

Highlands Newspaper

FREE Every Thursday

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Public Works makes budget requests

FY '26-'27 needs span several departments

By Kim Lewicki

When Gerard Brewer, Highlands' new Public Works Director officially takes over Monday, March 30, he will be

taking over a department that is organized down to the penny with projects and expenses figured through FY '30-'31.

The Public Works umbrella

is comprised of four departments – Street, Water/Sewer, Electric and Sanitation.

Still at the helm on a con-

• See **PUBLICWORKS** page 12

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HS Pre-K is poised to open this fall

Developmental screening for the '26-'27 school year is Thurs., April 16 at Highlands School

By Kristin Fox

This fall, Highlands School will welcome 18 young students to its campus as the school finally opens its first North Carolina PreK classroom. Faced with childcare shortages, Highlands families have long awaited the addition of PreK classrooms to help provide better access to early childhood education for local children.

The addition of the preschool classrooms was part of a major renovation project at Highlands School completed last year. Although next fall Highlands School will only open one PreK classroom, future plans include the opening of a second PreK classroom.

• See **PRE-K** page 4



Sixth-graders Madelynne Phillips and Vaerie Nadzorau with HS Media Specialist April Getz at Monday's BOE meeting.

HS 6th-graders ready for 'Battle of the Books'

By Kim Lewicki

The 2026 Battle of the Books is a reading incentive competition for students (usually 4th-8th grade) to read from a pre-determined list spanning various genres and to compete in school/regional trivia battles.

Four Highlands School sixth-graders competed Wednes-

day having each read 20 books.

The moderator read a question about a book, and the team was asked to identify it. If it did so correctly it got four points. If it also named the author, it got another two points.

At Monday night's MC Board of Education meeting held in the Highlands School

Media Center, HS Media Specialist April Getz demonstrated the upcoming contest by posing questions about various books to Madelynne Phillips and Valerie Nadzorau. The girls answered each question correctly – the name of book and the author. Two of their team members were competing in a soccer game.

• See **FAKE** page 11

Highlands' events and attendees fall victim to fake ticket sales

By Kim Lewicki

With the event season amping up across the country, people are falling victim to fraudulent ticket schemes ... and Highlands is not immune.

This past weekend, patrons attempting to attend Highlands-Cashiers Players production of "The Mousetrap" at the Martin Lipscomb Performing Arts Center found they had been duped.

According to Rick Trevaathan, friends paid an exorbitant price for the production to a fraudulent seller of fake tickets

"They bought what they thought were genuine tickets



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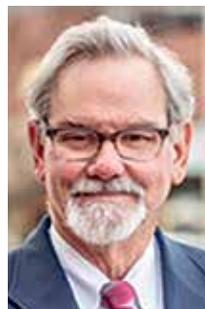
• MAYOR ON DUTY •

March Town Board meeting recap

This past week's Town Board meeting had a long agenda. Admittedly, some of us college basketball fans wanted to get home early to see the start of March Madness; nevertheless, we stayed the course and finished town business at the meeting.

We approved the inter-local agreement between the county and town concerning the disposal of Mirror Lake dredging materials. The county commission also approved the agreement at its March meeting. I want to publicly thank the Macon County Board of Commissioners for this agreement. It is a key part of the Mirror Lake Dredging Project and will provide major savings that can be directed towards dredging the lake.

Under the agreement, the town will spend several hundred thousand dollars on preparing a disposal site at the transfer station on Rich Gap Road. We will also build an additional access road



Highlands Mayor
Patrick Taylor

to the transfer station so that trucks loaded with dredging material will not disrupt the transfer station's normal operations. This new road will remain under the county's operation after the dredging project ends. Both parties to the agreement will benefit from this cooperative effort.

Before dredging begins, the improvements to the transfer station and the new road must be in place. With that project ahead of us and more permitting from state agencies, the actual dredging will probably begin sometime next year. Like the Dog Mountain Project that was funded by a state grant, the preliminary paperwork and approvals from state agencies can take an exceedingly long time.

Another achievement at the board meeting was the approval of all the events in the park and town property that the Highlands Chamber of Commerce puts on each year. The approval process also clarified the park's alcohol policy for the 4th of July Fireworks event. For that event, folks can bring their own alcohol to the park just as allowed for the Saturday Park Concerts. In past years, the board has not allowed alcohol consumption in the park for the fireworks.

Because of the large fireworks crowd, the police will have extra officers on duty at the park. They will also keep an emergency pathway open in case of a medical emergency or disturbance. Like the alcohol policy for the Saturday Park concerts, no one will be allowed to take open containers beyond the park boundaries.

The Highlands Motoring Festival requested permission from the board to extend the boundaries of the event on 5th Street to the intersection at Main Street. With the loss of display space due to the hotel construction, festival planners decided they needed this additional space. With this approval, the use of this other space may continue well into the future.

Another positive decision was the final approval of the contract for the con-

• MILESTONE •

Brewer hired as Public Works Director

Gerard Brewer brings over three decades of engineering expertise to his role as Town Engineer and Public Services Director for the Town of Highlands.

A native of Auburn, AL, Gerard earned his Bachelor of Civil Engineering from Auburn University in 1991.

His distinguished career includes early roles with the Alabama Department of Environmental Management and TTL, Inc., followed by a 25-year tenure as the City Engineer and Director of Public Works for Alexander City, AL.

Most recently, he served as City Engineer for the City of Winder, GA.

For Gerard, moving to the Highlands area is the fulfillment of a lifelong ambi-



tion; having visited the Blue Ridge Mountains since childhood, he is thrilled to finally call this area home.

Gerard and his wife, Anna, have three adult children: Peyton, Caroline, and Andrew.

When he isn't overseeing municipal projects, he is likely outdoors hiking, mountain biking, or exploring the mountains, though he also enjoys the technical challenge of swing trading stocks and options.

Lamar Nix, who after 30 years officially retired Dec. 2025, will temporarily stay on as a consultant to help Brewer navigate the department and ongoing and upcoming projects, if needed..

• WEATHER •

Thu, 26-Mar	Fri, 27-Mar	Sat, 28-Mar	Sun, 29-Mar
 67°F 49°F	 75°F 35°F	 60°F 28°F	 55°F 36°F
Sun and some clouds	Breezy in the morning	Sunny and cooler	Plenty of sunshine
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...PRE-K continued from page 1



The pre-k classroom in the elementary wing

Highlands School will be accepting preschool applications and complete developmental screening for the 2026-2027 school year on Thursday, April 16 at Highlands School 545 Pierson Drive, Highlands.

Appointments are required for screenings. Parents interested in scheduling an appointment for screenings should call Valerie Norton at (828) 524-4414, extension 1041.

To be eligible for North Carolina PreK a child must be four years old by August 31, 2026. Parents need to bring a proof a child's date of birth to the screening; a copy of birth certificates is required.

In addition, parents must provide proof of income. Proof of income could

be 2025 completed taxes 1040 form or one month's worth of paystubs from all adults living in the home. Qualification forms for Medicaid or WIC are also accepted as proof of income verified by appropriate agency.

Although a child may meet one or more eligibility factors, placement is not guaranteed in the PreK classroom. Families will be notified of acceptance into the program by June 12, 2026.

