

Highlands Newspaper

FREE Every Thursday

Volume 23, Number 17

Digital Version at HighlandsInfo.com

Thurs., April 23, 2026

HF&R helps fight fire on Flat Mountain

By Kim Lewicki

A brush fire out of control on USFS land off Flat Mountain Road dubbed the “Flat Rattlesnake” fire was tended by USFS firefighters as

well as Highlands Fire & Rescue and others beginning Thurs., April 16.

Rescue Captain and Town commissioner Eric Pierson, was among the HF&R crew

that moved to help, as well as volunteers from Sky Valley-Scaly Mountain, Cullasaja, and Cashiers fire and rescue departments.

• See FIRE page 5

•INSIDE THIS ISSUE•

Mayor on Duty	2	Letter	14
Weather	2	Hospital News	16
SnapShot.....	2	HS Sports.....	17
Investing at 4118 Ft.....	6	Spiritually Speaking	18
Obituaries.....	9	Police & Fire Report.....	19
Spring Home Improvement	12	Classifieds	21

Lots of discussion at Town Board and work session

By Kim Lewicki

Much of what was discussed at the April work session and subsequent Town Board meeting was ... discussion ... with items tabled or sent back to Attorney Nick Tosco for revisions, but citizens did voice concerns about the noise ordinance revisions.

Work session

Since commissioners and citizens have voiced concern about the long-winded work sessions resulting in minimal outcomes, the board has decided to go back to the “committee” format, where two commissioners, the Town Manager, Town Clerk and department

• See TOWN BOARD page 11

Highlands School’s Class of 2026 Valedictorian and Salutatorian



The Valedictorian for Highlands School Class of 2026 is Jaylin Raby. She is pictured with Highlands School Principal Sarah Holbrooks, left. The Salutatorian is Hunter Conner, pictured with Assistant Principal Alyssa DeBois, right. Both students will be attending UNC-Chapel Hill in the fall.

Highlands opposes state’s push to control property tax revals

Asks that the county and Franklin esdedd4eejoin in op-

By Kim Lewicki

On the heels of the Macon County Board of Commissioners being updated last week on the county’s property revaluation for Jan. 2027, North Carolina lawmakers are considering a major overhaul of property tax revaluations as well as a 12-month moratorium on all property tax revals to give the legislature time to finalize its broader reforms

Potentially, the overhaul would be cemented with a con-

• See OPPOSES page 10



Elevated In-Town
Living Minutes to
Main Street -
Thoughtful Design &
Privacy



Jody Lovell
(828) 226.6303

120 Split Rail Row | MLS 1002720

Highlands Sotheby's
INTERNATIONAL REALTY

M^cCULLEY'S

The largest selection of
Scottish cashmere in the U.S.A.

In Highlands ...on the hill
242 S. 4th St. • 828-526-4407

Open 7 days a week

www.mcculley.com

• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• MAYOR ON DUTY •

Pray for rain ... seriously

We are in a severe drought in Western Carolina, and for that matter, the vast majority of the state. More than likely, relief will not be in the immediate future.

Jason Boyer, the WLOS Meteorologist, analyzed the drought in a broadcast last week. He pointed out that Western Carolina was in a 13-inch rainfall deficit for the year, which had triggered severe drought and dangerous wildfire conditions.

Boyer did the numbers projecting when drought relief will come. His prognosis was not encouraging. The probability of recouping the 13-inch rainfall deficit within the next 30 days is about 2%. For the region to make up the rain shortfall over the next 60 days, the probability is about 12%. If we go out to 90 days, the chance of breaking the drought is only around 30%.

After hearing Boyer's analysis, my worries have intensified. Highlands and



Highlands Mayor
Patrick Taylor

WNC could very easily be in drought conditions well into the summer and even in the fall. Of course, our fire department will be on high alert for potential wildfires. All area fire departments have mutual aid agreements, so there will be a large response to any fire in the mountains.

For example, last Thursday, Commissioner Eric Pierson arrived very late to the town workshop. He had a very valid excuse.

As a volunteer firefighter, he was fighting a wildfire off Flat Mountain Road. Multiple units responded to the fire, and it took some time to get it under control. Commissioner Pierson emphasizes that there should be no outside burning period, no exceptions.

A statewide outdoor burning ban is in effect. Please do not call me about exceptions to the ban's conditions; it is absolute, no outside burning. One person in the area was recently burning debris in their yard and had a water hose nearby. The problem occurred when sparks flew up and left the property, igniting a section of a mountain next to the home. The hose did no good. A huge response was needed to get the wildfire under control.

Also, if you see an outside fire, such as burning materials at a construction site, please contact the non-emergency dispatch number. A first responder will be dispatched to the site to investigate. That non-emergency number is (828) 524-2020.

To break this drought, the region needs rainstorms that linger and dump many inches of water. A quick-moving front that drops a few tenths of an inch of rain is nice immediate relief, especially for washing away pollen, but the showers do not alleviate the dry conditions. Heat and wind after a rain shower return us to drought conditions very quickly.

The town water plant operators are also watching the situation. Highlands depends on surface water for its drinking water source. We may have to institute water restrictions measures at a later date. These restrictions normally come in

• See MAYOR page 21

• SNAPSHOTS •







Hail Storm damage repaired

From Tues., April 14 through Tues., April 21 the Rec Park pool was closed so the polycarb panels on the roof damaged by last fall's hail storms could be replaced. The flexi-glass on the sides wasn't damaged and therefore wasn't replaced. The wind on Sunday and Monday, prevented the crew from finishing up as planned. The pool reopened Wednesday.

Photo by Kim Lewicki

• WEATHER •

Thu, 23-Apr	Fri, 24-Apr	Sat, 25-Apr	Sun, 26-Apr
			
72°F 43°F	69°F 46°F	64°F 47°F	71°F 49°F
Mostly sunny and pleasant RealFeel® High 81° Low 49°	Pleasant with clouds and sun RealFeel® High 75° Low 53°	Cloudy with thunderstorms RealFeel® High 68° Low 53°	Increasing amounts of sun RealFeel® High 78° Low 54°

Highlands NC 4-Day Forecast By AccuWeather.com

Highlands Real-Time Weather Station @ HighlandsInfo.com/wx.htm

HIGHLANDER
ROOFING SERVICES INC.

New & Re-Roofing Applications Including:
Asphalt • Cedar • Metal • Synthetic Materials

Showroom: 1511 Highlands Rd • Franklin • O: 828-524-7773
info@highlandernc.com • www.highlandernc.com

Highlands Newspaper

www.highlandsinfo.com

Phone: (828) 200-1371

Email:

HighlandsEditor@aol.com

Publisher/Editor: Kim Lewicki

Reporters: Kristin Fox

Digital Media/Circulation - Jim Lewicki

Locally owned and operated by

Kim & Jim Lewicki

Adobe PDF version at

www.HighlandsInfo.com

265 Oak St. PO Box 2703

Highlands, N.C 28741

Copyrighted - All Rights Reserved.

5,000 copies printed weekly.

Independently verified by:

Gannett Printing Knoxville TN

Letter Policy:

There is a 500-word limit. We reserve the right to reject or edit letters-to-the-editor. No anonymous letters will be accepted. Views expressed are not necessarily those of Highlands Newspaper.

Obituary Policy

Obituaries are \$8 per column inch.

\$10 per photo.

Payable prior to publication.

THE POWER OF FIVE



JULIE OSBORN
828.200.6165

julie@patallenrealtygroup.com

- Dedicated
- Dependable
- Devoted



CY TIMMONS
828.200.9762

cy@patallenrealtygroup.com



PAT ALLEN
828.200.9179

pat@patallenrealtygroup.com



GREG HARRISON
828.200.9307

greg@patallenrealtygroup.com



NICOLE S. RUSSELL
828.200.4660

nicole@patallenrealtygroup.com



We have you covered - anywhere on the Plateau!
Highlands | Cashiers | Sapphire | Glenville | Scaly Mountain



PAT ALLEN REALTY GROUP • 828.526.8784 • 295 DILLARD ROAD, HIGHLANDS

VOTED AMERICA'S BEST by RealTrends since 2021





A celebration of Art, Cuisine, Fashion & Music featuring interactive art demonstrations and classes, culinary experiences, a fashion show, musical performances and so much more.



...FIRE continued from page 1

HF&R Chief Ryan Gearhart said the USFS also had multiple contract crews from all over to help while Highlands supplied water Thursday and throughout Friday.

Though Commissioner Pierson wasn't able to attend Thursday's work-session, when he arrived for the subsequent Town Board meeting he said, "the fire was bad."

At first there were two helicopters dumping water Thursday, but Pierson said they were called away to tend to two other fires that had erupted – the Cole Gap Fire located near Buck Creek Road in the Shortoff Mountain area and one in the Pisgah Forest area. He said there were two tanker trucks on site.

Chief Gearhart said USFS believes the fire started below the forest service seed orchard off Flat Mountain in the ditch line along the road.

"USFS law enforcement is working on finding out who started the fire, but they don't have any leads," said Gearhart. "They are unsure of ignition source and it's still under investigation."

At first, crews thought some older structures were in jeopardy due to their proximity to the fire and due to the necessary construction of burn lines, but Gearhart said they ended up finding an old logging road to use for the line which eliminated houses being near it.

"They began doing what is called a 'burn out operation' to get rid of any fuel that is left between the 'black' and the containment lines," said Gearhart.

By Monday morning, crews were left to monitor and do "mop up" – putting out hot spots in the interior of the fire that consumed 20-40 acres. No structures were damaged.

Through Monday, April 20, the USFS managed multiple wildfires in Western North Carolina amid high fire danger, "extreme" fire conditions, and a statewide burn ban.

According to the USFS, increased dry, windy conditions fueled the wildfire activity, with several fires in Pisgah and Nantahala National Forests seeing increased containment over the weekend.

Other fires over the weekend included Sawmill Branch Fire (Nantahala National Forest) located 12 miles east of Robbinsville and estimated at over 25 acres.

