

# Highlands Newspaper

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Thurs., April 3, 2025

## Bill is in the pipeline to regulate STRs

**By Kim Lewicki**  
If a bill sponsored by NC Senators Moffitt, McInnis, and Hanig passes, Highlands short-term rental ordinances and its plan to amortize STRs may be null

and void. Scheduled for the 2025 session in Raleigh is an amended version of Senate Bill 291 – Regulation of Short-Term Rentals – whose purpose is to limit the regulation

of short-term rentals (STRs) by cities, to protect private property rights and to establish guidelines for regulating them.

“If legislators believe the pas-  
• See STRs page 5

### •INSIDE THIS ISSUE•

Mayor on Duty .....	2	Financial Matters .....	9
Weather .....	2	Spring Home Imp .....	10-15
Investing at 4,118 Ft.....	4	HS Sports Team .....	14
Letters .....	7	Ink Penn.....	17
Obituary.....	7	Police and Fire.....	19

## Here's what it costs to keep Highlands running

*Public Works is working behind the scene*

**By Kim Lewicki**  
It takes a lot to keep Highlands' infrastructure running – the elements that are obvious and those that aren't – and that's what the Public Works Department is all about.

During the annual Town Board Retreat, department heads submit a list of items they would like included in the upcoming fiscal year budget. March's retreat was the first step in the budget process.

The largest wish list is always from Public Works, headed by Director Lamar Nix. Public Works isn't a single department – it's a

• See PUBLIC WORKS page 8

## Citizens protest in hopes of making a difference and to shine a light on what is happening in Washington, DC and beyond



On Saturday, March 29, citizens and members of Indivisible Highlands gathered at the corner of Main and NC 106 to protest the DOGE cuts originating in Washington, DC. They displayed signs noting the debilitating cuts and proposed cuts to institutions and programs. “Restore honor and integrity in Government,” “Keep Musk’s hands off my social security,” “The true meaning of ‘woke’ is civility,” “Deport Musk,” “Don’t let Trump destroy our Constitution!” “Resist Fascism!” Earned: Social Security, Medicare, Veteran Benefits,” “No cuts to the Veteran’s Administration,” “Our pain, their gain,” “By the filthy rich, for the filthy rich. Stop the steal.VA. SS. Medicare. Medicaid,” “Orange LIES matter.” Indivisible Highlands is a non-partisan advocacy group of concerned citizens in the Highlands, and other areas in NC and the country committed to making positive changes in policies, laws, and representation at the local, state and national level. Its mission is helping people act together to uphold, protect and promote the principles of democracy guaranteed by the Constitution.

Photo by Kim Lewicki

## HS soccer field hangs in the balance

*Wilkes is afraid it will be allocated to the county's 'back burner'*

**By Kim Lewicki**  
An extended, somewhat emotional discussion about the Highlands School soccer field repairs was had at the March Board of Education meeting in Highlands.

For more than two years the school system – and ultimately the MC Board of Commission (BOC) which holds the purse strings – has been trying to figure out a way to forever fix the field which is plagued with standing water issues which hampers use by teams and PE classes at the school.

Revamping and designing an elaborate drainage system as well as using Astro Turf rather

• See SOCCER page 16



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# • THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

## • MAYOR ON DUTY •

### Pending road and bridge work by NC DOT

I chaired the Southwestern Regional Planning Organization's Transportation Advisory Committee meeting last week. This committee's main task is to provide prioritization of road projects to North Carolina DOT planners.

There are a number of projects in Macon County that will begin in the coming year if the current schedule remains unchanged. The bridge at Gold Mine Road over the Cullasaja and feeds into US 64 is scheduled to be replaced. Also, the Peeks Creek Bridge is on the replacement schedule. The replacement bridge over Middle Creek on NC 106, just past Scaly, has been partially completed with two lanes open and is scheduled for completion by this fall. The finished bridge will be much wider than the original bridge that was built around 1940.

NCDOT is also now requesting public input about replacing the J. Tom Bryson Bridge over the Cullasaja River on



Highlands Mayor  
Patrick Taylor

US 64. Comments can be made by going to US64-CullasajaRiver-Bridge@publicinput.com That project is being planned and scheduled in the near term. The deadline for public comment is April 24, 2025.

The improvement of the Cashiers intersection at US 64 and NC 107 made the TAC board's priority list last year. In fact, we did a points trading maneuver to move this project higher on the list. However, NCDOT recently came back

with the final prioritization and had again moved it back down the list. I estimate that the much-needed project may now be delayed until around 2030 or longer.

I will say all this prioritization process has been impacted by rising costs and the challenge of restoring roads and bridges lost in Hurricane Helene. Our TAC committee heard an interesting update concerning the repairs and restoration of I-40 from the double tunnels at the Tennessee state line to five miles into Haywood County. The flooded Pigeon River next to the interstate blew away major road sections during Helene.

Brian Burch, a former state highway engineer and now a consultant for the engineering firm hired to oversee the 1-40 repairs, will coordinate engineering and contract work. It is a major billion-dollar project on a fast track. Hopefully, all the work will be completed in 3 years. Meanwhile, traffic will be restricted to two lanes.

Just to illustrate the enormity of the task, Brian told us that over 300,000 dump truckloads of rock and soil supporting the road were lost in the storm. Plans call for constructing two rock quarries near the site to replace the lost material. Transporting such loads from distant sites to the work area is unfeasible.

Engineers are looking for several structural systems to support the road at various locations in the 5-mile repair area; different systems are needed for many road segments. The engineers are using innovative materials and systems to rebuild the roadway. Even their operational processes must be different to meet that 3-year opening goal. Traditionally, the road is first designed, put out for bids, and then con-

• See MAYOR page 17





## • SNAPSHOT •



Photo by Robert Hayes

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## • WEATHER •

Thu, 3-Apr	Fri, 4-Apr	Sat, 5-Apr	Sun, 6-Apr
 69°F 55°F	 74°F 55°F	 72°F 56°F	 61°F 47°F
An afternoon shower or two	Mostly cloudy and warm	Warm with clouds and sun	Rain and a t-storm; cooler
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High: 68° Low: 56°	High: 75° Low: 59°	High: 75° Low: 57°	High: 61° Low: 49°

For Real-time Weather and the Extended Forecast, go to [www.highlandsinfo.com](http://www.highlandsinfo.com) and click on Weather

### Highlands Newspaper

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## • INVESTING AT 4,118 FT •

### Highlands and investing in Highlands real estate is a good place to weather the storm

I was thinking about what to write about for this edition's Investing at 4,118 ft column, and sometimes it is truly as easy as reminding our readers that Highlands is one of the most desirable places in the country!

Historically, investing in a home in Highlands has always been a no-brainer, with the exception of a few years after the crash in 2008 if people did not have holding capabilities to wait out the next cycle.

In more than 25 years of selling real estate in Highlands, I had never seen more than just a handful of foreclosures. However, during the period immediately after the crash in 2008, sales of foreclosures here outpaced regular sales for a brief period until the economy rebounded.

Over the next few years, sales recovered, and appreciation kicked into place at a feverish pace!

In our current market, listings are vied



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for; some are sold before they ever hit the open market, but this amount of demand likely won't last forever.

