, Houston, New Orleans, or Charleston it's my job and the job of 398 Real Estate Brokers in the Highlands-Cashiers MLS to help you find a level of quietude, peace, and stillness. It's our nature to do so!

Honestly, your relationship with a real estate person is less about finding you that perfect property that checks every box than it is about finding you a level of the lifestyle you desire for yourself, your family, and your friends, as well as the quietude you so richly seek and deserve to find! Trust us, if that happens, we promise you'll find the right property!

There's a saying we have here at Christie's International Real Estate which is "come for a weekend, and stay for a lifetime," so C'mon Up! Hear it for yourself.

• Pat and Bee Gleeson along with Jessica Haberkern are proud to be with a team of "Helpers" and Real Estate Brokers at Christie's International Real Estate Highlands-Cashiers. You can reach us at 828.782.0472. Please stop by for coffee and conversation (210 N. 5th Street in Downtown Highlands).

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☐	Amy Patterson
☐	Eric Pierson
☐	Write-in
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☐	Jim Tate
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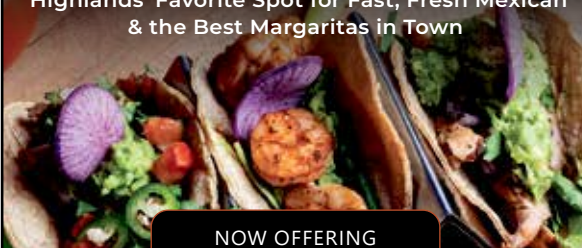
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...LETTERS continued from page 2

stare. The same familiar stare my teenage sons perfected when they were no longer listening. It turns out 10 minutes is a long time.

Our military is not called to create law and order in American cities. Its mission is to protect fellow citizens. Its purpose is to uphold the Constitution, not fulfil the president's wishes. As I write this I wonder where the country will be by the time it is published, if it is published. I wonder if we will become inured to the presence of soldiers on the streets of our cities, carrying automatic weapons. I wonder if our grandchildren will ever know the military as protectors but will always see them as governors or adversaries.

We have a right to peacefully protest government actions and if you listen to the mayors, governors and photojournalists in cities where military incursions are in effect you would know that our fellow citizens are doing just that.

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This I believe to be true. While I know our power is in one person one vote I can no longer rely on that vote having the power to effect change. And while many supporters of this president see him as a Savior, I must believe in the power

'Liberty is to faction what air is to fire'

Dear Editor,

I have found great resonance in reading and teaching Federalist 10. The arguments within the document have always struck a chord with my admiration for our nation.

In Fed 10, Father of the Constitution James Madison writes "Liberty is to faction what air is to fire." Liberty blesses us with our freedom of thought, action, opinion, and observation. Faction is our division politically, personally, professionally, and socially. We are all united through some passion or interest which may or may not be opposed to that of our fellow citizens. Madison's solution to factions in our society is a strong and robust Constitutional Republic, where the people are represented in a way that suits them through various elected officials at the local, state, and federal levels.

...RALLIES continued from page 1



Protesters at the No Kings rally.

In Highlands, protestors could be heard saying: "When I say due, you say process; Epstein Files – release them; We love America; People united will not be divided; No Kings!; and, We are not afraid."

And despite Facebook chatter claiming otherwise, protestors chanted "We are not paid!" which Pro Trump protestors also claimed, while insisting those at the Highlands Indivisible No Kings rally were paid.

When asked later about the claim that they were paid, several at the No Kings rally said, "Honey, we have money!"

Chants epitomized what people are saying in the movement: "In your gut you know he's nuts; In your heart you know he's wrong; Love not hate – that's what makes America great; This is what democracy looks like; What do you want? Epstein Files. When do you want them, NOW; No dictators; We are not alone; and Congress do your job!"

On Saturday, Ezra Levin and Leah Greenberg, co-founders of Indivisible, which helped organize the event, said "millions of Americans stood together to reject au-

of the people to protect and save our democracy in this chaotic time.

**Margaret Pickett
Highlands**

Initially Madison, a Federalist argued against the Bill of Rights. Like his peers he posed the thought that the Bill of Rights was unnecessary due to the definitive nature of the expressed powers held in Article 1 Section 8 of the Constitution. Later, he compromised when he saw that the Constitution would fail to be ratified without them. Compromise is the big message of our founding fathers; and it is a message that still rings true today.

This past weekend, I saw protests at two parts of main street in Highlands. One protest in favor of supporting our President, while the other at the Post Office opposed to his actions in the executive office. The common theme I saw in both protests was American flags and patriotism. People have not only a right, but a duty

• See LETTERS page 14



Protesters at the No Kings rally.

thoritarianism and remind the world that our democracy belongs to the people, not to one man's ambition."

Highlands Police Chief Andrea Holland said there were no issues requiring police intervention during either events.



These are two of three Pro Trump protesters standing on the embankment in front of the Highlands Wine Shop.

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• HOSPITAL NEWS •

One year since Hurricane Helene: A reflection on resilience and the best way to recognize 'Breast Cancer Awareness Month'

It may be difficult to believe that we are at the one-year anniversary of the natural disaster that turned our world in Western North Carolina upside down, Hurricane Helene. Although it's a bittersweet commemoration, it's important to reflect on what we endured a year ago, not just to recall the challenges and hardships the hurricane brought, but to recognize our community's remarkable resilience.

On an individual basis, our community shone bright — neighbors helped neighbors in whatever ways they could, whether that was sharing food and other resources, checking in with the elderly or chronically ill, or just lending a listening ear or giving a heartfelt hug when needed. With no internet, television to watch, or other tech-related distractions, connection really became critical.

Of course, our Highlands-Cashiers Hospital (HCH) and Eckerd Living Center (ELC) team members — no matter what department they served in or area of their expertise — aligned with the goal of continuing to provide the exemplary care we're known for without interruption or incident, against all odds. This meant thinking and approaching care with creativity, resourcefulness, and even more compassion than usual. Some staff volunteered to shelter at the hospital while the storm was raging and many days after, so patients could receive care and treatment.

One extraordinary example of going "above and beyond" was when our dedicated doctors created a temporary walk-in clinic to serve patients. It was a welcome sign of stability during a very unpredictable, disorienting period.

I refer to the support HCH receives from HCA Healthcare often in these columns, but during the period of Hurricane Helene, their presence and assistance were even more vital. Thanks to them, we and all the hospitals within the Mission Health system received essential resources, from medical supplies, fuel, and food and water to clinical and administrative personnel.