The McClure Road Fire (Nantahala National Forest) located in the Tusquitee

Ranger District (Cherokee County), estimated at 20 acres.

The Looking Glass Fire located near the Pisgah National Forest.

The Rattlesnake Branch Fire (Pisgah National Forest) located in Haywood County, reported at over 500 acres.

Hicks Cemetery Fire (Pisgah National Forest) located in the Appalachian Ranger District (Haywood County), estimated at 20 acres, and the North Fork Fire in the Graveyard Mountain area of the Grandfather Ranger District of the Pisgah National Forest.

A statewide burn ban is still in effect for all 100 counties.

The USFS said the impact of Hurricane Helene left large piles of hurricane-damaged timber which has accelerated fire spread in Western NC, making it difficult to contain fires and resulting in high-intensity burns.

For the most up-to-date daily changes, the USFS advises monitoring their Facebook page (U.S. Forest Service - National Forests in North Carolina)



Yoga Highlands
460 Carolina Way
(828) 526-8880

**Spring on in and
Grow your practice**

**Align your body
And stretch out the
Winter Kinks**

FREE CLASS

**Friday, May 1st
10 AM**



66 Summit Trail, Highlands

\$2,375,000 • MLS# 1002246



4 Woodland Lane, Highlands

\$1,300,000 • MLS# 1001756



354 Flat Mountain Estates Road, Highlands

\$2,999,000 • MLS# 1002567

Andrea Gabbard

c: 828.200.6742

AndreaGabbard@gmail.com

Recognized as one of the top 100 Agents
in NC *RealTrends'



Highlands | Sotheby's
INTERNATIONAL REALTY

114 N. 4th Street • Highlands, NC

Bryson's Food Store

Proudly Serving Highlands, North Carolina since 1977

The best meals start here!

Wine Tasting every
Thursday, 2-5p



Open daily
7:30a to 6:30p

103 Highlands Plaza, Highlands, NC • (828) 526-3775

Read Highlands Newspaper, Highlands' only locally owned newspaper free from everywhere – on the street or on the web. Digital version at www.highlandsinfo.com, Click on Local News.

Delivered and Uploaded every Thurs. AM

April SPECIALS

Highlands - 828-482-4430
Franklin - 828-349-1280

20%
Off

Spring Awakening Facial - \$140

A seasonal brightening treatment designed to refresh and renew winter-worn skin.

This rejuvenating facial includes a deep double cleanse, strawberry enzyme exfoliation, lymphatic drainage massage with gua sha which aids any seasonal allergy congestion, antioxidant strawberry mask, rose-infused hand treatment, and red light therapy to stimulate collagen and restore glow.

TATTOO Removal 20% Off

Packages not included



• INVESTING AT 4,118 FT. •

Highlands Real Estate in Q1 2026: What the numbers are really telling us

There's a rhythm to Highlands real estate that's unlike anywhere else in the country. Situated at 4,118 feet in the Blue Ridge Mountains, this small plateau town has long attracted buyers who aren't just purchasing a home, they're buying into a lifestyle defined by cool summers, world-class fly fishing, and exceptional dining, all nestled in a quaint mountain community. That context matters when we look at what the first quarter of 2026 is telling us.



Gary Scott
President
Howard Hanna Allen Tate
Howard Hanna Virginia

diligence, and closing in two weeks out of desperation are giving way to more measured, thoughtful transactions.

For sellers, the message is one of strategic patience. Properly priced properties are absolutely moving. The 101-day average DOM reflects selectivity from a buyer pool that is sophisticated and unhurried, not disinterested. Price correctly from day one, present your property well, and the right buyer will come.

What continues to underpin this entire market is

The headline number is impossible to ignore: the median sale price surged 42% year-over-year to \$1,045,000. For a market that has always commanded a premium, this milestone confirms what many of us in the industry have observed firsthand, demand for high-end luxury properties in the Highlands-Cashiers area remains exceptionally strong. Buyers at the top of the market are transacting with conviction, and those sales are lifting the median in a meaningful way.

But the full picture is more nuanced, and that's actually good news for buyers who have felt sidelined in recent years.

New listings are down 7% from Q1 2025, and closed sales have declined a modest 6%. Meanwhile, Days on Market have increased 10% and are now averaging 101 days. The Months' Supply of Inventory sits at 3.8 months, a figure that technically signals a more balanced market after years of hyper-compressed, seller-dominated conditions. These aren't signs of a weakening market. They're signs of a healthy one.

What this means practically is that buyers have a rare window of breathing room. A 92% list-to-close price ratio tells us sellers are still holding firm on value, and rightfully so, given the scarcity of what Highlands offers. That said, the days of waiving inspections, skipping due

the irreplaceable nature of what Highlands offers. You cannot manufacture another downtown Main Street with the intimacy of Highlands. You cannot replicate the waterfalls, the rhododendron tunnels, the elevation that keeps temperatures 10 to 15 degrees cooler than the Charlotte and Atlanta metros from which so many of our buyers come. Inventory is still down 7% from a year ago, meaning scarcity remains a structural feature of this market, not a temporary condition.

As we move into the spring and summer season, which is historically Highlands' most active stretch, I expect transaction volume to pick up and the balanced conditions of Q1 to tighten once again. If you've been waiting for the right moment to make your move, that moment is now.

Whether you're looking to invest in Highlands real estate or make this mountain paradise your home, Highlands' Realtors are here to guide you through every step. Highlands knowledgeable advisors understand the local market and provide comprehensive services including mortgage, insurance, title, and relocation.

• Gary Scott is President of Howard Hanna Allen Tate | Howard Hanna Virginia. Contact him at howardhannatate.com



HOWARD HANNA

ALLEN TATE REAL ESTATE

Luxury Happens Here.

Howard Hanna Allen Tate is the leading luxury firm in the Carolinas and the #1 family-owned real estate company in the country.

\$40.2 Billion

CLOSED VOLUME

106,868

CLOSED UNITS

\$6.2 Billion

CLOSED LUXURY VOLUME

3,798

CLOSED LUXURY UNITS



#1 FAMILY-OWNED
BROKERAGE IN THE US



#1 IN NORTH AND
SOUTH CAROLINA



#1 IN NORTH AND SOUTH
CAROLINA LUXURY

©2025 Howard Hanna Real Estate

Contact Howard Hanna Allen Tate today.



HOWARDHANNATATE.COM

HIGHLANDS DINING



HIGHLANDS BURRITO

Tuck into Tasty Mexican Favorites & the Best Margaritas in Highlands



Host your next party at Highlands Burrito for birthdays, game days & more!
CALL 828-526-9313 TO BOOK

 **DINE IN OR TAKE IT TO GO**
 226 South 4th Street, Highlands, NC



Open Mon.-Sat. 11a to 8p • Sun. 11a to 7p
 Closed Tuesdays
 828.526.3554
 595 Franklin Rd. Highlands, NC

The Secret Garden
 Sandwich shop and gourmet food market
Open Year-Round
 Mon.-Fri.. 11:30a to 4p
 Sat., noon-4
 Call (828) 305-7509 to place a pick-up order.
Catering and Custom Charcuterie



Courtyard and Indoor seating!



208 N. 5th St. • Village Square • Next to Pine St. Park

The Ruffed Grouse Tavern
 at Highlander Mountain House



Open for **LUNCH**
 Wednesday-Saturday
 11:30-3p
 Open for **DINNER**
 Wednesday-Saturday
 5:30-9p
 Open for **SUNDAY BRUNCH**
 with Blue Grass music
 10a-3p

290 Main Street • Highlands • 828-526-2590
 highlandermountainhouse.com

A HIGHLANDER MOUNTAIN HOUSE HOTEL

OUTPOST
 INN



Now serving wine, beer & coffee!
 Open to the public!



Coffee Bar 8a to 4p daily
 Wine/Beer Bar:
 Thurs-Sat 5-10p

790 North 4th Street, Highlands | info@outpostinnhighlands.com | 828-482-7736

DON LEON'S

Empanadas • Tequenos • Roasted Chicken
 Gyro • Salads • Pitas • Burgers • Philly Cheese
 Steak • Susan's Rueben • Italian Sausage
 Appalachian Fries • Onion Rings
 Shrimp Gumbo • Soups, and more!

Open
 Breakfast: 7-10a
 Lunch: 11a-3p
 Dinner:
 Thurs., Fri., & Sat. 5-8p



828-482-1513
 462 Dillard Road, Highlands
 (across from Dusty's)



828-526-4035

WILD THYME GOURMET
 RESTAURANT

Serving Lunch and Dinner Year-Round
 Gourmet Foods & Full Service Bar
 Town Square at 343-D Main St. • Highlands



Open 6 Days
 Closed Wednesdays
 Lunch: 11a-3:30p
 Dinner:
 5:30p - closed
 No Dinner Sundays

DUSTY'S WEEKEND SPECIAL
 APRIL 24 & 25

MOJO CARNITAS



Includes black beans & rice,
 Cuban salad, tres leches cake.
 Call to order 828-526-2762
 493 Dillard Road

SERVES 2
\$42



Magliocca's
 Ristorante

Classic Italian dishes,
 thoughtfully prepared with
 the finest ingredients
 reflecting the heart and soul of
 Italian cuisine.

Dining Hours
 Wednesday - Saturday
 5pm - close
 BYOB

Chef Danny Magliocca
 828-526-0803
 20 Old Mud Creek Road
 Scaly Mountain, NC

• DINING •

...on the Verandah
Restaurant
on Lake Sequoyah

43 Years of Fine Dining



**NOW
OPEN**

Tuesday - Saturday

5:30-9p

828-526-2338

US 64w • Highlands

www.ontheverandah.com

Open for our 37th Season



Open Tuesday - Saturday

Dinner Starts @ 5:30 PM

Serving Easter Brunch 11 AM - 2 PM

Outdoor Dining / Dine-In Art Gallery / lakesiderestaurant.info



531 Smallwood Ave. | 828-526-9419 | Highlands

• CHHS NEWS •



Freckles is a 3-year-old beauty with a personality all her own. She enjoys affection and loves a cozy lap, but she also appreciates her personal space and a little independence. Freckles does best in a calm environment and would be happiest as the center of attention or with other pets who respect her space. Visit chhumanesociety.org or call (828)743-5752 for more information.