Given the current instability of the market and the ever-growing possibility of a repeat of 2008 housing environment, it is important to pay attention to opportunities that could become available if you can buy and wait out the cycle.

Long-term investing in Highlands is still a good outlook from a purely financial perspective, but the true investment is the pace, climate, and way of life.

In order to preserve the desirability of our plateau we need to cherish it for the natural beauty and way of life it provides. The value of property should always be there if Highlands retains the attributes that people have always come here to enjoy!

• W. Terry Potts, Ccp of Highlands, over five generations in Highlands 828-421-3417

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## ...STRs continued from page 1

sage of SB 291 will bring consistency and clarity to the STR issue, they may move forward with this proposed legislation,” said Mayor Pat Taylor.

Senate Bill 291 was presented March 17 and has passed the first reading and was referred to the Committee on Rules and Regulations in the Senate.

It amends Article 21 of Chapter 160A of the General Statute by adding a new section saying that “no city may adopt or enforce an ordinance, rule or regulation that prohibits the use of residential property as a STR; prohibits the use of accessory dwelling units as a STR; or limits the number of nights a property can be rented as a STR.”

Furthermore, a municipality cannot require the owner of the STR to occupy the property for any period of time during a rental or classify STRs as commercial use or limits the operation of a STR marketplace.

However, municipalities may adopt an ordinance, rule, or regulation that regulates STRs by requiring a lodging operator to obtain a permit to operate within the city’s corporate limits and the city may revoke the permit if the STR incurs five health and safety violations within a 12-month rolling

period as long as the city – prior to revoking the permit – gives the lodging operator an opportunity to contest the alleged violations and if found to exist, an opportunity to remedy the violations.

Cities may charge a one-time fee of \$25 or less for each permit issued and may charge an additional fee of \$25 or less to reinstate a permit that has expired or been revoked.

As in Highlands’ current ordinance, municipalities may limit the number of occupants allowed to stay in a STR to two adults per bedroom; and a parking plan indicating designated parking to accommodate one space per bedroom can be submitted.

Municipalities may restrict the location of STR rentals to areas of the city that have been zoned for residential use and require the property to remain in compliance with all applicable residential zoning requirements and city ordinances including building codes and housing codes.

The bill requires that all contracts for STRs include a copy of any city ordinances that regulate noise, waste removal, and parking or the lodging operator can conspicuously post in the rental a written summary

of city ordinances that regulate noise, waste removal, and parking.

A municipality may prohibit the use of STRs for any purpose other than that which is allowed in hotels, motels, and inns without the property owner’s prior approval, which shall be evidenced by a written agreement between the lodging operator and the occupant.

And finally, municipalities may require a lodging operator or authorized agent of a lodging operator be within a 50-mile radius of a STR while occupied by a renter.

The bill further defines a STR as an individually or collectively owned single-family house or dwelling unit or a unit in a condominium, timeshare, townhome, accessory dwelling unit or an owner-occupied residential home offered to the public for a fee and for a period of 90 days or less.

The bill says STRs are vital to the tourism and marketability of the State as well as providing housing options for transitory workers, including nurses, tradespeople, and executives.

The senators believe cities have frustrated tourism and infringed on property owners’ private property rights by adopting ordinances that inhibit property owners’ right to use their property as they see fit.

Mayor Taylor said there are many proposed bills in the pipeline and the town is tracking them as they concern municipal zoning which could represent significant changes to municipal zoning in the biennium legislative session.

“For instance, one bill would permit accessory dwelling units in all residential zones while another would allow four housing units per acre in residential zones in small towns like Highlands,” he said. “Another bill would allow townhomes and sixplexes in all residential zones.”

This potential legislation comes as lawmakers work to resolve the tourism and housing crisis made worse by Hurricane Helene.

Republican Tim Moffitt and Democrat Julie Mayfield introduced other bills to increase the state’s housing supply:

- Senate Bill 499 to allow housing development “by right” in any area currently zoned only for commercial, office or retail use. The bill also allows the conversion of a building or portion of a building from commercial use to residential use.

- Senate Bill 495 to permit accessory dwelling units (ADUs) statewide.

To see the bills go to [www.ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2025-S291,S497,S499](http://www.ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2025-S291,S497,S499).



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# • OBITUARY •

## Joseph Eddie Shmalo

Joseph Eddie Shmalo, born on February 20, 1945, in Cincinnati, Ohio, died peacefully on March 22, 2025, beside his loving wife Marsha and granddaughter Haley.

He was the son of Abraham Shmalo and Virginia Schwiekie. He was the youngest of five siblings. They moved to Sarasota, FL in the early '50s where he graduated from Sarasota High School in 1963. He married his high school sweetheart Connie Hood and they had two beloved children Daniel and Jennifer Shmalo. Connie later passed away due to bone cancer at the young age of 27 years old in 1974. He then raised his two children on his own. Joseph took over the family retail business in Sarasota after the passing of his father. He then worked seven days a week to be able to provide the best upbringing for his children.

His forte was selling. He could sell you the Brooklyn Bridge. He had a way of conversing with people, which later made him very successful in life. He spent his years in Sarasota, FL until he met Marsha Linde in 1987. They were married a year later and on their honeymoon they found Highlands, NC. They immediately fell in love with Highlands and leased a small store on Main Street. They went home to Sarasota and packed up their belongings and moved



to Highlands where they started Lindy's Gifts and Collectibles in 1989. A year later they Opened Trader Joes, which was a souvenir shop. They had two very successful stores in Highlands for 20 years before they retired.

After they retired, they traveled the world together and made lots of great memories. They were a very well-liked couple in the town of Highlands and many people respected them.

Joseph Shmalo was a one-of-a-kind man and he lived a good life. He was a character and knew how to light up a room with his quick wit. He had a very unique sense of humor and could spark up a conversation with anyone. He and his wife Marsha were married for 36 "wonderful, marvelous, and glorious years" as he would always say every year on their anniversary.

He is survived by his wife Marsha, his son and daughter Daniel and Jennifer Shmalo, his four grandchildren, and his brother and sister Raymond and Paulette Shmalo. He was laid to rest in Sarasota, FL on March 27 in the Temple Beth Shalom Cemetery next to his first wife Connie and his parents.

A celebration of life will be held in Highlands and the date and location is yet to be determined.

# • LETTERS •

## The future is now for Macon County parcel number 7540218501

Dear Editor,

Recently, you published a letter I wrote about what and when the Town should do to be ready for problems and needs 20 years from now.

After reading the mayor's articles in your last two issues, I concluded that the problems and needs exist right now. More parking and what to do with/about the playhouse, plus protecting our environment were addressed.

The subject parcel has on it, the Town Hall, the police station, and the recently relocated ABC store. It seems bit humorous to locate the whiskey place very close to the police station. Will a street camera be installed?

Now, I have gone off subject.

The subject parcel is a hill, with the playhouse occupying the highest bit. The

parking discussion was about a few spaces. I suggest adding many more, say about 50 spaces within one block of main street.

