

# Highlands Newspaper

FREE Every Thursday

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

Thurs., Sept. 4, 2025

## Harris Lake turns green, but all is OK

By Kim Lewicki

In Savannah, GA, the river and fountains run green for St. Patrick's Day but that's not what green water in Harris Lake was about last Thursday evening.

The Coopers circulated a photo they took from their home on Stonebridge Lane showing green water in the stream that feeds Harris Lake.

"Early Thursday evening,

there was an unintentional release of propylene glycol at the Highlands School. The problem was quickly located and repairs began immediately to mitigate the issue,"

• See GREEN page 18

## Can you trace your Highlands family back 100+ years?

*Descendants' Reception is Sat. Sept. 27, 11a - 1p at the Highlands Community Building*

The Highlands Historical Society will host its annual Descendants' Reception on Saturday, September 27 at the Community Building in Highlands.

Families who can trace their roots to Highlands back for 100, or more years are invited to attend.

Last year's Descendants' Reception was canceled due to the aftermath of Hurricane Helene and the hope is that attendance will swell as the Town of Highlands celebrates its 150th Anniversary this year.

• See TRACE page 18



## Dazzling Dahlia Festival is at The Bascom

*Festivities are Thurs.-Sat., Sept. 4-6*

For 15 years, the Highlands Historical Society has brought the community together to celebrate the Dazzling Dahlia Festival, a

celebration of blooming beauty and small-town charm that has become one of the premier events on the Plateau. This year, the Fes-

tival begins a new chapter at The Bascom: A Center for the Visual Arts, its new home Sept. 4 - 6.

"Thanks to the efforts of

board member, Kim Daugherty, and her host of volunteers, the Dazzling Dahlia Festival has

• See DAHLIA page 8



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# • THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

## • MAYOR ON DUTY •

## • SNAPSHOT •

### Town, county and state respond to glycol leak

Last Thursday began as a very pleasant day with sunny skies and everyone in town expecting a great Labor Day weekend. I had just left the annual town employees' picnic, where we feasted on Blue Hound barbecue and presented longevity awards to select employees.

At about 2:30, everything changed for me with a call from the Town Manager. A mechanical malfunction with a heating and cooling unit at the Highlands School caused glycol liquid to be deposited in Harris Lake.

County and town staff, including the fire department, immediately went to the school and Harris Lake to assess the situation. It was quickly determined that the source of the glycol came from one of the school's heating and cooling units. A breach in one of the unit's pipes caused the leak.

The county emergency response team took the lead in identifying the location of the breach and determining how the glycol had reached Harris Lake. After the source of the leak was identified and it was also de-



Highlands Mayor  
Patrick Taylor

termined that a large amount of the liquid had entered the school's stormwater system. From there, it flowed into a creek that goes under Wilson Road and into Harris Lake.

The county officials eventually stopped the leak and had the Highlands Fire Department begin flushing the stormwater system. This decision was made after studying Material Safety Data Sheets about the glycol liquid. It is also used for de-icing planes.

While it is considered toxic to humans and animals in a concentrated form, the recommendation is to dilute the glycol with water. After being diluted with water, as the fire department did, the glycol began to biodegrade quickly, especially in warm and sunny conditions.

County officials also brought in state water quality officials to review the situation and to conduct water tests in Harris Lake and in Mirror Lake. By Friday afternoon, the water quality officials stated that there was no contamination in either Harris Lake or Mirror Lake. They recommended, out of caution, closing Harris Lake to the public until Tuesday morning.

There are several takeaways from this incident. First, with modern systems that we all use and depend upon, there is always the possibility of an accident or breach, such as what happened on Thursday. The county and town worked well together in addressing this problem. The Macon County Emergency Management Department responded fast and effectively. They were quick to bring in the state for further support and assistance. Our police department, code staff, and fire department work together with county officials, especially in addressing concerns about the watershed.

Also, our new town app and website work well in getting out information to the public about the situation. Some might contend that we needed more frequent updates, but we erred on the side of caution to avoid putting out inaccurate information. For instance, we withheld making a statement on Friday until all the state testing was completed.

While I do not use Facebook, several staff members kept me informed about what was being said. Rumors can flourish out of

• See MAYOR page 21



Photo by Robert Keller

### Buzzing around the Nature Center

*Do you have a heartfelt, funny, interesting, or beautiful photo you would like to share in our "SnapShot" section? Email it to [highlandseditor@aol.com](mailto:highlandseditor@aol.com) or text it to 828-200-1371, with a brief description and a name. No anonymous photos will be accepted.*

## • WEATHER •

| Thu, 4-Sep                    | Fri, 5-Sep                    | Sat, 6-Sep                    | Sun, 7-Sep                    |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
|                               |                               |                               |                               |
| 70°F<br>55°F                  | 76°F<br>56°F                  | 76°F<br>56°F                  | 72°F<br>56°F                  |
| A couple of showers           | A t-shower in spots; warmer   | A t-storm around in the p.m.  | A stray afternoon t-storm     |
| RealFeel®<br>High 73° Low 59° | RealFeel®<br>High 84° Low 62° | RealFeel®<br>High 79° Low 62° | RealFeel®<br>High 82° Low 64° |

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### Highlands Newspaper

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# • INVESTING AT 4,118 Ft •

## Why pre-listing inspections matter in Highlands and Cashiers

Cashiers and Highlands are both sitting in buyer's market territory right now. For residential properties, the Highlands Cashiers MLS for August shows

an average of 127 days on market, average sold price \$2,230,246, and homes closing at about 96% of list. Highlands shows an average of 123 days on market, average sold

price \$1,473,676, and about 94% sold-to-list. According to Realtors Property Resource®, Cashiers currently has 11.59 months supply of inventory which is up 3.2% month over month and 46.5% year over year, while Highlands has 14.31 months supply of inventory which is up 11.7% month over month and 44.7% year over year. In plain terms, buyers have more choice, and sellers must win on condition, pricing, and trust.

That is where pre-listing inspections earn their keep. National Association of Realtors® (NAR) reports that agents are turning to pre-listing inspections to "help avoid surprises like a costly plumbing problem, a failing roof or an outdated electrical panel" that can cause buyers to bolt before closing, and that doing the inspection up front "allows a seller the opportunity to address any repairs before the For Sale sign even goes up." According to REALTOR® Magazine, "Listings with



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kara@bhhsmmr.com.

pre-inspections are less likely to terminate and often move faster to closing because buyers have fewer unknowns." Real estate pros say "having an inspection before listing the house can help calm nerves and save deals." Another voice from the NAR guidesheet puts it simply: "Nothing, in my opinion, should ever scare someone away from the home of their dreams. It may need to be negotiated or fixed. But buyers just need to have the right deal in place."