A bright spot of this support is the generosity of HCA Healthcare in supporting our team. The HCA Hope Fund provided financial help to hospital employees whose lives and



Tom Neal CEO, CNO
Highlands-Cashiers
Hospital

homes were adversely affected by the hurricane and gave a generous gift of \$1 million toward relief of HCA Healthcare employees in our region. We also benefited from the delivery of a gas truck by HCA Healthcare to allow staff to fuel their cars free of charge. Without even a request, HCA sent supplies for us to open a mini-mart that allowed staff to get vital groceries, free of charge. Witnessing this investment and care for our staff and communities made me extremely proud to be part of

the HCA Healthcare team.

Community organizations also came to the rescue in different ways. For example, our Boys and Girls Club of Highlands welcomed hospital team members' children while schools were closed. Hospital volunteers worked many hours to help care for them. We had special neighbors who reached out to ask how they could help the hospital.

Our government agencies also stepped up in a big way. Macon and Jackson counties, as well as our town of Highlands, were supportive in many ways with providing assistance. When we learned a desperately needed food truck had to come up the gorge road, all that was needed was a call to Macon County's Emergency Manager Warren Cabe and Police Chief Andrea Holland. They saw to it that the driver made it safely to the hospital. Finally, HCH's own Board of Trustees was here every step of the way as we navigated uncharted territory during and after the storm.

Because this is my October column, I would be remiss if I didn't recognize Breast Cancer Awareness Month. I want to remind the women of our community to put their health first by performing monthly breast self-exams and scheduling — as well as keeping — their mammogram appointments. Remember that early detection of breast cancer is key to successful treatment and survival.

We are here to care for you throughout the year, through thick and thin, for generations to come.



The Rotary Club of Highlands celebrates 80 years of service above self

The Rotary Club of Highlands is proud to celebrate 80 years of providing “Service Above Self” to the town and people of Highlands, NC.

Our best-known events include:

- The July 4th Independence Day Celebration in the Park and the Duck Derby;
- The Highlands 5k Road Race;
- The annual Rotary Golf Tournament.

The Rotary Club of Highlands supports disaster relief efforts locally, throughout Western North Carolina, and around the nation.

Through weekly luncheon gatherings and monthly Bingo events the Club has provided:

- Over \$300,000 since 1945 in direct college scholarship assistance to students at the Highlands School;
- Visibility and support for dozens of local and nearby civic, charitable, and other non-profit education, health, and human service organizations

These images highlight just a few of the Rotary Club of Highlands’ events and activities, all to support the people, families, and community in Highlands, NC in line with our singular mission of providing “Service Above Self.”

The Rotary Club of Highlands has been active since 1945, and we’re just getting started!

To learn more about the Rotary Club of Highlands, or if you have any questions or comments, please visit our website, highlandsrotary.org, and click on the “contact us” tab.



Rotary



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of what we think, say or do

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...HNC continued from page 1

President of the board, Cathy Henson and Treasurer James Worrell presented the results of the survey whose purpose was to find out how residents feel about living in Highlands and what can be done to ensure that Highlands remains livable and the paradise that attracted people here in the first place.

HNC was initially formed to stop short-term rentals in Highlands and with amortization of STRs throughout Highlands' R1 and R2 districts now effective Sept. 19, 2027 – solidified in part by Commissioners Amy Patterson and Eric Pierson who are running as incumbents in the Nov 4 election – HNC has moved on to other issues, namely to advocate for residents whether full-time, part-time or seasonal.

Henson said the coalition's new focus started during Hurricane Helene.

"We received questions from neighbors and residents asking where to go for information regarding, Wi-Fi, power, and how to get in to and out of town," she said. "We realized that if we are being looked at as a resource for residents and neighbors, we needed to do a better job of finding out what the town is doing before, during and after emergencies and what the residents want."

Henson and Worrell said the 2025 Survey was basically aimed at residents who own homes only for their personal use – who are they, where do they live, and what do they think of Highlands as a place to live.

"Because our focus is livability and not whether it is a good place to do business or a good place to spend the weekend, we needed to know how to ensure that Highlands continues to be a good place where people can live," they said.

In the 10-question survey, participants were asked what is special about Highlands, what makes Highlands a good place to live, what could make life better in Highlands, what charities and nonprofits they support, and what are the greatest threats undermining life in Highlands.

Through the survey, weather, natural beauty, the people and small-town living were noted as making Highlands special.

Specifically, 45% said weather, 36% named natural beauty, 32% said the people, and 29% said small-town living.

Threats to Highlands' livability were STRs, over-tourism, over-development and loss of small-town feeling.

Specifically, 32% said STRs, 30% said over-tourism, 21% said over-development, and 15% said loss of small-town feeling.

"We realize that town leadership can't do anything about the weather and natural beauty, but who is here and what types of people are here is something we can talk about," said Worrell. "Particularly, the type

of place we want Highlands to be and that feeling of small-town living is clearly something the leaders can do something about. People have strong feelings about what the town should be working on and what the town shouldn't be working on."

The top businesses that people noted as important to them were Bryson's Food Store, Reeves Hardware and restaurants.

Henson said the common themes throughout the survey were concerns about Highlands' livability – what makes Highlands a good place to live and what is going on that is making it more difficult and what can be done to make it less difficult.

She said historically, part-time and seasonal folks, become full-time but once they decide to retire here as full-time residents, they say there are things they wish they knew beforehand.

"Not surprising, traffic and congestion is top of that list. Those of us who want to go to the grocery store are now looking at Google Maps to find the best way to navigate the traffic and get around downtown," she said. "This warrants a discussion and policy choices."

Access to healthcare is another issue people were unaware of prior to moving to Highlands, she said.

"Once they moved here, they realized healthcare was hard to access. They have to go off the mountain to Franklin, Gainesville, and Asheville. Regarding emergency care, people find out that their insurance didn't cover an ambulance taking them to another hospital, for instance," said Henson. "These are impediments to moving here full-time."

She said aging in place was brought up and the need for elder assistance, transportation and delivery services when people can't drive anymore.

"Another issue that was brought up is the difficulty in getting reputable and responsive contractors," said Henson. "We hear often that people don't answer the phone or respond to a message. All this makes it difficult to live in Highlands."

Worrell said HNC hopes a discussion between residents and town leaders can begin.