Yep, you guessed it! Demolish the playhouse and use the money that was considered for its renovation to build a fee-based multi-story parking garage. Since some of the people visiting the stores and restaurants are more than 30 years old, I assume they would be willing to pay a fee to avoid walking multiple blocks to park and return to their vehicle. Seems that they would be in a happier mood when they entered the target place of business and might be willing to spend a bit more. The collected parking fees could eventually pay for the construction of the garage

OK, now to protecting/improving the environment.

• See LETTERS page 8

## 14th Annual Bascom Clay Symposium

Postponed from 2024 due to Hurricane Helene, the 14th Annual Bascom Clay Symposium is rescheduled for April 11–12. Featuring Christine Kosiba, Andréa Keys Connell, and Taylor Robenalt, the symposium explores animal and figurative ceramic sculpture through artist demonstrations, insights, and techniques.



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10 am - 12 pm  
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featured artists



## ...PUBLIC WORKS continued from page

Combination of a lot of departments and in last year's budget it was \$35.1 million of the town's \$45.2 million budget.

The departments under the Public Works umbrella are: street, water/sewer, electric, water plant, and wastewater treatment – with budgets that include projects and the equipment to perform them.

The department within Public Works with the biggest budget is the water/sewer department whose expenses and capital projects were around \$22.7 million for FY '24-'25. That figure included grants already awarded.

The electric department also had a huge budget, at \$9.8 million for FY '24-'25.

The cost to complete projects as well

as equipment expenses will be more for the FY '25-'26 budget and that's what the town's administration is working on now.

Each year, Nix budgets several items annually – in this case through 2030 – \$75,000 for sidewalk repairs, \$30,000 for salt, \$30,000 for center line painting of roads, \$60,000 for dumpster/can replacement, \$30,000 for sewer collection system cleaning, and \$30,000 for grease trap inspections.

And then there are debt service payments for completed or ongoing projects.

### Street Dept.

Aside from the annual reoccurring allotments for this year in the Street Dept., Nix is requesting \$472,000 for paving of Cook, Many, and Picklesimer roads and 3rd (Main

to Spring), South, and Locust streets, and for the Rec Park entrance on N. 4th Street.

At least one additional paver crosswalk has been requested across N. 4th Street – at Chestnut Street for \$22,000 and/or Hickory Street for \$15,000.

There are also plans to address Mt. Lori Street drainage for \$120,000.

In addition, about \$449,000 has been requested for equipment for the street department – dump trucks, plows, spreaders, tractors, an asphalt hot box and more.

### Water/Sewer Dept.

In the water/sewer department, Nix is requesting \$3.4 million for the Hammond Road water line, the Black Rock water line, the Buttermilk water line, the Chowan Road water line, and the sewer force main repair on US 64.

### Electric Dept.

With the electric grid expansion in the works, Nix has budgeted \$2.8 million in the department plus \$300,000 for contract tree trimming and \$130,000 for equipment – trucks and a UG fault locator.

### Water Plant

In the water plant, maintenance and repairs are an ongoing process with \$35,000 budgeted to service contracts and \$133,000 for maintenance and repair parts.

Nix also discussed hiring a shop mechanic so maintenance and repairs on town vehicles can be done in-house. He budgeted \$72,000 which would include the benefit package.

Like with every request submitted at the retreat, during upcoming budget work sessions, the Town Board will decide what can be afforded this year and what will be considered next year or beyond.

## ...LETTERS continued from page 7

I suggest commercial geothermal heat pumps for all the town buildings on the parcel. These heat pumps use nothing except electricity and the warmth of underground water. Plus, they are extremely efficient when compared to other methods of heating, cooling, and dehumidifying structures.

I and another Lockheed engineer had a partnership in a small air conditioning business near Charleston SC. I have used heat pumps since the early 1970s for two business buildings and several residences. The older heat pumps could extract heat from outside air at less than 40 degrees. The current residential units work at temps as low as 5 degrees.

I am currently in the process of installing two new larger heat pumps that have all the noisy parts outdoors.

The geothermal heat exchange parts,

being underground are isolated from outside temps all seasons

The North Carolina electricity we use has a much smaller carbon footprint than that of most of the states.

This is about as environmentally friendly as a state can be now. NC is in the top five for solar-generated power, (Only California and Texas produce more solar energy) and NC is in the top 10 for nuclear generated power.

About 40 percent of NC electricity is from natural gas which is 40 to 60 percent less harmful to the atmosphere than the other fossil fuels, such as coal and oil. After the start of fracking in the '90s, the US is now the world's largest producer of natural gas.

Larry Brannan  
Highlands

## Joy in being a stay-at-home mother

Dear Editor,

While I am a busy stay-at-home mother, I had to take a few minutes to respond to a March 13 letter in Highlands Newspaper from Margaret Pickett entitled "On being paralyzed."

I won't even address Ms. Pickett's false accusations against President Trump's "unconstitutional" use of power. Consider that much of what is on the chopping block was established unconstitutionally to begin with. Furthermore, using the "white supremacist" label for the over 77 million Trump voters only causes the author to lose credibility. Democracy won in 2024 despite the political left's disinformation campaign of fear tactics.

What I want to ask is this: If women in America are as oppressed as the author says

they are, then why are there more women physicians, women scientists, and women attorneys today than ever before? According to the Pew Research Center, women have increased their presence in most of the 10 highest paying occupations in the US since 1980. To observe true oppression of women, look at Afghanistan where the Taliban forbids secondary and university education of females. I'm sorry that Ms. Pickett wasn't afforded a college education as a young woman. Bravo to her for persevering on her own and attending nursing school.

The erroneous idea that staying home with her family strips a woman of "her mind, her rights, her achievements, and her contributions" is an affront to a significant

• See LETTERS page 9

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# • FINANCIAL MATTERS •

## The "R" word is back



**Michael P Henderson,**  
CFP® CKA®  
Founder/Wealth Advisor  
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flation, which goes against the Federal Reserve's mandate. And, if we go into a recession, revenue to the Federal Government will decrease, making the need to borrow even greater. We could raise taxes, but that can slow the economy, too.

The Trump Administration has chosen to tackle this issue head on by "cutting waste, fraud, and abuse" through the creation of the Department of Government Efficiency or DOGE.

### The Markets

Politics aside, the changes that are being made by DOGE, and the implementation of tariffs, has caused the one thing markets hate the most – uncertainty – and this has resulted in a sharp selloff in the U.S. Equity Markets. Are we headed for a recession? We'll see. But even before the new Administration took power, we were ripe for some sort of correction.

### The Bottom Line

We've painted ourselves into a corner but as far as I'm concerned, the bottom line is this – as a nation, we must spend less than we take in – period! It won't be politically, fiscally, or monetarily easy to get things under control, but right now we have choices. Soon we won't.

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Rather than feeling "oppressed" and "reduced" as the author suggests, many stay-at-home mothers feel it is a privilege to be actively involved in the physical, spiritual, and emotional upbringing of our precious children who have been entrusted to us by God. Investing full-time in their lives while they are at home is one of the most rewarding jobs a woman can choose.

**Leah Gaston  
Franklin, NC**

At this time two years ago, short-term interest rates were higher than long-term rates. This is known as an "inverted yield curve." At the time, many pundits and money managers (me included) felt there were elevated risks for a recession within 6 – 12 months. This is because an inverted yield curve has historically been a reliable predictor of recessions in the United States.