NAR's latest Confidence Index shows about 6% of contracts terminate in

a typical recent three-month window and 13% face delayed settlements, so preventable friction is real. Redfin's national tracking found about 15% of U.S. deals canceled in July, the highest July rate in their records, which underscores how quickly confidence can crack once surprises appear.

Bringing it back home, when inventory is high and buyers can choose, surprise repair issues can kill momentum. Pre-listing inspections help sellers manage and minimize those surprises. You will have time to decide whether to repair or adjust pricing instead of reacting during the heat of negotiation. That clarity builds trust, cuts down on surprises, and helps ensure you cross the finish line smoothly even in a buyer's market.

Use the local numbers to guide strategy. In Cashiers, expect buyers to negotiate toward that 96% of list price outcome unless the condition is clearly documented and priced in. In Highlands, plan for a longer runway at 127 days on market and recognize that the 14.31 months of supply gives buyers time to compare. A pre-listing inspection lets you fix what matters, disclose the rest, and price straight to today's market rather than defending surprises during the due diligence period. The result is fewer terminations, fewer delays, and a cleaner path to the closing table supported by facts, not guesswork.

• Kara Hardy is a broker with Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Meadows Mountain Realty. She serves Highlands, Cashiers, Glenville, Sapphire, Lake Toxaway, Scaly Mountain and Franklin. Kara can be reached at (407) 617-6006 or via email at kara@bhhsmmr.com.

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## • CHHS NEWS •



Photo by Marti Boone

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# • DINING •

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# • LETTERS •

## It is about FAITH.

Dear Editor,

It is not about policy. It is not about politics. It is not about being a Democrat, Republican or Independent. It is not about being progressive, conservative or moderate. It is about FAITH. As a United Methodist Minister with over a half century of experience, I am pretty good at recognizing FAITH in an individual. Truthfully, I don't believe this is a "clergy gift," but most all of us can see those persons who reflect a deep FAITH and those who do not.

My observation is our present President has established a White House Faith Office and states the Bible is his favorite book. However, my experience tells me that FAITH is more than establishing a committee and possibly reading from the Bible. It is the struggle of living our FAITH on a daily basis.

My first question about the present President's FAITH is his lack of faithfully participating in worship. All of us know that during that holy time we find peace, strength, forgiveness, renewal, and hope as we gather with the "Community of Believers." Now, I am aware that one doesn't have to be in their chosen worship center each week to have FAITH. Yet, the need and desire to gather for corporate worship would seem a near necessity for one who carries the heavy responsibilities of serving as President of the United States, especially when they claim to be a person of FAITH. We have all seen past Presidents of both major parties attending worship on a frequent basis. In contrast, I question if regularly playing golf on Sunday is a true FAITH worship experience.

My second FAITH question is regarding the President's "name calling." A fifth grader may call others names. Expectedly, most of our parents have reminded us that to do so is a serious "no-no." Yet, we hear the President calling

people the following: Low IQ, sleazebag, lying, horseface, crooked, crazy, shady, slippery, loser, nasty, and the list continues. I would like to believe a person of real FAITH would understand that such name calling is hurtful, childish and not becoming the leader of the free world. Isn't this a poor example of a FAITH claiming person? Remember, "Do unto others...."

Lastly, I continue to be shocked by the tasteless language the President spouts so often. Using vulgar four and eight letter words is not acceptable as a trademark of a person of FAITH. Such words were recently actually spoken by the President at a White House Faith Office gathering. My dear grandmother would have washed my mouth out with soap if I ever displayed such a lack of vocabulary while uttering such profane words. Would it be acceptable for your preacher, priest, rabbi, or spiritual leader to speak this way in public or at a worship gathering? How would we feel if our local principals used such verbiage around our children, grandchildren, or at a PTA meeting? I would like to believe we would not be pleased if they did so. Thus, the obvious question is, "Why does our President do so and still speak of FAITH?" FAITH is not just a convenient theological term, but a way of life for true Followers. FAITH is not a word we use lightly, but with commitment, dedication and tireless effort.

Thus, as a person who joins the centuries of Believers, I ask our President to practice his personal FAITH. Please do not disrespect FAITH by humanizing it as a casual part of his worship practices and daily conversations.

**Dr. Mike Cordle**  
**United Methodist Minister, Retired**  
**Highlands**

## Let's work as a community to save The Playhouse

Dear Editor,

Twenty-three years ago, we first discovered the charm of Highlands, ultimately purchasing a seasonal home here that we've enjoyed for the past 20 years. We treasure the memories and moan the loss of certain businesses, such as the old pharmacy with the breakfast/lunch counter, Sweet-Treats delightful ice cream shop, Nick's fabulous restaurant, and the charming little Toy and Book stores on Main Street, all of which lent themselves to the charm that made Highlands such a special place. I'm sure that for those who have experienced Highlands for many more years than we could add the loss of many more establishments and related memories to this list.

Unfortunately, it seems we are on the verge of potentially losing another local iconic establishment, the historic Highlands Playhouse. Established in 1938, it was, up until a couple of years ago when the productions moved to the PAC, the oldest theatre in North Carolina. It is certainly well documented that the building is in dire need of renovation and brought up to code, and that the cost would be quite significant. Having said that, however, I'd like to suggest that the community owes much to this wonderful facility that has contributed so much to the growth of not only Highlands through the years, but also to the entire region

of Macon County. Cashiers, Franklin, Sapphire Valley, Scaly Mountain, and even, Sky Valley, GA and Clayton, GA and surrounding communities have reaped the benefits of attracting seasonal and full-time visitors and residents. Accordingly, the funding efforts to preserve The Playhouse should be viewed as a REGIONAL effort, and not just for the town and residents of Highlands.

The funding efforts for the continued development of the wonderful Highlands PAC have seemingly raised \$14 million dollars. For all those individuals and businesses throughout the REGION that have given so graciously in this regard I suggest the same efforts be done to preserve this building. Among some ideas to consider, perhaps this facility can be repurposed to serve as another community center of sorts with adequate facilities to become the full-time home of the Center for Life Enrichment (CLE), several "club rooms" for conducting meetings and/or holding special events both during the day as well as evenings.

Thus, we appeal to those who share these same beliefs to come forward and let the town know that every effort should be made to preserve The Highlands Playhouse in some manner.

**Bobby Salerno**  
**Highlands**  
• See LETTERS page 20



**HIGHLANDS**  
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## Outdoor Concert Series

Each Friday and Saturday night from May through September, the Highlands Chamber of Commerce/ Visit Highlands, NC hosts live music downtown.

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All shows take place from 6 – 8:30 p.m.

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SEPTEMBER 27

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## ...DAHLIA continued from page 1

Mayor Pat Taylor announces Dahlia Week.

From left: front row: Kim Daughtry, Mayor Pat Taylor, and Bianca Mitchell.