"We are excited to introduce our new PreK program at Highlands School, a valuable addition to our K-12 community," said Sarah C Holbrooks, Highlands School Principal. "Our goal is not to compete with other PreK providers

• See PRE-K page 5

March SPECIALS

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The pre-k playground right outside the classroom's back door.

New primary care provider now available on HC hospital campus

By Nancy Lindell
HCA Director of Public and Media Relations

Highlands-Cashiers residents now have expanded access to primary care with the addition of Hannah Hough, DNP, FNP-C, at Mission Community Primary Care – Highlands.

Hough is not new to the community – she has lived and worked in the area since 2020 and spent five years at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital as a nursing house supervisor.

In that role, she worked closely with care teams across the hospital, supporting patient care, coordinating services, and assisting with transitions following hospitalization. Her longstanding presence in the hospital and community brings valuable continuity and familiarity for local patients.

As a family nurse practitioner,



Hannah Hough

Hough provides comprehensive, patient-centered primary care, including preventive services, chronic disease management, same-day visits, and post-hospital follow-up. She is passionate about helping patients better understand and navigate their healthcare and is committed to improving the long-term health of the community she calls home.

Hough earned her Doctor of Nursing Practice in family medicine from Western Carolina University. She also holds a Bachelor of Science in nursing from Purdue University and began her career in a trauma center emergency department in Indiana.

Appointments are available at Mission Community Primary Care – Highlands, located at 209 Hospital Drive in Highlands. To schedule, call 828-526-4346. Hough sees patients Monday through Friday.

Holbrooks.

“On behalf of the Highlands community, I would like to thank the board of education for its role and persistence in bringing the Highlands middle school upgrade and pre-k to fruition,” said Taylor. “It was your hard work in cooperation with our community, the county commissioners, our great teachers and principal that shows when we all work toward a goal, it can get done.”

The NC Pre-K Program is designed to provide high-quality educational experiences to enhance school readiness for eligible four-year-old children. The NC PreK Program Requirements are built on the National Education Goals Panel’s premise that to be successful academically in school, children need to be prepared in all five of the developmental domains that are critical to children’s overall well-being and success in reading and math as they enter school: Approaches to play and learning; Emotional and social development; Health and Physical Development; Language development and communication; and Cognitive development.

...PRE-K continued from page 4

in the area, but to provide an additional supportive resource for our families right here on the plateau.”

“Currently, we are working on licensing for one Pre-K classroom at Highlands School, which can accommodate up to 18 students with one full-time teacher and one full-time teaching assistant,” she added. “We are eager to welcome our littlest learners, helping them become familiar with our school environment and preparing them for a successful transition to Kindergarten.”

Holbrooks said she is incredibly grateful for everyone who has supported and advocated for the Highlands School project

“This opportunity to serve more families reflects our commitment to meeting the needs of our community and ensuring every child has a strong start,” she said.

At the March board of education meeting held at Highlands School in the Media Center, Highlander Derek Taylor, one of the founding members of Highlands School’s Advancing Highlands Education Committee, echoed Principal



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• CHHS NEWS •



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Highlands and the tides of change



John Sheehan, Broker
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A new spring is upon us and expectations for another lovely Highlands’ season grow day by day. However, in contrast to anticipated seasonal joy, I occasionally read or hear of someone’s dismay at various changes impacting our community; especially if the change might affect Highlands’ small-town character. I understand the concerns. I am also aware of many contributing factors, beyond local control, that have led to a significant degree of the change experienced in this town, whether viewed as good or bad.

Since 1960, the population of the United States has increased incredibly, almost doubling from 180 million people to 340 million. Georgia and Florida, the two largest states in the Southeast and from whom most Highlands residents come, had their populations triple and quadruple respectively over the same period. Due to our close proximity, the demand for Highlands’ homes commensurately increased during that same period. In addition, the advent and ubiquitous use of the internet over the past 30 years vastly expanded the general public’s awareness of the Highlands-Cashiers area and its many positive attributes. With the Southeast population’s increased familiarity with Highlands, it led to ramped up demand to buy homes here, resulting in the value of properties increasing and coincidentally bringing more wealth to Highlands. New philanthropic residents subsequently made considerable donations to local cultural and civic institutions, in turn making the area

even more attractive. Investors followed with new businesses and significant building renovations as they anticipated continued prosperity here. All these attracting more people.

Another factor has been that global temperatures have increased significantly, with the most recent 15-year period being the warmest on record. Thus, additional Floridians and others look for a cool retreat from summer heat, leading more people to want to reside in the refreshing air of our

higher altitude climate.

Also, consider that since the 1980s, income growth and wealth accumulation have overwhelmingly favored the “top 5%”, with their incomes increasing faster than lower-earning groups, leading to a dramatic rise in wealth concentration. This economic group now has substantial disposable income for high-cost assets like vacation homes, which led to more property investment in Highlands.

So, when someone is feeling nostalgic about how Highlands used to be, you can share that there was not a single cause, but rather a complex confluence of many forces driving “all the change” in our little town. No single person or group has led it. The source has been an elevating ocean tide of influences, cresting at our mountain top.

• John Sheehan is a Broker at Mountain Life Properties serving the luxury real estate sales market. The Mountain Life Properties team welcomes all to stop by their log cabin office at 134 Maple Street, visit our website MountainLifeRE.com, or reach us at 828-239-8814.

...MAYOR continued from page 2

struction of the new playground at the Highlands Recreation Center. This project was behind schedule, so it was important to get the contract approved without further delay.

Commissioners postponed one item on the agenda. A review of the proposed rules for conducting Town Board meetings will take place at a future workshop. All the commissioners and the mayor had lists of questions about procedures con-

tained in the draft. We would have been in session well past 10 pm if the board had tackled this review. Nevertheless, it was after nine when I hit the gavel for adjournment.

We fans got home just in time to watch the last minutes of overtime, where the Tar Heels came up several points short. It was a sad night in Carolina, but a productive Town Board meeting. Oh well, we cannot have everything.



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• BIZ/ORG NEWS •



Mayor Pat Taylor and Josh Bryson, President, Rotary Club of Highlands

Mayor Patrick Taylor discusses 'The State of Highlands'

Promising brevity and demonstrating a firm grasp of statistics and facts, Mayor Pat Taylor gave his annual State of the Town of Highlands talk at the Rotary Club of Highlands on Tuesday, February 24. The Mayor described Highlands as a little mountain village, professionally managed like a city.

His talk included the courageous and entrepreneurial milestones of the Town since its establishment by Kelsey and Hutcheson in 1875, a summary of the town budget and the challenges facing the town as it continues to expand its infrastructure to accommodate recent capital construction. Careful spending of its surplus funds, consideration of an increase in property tax and continued advocacy for the return of more tax dollars from Macon County are among the several ways the town will balance growth with quality of life in the coming year.

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Bingo

Our Rotary Club of Highlands-sponsored Bingo Night for March will benefit the Parent Teachers Organization at Highlands School. Bingo will take place on Friday, March 20th, 6:30pm at the Highlands Recreation Center



Students of the Month

The Rotary Club of Highlands is pleased to recognize and introduce the Students of the Month of March from the Highlands School.