"We are hoping this seems like a worthwhile endeavor to you and something that would warrant us to continue to dig and interact with you on behalf of residents of Highlands," he said. "We are specifically advocating for that population."

Commissioner Jeff Weller noted that long-term renters are residents, too, and though Henson said there are so few of them, Weller said there are actually a lot of

• BIZ/ORG NEWS •

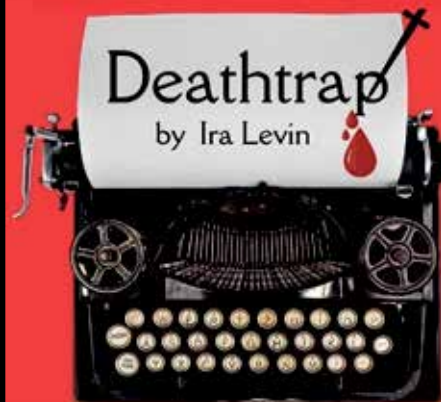


MountainTop Rotary hears about bears

Thank you Cynthia Strain for your interesting program about the bears! Most of us feel blessed to share our woods with bears, but being bearwise is important. Cynthia has been the go to expert on birds and bears on the Plateau for decades. She has also produced three outstanding books with her incredible photography!



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candidate
can win if we all don't go
to the polls.

Although all the candidates on the November ballot are unopposed, I
urge all town voters to cast a ballot for the candidates appearing on the
ballot during the early voting period or on Election Day. Your vote will
be an affirmation for community engagement and support for the
municipal election process.

Finally, to group planning a write in campaign, I call on potential write
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names of every candidate so questions about the issues can be asked of
everyone.

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Early Voting
October 16 -
November 1
Election Day
November 4th



...HNC continued from page 10

them, noting that he is one while he is building a house.

Henson closed by saying HNC isn't saying businesses and residents can't live together, but making sure Highlands remains livable is paramount.

"We want to ensure that Highlands remains livable for residents and that there are enough businesses to serve their needs and enough business to serve businesses needs to keep them economically viable, but we want a balance and we want to have a

discussion and figure out where that balance is," she said.

She noted the Investing at 4,118 Ft. article in Highlands Newspaper Oct. 16, written by Country Club Properties owner Realtor Terry Potts, mentioned the great investment of Highlands' small-town lifestyle.

"I don't know Mr. Potts, he's obviously a businessman who lives here, but he talks about how our small-town mountain living is to be cherished and protected and how we need to recognize the

limits of our resources and that's where we are," she said.

Mayor Taylor said maybe the survey results could be the start for groups to work together on concerns because livability is what everyone wants to continue in Highlands.

The five-board members of the Highlands Neighborhood Coalition are part-time and seasonal residents, Cathy Henson, Tom Coley, Carol Gable, and James Worrell. Lila Howland is the only full-time resident.

HCLT launches The Satulah Club Planned Giving Society

The Highlands Cashiers Land Trust (HCLT) is proud to announce the establishment of The Satulah Club, a planned giving society recognizing supporters who have made lasting commitments to preserve the natural beauty of the Highlands-Cashiers Plateau through estate gifts.

Named for Satulah Mountain — HCLT's first protected property in 1909 — The Satulah Club honors individuals and families who have included the Land Trust in their estate plans, ensuring conservation work continues for generations to come.

The society launched with a celebration on October 9 at the Harris Lake home of founding member Jeannette Bolte, where supporters gathered to recognize this milestone in HCLT's conservation legacy.

"Including HCLT in your estate plans is one of the most important ways to ensure perpetual impact on the preservation of the Plateau," said Lance Hardin, Executive Director of HCLT. "The Satulah Club celebrates those who have chosen to make conservation part of their legacy, protecting the places we love for future generations."

Founding member Jeannette Bolte, whose love affair with Highlands began at age six, explained her decision to join The Satulah Club.

"I worry about the structure-to-green-space ratio. The structure part seems to be winning, altering the essence of this small town that has attracted us all for many years. When I told my family — ages 2 to 76, who hike together every summer — that the Land Trust would receive what

they thought they'd inherit, it was an easy sell. They get it, too."

The Satulah Club currently recognizes 19 founding members, including four realized bequests that have already supported HCLT's conservation work.

"Every member of The Satulah Club has their own love story with this land," said Julie Schott, Development Director. "These gifts aren't about wealth — they're about ensuring the places that matter to us endure. We're grateful to everyone who has chosen to make conservation part of their legacy."

Planned gifts to HCLT can take many forms, including bequests in wills or trusts, beneficiary designations on retirement accounts or life insurance policies, charitable gift annuities, and gifts of land or conservation easements.

Community members who have already included HCLT in their estate plans are encouraged to contact Julie Schott at julie@hcltnc.org or (828) 526-4965 to be recognized as members of The Satulah Club. Those interested in learning more about planned giving options can contact Lance Hardin at lance@hcltnc.org or (828) 471-4964.

• Since 1909, Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust has protected over 4,300 acres of ecologically significant land on the Highlands-Cashiers Plateau through conservation easements, land acquisition, and community education. The organization's mission is to conserve the natural heritage, water quality, and scenic beauty of the Plateau for the benefit of present and future generations. For more information, visit www.hcltnc.org



Founding members of the Satulah Club mingled at the home of founder Jeannette Bolte.

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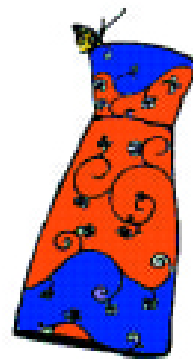


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...LETTERS continued from page 7

to express their grievances with their government in the form of peaceful protest. Our founding fathers were well read in the words of enlightenment philosophers before them. Montesquieu a philosopher our founding fathers knew well stated “Tyranny... is not so dangerous to the public welfare as the apathy of a citizen in democracy.”

No matter whether you agree with the protests or not you should support your fellow citizens right to do so wholeheartedly. Apathy destroys our Democracy. Apathy ravages our Republic. We are all impelled by the actions of our government to declare our support or our distaste for it. Apathy has no place in this pivotal point in our history.

I celebrate both protests that occurred

in Highlands last weekend. The people proclaimed their passion and dedication to our nation, our state, and our community. This is what being American is all about. Our town and its government provided us with great service. Our town supported our citizens’ 1st amendment right. I am proud of that. Our police protected our freedoms and kept people safe. I am proud of their service to our community. Our mayor’s response to criticism and concern was measured and thoughtful. We all love our town, state, and nation. We must work to end the divisive rhetoric that drives us apart and celebrate our freedom to fully express and live our rights of our laws.