Back Row: Zach Rogers, Billy Love, Peggy Boruchow Arnette, and Lisa Daily.



grown into a huge, multi-day event that attracted hundreds of people to Highlands for the festivities. Unfortunately, that growth had begun to overwhelm the capacity of HHS to support the festival,” said Tracy Foor, president of the Historical Society

Since the Bascom has partnered with HHS for the Dahlia Festival in the past, going forward they will take the reins of leadership with the built-in mechanisms in place to support the festival at the scale it has grown to.

“I have no doubt that they will continue to host a wonderful event each year that is loved by all who attend,” said Foor.

The 2025 Dazzling Dahlia Festival at The Bascom will feature a full weekend of events, including an opening reception,

floral installations in The Bascom’s galleries, the annual Single Bloom Competition, a pottery show featuring work by studio members, and a talk by a guest speaker, offering something for every dahlia and art enthusiast to enjoy. The full schedule can be found at the Bascom’s website [www.the-bascom.org](http://www.the-bascom.org).

The Dazzling Dahlia Festival was instrumental in funding a scholarship in Randolph P. Shaffner’s name for a Highlands School student. This year the first scholarship of \$2,500 will be awarded in May.

In the coming years, the scholarship will continue to be funded, in part, with money the Dahliabolics raised, so the festival will continue to have a heartbeat at HHS.



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# • UPCOMING EVENT •

## Highlands Heritage Jamboree showcases music, dance and mountain culture

The Highlands Heritage Jamboree is back! And this year, it's bigger, bolder, and bursting with hometown pride as we celebrate Highlands' 150th anniversary. On Saturday, September 27, Kelsey Hutchinson Founders Park will come alive with the sounds, flavors, and traditions that define our mountain town.

From the soul-stirring wail of bag-

pipes to the foot-stomping rhythms of bluegrass and clogging, the Jamboree will be a daylong celebration of Highlands' rich history and vibrant community spirit. Residents and visitors can savor authentic barbecue, explore a historic moonshine display, and dance the evening away under the September sky.

"Highlands' heritage is something we

live and breathe every day," said Johanna Fein, Executive Director of the Highlands Chamber of Commerce/Visit Highlands, NC. "This year's Jamboree is not just an event, it's a heartfelt nod to the traditions, music, and stories that have shaped our community for 150 years."

### SCHEDULE

#### 1pm – Highlands Bagpipers | Fountain

Kick off the day with the stirring sounds of the Highlands Bagpipers, a cherished local tradition.

#### 1-5pm – Historic Moonshine Display in HHS Tent

Discover the storied past of Highlands' moonshine trade and its colorful characters.

#### 1-3pm – U.S. Navy Band: Four-Star Edition | Main Stage

The popular music group Four-Star Edition entertains audiences with a high-energy show performing a wide range of music from classic hits to today's top roc, pop, hip hop and country music. As part of the larger United States Fleet Forces Band, the Musicians of Four-Star Edition are among the most versa-

tile performers in the fleet.

#### 3-4pm – Barbecue by Highlands Smokehouse | Tent

Indulge in mouthwatering BBQ from a local favorite that's been satisfying hungry visitors and locals for years.

#### 3:45-4:45pm – J Creek Cloggers | Patio

The J Creek Cloggers return to show off their award-winning footwork. These Appalachian dancers, educators, and storytellers are dedicated to preserving traditional clogging and flatfooting. After going viral in March 2022, the J Creek Cloggers were featured on Spectrum News, where Zeb Ross and the team appeared in an Emmy-winning news segment that elevated their story to a national audience

#### 5-7:30pm – The Shedhouse Trio with Darren Nicholson | Main Stage

The Shedhouse Trio is a dynamic blend of talent and energy, bringing a fresh sound to the mountain music scene. Comprised of core members Brady Wallen on banjo and vocals, Sarah Griffin on bass and vocals, and

• See JAMBOREE page 11



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# • HS SPORTS RECAP •

## Off to a great start!

The start of the school year brought a packed and competitive week for our Highlands athletes. Our teams faced a challenging schedule, showing great heart and determination in every match.

The week kicked off on Tuesday, August 26, as our high school volleyball teams traveled to Robbinsville. Both the JV and Varsity teams took tough losses. The JV squad fell 2-0 with set scores of 20-25 and 25-27, while the Varsity team lost 3-0 with scores of 23-25, 9-25, and 18-25.

On Wednesday, August 27, Claire Worley had an outstanding performance at the cross country meet in Hayesville, securing a 2nd place finish with a time of 21:40. Meanwhile, the varsity boys soccer team faced a tough 5-2 loss to Madison High School. Rowen Carnes and Isaiah Vilardo each scored a goal for the Highlanders.

Thursday proved to be a big night for our home teams. Our middle school volleyball team secured a conference win over Blue Ridge, winning 2-0 with scores of 25-9 and 25-20. The middle school boys soccer team also dominated, earning a decisive 9-0 conference victory against Blue Ridge. The goals were scored by Todd Vilardo (3), Camden Westendorf (2), Jensen Bowers, Brian Munoz, Matthew Morales, and Charlie Wilkes.

## ...JAMBOREE from page 10

Avery Welter on guitar and vocals, the trio effortlessly fuses bluegrass, western swing, classic country, folk, and gospel into a vibrant musical tapestry. Adding depth and flair to their sound are special guests Darren Nicholson on mandolin and vocals and Aynsley Porchak on fiddle - plus a special guest square dance caller to get everyone on their feet!

For more information about the event, visit [www.highlands-chamber.org](http://www.highlands-chamber.org) or call the Welcome Center at 828-526-5841.



Brett Lamb  
Athletic Director

The high school volleyball teams were back in action against Rosman. The JV team fought hard

but lost a close match 2-1 (25-15, 18-25, 12-15). The varsity volleyball team, however, captured their first win of the season with a clean 3-0 sweep (25-22, 28-26, and 25-23). The night concluded with the varsity boys soccer team, who suffered a tough 3-1 loss to Franklin. Aniah McKim scored the lone goal for Highlands.

It was an action-packed week that highlighted the dedication and spirit of our student-athletes. We are proud of their efforts and look forward to cheering them on in the coming weeks. Go Highlanders!



Claire Worley had an outstanding performance at the cross country meet in Hayesville, securing a 2nd place finish with a time of 21:40.



The JV Volleyball team fought hard but lost a close match 2-1 (25-15, 18-25, 12-15) to Robbinsville.



The Highlands-Cashiers Film Festival is Thursday-Sunday, Sept. 18-21 featuring four days of competition film screenings, workshops and presentations by emerging filmmakers, actors, acclaimed indie/fallustrary presenters and award-winning professionals.

All genres will be showcased, including features, documentaries, shorts, and international films on the Main Stage at PAC and in the Martin-Lipscomb Theatre.