Elementary School: Marty Jo Adcock

Middle School: Sky Nelson

High School: Jarquin Colmenares



MARCH EVENTS

- **March 3** - David Hodgeson spoke to the Rotary Club of Highlands about how true customer service helps relieve a customer's stress.
- **March 10** - Caleb Brown shared his views and experiences regarding teaching students Social Studies at Highlands School
- **March 17** - Stewart Harvard will share some insights he's gained by having trained dogs for over forty years
- **March 24** - Dale and Dawn McGiboney will show club members how animated light shows can impact Entertainment and Fundraising
- **March 31** - our own Charlotte Muir will bring us up to date on what's happening and going to happen at the Highlands Performing Arts Center



It was a pleasure to welcome Mayor Pat Taylor as he delivered his annual State of the Town address to our club. Mayor Taylor's insights highlighted the strength and progress of Highlands, and we enjoyed hearing his vision for the upcoming year. His words reminded us how communities flourish when built on collaboration and service—values that are at

the very core of Rotary. Since 1945, the Rotary Club of Highlands has been a leader for our town, promoting friendship and making a positive impact. Our members are passionate about serving Highlands and helping create a brighter, better future for everyone who calls our community home. We're excited about another year of working together and making a difference!

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Josh
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• OBITUARY •

Shirley Ramsey Huie

Mrs. Shirley Ramsey Huie, 90, of Highlands, NC, went home to be with the Lord, Tuesday, March 17th, 2026. Shirley was born July 20, 1935, in Fulton County, GA, to the late Robert Thomas Ramsey and Martha Annis Bennett Ramsey.

Born and raised in Atlanta, GA, Shirley lived many years in College Park, GA. It was here that she would meet her husband, Jerry Huie, while attending College Park High School. They later married in 1963. In her young adult years, she worked as an executive secretary for Genuine Parts Company/NAPA; however, her number one passion was being a wife to Jerry and a mother to



Lee, Tom, and Laura.

Shirley became a believer and follower of Jesus Christ in 1974. Sharing her faith with family and friends was of utmost importance to her. Because of her fervent prayer and testimony, her husband, children, and grandchildren are also followers of Christ! Shirley lived out her faith in the various churches she attended, serving in music and women's ministry, as well as working as a church secretary for two congregations. She was instrumental in helping begin Family Life Ministry in East Point, Georgia, and worked there for many

years before moving to Highlands, NC in 1997.

Shirley was active in two churches during her almost thirty years in Highlands. She was a founding member of Mountain Bible Church in 2010, where she served faithfully during her last years on earth.

Shirley is survived by her husband, Jerry M. Huie; her children, Lee Enloe, III (Pam), Thomas Harris En-

loe (Romi), and Laura Huie Lopez (Clayton); her grandchildren, Nathaniel Enloe (Lauren), Jeremiah Enloe, Zachary Enloe, Amanda Boyd (Rusty), Natalie Pritchett (Dalton), David Lopez, Jacob Lopez, and Emmanuel Santiago (Lauren); and 13 great-grandchildren, Katelyn Enloe, Ramsey Enloe, Reagan Enloe, Rutley Enloe, Aurora Enloe, Giovanni Santiago, Valentina Santiago, Austen Boyd, Shepherd Boyd, Annie Boyd, Henry Lee Pritchett, Adeline Pritchett, and Lyla Lopez.

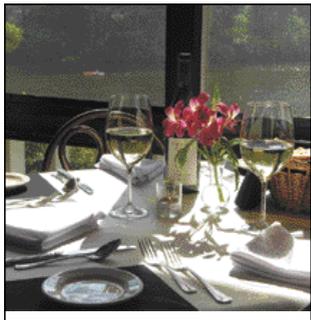
A funeral service was held Monday, March 23, 2026 at Mountain Bible Church in Glenville, NC, with Charlie Jones and Clayton Lopez officiating. Burial followed in the church cemetery. Online condolences may be made at www.bryantgrantfunerallhome.com.

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

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• LETTERS •

'Creativity' is the key word for workforce housing

Dear Editor

In a recent column, Mayor Patrick Taylor asked for suggestions for providing workforce housing in or near Highlands. Essentially, it appears he is seeking "creative" ways to develop affordable rental apartments for in-town workers within the town boundaries, or on ready-to-build unincorporated sites near sewer, water and utilities.

I have creative ideas to offer. For decades, cities and towns nationwide have struggled to provide affordable housing solutions for moderate-income and senior residents.

During the nation's World War II housing shortage, thousands of small income apartment buildings were divided — and the unit count was then doubled or tripled — often illegally. Residents often shared bathrooms. Basement and attic apartments were added to fill the shortage.

Today, creative zoning and construction solutions in some cities and towns include "granny flats," which allows apartments to be developed in basements, attics, and in "coach houses" designed for erection on top of garages. Empty storefronts and vacant offices are also often converted into affordable residential units.

In my opinion, creative development of workforce housing in Highlands is all about the flexibility of mixed-use, multi-level zoning. The quickest and easiest way to create affordable units in-town is to survey and identify vacant commercial properties such as the former ABC

In appreciation

FROM THE FAMILY OF HAZEL TAYLOR

We would like to thank the private caregivers and Home Care Specialists in the Mountains, who provided services that allowed Hazel to remain in her home. They gave her excellent care.

We appreciate Dr. Lawson Hunley, Hazel's primary care doctor for taking care of her health needs for many years. Several doctors at Smoky Mountain Foot Clinic provided regular treatment and we thank all of them for the care they gave her.

Thanks to Care Partners and Home Health for providing therapy and health checks.

Since Hazel was handicapped, U-SAVE-IT Pharmacy's drive through window enabled her to pick up prescriptions. Many thanks to all the employees for being so helpful and doing extra things for her.

When she required skilled nursing care, she became a resident at Eckerd Living Center in Highlands. We would like to thank the entire staff for the wonderful care she received. She was fortunate to have so many caring people involved in her health issues. Four Seasons Hospice and Eckerd Living worked together to provide end of life care. We appreciate everything that they did to provide comfort care for her.

Thanks to Bryant-Grant Funeral Home for handling her graveside service. Nick Page officiated at this service, and he made it a special celebration of Hazel's life. The flowers that we order for Hazel's funeral were arranged by April's Flowers on Main. Thank you to April and staff for the beautiful arrangements. The flowers added just the right touch to Hazel's funeral.

We wish to express our thanks and deepest gratitude for all the cards, telephone calls, and online condolences.

Curt McCall & Jessie Revis

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

• See LETTERS page 17

• HOSPITAL NEWS •

Take these steps to stay well this Spring

As we look forward to warmer days, it's important to remember that winter illnesses haven't fully disappeared — and spring brings its own set of health risks. By staying informed and taking simple preventive steps, you can protect yourself and your family throughout the season.

Respiratory Illnesses: Flu, RSV, and COVID-19

Respiratory infections remain com-

mon this time of year. Flu, RSV (respiratory syncytial virus), and COVID-19 continue to circulate, and all are highly contagious.

Vaccination is your strongest protection.

Staying up to date on influenza and COVID-19 vaccines reduces your risk of infection and greatly lowers the chance of severe illness or hospitalization. Individuals who are more susceptible to infection —

or who may be around sick individuals — should also consider wearing a mask.