Caleb Brown
Highlands

...AFTERSCHOOL continued from page 15

ronment for children in grades K-4. The program offers homework help, daily literacy activities, and enrichment programs to support social, emotional, and intellectual growth. Operating Monday through Friday from 3 to 5 p.m., the Sonshine School provides parents with a reliable and caring option for their children after school hours.

- **Highlands United Methodist Church (HUMC)** offers a faith-based program for Highlands School students in grades K-5. In addition to homework support, children engage in activities like reading, STEM, art, and music. The program runs Monday through Thursday from 3:10

to 5 p.m., ensuring students can access enriching experiences that nurture their minds and creativity.

Access to afterschool programs remains limited across Macon and Jackson counties, highlighting the work still ahead. Events like Lights On Afterschool shine a spotlight on this critical need, but lasting change requires ongoing investment and community support. By celebrating these programs, the Plateau community not only raises awareness but also underscores the importance of ensuring every child has the resources and opportunities to thrive beyond the school day.

...MAYOR continued from page 2

town and I worked to obtain information from NCDOT about the planned road closure, only to be labeled by some as the governing body that made the decision. Or some thought I should use my influence to get NCDOT to delay this work until after the leaf season.

While the town staff and I work with NCDOT staff to coordinate efforts, especially within the town limits, our coordination does not extend deep into Macon or Jackson county. NCDOT has multiple variables to address when doing road work, and I am not a monarch who controls their decisions; the town can suggest and ask, but we cannot control NCDOT.

I would point out that this kind of culvert replacement is especially important work, given what happened during Helene, as illustrated on NC 106. Also, there is the

question of when would be a better time to do this extensive work, which involves digging up and replacing culverts, then repaving the trenches with asphalt. A delay into November and the winter months was not possible since asphalt cannot be laid below a given temperature. Doing the culvert work in the spring would raise the same concern that restaurants in Highlands might lose some customers and workers coming from Cashiers, and vice versa.

I suspect NCDOT will schedule the resurfacing of portions of US 64 near the Jackson County line in the near future. Replacing these culverts is a preliminary step before such paving begins. The new paving will remove all the small bumps left by the culvert replacement.

Keep the messages coming and keep in mind that they are public records.

• UPCOMING EVENT •

• CHHS NEWS •

The 26th Annual 'Lights On Afterschool' is Oct. 23

Thurs., October 23, you may notice colorful works of art displayed around town—each one created by the youth of the Plateau. These special pieces are more than just decorations; they are part of Lights On Afterschool, an annual nationwide celebration that shines a spotlight on the many ways afterschool programs help students learn, grow, and explore new interests.

Launched in October 2000, Lights On Afterschool is the only national event dedicated to celebrating afterschool programs and their vital role in the lives of children, families, and communities. Over the years, it has become a hallmark of the afterschool movement, generating national media coverage and inspiring communities across the country to “keep the lights on” for afterschool programs.

Afterschool programming is especially vital in our picturesque yet rural Plateau communities. These programs provide critical support for youth, families, and the local economy. For many households, afterschool programs of-

fer far more than supervision—they are a cornerstone of family stability, allowing parents to focus on work knowing their children are safe, supported, and engaged in meaningful activities.

Despite their importance, access to afterschool programs remains limited for many families. According to the North Carolina Center for Afterschool Programs (NCCAP), for every child currently enrolled in an afterschool program, three more would participate if one were available to them.

Through their participation in Lights On Afterschool, local organizations on the Plateau aim to raise awareness of this growing need and highlight the importance of continued funding and community support. All participating organizations on the Plateau offer afterschool programs free of charge, providing a lifeline for working families and ensuring that every child has the opportunity to thrive beyond the school day.

This year, local organizations participating in Lights On Afterschool include:

- **The Boys & Girls Club of the Plateau** (BGCP) stands out as the only program serving youth from kindergarten through 12th grade. With locations in Cashiers and Highlands, BGCP offers a comprehensive out-of-school care program focused on academic success, healthy lifestyles, and character development. Their specialized teen programming includes service learning and career readiness, preparing older students for life beyond school. The Cashiers and Highlands location operates from 3:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.,

- **The Literacy & Learning Center of Highlands** provides after-school homework assistance and engaging educational activities for kindergarten through third-grade students. For older students, grades 4-8, the Center offers help with papers, research, and overall comprehension. Their efforts ensure students receive academic support beyond the school day.

- **The Sonshine School Afterschool Program**, affiliated with First Presbyterian Church, creates a nurturing environment for students.

• See **AFTERSCHOOL** page 14



Photo by Marti Boone

Nacho is an 18-month-old sweetheart who loves all people, all dogs, he is smart and eager to please. Nacho's adoption fee is only \$50 which includes already being neutered, microchipped, up to date on vaccinations, and a free after-adoption training session with our professional dog trainer. To give this cute pup a forever home, visit chhumanesociety.org or call (828)743-5752.



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A roadtrip to Sante Fe

By Lee Lyons

I said to my brother and sister-in-law, "Let's go on a road trip. I feel like hittin' the road."

Marty and Annie chuckled at my absurdity, but then asked, "Where do you want to go?"

"Santa Fe is on my bucket list."

Six weeks later, we pile in their car with too much luggage and leave Highlands, NC singing, Do you know the way to Santa Fe. (I know. It's San Jose)

Following the route of the Trail of Tears, I say, "There can be too many chiefs and not enough Indians" and so Marty is named Chief because he is going to drive over 2,500 miles in 10 days. Annie is the direction navigator and I sit in the back seat passing them things they need: apples, drinks, pretzels, nuts, bananas, chips, cookies. No matter where we end up, we are not going to starve.

Chief announces "Our first stop will be in Memphis, TN at the Graceland Hotel."

Never has Graceland been on my bucket list. My mother loved Elvis so much that growing up, we had a real monkey named Elvis. Clearly my brother takes after her and thinks Elvis is still the King. I have to admit, it is pretty fun especially eating Elvis's favorite peanut butter and banana sandwiches before bedtime. The next day, after the tour, we leave Memphis singing, "Hunka Hunka burning love." Travel tip number 1. Be open to places not on your bucket list.