For complete schedule and tickets go to [www.highlandscashiersfilmfestival.com](http://www.highlandscashiersfilmfestival.com)

## Behind the Scenes Magic: Creatives Illuminate Highlands

By Megan Lewicki

Most of us can name our favorite actors. Fewer can name the people who design the worlds they inhabit or decide exactly how the light should fall in a pivotal scene. This year, the Highlands-Cashiers Film Festival is giving audiences a rare gift: a direct line to the minds who shape the way films look, feel, and live in our memories. Over the course of the weekend, three industry veterans will be in Highlands to pull back the curtain on their craft.

### Steven Poster: Painting with Light

On Friday, Sept. 19 at 2PM, cinematographer Steven Poster, ASC, will present Donnie Darko, followed by a conversation about how its dreamlike unease was created. Poster's credits range from second-unit cinematography on Blade Runner and Close Encounters of the Third Kind to lead cinematography on Rocky V, Someone to Watch Over Me, and Stuart Little 2. His insights remind us that lenses, framing, and lighting aren't just technical tools — they're emotional cues, guiding what we feel before we know why.

### Bill Brzeski: Building Worlds from Scratch

That evening at 6:45 PM, production designer Bill Brzeski will step into the spotlight before a screening of Matilda. Brzeski's work spans blockbuster franchises — Aquaman, The Hangover, Iron Man 3, Jumanji: The Next Level — but in Matilda, the magic was handmade. The self-writing chalk, the levitating carrot, the infamous chocolate cake — these weren't computer tricks. They were designed, built, and timed to create believable wonder. Brzeski will unpack how production design not only builds a set, but supports story, character, and performance.

### Robert Hoffman: A Modern Star with a Classic Pick

On Saturday, Sept. 20 at 1:30 PM, actor and dancer Robert Hoffman (Step Up 2: The Streets, She's the Man) will introduce A Matter of Life and Death, a 1946 Technicolor fantasy-romance from Powell and Pressburger. Hoffman's own career is full of high-energy, modern roles, but his championing of this film reveals an enduring respect for cinema's craft lineage — a reminder that innovation often springs from what came before.

### Why it Matters Here

Hearing directly from the creatives behind the camera changes the way you watch a film. These aren't abstract discussions — they're tied to the movies we'll see together in the same room. You can revisit Donnie Darko and then discover how budget constraints shaped its signature atmosphere. You can watch Matilda with your family and then learn exactly how those practical effects were pulled off. You can immerse yourself in a 1946 classic and come away understanding why its visual design still inspires today.

In a festival that blends global cinema with Plateau connection, these sessions stand out for their intimacy and insight. They remind us that the magic of movies isn't just in the final cut — it's in the choices, risks, and craft that bring each frame to life. Seating is limited — especially for these behind-the-scenes close encounters.



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# Fall Home Improvement

## The Biggest Paint Color Trends of 2025, According to Design Pros

By Alyssa Gautieri  
Associate Lifestyle Editor  
Good Housekeeping

It's that time of year when design industry leaders unveil their forecasts for the hottest upcoming trends — and that includes paint colors. With minimalism on its way out and joyful, personalized interiors taking over, designers are leaning toward warm, earthy and moody colors. That means shades like deep purple, cocoa brown and sunny yellow

are showing up in interiors. The new year is a perfect time for a fresh coat of paint, so why not try one of these trendy hues? They're perfect for the living room, the kitchen space, you name it.

We asked 15 interior designers to share their predictions for the biggest paint color trends of 2025. While certain timeless shades will never go out of style (think warm whites), designers say they

are loving bold colors this year. (Indeed, we've been noticing so many shades of red!) We're seeing a lot of inspiration pulled from 2025's Colors of the Year, too, like Benjamin Moore's Cinnamon Slate and Pantone's Mocha Mousse.

"I love Benjamin Moore's Bellbottom Blues, a timeless shade of blue that will continue to be a popular choice in 2025. This color can provide that touch of boldness and personality

while not being overpowering. It has a slightly muted undertone that provides a striking contrast that also feels balanced when paired with neutrals, warm tones and metallic finishes." — Margaret Donaldson of MDI Luxury Design

### Buttermilk Yellow

"Buttermilk yellow, reminiscent of gentle sunlight, adds a glow to interiors, instantly making them more uplifting. It creates spaces that feel safe, welcoming and restorative — a perfect counterbalance to the hustle and bustle of modern life."

— Matthew Williamson,  
interior designer

### Hot Cocoa

"Paint colors that exhibit moodiness without being terribly dark will be very present in 2025. Hot Cocoa by Sherwin-Williams is a chocolatey-mauve that provides depth but still reflects light beautifully and transitions into a mid-tone paint color." — Laura Williams of ATX Interior Design

### Berry Tones

"We are loving berry tones. They give off a rich, warm feeling without being overly feminine. They're also extremely versatile; a deep cranberry would work well for a moody dining room or you could pair a mulberry with a fun wallpaper like we did in this mudroom."

— E. Norton of Norton Interiors

### Deep Purple

"Purple is making a bit of a comeback! I see a lot of dark, moody plum colors being incorporated into spaces like bedrooms, offices and lounges. Plum

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# Fall Home Improvement – 2025

evokes a warmth and pairs well with rich woods and green tones.”

— *Gabrielle Bove of Opaline Interiors Studio*

## Pitch Black

“I see Pitch Black by Farrow & Ball as a trending paint color for 2025. A true statement color, it gives off that coveted speakeasy vibe. While super dramatic and saturated, it’s actually quite versatile and works well in many homes, even when the rest of the home is light and airy.”

— *Steph Schlegelmilch, founder and principal designer of Studio Seva*

## Shades of Red

“Shades within the red palette have been emerging more frequently in home interiors, particularly the darker, moodier tones like garnet, wine and maroon. The deep brick-red family is one I have my eye on,

as it feels a bit dramatic yet still warm and inviting.”

— *Stephanie Pierce, director of design and trends at MasterBrand Cabinets*

## Classic White

“White is evolving! While this classic color will always remain in use, its warmth is on the rise. Our top choice for a white-neutral this year is Sherwin-Williams’ Shoji White. We appreciate its lower reflective value of 74... a lower reflective value contributes to a richer warmth.” — *Tiffany Matthews, founder of Motif Homes*

## Light Green

“Relaxed green shades are gentle and subdued, inspired by natural elements like eucalyptus and olive leaves. These greens often lean towards neutral undertones, such as gray or beige, making them highly

• See PAINT page 14

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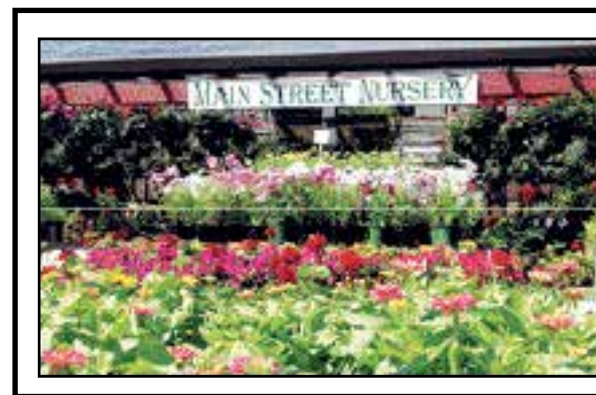
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## ...PAINT continued from page 13

versatile — perfect for cabinetry, millwork or walls. They also bring a soothing calm to a space.”

