

# Highlands Newspaper

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Thurs., Sept. 5, 2024

## Highlands School Project is on track

*MC BOC votes 4-1 to allocate funds to ensure its ready for Fall 2025*

By Kristin Fox

To keep the Highlands School addition and renovation project on track with a completion

date of summer 2025, Vannoy Construction requested funding be released for early design work.

At their last regular meet-

ing, the Macon County Board of Commissioners approved the release of \$185,550 for design and

• See **PROJECT** page 22

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## It's all about 'Flower Power' Thurs-Sat this week

*Proceeds to support HHS and the Randolph P. Shaffner scholarship*

By Susan Renfro

Highlands Historical Society is taking folks back in time with the 14th annual Dazzling Dahlia Festival. Flower Power will be exploding this weekend all over Highlands as events lean hard into the '60s.

Things already kicked off in a big way at an "Elevated Woodstock" party hosted by Highlands Historical Society, Highlands Smokehouse & High Country Wine & Provisions. There was music, outfits, food, libations and a silent auction whose proceeds officially kicked off the Randolph P. Shaffner scholarship for a Highlands School student.

• See **FLOWER POWER** page 17



Trillium Links & Lakes Club wins the Mountain Challenge Croquet Championship Trophy after the finals at The Country Club of Sapphire Valley on Aug. 29. From left are Craig Sellner, Jan Spoerl, Jim Jamison, Juan Milciunas, Scott Spoerl, & Barbara Jamison.

- Photo by Barbara Coon

## Trillium wins Mountain Challenge Croquet Championship

By Brian O'Shea  
Plateau Daily News

It was a much-publicized challenge match between the Westhampton Mallet Club on Long Island, NY, and London's Hurlingham Club in 1960 that sparked the resurgence of croquet in America moving it from a backyard sport to something much more.

The United States Croquet Association was organized by Jack Osborn in 1977 with a nucleus of six east coast clubs.

Now, since 2008, it's been a summer event here in Highlands and Cashiers with the Mountain Challenge Croquet Championship.

Trillium Links and Lake Club took down Highlands Country Club during the Mountain Challenge Croquet Tournament finals at The Country Club of Sapphire Valley on Aug. 31.

This year's Tournament Director Darin Guffey said the annual tournament consists of teams from 12 country clubs throughout the area. Three teams from each club compete in the tournament.

Clubs vying for the coveted Mountain Challenge Croquet Championship Trophy include Country Club of Sapphire Valley, Highlands Falls Country Club, Highlands Country Club, Wildcat Cliffs, Trillium Links and Lake Club, Sky Valley, Cullasaja, Burlingame, Lake Toxaway, High Hampton, Chattooga, and Cedar Creek.

The finals boiled down to Trillium against Highlands Country Club in a best of three winner take all.

**Game 1:** Jim Jamison/Craig Sellner (Trillium) beat (HCC) Hammond Rauers/Matt Calvert 7-5.

• See **CROQUET** page 4

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# • THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

## • MAYOR ON DUTY •

### The cost of growth to towns

While back, I wrote about an STR boom town called Hochatown. I recently read a Wall Street Journal article by Matt Wirz about another type of boom town. Like the Hochatown article I wrote, the WSJ article, "This Texas City is Too Hot, Short on Water and Booming," is also a cautionary tale.



Highlands Mayor Patrick Taylor

The article states that Kyle, Texas, located just outside of Austin, is the second fastest-growing town in the country. In fact, its population has increased by 35% since 2020. The growth has been triggered by the relocation of several major companies to Kyle, including a 308,000-square-foot Amazon facility.

Kyle has seen a proliferation of subdivisions that offer reasonable home prices. Folks have flocked to the town because of employment opportunities, housing costs, and community amenities. Given that Kyle has now grown to a population of 63,000 people, it has been and remains a very at-

tractive place to relocate from big cities and live the good life. Or at least that is what the folks coming from all over the country thought. But, there have been growing problems and challenges for the local government and residents.

First, as Wirz points out, with onsetting climate change, Kyle is too hot. I mean really hot. This spring, not this summer, but this spring, the town was experiencing 100-degree temperatures. The hot days have not let up this

summer but only increased in intensity and frequency. The result is many residents stay in their homes most of the summer to cope with the heat. Exercising and playing in the town parks and ball fields has been greatly curtailed. The heat simply impacts the quality of life in Kyle.

The second byproduct of the growth and heat explosion is that Kyle is running out of water. The town is in a continual cycle of drought, and water demand from new suburbs is draining the aquifer that adequately supplied Kyle when it was much smaller but can no longer meet the demand.

The lack of water, increased heat, and dry conditions have many new homeowners concerned that the dry and shrinking soils under their home foundations will cause serious damage. As if that were not enough, increased traffic is creating traffic jams and extending commute times, problems that many newcomers thought they had escaped from in their former lives.

To solve the water problem, the city of Kyle and some neighboring towns are building a 40-mile water line to pipe water from another aquifer. That project will cost 250 million dollars. How will Kyle pay for it? The water customers will.

In fact, from 2012 to 2022, according to the American Water Works Association, the annual water rate increase has been 6.8%, or an overall 70% increase, compared to a national average of 3.5% or a 40% increase. In Southern states, that number is 30%.

So why am I concerned about Highlands after reading about distant Kyle? First, WNC, especially Highlands, will see a surge in heat refugees seeking to relocate to cooler areas. Last weekend, I talked with tourists and second homeowners at the Mountain Top Rotary Art Show. Many told me they

• See **MAYOR** page 11

*The following letters submitted to the Town Board as part of the STR amendment public hearing will not be read into the record tonight.*

### I am against the amortization of STRs

We bought our house in Highlands in July 2020 during covid. We chose Highlands because we have always loved the town and have been going there for many years. Our dream was to own a home in Highlands for retirement. With covid we decided to take steps to plan for our future and fell in love with our house which was being rented as an STR when it was on the market. We bought it and let the renters stay the extra 2 months they had previously booked before the house was on the market. We felt comfortable that with rental income we could make this dream come through for our future. It seems unconstitutional that the town can make a change that would take away our property rights and also put STR owners in a terrible financial bind. If the town had disclosed to the real estate agents to inform potential buyers of this then we would never have bought our house there. It seems totally unfair that this was not a required disclosure for potential home buyers.

Our renters have been wonderful and we are able to invest more money in to our home and have nice artwork and furnishings. We have never had a complaint against our renters. Please reconsider this timely and costly path and vote against the amortization of STRs.





Mary Ann Baird  
Highlands

### Please consider an alternative to stopping STRs

Thank you for taking the time to read my email. My name is Andrea Gabbard, and my family moved to Highlands over 20 years ago. We chose the community for its safety, fresh

• See **PUBLIC HEARING LETTERS** page 7

## • WEATHER •

Thu, 5-Sep	Fri, 6-Sep	Sat, 7-Sep	Sun, 8-Sep
 71°F 53°F	 68°F 53°F	 72°F 48°F	 70°F 48°F
Periods of sun	Cloudy with a stray shower	Clouds and sun	Partly sunny and pleasant
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### Highlands Newspaper

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## ...CROQUET from page 1

**Game 2:** Jan and Scott Spoerl (Trillium) beat (HCC) Jack Howard/Susie Day 7-5

**Game 3:** Ellen Nielsen/Dallas Denny (HCC) beat (Trillium) Barbara Jamison/Juan Milciunas 5-2

“The finals were great,” said Guffey. “Both teams hit some exciting roquets and long hoop shots.”

Kathie Gamble, Chairman of the Mountain Croquet Committee said within the three teams from each club that compete, there must be at least two women or two men from each team on the court for each club. Two teams must win in order to win the match (best of three).