Since the 1970s, EVERY U.S. recession has been preceded by an inverted yield curve, with a total of seven instances during this period. However, not all inversions have led to recessions; for example, mild inversions in the past did not result in economic downturns. The inversion that ended in December was the longest in recorded history, lasting over 27 months

### Recession and Debt

And yet, no recession. Why? I believe it is because of the tremendous amount of money the U.S. government pumped into our economy during Covid and beyond. Without this stimulus, I am quite sure a recession would have occurred.

As a result, we now have over \$36 trillion of debt and paying interest on the debt will soon be the largest line item in our budget. It's already larger than Medicare and Defense spending, and in fiscal year 2025, net interest payments are projected to reach \$952 billion, which is close to becoming the largest budget item.

Printing money to cover those interest payments is one option because if we make the interest payments, we haven't technically defaulted. But this causes in-

## ...LETTERS continued from page 8

number of women. Consider that many stay-at-home mothers like myself are college graduates, yet we choose to stay home with our children because we see the moral decay of our society and have determined that at this time in our lives our God-given calling is in our homes raising our children. Political and religious affiliations aside, there are plenty of hard-working, dedicated mothers who choose to stay home and raise their children because they believe it is a valuable investment of their time and talents.

## TL&LC Opens Registration for FREE Summer Camps

The Literacy & Learning Center (TL&LC) is excited to announce that registration is now open for its fantastic and free lineup of summer camps for students of all ages! Offering enriching experiences throughout the summer, TL&LC's programs blend creativity, adventure, and academic preparation – all at no cost to participants.

### Craft Camp | June 2 - 6 | 1 - 4 pm 3rd - 5th graders

Craft Camp is a fun and creative experience where kids can explore art projects and express creativity! This session, led by Kara Long, will feature tissue paper flowers and clay crafts, allowing campers to experiment with color, texture, and design while making unique creations.

### Adventure Camp | July 7 - 11 | 12 - 3 pm 1st - 4th graders

Join Kara Long and Carolyn Middlebrooks for an action-packed Adventure Camp! Kids will explore Highlands on small walking field trips, play exciting outdoor games, and enjoy a day full of fun. Please make sure to pack a lunch.

### College Essay Boot Camp | July 21 - 25 2 - 4 pm | High School Seniors

College Essay Boot Camp is an inten-

sive, hands-on workshop to help students craft standout college application essays. Led by Cameron Alexander, who taught high school English at Wesleyan School for eight years, this camp covers the differences between essay types, analyzes successful examples, and guides students through brainstorming, drafting, peer review, and editing. By the end of the week, students will have a polished, ready-to-submit college essay!

### Craft Camp | July 28 - August 1 | 1 - 4 pm | K - 2nd

Craft Camp for K-2nd graders, led by Carolyn Middlebrooks, is a fun and creative experience where young artists can explore different crafts! Kids can make colorful projects and express their creativity in a hands-on, playful environment.

Spaces for all TL&LC summer camps are limited, so parents and guardians are encouraged to register their children early to secure a spot. Don't miss out on these fantastic opportunities for learning, creativity, and fun!

For any questions or further information, please contact Caroline Cox at [CCox@TheLiteracyandLearningCenter.org](mailto:CCox@TheLiteracyandLearningCenter.org) or 828-526-0863.

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# Spring Home Improvement 2024

## How to Choose a Wood Stain Color with Benjamin Moore

A fresh coat of stain protects and beautifies exterior wood surfaces. Choose Woodlux® Exterior Stains on decks, fences, swing sets, outdoor furniture and any other exterior wood project for the best outcome.

Opacity and color: This combination makes up the final look of your staining project. Follow this step-by-step guide to find the best wood stain color for an outcome you'll love. Discover a full list of Woodlux colors and opacities.

### Step 1: Consider the age and condition of the wood

The age and condition of the wood plays an important role when you are choosing a stain. For example, solid opacity stain covers imperfections and is a great choice for older wood.

Evaluating the approximate age and wear-and-tear level of your deck, fence or other exterior wood project is an important first step.

### Step 2: Determine your wood staining goals

Answer these three questions to determine your wood staining goals:

1. Do you want your stain to enhance the natural appearance of your wood or transform the wood's existing color?
2. Do you want to make a color statement or stay as close as possible to your wood's natural hue?
3. How much of the wood's natural grain do you want to show through?

### Step 3: Take the surroundings into account

When choosing a wood stain color, here are a few things to keep in mind:

- Consider your home's exterior siding color.

**Blend in?** If you want your deck to blend in with your existing exterior color scheme, choose a stain that is the same color as your home's siding or trim but a shade lighter or darker.

**Stand out?** If you want your deck to stand out, consider using a complementary color for an energizing look. Complementary colors are opposite each other on the color wheel. Learn more about complementary colors in the Color Handbook video.

Testing a sample of the stain color and opacity before you buy the full amount needed for your project will get you on the right track to selecting the wood stain that's right for you.

- Assess your home's landscaping.

Softer colors highlight colorful landscaping and draw less attention to decks, railings and fences. Neutral color stains, like Maritime White OC-5 or Beige Gray ES-51,

keep the visual focus on colorful flora and fauna, and less on your deck and railings. Red-toned stains, like Boston Brick 2092-30 or Beaujolais 1259, will bring out the greenery. The same rules apply for fence colors.

- Think about your home's climate and natural light.

Many homeowners living in warmer states prefer a lighter deck color, as it absorbs less heat in direct sunlight. Lighter colors like Maritime White OC-5 or Beige Gray ES-51, mentioned above, are great for creating a light, airy look, as are Arbor White ES-01 and Cliffside Gray HC-180.

### Step 4: Choose your opacity

Stains come in a variety of different opacity levels.

**Translucent Best for:** New or younger wood decks in good condition—ideal for hardwoods like mahogany, teak and ipe.

- What is Translucent opacity? Translucent stain allows the full beauty of the wood to show through. Woodlux Translucent Stain available in seven ready-mix colors.

- What it does: Highlights the wood's natural appearance.

**Semi-Transparent:** Best for: Decks that are a few years old and in need of a new stain. Ideal for softwoods like cedar and pine.

- What is Semi-Transparent opacity? Semi-transparent stain allows most of the grain pattern and texture of the wood to show through. Woodlux Semi-Transparent Stain is available in 75 colors.

- What it does: Enhances the beauty of the wood with color, while still allowing most of the wood's natural grain and texture to show through.

**Semi-Solid:** Best for: An older deck or wood that needs a slight touch-up to its natural color and appearance. Ideal for softwoods like cedar and pine.

- What is Semi-Solid opacity? Semi-Solid stain allows the texture and some of the grain pattern of the wood to show through. Woodlux Semi-Solid Stain is available in 75 colors.

- What it does: Covers most imperfections, while allowing some of the wood's natural grain and texture to show through.

**Solid Best for:** Old decks and wood that isn't in great condition or if you simply want a change in deck color.

Suitable for all wood types, including pressure-treated lumber, cedar and red-

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## ...WOOD STAIN

### continued from page 10

wood. Perfect for painting wood furniture too!