— *Ashley Macuga of Collected Interiors*

### Blue-Green

“The 2025 color trend will be calm

and peaceful colors with earthy tones, like blue-green, to settle down the dust in your mind. This thoughtfully chosen color creates a natural, harmonious atmosphere, blending boldness with a soothing calm. Perfectly designed to evoke tranquility, it sets the stage for a truly refreshing environment.”

— *TC Chou, founder of Design Determination*

### Mossy Gold

“Following the lead by Pantone and their newly revealed color of the year, Mocha Mousse, I predict paint colors that are hard to define for 2025. For example, this color, Mossy Gold by Sherwin-Williams, has equally strong green, gold and brown vibes. In the new year, we can embrace complexity with nuanced colors like these.”

— *Molly Kunselman, interior designer*

### Deep Reds

“I definitely see deep reds trending again for 2025. I talk about color psychology in my new book, *House Rules: 100 Ways To Feel at Home*, and red evokes passion, high energy and excitement, making it the perfect color to use for a fun and lively space.”

— *Emma Beryl Kemper, interior designer*

### Creamy White

“For 2025, I believe we’ll see a shift away from stark whites toward sophisticated creamy, nuanced shades that still preserve the clean, timeless aesthetic homeowners crave. Creamier whites, like Sherwin-Williams’ Alabaster, lend warmth and subtle depth while acting as a versatile canvas that pairs beautifully with natural woods, bold colors and metallic finishes.”

— *Vyanca Soto, Owner of Market Studio Interiors*

### Coffee-Inspired Hues

“Barista by Benjamin Moore will be a standout color in 2025 for its rich hue, earthy warmth and timeless versatility. Coffee-inspired tones create a sophisticated look that works for so many spaces — dining rooms, fireplaces, powder rooms, you name it! It’s the perfect moody and bold color while maintaining an earthy base to not scare off a rule follower.”

— *Amanda Leigh, managing partner at House of Rolison*

### Reddish Brown

“Warm, reddish browns are in for 2025, and I especially love the depth and saturated hue of Benjamin Moore’s Walnut. It’s a beautiful color that even someone like me, who usually gravitates toward jewel tones, can embrace.”

— *Beth Diana Smith, interior designer*



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# • BIZ/ORG NEWS •



From left: Dan Rupp, Vice-President; Delaine Mehder; Lisa Burgess, Secretary; Beth Townes, Treasurer; John Warner; DeeDee Thompson; Amy Cooper, Co-President; and Cal Isaacs, Co-President.

## Mountain Findings elects new board members

The board, in collaboration with committees, is responsible for overseeing the annual allocation of community grant awards and high school senior scholarships, as well as managing donations, volunteers, and the Mountain Findings Thrift Store – nearly \$460,000 in 2025 alone.

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## ...TRACE continued from page 1

This year's gathering will include a presentation entitled "Creating a Family Story." There will also be music by local vocalist Carol Criminger Grantham, stories by historic family members and an opportunity to sign up to have family stories recorded for preservation and used by the Historical Society. Tracy Foor and long-time Highlands resident, Mike Thompson, will co-host the event.

"The goal of the Descendants' Reception is to provide a setting for families of early settlers of Highlands and surrounding areas to commune together, and to welcome newcomers to join in and see the complex relations between Highlands' early settlers and families involved," said Thompson. "Memories disappear in space and become lost in time if they aren't recorded. Preservation procures future knowledge and is the only pathway for generations ahead to have questions answered about your family."

The Highlands Historical Society is attempting to collect oral histories as a way to honor the memories and stories of long-time Highlands' families. The goal is to promote those histories by posting videos on their website through a monthly "Featured Family" which will gift the Highlands community with a brief glimpse

of the past through the eyes of each family's story.

"The history of a community is best told by the families that lived that history," said Foor. "Oral histories have been described as 'the first kind of history.' Their personal nature makes them a great source for people wanting to discover more about a certain event or era. We hope events like these become a catalyst for all families to begin preserving their own histories and HHS is attempting to provide the tools for that to happen more easily."

The Descendants' Reception will be held on Saturday, September 27th from 11a – 1p at the Highlands Community Building located at 869 N. 4th Street. The event is free and a light lunch will be included. If you are interested in participating in this year's Descendants' Reception, please pre-register at [highlands100plus@gmail.com](mailto:highlands100plus@gmail.com). For more information go to [highlandshistory.com](http://highlandshistory.com).

The celebration of Highlands' 150th Anniversary will continue that day with the Highlands Heritage Jamboree, sponsored by the Highlands Chamber of Commerce, beginning at 1p in Kelsey-Hutchinson Park. There will be music by the Navy Band, bluegrass music by Darren Nicholson and the Shedhouse Trio, clogging, moonshine and more!

## ...GREEN continued from page 1



The Coopers circulated a photo they took from their home on Stonebridge Lane showing green water in the stream that feeds Harris Lake.

said Jimmy Teem, Macon County Emergency Management Coordinator/Fire Marshal.

"It escaped the system at the Highlands School and entered their storm water drainage system. A tributary sent it to Harris Lake," said Mayor Pat Taylor.

Propylene Glycol is an environmentally friendly anti-freeze used to de-ice planes, also in some large HVAC systems and other uses in the food industry.

The night of the event, the Department of Environmental Quality took samples from Harris Lake. As alarming as it was, luckily there was no harm to Highlands' water source, the environment or wildlife.

"Testing was conducted Thursday evening by the Regional Response Team 6 of the Asheville Fire Department and again Friday by the Department of Environmental Quality. The results were that there are

no negative impacts to waterways, wildlife, pets, or humans. All test results were within normal limits," said Teem.

According to Highlands Public Service Director Lamar Nix and Mayor Pat Taylor, the town's water supply pumps were turned off at Lake Sequoyah so there was no impact to Highlands' water supply.

"The water treatment plant can operate from other sources," said Nix.

The mayor said the state tested the entire watershed from Harris Lake to Mirror Lake.

"They found no contamination from the glycol but upon their recommendation and to side on extreme caution, Harris Lake was closed until Tuesday," said the mayor.

According to Teem, Harris Lake will not need to be drained, nor any action needed regarding the underlying soil.



## Pop Up Pipers!

Celebrating Highlands' Heritage

Listen for the call of the Highlands Bagpipers as they perform from a different location one Saturday of each month through October.