Photo by Marty Boone

• OBITUARIES •

Gladys Vinson McDowell

Gladys Vinson McDowell, 90, passed away on April 1, 2026. Born on December 22, 1935, in Macon County in the Scaly Mountain community, she was the daughter of Reba Chastain Vinson Deal and Ralph Vinson.

Gladys was a real estate broker who truly enjoyed meeting new people. She was an active member of her community and served on several local boards. She was one of the original members of Mountain Findings and played a key role in organizing the program. She served as treasurer for many years and remained a dedicated board member. In addition, she served on the Hudson Library Board, the Macon County Library Board, the Millennial Board, the Highlands Municipal Election Board, and the Highlands Historical Society. She was a member of the Presbyterian faith.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Charlie W. McDowell; her son, Mark Shannon McDowell; and her brother, Morris E. Vinson of Pickens, South Carolina.



She is survived by her daughter, Susan Parrish and her husband, Mark G. Parrish; four grandchildren, Coree McDowell Rhem, Brittany Dryman (Greg Porter), Mark Shannon Parrish, Savanna Parrish (Spencer William); and several great-grandchildren, including Scarlett Porter, Farrah Smith, Briella and Ezra of Alabama, and Rosalind Rhem and Gwendolyn Rhem of Sarasota, Florida.

A private memorial service was held at Highlands Memorial Cemetery April 9, 2026 with Rev. Ronnie Branson officiating.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Town of Highlands Scholarship Fund, P.O. Box 460, Highlands, NC 28741, or to the Highlands Historical Society, P.O. Box 670, Highlands, NC 28741.

Online condolences may be made at www.bryant-grantfuneralhome.com.

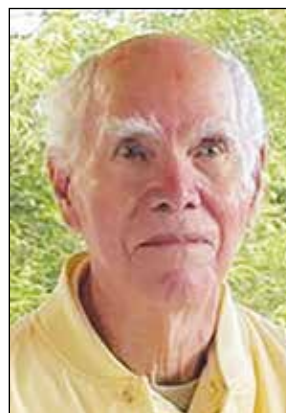
Bryant-Grant Funeral Home and Crematory is honored to serve the McDowell family.

Dean Brown

Dean Brown died on April 13, 2026. He was born to Joe E. and Mayme Brown, together with his twin sister, Jean, at Mason, OK. He married his soul-mate Patricia (Pat) Scanlan in 1952 and they had two children, Stephen P. Brown and Patricia (Trish) B. Foor.

Dean grew up in the small town of Dustin, OK and graduated from high school there in 1944. After his tour of duty with the Army during WWII, he graduated from the University of Oklahoma in 1949 with a degree in accounting. Upon graduation, Dean practiced accounting as a Special Agent with the Internal Revenue Service before joining a private certified public accounting firm. While working full-time as an accountant, with one child at home and another on the way, Dean put himself through Oklahoma City University's College of Law night school program. In fact, his last semester in law school was his first tax season as an accountant. Dean graduated second in his law school class in 1957.

In 1959, he joined John A. Green in the practice of law and accounting, both of them being CPAs as well as lawyers. The firm was originally Green and Brown but later became Green, Brown and Stark with the admission of Steve Stark as a partner. The firm was dissolved in 2002 upon the deaths of Green and Stark. In addition



to practicing law, Dean served on the board of directors of several companies including Panhandle Oil & Gas and Mercantile National Bank as well as on the institutional review board of Integris (then Baptist) Hospital. He also held positions of responsibility (elder, deacon, Bible study leader) at the churches he and Pat attended.

Before her death in 2018, Dean and Pat enjoyed traveling together, attending OU sporting events and leading a home group Bible study. They were married almost 66 years. In 2020, Dean along with his daughter, Trish and son-in-law, Tracy, made the move from their lifetime home state of Oklahoma to North Carolina where they enjoyed life in the mountains.

Dean is predeceased by his parents; his wife, Pat; and his son, Stephen. He is survived by his daughter, Trish Foor; her husband Tracy; and sons Jeremy, Gordon, wife Taylor and son Theo. He has requested that in lieu of flowers, donations be made to Reaching Souls International and Manna Food Bank.

The family would like to thank Tammy, Cheryl and all the employees of Chestnut Hill Assisted Living for their loving care of him these last six years. A small memorial was held at Chestnut Hill in Highlands, NC.



**Introducing Massage
Therapist
Vickie Franco to Highlands**



LMBT # 20596

Call now to book your service.

Offering

- Traditional

Swedish Massage

- Deep Lymph Flushing Massage

Specializing in:

- Craniosacral Therapy
- Myofascial Release Therapy

**322 Main St • Highlands
828-482-1112**

...OPPOSES continued from page 1

situtional amendment on the ballot in November 2026 to cap annual revenue increases.

The NC League of Municipalities (NCLM) has called on all 500 municipalities in the state to oppose the legislation warning that such caps put on counties could threaten funding for essential local services like schools, police, fire departments and more.

According to its website, the NCLM is a member-driven, non-partisan association that represents the interests of NC's cities and towns in its 100 counties. It provides legislative advocacy, financial and legal consulting, and specialized insurance, aiming to protect local control.

At the April 16 Town Board meeting in Highlands, commissioners unanimously approved a resolution opposing the action affirming local control over municipal property tax rates, supporting targeted tax relief for

vulnerable residents, and encouraging continued public input in fiscal decisions.

Though the town of Highlands hasn't increased its property tax – which is in addition to the county's property tax – in over a decade, Mayor Pat Taylor said limiting towns' and counties' ability to raise property taxes will hamper their ability to fund needed services.

“The state has reduced income taxes and cut back on funding services, so towns and counties have had to take up the slack,” he said. “Now the state wants to tell them they can't raise property taxes while issuing unfunded mandates.”

Driven by massive property valuation jumps of up to 70% in some areas in the state, the legislative proposals aim to prevent residents from being priced out of their homes.

Proponents, such as House Speaker Destin Hall, argue the reform is necessary to prevent “rapid increases and spikes” that

outpace inflation.

The House Select Committee on Property Tax Reduction and Reform is driving these changes, aiming to curb the impact of rapid inflation and high-cost housing on tax bills.

The proposed overhaul centers on several key reforms:

Levy Limits: The primary proposal, known as a “levy limit,” would cap annual growth in total property tax revenue from existing properties, typically tied to inflation and population growth.

Constitutional Mandate: Unlike current laws that the legislature can change, this amendment would require the General Assembly to enact permanent limits on property tax increases by cities and counties.

Revenue-Neutral Defaults: If property values rise faster than the cap, local governments would be forced to automatically lower tax rates unless residents vote to override the limit for specific projects.

Senior and Veteran Relief: Lawmakers are also considering expanding existing homestead

exclusions, such as increasing income limits for seniors and disabled veterans to make relief more accessible.

The town's resolution states that Highlands respectfully encourages the North Carolina General Assembly to carefully consider the potential impacts of proposed limitations on municipal revenues and to maintain a collaborative approach that preserves local flexibility.

Furthermore, the Town of Highlands Board of Commissioners emphasizes that locally elected officials are best positioned to make fiscally responsible decisions and are directly accountable to their constituents for those decisions.

Commissioner Amy Patterson said the state wants to take away local control.

“And that is never good or right,” she said.

The town sent a copy of its resolution to all the Macon County Commissioners, Franklin's mayor and council members requesting their support of this effort.

• BIZ/ORG NEWS •

Highlands-Cashiers Hospital Emergency Dept. receives 2025 Press Ganey Guardian of Excellence Award® for patient experience



Highlands-Cashiers Hospital Emergency Department has been named a 2025 Human Experience (HX) Guardian of Excellence Award® winner by Press Ganey, the global leader in healthcare experience solutions and services. This marks the fourth time the hospital has received this prestigious honor as part of Press Ganey's annual ranking of the nation's top hospitals and health systems based on patient experience performance.

The Press Ganey Guardian of Excellence Award is a nationally recognized symbol of achievement in healthcare, honoring organizations that consistently sustain performance in the top 1 percent of all Press Ganey clients for each reporting period over the course of a year.

“This recognition reflects the unwavering commitment of our emergency department team to provide compassionate, high-quality care to every patient who walks

through our doors,” said Tom Neal, CEO of Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. “Achieving this level of excellence—especially for the third time—is a testament to our staff's dedication to creating an exceptional experience for our community when it matters most.”

Press Ganey partners with more than 41,000 healthcare facilities worldwide in its mission to improve the safety, quality, and experience of care.

*Schedule your
appointment
Now!*



Hair Cuts, Color & Styles



Beauty Specialists

Monica

Adriana

Coming May 18th!

**Eyebrow Tints & Facial Waxing
Premium Hair Extensions
Bridal Services**

**322 Main St Highlands NC
828-482-1112**

...TOWN BOARD

continued from page 1

head meet as needed to discuss issues. The idea is that the “issues” will be hammered out by the committee and then brought to the Town Board for input or a decision.

Eight committees that represent functions of the town were agreed upon – Finance, Public Works, Land Use, Public Safety, Recreation, IT/Communications, Cemetery and Human Resources.

Committee meetings will be called in advance, publicized on the Town website and open to the public.

Commissioners were asked to pick two committees they would like to man; but the ultimate decision as to committee make-up will be the mayor’s.

The other Work Session agenda item was the 31-point Town Board Rules of Procedure which outlined how town meetings are to be handled. Commissioners went over it with a fine-toothed comb. It will be accepted at the next meeting after Attorney Tosco clarifies verbiage as requested.

Town Board meeting

The Noise Ordinance which is in the town’s Code of Ordinances has been discussed during previous Town Board meetings and was amended to be more objective so the police department can decipher nuisance calls over noise calls.

“We need the ordinances to be objective while still leaving room for subjectivity because we can’t always rely on a decimal reading,” said Chief Holland.