- What is Solid opacity? Solid stain allows the texture of the wood to show through. Woodluxe Solid Stain is available in all 3,500+ Benjamin Moore colors.

- What it does: Covers the majority of imperfections, while allowing a bit of the wood texture to show through.

Download the Woodluxe brochure for more information or pick one up at your locally owned Benjamin Moore store.

#### Step 5: Explore your stain color options

A stain color can either enhance or transform the natural hue of wood. If you want your stain to enhance the natural appearance of your wood, choose a color that's close to its natural hue.

Most homeowners opt for Translucent to allow the wood's grain and texture to show through. Translucent Woodluxe Exterior Stain offer just a hint of color, each aligning with a specific wood type:

#### Step 6: Synch color choices with wood undertones

All wood has a natural undertone. Here are some ideas for choosing stain colors based on undertones and wood types. Note that all stain color suggestions below are shown in Semi-Transparent opacity.

#### Step 7: Sample, sample, sample

It is essential to test the stain on wood before you commit.

- Let the stain to dry completely before making your decision on color and opacity, as the stain's appearance can change as it dries.

- Especially with lower opacities, keep in mind that there will be variations in color. Just as natural wood has different textures and grains, your stained wood will likely have lighter and darker spots.

You can buy Woodluxe Exterior Stain samples online and have them shipped directly to your home or pick them up from your locally owned Benjamin Moore store.

#### Step 8: Start your wood staining project

You've chosen a wood stain opacity and color, and you've tested a sample on different pieces of wood—and most important, you're happy with the results. Now it's time to start your wood staining project!

Preparation is key: Check out how to prep a deck for staining. Then see our guide to how to stain a deck. As always, your local Benjamin Moore store can help with any questions you have, from choosing a stain color to using a product.



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

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# Spring Home Improvement 2024

## Building a Custom Home? Read These Tips First

(StatePoint) Many people dream of building a custom home in a beautiful location. However, the journey of building a home from scratch is not always smooth.

“As a builder in sunny Southwest Florida, we work with all kinds of clients. Whether they are drawn to the timeless appeal of Naples, the coastal charm of Bonita Springs, the urban energy of Tampa, or the peaceful embrace of Sanibel, our job is to help them create their dream home and tell their unique story,” says Glen Harris III, regional partner of Alair Florida, an industry leader.

To help you navigate the intricate world of custom

home-building, Alair Florida is shedding light on some common challenges prospective homeowners face and offering solutions based on their expertise.

Creating a custom home is an exciting journey with both triumphs and trials. Here are some common concerns:

1. Balancing Vision and Budget:

Challenge: Juggling expansive design ideas with realistic budget constraints.

Solution: Overall project costs can be unpredictable with a standard cost-plus contract, particularly if you have an expansive vision. That’s why it’s important to work with a builder who encourages a pre-construction phase, whereby specifications and line-item costs are fixed. This process allows you to make design adjustments on paper before construction begins, and in turn, your builder will present you with a fixed cost-plus contract. As the project moves forward, be sure to request regular updates and clear project timelines.

2. Navigating Regulatory Terrain:

Challenge: Dealing with the complex world of permits and regulations often causes delays.

Solution: Work with a builder who possesses local knowledge. Doing so can streamline the process as they will understand and adhere to specific requirements.

3. Timing the Sourcing of Materials:

Challenge: Excitement of hand-selecting materials tempered by potential supply chain disruptions.

Solution: If your builder is experienced in material



sourcing and high-quality craftsmanship, this will help them navigate such challenges to avoid delays while ensuring your new home is built to the highest standards.

4. Adapting to Evolving Design:

Challenge: The temptation of design changes impacting the project timeline.

Solution: Striking a

balance between innovation and sticking to the timeline is crucial for success. Your builder should act as your trusted advisor, connecting you with savvy designers, architects and other experts who understand the local market and the range of other factors that can affect your timeline.

5. Unforeseen Costs and Delays:

Challenge: Unexpected challenges despite meticulous planning.

Solution: Establishing a contingency fund and maintaining open communication with your builder is prudent. To that end, your builder should take a client-driven approach and actively involve you in the decision-making process.

Experts say “Your builder should be committed to cultivating a collaborative partnership with homeowners. Every decision, whether it’s a change order or intricate detail, should be a result of thoughtful and shared deliberation.”

With careful attention and industry expertise, guided by a trusted custom home builder, you can transform your vision into reality, backed by the assurance of transparency, fixed-price contracts, quality craftsmanship, professional design services, and a client-driven approach.



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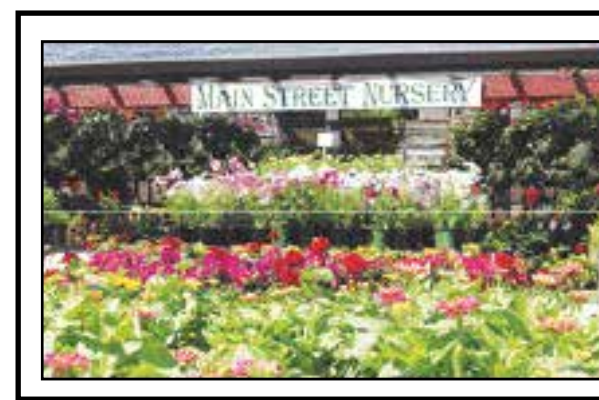
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# Door Design Tips to Enhance Your Home's Beauty and Value

(StatePoint) When choosing doors for your home, remember that careful selections can improve not only your home's beauty and value, but also your quality of life. Here are a few door types to consider, along with their benefits:

**Elevate with exterior French doors:** French doors double the design impact, and elevate the front entryway and curb appeal of any home. Manufacturers like ProVia offer customizations on every element of French doors so you can make a truly unique statement. Start by choosing from various styles, materials and finishes. Then, consider the addition of sidelites, transoms and decorative or privacy glass. Given how many factors you have control over, it's helpful to use a design tool to configure the door of your dreams. Visit [provia.com/design-center](http://provia.com/design-center) to get started. Rest assured, no matter what your end results look like, there are a few factors you won't have to worry about with ProVia doors: durability and energy efficiency. Virtually every possible combination of door style, glass, sidelite and transom is built to last a lifetime and is ENERGY STAR certified.

**Protect with storm doors:** Storm doors provide doors and homes with an extra layer of protection from moisture, heat, wind, rain and other elements. Everyone has different requirements though. Fortunately, storm doors can be individually customized to meet your practical and aesthetic needs. Depending on where you live, factors like the thickness and construction of the storm door can make a big difference in its performance. You'll also want to investigate your glass and screen options for added fresh air circulation in your home. While storm doors are often thought about more in terms of their functionality, it's important to keep in mind that varying hardware options, styles and paint finishes allow you to seamlessly blend yours in with the aesthetic of your home.

**Bring the outside in with sliding glass patio doors:** Want to bathe your home interiors with light and the beauty of your natural surroundings? One of the most effective, low-maintenance ways to do just that is with vinyl sliding glass patio doors. Those from ProVia are tested against the most stringent industry standards for air and water infiltration, wind load resistance, ease of operation and more. This means you'll have lower heating and cooling costs and increased comfort all while offering your household full, unparalleled views of your outdoor spaces. Customization options, such as the materials and colors of the interior frame and the type of glass you choose, can help you tailor the look and functionality of your sliding glass doors.