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## Single Bloom Competition

### Public Viewing

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## ...LETTERS continued from page 7

### Let's put party affiliation aside and take back our country

Dear Editor:

Recently, JD Vance referred to protesters in Washington DC as "stupid white hippies who are in their 90s, who need to go home and take a nap." In addition, he said they have never felt danger in their lives. Imagine dismissing a whole generation of people who lived through the violence of the Civil Rights Era, the Vietnam war with its protests, as well as the Kent State Massacre. How can he know what danger we encountered when he was not even alive?

As a Democrat I think we have let Republicans define us for too long, calling us socialists, communists, traitors, and peder-

philes, among others. When Newt Gingrich was elected Speaker of the House he called Democrats the 'enemy' and so we have been ever since. And when Barack Obama became president, it became common to say we are un-American, un-Christian, baby killers, satanists and more.

Now the current administration runs roughshod over our rights, and the press is criticizing Democrats for not fighting back. Reports indicate that more Democrats are choosing to become unaffiliated. It has become hard to say, "I am proud to be a Democrat." Why? Democrats are responsible for equal voting rights, for social security, for

Medicare and Medicaid, all social programs attempting to create a balance for rich and poor, young and old, black and white, and people with sexual and religious differences.

Using fake crime statistics, our Republican President is exaggerating the danger and sending armed troops into democratic cities. He is also threatening to send the military to other democratic cities. Republican governors are sending troops to these same cities in support of the President's agenda. Republican cities that have higher crime rates are not on the President's radar. And today the media is saying he has become the 'Tough on Crime President,' wondering if

Democrats can counter that.

Last week there was another school shooting. Two children are dead; 14 others injured. When we should be asking, "Where are the gun safety laws that were promised?" we again say it is too early to talk about gun reform. While here in NC, Republicans are trying to lower the age for concealed carry from 21 to 18. Does that make people feel safer? Is there ever a right time?

It is time to quit asking what Democrats are doing and ask, 'What the heck is our President doing?' And it is time to ask what we the people can do. I hope you consider coming back to the Democratic Party if you were a member. If you have been independent, I hope you will join us. If you are a Republican who opposes the actions of the current administration come over to the other side. You do not have to stay forever. And in the process the people can define what Democrats, and this country, stand for.

The division we are experiencing cannot prevail; we are in danger of losing our hard-won democracy. A president who creates chaos, pits republicans against democrats, rural people against urban dwellers in his own country, does not deserve to be president. Neither do those republicans and cabinet members under his sway need to be in power. Watching the President's efforts to gerrymander more republican districts one must believe that the plan is for Democrats never to enact legislation again.

It is up to Democrats to protest, call out their representatives and to vote out Republicans. Be one with us.

Margaret Pickett  
Highlands

  
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## ...MAYOR continued from page 2

control in emergency situations.

Some folks were concerned about the spill's impact on wildlife. We were too, but after repeated observations, our staff saw no evidence of fish or aquatic species being killed at Harris Lake. The same can be said of waterfowl.

One person on Facebook said the release of the glycol was intentional. I was at the school when the fire marshal determined the source of the breach and damage. No one intentionally released the liquid; it was an accident. I am certain county and school officials will continue to assess

exactly what caused the mishap and how to correct the problem permanently.

One person online declared someone should go to prison for this spill. Really? Amazingly, a person on Facebook can make such an instantaneous judgment without knowing the facts. Intemperate discourse is awash on the internet.

Finally, please get the new Town of Highlands App. It is tailored for exactly this type of situation. The app also provides an immediate portal to the town website. Both platforms can post real-time reports that are more correct than Facebook chatter.

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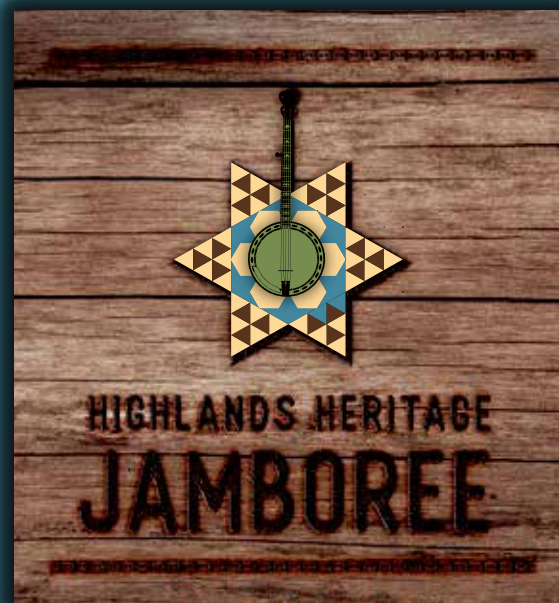
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# SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING

## Lessons from the trees



**Ken Langsdorf**  
Lutheran Church of the Holy Family

Here in Highlands, we are transitioning from one season to another. It has been a wonderful Summer. We have had plenty of rain and high temperatures. We enjoyed resting in the sunshine. Now we are ready for Fall. We look forward to cooler evenings and crisp mornings. The changing color of leaves is always a highlight. The variety of colors amazes us and draws crowds to gaze at the beauty. Fall is a refreshing season.

As we move from Summer into Fall, what lessons can we learn in this change of seasons? We may look at our own lives and consider how we are changing. How are we beautiful in new ways? And as we watch the leaves fall from the trees, we may wonder, what in my life do I need to let go of? What hurts or failings from the past season do I need to let go of?

As the trees shed their leaves, we can ponder the importance of forgiveness for our own lives. What is within us that needs to be forgiven? We also reflect on the pains have we endured from others that need to drop from us?

It may take all the whole Fall season to work this process of letting go and forgiving, but we have this season. We have this time to release the pain and hurt as well as the guilt and shame. We have this season to let go and be refreshed.

Forgiveness begins as we take into the depth of our spirits the promise that God forgives us. That is the message of Jesus. In his teachings and through his death and resurrection we receive the assurance of forgiveness.

As we truly believe that God forgives us and that there is nothing that will take us out of God's grace, we can then begin to forgive ourselves. This is quite a process, but the more we trust in God's grace the more we can accept forgiveness. It is then from this place of renewal that we consider forgiving other people.

I appreciate this quote from Les Brown that says, "Forgive anyone who caused you pain or harm. Keep in mind that forgiving is not for others. It is for you. Forgiving is not forgetting. It is remembering without anger. It frees up your power, heals your body, mind and spirit. Forgiveness opens up a pathway to a new place of peace where you can persist despite what has happened to you."

As we receive forgiveness, we feel so relieved and renewed, and we want others to know this too. So, from this place of being forgiven we can then express this same forgiveness to others. This, too, is a process. It may take a whole season to work through our hurt and come to a point where we can offer forgiveness. It is not simple, but it is necessary.

This Fall, consider the trees and let them guide you in this season of forgiveness and renewal.