“The experience of these players has grown greatly in the last few years,” said Gamble. “Many of those competing play in tournaments throughout the United States and are members of the US Croquet Assn.”

Gamble said the tournament has grown since it first officially began. In 2008 four clubs competed; this year there were 12 clubs.

The Mountain Challenge Croquet Trophy has been passed around since 2008 and each winner has their club name engraved on a plaque and they keep the trophy for the year.

# • INVESTING AT 4,118 FT •

## Tonight's the night to protect your rights!

The public hearing is tonight at 7PM concerning a “ban” of short-term rentals. If you believe in homeowners’ rights, please attend the meeting at the Community Building next to the ballfield.

The fact that Highlands was voted best small mountain town in the country by Travel and Leisure Magazine in 2023 has increased tourism and you can’t put toothpaste back in the tube! Brush your teeth and be happy your property values went up 20%.

Real estate brokers sold homes to buyers who were told by the town they could rent short-term with many spending huge amounts to update the homes and improve the properties. Most only rent when they cannot be here to subsidize their investments. Rental companies who handle rentals report that only once or twice has there been a disturbance reported and they took



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

care of it. Due to the controversy that has arisen one would believe we are a wild-wild west and party town. That is simply NOT true.

An increase in weddings and tourism has caused a few disturbances in neighborhoods but I think the public who hears bits and pieces are confusing STRs with an increase in tourism. Tourism has been good for Highlands’ economy and in turn has positively affected its home values. STRs and tourism are two entirely different issues, but they

do go hand-in-hand when it comes to Highlands’ economy.

The Chamber of Commerce has a duty to market our town, to plan events and increase tourism. Perhaps the objectors to the increase in the number of tourists should speak with the Chamber.

Our merchants depend on tourists --

many who are just here for a long weekend or perhaps a week -- to frequent their shops and fuel our economy. Should visitors and tourists be banned and not allowed to rent unless they are here for 30 days? Common sense is out that window of economic sustainability.

The town’s attorney has said a ban on STRs will result in lawsuits and will cost taxpayers thousands if not hundreds of thousands of dollars.

That money paid to attorneys could be used for sewer, sidewalks, road improvements, employee housing, childcare, and projects that benefit ALL people instead of a few disgruntles. Is that common sense or nonsense?

Those of us who believe in property rights for ALL homeowners and who understand that rules are already in place to deal with rowdy people hope common sense prevails! I encourage ALL who value freedom to attend tonight’s meeting. Common sense versus nonsense will be the issue.

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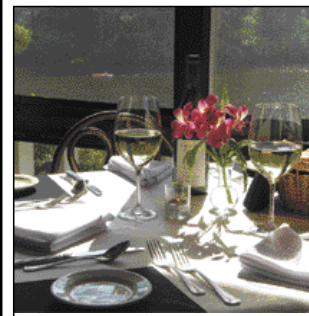


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## ...PUBLIC HEARING LETTERS continued from page 2

air, kind people, and a job opportunity that brought us here.

Highlands is not just a place where we own property and work; it's a place we hold dear to our hearts. It's where our children grew up, attended Highlands School, where we attend church services, and where we've volunteered on numerous community service projects.

Over the years, this community has become our extended family. We don't just come for a few months every year - we live here.

Several years ago, my husband and I invested in a home as part of our retirement plan. We dedicated significant time, money, and effort to make this house a welcoming retreat for visitors. It has become a beautiful space where people can relax and recharge. We've never had any complaints from our neighbors or the police, and our renters are respectful guests who contribute positively to the community. Many come to attend weddings, enjoy the changing of the leaves, or simply escape for a peaceful weekend. They dine in local restaurants and shop in local stores, which supports the economy. As someone who cares deeply about Highlands, I urge you to consider an alternative to stopping short-term rentals. I believe an actionable noise ordinance could address potential issues while allowing responsible property owners to continue contributing to our town's vitality. Thank you for your consideration.

Andrea Gabbard

Chairman of the HCBOR Scholarship

## A different perspective from Dog Mountain

I'd like to urge you to vote NO to amortization of STRs in Highlands. We've lived on Dog Mountain full time since retiring to Highlands in 2016.

Contrary to how it has been portrayed, Dog Mountain is a quiet, peaceful neighborhood. I would implore anyone who questions the peaceful nature of Dog Mountain to drive up anytime and observe what we have year-round for the past eight years, peace and quiet.

We rent our guest cottage and have done so without incident for the past seven years. We've had lovely retirees for renters who enjoy the peaceful mountain setting. Many come year after year and we've formed great friendships, many have gone on to purchase homes in Highlands - two have purchased homes on Dog Mountain Road.

Although we have not had an issue, we're aware of instances where bears have gotten into trash. As you likely know, bear-resistant trash cans are not always bear-proof, even when they are latched properly.

Faye and Bill Jones  
Highlands

## No STRs will negatively impact Highlands

I do not support amortization for STRs in zones R1 and R2. This will negatively affect the town's small business owners and potentially bankrupt the town. It will not solve the lack of affordable housing issues. The current STR ordinances are sufficient. In areas where they are violated, they need to be enforced. Lastly, the courts will most likely agree, this is an abuse of the intended use of amorti-

zation. The money spent for legal representation could be better spent creating affordable housing for the seasonal workforce.

Barrett and Jennifer Hoard  
Highlands

## STR options could include changes when property is transferred

My husband and I have lived and worked on Hilton Head for over 40 years. For 25 years I was the General Manager of a large gated-community which combined both residential and resort operations. My husband spent most of his career in real estate marketing, the major portion of his career as the Director of Sales and Marketing for the Sea Pines Company. During our careers we have seen great challenges with growth and residential compatibility with resort operations. We understand both sides of this challenge, but in our experience the most successful way to make a drastic change for owners is at the time of property transfer. This keeps legal issues and hostilities to a minimum and permits owners to enjoy conditions under which they purchased, but to achieve a desired change over time.

We have owned a home in Mirror Lake for 8 years and have been part of the rental program. Friends and family have been exposed to Highlands, contributed to the commerce, and some have become owners in Highlands/Cashiers.

We have also seen on Hilton Head that effective leadership cares for and considers all constituents in an effort to blend goals and have communities have balance. Changes can also cause negative impacts on real estate with many owners being forced to sell since the circumstances for their income were radically disrupted. This real estate dynamic could put downward pressure on prices and values in the Highlands market and cause concerns for the merchants and the restaurants who derive important income from visitors.

Tighter controls for short term rentals, requiring a definition of short term to be a longer stay, and making the change at a property transfer have proven to be effective in managing short term rental challenges without stripping the current owners of their ability to be part of the community and allowing a substantial change to be assimilated gradually for all concerned.

Thank you for your consideration in reviewing the option of changes being made at property transfer.

Sally and David Warren  
Highlands and Hilton  
Head  
Island, SC

## 30-day STRs aren't an option for most

I am writing to express strong opposition to amortization of short-term rentals in R1 and R2 of Highlands. Such limitations would severely restrict opportunities for homeowners to generate additional income which will be

• See PUBLIC HEARING LETTERS page 6



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## ...PUBLIC HEARING LETTERS continued from page 7

reinvested in our community. Not to mention the money spent by renters while vacationing. Limiting rentals to 30-day minimums would reduce our capacity to accommodate tourists who seek flexibility in lodging. STR's foster community engagement and a way to promote our beautiful community - and spur desires for home ownership in Highlands. The economics and goodwill spurred by STR's is immeasurable.