Don't underestimate handwashing.

Frequent handwashing with soap and water is one of the most effective ways to prevent the spread of respiratory and gastrointestinal illnesses.

RSV deserves particular attention in rural communities.

Although RSV activity typically declines by late winter, it can linger in rural

areas. In older adults, RSV and other respiratory illnesses may present with atypical symptoms such as dizziness, falls, or confusion, in addition to congestion, fever, or breathing difficulties.



**Tom Neal CEO, CNO
HC Hospital**

CDC recommendations

for RSV vaccination include:

- Adults 74 and older
- Adults 50–74 with conditions that increase RSV risk
- Pregnant women, whose vaccination protects newborns
- Infants, for whom vaccines are also available

Gastrointestinal Illnesses: Norovirus, Traveler's Diarrhea, and Hepatitis A

Gastrointestinal infections are also widespread during late winter and early spring. Norovirus, in particular, typically reaches peak activity this time of year. Symptoms often include vomiting, diarrhea, and stomach cramping.

Key prevention strategies include:

- Frequent handwashing with soap and water (more effective than hand sanitizer for GI viruses)
- Disinfecting contaminated surfaces with bleach-based cleaners
- For travelers, diarrhea-related illnesses are common. To reduce your risk:
 - Drink only bottled, boiled, or carbonated beverages
 - Avoid ice
 - Choose cooked foods over raw or unpeeled produce
 - Maintain strict handwashing habits

Hepatitis A, a liver infection spread through contaminated food or water, often results from inadequate hand hygiene during food preparation. A two-dose childhood vaccine offers strong protection.

Tick- and Mosquito-Borne Illnesses

As temperatures rise — or if you travel to the Caribbean or Mexico — your risk increases for illnesses carried by insects, including Lyme disease, Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever, and Ehrlichiosis.

• See HOSPITAL page 13



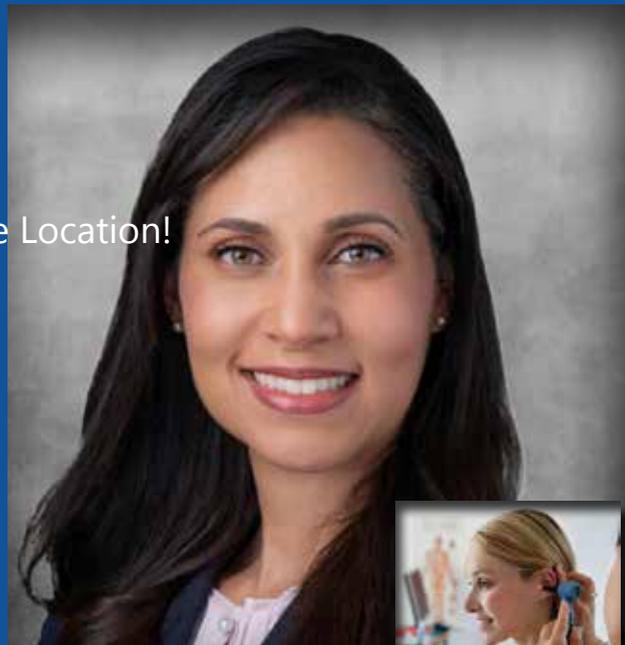
MOUNTAIN LAKES
MEDICAL CENTER
162 Legacy Point Clayton, GA 30525

Ear, Nose and Throat (ENT)



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Emory University and
Medical College of Georgia

Audiology Care



Dr. Erica McVey, Audiologist
University of Texas

All in One Location!

Contact: (706) 782-0478

CONNECT



www.mountainlakesmedicalcenter.com / www.mlmcpphysiciansgroup.com

...FAKE continued from page 1

for the production. When they got to the theater, with another couple whose tickets they thought they had purchased, they found out the tickets were fraudulent," he said. "Luckily, the production was not a sellout and they, with the good graces of HCP, were seated and enjoyed the play."

Lee Trevathan, box office manager at the Performing Arts Center next door, said they have put a warning on their website regarding this scam.

"We saw online that third party sellers are reselling our tickets at a very high price, and people's reservations were not being honored," said Lee. "Another incident involved someone buying tickets off the PAC website and then reselling them at six times the price."

Lee said that person's account has been disabled but another one can be created, "especially if it's a bot."

Across the nation, deceptive URLs or AI-generated images are being produced to sell fake or severely overpriced

tickets. Common scams include screenshots of tickets, non-existent VIP packages, and tickets that never arrive, especially on social media and unofficial resale sites.

Red Flags and Safety Tips

Look out for sites with names like Hadestown.Pantagous which are not official.

According to authorities, extremely low prices or tickets for sold-out events are likely scams. Also avoid wire transfers or paying via apps like Zelle or Venmo. Only use credit cards, which offer fraud protection. In addition, scammers may try to pressure you into acting quickly.

Sellers can be verified on platforms like Facebook Marketplace or Craigslist, so verify the seller is legitimate before purchasing.

If you have been scammed report the Scam to the FTC and your local law enforcement agency.

You can dispute the charges with your credit card so notify your credit card company im-

mediately to dispute the transaction. If you bought through a platform, report the user to that platform's customer service.

And finally, for verified tickets, use the official venue, artist website, or recognized reputable resellers.

Important notice from PAC:

We have recently been made aware of fraudulent websites posing as ticket sellers for our events and significantly inflating prices. These sites are not affiliated with PAC and are engaging in price gouging, often using our seating charts and event information without permission.

Unfortunately, this is an issue that can affect performing arts centers across the country.

To ensure your tickets are valid and fairly priced, please ONLY purchase tickets directly through our official PAC website. Highlandsperformingarts.com.

If you are ever unsure, feel free to contact our box office before purchasing. 828-526-9047, Mon-Fri, 10am-5pm.

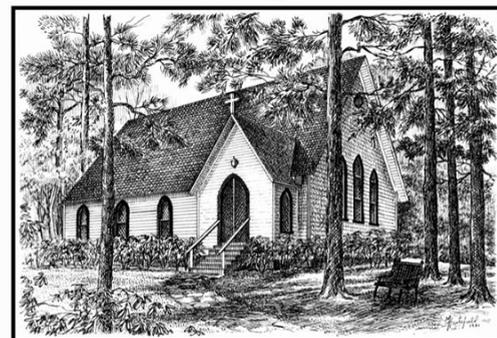


THE TOWN OF HIGHLANDS

PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING FOR PROPOSED FIRE TAX INCREASE TUESDAY, MARCH 31.

There will be an information session regarding a proposed Fire Tax Increase for the Highlands Fire District held at the Highlands Community Building, 869 North Fourth Street, Highlands, NC, from **5:30-6:30pm** on **Tuesday, March 31.**

THE CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD *Invites you to our Holy Week services:*



MARCH 29 - PALM SUNDAY
9:00 am | 11:00 am

APRIL 2 - MAUNDY THURSDAY
5:30 pm | Service

APRIL 3 - GOOD FRIDAY
Noon | Service

APRIL 5 - EASTER SUNDAY
8:00 am | 9:15 am | 11:00am
Easter Day Services

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1448 Highway 107 South, Cashiers, NC 28717



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T H M L

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...PUBLIC WORKS continued from page 1

sulting basis, Lamar Nix, who officially retired in December, attended the Highlands Town Retreat as he has every year to give the status on current projects and make capital improvement requests for the FY'26-'27 budget.