# • 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

## GRACE CHAPEL ON HIGH HOLLY

9615 Dillard Rd Scaly Mountain, N.C.

Pastor Steve Kerhoulas. <http://www.Graceonhighholly.com>

Sunday School 9:45; Worship 11; Prayer Service Wed 5:30p

Men's and Women's Bible Study throughout the week

## CHRIST ANGLICAN CHURCH

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

464 U.S. Hwy. 64E, Cashiers, NC

CAC@christanglican.cashiers.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](mailto:jacob@cashiers.church) • 743-5470

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

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

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

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

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

Bistro

## EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE INCARNATION

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

5th and Main streets • [www.incarnationwnc.org](http://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](http://www.fbchighlands.org)

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

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

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

## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

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

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

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

## GOLDMINE BAPTIST CHURCH

(Off Franklin/Highlands Rd)

Sunday School: 10 am. Worship Service: 11 am

## GRACE COMMUNITY CHURCH OF CASHIERS

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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. & 6p. Wednesday Worship is 6p

## HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Rev. Dr. Randy Lucas. Pastor 526-3376

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[www.highlandsmethodist.org](http://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 • [mountainsynagoguewnc.com](http://mountainsynagoguewnc.com).

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

Kippur.

## MOUNTAIN BIBLE CHURCH

743-2583 • Independent Bible Church

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

(4.5 miles from NC 107)

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

## OUR LADY OF THE MOUNTAINS

## CATHOLIC CHURCH

Rev. Fr. Jason K. Barone – 526-2418

Sat. 4pm 5/24/25-10/25/25; 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: Sun. 9a (English); Mon. 9:30a (Vatican II in Latin); Tues.

7p (Spanish); Wed., 9:30a (English)

## THE CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

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

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## UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP

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

Sunday Worship - 11 a.m.

## WHITESIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

# • POLICE & FIRE REPORTS •

**Highlands Police entries from Aug. 25. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a summons/citation, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor or those of public officials have been used.**

## Aug. 25

• At 12:32 a.m., officers responded to a call of trespassing at a Biscuit Rock Road residence when someone came onto the property which displays "no trespassing" signs and attempted to enter the building.

• At 4:50 a.m., officers responded to a call of a person with outstanding warrants attempting to break into a resident's porch on Upper Lake Road.

• At 7:30 a.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident in the Highlands School Bus Loop.

• At 8:20 a.m., Cesar Alejandro Arevalo, 40, of Highlands, was arrested on three outstanding warrants from another jurisdiction. He was taken to the Macon County Detention Center and issued a \$40,000 secured bond.

## Aug. 27

• At 5 p.m., Cesar Alejandro Arevalo, 40, of Highlands, was issued a criminal summons for trespassing.

• At 6:30 p.m., officers responded to an unattended death at a residence on Wahoo Trail.

## Aug. 28

• At 2:20 p.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident on South Street.

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

## Aug. 26

• At 11:19 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Shelby Drive.

• At 6:57 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Worley Road.

## Aug. 27

• At 11:22 p.m., the dept. provided mutual aid to the Cashiers FD.

• At 8:19 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Big Bear Pen Road.

• At 12:33 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Buck Creek Road.

• At 2:39 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Bowery Road.

• At 3:21 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on S. Old Walhalla Road.

• At 6:29 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Wahoo Trail.

## Aug. 28

• A little past midnight, the dept. investigated the source of smoke at a residence on Mount Lori Drive.

• At 6:57 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Buck Creek Road.

• At 12:33 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a location on Half Mile Drive.

• At 5:15 p.m., the dept. provided mutual aid to the Cashiers FD.

• At 5:33 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Chestnut Lane.

• At 2:39 p.m., the dept. responded to a call of a chemical spill on Pierson Drive.

## Aug. 29

• At 6:51 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Clubhouse Trail.

• At 9:53 p.m., the dept. investigated

the cause of smoke at a location on Pierson Drive.

## Aug. 30

• At 6:33 a.m., the dept. provided mutual aid to the Cashiers FD.

• At 9:40 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Hemlock Lane.

• At 12:41 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Glen Falls Trail.

• At 11:05 p.m., the dept. responded to a gas alarm at a residence on NC 106 (Dillard Road).

## Aug. 31

• At 11:05 p.m., the dept. provided public assistance at a location on Main Street.

• At 7:07 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Cook Road.

## Sept. 1

• At 11:38 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Memorial Park Drive.

• At 9:47 p.m., the dept. responded to a Co2 alarm at a residence on Kettle Rock Road.

## Sept. 2

• At 8:17 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Hedden Lane.



## Come trek the historic Kelsey Trail

The Highlands Plateau Greenway invites you to experience the legendary Kelsey Trail Hike, returning for its 7th biennial appearance on Saturday, October 4. This 4.5-mile trek retraces the original 1883 path carved by Highlands co-founder Samuel Kelsey through a primeval forest to the cliffs of Whiteside Mountain.

Mocked in its day as "Kelsey's trail to nowhere," the route wound through Bear Pen Gap, Highlands Falls, Soldier's Cave, Garnet Rock, and panoramic views from Wildcat Ridge before ending at a Cherokee campsite near the summit. It quickly became a favorite walk for generations —

and remains a breathtaking way to connect with Highlands' historic past.

Four groups of 25 hikers will depart by shuttle from the Recreation Park at 7:30, 8, 8:30, and 9 AM. The mostly downhill hike lasts about four hours at a leisurely pace. A \$100 donation supports the Highlands Plateau Greenway and includes water, snacks, and rest stops along the trail.

This hike only happens every two years! Registration is available online at [www.highlandsgreenway.com](http://www.highlandsgreenway.com).

Photo of Kelsey Trail Hikers at Garnet Rock in 2023



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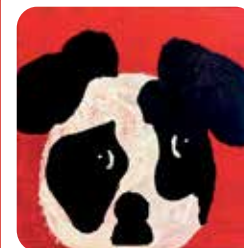
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**11.62 ACRES, 7 MILES SOUTH OF HIGHLANDS.** \$287,301. Owner financing. 200 mature blueberry plants. 3 springs. Email rickhavron@gmail.com. (st. 8/14)

**COACH CLUB** - Class A motorcoach lot and auxiliary building. One Half mile from Main Street! 850-572-8308. (st. 8/14)



**DIVORCE FORCES SALE:** 10-acre mountain top tract. 360 views of App Trail & Bartram Trail. Road in place, easy building site, drive right to the top of Buck Knob in Scaly Mtn. \$550k. exitmountain@gmail.com: 828-276-3569 (st. 7/17)



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## FOR RENT

**1 BR/1 BA APT - LEAF & HOLIDAY SEASON RENTAL** - located 6 miles from downtown Highlands off of Hwy 106. Fully furnished \$175 per night/ 3 night minimum - Starlink internet. Call Pam 828.482.2554 (st. 8/21)

**2BD/2BA CABIN** – 4.5 miles from downtown Highlands. Furnished or unfurnished. Annual lease. \$1,500/mth. Call Tom. 404-213-2431. (st. 7/24).