For a true return on your home improvement project, consider how a door replacement can elevate your home's style while protecting it from the elements.

• See more **SPRING HOME IMP** page 15



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# Highlands School Spring Varsity Teams



**Highlands Varsity Soccer Team**

Nataly Aguilar, Jordyn Borino, Amayrani Campos, Leticia Campos, Mia Craig, Olivia Corbin, Lucy De Dios, Gabriela Diaz Martinez, Heidi Doerter, Trinity Faust Fernandez, Lizbeth Frias, Taylor Hays, Theresa Mendez, Cayden Pierson, Aubrie Potts, Isabel Ramos, Charlotte Westendorf, and Aislynn Wyatt-Luck.



**Highlands Varsity Track Team**

Blaine Dendy, Elmer Hernandez, Kasen Mitchell, Stephen Pierson, Claire Worley, Mallory Shriver,

## Highlands Varsity Golf

Alex Barranco, Rowan Carnes,  
Carson Forrester,  
Francisco Gooch, Bryan Juarquin,  
Chase Kenter, Kason Mitchell,  
Gavin Small, Isaiah Vilardo



# How to Use Color to Be More Productive and Creative

(StatePoint) For many people, the start of a new year is the time to get serious about projects large and small. But if you're struggling to buckle down, or you're having trouble coming up with ideas, you may be surprised to learn that by leaning into color and the science behind it, you can hack your way to a more productive and creative 2025.

Studies have shown that colors can have a powerful effect on the mind and body, impacting the way we feel and think. In fact, certain colors can do everything from lowering your heart rate to improving your memory. There are many ways to harness the power of color science, from painting the walls of your home office and adding plants into your workspaces, to even selecting your writing tools wisely.

When it comes to boosting your productivity and creativity, here's how to harness the power of color science for writing:

## Unleash Your Creativity

Did you know that Purple is a powerhouse for creative thinking? Reach for a lighter shade when you need a fresh idea for this year's school fundraiser or you're meeting with your work teammates for a crucial brainstorming session. Want to add some drama or personality to your next presentation? Darker shades of purple have an aura of luxury, mystery and sophistication, and can be used strategically in presentations and hand-written communications to project these qualities in your work and ideas.

Stuck on a seemingly unsolvable problem? Lighter shades of purple are known to help break through writer's block and open a world of possibilities.

Reach for the G2 Purple Creativity pack to help you whenever you need a flash of inspiration. Comprised of purple hues, use this color pack to fuel your creative spark when making visual art, writing poetry or composing music, or whenever you simply need to unleash your inner visionary.

## Unlock Your Productivity

Blue is a strong choice for generating ideas and evoking peace, making it a helpful color to employ when you need to stay cool and confident in the face of a challenge. The G2 Blue Productivity pack features curated hues of blue to give you an arsenal

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## ...SOCCER continued from page 1

than grass on the surface is the solution overall – but to what extent and to what cost is the question.

Two years ago, the project would have cost \$900,000 start to finish but instead of funding it, the BOC requested a study to “study” how much rain affects the field over a year’s time.” This didn’t really prove anything because rainfall occurrence and volume isn’t a constant.

Recently, the school system sent out Requests for Proposals (RFP) for the project but only received one partial bid back. Needing more than one, a RFP was sent out a second time – and after again receiving only one – BOE Attorney John Henning said the board could accept it if it wanted to.

At the March meeting, MC Schools Athletic Director Todd Gibbs said AstroTurf Corp. submitted a bid to install a base and then a new playing surface but wouldn’t price the site work

needed until it did a study.

The cost to install the base layer and the Astro Turf was \$640,000-\$700,000 but that didn’t include the site work needed to mitigate the water issues. The estimated cost for the entire project could be \$1.2 million to \$1.7 million.

Since a site study has already been done and paid for, board members wondered why another study was needed. Anything more will not only extend the bottom line but the potential completion date of the field.

“They won’t do any work or guarantee anything without doing a study themselves,” said Gibbs.

Meanwhile, Commissioner John Shearl who is on the county’s recreation committee with Highlands Commissioner Jeff Weller, asked Weller to shoot some elevations at Zachary Park on Buck Creek to see if it would be possible to build an additional soccer field beyond the upper parking lot.

Commissioner Weller has

since said it would be possible to build another soccer field, but like the current field at Buck Creek, it wouldn’t be regulation-size.

Over a decade ago, before Highlands School had a soccer field on site, “home” soccer games were held at Zachary Field but since the field wasn’t regulation size, the school had to get permission to use it prior to each game.

At the recent combo meeting between the town of Highlands, the town of Franklin and the county commission, BOC chairman Josh Young said the county has put aside \$200,000-\$300,000 for work at Zachary Field but what it will be used for wasn’t clarified..

BOE chairman Jim Breedlove and board member Diedre Breeden began throwing around the idea of using the Zachary Field soccer field for Highlands School ... at least temporarily.

Wilkes and HS principal Sarah Holbrooks were wary of

the idea for several reasons, one being that practice and game schedules would have to work around county league games.

“It’s not a school facility, it’s a county park and rec facility and we would have to bus kids over there for practices and games which I don’t think anyone wants to do. I also don’t want to see us get in a situation where the county spends money on that field to make it playable and then says that’s good enough and the project here never gets funded,” said Wilkes.

Principal Holbrooks said soccer to Highlands School is like football is to Franklin.

“After school every day there are kids out there running around on the field. Highlands is a little different culturally from other schools; a lot of our kids walk here in the morning, they stay afterschool and play with their friends, and they walk to their parents work after school,” she said. “Think of our soccer field here at the school like Franklin High School’s football field. You wouldn’t build a football field for Franklin High School that is miles away.”

Breedlove and Breeden were quick to clarify they weren’t thinking of Zachary Field as a permanent solution.

“I think we all want to see the soccer field here at the school fixed, and we will certainly keep that on our capital priority list but I’m not confident that the project is going to be done in the near future,” said Breedlove.

The board agreed to let the county know that using Zachary Field in the interim – only until the Highlands School field is repaired and useable – would be OK.

Wilkes asked that the AstroTurf Corporation be at a future school board meeting to explain and discuss the potential site-work and its cost.

Gibbs said he will ask that a representative attend the April 28 BOE meeting at Iotla Elementary School in Franklin.

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## World War II historical fiction

Plenty of novels are set during WWII, and I've read quite a few. In the past, I've leaned toward thrillers or spy novels like "Key to Rebecca" or those billed as literary fiction like "The Winds of War." More recently, it's been mysteries like the Maisie Dobbs series which spans both World Wars.



Kathy Manos Penn

is keeping their plans secret from the FBI. The story is all the more intriguing because it's true. I didn't think there was anything new to learn about the atrocities of the Nazis, but unfortunately, I found a few new-to-me details in Moore's book.