I watch the states roll by my window (North Carolina, Georgia, Tennessee, Texas, Oklahoma, New Mexico, Arkansas, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia and back to North Carolina, I think you never know anyone

until you travel together. The last time I spent 10 whole days with my brother was before I married. I was 21 then and I'm almost 76 now. I have no idea our traveling styles, eating habits, music, and news channels are so different. Travel tip number 2. Go with the flow especially if you aren't the driver and get to know and love who your siblings are as adults.

My brother tackles the hazards of the road mostly in good form. Lanes of traffic, 18-wheelers, old pokes who won't change lanes, accidents on the highway, long lines in traffic jams and road work is stressful. Travel tip number 3. Thank the driver and avoid the interstate.

We also drive past open land as far as the eye can see. We see cows and horses, wheat and cotton, giant windmills which makes me ill, some turning, some still. Travel tip number 4. Look for the big red heart. Love filling stations have the cleanest bathrooms.

Finally, we arrive at our main destination, Santa Fe. Three days of beautiful landscape, the yellow and salmon-colored adobe buildings, old churches, Georgia O'Keefe museum, great art and more turquoise and silver than I ever want to see again. I can't help but compare Santa Fe to Highlands. I hope Highlands doesn't get as big or crowded as Santa Fe.

While the drive to Taos is beautiful, Taos itself is a giant flea market. We

can't find a place to park so we leave and drive through old hippie towns full of pot shops. The distinct aroma permeates the air. I tell my sister-in-law, "If I start laughing and eating a bag of potato chips, it's second hand smoke."

We prefer driving beside the Rio Grande flowing through sun lit canyons full of yellow flowers and so much purple majesty. I see no people but I think of all the people who have crossed this river. I buy a painting to remember this part of New Mexico.

Then I buy holy, healing dirt at the Santuario de Chimayo. The ceiling in one of the small adobe chapels is covered in baby shoes. I can relate. Travel tip number 4. Believe in miracles.

The turquoise trail takes us to the end of our Santa Fe trail into Albuquerque and the biggest hot air balloon festival in the country. It is a spectacle only rivaled by the number of food tents and port-o-lets. MAHA (make America healthy again) could go into cardiac arrest and so could I. Hot tamales, French fries, donuts, ice cream, corn dogs, pizzas, hamburgers, hotdogs. Anything bad to

eat is represented. Travel tip number 5. Some experiences never have to be repeated.

At this point, we should head home but we decide to drive all day to Hot Springs, AR. Travel tip number 6. If your GPS says it takes seven hours, allow nine.

We take Hwy 66. It is not how I imagined. I see poverty, boarded up buildings, more pot shops, the occasional old car outside a diner from the past. Have a pie at Dell's place, but don't order the famous chocolate peanut butter pie because they are out. Don't go to the Blue Hole. It's a swimming pool with a hole in the middle that is 89 feet deep. Don't go to the ghost ranch on a windy day with a can of spray paint. I ask once again, "We came all the way here to see this?" Travel tip number 7. A sense of humor is the main thing to pack.

Don't go to Hot Springs, period, unless you are into wax museums, gangster museums and want to stay at an old iconic hotel.

Looking at the brochure, I say, "I can't believe we are staying at this grand hotel and it only cost \$109 dollars."

My brother, who I discover loves getting a good deal on a hotel room replies, "Oh, that's because it's under reconstruction. It's supposed to be haunted."

A ghost would have been a welcomed sight. Have you ever seen a woman with beautiful blonde hair and then she turns around and her face is covered

in deep wrinkles and dark age spots? The teeth she has left are yellow. You can see she was once a beauty before life wore her down. Well, that's the Arlington Hotel and Spa. Thankfully, she's getting a face lift while I get a facial.

Don't go to Corinth, MS for lunch. They haven't recovered from the Civil War.

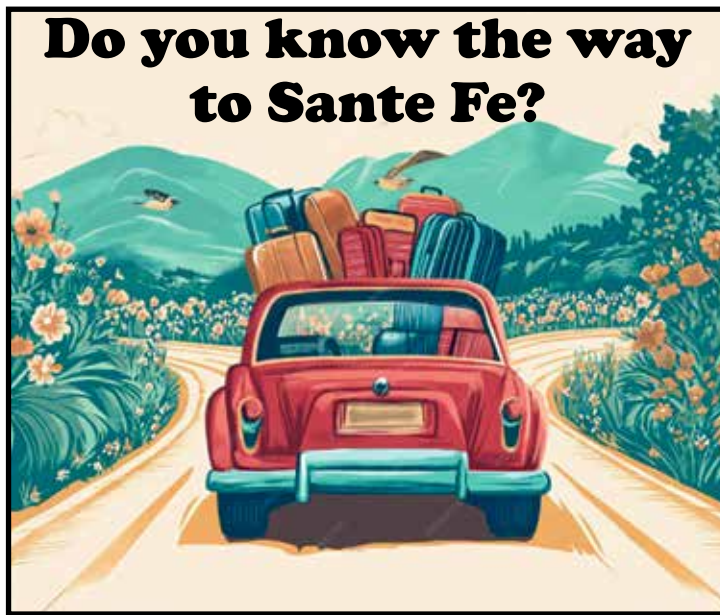
Our last night is in Chattanooga. There is more traffic here than in Atlanta, but at least we are all still speaking and biting the bullet to get home. On this last leg of the trip, we talk of what we didn't see. Thankfully, we didn't see I.C.E., the FBI, the National Guard. We didn't see any riots, rallies. or protests. We didn't see any gangs or shootings. We didn't see a rattle snake. We agree we might take another road trip, one day, before we die, with some tweaking, maybe fly.

I read poetry as Chief drives through the North Georgia Mountains. A poem by local poet Richard Betz speaks to me. It's in his new book titled "Continental Divide."

"But something centered me, a kind of compass leading me with unwavering faithfulness slowly home, crawling on all fours in the blindness of fog, rejoicing in the driveway, the back door, the familiar porch light blazing in a dim puddle in the hopeless night. Home."

Or as Dorothy said from her hot air balloon, "There's no place like home."

We really have a special place up here. We, the people, are the only ones who can ruin it. Wouldn't it be nice if we all gather around our peace pole, a gift from Rotary, and sing Hunka Hunka burning love. Elvis might be dead but he's still the King.



Lee Lyons is a beloved writer and storyteller in Highlands.