Becky Goodwin  
Highlands

## What right do you all have to take away an extra source of income from us and use my taxes to do it?

We are 80 and 82 years old and built our home 37 years ago, NOT to rent but to enjoy. We live 4 hours away and do not travel as easily as we once did so now rent it about 80 days a year out of 365. This allows us to keep it up in ways we could not on our retirement income as well as being able to use it ourselves.

I just paid our tax bill of \$2600+ of which about a third goes to the City of Highlands and I highly resent money we struggle to pay being used to pay your frivolous charges of allowing us to use our property as we choose. We have outside security cameras and notice that the people who rent our home drive much finer cars than

our own! Just this summer we have noticed that owners of high-end cars, BMWs, Mercedes and even two Bentleys have called my home their home, and my town, Highlands, their town. These same people have used the restaurants and shops and all have loved my home.

Our guests are mostly retired professionals and we have never had complaints from our neighbors or the police regarding heavy traffic or loud parties in our neighborhood. Not one.

What right do you all have to take away this extra source of income from us?

Marie S Edwards  
Highlands

## The Highlands community and STRs can smartly thrive together

As Highlands property owners, we are writing this letter to voice our strong opposition to the proposed amortization of short-term rentals. We firmly agree with the

unanimous Planning Board vote against amortization.

In the four years we have owned our property, we have rented it without incident or complaint, to people seeking to enjoy the beauty, prosperity and peace Highlands offers. Even a modest economic impact implies that a ban would result in over 20,000 fewer customers to our restaurants and shops in a season-few could survive long-term and our beautiful town would look like so many boarded up main streets. A ban will simply move most guests down the road to Cashiers, Sapphire, or elsewhere.

We bought our cabin to supplement our retirement, and we carefully manage it ourselves. We have invested over \$50,000 to repair, improve, landscape, and add parking. We pay nearly 10% in taxes for every stay to Highlands, Macon County and NC, in addition to business taxes to the State and the sales taxes from guest spending. It is also easy to tell which houses on our street are rentals, as they are clean and very well kept. There may be some short-term rentals in Highlands who do not vet their

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## ...PUBLIC HEARING LETTERS continued

### from page 8

guests as stringently as we do, but we believe they are few. We limit guests, have clear rules, and enforce them.

If amortization is unethically/illegally forced on us, our retirement investment will be ruined and there is no doubt property values and tax receipts will plummet with so many businesses shut down.

We believe the community and STRs can smartly thrive together. Sadly, short-sighted thinking will further waste taxpayer money, reduce Town income, and destroy many of the very things we love about our Town. Please vote no!

**Mike and Joann Lindsey**  
Highlands

## • LETTERS •

### A characteristic of our candidates must be decency

Dear Editor,

As my grandmother used to say, the MAGA party “doesn’t have the sense it was born with.”

The MAGA presidential candidate - a multiply-bankrupted felon, convicted of sexual assault against one woman and of covering up his illicit liaison with another to protect his reputation - has NOTHING to offer against his opponent, the current Vice President and former Attorney General and Senator from the state with the 5<sup>th</sup> largest economy IN THE WORLD (see Japan, California, India). However, because his opponent is also a woman, he sees fit to denigrate her using the insult insignificant men always throw at women – that she got where she is by doing sexual favors for men.

Meanwhile, the MAGA vice-presidential candidate has an opposite, but

equally skewed, opinion of a woman’s value. He has implied on multiple occasions that if a woman is not married or married but not raising children, she is worthless. He prefers June Cleaver to Sally Ride, Harriet Nelson to Hillary Clinton. To readers younger than 60, sorry, I had to go back to 1950s to find role models the vice presidential candidate approves of.

And finally, the MAGA candidate for NC governor may be the most reprehensible of all. He has said that “once a woman is pregnant it is not her body anymore.” He believes all non-heteronormative people are “filth.” He is antisemitic and anti-science. I’ll stop there.

As you contemplate who to vote for this fall, think about how these candidates could change your life or the lives of people

• See **LETTERS** page 10

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EVENTS ARE FREE TO THE PUBLIC

**AT THE BASCOM**

Sept 5 ..... Poster Party, 5 PM

Sept 6 ..... Single Bloom Competition  
(flowers received, 8 AM – 11 AM)  
Dahlia Talk by Tim Wheatley, 1 PM  
of Mountain Diva Gardens

Sept 7 ..... OPEN FROM 10 AM – 4 PM

**THROUGHOUT HIGHLANDS**

Sept 7 ..... Dahlia Festival Vignettes  
Steel Toe Stiletto, 6 PM – 9 PM  
@ Kelsey-Hutchinson Park  
Raffle drawing during concert  
for historic Prince house painting

Purchase Tickets or Sponsor Here

Festival Entry Form

SPONSORED BY VISIT HIGHLANDS, THE BASCOM AND HIGHLANDS HISTORICAL SOCIETY



## ...LETTERS continued from page 9

you love. True, they would need the support of Congress, the State legislature and the Courts, so it's unlikely their misogynist, hate-filled opinions will come to fruition. However, their character will inform every part of their governing agendas. Would you invite any of these men into your home for

any reason? Clearly not leadership, or even friendship, material.

Like Oprah Winfrey I am an Independent voter who believes the first hurdles a candidate has to clear is are they decent humans and are they principled. My opinion: without even considering policy positions, voting the

MAGA ticket is voting for hate and against decency and human rights.

**Karen Patterson  
Highlands**

## The 2024 Democratic Convention themes: Joy, Freedom, USA

Dear Editor,

The emphasis over the four days was on patriotism, love of country, American strength, and a hopeful view of the future. It was powerful and inspiring. It was the best convention I have ever seen and a sharp contrast to the Republican Convention.

Kamala rose to the moment delivering a speech that truly reflected who she is as her husband and extended families described her. Joe was right, she is ready for the job. She was presidential, commanding, fierce, and charismatic. Kamala was hopeful and so human. Her closing charge to Americans will go down in history as one of the best lines in a long line of acceptance speeches. "We must be worthy of the moment. It is now our turn to do what generations before us have done, to uphold the awesome responsibility that comes with the greatest privilege on Earth- the privilege and pride of being an American." Kamala stated she only had one client her entire career: "We the People". Her competitor has had only one-himself. As Bill Clinton said so aptly. Next time you hear Trump speak, don't count the lies, count the I's.

The keynote speakers were all stellar and the other speakers did their jobs well. Having said that, Michele Obama hit the ball out the park. I will never forget her powerful words. She anticipated attacks on Kamala by recalling the viscous attacks on her family. But she dismissed Trump's attacks in advance by explaining that he is "threatened by two highly educated successful people who happen to be black. He is going to do the same thing to Kamala." Then she said the best line of the convention, "Who's going to tell him the job he is seeking might just be one of those Black jobs." And then she challenged all of us. "Kamala and Tim will make mistakes. If they do, it is not just on them. If they lie about her and they will we Must Do Something. If we see a bad poll, then we must put down our phones and Do Something. Consider this to be your official ask from me to Do Something, no I am telling you to Do Something."

Tim Walz continued this theme in his warm and powerful acceptance speech. He

said "We are in the 4th quarter. We are down a field goal but we are on offense and we have the ball. We have the right team and this is what you need to do: Vote, make a donation, join a phone bank, write letters and postcards, knock on doors."

As Americans we must pick hope over fear, unity over division, truth over lies, science over fiction, democracy over dictatorship, Harris over Trump. Kamala will see problems and try to solve them, see fear and erase it, and finally help American's dreams come true. We saw the election slip away from Hillary. We must not let this happen again.

Do something to help elect Kamala Harris as the next president.