**HIGHLANDS 1-2 SPACES** – 1 large or 2 smaller spaces for rent in popular Mill Creek Shopping Center next door to Blue Bike Cafe. Each space is 800 sq/ft at \$2,333/mo OR both spaces at 1,600 sq/ft for \$4400/mo. Inquires to Debi: bock7@me.com or 404-323-9444. (st. 7/10)

**4 BDM/3 BATH HIGHLANDS** – Updated farm home, located between Highlands & Cashiers off Hwy 64. \$4,500/month, includes all utilities with high speed wifi. Call Marcy 828-482-4239 (st. 7/10)

**2BD/2BATH SINGLE WIDE** \$1,200 per month internet included. First last security. Mark 828-200-0765. (st. 5/29)

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**JUNK REMOVAL SERVICE** – We take anything. Call 828-200-0492 (7/31)

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**NEED FURNITURE MOVED OR ANYTHING HAULED AWAY?** Call or text James of Going Gone at 828-421-2655. (7/31)

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## • BIZ/ORG NEWS •



## MountainTop Rotary supports Big Brothers Big Sisters

Mountaintop Rotary's Michael Lanzilotta and Club President Andy Walker present check to Danielle Hernandez of The Plateau Boys and Girls Club at Monday's meeting.

Mountaintop Rotary's Michael Lanzilotta and Club President Andy Walker present check to Hudson Library Foundation Philip Curcuro at Monday's meeting.

Mountaintop Rotary President Andy Walker presents pen to Debi Bock following her presentation on Highlands Cashiers Film Festival at Monday's meeting.

# • HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

## POOL SCHEDULE

• Lap Swim: Mon.-Fri. 6am-9:45am, and Saturday 10am-11pm - 6 lanes. Water Aerobics: 18 y+ Mon.-Fri. 10-11am with Karen Chambers. Adult Swim: 18y+ Mon.-Thurs. 11am-3:30pm, Friday 11am-1:30pm. Public Swim: Mon. thru Thurs.. 3:30-7pm, Saturday 11am-6pm and Sunday 1-6pm

## PICKLE BALL

• At the Recreation Dept. every Monday - Friday 10am-1pm indoors for the winter (notice the days and time has changed),

## MOUNTAIN FINDINGS

• Open: 10 am - 1 pm. Spruce Street. [www.mountainfindings.org](http://www.mountainfindings.org)

## SATURDAY MARKET

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

## ALL WEEK

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 in Highlands @ the 1st Presbyterian Church, 471 Main St., on Monday at 5:30 p.m. and on Wednesday

& Fridays @ 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 @ 7 pm, on Friday at 5 pm and on Saturday at 9 am. For more information, please visit our website [www.aawnc80.org](http://www.aawnc80.org) or to speak with a member of A.A. 24/7 call our HELP Line 828 349-4357.

## Mon.Thurs.

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

## Mon-Wed-Fri

• Aerobics with Tina Rogers 8-9am at the Rec Park.

• Balance, Stretch & Strengthen Class at the Rec Park 8:30-9:30am. The cost for the class is \$30 a month and is led by 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 exer-

cise. 828-526-3556

## Mondays

• At the Literacy Council, Free Online Weekly Classes. 6:30 - 7:30p. Online via ZoomFor 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](mailto: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 Sept.

• 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 smartphone, 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 Thurs-

day 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](mailto:ncpost370@gmail.com) for more information or just join us at 9am.

## Sundays through August

• Church in the Wildwood, on Horse Cove Road. Old Fashioned Hymn Sing 7-8 p.m.

## Sundays

• At Wayfarers Chapel, Sunday Service: 10a 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).

## Thurs.-Sun. Sept 4-6

• At The Bascom, the Dazzling Dahlia Festival..

## Sat., Sept. 6

• At Winding Stair Nursery, Landscape Design: Tips from a Pro at 10a. For more information call 828-369-9778 or go [www.windingstairfarm.com](http://www.windingstairfarm.com)

• The Pop-Up Pipers in front of the Highlands United Methodist Church 4:30-5p

• Please join this Silent Prayer Vigil, Silent Prayer Vigil at the corner of Main and NC 106 on the Post Office property from 12:30-2p.m.. This is a non-denominational, non-partisan event for us to gather together in silent prayer with the intention/focus: Do Unto Others As You Would Have Done Unto You. Bring your flag, banner, cross, and pray in silence.

## Mon. Sept. 8

• Highlands Bolivia Mission Auction at the Martin Lipscomb Theatre at PAC at 6 p.m. Tickets are \$50 per person. Call Dr. Baumrucker at 828-200-0902. Lite bites and open bar.

## Thurs. Sept. 11

• The International Friendship Center (IFC) invites the public to an Open House at the Highlands Food Pantry on Thursday, from 5:30-7:30 pm. The event will feature guided tours, light refreshments, and the debut of IFC's new organizational video

## Sept. 13

• At the Highlands Biological Station, Roots & Resonance, a celebration of native plants, Appalachian heritage, and the deep connections between people and place. Hourly guided garden tours of rare and unusual native plant sale; special presentation on George Masa by Paul Bonesteel and Janet McCue; and a reception and book signing. For more details on Roots & Resonance, please visit: <https://highlandsbiological.org/2025-native-plant-celebration/>.

## Tues., Sept. 16

• Macon County Democratic Women's (and men) organization at the Highlands Rec Park at 5 pm. Will discuss the state's strategic plan to determine action steps to win upcoming elections

• "An Enchanted Evening " at Dahlias by the Lake annual fundraiser for scholarships. The event will be held on the patio at the Sky Valley Country Club from 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm. Live music, appetizers and drinks during the evening. A silent auction of quality art items and dahlia centerpieces will be available for purchase. Tickets are \$60 per person.

## Thurs.-Sun., Sept. 18-21

• The annual - Highlands Cashiers film festival. It's four days of competition film screenings, workshops, emerging filmmakers, and panels with acclaimed industry presenters and award-winning professionals. All genres will be showcased, including features, documentaries, shorts, and international films. For complete schedule and tickets go to <https://www.highlandscashiersfilmfestival.com/>

## Fri., Sept. 19

• At Rejuvenate Laser Center, OBAGI Day. 10a to 4p. 20% all products, free mini-facials, give aways, refreshments. 209 Hospital Road. #202.

## Sat., Sept. 27

• The Heritage Jamboree Descendants' Reception will be held from 11a - 1p at the Highlands Community Building located at 869 N. 4th Street. The event is free and a light lunch will be included. If you are interested in participating in this year's Descendants' Reception, please pre-register at [highlands100plus@gmail.com](mailto:highlands100plus@gmail.com). For more information go to [highlandshistory.com](http://highlandshistory.com).



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