• BIZ/ORG NEWS •



From left: Sandy Barrow, Mary Catherine Council, Ruth Claiborne, Kyle Roberts, Cindy Trevathan, and Michael Burel. Missing Laura Ames and Cathy Crosby.

Laurel Garden Club elects officers

The Laurel Garden Club members have elected the officers for 2026 who will assume their new duties January 2026. Ruth Claiborne will be President, Michael Burel and Sandy Barrow, 1st Vice Presidents, Laura Ames and Kyle Roberts, 2nd Vice Presidents, Mary Catherine Council, Corresponding Secretary, Recording Secretary Cathy Crosby, and Cindy Trevathan, Treasurer.

The Laurel Garden Club works to ensure the protection and conservation of

our natural resources, encourage civic beauty and roadside beautification, stimulate the fine art of gardening and enable cooperation with other organizations furthering the interest of horticulture and conservation. Officers guide and support members throughout the year to meet the Club's goals and make sure the focus of all activities are on horticulture and conservation. For more information about the Laurel Garden Club, please go to its website: www.laurelgardenclubhighlands.com

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SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING

Salvation, a process

Pastor Sam Forrester
Whiteside Presbyterian
Church, Cashiers

In the Scripture, salvation is shown as a process. It is revealed as the work of God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. Each does a work that is required to save the lost soul. You can see all three members of the Trinity are involved in salvation. The Father predestines the course, the Son does the work of propitiation and the Spirit does the work of regeneration and guides into the truth. The work of each is no small matter. You cannot be saved without the work of each one in your life. The Father took care of the indeterminable, he did the eternal work, calling you to himself. The Son took care of the objective, he did the external work, living the perfect life and dying the atoning death on your behalf. The Spirit takes care of the subjective, he does the internal work, changing your heart, guiding you into the truth and keeping you safe from the evil one, in order to present you to God.

There is an order to this work. The order is simple, God chooses, the Son provides what is required, the Spirit gives the new heart and the person believes. All of these steps are part of this process of salvation. Each step is a result of the working of the sovereign God. Nothing in this process of salvation happens except God does the work to cause it to happen. God does not give you any promise in his word that is dependent upon you for its fulfillment. All of his promises find their fulfillment in Jesus Christ and in him alone.

The Scripture says all men are spiritually dead because of Adam's sin (Ephesians 2:1). Therefore, the new birth is a raising from death to life. Can a dead man give himself life? Jesus says in John 6:63, "The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing." However, we see that the Spirit does not give life to everybody. Why? Some would say because not all trust in Christ. But does the Scripture say that? Does it say the Spirit gives life to only those who believe? John 3:16, "For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have everlasting life." Does this not say you must believe first? No! That would be like putting the cart before the horse. Faith is not the cause of the new birth. It is a consequence of it. Faith in God is unusual. It is not the order of the day for men. It is not a product of the human heart. If it were a product of the human heart, why would Scripture say, in II Thessalonians 3:2, "not all men have faith?"

Faith is a gift from God (Ephesians 2:8-9). It is given with the new heart at regeneration. Understand, unregenerate men do not have faith. They are dead in their trespasses and sins and cannot believe because they have not faith. Men without faith cannot please God as it says in Hebrew 11:6, "without faith it is impossible to please Him." You must know that God cannot be pleased. He cannot be satisfied with anything which does not have its origin in him. You must recognize that no work you do, apart from the Holy Spirit, will ever be acceptable to God. The Holy Spirit was sent into your heart to be your eternal guide. John 16:13, "Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for

• See SPIRITUALLY page 19

• PLACES TO WORSHIP •

BLUE VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH

Rev. Oliver Rice. Pastor 706-782-3965
Sundays: School: 10 a.m., Worship: 11
Sunday night services every 2nd & 4th Sunday at 7
Wednesdays: Mid-week prayer meeting: 7 p.m.

BUCK CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

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

CASHIERS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

GRACE CHAPEL ON HIGH HOLLOW

9615 Dillard Rd Scaly Mountain, N.C.
Pastor Steve Kerhoulas. <http://www.Graceonhighhollow.com>
Sunday School 9:45; Worship 11; Prayer Service Wed 5:30p
Men's and Women's Bible Study throughout the week

CHRIST ANGLICAN CHURCH

The Rev'd Dr. Marc Robertson & Rev. Nick McGee
464 U.S. Hwy. 64E, Cashiers, NC

CAC@christanglicancashiers.org • 828-743-1701

Sunday: Adult Christian Ed. 9:15a; Holy Eucharist, 10:30a;
Fellowship 11:45a; Wed: Bible Study/Contemplative Prayer, 5p

CHRIST CHURCH OF THE VALLEY. CASHIERS

Pastor Jacob Tedder • jacob@cashiers.church • 743-5470
www.cashiers.church

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

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

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

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

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

EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE INCARNATION

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

5th and Main streets • www.incarnationwnc.org

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

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

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

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH HIGHLANDS

828-526-4153 • www.fbchighlands.org

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

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

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

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Rev. Emily Wilmarth, pastor; Rev. Kelley Connelly Asso. Pastor
828-526-3175 • fpchighlands.org

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

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

GOLDMINE BAPTIST CHURCH

(Off Franklin/Highlands Rd)

Sunday School: 10 am. Worship Service: 11 am

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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
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sharing the facilities of the Shortoff Baptist Church.

Sunday Worship is at 9a. & 6p. Wednesday Worship is 6p

HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Rev. Dr. Randy Lucas. Pastor 526-3376

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Rev. Ken Langsdorf

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Pastor Zane Talley

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

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

MOUNTAIN SYNAGOGUE

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

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

MOUNTAIN BIBLE CHURCH

743-2583 • Independent Bible Church

Sun: 10:30 a.m. at Big Ridge Baptist Church. 4224 Big Ridge
(4.5 miles from NC 107)

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

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SCALY MOUNTAIN BAPTIST CHURCH

Rev. Marty Kilby

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

Wednesdays: Prayer Mtg.: 7 p.m.

SCALY MOUNTAIN CHURCH OF GOD

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

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

SHORTOFF BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Rev. Richard Salmonson

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

ST. JUDE'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

Mass: Sun. 9a (English); Mon. 9:30a (Vatican II in Latin); Tues.
7p (Spanish); Wed., 9:30a (English)

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WHITESIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Sunday School: 10 am. Worship Service: 11 am

• POLICE & FIRE REPORTS •

Highlands Police entries from Oct. 13. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a summons/citation, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor or those of public officials have been used.