**Linda Arnold, Board Member  
Highlands Democratic Precinct**

## STRs - enrichment vs impoverishment

Dear Editor,

Proponents of allowing STRs in Zone 1 and 2 claim that it is not fair to them to stop STRs as they should be able to use their property as they choose, and argue to stop such rentals would drive a stake in the heart of the town's economy.

However, there is no consideration given to homeowners whose property loses economic value because they now have a commercial property next door. Who chooses to buy a house next door to weekend rentals, or if so, what would the discount on the purchase price be?

When we bought our house 10 years ago, we had a next-door neighbor. The house was subsequently bought specifically to be a rental property and we had problems with renters over several years.

From a Realtor's perspective how easy a sale is it to say "if you can afford the down payment STRs can cover much of your monthly payments. This way you can have a home here mostly paid for when you want to move here." Our Realtor suggested that to us when we bought our house despite our home being Zone 1.

As to the merchants' loss of revenue, the town has survived and thrived for years and with more year-round residents seems to be increasingly in good shape. Stores no longer close for the winter.

The real impoverishment is loss of neighborhood and community. STRs coming for a visit are transient. They do not support any of the entities that make Highlands special: The Land Trust preserving the plateau, the PAC, The Bascom, and especially the myriad number of smaller organizations providing needed social

• See LETTERS page 14



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## ...MAYOR continued from page 2

were here to escape the suffocating heat where they permanently reside. That phenomenon of escaping hot places like Kyle will increase significantly.

Second, our water resources are not infinite, and with change it is getting worse. While we have registered large rainfall amounts in recent years, the rain patterns have changed and are concerning for those who provide our water.

Highlands used to get steady, small rain showers almost daily that kept our ground-water and impoundment levels full. Notice that last summer and to some extent this summer, we have had weeks and longer periods when no rain fell on the Plateau, then only to be deluged with surprisingly heavy rain events. We don't need the heavy rains where the water quickly runs off the mountain almost as soon as they arrive.

In short, Highlands may not have

the capacity to meet an ever-growing water demand in the future. Our watershed and water table might become distressed in the coming years. Resources may be limited if demographics shift to where the Plateau experiences a boom in growth.

Finally, what struck me about the WSJ piece is that we have not been charging enough for water. This year's water rate increase is the first in several years. Our water rate increase does not come close to what Kyle has experienced or even the national average. In short, to maintain a vibrant water system, our rate increases will have to continue. For that matter, rates for other city services will also have to increase to keep up with inflationary pressures, environmental shifts, and maintenance costs.

The days of telling friends in other communities how cheap services are in Highlands are coming to an end.

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# Fall Home Improvement

## Prepare your home for any kind of storm with these essentials

(StatePoint) Natural disasters like hurricanes, tornadoes, floods and wildfires are happening more frequently each year. They're also becoming more unpredictable, with many disasters taking place outside of the traditional storm season.

Despite the fact that an overwhelming majority of Americans—86%—are concerned that natural disasters will increase in the coming years, many households are not taking steps to prepare. According to a FEMA survey, only 51% of Americans believe they are prepared for a disaster, and only 48% of households report assembling or updating their disaster supplies.

With its long history of supporting communities impacted by disasters through its PowerForward program, Duracell has been bringing personal power to those who need it most since 2011. Over 15 million batteries through more than 61 deployments have been distributed to affected families to operate storm essentials like flashlights, medical devices, headlamps and more.

With this disaster expertise in mind, Duracell is reminding everyone to prepare their homes for any kind of storm by adding Duracell Batteries with Power Boost ingredients to their emergency supply kits. Being prepared with batteries you can count on when it matters most not only gives you peace of mind, but protection for your loved ones and the community around you. With a guarantee of 12 years in storage, you can rest assured they'll be ready when you need them.

To stock your emergency preparedness kit with batteries, visit [www.walmart.com](http://www.walmart.com), then head to <https://www.fema.gov> for a full checklist of disaster supplies.

A storm could happen anywhere, at any time, so get ready before Mother Nature strikes by ensuring you're able to keep crucial devices powered in a storm.

## Optimize a small kitchen with these tips

(StatePoint) Whether you live in tight quarters or like many Americans, have a smaller, secondary kitchen in your home, there are strategies for making the most of compact cooking areas, none of which involve compromising style or functionality.

### Use Smart Storage

Sneak in extra storage in unexpected places without contributing to kitchen clutter. Install pull-out cabinets. Use an over-the-sink dish drying rack. Mount a magnetic knife sheaf to your backsplash. Use a rolling storage cart that can be moved out of the way when needed, being sure to opt for one with a wooden top to boost your counter real estate. All these solutions will help free up more of your workspace, ensuring you have plenty of room to chop, mix and stir.

### Go Multifunctional

Top-notch appliances don't need to be huge to provide professional-style performance. It's all about finding models that offer multifunctionality, such as the 30-inch DolceVita Dual Fuel Range by the Italian brand, Lofra Appliances. A great example of a luxury range uniquely engineered to fit a smaller space, unlike other compact appliances of its size, this one ensures that you can get the aesthetics, powerful BTU output and oven capacity that larger ranges offer. Its convection oven offers nine programmable cooking functions so that you can defrost, grill and bake like a pro,

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# Fall Home Improvement

no matter the size of your kitchen.

## Get Creative

It's a good idea to get a bit creative about where appliances will actually fit in your compact kitchen. For example, the 30-inch Wall Oven from Verona is only 24 inches tall, making it the perfect height for an under-the-counter installation. Pair it with a Verona 12-inch, 24-inch or 30-inch cooktop, which

have minimal undercounter depth, for a great combination when space is limited.

If you need a second oven, Verona packs two multifunction ovens into one 36-inch range. Both ovens feature optimal amounts of space so you can fit anything from week-day dinners to the Thanksgiving turkey and all of the side dishes to go with it.

Both Verona and Lofra are exclusively imported by

EuroChef USA. For more information, visit eurochefusa.com.

## Build Upward

Don't forget to think about your kitchen from a vertical perspective, too. This can help you maximize every square inch of the room. Add hooks to the upper areas of your walls, or even hang items from the ceiling. Put seasonal tools and ingredients up on the highest shelves

and rotate them as needed. A small, foldable stepstool takes up almost no storage space but can help you reach those seldom-used items when it's time.

A cozy kitchen is no cause for distress. Whether it's throwing an elaborate dinner party or cooking for a busy family, you can get a lot done in your smaller kitchen with wise appliance choices and creative storage solutions.

## Sofa stains top the list of furniture fails in new survey

(StatePoint) Perhaps you're better off not taking that new sofa out of its plastic wrap. Sofas, couches and love-seats top the list of furniture most likely to be damaged, according to the latest survey on furniture damage from Allstate Protection Plans. What's worse, more than half of furniture purchases were damaged in the first two years!

A whopping 174.8 million Americans have damaged furniture, and 61% of accidents occurred in the first two years of ownership.

Here are insights from this survey, along with information on what consumers did to repair, replace or hide damage:

- **Failure Frequencies:** When asked which furniture was damaged most recently, 40% of Americans said sofas, couches and loveseats. People spent \$299 on average repairing or replacing them. And 17% of accidents happened in the first six months after purchase.

- **Drips and Rips:** Spills and stains were the leading cause of damage, accounting for over half (55%). Rips and tears were second (25%). Juices accounted for 25% of stains, while people and pet stains accounted for 21%.

- **Four Legs Versus Two:** Surprisingly, pets and children were less likely to be responsible for damage than adults. Forty-five percent of adults blamed spouses for damage, with children responsible for 34%. Dogs were twice as likely as cats to cause damage.