Radio and amplified noise was brought up by citizens during the public comment period.

Amplified noise is allowed in town, with police officers taking into consideration the time of day, whether the location is residential or commercial and if it is below the decimal limit.

Attorney Tosco said whether radio music is a nuisance or noise needs to be assessed by the officer.

Commissioner Amy Patterson suggested people use noise as a way to attract people to their businesses.

“Do we want to allow businesses to use loud music or a radio to get attention and get people to notice the business?” she asked. “This isn’t just about enforcing the noise ordinance it’s about what we are allowing.”

Some citizens asked that amplified radio music not be allowed and also questioned radios begin played at construction sites.

• See TOWN BOARD page 19



Color: Teak ES-30 Translucent | Wood: Red Cedar

For beauty that goes deeper than the surface.

The ultimate protection for outdoor beauty. Our innovative formulas minimize film build to reduce cracking and peeling for less prep, easier coating, and long-lasting results.

See the Love



330 Dillard Road
Highlands NC 28741
8282009226
www.highlandsdecorating.com

Color accuracy is ensured only when tinted in quality Benjamin Moore® paints and stains. Color representations may differ slightly from actual stain.
©2024 Benjamin Moore & Co. Benjamin Moore, the triangle “M” symbol, and Woodluxe are registered trademarks licensed to Benjamin Moore & Co. 2/24

Spring Home Improvement - 2026

SmartFlower Solar is a functional work of art

By Greg Undeen
SmartFlower Representative

Did you know, enough sunlight touches the surface of our home planet in one day to power all civilizations for an entire year? Also, as technology advances we are capable of mimicking foliage and fauna's harvest of precious energy formed at the center of the Sun.

In Highlands and Cashiers, we reside within the Goldilocks Zone, known for its temperate climate forming distance from the Sun, capable of sustaining mammalian species supported by the fruits of the journey of light. Our SmartFlower Solar device has been created with the aesthetics of this process in mind.

SmartFlower Solar is a functional work of art that outperforms static, rooftop solar as it tracks the Sun across the sky, maintaining an optimal angle to collect

upwards of 40% more of this free energy within a solar array made of the building blocks of life, carbon fiber, known for its ultra-lite durability and highly conductive properties.

This Austrian born configuration has been demonstrated optimally over a decade, wowing crowds at festivities with multiple color combinations and movements that replicate a flower, opening and closing daily, cleansing its surface with brushes from neighboring petals and securing itself from high winds should they pick up over a desired setting.

The altitudes of Highlands and Cashiers provides a clearer sky, above much of the GHGs that linger in lower elevations, often visible to the naked eye. The density of the GHGs is easily seen from above as a misty haze with water vapor being the most potent of all GHGs, followed by methane, nitrogen and carbon dioxide.

Light entering the mist passes through these invisible molecules causing them to vibrate with radiation before reaching a surface, generating warmth as the light refracts through these prisms, initiating radiative heat, and again as the color spectrum reflected back from the surface passes through these gases again.

We have an opportunity now to display our aptitude of this natural cycle in the context of futuristic solutions already available that can harness energy and provide a beautiful conversation piece for generations visiting the sanctuary the Highlands provide during superheated summers in the enjoyment that Highlands can provide.

To install one or more of these beautiful SmartFlowers takes only a few weeks and can last a lifetime. They are truly independent of all structures, and you can take them with you to your next habitat of choice.

Standing some 18 feet tall when opened, the 12 petals take up a small footprint capable of being set in a forested landscape, effectively tracking the Sun through a canopied window with elegance and beauty capable of sustaining a family in perpetuity regardless of petroleum-based energy prices or shortage, offering security and signaling conscientiousness to our children and grandchildren that we are thinking of their futures.

For inquiries, contact local NC certified representative Greg Undeen at G.Undeen@smartflower.com or call 352-562-0360.

Commercial Residential



Specializing in
Custom Garage Doors & Automatic Openers
Installation • Service • Repair

828-369-5014

Owner: Steve Raby • 7290 Highlands Rd • Franklin



Your One-Stop
Garden Shop
Celebrating 32
Years!

2460 Cashiers Road • Highlands • 828-526-2395
highlandslawnandgarden.com • Mon.-Sat. 8a to 5p

New Inventory Arriving DAILY!



Colorful Perennials



Assorted Pottery



Colorful Annuals



Storefront • Plate Glass • Mirrors
Custom Shower Doors • Insulated Glass
Custom Mirrors • Tabletops • Sun Rooms
Replacement of Fogged Glass

Insulated Units David Lewis, owner
(828) 349-0088 3145 Old Murphy Road
www.glassshoppe.com Franklin, NC



Back from Disaster Faster

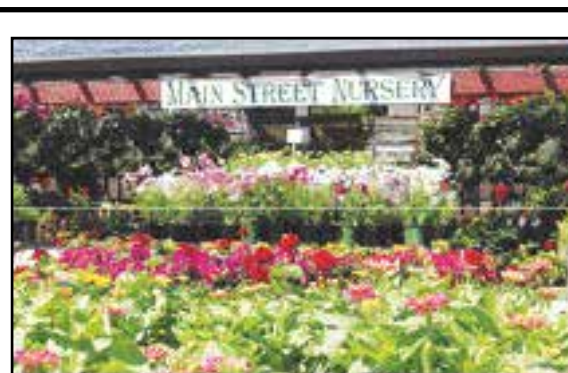
Water Damage • Mold • Fire
Carpet Cleaning • Duct
Cleaning • Reconstruction

We work with your insurance provider

828-369-2000

24-Hour Emergency Response

Disaster Doctors nc



HIGHLANDS, NC

April Hours: Mon.-Fri. 8a to 5p
(Across from the Post Office)

135 Franklin Road

828-526-3956

Spring Home Improvement - 2026

What's replacing gray in 2026?

The new, more welcoming neutrals designers are turning to this year

By Pippa Blenkinsop

While gray was popular in the early 2000s, valued for its versatility and fresh, contemporary feel, the shade has undeniably fallen out of favor over the last decade.

Today, it often receives a cool reception from interior designers, who avoid it for fear of it feeling too cold, drab, or overused. In recent years, we've become increasingly focused on how interiors feel, not just how they look, prompting an evolution in the tones we choose to surround ourselves with. As a result, once-popular gray is being replaced with warmer tones that feel comforting and soothing.

There's no denying gray will always have its place, but with the growing desire for more grounding spaces and

natural hues, it seems to have taken a back seat to a spectrum of warmer neutrals. But what exactly are the shades designers are using to replace gray? In search of answers, we reached out to color experts and interior designers to explore the neutral 2026 color trends, along with their practical advice for navigating neutral palettes.

What Colors are Replacing Gray in 2026?

Fueled by a desire to create calming, grounding, and sustainable spaces, steely, cool grays are generally being replaced with warmer neutrals such as beige, greige, taupe, and putty shades, experts say.

However, to answer this question more accurately, it's important to understand that the world of neutrals is becoming increasingly nuanced, and the

definition of what constitutes a neutral has broadened in recent years. While neutrals were once regarded simply as white, gray, and beige, we're now becoming more attuned to the power of undertones, with paint companies offering a vast spectrum of tonal shades.

'We're seeing a broader shift toward warmer, more dimensional neutrals that feel comfortable and timeless. Green-leaning beiges, soft greiges, putty tones, and creamy whites are all gaining momentum as homeowners look for colors that bring warmth and softness,' explains Emily Kantz, color marketing manager at Sherwin-Williams. 'These shades offer the versatility people love about gray, but with a softer, more inviting, and natural feel.'

• See **COLORS** page 15

Black Bear Paving & Construction, Inc.
(828) 349-3390

PAVING: RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL
 GRADING & ROAD REPAIR • EXCAVATING
 LAND CLEARING • WATER & SEWER

6456 Sylva Hwy., Franklin, NC 28734

SMARTFLOWER

Make an iconic statement.

SmartFlower is the world's leading sculptural solar system, designed for organizations that want their commitment to the planet to be seen. By tracking the sun throughout the day, turning renewable power into a captivating, kinetic landmark.

For inquiries, contact NC certified rep:
 Greg Undeen
 G.Undeen@smartflower.com
 (352) 562-0360

• LETTERS •

When war becomes a stock tip

Dear Editor,

I saw a clip on CNBC the other day. The headline was basically: The Presi-

WHOLE LIFE MARKET

Natural Products Store

Hours: 9am-5pm

Mon-Sat

828-526-5999

Wholelifehighlands@icloud.com

LOCATED AT 680 N 4TH ST, HIGHLANDS

NECTAR
Juice Bar

Organic smoothie/juice
bar located
inside Whole
Life Market

dent set a deadline for Iran, and in his own words, 'a whole civilization will die tonight.'

And the hosts, clean suits, calm voices, didn't ask the most obvious human question...

And the hosts, clean suits, calm voices, didn't ask the most obvious human question, which is: What does it mean to threaten millions of lives?

They asked this instead:

"How does an investor process that? Is it an upside risk or a downside risk?"

That's when it hit me. Not like a thought. Like a bad taste in my mouth.

We've built an economy so cannibalistic that even the threat of mass death gets translated into a betting opportunity. Like the world is a poker table and human beings are just chips.

And society treats this like a serious profession. These are "smart people." This is "important analysis." Much of what they're rewarded for isn't building

anything...it's pricing, packaging, and trading the future. They're not fixing roads or teaching kids or growing food or taking care of the sick. They're mostly moving money around...relabeling it, repackaging it, slicing it into fancy products, so a little more of it sticks to their hands on the way by.

It's not value creation. It's value siphoning.

And the siphon always points the same direction: upward.

The folks at the bottom...the people keeping the cogs greased and the lights on—don't get to "process upside risk." They get to process rent. Groceries. A busted transmission. A kid with asthma. A medical bill that shows up like a threat with a barcode.

We've seen this pattern before. The housing crash wasn't just "a mistake." It was an industry taking ordinary people's mortgages, bundling them into abstract products, and making bets on whether

working families would drown. Then when the drowning happened, the lifeboats were delivered to the gamblers and paid for by the same public that got shoved off the deck.