Oct. 13

• At 5:01 p.m., a misdemeanor larceny was reported at the Spinx station where food items valued at about \$25 were taken without paying.

Oct. 14

• At 11:15 a.m., Jessica Lynn Owens, 38, of Clayton, GA, was arrested for three outstanding warrants from other jurisdictions. She was not issued a bond and she was taken to the MC Detention Center.

• At 11:15 a.m., Jessica Owens, 38, of Clayton, GA, was arrested for shoplifting from Bryson's Food Store.

• At 5:30 p.m., officers responded to a 2-vehicle accident on Main Street.

Oct. 15

• At 10:45 p.m., Eric Curtis Radjenovic, 25, of Dillard, GA, was arrested for outstanding warrant in another jurisdiction in Jackson County. He was issued a \$250 secured bond. His trial date is Nov. 4.

Oct. 17

• At 2 p.m., Travon Christopher Davis, 22, of McDonough, GA, was arrested for burglary and breaking and entering, felony larceny and

possession of stolen property. He is being held in the Henry County Sheriff's office.

• At 4:36 p.m., officers responded to a 2-vehicle accident on Main Street.

Oct. 18

• At 12:30 p.m., the dept. responded to a 2-vehicle accident on Main Street.

• At 3 p.m., officers responded to a 2-vehicle accident on S. 4th Street.

The Highlands Fire & Rescue log from Oct. 12.

Oct. 12

• At 8:55 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Thistle Drive.

• At 11:12 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm on Skyline Lodge Road.

• At 1:03 p.m., the dept. responded to a search call on Main Street but it was cancelled.

Oct. 13

• At 11:20 a.m., the dept. provided public assistance at a location on N. 1st Street.

Oct. 14

• At 11:09 p.m., the dept. responded to a call of a motor vehicle accident on U.S. 64 east (Cashiers Road).

• At 11:43 p.m., the dept. responded to a call of a motor vehicle accident on NC 106 (Dillard Road).

Oct. 15

• At 12:05 p.m., the dept. was first-

sponders to a residence on Stoney Creek Road.

• At 12:13 p.m., the dept. responded to a call of a motor vehicle accident on N. 4th Street but nothing was found.

• At 12:25 p.m., the dept. responded to a call of a motor vehicle accident on NC 106 (Dillard Road) but it was cancelled en route.

• At 1:39 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a location on Skyline Lodge Road.

• At 5:34 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a location on Main Street.

• At 6:58 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Clubhouse Trail.

Oct. 16

• At 9:20 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Cullasaja Drive.

• At 10:35 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Joanna Lane.

• At 4:43 p.m., the dept. responded to a call of a motor vehicle accident on US 64 west (Franklin Road).

• At 6:43 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a location on Skyline Lodge Road.

• At 8:37 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a location on Main Street.

Oct. 18

• At 8:41 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Hummingbird Lane.

Oct. 19

• At 4:59 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Cullasaja Drive.

• At 6:26 p.m., the dept. responded to a call of a possible oven fire at a resident on Randall Road.

• At 9:29 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Satulah Falls Lane.

• At 9:32 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Sherwood Forest but it was cancelled.

• At 10:21 p.m., the dept. responded to a call of an illegal burn at a location on Walhalla Road.

Oct. 20

• At 2:15 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Old Rock Road but it was cancelled en route.

• At 2:23 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Old Rock Road but it was cancelled en route.

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...SPIRITUALLY continued from page 18

he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come." Jesus said in John 14:6, "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father but by me." John says the purpose of the written word of God is, "that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name," (John 20:31). Jesus and the apostles admonished believers to go and preach. Matthew 10:7, "And as ye go preach, saying, The Kingdom of heaven is at hand." Luke 9:60, "Jesus said unto him, Let the dead bury their dead: but go thou and preach the kingdom of God." Acts 5:20, "Go, stand and speak in the temple to the

people all the words of life." II Timothy 4:2, "Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long-suffering and doctrine."

Scripture says without equivocation, preaching is a means ordained by God and Jesus. It was to work along side the ministry of the sovereign work of the Holy Spirit in bringing men to belief in Jesus Christ. I Thessalonians 2:13, "For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God, which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe." The Scripture shows this process of salvation requires

the Holy Spirit to take the word of God and apply it to the hearts of men, opening their ears to hear and their hearts to believe. This is the promise of the new covenant as shown in Ezekiel 36:26-27, "I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws." Salvation is a process of the triune God in the heart of man.

Lift your voice in praise to the God who saves and let his grace fill your life with a divine hope that can never be destroyed because once God begins this process, as Paul points out in Philippians 1:6, it will not end until you are in heaven with Christ Jesus.

...ARREST continued from page 1

ber Wright and Lt. Tim Broughton of the Highlands Police Department.

Detective Wright and Lt. Broughton made significant progress, developing a strong lead on one of the suspects believed to be residing out-of-state.

In partnership with the Henry County Police Department in McDonough, GA, Henry County detectives obtained a search warrant for the suspect's residence and vehicle on Friday, October 17.

The suspect's vehicle matched the

description of the one seen during the break-in, and items of clothing found inside corresponded with what the suspects were wearing during the incident.

"I would like to commend Detective Wright and Lt. Broughton on the work they put into solving this case," said Chief Andrea Holland of the Highlands Police Department. "I also want to thank the Rabun County Sheriff's Office detective's unit for their assistance and the Henry County Police Department for their professionalism

and willingness to assist in this multi-jurisdictional investigation."

The investigation remains active as authorities work to identify a second suspect involved in the break-in.

Arrested was, Travon Christian Davis, D.O.B. 8/13/2000, 1037 Arbor Way, McDonough, Ga.

Anyone with information related to this case is urged to contact the Highlands Police Department at 828-526-9431.