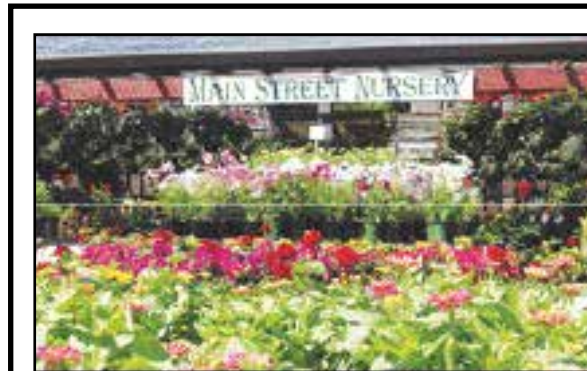
- **Dealing with Damage:** Forty-three percent of people tried to fix damage themselves, while 38% kept using

furniture despite damage. Twenty-three percent hide it, with 14% replacing items and 4% repairing them.

- **Fear of Fancy Furniture:** Over a third (36%) avoided buying high-priced furniture for fear of damage. While 54% were aware protection plans can cover sofas, only 31% understood they can cover beds, and just 12% knew they can cover area rugs.

- **Preventive Measures:** Thirty-eight percent of Americans have covered furniture with towels or sheets, 29% have used slipcovers and plastic covers, and 20% have used stain prevention treatments. Just over a fifth (22%) currently have a protection plan or extended warranty for furniture.

• See **STAINS** page 14



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# ...LETTERS continued from page 10

services to our community. A hollowed-out town will not thrive on commerce alone. Remember Jimmy Stewart in "It's a won-

derful life" as the town of Bedford Falls morphs into Pottersville.

If we allow STRs, I suggest a great mar-

keting slogan supportive of the STR owners, Realtors, and merchants: Visit Highlands - Myrtle Beach in the Mountains.

**Connie and Hugh Fitzpatrick  
Highlands**

# ...STAIN continued from page 13

"While people are used to protecting electronics, many don't know they can protect furniture too. It gives you peace of mind, knowing expert help is there when you need it," says Jason Siciliano, vice president of marketing and creative director at Allstate Protection Plans.

To protect furniture, the experts at Allstate Protection Plans recommend:

- Clean Regularly: Dust and dirt buildup can cause scratches and abrasions, or worse. Cleaning is important for high-traffic items like area rugs.
- Use Coasters and Mats: They can prevent rings and stains from moisture and heat.
- Invest in Protective Covers: For both indoor and outdoor furniture, especially high-use pieces, covers can help.
- Rotate and Rearrange: Rotate cushions periodically to distribute weight and wear.
- Control Environmental Factors: Regulate temperature and humidity. Close curtains or blinds to stop fabric or wood from fading in the sun.
- Consider a Protection Plan: The coverage can include accidental damage, stains and structural issues, and protect your financial investment.

More tips and information are available at [www.allstateprotectionplans.com](http://www.allstateprotectionplans.com).

Since we're only human, stains and damage will happen. With a few simple steps you can rest easy when sitting on that new sofa.



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# • HIGHLANDS EVENTS •

## NEW 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, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday 10am-1pm indoors for the winter (notice the days and time has changed), everyone is welcome meetings.

## ALL WEEK

• Alcoholics Anonymous: "Open Meetings" are for anyone who thinks they may have a drinking problem or for anyone interested in the A.A. program of recovery. Highlands Mountain View Group holds open meetings in Highlands at the First Presbyterian Church, 471 Main St., on Monday at 5:30 PM and Wednesday and Friday at noon. Women's Group 5:30, Tuesdays. The Cashiers Valley Group holds open meetings at the Albert Carlton Cashiers Community Library Monday at 8:30 AM, Tuesday at 7 PM, Friday and Sunday at 5 PM, and Saturday at 9 AM. For more information, please visit [www.aawnc80.org](http://www.aawnc80.org) or to speak with a member of AA 24/7 at 828-349-4357.

## MOVIES

• Movies at the Martin Lipscomb Performing Arts Center at PAC on Chestnut Street See adjoining ad.

### Turs., Sept. 5

• 14th Annual Dahlia Festival Poster Party at The Bascom at 5 p.m.

### Fri., Sept. 6

• 14th Annual Dahlia Festival Single Bloom Competition 8-11a. at The Bascom and Dahlia Talk at 1p.m.

• Margo Capparelli, Founder of Equinox Ranch in Cullowhee, will speak at Hudson Library on Friday, at 11 AM. Margo will introduce Equinox Ranch and its goal of Helping Warriors Heal.

• Friday Night Live on Main Street's Town Square 6-8:30 p.m. - Johnny Webb Band

### Sat., Sept. 7

• 14th Annual Dahlia Festive with dahlia vignettes throughout Highlands and blooms on display at The Bascom all day.

• At the Highlands Historical Village, 524 N. 4th Street, presents Flower Power the good old-fashioned Way with Mountain Music && Moonshine from noon to 4pm. Featuring Mountain Storytelling from noon to 1p and Bluegrass by the Shedhouse Trio from 1-4p. BBQ, popcorn, ice cream and moonshine served at noon while supplies last.

• Pet First Aid and CPR training 4 pm SHARP at the Sky Valley Scaly Mountain Volunteer Fire Department Community Room. 169 Hale Ridge Road, Scaly Mountain. NO PETS. RSVP [Joanneroesner@yahoo.com](mailto:Joanneroesner@yahoo.com). FREE OF CHARGE.

• Pop-Up Bagpipers at HUMC from 4:30 p.m. to 5 p.m.

• Saturdays on Pine features Steel Toe Stiletto from 6-9 p.m. at KH Founders Park.

### Tues., Sept. 10

• The Sky Valley Garden Club's biggest and best fundraiser is Tuesday at the Sky Valley Country Club and is open to everyone. There will be a silent auction along with great food, music, dancing, and lots of visiting with friends and neighbors. This annual event which helps fund scholarships for local students and beautification efforts. For more information or to reserve your spot, contact [skyvalleygardenclub@outlook.com](mailto:skyvalleygardenclub@outlook.com).

### Thurs., Sept. 12

• At First Presbyterian Church, ArtSpace opening reception from 5-6:30p. Theme: The Harvest. Free and open to the public. 471 Main Street.

### Fri.-Sat., Sept. 13-14

• 2024 Native Plant Symposium, Connecting Place, People and Plants. \$150 per person. \$20 per student. On Sept. 13 it will be taking place at the Highlands Biological Station Amphitheatre and on Sept. 14 it will be at the Highlands Community Center.

• See **EVENTS** page 16

## MOVIES

### at PAC's MLPC

507 Chestnut St. Highlands



**Tues. Sept. 10: 2 & 5:30p**

**Fri. - Sun. Sept. 13-15**

**2 & 5:30p**

**Tickets:**

**Adults: \$13.20 • Children: \$11**

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## ...EVENTS continued from page 15

THE HEIGHT OF HAPPINESS



# HIGHLANDS

NORTH CAROLINA

— ELEV. 4118 —

## Outdoor Concert Series

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

*Join us for our September concerts!*

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

### Friday Night Live

Town Square | 343 Main St.

*Showcasing traditional mountain music and local talent*

SEPTEMBER 6  
Johnny Webb Band

SEPTEMBER 13  
Silly Ridge

SEPTEMBER 20  
Curtis Blackwell Band

SEPTEMBER 27  
Nitrograss

### Saturdays on Pine

Kelsey-Hutchinson Founders Park  
Pine St.