For '26-'27 four roads/parking lots are on the paving list – the Rec Park parking lot (\$197,000), the Community Building parking lot (\$52,000), Holt Road (\$46,000) and Holt Circle (181,000). Though submitted, Nix sug-

gested pushing the paving of Holt Circle to FY '97-'98 so the housing construction in the works along that road can finish up.

Every department in town requested the replacement of vehicles this budget cycle some as old as 2001 – HPD, GIS, Planning, Recreation and Public Works though its needs included more than a pickup truck.

Across the Public Works Department several equipment requests were made: an asphalt tamper (\$7,000) and a 35 series

excavator (\$90,000) for the street dept., a new pickup (\$65,000), an excavator trailer (\$9,000) and a site gauge LBP tank (\$10,000) for the water/sewer dept.; a new pickup (\$65,000), a new truck (\$100,000) at UG fault locator (\$2,500) and a mulch head (\$21,000) for the electric dept.

There are several grant funded projects in the works – projects that aren't costing the town: the Black Rock Water Line (\$410,000); Hammond Water Line (\$770,000); Buttermilk Water Line (\$325,000); Chowan Road Water Line (\$530,000); Webb Branch Water Line (\$417,000); and Dog Mountain Water Improvements (\$3,386,495).

Another project in the works that isn't grant funded is the sewer force main repair for \$300,000 which was bid out and accepted by commissioners at the March Town Board meeting.

The four-sector electric system upgrade the town began last year is well underway. The total was \$2,240,709.76 as of Feb. 2026 (a carryover from last year) with remaining balance at \$559,290.24.

The electric grid upgrade will enable the town to switch delivery points if power goes out in a sector so the entire town will

not go dark as it has during catastrophic episodes in the past.

Nix requested \$350,000 be allocated for contract trimming which requires constant upkeep. At the retreat he said contracting some of the work out is necessary because street department employees are often pulled off the job to work sanitation routes since the town is having a hard time hiring "garbage men."

Two grants are helping the town keep the water plant operating optimally – a pump station/tank/filter for \$6,672,000 and generator replacement at \$1,173,000.

A clean pre-clarifier at \$48,000 has been requested as has a chemical delivery canopy for \$94,000 which will protect the chemical delivery area from weather. There are existing contracts (\$38,000) and two pump rebuilds at \$16,000 that Nix didn't consider in his capital improvement requests.

The wastewater plant has a necessary Shelby Place Lift Station Improvement (\$31,000) and a Lower Brushy Face Lift Station Improvement estimated at \$16,000.

• See PUBLIC WORKS page 15

CHURCH OF THE INCARNATION

HOLY WEEK & EASTER

PALM SUNDAY

March 29 10:30 AM

MAUNDY THURSDAY

April 2 at 6:00 PM

GOOD FRIDAY

April 3 at Noon

THE GREAT VIGIL OF EASTER

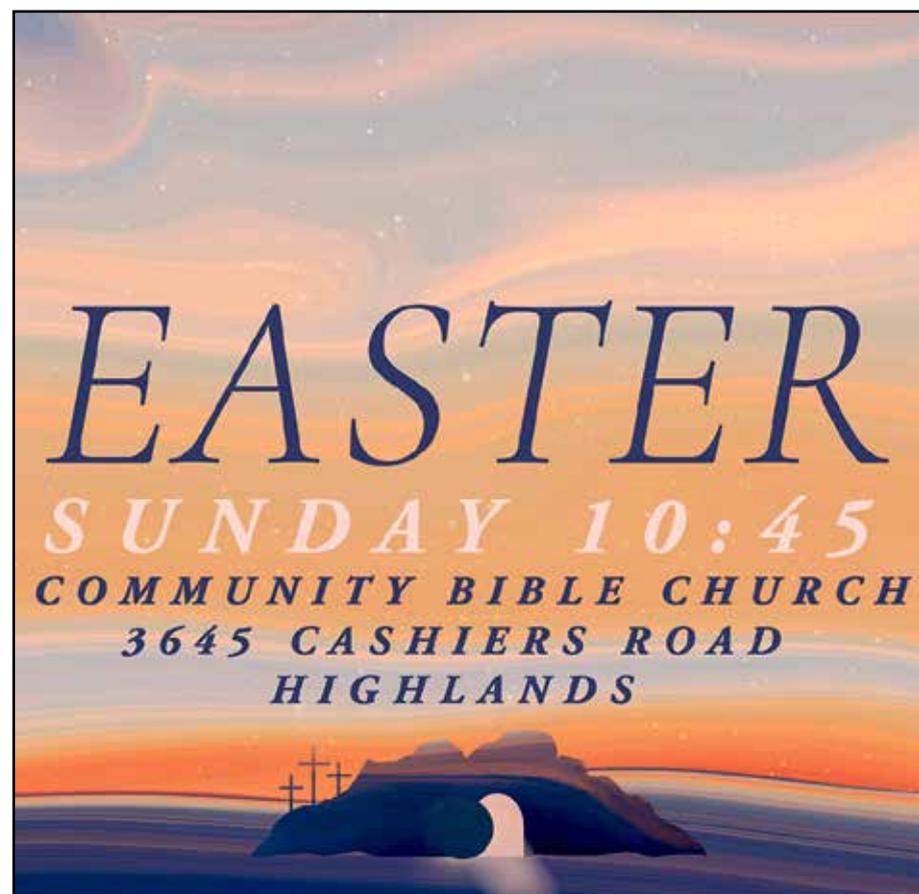
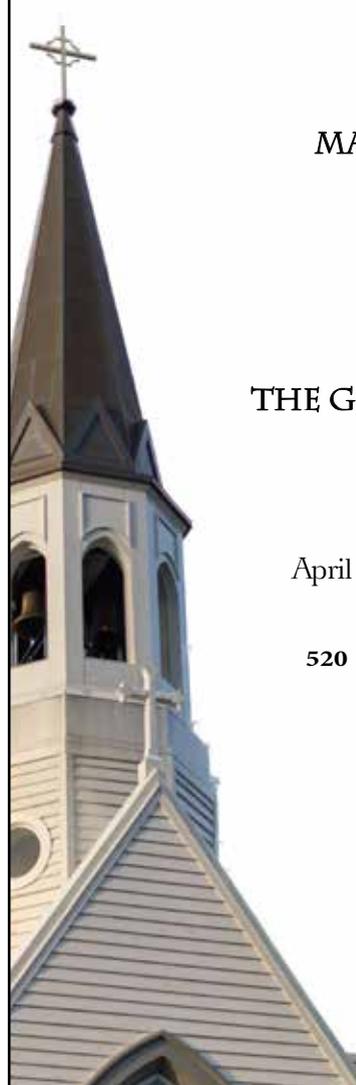
April 4 at 8:00 PM

EASTER DAY

April 5 at 9:00 AM & 11:00 AM

520 Main Street, Highlands, NC

incarnationwnc.org



• HS SPORTS •

Highlands' athletics weekly roundup: Highlanders return to action following Spring break

Highlands student-athletes returned to the dirt, the greens, and the pitch this week, shaking off the spring break rust with a packed schedule of competition. From the track in Andrews to the fairways of Mountain Harbor, the Highlanders proved they are ready for the heat of the spring season.