And we still call this "the market," like it's weather. Like gravity. Like nobody designed it.

But it isn't weather. It's rules. It's choices.

Here's the sickness: we've trained ourselves to believe the point of business is not serving your neighbors but serving "shareholder value." Not building a good store but building a bigger stock price. Not doing well, but looking like you'll do well later, while you squeeze out anything smaller that stands in your way.

Once you build a society around betting, everything becomes bettable: oil, housing, healthcare, your retirement. Even war.

I'm not saying every investor is a villain. Most people are just trying to keep their savings from evaporating. I'm not saying everyone in a suit is evil. A lot of them are doing the job the system pays them to do.

That's the point. The system pays them to do it.

It pays people to translate suffering into "opportunity." It pays people to treat human lives like variables. It pays people to call cruelty "stability" and call empathy "naïve."

And you can feel how upside-down it is with one simple test: imagine the carpenter from Sunday school, yeah, the one who healed people, fed crowds, and flipped tables when money got mixed with the sacred, watching that clip.

Do you think he'd ask about "upside risk?"

Or would he ask who gets crushed at the bottom of the bet?

Because that's where the whole thing breaks. A possible mass grave becomes "upside." And if that makes you feel sick...good! That's not weakness. That's the last healthy thing in you refusing to call parasites "prosperity."

If it doesn't make you sick....

David Baumgarten
Highlands

KOHLER
Generators



Standby Power that stands
up to anything.

Kohler Generators are built to last.

Keep your home powered during an outage.



HEATING/
COOLING



MEDICAL
EQUIPMENT



LIGHTS/
APPLIANCES



INTERNET/
WI-FI



SUMP
PUMP

828-526-9325

7441 Dillard Road, Scaly Mountain, NC 28775



Scan QR code
for more information.

Your Local Kohler Generators Authorized Tier Dealer

...COLORS continued from page 13

In addition to more traditional warm neutrals, designers are turning to soft, earthy pinks, greens, and deeper shades of caramel and brown for their ability to provide gentle foundations with a hint of color. For many designers, these shades are now regarded as 'new neutrals.'

'As foundational elements in home design, neutrals are becoming more nuanced than ever before. Today's neutral palette extends beyond basic beiges or grays – embracing earthy, warm, and richly complex hues. These can range from sandy, sun-washed tones to cool, moss-inspired grays, to soft mauves and in-between hues,' explains Hannah Yeo, senior manager of color marketing at Benjamin Moore. 'Comforting and easy to work with, these refined neutrals enhance the architecture and decor of a home, creating spaces that feel harmonious, timeless, and beautifully layered.'

If you're looking to decorate with neutrals in 2026, you're in the right place. With help from the experts, we've highlighted five key neutral tones to consider, along with some handy decorating tips.

Think Warm Whites, Greige – the fusion of gray and beige, Green-Toned Neutrals, Soft Earthy Pinks, Brown,

In recent years, warm neutrals have been replacing gray as the go-to neutral shades, and this trend shows no sign of abating in 2026. Colors with brown undertones are proving popular, including warm whites, greige, earthy greens, plaster pinks, and caramel browns.



ACP Home Interiors



215 N. 4th St.
828-487-4211

1990 Dillard Road
828-526-4500

VISIT OUR NEW SECOND LOCATION INTOWN AT 215 N. 4TH ST



Let us help you make your house... your home.



Follow ACP Highlands on Facebook and Instagram for Specials!

Open to the Public! Since 1983

www.acphomeinteriors.com

COREY JAMES GALLERY
& Estate Consignments
Bronze sculpture • Paintings
Vintage & Antique Collectables &
Furniture • Costume Jewelry



On the corner of 3rd & Spring
(828) 526-4818

• HOSPITAL NEWS •

Cancer prevention and early detection: Why are they so important?

We hear a lot about the importance of cancer screenings — and for good reason. It's something I've touched on before in this column, but April, which is Cancer Prevention and Early Detection Awareness Month, is the perfect time to revisit why these screenings matter so much.

Simply put, early detection saves lives.

No one wants to hear the words

“You have cancer.” But if a diagnosis does happen, finding it early can make a tremendous difference. When cancer is caught in its early stages, it's more likely to be contained in one area and easier to treat. When it's found later, it may have already spread, making treatment more difficult and outcomes less certain.

Another important point — early treatment is often easier on the body. In some cases, surgery alone may be enough.

But more advanced cancers may require chemotherapy, radiation, or both. These treatments can be lifesaving, but they often come with tough side effects like fatigue, nausea, neuropathy, mouth sores, and hair loss — and sometimes those effects can linger.

That's why staying on top of screenings is so important. If we wait until symptoms appear, cancer has often already progressed. Screenings give us the chance to



Tom Neal CEO, CNO
Highlands-Cashiers
Hospital

catch it before that happens.

Highlands-Cashiers Hospital or our primary care clinic can provide these screenings. For adults at average risk, here are some general guidelines to keep in mind:

- Women should begin mammograms at age 40; discuss with your provider if you might be high risk as those screenings start earlier.

- Men should begin prostate cancer screening around age 50, typically starting with a PSA (prostate-specific antigen) blood test; some men, such as those with a family history or higher risk, may need to begin earlier, so it's important to discuss timing with your provider

- Pap tests for cervical cancer should start at age 21

- Lung cancer screening is recommended each year for adults ages 50–80 with a significant smoking history (or those who have quit within the past 15 years) using a low-dose CT scan

- Oral cancer screenings begin at age 18 and are typically done during dental visits

- Colon cancer screening should begin at age 45, a change made in recent years as more younger adults are being diagnosed

- Skin cancer screenings vary depending on your personal risk factors, like family history and skin type

Of course, these are general recommendations. In addition, being aware of changes in your body — such as lumps, skin changes, or unusual symptoms — and discussing them with your provider is an important part of early detection. If you do not have a strong relationship with a primary care provider, it is one of

• See HOSPITAL page 21



162 Legacy Point Clayton, GA 30525

Ear, Nose and Throat (ENT)

Audiology Care

All in One Location!



Dr. Keith Jackson, MD,
ENT Emory University
and Medical College of
Georgia



Dr. Erica McVey,
Audiologist University
of Texas

Contact: (706) 782-0478

CONNECT



www.mountainlakesmedicalcenter.com / www.mlmphysiciansgroup.com

• HS SPORTS •

Highlanders Sports Recap: A week of grit, growth, and goals

It was a packed week for Highlands Athletics, seeing everything from hard-fought battles on the pitch to podium finishes on the track and the links. Our Highlanders showed remarkable resilience, capping off the week with standout individual performances and a significant conference win.



Brett Lamb
Highlands School
Athletic Director

High School Soccer: Resilience on the Pitch

The Lady Highlanders faced a grueling three-game stretch this week. After a tough start against a talented Summit squad, the girls found their rhythm and ended the week on a high note.

- Monday at Summit: A high-scoring affair saw Highlands fall 6-4. Anabelle Hays was unstoppable, netting a hat trick, while Aubree Brooks added a goal of her own.

- Tuesday vs. Summit: In the home rematch, the Highlanders struggled to find the back of the net, falling 5-0.

- Thursday vs. Andrews: The team bounced back with a dominant 3-1 victory. Goals were provided by the reliable trio of Jordyn Borino, Anabelle Hays, and Leti Campos. Cayden Pierson played the role of playmaker, tallying 2 assists to help seal the win.

High School Golf:

Success at Old Edwards

The Highlanders golf team took to the greens at the beautiful Old Edwards Course for a series of competitive matches, with Freshman Sam Conner continuing to establish himself as a force in the region.

Day-Match-Team Finish- Individual

- Monday-18 Holes-2nd Place-
Sam Conner (3rd)
- Tuesday-1st 9-Holes-2nd Place-
Sam Conner (2nd)
- Tuesday-2nd 9-Holes-3rd Place-
Sam Conner (3rd)
Rowen Carnes (5th)

High School Track: Scoring at Swain

Highlands track athletes traveled to Swain on Wednesday, putting up strong numbers against a deep field of competitors:

- Claire Worley: 5th in the 1600m, 7th in both the 800m and Long Jump.
- Anabelle Hays: 5th in the 100m Hurdles and 5th in the 200m.
- Stephen Pierson: 8th in the 110m Hurdles.

Middle School Track: Podium Domination at Rabun Gap

The MS Track team headed to Rabun Gap for their second meet, and the results were nothing short of impressive.

Top Finishes & Gold Medalists:

- Charlie Wilkes: 1st in High Jump; 2nd in 100m and 400m.
- Corena Dearth: A triple-threat performance, taking 1st in Shot Put, 1st in Discus, and 3rd in Triple Jump.

- Jensen Bowers: 1st in Triple Jump.

Other notable performances included Aleks Petric (2nd in 100m Hurdles, 3rd in 100m), Valentina Gomez (2nd in 200m, 3rd in Long Jump), and Matthew Morales (3rd in both the 200m and 400m). The relay teams also shone, with the Boys 4x200 and the Girls 4x100 both securing 2nd place finishes.

Middle School Soccer:

Closing the Home Schedule

The MS Girls soccer team bid farewell to their home turf this week. In a defensive standoff against Rabun Gap, the match ended in a 1-1 tie, with Tina Gomez scoring the lone goal for the Highlanders. The team later traveled to Tallulah Falls, where they played hard but ultimately dropped the match 2-0.

Congratulations to all our athletes for their dedication and sportsmanship this week! Go Highlanders!

JELD-WEN



RIGHT FOR ANY SPACE AND EVERY SEASON

Visit **Highlands Hardware and Lumber Company** to see how JELD-WEN can bring beauty and security to your homes.

2821 Cashiers Road Highlands, NC 28741

info@highlandshardware.com | 828-482-5000

...**BUDGET** continued from page 7



JELD-WEN is proud to be part of the JELD-WEN global family of product brands and companies © 2024 JELD-WEN, Inc. All rights reserved. | JELD-WEN, the JELD-WEN Logo, the JW Logo, AURALAST, and SITELINE are registered trademarks of JELD-WEN, Inc.

SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING

Rejecting God, we reject ourselves



Pastor Mark Ford
First Baptist Church
Highlands

A newly released book, *The Desecration of Man* by Carl R. Trueman is a must read for all serious thinking souls, especially those deeply disturbed by the moral morass Western civilization finds itself in today.

In this excellent work he tackles how the rejection of God degrades our own humanity. The foundation of his thesis is the question, "What is man?" Then tells us that our modern world is giving this resounding answer – "Man is the one who transgresses what was formerly considered sacred in order to demonstrate his own god-like status."

As with other intellectuals, he is drawing the connection between the loss of religious faith and the onset of the demise of Western culture. He noted Solzhenitsyn's 1997 Moscow speech where the early prophet of cultural decline said, "The fundamental, intrinsic reason for culture's ongoing decline...is its secularization." Trueman concurs but adds that our cultural impoverishment is also fueled by the "destruction of the sacred."

This desecration of the sacred is modern humanities default assumption that as atomized, autonomous, free individuals we can shake off the authority of God and His Word and transgress all boundaries that are to our liking, our preference.

Forgetting that we are created in the image of God - He is the creator and we the creatures - we pursue the desecration of God and promote our own god-like prerogatives. But in doing this we not only desecrate God, but we also desecrate ourselves as His image-bearers.

We are hearing of small pockets of individuals turning back to religion and the Christian faith, especially among young men (Gen Z). The draw in great part is the inspiring aesthetic experiences that return one to the traditional and historical practices and teachings of the Church that provide guidance in a largely misguided world. There is an attraction to the Latin Mass, Eastern Orthodoxy's strict adherence to the historical creeds, the Book of Common Prayer, the architecture and art of the past – all in the hope that these will usher one into the transcendent and ethereal of the Christian faith.

I applaud and understand, being a Christian mystic at heart, myself. But as Trueman cautions, we must be careful that we don't perpetuate a distinctive and troublesome aspect of today's contemporary churches in our search for the experiential and transcendence – to confuse taste for truth, churchianity for genuine faith. Trueman speaks pointedly, "If one does not believe the religious dogmas that are the basis of these things and

• See **SPIRITUALLY** page 21

• 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 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@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.

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

GRACE COMMUNITY CHURCH OF CASHIERS

Non-Denominational-Contemporary Worship

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

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

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

HAMBURG BAPTIST CHURCH

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

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

Wed. Kidsquest 6p.; Worship 7p.

HIGHLANDS ASSEMBLY OF GOD

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

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

HIGHLANDS CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Dan Robinson • 11339 Buck Creek Road

The Highlands Central Baptist Church is temporarily

sharing the facilities of the Shortoff Baptist Church.

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

HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Rev. Dr. Randy Lucas. Pastor 526-3376

In-Person and live-streamed Worship Services

909a Bluegrass and 11a Traditional

www.highlandsmethodist.org

HOLY FAMILY LUTHERAN CHURCH: ELCA

2152 Dillard Road • 526-9741

Rev. Ken Langsdorf

Worship/Communion: 10:30 All are welcome.

Visit our website: Holy Family Lutheran Highlands NC

MACEDONIA BAPTIST CHURCH

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

Pastor Zane Talley

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

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

MOUNTAIN SYNAGOGUE

Franklin • 828-634-1312 • 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 May 23-Oct 24; 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. 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)

THE CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

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

Sunday Service (summer): 9am & 11am

Visit our website: www.goodshepherdofcashiers.com

Our Bazaar Barn supports outreach in the community.

Open Fri & Sat. 11am-3pm

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP

85 Sierra Drive. Franklin • uufranklin.org

Sunday Worship - 11 a.m.

WHITESIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

Sunday School: 10 am. Worship Service: 11 am

• POLICE & FIRE REPORTS •

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

Accidents April 13

• Vehicle 1 while backing up on the driveway of 683 Wyanoak Road the driver ran off the road and hit a utility pole.

Tickets

• This past week, the dept. issued 8 Citations and 19 Warning Tickets.

The Highlands Fire & Rescue log from April 14.

April 14

• At 4:01 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Shortoff Road.

April 15

• At 6:26 a.m., the dept. provided public assistance at a location on US 64 east (Cashiers Road).

• At 12:22 p.m., the dept.

was first-responders to a location on Main Street.

• At 12:36 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Falls Drive west.

• At 2:39 p.m., the dept. was call to provide mutual aid to Cashiers FD but it was cancelled en route.

April 16

• At 9:59 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Old Wagon Road but it was cancelled en route.

• At 10:07 a.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on NC 106 (Dillard Road).

• At 12:10 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a location on Main Street.

• At 4:05 p.m., the dept. responded to a brush fire on USFS land on Flat Mountain Road.

April 17

• At 7:09 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Valentine Lane.

• At 7:55 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Maple Way.

• At 8:19 a.m., the dept. re-

sponded to a motor vehicle accident on US 64 west (Franklin Road).

• At 2:52 p.m., the dept. investigated the cause of smoke at a residents on US 64 west (Franklin Road).

• At 5:22 p.m., the dept. responded to a call of a downed power line on Morewood Road.

April 18

• At 12:39 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Buck Creek Road.

April 19

• At 4:26 a.m., the dept. investigated the cause of smoke at a residence on Webb Branch Road.

• At 9:51 a.m., the dept. responded to a call of a downed tree on Sassafras Gap Road.

• At 12:43 p.m., the dept. provided public assistance at a location on Main Street.

• At 7:56 p.m., the dept. provided public assistance at a residence on Hammond Road.

• At 9:01 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a location on N. 4th Street.

...TOWN BOARD continued from page 11

“Construction noise is exempt from the noise ordinance but radios playing over construction noise shouldn’t be allowed,” said Commissioner Jeff Weller.

Police Chief Holland said when she gets a call about radio music at a construction site she goes to the site, asks them to turn it down and they do. She said if citizens call, they will respond and take care of the situation.

The board agreed to table the noise ordinance amendment until decisions can be made about radios being played in the business district and at construction sites.

The other ordinance tabled was parking and not obstructing traffic on town streets.

With all the construction going on, workers are inadvertently blocking roadways where

10 feet of travel-way is supposed to be left open

Commissioners agreed that some roads aren’t wide enough and in some cases the line of sight is obscured due to hill crests.

They asked Chief Holland to return with a list of streets where parking whether for construction or anything else shouldn’t be allowed.

White Goods

The town is conducting its annual White Goods pickup over the next couple of weeks. Citizens are asked to call Town Hall if they have old or broken appliances and other items they want picked up. The items are to be put out in front of their houses for pickup.

County Planning Board

Commissioner Amy Patterson is the town’s representative on the newly formed 5-member

county planning board. Recently, the commission took the Highlands and Franklin representatives off the board – they can be at meetings but they can no longer vote.

Commissioner Patterson said she and others are working to get that ruling reversed and are also discussing the legality of the county’s redistricting plan which has been tabled by the county for now.

“We need a voice from our district and we need to tell the Planning Board why we want to do this,” she said.

The next county Planning Board meeting is May 7 in Franklin.

Mayor Report

Mayor Pat Taylor said that affordable housing is a nationwide problem and in Highlands it must be a public/private endeavor.

THE FIREWOOD COMPANY



Highlands • Cashiers • Atlanta

828.200.3050

bobhenritze@gmail.com • www.firewoodcompany.net

WE PROUDLY SERVE WNC AND N. GEORGIA

THE DETAIL GUYS

FULL SERVICE MOBILE AUTO
DETAILING

TEXT OR CALL
(754) 801-8750

WE COME TO YOU!

FAST AND FRIENDLY SERVICE!

WE OFFER CERAMIC COATING!



\$20 Exterior Cleaning

\$85 Full Service In/Out

25% Ceramic Coating

OFF w/10yr Warranty

(754) 801-8750



HIGHLANDS CHURCH

Come join us
each Sunday at 8:45 a.m.

- Small group environment
- Casual
- Breakfast included
- LIVE stream ANDY STANLEY (NPCC)

For more information and location
Call Bee at 404-307-1415



EST. 1957
HOWARD HANNA
ALLEN TATE REAL ESTATE
#1 Family-Owned in the U.S.

Ryan M. Bears
Branch Leader
Cell: 803.271.5426
ryan.bears@howardhannatate.com

LUXURY PORTFOLIO INTERNATIONAL



Granite Counter Tops
Kitchen and Bath
Custom Fabrication
Natural stones

Phone: 828-331-7730
Phone: 864-244-0504
southgranitelandscape@gmail.com
www.southgranitedesign.com

94-5 US-64 Cashiers NC 28717



Kiln dried FIREWOOD

Delivery or pickup

2460 Cashiers Road • Highlands 828-526-2395
highlandslawnandgarden.com



GENERAC
Cummins
KOHLER

▶ 828-526-9325 ◀

Generators aren't just a "thing" we do,
generators are all we do!



- Grading
- Excavating
- Driveways
- Build sites
- Hauling
- Septic Systems

Edwin Wilson
Cell (828) 421-3643
Office/fax (828) 526-4758
wilsongrading@yahoo.com

CHESTNUT STORAGE

Storage Units Available
Secure 24-Hour Access
Easy In - Easy Out
Great Rates - Great Terms

Call today to find out why we're
"Highlands Premier Facility"

828-482-1045 Look for our sign!

Buck Creek Rd - 1/2 mile off Cashiers Road near the hos-

356B MAIN STREET
ESTATE JEWELERS OF
HIGHLANDS



WE BUY AND CONSIGN OLD JEWELRY

Appointment Only!
Call: 828-526-1960
Text: 770-855-0825
Email: ejofhighlands@gmail.com



COUNSELING CENTER OF HIGHLANDS

Peggy Crosby Center • 348 South Fifth Street
828-482-7417
info@counselingcenter.org • counseling-center.org

We are nonprofit and provide counseling on a sliding scale fee so everyone can receive the care they need regardless of ability to pay.