*Featuring a variety of popular, regional bands and musicians*

SEPTEMBER 7  
Steel Toe Stiletto

SEPTEMBER 14  
High 5

SEPTEMBER 21  
The Boomers

SEPTEMBER 28  
Kayla McKinney



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**Thurs., Sept. 12**  
• The public is invited to a reception for the fall ArtSpace exhibit at First Presbyterian Church, located in the lower level of the Faith and Fellowship building. Meet the local artists and enjoy refreshments 5-6:30. ArtSpace is open Mon.-Thurs. 9-4:30. Call (828) 526-3175 or [fpchartspace@gmail.com](mailto:fpchartspace@gmail.com) for info.

**Fri., Sept. 13**  
• Friday Night Live showcases traditional mountain music and exceptional local talent on Main Street's Town Square 6-8:30 p.m. – Silly Ridge

**Sat., Sept. 14**  
• At the Hudson Library in Highlands at 12:30 PM or Albert Carlton – Cashiers Community Library at 3 PM Florida author Tracey Enerson Wood to talk about her new historical fiction novel Katharine, the “Wright Sister.”

• Saturdays on Pine at Kelsey-Hutchinson Founders Park 6-8:30 p.m. – High 5

**Sun. Sept. 15**  
• The Literacy & Learning Center fall fundraising event “Celebration of Education” at Wildcat Cliffs Country Club. Guest Speaker – Shelby Van Pelt, author of Remarkably Bright Creatures. \$175 per person. VIP Patron Packages available. Tickets and more info: [www.the-literacyandlearningcenter.org/events/coe](http://www.the-literacyandlearningcenter.org/events/coe)

• Fourth Annual Highlands Porchfest on Sunday from 1-6pm - all over town!

**Mon., Sept. 16**

• Town of Highlands HS Scholarship Golf Tournament at the Cullasaja Club capped at 28 teams. \$700 per team (\$175/player). Hole sponsorships are available for \$150. To register, contact event co-Chair, Rebecca Shuler at Town Hall at 526-2118.

• HCLT presents George Masa: A Life Reimagined, An Evening with the Authors, Monday, 5:30 - 7:30pm at Highlands Inn, 420 Main St, in the Sequoia Room. Light refreshments and wine will be provided. FREE. Email [hope@hcltnc.org](mailto:hope@hcltnc.org) with any questions.

• Cashiers Cares 3rd Annual Golf Tournament at Trillium Club Shotgun start at 10:30a, scramble format. \$200/player, cart lunch and after party with awards, prizes and raffles. sign up on [cashierscares.org](http://cashierscares.org) or contact Pam Kerr, [pbk354@gmail.com](mailto:pbk354@gmail.com) for info.

**Tues., Sept. 17**  
• National Voter Registration Day at Highlands Civic Center/Rec Park 10a to 2p. Photos will be taken for Voter ID if needed. REMEMBER: if living in Macon County for more than six months as the primary domicile, a NC driver's license is necessary to vote. Driver's licenses from other states, even if not the primary domicile, will no longer be accepted.

• HCLT presents Satulah-Bration Sunset & Moonrise Hike, A Walk in Masa's Footsteps at KH Founders Park on Pine Street from 6-9 p.m. FREE.



## Pop Up Pipers!

Celebrating Highlands' Heritage

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

This Month's Performance:

**Highlands United Methodist Church**  
**315 Main Street**  
**Saturday, September 7 | 4:30 - 5 p.m.**

*Performances are made possible by the Highlands Chamber of Commerce/Visit Highlands, NC.*

**HIGHLANDS**  
NORTH CAROLINA  
THE HEIGHT OF HAPPINESS | ELEV. 4118

828-526-2112  
[visithighlandsnc.com](http://visithighlandsnc.com)



## ...FLOWER POWER continued from page 1

This evening, Thursday, Sept. 5, The Bascom is hosting the Dahlia Poster Party from 5-6:30pm. Artist Marina Tsatch will be given her \$500 check for winning this year's poster contest, there will be special dahlia themed cocktails, this year's poster will be available; and you may help us make history by purchasing a raffle ticket for a gorgeous painting of the Prince house. There is no charge for this evening.

Friday morning at 8, The Bascom will literally explode with dahlias as the single bloom competition is held. Growers may bring their flowers to the Bascom between 8-11am, where they may enter up to eight blooms for \$20.

Trained judges award ribbons in many categories, even a children's category. There is an amateur and professional division, with a Best of Show from each division. Best of Shows win \$100, so enter your perfect dahlias. The show opens to the public for viewing with a 1p talk on dahlias by Tim Wheatley, from Mountain Diva Gardens. You may view and photograph the stunning blooms from 1:30-4p Friday, or 10a-4p on Saturday.

Also Friday 8a-noon, there will be a Dahlia Depot at KH Founders Park on Pine Street -- we need all the flowers we can get. It takes countless blooms to drape Highlands in flowers. Friday morning from 8-12 please bring any flowers, greenery and especially dahlias to the park. They will be shared with those creating vignettes that will be all over town.

Vignette maps will be available at The Bascom, Highlands Visitor Center, and Highlands Historical Village to guide you on your Flower Power journey.

Use the QR code provided to go online and vote for your favorites. There will

be People's Choice and Best of Show. All the maps lead you to the historical village where there will be food, tours, storytelling and from 1-4p the Shedhouse Trio, a five-piece bluegrass band, featuring Darren Nicholson.

Flower Power will come to a dazzling conclusion with the high energy 10-piece

band "Steel Toe Stiletto" playing the concert in KH Founders Park from 6-9p Saturday night.

Thanks to the Dahliabolics for sponsoring both Steel Toe Stiletto and The Shedhouse Trio.

Vignette winners will be announced in the park at intermission, the drawing for the painting raffle will be held, and single bloom Best of Show will be recognized.



**Mayor Pat Taylor signed a proclamation declaring Dahlia Festival Week!**

From left: Kim Daugherty, Gage LeQuire, Jan Saltmarsh, Annette Waldon, Linda Carter, Pat Taylor, Peggy Boruchow, Trish Foor, Susan Hunt, Marsha Moxley

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For more info on all of the groovy events land to buy raffle tickets for Prince house, go to [highlandshistory.com](http://highlandshistory.com).

All of these events take place rain or shine.

We owe our very existence to Visit Highlands, Highlands Historical Society, the Dahliabolics and everyone who shares flowers and talents for the festival -- flowers are donated, work is done for free, and the joy is shared by all.

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# • SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •



## What are you feeling?

**Sr. Pastor  
Gary Hewins**  
Community Bible Church

Too often, our culture uses emojis to express themselves. How inadequate is that? In-depth conversations must be on the decline? What ever happened to the time to even have intimate, unguarded conversation? Do we have others in our lives that can be trusted with the real person we may really be inside? What ever happened to such trust? When asked, “How are you doing?” why do we too often say we are fine when in fact we may not really be fine at that moment? Whatever happened to transparency and vulnerability? Are we truly acquainted with our emotional well-being?

In this particular cultural moment in history, we have ample room for improvement when it comes to identifying, processing and communicating feelings. There is no doubt that the human experience embodies a plethora of emotions, some say over eighty. Males and females identify, process, and communicate emotions differently as do cultures the world over.

Pause for a moment and think about our culture. Twenty-five percent have suffered abuse as a child. Suicide is the leading cause of death among 15-24 year olds. Divorce has affected millions. Scores of children sit in classrooms wondering not about a Russian invasion but an active shooter in the hallway. Our younger generations have social anxiety, they are often confused, often divided, and they are generally stress-ridden and often afraid.

At present, we have entire generations that have made a habit of expressing feelings through five or so basic emojis, standard on any cell phone. There are many emojis to choose from but those used are quite basic. Emojis basically convey a feeling of happiness, sadness, anxiety, fear, and/or anger. No wonder so many young people today experience social anxiety, emojis are inadequate and insufficient to meet one another's needs. Here are some things to think about and feel your way through.