– Submitted

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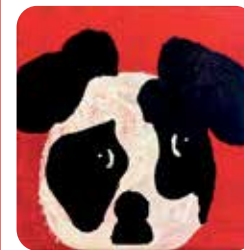
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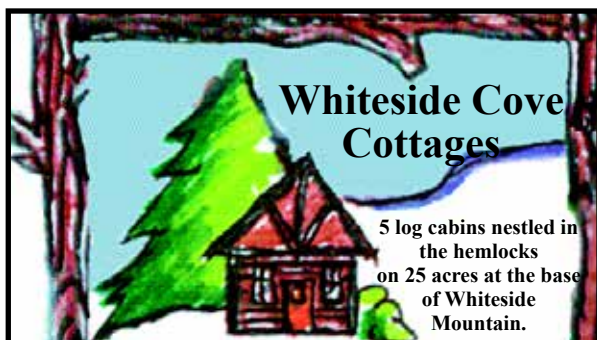


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• At PAC, Downton Abbey: The Grand Finale. Thurs., Nov. 13, 2p; Fri., Nov. 14, 2p; Sat., Nov. 15, 530p; Sun., Nov. 16, 2p & 5:30p with captions. Mon., Nov. 17, 2p & 5:30p. Tickets are \$12.

SATURDAY MARKET

• Farmers Market in KH Founders Park on Pine Street from 8a-12:30p rain or shine.

ALL WEEK

• Scaly Mountain/ Highlands/

Cashiers Alcoholics Anonymous "Open Meetings" are for anyone who thinks they may have a drinking problem or for anyone interested in the A.A. recovery program. Open meetings are held at Scaly Mountain @ Grace Chapel, 9915 Dillard Rd., Scaly Mountain and Highlands @ the 1st Presbyterian Church, 471 Main St., on Monday at 5:30 p.m. and on Wednesday & Fridays @ 12 noon. Open in person meetings are held in Cashiers @ the Albert Carlton Cashiers Community Library, 249 Frank Allen Rd. on Sunday at 5 pm, on Tuesday @ 7pm, on Friday at 5:00 pm and on Saturday at 9:00 am. For more information please visit our website www.aawnc80.org or to speak with a member of A.A. 24/7 call our HELP Line 828 349-4357 Mon. Thurs.

• At First Presbyterian Church, ArtSpace is open from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The next exhibit will start in mid-August. For information contact fpchkelley@gmail.com

Mon-Wed-Fri

• Aerobics with Tina Rogers

8-9am at the Rec Park.

• Balance, Stretch & Strengthen Class at the Rec Park 8:30-9:30am. The cost for the class is \$30 a month and is led by Cathy Hodgson. Call the Recreation Department at 828-526-3556 for more information.

Mon., Tues., Thurs.

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

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

Mondays

• At the Literacy Council, Free Online Weekly Classes. 6:30 - 7:30p. Online via Zoom. For the link, visit <http://theliteracyandlearningcenter.org/esl>

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. For more info call president Paula McDonald at 706-372-3004

2nd Tuesdays

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

Tuesdays

• Strength Training at the Rec Park 8:15-9:15 am.
• At Wayfarers Chapel, Workshop for Writers - Tuesdays from 5-6:30 PM.

Wednesdays thru October

• Farmers Market every Wednesday May-Sept. at the Cowee School Arts & Heritage building in Franklin at 51 Cowee School Dr.

2nd Wednesdays

• Hudson Library, in partnership with VAYA Health, is hosting an educational series on adult mental health topics, at 11 AM. To register, stop by the library or call 828-526-3031.

2nd & 4th Wed.

• Digital Navigators will be at the Hudson Library the second and fourth Wednesdays 1PM - 3PM of each month to help patrons with

their tech needs. Bring a smart-phone, laptop, or other digital device to receive free assistance and support. No appts are required - all are welcome.

Thursdays

• Kickboxing 8:15-9:15a. at the Rec Park. No martial arts background necessary. Contact the Recreation Department at 828-526-3556 for more info.

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

• At Hudson Library, special children's events will be on tap on Thursday afternoons at 3:30 Kids Zone programs.

Fridays

• At Hudson Library, Friday afternoons at 2 PM, there's a variety of children's programs including board games, STEM programs, and crafts.

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 9a and hold our monthly meeting at 10a. We invite ALL veterans to attend. Email ncpost370@gmail.com or just join us at 9am.

Sundays

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

Fri., Oct. 24

• In Brevard, Pumpkin Fest at Silvermont Park. Family friendly Halloween 6-9p. Lighted pumpkin trail, games, storytelling, scavenger hunt, face painting, food trucks. Mansion open with guided tours. Proceeds benefit Silvermont Mansion and Park. Ages 13+ \$7; Ages 3-12, \$5; under 3, free. Onsite parking \$5. Free parking a block away.

Sat., Oct. 25

• Drug Take Back Day at HC Hospital. 10a to noon. All unused or expired medications accepted. No needles, syringes, lancets or liquids.

• Highlands School Fall Festival, 5-8 p.m. at the school, 545 Pierson Drive.. Carnival games, bounce house, raffles, silent auction, haunted house, hay ride, cake walk, face painting, food & more.

• In Brevard, Pumpkin Fest at Silvermont Park. Family friendly Halloween 5-9p. Lighted pumpkin trail, games, storytelling, scavenger hunt, face painting. Mansion open with guided tours. Proceeds benefit Silvermont Mansion and Park. Ages 13+ \$7; Ages 3-12, \$5; under 3, free. Onsite parking \$5. Free parking a block away.

Thurs. Oct. 30

• Highlands Cashiers Players present "Deathtrap" by Ira Levin. Directed by Michael Lanzilotta. Tickets are \$25-\$35. For show times and tickets go to HighlandsCashiersPlayers.com or call 828-526-9047

Fri., Oct. 31

• Halloween on Main in Highlands. 6-8 p.m. Trick or Treating, hot dogs & hot chocolate. Live music by ABC Combo, High 5 & DJ Mike Murphy.

Sat.-Sun., Nov. 1-2

• Highlands Cashiers Players present "Deathtrap" by Ira Levin. Directed by Michael Lanzilotta. Tickets are \$25-\$35. For show times and tickets go to HighlandsCashiersPlayers.com or call 828-526-9047

Thurs. - Sun., Nov. 6-9

• Highlands Cashiers Players present "Deathtrap" by Ira Levin. Directed by Michael Lanzilotta. Tickets are \$25-\$35. For show times and tickets go to HighlandsCashiersPlayers.com or call 828-526-9047

Tues., Nov. 11

• Veterans Day Ceremony at 11 a.m. at Veterans Plaza in parking log of police station. This brief ceremony is to honor all who wear and have worn the uniforms serving our great country. New bricks will be dedicated into the "Veterans Honor Walk."

Fri., Nov. 14

• Barrett Family Wine Dinner at ...on the Verandah at 6 p.m. \$250 per person. Reservations required. Call 828-526-2338 or book online at www.ontheverandah.com.

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