LISA THOMPSON
DOG SITTING

- daily drop-in visits
- overnight & extended stays
- dog walking

828.424.4637



EST. 1957
HOWARD HANNA
ALLEN TATE REAL ESTATE
#1 Family-Owned in the U.S.

Al Stoneham
Realtor-Broker
Luxury Home Specialist
Licensed in NC & GA

Cell: 828.332.9767
al.stoneham@howardhannatate.com

LUXURY PORTFOLIO INTERNATIONAL

Biz Card Ads

\$23 BW - \$28 color

Classifieds

\$10 first 10 words - 30 cents each additional word
color highlight - \$2
graphic - \$5

• CLASSIFIEDS •

...SPIRITUALLY from page 18

that they (dogma) are true, then that faith will not have proved durable as the wider culture exhausts itself” in its constant search for novelty.

The cure for this present day desacralization of God is not in religious expression and experience alone. The cure, “the answer is consecration...only by true consecration of man can his desecration be overcome.”

Simply, we must return to an avowed consecration to our Creator as our God, and commitment to His Holy Word.

We revere and worship God when we openly profess our sincere belief in the historical creeds and dogmas of our faith and practice our faith in keeping with His established Holy Scriptures. This is God’s plan for what is best for us as those created in His image.

Stop rejecting God for the idol of self. Accept and lift up the God of heaven and find new life and hope in Jesus Christ. When we revere and exalt our God, we are in turn lifted up in Him.

When we stop desacralizing God and accept Him above all things, then we are no longer rejecting Him or ourselves. But accepted by Him, we find our true godlikeness in Him as His sons and daughters.



828-787-2360

2851 Cashiers Road, Highlands

We're proud to be a family-owned company with 43 years in the business, and even prouder to now serve the Highlands community.
~ Bob Saladna, Owner

Here's what Highlands Automotive is all about!

- Same-day service for most maintenance and routine repairs.
- Top-tier diagnostic & programming tools – just like the dealer.
- New tire, alignment & balancing equipment for precision and speed.
- Same experienced technicians.

We service **ALL** domestic and foreign vehicles.

Also serving customers in:
Atlanta, GA | Dallas, TX | Houston, TX

Come see the difference.



HELP WANTED

MARIA'S HOUSE MUSEUM now hiring for host/hostess. \$20/hr. Friday/Saturday 10a to 4p and Sunday 1-4p. Contact Russ at 404-358-3076. (4/23)

FOR SALE

WATERFALL SOUND HOMESITE. Rare 2-Acre homesite off Walkingstick Rd. Awesome sound of nearby waterfall, private peaceful. Established neighborhood of fine homes. 10 minutes downtown. Power in Place. \$76,000 Highlands Sotheby's International Realty 561-632-3781. (st. Jan. 1)

FOR RENT

2BD/1BA FURNISHED APT. – 1/4 mile from downtown Highlands. \$1,600 per month. Small pets welcome. 2 people max. Call 404-234-2516. (st. 3/12)

3 BED, 2 BATH HOUSE FOR RENT. Rolling Acres. \$2,500/month. Available now. Huge yard. Hardwood floors. All appliances. Qualified dogs OK. Outdoor fire pit. Warm, friendly place and neighborhood. Call Dick at 828-200-4264. (st. Dec. 25)

4 BD/3BA FOR RENT HIGHLANDS – Updated farm home, located between Highlands & Cashiers off Hwy 64. \$2,800/month, includes all utilities with high speed wifi. Call Marcy 828-482-4239 (st. 7/10)

2BD/2BATH SINGLEWIDE \$1,100 per month internet included. First and last security. Mark 828-200-

0765. (st. 5/29)

SERVICES

PLATEAU PAINTERS – Interior and exterior painting, pressure washing, decks, and sanding and staining wood floors. Division of Chatlos Construction. Fully insured. Free estimates. Call Mike at 828-200-4071. (6/25)

HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS HANDYMAN – Chatlos Construction – Remodels, Additions, Framing, Siding, Roofing, Decks, Painting. References. Insured. 828-200-4071. (6/25)

JUNK REMOVAL – We take anything. Call 828-200-0492

CUSTOM WELDING – gates, railings, trailer repairs, fencing, hand rails and more. I come to you! Call Gavin at 828-200-4219 or email smallgavin26@gmail.com

MURPHY'S PAINT CO. - interior/exterior painting/sheetrock repair/wallpaper removal/log homes/ decks. Insured. Free estimates. 828-332-0525 or 828- 421-8600. (5/21)

CREATURE COMFORTS – In-House Pet or People sitting. Call Peg Ellis. Retired RN. References available. 828-200-1028. (st. 11/20)

NEED FURNITURE MOVED OR ANYTHING HAULED AWAY? Call or text James of Going Gone at 828-421-2655. (7/30)

...HOSPITAL continued from page 16

the best things you can do for your health. They can help you understand your individual risk and guide you on when and how often to be screened.

Some individuals — especially those with a family history of certain cancers — may need additional screenings for cancers like ovarian, pancreatic, liver, or bladder cancer.

As a prostate cancer survivor, this topic is personal for me. I can say firsthand that early detection truly makes a difference.

Beyond screenings, there's a lot we can do in our everyday lives to lower our risk. Regular exercise (aim for about 150 minutes a week), a healthy diet, good sleep, limiting alcohol, and quitting smoking all play a role. Managing stress is important, too. It's something we all deal with, but how we handle it matters.

Here at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital (HCH), we also try to support our community in meaningful ways. Re-

cently, we partnered with the American Cancer Society to create a “Wig Wall,” recognizing the very real and often emotional experience of hair loss during chemotherapy, while helping raise funds for cancer support.

Before I close, I'd like to recognize some of the incredible people we're fortunate to work with. We recently celebrated Doctors' Day on March 30, a chance to thank the physicians who provide high-quality care right here close to home. Our primary care providers, specialists, and surgeons make a real difference every day.

And coming up April 19–25 is Medical Laboratory Professionals Week. These team members work behind the scenes, performing and analyzing the tests that help guide diagnoses and treatment. Their work is essential, even if patients don't always see it firsthand.

If you happen to cross paths with any of these professionals, I encourage you to take a moment to say thank you. It goes a long way.

...MAYOR continued from page 2

prescribed stages; for now, we are doing OK, and water conservation is always a good thing.

Unfortunately, these dry conditions affect our businesses, especially landscapers, farmers, trout fishing

guides, and recreation providers. Let us all hope and pray that heavy rains are on the horizon. They cannot come fast enough.

• HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

NOTE:

• Highlands Pharmacy is closed on Saturdays until May. Hours are Mon.-Fri. 9a to 5:30p.

POOL SCHEDULE

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

• **Spring Hours:** Friday & Saturdays. Open: 10 am - 1 pm. May 1-2, 8-9, 15-16; Thurs., Fri. Sat.: May 21-23, May 28-30. Spruce Street. www.mountainfindings.org

• Fibber Magee's Store on Laurel Street Hours. Wed. & Fri. - 10a to 4p. Sat. - 10a to 2p.

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 each Tues at 5:30 pm and Highlands @ the 1st Presbyterian Church, 471 Main St., on Monday at 5:30 p.m. and on Wednesday & Fridays @ 12:00 noon. Open in-person meetings are also held in Cashiers @ the Albert Carlton Cashiers Community Library, 249 Frank Allen Rd. on Sunday at 5pm, on Tuesday @ 7 pm, on Friday at 5 pm and on Saturday at 9 am. For more information please visit our website www.aawnc80.org 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., Tues., Wed, Fri.

• EnerChi: Connect mind, body, and breath using Tai Chi in a meditative movement practice. Call or email if interested in these classes 828-634-1404 or Well-springClasses@gmail.com. Mon. 5:30-6:30pm, Tues. 4-5pm, Wed. 6:30-7:30pm and Fri. 4-5pm and 5:30-6:30pm.

Mon-Wed-Fri

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

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

Mon., Tues., Thurs.

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

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

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

Tuesdays

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

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

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

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

Wednesdays

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

• Digital Navigators will be at the Hudson Library from 1-3 PM, digital navigators will host a Tech Time drop-in time at Hudson Library with the goal to assist attendees with basic smartphone, laptop, iPad and tablet skills. For more information, call the Library at 828-526-3031. This program is free and open to the public.

Thursdays

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

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

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

3rd Saturdays

• The American Legion Post 370 meets at the First Methodist Church at 315 Main St. in their community room/909 chapel. Breakfast is at 9a; meeting is at 10a. Email ncpst370@gmail.com or just join us at 9am.

April 24-26

• PAC Educational Theatre is excited to present our All-Community Production of Shrek: The Musical. The all-community cast features talented performers of all ages who have come together to create a production full of creativity, laughter, and magical moments. Tickets are on sale now!

Sat, April 25

• Headwaters Bird Alliance local chapter of the National Audubon Society outing Lone-some Valley with Richard Yow, Cashiers, NC. For more information or to reserve a spot for any of the outings, please email hello@head-

watersbirdalliance.org

• Highlander Mountain House is having its first oyster roast of the year on Saturday at 3PM with Lowcountry Oysters and Burial Beer Co. Enjoy all-you-can-shuck oysters, your first beer from Burial Beer Co, and live bluegrass on the porch from Daniel Ullom and Emma Rast all set against the backdrop of Highlands. Tickets are \$50.

April 30-May 2

• 3 River Fly Fishing Festival. Competitions for guided & non-guided, two-person & womens-only teams, with more than 2,200 miles of public waters available to fish! To register call. 828-743-3768. \$500 per two-person team. Entry fees benefit Town of Highlands Scholarship Fund

Thurs., April 30

• At Highlander Mountain House, an intimate fireside show by Tyler Ramsey & Carl Broemel, guitarists. The show begins at 8:30 p.m. and tickets are \$50.

Fri., May 1

• At Highlands Sotheby's, Meet the Artist: Louise Pond, 4:30-6 pm, Free.