**Identify Your Personal Emotions.** What emotion are you feeling? Life is not just ok or up or down or “whatever.” I am trying to biblically teach a congregation that there are a vast array of emotions, some great, some anything but great. If we have no self-awareness, it's difficult to minister to others. If we do not understand our own emotional make-up how can we help others?

**Develop a Language of Emotion.** Be able to explain to those close to you how you are feeling based on current or past experiences, trauma, etc. Maybe you are experiencing sorrow, grief, shame or anguish, disgust, awe, adoration, infatuation, or empathetic pain. Know yourself and grow to really know others.

• See SPIRITUALLY page 19

# • PLACES TO WORSHIP •

## BLUE VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH

Rev. Oliver Rice. Pastor (828) 421-1315  
Sundays: School: 10 a.m., Worship: 11  
Sunday night services every 2nd & 4th Sunday at 7  
Wednesdays: Mid-week prayer meeting: 7 p.m.

## BUCK CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

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

## CASHIERS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

## CHAPEL OF THE SKY

Sky Valley, GA • 706-746-2999  
Sundays: 10 a.m. Worship; Holy Communion 1st & 3rd Sundays

## CHRIST ANGLICAN CHURCH

The Rev'd Dr. Michael Matlock, Rector  
464 U.S. Hwy. 64E, Cashiers, NC  
CAC@christanglicancashiers.org • 828-743-1701  
Sunday: 9:30a Adult Christian Ed; 10:30a Holy Eucharist;  
6p Contemplative Worship with music and prayer thru Oct. 27  
Wed: 6p Potluck, Bible Study

## CHRIST CHURCH OF THE VALLEY. CASHIERS

Pastor Brent Metcalf • 743-5470 www.cashiers.church  
Sun. S.S 9:30a, 10:45a; Tues. Guys study 8am. Gals 10am;  
Wed. 6pm supper and teaching.

## CHRISTIAN SCIENCE CHURCH

283 Spring Street - Sunday Service: 10:30 a.m.  
Testimony meeting: 3rd Wednesday at 5:30 p.m.

## CLEAR CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Jim Kinard  
Sundays: School: 10 a.m.; Worship: 11 a.m.  
1st & 3rd Sunday night Service: 7 p.m.  
Wednesdays - Supper at 6 p.m.

## COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH

www.cbchighlands.com • 526-4685  
3645 Cashiers Rd. Highlands, NC • Sr. Pastor Gary Hewins  
Sun: Service 10:45am, Children's 10:30am  
Wed.: Youth 5:30-7pm; Women's Bible Study: Mon. 4:30pm, Tues.  
10am; Men's Bible Study: Wed. & Thurs. 7am @ Zookeeper Bistro  
**COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH OF SKY VALLEY**  
706. 746.3144 • 696 Sky Valley Way #447  
Pastor Steve Kerhoulas

Worship: Sun. 10:30 a.m. Holy Communion 2nd Sunday  
**EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE INCARNATION**  
Rev. W. Bentley Manning, Rector • 526-2968  
5th and Main streets • www.incarnationwnc.org  
Sunday: Rite I, spoken, 8 am in Chapel, Rite II with Choir 10:30  
am in Sanctuary, Wed: Healing Eucharist 12 pm in Chapel,  
Morning Prayer: Mon-Thurs 8:30 am in Chapel

## FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH HIGHLANDS

828-526-4153 • www.fbchighlands.org  
Dr. Mark Ford, Pastor • 220 Main Street, Highlands  
Sun.: Worship 10:45 am; Sun.: Bible Study 9:30 am  
Wed.: Men's Bible Study 8:30 am; Women's 10:30 am

## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Emily Wilmarth, pastor; Kelley Connelly Assg. Pastor  
828-526-3175 • fpchighlands.org  
Sun.: Adult Ed.: 10 a.m.; Worship 11 a.m.  
Tues: Men's Group 10 a.m. Wed: Bell Choir 4 p.m.. Choir: 6p

## GOLDMINE BAPTIST CHURCH

(Off Franklin/Highlands Rd)  
Sunday School: 10 am. Worship Service: 11 am  
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Services: Sundays 10am - Wed. - 7pm; Dinner - Wed. 6pm

## HAMBURG BAPTIST CHURCH

Hwy 107N. • Glenville, NC • 743-2729 • Nathan Johnson  
Sunday: School 9:45a. Worship 11a & 7p. Bible Study 6p  
Wed. Kidsquest 6p.; Worship 7p.

## HIGHLANDS ASSEMBLY OF GOD

Randy Reed. Pastor 828-421-9172 • 165 S. Sixth Street  
Wed. Bible Study: 6 p.m.; Sundays: Worship: 11

## HIGHLANDS CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Dan Robinson • 11339 Buck Creek Road  
The Highlands Central Baptist Church is temporarily  
sharing the facilities of the Shortoff Baptist Church.  
Sunday Worship is at 9a. Wednesday Worship is 6:30p

## HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Rev. Dr. Randy Lucas. Pastor 526-3376  
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## MACEDONIA BAPTIST CHURCH

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Pastor Zane Talley

Sundays: School: 10 a.m.; Worship: 11. Choir: 6 p.m.  
Wed: Bible Study and Youth Mtg.: 7 p.m.

## MOUNTAIN SYNAGOGUE

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

## MOUNTAIN BIBLE CHURCH

743-2583 • Independent Bible Church  
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(4.5 miles from NC 107)

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

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Rev. Fr. Jason K. Barone - 526-2418  
Tues. - 9:30am; Thurs. - 9:30am; Sat. 4pm; Sun. - 11am

## SCALY MOUNTAIN BAPTIST CHURCH

Rev. Marty Kilby  
Sundays: School - 10 a.m.; Worship - 11 a.m. & 7  
Wednesdays: Prayer Mtg.: 7 p.m.

## SCALY MOUNTAIN CHURCH OF GOD

290 Buck Knob Road; Pastor Donald G. Bates • 526-3212  
Sun.: School: 10 a.m.; Worship: 10:45 a.m.; Worship: 6 p.m.

## SHORTOFF BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Rev. Andy Cloer  
Sundays: School: 10 a.m.; Worship: 11 a.m.  
Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study: 6 p.m.  
**ST. JUDE'S CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
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schedules of activities.

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## 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 Aug. 24. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a summons/citation, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor or those of public officials have been used.**

## Aug. 24

• At noon, officers responded to a 2-vehicle accident on Smallwood Drive.

## Aug. 25

• At 12:50 p.m., officers responded to a 2-vehicle accident on S. 3rd Street.

**The Highlands Fire & Rescue log from Aug. 27.**

## Aug. 27

• At 8:15 a.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on Buck Creek Road.

• At 5:15 p.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on NC 28 south (Walhalla Road).

## Aug. 28

• At 10:30 a.m., the dept. investigated a gas leak in Highlands Plaza.

• At 9:35 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on East View Way.

## Aug. 29

• At 10:22 a.m., the dept. provided mutual aid to the Cashiers Fire Dept.

## Aug. 30

• At 12:04 p.m., the dept. responded to a call of a brush fire on Naiad Terrace.

## Aug. 31

• At 4:10 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a location on Main Street.

• At 12:46 p.m., the dept. provided public assistance at a residence on Kenridge Lane.

## Sept. 1

• At 3:44 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Cherokee Drive.

• At 4:50 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a location on Main Street.

• At 4:37 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a location on S. 4th Street.

## Sept. 2

• At 8:50 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Cove Drive.