Track & Field: Hurdlers Lead the Way at Andrews

The Varsity track team kicked off the post-break action with a competitive meet at Andrews. Facing stiff regional competition, the Highlands girls finished 6th overall, while the boys secured a 5th-place finish.

Individual standout performances highlighted the day:

- Anabelle Hays took the podium with a 3rd-place finish in the 100m Hurdles.
- Claire Worley showed endurance, grabbing 4th place in the 1600m.
- Stephen Pierson proved to be a dual threat, placing 4th in both the 110m and 300m Hurdles.
- The Boys 4x100 Relay team also secured a solid 4th-place finish to round out the scoring.

...HOSPITAL continued from page 10

Early symptoms often mimic viral illness: fever, fatigue, and headache.

Protect yourself by:

- Wearing long sleeves, long pants, and a hat
- Tucking pants into socks or boots
- Using insect repellent containing DEET
- Checking for ticks after outdoor activities

If symptoms develop after a tick bite or suspected exposure, seek medical care promptly. Doxycycline is the critical early treatment for Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever.

Measles: A Serious but Preventable Threat

Although the United States achieved measles elimination in 2000, cases are now rising again, including in our region. Measles is extremely contagious — people can spread the virus four days before the rash appears. Early symptoms include fever, cough, runny nose, and red, watery eyes.

Varsity Golf: A Nail-Biter at Mountain Harbor

The Varsity Boys Golf team traveled to Mountain Harbor for a four-way match that came down to the final strokes. The Highlanders finished in 2nd place with a team score of 198, trailing Andrews by just four strokes.

Match Standings: School | Score

Andrews | 194 | | Highlands | 198
Murphy | 217 | | Hayesville | 221

Sam Conner and Chase Kenter led the charge for Highlands, both carding a 45 to finish in a tie for 3rd place individually.

Varsity Girls Soccer: A Tale of Two Matches

The Lady Highlanders opened their season on the road at Andrews, shaking off the early-season jitters to secure a 3-1 victory. The offense was firing early, led by Aubree Brooks, who netted two goals, and Anabelle Hays, who added another. Nani Campos provided the key assist to help seal the win.

Those at highest risk for severe complications include:

- Infants
- Pregnant women
- Immunocompromised individuals

The MMR vaccine remains highly effective, providing 97% immunity with the recommended two doses.

Parents should make sure their children are fully vaccinated, and adults uncertain of their vaccination status should review their records or speak with their healthcare provider.

A Final Reminder: Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month

March is Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month, an important opportunity to discuss screening with your healthcare provider. Screening — whether through colonoscopy or other tests — can detect cancer early, when treatment is most successful. Talk with your doctor about your personal risk factors and when you should have your first or next screening.



Brett Lamb
Highlands School
Athletic Director

However, the week ended with a tough test against a formidable Murphy squad. Murphy controlled the tempo throughout the match, handing Highlands a 5-1 loss. Jordyn Borino provided the lone bright spot on the scoreboard for the Highlanders, netting the team's only goal of the evening.

Middle School Soccer: Highlanders Split the Week

The Middle School girls soccer team also saw plenty of action this week with two matches on the ledger.

- Highlands vs. Summit: The Highlanders struggled to find their rhythm, falling to Summit 4-1.
- Highlands vs. Murphy: The team bounced back in impressive fashion, grinding out a 2-0 victory over Murphy to end their week on a high note.



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

Highlands United Methodist Church

www.highlandsmethodist.org

March 29th – Palm/Passion Sunday

Service of Healing

April 1st - 6pm in the Faith & Fellowship Center

Holy Thursday Service

April 2nd at 5:30pm in the sanctuary

Good Friday Service

April 3rd at 5:30pm in the sanctuary

Easter Sunday

Sunday, April 5th

Sunrise Service at the Easter Cross on the front lawn

at 7am

Easter Worship Services ~ 9:09 & 11am

Potluck Easter Brunch ~ 10am in the F&FC

Easter Egg Hunt ~ 10:15am on the front lawn

• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING

The Great Power of God



Pastor Sam Forrester
Whiteside Presbyterian Church,
Cashiers

"What is the exceeding greatness of his power toward us who believe according to the working of His mighty power" (Ephesians 1:19).

Salvation is an act of the power of God. A man who is lost in sin is spiritually dead with no way to save himself. Only an act of God's grace and divine power can bring back life.

This divine power is the heart of the process of salvation. It is an element of perfection that is absolutely necessary to venture out into the darkness called life.

In this life, the seeker of God's law will be filled with needs, only the power that changed water to wine can meet. Jesus shows the purpose of that power through the multiplication of the bread and fish on two occasions as he met the needs of the people. He shows that this great power of God is on the side of all who believe in Christ alone for their salvation.

Jesus told his disciples "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me." The Lord takes this power, and uses it exclusively on the behalf of his people. He takes his power and uses it to change their weakness into the perfect reflection of his grace.

What we learn from this is the utter weakness of our own lives. We stand on our own before this world with a lack of confidence in our ability and in a weakness nothing can improve. Gideon knew these feelings. God came to him with a task, Gideon couldn't comprehend how to accomplish it. When he finally made up his mind to try, God cut his army from 32,000 to 300 men. Gideon went out to fight a multitude that couldn't be numbered with only a few men. Gideon with a reluctant heart proceeded but God exerted his power, perfecting in Gideon's weakness a great victory. Because of this divine power it was God and not Gideon who received the glory.

Open your hearts to the source of this great power. Place your hope in Christ alone. Let Jesus do all in you. Watch him accomplish all for you. Trust his power to overcome your sins. Hope in his power to keep your heart. Follow his power as he guides your steps. Submit to his power to firmly smooth your way. Commit your life to his power to guide you through the crooked paths. Listen, so he can safely conduct you through life's perils. Be vigilant to avoid the assaults of the wicked. Be prayerful that he will completely cover your head in all your battles.

Christ and the power he brings into this world is a divine power. It is the power he possesses as your Mediator. This power's purpose is to bring you to himself.

• See **SPIRITUALLY** page 15

• 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 Kinar
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 • mountainsynagoguenc.com.
Services: 1st Fri. and 3rd Sat. and Rosh Hashanah & Yom
Kippur.

MOUNTAIN BIBLE CHURCH

743-2583 • Independent Bible Church
Sun: 10:30 a.m. at Big Ridge Baptist Church. 4224 Big Ridge
(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. 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 • ufranklin.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 March 13. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a summons/citation, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor or those of public officials have been used.

March 13

• At 3 p.m., officers responded to a report of trespassing at a residence on Lower Lake Road.

March 16

• At 8:57 a.m., drug equipment was found in a parking lot at 372 Oak Street.

Accidents

March 22

• HI was traveling east on US 64, ran off the road to the right and crashed into a ditch and embankment coming to rest in the roadway blocking the east bound lane. Driver left the scene.