Sat., May 2

• Headwaters Bird Alliance local chapter of the National Audubon Society outing at Hambridge Wet Meadow with Jack Johnston and Melanie Vickers, Hambridge Center, Rabun Gap, GA. For more information or to reserve a spot for any of the outings, please email hello@headwatersbirdalliance.org or go to our website at headwatersbirddalliance.org/events.

Thurs.-Sat., May 7-9

• Highlands Mother's Day Bridge Sectional at the Highlands Recreation Center, 600 North 4th Street Highlands, NC. \$30/pair Thurs. and Fri. \$180/Team of 4, Sat. Robert Todd Lessons-Free. For more information, call 828-526-3556

Fri., May 8

• Headwaters Bird Alliance local chapter of the National Audubon Society outing - Wetlands Birding with Jason Love. For more information or to reserve a spot for any of the outings, please

email hello@headwatersbirdalliance.org or go to our website at headwatersbirddalliance.org/events.

Sun., May 10

• Headwaters Bird Alliance local chapter of the National Audubon Society outing at Jones Gap with Brent Martin, Highlands, NC. For more information or to reserve a spot for any of the outings, please email hello@headwatersbirdalliance.org or go to our website at headwatersbirddalliance.org/events.

Fri., May 15

• Headwaters Bird Alliance local chapter of the National Audubon Society outing at Alarka Laurel with Brent Martin, Franklin, NC. For more information or to reserve a spot for any of the outings, please email hello@headwatersbirdalliance.org or go to our website at headwatersbirddalliance.org/events.

Sat., May 16

• High Style -- A Celebration of Art, Cuisine, Fashion & Music 9:30a to 4 various locations around town

Sun., May 17

• At PAC, Balsam Range at 4 pm. boxoffice@highlandsp Performingarts.com. 828-526-9047

Sat., May 23

• Highlands Historical Society Season Opening Celebration on Saturday from 11 a.m. to p.m. at the Historical Village in Highlands. Music, free food and a dramatic reading of the Declaration of Independence to celebrate the United States Semi-quincentennial, and the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence.

• Headwaters Bird Alliance local chapter of the National Audubon Society outing at Tesseentee Bottomland Preserve with Melanie and Keith Vickers, Otto, NC. For more information or to reserve a spot for any of the outings, please email hello@headwatersbirdalliance.org or go to our website at headwatersbirddalliance.org/events.

SILVER EAGLE

Native American Jewelry
Crystal & Gem Gallery



349 Main Street, Highlands, NC
828.526.5190 silvereaglegallery.com



COUNTRY CLUB PROPERTIES
Highland Square Office
Real Estate

Country Club Properties
Your local hometown
Real Estate professionals.
3 Offices 828-526-2520
www.CCPHighlandsNC.com



Highlander Mountain House & The Ruffed Grouse Tavern

highlandermountainhouse.com

Weichert
REALTORS
Highlands Properties
450 N. 4th St. Highlands, NC
828-526-5522
www.highlandsproperties.com

BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY | MEADOWS MOUNTAIN REALTY
HOMESERVICES



CHAIMAN'S PICK
GOLD


TOP 2%
OF THE NETWORK

LUXURY COLLECTION™
Of the 55,000+ BHHS agents across the globe, Faye ranks in the TOP 2% and is a Luxury Collection Specialist.

FAYE WURM
828.200.1345
faye@bhhsmmr.com
2334 Cashiers Rd, Highlands
https://fayewurm.meadowsmtnrealty.com/



VACATION RENTALS ALLOWED



28 E. Forest Way
Highlands, NC

Offered Furnished
for \$1.075 M

- 3 Bed, 3 Bath
- Stone Fireplace
- Screened Porch
- Creekside Living



HOWARD HANNA
ALLEN TATE REAL ESTATE

Darlene Conley
Mountain Luxury
Your Dream. Your Journey.
YOU'RE HOME.
Dedicated to finding the home
you've always wanted.
Cell: 404.427.2448
darlene.conley@howardhannatate.com

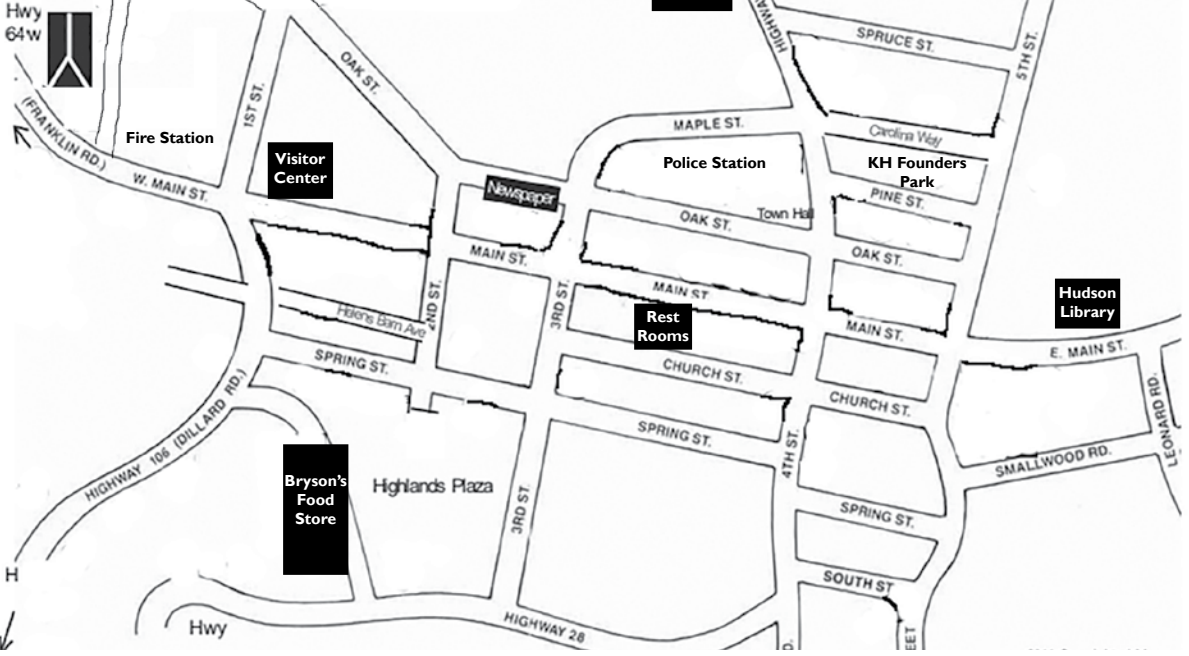
Team RickSteve
"The Power of 3"

Trusted advisors
providing impeccable,
personalized service



HOWARD HANNA
ALLEN TATE REAL ESTATE

#1 IN THE CAROLINAS • 404-219-1349 • TEAMRICKSTEVE@ALLENTATE.COM



3 Bed, 3 Bath

Stone Fireplace

Screened Porch

Creekside Living



Clif Gottwals
303.887.7479
Clif.Gottwals@Gmail.com

CHRISTIE'S
INTERNATIONAL REAL ESTATE
— HIGHLANDS CASHIERS —

HighlandsCashiersCIRE.com
210 North Fifth Street
Highlands, NC 28741

Ace is the Place,

Reeves

Hardware

At Main & 3rd streets
Highlands 526-2157



Highlands Sotheby's
INTERNATIONAL REALTY

114 N. 4th Street • Highlands, NC

Local Expertise, Global Connections.

Licensed in NC and GA
office: 828.526.8300 • cell: 828.337.0706
sheryl.wilson@sothebysrealty.com • highlandssir.com

Live Love Highlands
Mountain Life

PROPERTIES
Denise Boothby
828-482-2434
www.LiveLoveHighlands.com



CHRISTIE'S | HIGHLANDS CASHIERS
INTERNATIONAL REAL ESTATE

Highlands Office | 210 N. 5th Street

Cell: 828-787-1895
pamela.nellis@yahoo.com



Pat Allen

REALTY GROUP

Voted America's Best



More than 33 years of exemplary service on the plateau!

Our clients rate us 5 out of 5



JULIE OSBORN & PAT ALLEN



julie.osborn@gmail.com
828.200.6165



pat.allen@gmail.com
828.200.9179

STAY A
lifetime

For real estate, visit
LANDMARKRG.COM
or call 828-743-0510.



your mountain story begins here—
embracing both the life you lead
and the getaway you crave



Jody Lovell

(828) 226.6303

#1 Broker
IN THE CAROLINAS

\$1 Billion +

TOTAL CAREER SALES VOLUME

#8 Agent Worldwide

AMONG 26,100+
SOTHEBY'S INTERNATIONAL REALTY AGENTS

PER REAL TRENDS, HCMLS AND COUNTY RECORDINGS

Highlands

Sotheby's
INTERNATIONAL REALTY

BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY HOMESERVICES | MEADOWS MOUNTAIN REALTY

If you want an
award-winning real
estate experience,
choose an
award-winning
agent.



MITZI RAUERS
Broker / Luxury Collection
Specialist
(404) 218-9123
mitzi@bhsmmr.com

*Based on 2023 sales data. Out of a global network of 55,000+ BHHS agents.



DAVID BOCK BUILDERS

www.BockBuilders.com 828-526-2240



Mountain Living ...
begins with
conversation and a
cup of coffee.

CHRISTIE'S
INTERNATIONAL REAL ESTATE
— HIGHLANDS CASHIERS —

BEE GLEESON
Broker | Realtor* | 404.307.1415
BeeGlee4@Gmail.com

PAT GLEESON
Broker | Realtor* | 828.782.0472
PatrickGleeson4@Gmail.com

JESSICA HABERKERN
Broker | Realtor* | 254.718.7494
JessHaberKern@Gmail.com

HighlandsCashiersCIRE.com | 210 North Fifth Street, Highlands, NC 28741



...on the Verandah
Restaurant
on Lake Sequoyah
828-526-2338

43 Years of Fine Dining

NOW OPEN

Tuesday-Saturday
5:30-9p



www.ontheverandah.com

M'CULLEY'S

CASHMERE
Scotland's Best Knitwear



Open 7 days a week

526-4407
242 S. 4th St.