"The Wealth of Shadows" is every bit the thriller it purports to be. I shouldn't have been surprised, having

"The Wealth of Shadows," by Graham Moore

Graham Moore's "The Wealth of Shadows" is billed as an historical thriller, though there are no tales of derring-do involved. Instead, the plot concerns "a secret mission to bring down the Nazi war machine by crashing the German economy." This mission did, in fact, exist, and was in the end successful. The real-life economists and politicians whose stories are recounted in this tale came up with the novel idea that they could defeat Germany through economic warfare.

Sure, I'd heard of FDR's lend lease act to help Great Britain without declaring war ourselves, but I can't say that I understood it. And, I certainly didn't know about cash and carry, a plan that preceded it. Does this topic sound as dry as dust to you? Trust me, it's not.

Imagine it's the year 1939, and lawyers, economists, and statisticians are conducting research in the abandoned upstairs space of a furniture store in Washington, D.C. Picture them traveling the world meeting with businessmen and politicians, and, in our country, meeting with the likes of J.P. Morgan.

This unlikely group works under the auspices of the Treasury Department but

read two of the author's earlier books. No, neither "The Sherlockian," his first book, nor "The Last Days of Night," about the rivalry between Thomas Edison and George Westinghouse, were thrillers, but they were reads I thoroughly enjoyed. The second was made into a movie, The Current War, starring Benedict Cumberbatch.

Moore also won an Academy Award for his screenplay for The Imitation Game, which also starred Cumberbatch. I thought that movie about cracking the Enigma Code during WWII was exceptional. As I think back, I realize I never saw The Current War. If it's anywhere near as intriguing as the book it's based on, I definitely need to find it on a streaming service.

Can you tell that I highly recommend the works of Graham Moore? I note that he's also written a legal thriller, "The Hold-out"—yet another book to add to my never-ending TBR list.

Happy Reading!

• Award-winning author Kathy Manos Penn is a Georgia resident. Find her cozy mysteries at Franklin Office Supply & Gifts, and on Amazon. Contact her at [inkpenn119@gmail.com](mailto:inkpenn119@gmail.com), and follow her on Facebook, [www.facebook.com/KathyManosPennAuthor/](http://www.facebook.com/KathyManosPennAuthor/).

## ...MAYOR continued from page 2

struction gets underway. For this part of I-40, engineers are designing parts of the overall system separately, getting out bids, and having construction begin while they continue to design and plan for the final stages of the project. They know they must avoid unnecessary delays. Such a design and build process has successfully built public and private buildings, and DOT is now applying those techniques to this high-priority road project.

Finally, I want to thank Macon County, NCDOT, and the Army Corps of Engineers for clearing debris from Helene on our corridors and state roads. Last week, they had several crews working at various locations. Our corridors now look much better as tourists return to our community. The Highlands Chamber of Commerce has scheduled the Highlands Plateau Cleanup for Saturday, April 26. Call the chamber at 526-2112 to volunteer.

## ...COLOR continued from page 15

of tools to work with for tackling different tasks.

Lighter shades of blue can help you hone in on the details, so if you're balancing your household budget, making your daily to-do list, or proofreading your work, use a light blue pen to do it. Because darker blues aid in problem-solving under pressure, you can lean into these shades for tasks like delivering a wrap-up report to your supervisor on a deadline, working out an equation during a timed test, or taking notes during a call.

Color science can also help you in other areas of your life. That's the idea behind the new G2 Boost Collection from Pilot Pen. Each pack of pens is offered in a range of hues within one color family to keep your

projects organized, and is designed to fuel your writing, self-empowerment and self-expression.

Shades of green can be used for achieving more inner balance, while pinks can be used for adopting a more optimistic mindset. To learn more about reaching your goals with writing tools, visit [powertoopen.com/g2-boost](http://powertoopen.com/g2-boost).

Whether you're a visionary who has trouble getting started, or you're raring to go but just need a great idea, color science and the right writing tools can help you amplify your innate talents, harness new skills, and maximize your mindset to unlock your potential.

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## • SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

### 5-Minute Morning Faith Reset



**Ken Langsdorf**

Lutheran Church of the Holy Family

For many of us mornings can be a big rush to get going, out the door and off to work. But the way we start our day can influence the way the rest of the day goes for us. Five minutes can make all the difference.

Try this 5-minute morning faith reset. Take your coffee or tea to your favorite chair and sit. As you sit, take five deep breaths, breathing in God's goodness and blowing out your stress, anxiety, and worry. Then pray this prayer from Psalm 143:8. Let me hear of Your steadfast love in the morning, for in You I put my trust. Teach me the way to go, for to You I lift up my soul.

Pray each phrase several times until you really mean it. When you are ready, sit and listen for God's guidance and inspiration.

This prayer reminds us that we are, first and foremost, loved by God. God's love is steadfast. God will not let you go, no matter what. God is sticking with you through whatever happens, and God is forgiving you for whatever happened yesterday. You are in God's steadfast love. Your primary identity as you go into the day is that you are a dearly, deeply and eternally loved child of God. That is who you are!

Above all else, anyone else, even yourself, God is the one we trust as we go into the day. We may have our schedule for the day. We may have our "to do" list. But we also want to be receptive to what God wants for us in this day. God's plans are better than our plans. We want to be open to an opportunity for ministry that God may put in our path. We want to be open to receiving and sharing God's grace as we go into the day. We put our trust in God. We are open to God's guiding Spirit.

To God we lift up our soul. In faith, in thanks, in praise, in service, we lift up our soul to God. We devote ourselves to being an agent of God's mercy and peace and help today.

As we see ourselves a loved child of God, we are then ready to see others as loved children of God too. Many people will not act like loved children of God as we go into the day, so we will need to be extra patient and kind, showing through our lives God's love for them.

Pray it one more time. Let me hear of Your steadfast love in the morning, for in You I put my trust. Teach me the way to go, for to You I lift up my soul.

And now you are ready to go and live this prayer.

## • PLACES TO WORSHIP •

### BLUEVALLEY 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: 9a Fellowship; 9:30a Adult Christian Ed; 10:30a Holy Eucharist; Wed. Bible Study & Compline Prayer 5p

### CHRIST CHURCH OF THE VALLEY, CASHIERS

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

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

### CHRISTIAN SCIENCE CHURCH

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

### CLEAR CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

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

### COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH

www.cbchighlands.com • 526-4685  
3645 Cashiers Rd. Highlands, NC • Sr. Pastor Gary Hewins  
Sun: Service 10:45am, Children's 10:30am  
Wed.: Youth 5:30-7pm; Women's Bible Study: Mon. 4:30pm, Tues. 10am; Men's Bible Study: Wed. & Thurs. 7am @ Zookeeper Bistro  
**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 Asso. 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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### 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  
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  
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### SCALY MOUNTAIN BAPTIST CHURCH

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

### SCALY MOUNTAIN CHURCH OF GOD

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

### SHORTOFF BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Rev. Andy Cloer  
Sundays: School: 10 a.m.; Worship: 11 a.m.  
Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study: 6 p.m.