• At 1:05 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Clear Creek Road.

• At 7:20 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Big Bear

Pen Road.

## Sept. 3

• At 8:17 a.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on Buck Creek Road.

## NOTE:

“Public Assistance” responses can mean various things: keys locked in vehicles, batteries in a smoke detector and more.



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## ...SPIRITUALLY continued from page 18

Not every person you know can identify with where you may or may not be emotionally. But there is one who can. There is one who knows, not just because he is highly intelligent. There is one who knows because he experienced the whole gambit of human emotions and then some.

**Emotional Relevancy.** Christ knows and willingly embraced a bone bending, deep sense of anguish (Luke 22:43-44). Christ knows the depths of depression and sorrow for he was a “man of sorrows acquainted with grief” (Isa. 53:3). He knows the grief and disgust of betrayal and humiliation. He knows the brutality of slander and false accusations. He knows the despair of imprisonment and he certainly knows the depth of searing shame associated with violent abuse. He was crushed, pierced, bruised, afflicted and spit upon.

No one knows empathy and compassion more than Christ. He weeps over each of us in pain whether we are aware or not. To see those who are helpless and without a shepherd is to weep on their behalf.

Christ is the trusting friend we may not know is immediately accessible.

Christ is more “emotionally relevant” than we may ever know this side of heaven.

Christ is our trustworthy, understanding confidant.

Christ is a friend that sticks closer than a brother. Many are alone but not lonely. Others are lonely amid many other people.

Christ knows aloneness, loneliness and the sweetness of living pain free.

What are you feeling today? Should those emotions override the rest of your thinking? Can you be summed up by only a few emojis? You are unique and special regardless of how you feel. You are more than the sum total of your feelings, yet feelings are real. Christ is real as well. Interact with Him. Call on His Name. Ask Him, if He is who He says He is, to reveal Himself to you in a way you know it is Him.

Live your life to the fullest extent but invite Him into the place of your heart reserved for a trustworthy ever-present confidant who loves you just as you are today.



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**HELP WANTED**  
**TRAINED SINGER NEEDED TO CANTOR** Sunday morning Masses at Our Lady of the Mountains (Highlands) and St. Jude (Cashiers / Sapphire) Catholic churches. Qualifications: strong vocal and sightreading skills; technical ability to access music digitally; experience singing in liturgical settings; commitment to Sundays, Holy Week, Christmas services. Pay negotiable. Contact: 828-526-2418 or olmountainshighlands@rcdoc.org.

**ORGANIST/PIANIST NEEDED** to play for 11am Sunday worship services and Wednesday evening choir rehearsals (5:30-7pm) at First Presbyterian Church, Highlands, NC. \$24K annual salary. No administrative duties involved. Our organ is a circa 2004 16-rank 2 manual Wicks pipe organ. For more information, contact Angie Jenkins, Director of Music Ministry @ 828-200-0183. (st. 6/13)

**ESTABLISHED CUSTOM HOME-BUILDER IN HIGHLANDS/CASHIERS** area looking for project superintendent to manage multiple sites and subcontractors. Please send resume to: JW Underwood Construction LLC P.O. Box 147, Highlands NC 2974. Or email: john@jwunderwoodconstruction.com (st. 5/2)

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## ...PROJECT continued from page 1

potential material procurement.

The Highlands School Project additions and renovations are to enlarge the campus and renovate areas in preparation for the PreK program and more that is set to begin Fall of 2025.

After a motion by Chairman Gary Shields, commissioners voted 4 to 1 to approve the request with Commissioner Paul Higdon casting the lone opposing vote.

“I don’t think we can go forward with the project if we don’t approve the request,” said Shields. “Things happen and you run into things that are unknown. I do not think we can ignore it and stop the project. If we approve this request, we will still be able to meet the schedule timelines.”

According to Kevin Aull with Vannoy Construction, the money will cover the cost for deep foundation engineering, sheet piling procurement and structural steel design at \$145,000. An additional \$40,000 will cover the costs for investigations of additional soil and water contamination related to the removal of an underground stor-

age tank.

During the August meeting much discussion centered on the existence of the buried fuel tank in the area of the addition. Initial testing of the construction site indicates that there is soil and water contamination from the tank.

According to MC Schools Maintenance Director Tracy Tallent, the tank is a serious issue. The tank in question is a 1970 model tank, which holds approximately 10,000 gallons and is approximately 11 feet to the bottom of the tank. The tank used to sit above ground behind where the shop (now art room) is located but in 1994 when the middle school building was built the tank was buried.

The current problem with the tank stems from the fact that the buried tank is an above-ground single-wall tank not a double-wall tank for underground use and now it is taking in water. Last fall, Tallent said he had trouble firing the boilers and discovered that water had leaked into the tank.

“We pumped out 25 gallons

of water in the tank, it was the first year that I have seen water in the tank, so I think that it is very recent leakage,” said Tallent. “If we’re having leakage, it is obvious that the tank is thin. At first, I didn’t know that was the problem and actually blamed my fuel supplier, but now as we investigate, I think we do have a problem.”

Aull also said another concern revolves around the tank and existing footings of the buildings during the last renovation. The footings were dug down to 12 feet until solid earth was found and then a stone base was built off it. The existing fuel tank is nine feet from the face of that stone wall, and there is concern that if the tank is removed the existing footings would be undermined.

Aull said the issue with the tank delayed Vannoy readiness to present the guaranteed maximum price (GMP) for the project for approval. However, with the release of the funds for additional design work, the construction company plans to have this ready for commissioners by the September meeting so the project can stay on track.

The early release of the \$185,000 will actually show as a deduction and will be credited back in the final GMP. The cost of the deep foundations, the steel design and the potential procurement of the sheet piles have already been factored into the GMP.

Because no funds have been appropriated to the Highlands School project yet, commissioners had to approve a budget amendment from the general fund balance to fund the request and move forward with the presented scope of work.

Aull said a meeting with several consultants and engineers will determine whether economically it will be better to take the tank out or leave it in place.

### Highlands Playground News

The Highlands Playground Project, which has generated \$300,000 in private funds to date. There is now a website that accepts PayPal donations. The website is [highlandsplay.net](http://highlandsplay.net)

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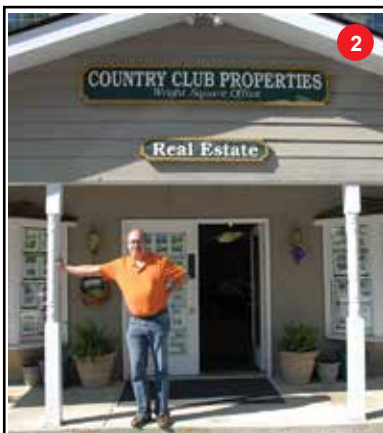
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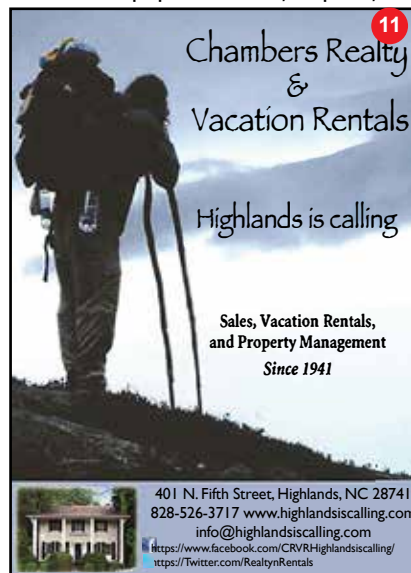
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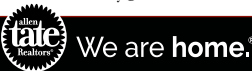
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