March 22

• Unit 1 began to back up heading east on N 2nd St. Unit 2 stopped in roadway facing north which is when Unit 1 backed into

Unit 2. Unit 1 pulled back into parking place and came to rest. Unit 2 came to rest in roadway

The Highlands Fire & Rescue log from March 17.

March 17

• At 10:21 p.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on Blue Valley Road.

• At 11:27 p.m., the dept. responded to a Co2 alarm at a residence on Azalea Circle.

March 18

• At 2 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Potter lane.

• At 11:51 a.m., the dept. responded to a medical call from a residence on Cole Mountain Circle, but it was cancelled en route.

• At 7:22 p.m., the dept. provided mutual aid to the Cashiers FD.

March 20

• At 11:14 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Old Rock Road

March 21

• At 9:30 p.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on S. 4th Street.

March 22

• At 12:14 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Webbmont Road.

• At 5:08 p.m., the dept. responded to a call about a tree on a powerline on Sequoyah

Ridge Road,

• At 11:37 p.m., the dept. responded to a call of a transformer on fire on US 64 west (Franklin Road).

...SPIRITUALLY continued from page 14

Jesus in John 17:2 declares before the Father "You have given me power over all flesh, that I should give eternal life to as many as you have given me." My friends, if you name the name of Jesus Christ as your Lord, then, gird up your loins and take on the duties, toils, and trials you were called to. Stand up and be firm in the grace

and power you are given in Christ. When troubles come, then, listen to his voice as he calls to you, under your great load, "Do you believe I can do this?" Respond with all of your heart "Yes, Lord, I believe and I trust in you because I know all things are possible through you."

...PUBLIC WORKS continued from page 12

Aside from needing workers, the sanitation department needs a new garbage truck estimated at \$340,000.

As with every other item on the FY '26-'27 request list, the Public Works Capital Improvement budget requests will be discussed at upcoming budget workshop meetings.

As Mayor Pat Taylor said at the beginning of the retreat, '26-'27 will be a challenging budget year.

"We have to make some difficult decisions. There is inflationary pressure,

the need to continue services, to look for new revenue sources and ultimately balance the budget," he said.

The first budget workshop is Thurs., April 9 and the last one is Thurs., April 30 both at 3pm in the Community Building. The meetings are open to the public.

Once the budget is finalized, the board will vote to send it on to a public hearing. After the public hearing, it will likely be accepted and be ready to go into effect July 1, 2026.

Board says 'no' to rezoning request

Kim Lewicki

Though the Planning Board said yes, after hearing from adjacent and nearby neighbors, the Town Board voted 3-2 to deny a zoning change to a vacant parcel on NC 106 next to Dusty's.

Bill Futral had requested the zone of the 1.21 acre parcel be changed from R1 to B3. The Planning Board said due to the many commercial enterprises across the street and in the vicinity that the change made sense

However, adjacent property owner Bill Reese said changing the zone to commercial would alter the neighborhood and nearby neighbor Ann Wilson said adding another commercial enterprise to the area would make the NC 106 corridor more dangerous than it already is.

At the last Town Board meeting, commissioners began discussing looking at the town's zoning map to consider making

changes town-wide to potentially make way for more multi-family and multi-generational structures.

"I would rather make changes all at once rather than piecemeal," said Commissioner Amy Patterson.

She also said long ago the town made the decision to keep the corridors mixed-use to make sure the downtown business district doesn't become obsolete.

Since considering changing the town-wide map will take a long time, Commissioner Jim Tate said he didn't think it was fair to make Futral wait.

He and Commissioner Jeff Weller voted to allow the change. Commissioners Patterson and Eric Pierson voted no – at least for now.

Mayor Pat Taylor broke the tie and sided with Commissioner Patterson and Pierson.

FPCH HOLY WEEK

PALM & PASSION
SUNDAY
March 29th



MAUNDY
THURSDAY
April 2nd



GOOD
FRIDAY
April 3rd



EASTER
SUNDAY
April 5th



Palm & Passion Sunday: Join us at 11 am in the Sanctuary for readings & music depicting Jesus's entry into Jerusalem through his arrest, trial & crucifixion.

Maundy Thursday: Supper at 5:30pm in Coleman Hall, followed by worship & the celebration of the Lord's Supper.

Good Friday: An evening tenebrae worship service in the sanctuary beginning at 5:00pm in the sanctuary. Join us as we tell the story of Good Friday through scripture and music.

Easter Sunday: Celebrate Jesus' resurrection at 11 am with brass & timpani & an egg hunt for young children.



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• **UPCOMING EVENTS** •

Vietnam vets to be honored Sat., March 28 at the Community Building

At 10am in the Highlands Community Building next to the ball field, Highlands American Legion Post 370 will honor all area Vietnam veterans. Families are invited.

National Vietnam War Veterans Day is actually March 29. On March 29, 1973 Military Assistance Command Vietnam (MACV) was disbanded and the last U.S. combat troops departed the Republic of Vietnam. On March 29, 2012, President Obama proclaimed March 29 as Vietnam Veterans Day and called upon all Americans to honor the 50-year anniversary of the Vietnam War.

Annual Easter Egg Hunt at Rec Park is Sat. April 4

The Annual Easter Egg Hunt will be **Saturday, April 4th** at 10am at the Highlands Recreation Department for ages 0-9 years old. The address is 600 North Fourth Street.

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



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THE HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS CHAMBER MUSIC FESTIVAL is hiring for the position of Administrative Assistant. Excellent salary, vibrant atmosphere at the Highlands Performing Arts Center. parttime/fulltime. Call 828-526-9060 for an appointment. (st. 2/29)

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wood 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 SINGLE WIDE \$1,100 per month internet included. First last security. Mark 828-200-0765. (st. 5/29)

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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. (7/31)

...LETTERS from page 9

liquor store space at Highlands Plaza, next door to Bryson's Food Store.

The vacant former ABC store probably has space for four or five workforce studio apartments. If the town rezoned the building to mixed-use, a creative developer likely could erect a second story above the vacant commercial space to provide four or five additional workforce-housing units. All of the apartments would be able to tap into existing water, sewer and utilities.

Highlands real estate sources say the entire Highlands Plaza commercial site, including the food store and parking lot, along with nearby vacant land may be for sale.

On the other side of Highlands Plaza, near the self-serve car wash, exists a relatively flat site that currently is being used as a parking lot and dump for construction debris. Existing sewer and water are nearby. If rezoned for a 3-story combination workforce and senior-citizen apartment development, this site, on the edge of a wooded area, likely could provide 30 or more living units.

Another prime future combination workforce and senior housing site is the vacant former PNC Bank building at 225 Franklin Rd., next to our new fire station.

The vacant bank building could be razed to make way for future construction of a 3-story residential building with 30 or more workforce and senior living rental units. All new construction and renovation units should include outdoor space — either balconies or patios — to take advantage of Highlands' woodland views and temperate climate.

Obviously, a below-market workforce and senior apartment rental program also should be created and funded through developer incentives on permit fees and on future real estate tax breaks, or a non-profit foundation could be established. We can't expect moderate-income renters to pay Highland's market rents, or expect developers to build without a profit incentive.

Highlands' governmental leaders need to look under their noses for workforce and senior housing opportunities like these. Ask incentive-minded developers to buy the sites, or the town could appraise potential buildings and land and acquire properties by eminent domain.

Don DeBat
Highlands, N.C.

'No Kings' 3

Dear Editor,

The Supreme Court has embraced an extremely broad view of the President's "exclusive" powers. The Trump administration has been pushing the boundaries with Congress and the Courts demonstrating that it means to take the take the ruling literally. Congress has done little in the last 14 months to counter the President's executive orders and while the lower courts are trying to constrain this executive power it is ultimately up to the Supreme Court to define the limits of presidential power. And we are all aware of how slowly the Supreme Court moves.

In 2017, the beginning of Donald Trump's first term, Indivisible was formed to enlist the people to fight for our democracy. As with the Boston Tea Party, a protest of the Tea Act levied against the colonies by the British Parliament, the founders of Indivisible felt that the power to restrain the Trump administration would fall to the people. It wasn't until Trump's second term that the No Kings demonstration took form, the idea being that formation of the United States of America was the result of a rebellion by the people against the rule by King George of Great Britain.

A king is a usually a male ruler who has power for life and is the ultimate authority in governing the people of his country. With Trump pushing the boundaries of his authority, it is easy to understand the appeal of a No Kings protest. This Saturday will be the third such protest since Donald Trump's inauguration. Over 3,000 protests have been registered with Indivisible in the United States alone.

The third NO Kings has become more imperative, as the Iran War has been initiated by this administration and our president has said that his "power is constrained by my own morality, my own mind" in reference to international law. The initial strike against Iran was dictated by a feeling the president had and will be over when he feels that it is over. Neither the military advisors nor Congress appear to have input into that decision.

More than ever we the people need to demonstrate that we are the governed who give consent and thereby

• See LETTERS page 18



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• 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. April 3-4, 17-18; May 1-2, 8-9, 15-16; Thurs., Fri, Sat.: May 21-23, May 28-30. Spruce Street. www.

mountainfindings.org

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

Thurs - Sun., Mar. 26-29

• Highlands-Cashiers Players present The Mousetrap at the Martin-Lipscomb Performing Arts Center on Chestnut Street. Performances are at 7 pm, and Sunday matinees are at 2 pm. Tickets are available at HighlandsCashiersPlayers.com, or by calling 828-526-9047. The Highlands Performing Arts Center is located at 507 Chestnut Street, Highlands, NC

Sat. March 28

• At the Highlands Community Center next to the ball field, Highlands American Legion Post 370 will honor all area Vietnam veterans at 10 a.m. Families invited.

• No Kings Indivisible Rally this Saturday from 2-4p at the Post Office.

• At Highlander Mountain House Logan Ledger for a special night of live music. Logan Ledger is a Nashville-based singer/songwriter best known for his poetic lyricism, captivating baritone, and California-inspired creativity on his second album, Golden State. Doors open at 8 p.m., and the show will begin promptly at 8:30 p.m. Tickets are \$35.

Tues., March 31

• At the Community Building, a public information meeting regarding the proposed fire tax increase 5:30-6:30 p.m.

Sat., April 4

• Annual Easter Egg Hunt at the Rec Park at 10a.m. for ages 0-9.

Sat., April 18

• The Highlands Chamber of Commerce/Visit Highlands, annual Plateau Pickup. Volunteers will gather at 8:30am at K-H Park (Pine Street) to check in and get clean-up assignments along key corridors including U.S. 64, N.C. 28, N.C. 106, and select areas of downtown Highlands. For more info, email events@highlandschamber.org or call 828-526-5841.

April 24-26

• PAC Educational Theatre is excited to present our All-Community Production of Shrek: The Musical, taking the stage April 24-26! Our all-community cast features talented performers of all ages who have come together to create a production full of creativity, laughter, and magical moments. Don't miss your chance to see this exciting community

production—tickets are on sale now!

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.

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

Sun., May 17

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

Sun., May 30

• At PAC, The Texas Tenors, 7:30 pm. boxoffice@highlandspformingarts.com. 828-526-9047

Fri., July 17

• At PAC, Three American Troubadours at 7:30 pm. boxoffice@highlandspformingarts.com. 828-526-9047

...LETTERS

continued from page 17

power to the government. This authority is enumerated in the Bill of Rights. It is not only our right, but our responsibility, to voice our consent or our discontent with the government. This happens every two and four years through elections, but also by virtue of the first amendment which gives us the right of assembly and free speech.

This Saturday there will be a No King's Protest Rally near you. Check it out on Mobilize. As always Indivisible Highlands will be sponsoring a rally at the Highlands Post Office, this Saturday from 2-4pm. We hope to see you there.

Margaret Pickett
Highlands



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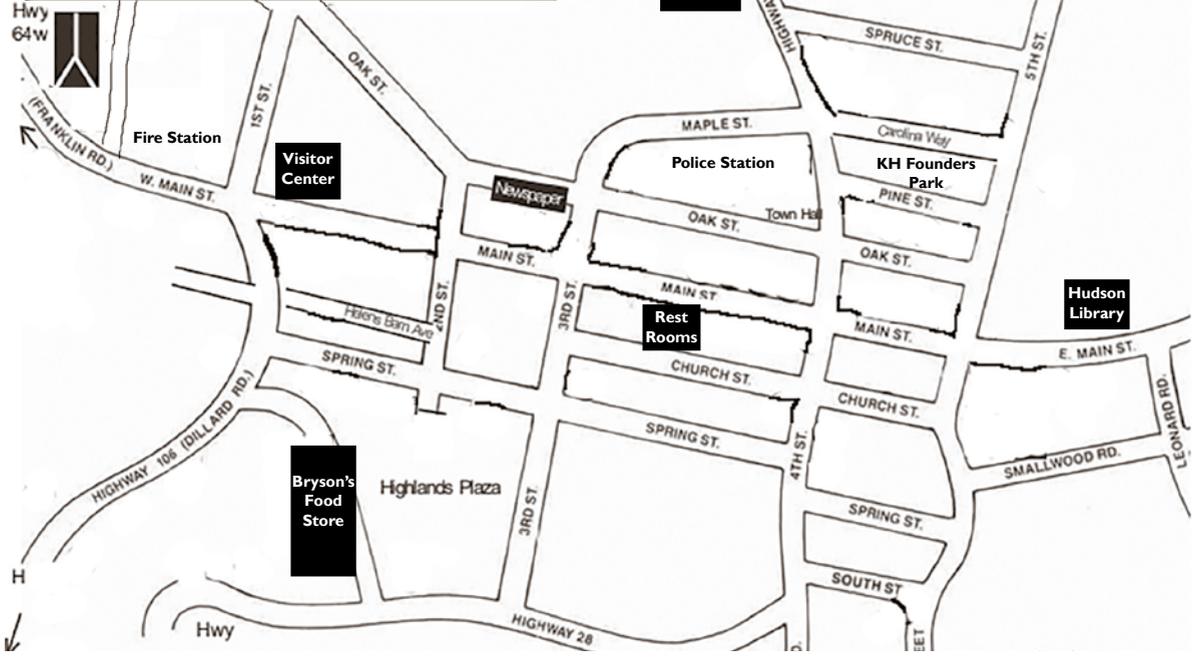
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