### ST. JUDE'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

### THE CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

1448 Highway 107 S. Office: • 743-2359 • Rev. Rob Wood  
Sunday Rites-Holy Eucharist 9 & 11 am; Coffee Hour  
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Bazaar Barn is open Friday & Saturday 10a-2p  
www.goodshepherdofcashiers.com

### UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP

85 Sierra Drive, Franklin • uufranklin.org  
Sunday Worship - 11 a.m.

### WHITESIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Rev. Sam Forrester/Cashiers • 828-743-2122  
Sunday School: 10 am. Worship Service: 11 am

## • POLICE & FIRE REPORTS •

**Highlands Police entries from March 17. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a summons/citation, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor or those of public officials have been used.**

### March 17

• At 9:50 a.m., a contractor at Mountain Heritage on Main Street claimed he wasn't allowed to leave which is false imprisonment.

### March 21

• At 1:41 p.m., officers responded to a 2-vehicle accident on N. 5th Street.  
• At 5:30 p.m., Carlos Rodriguez

Sanchez, 25, was arrested for DUI on Flat Mountain Road. He was issued a \$5,000 secured bond. His trial date is May 7.

### March 25

• At 5:06 p.m., officers responded to a 2-vehicle accident on US 64 east (Cashiers Road) between Laurel and Chestnut streets.

### March 28

• At 4:30 p.m., two red Adirondack chairs valued at \$550 each were reported stolen from McCulley's on Spring Street.

**The Highlands Fire & Rescue log from March 25.**

### March 25

• At 8:31 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Blue Valley Road.

• At 9:32 a.m., the dept. responded to an unauthorized burning on Jackson Drive.

• At 4:24 p.m., the dept. investigated the cause of smoke on NC 106 (Georgia Road).

• At 9:35 p.m., the dept. investigated the cause of smoke on Clear Creek Road.

### March 27

• At 8:01 a.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on Buck Creek

Road.

• At 8:29 a.m., the dept. responded to an unauthorized burning on Foreman Road.

• At 10:11 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Memorial Park Drive.

• At 11:30 a.m. the dept. was first-responders to a residence on NC 28 south (Walhalla Road).

• At 12:16 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Leonard Road.

### March 28

• At 2:19 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Clubhouse Trail.

### March 29

• At 5:13 p.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on NC 28 south (Walhalla Road).

### March 31

• At 1:07 p.m., the department responded to a call of a power line down on Arnold Road.

## • CHHS NEWS •

## • BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NEWS •



Rotary president Randy Foster with Ryan Bryson and Tony Potts of Bryson Paving and Grading

### Highlands Rotary hears from Bryson Paving and Grading and meets students of the month

At Highlands Rotary, Tues., March 18, We were glad to hear from Ryan Bryson and Tony Potts. Ryan and Tony took us through the Hwy 106 project after the vital road closed on October 19th due to hurricane damage. We learned it was a record-breaking 38-day job!

Jan 3rd was the deadline from the Department of Transportation (DOT) but Bryson Grading was aware the asphalt plant would close for the season on December 23rd. The team took only three days off -- two Sundays and Thanksgiving Day.

Their team worked in two shifts day and night, the first shift worked 9a-4p with the next shift working through the night. They worked through dangerous and harsh conditions. Throughout their presentation the two reiterated how important the job was to the community and the local economy.

Thank you so much to Bryson Paving and Grading! A local business that made us all proud, 1,700 tons of asphalt later!

Students of the Month

We were also thrilled to celebrate the Highlands School students of the month. Well done, Diego, Skyler and Finn!



Photo by Marty Boone

Kane is five years old and he is the longest-term resident at the Cashiers-Highlands Humane Society no-kill shelter. Kane has excellent manners and he loves everyone he meets. He walks like a gentleman on a leash and he has been a favorite with the shelter's dog walking volunteers. To give Kane a forever home, please complete the adoption application at [chhumanesociety.org](http://chhumanesociety.org).



March Students of the Month -- Diego, Skyler and Finn.

**HIGHLANDS CHURCH**  
 9a Sunday mornings  
**LIVE STREAM: Andy Stanley**

• • •

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# • CLASSIFIEDS •

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## HELP WANTED

**ALLISON DIANE CLOTHING**, upscale clothing. Stop by to pick up application. corner of Main and 4th St. 828-526-5404. (st. 3/20)

## DONLEON'S IS HIRING FOR THE

**KITCHEN LINE** Consider joining the crazy crew working for the craziest old guy in Highlands ... this is the most fun you can have without drinking! Eat anything you want and Dance with the Don .... no kidding. Drop by to chat with DonLeon or call 828-200-9334. (st. 3/13)

## FOR SALE

**1965 SUNBEAM TIGER** – restored, great condition. Hard top, 5-speed. 59k. Call 404-966-0283. (st. 3/6)

**LAND FOR SALE** - 2 tracts, 7.5 miles south of Highlands, 8.64 acres with spring, by far the best view in the area at \$200,000; 6.12 acres with spring (already subdivided into 2, 3-acre lots) \$140,000. 828-974-1137. (5/1)

**SEASONED FIREWOOD** - Any size load. call 828-342-6806. (st. 1/25)

**TINY HOME LOTS FOR SALE.** \$55k-

\$85k ea. Each lot comes with water, power, and sewer run to each lot. www.TinyMountainEstates.com for more info. (st. 11/22/24)

**RV SITE** - class A only - in Wildflower Creek RV Resort. Just minutes from Highlands and Sky Valley. Full hook-up, concrete pad, landscaped and storage shed. \$195,000. For more info call 828-421-1709 or email bobnancync@gmail.com. (st. 1/25)

## FOR RENT

**FURNISHED 2BD, 2.5BA TOWNHOUSE IN SHELBY PLACE.** Less than a mile from town. Long Term preferred. Call Jennifer at 828-371-2582 (st. 2/6)

**WORKFORCE HOUSING** - 2 bedroom/2 bath and 3 bedroom/2 bath with between Highlands & Cashiers. Includes hi-speed internet, water, & washer/dryer. No dogs. Inquires. (828)482-4239, (st. Jan. 2025)

## SERVICES

**PLATEAU PAINTERS** – Interior and exterior painting, pressure washing, decks, and sanding and staining wood floors. Division of Chatlos Construction. Fully insured. Free estimates. Call Mike at 828-200-4071. (st. 4/3)

**JUNK REMOVAL SERVICE** – We take anything. Call 828-200-0492 (4/30)

**RESIDENTIAL RECYCLING SERVICE** – Will come to your home to pick up recycables. Call or text for details 828-421-2655. (4/30)

**DUMP RUNS.** Competitive Pricing. Call for details. 828-421-2655. (4/30)

**HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS HANDY-MAN** – Chatlos Construction – Remodels, Additions, Framing, Siding, Roofing, Decks, Painting. References. Insured. 828-200-4071. (4/30)

**CAREGIVER/SITTER** with 40 years experience available for part-time personal care, errands, transportation, meals, etc. Highlands full-time resident. Robert Doe 828.399.0262. (st. 8/29)

**MURPHY'S PAINT CO.** - interior/exterior painting/sheetrock repair/wallpaper removal/log homes/decks. Insured. Free estimates. 828-332-0525 or 828-421-8600. (3/28)

**NEED FURNITURE MOVED OR ANYTHING HAULED AWAY?** Call or text James of Going Gone at 828-421-2655. (5/1)

**HIGH COUNTRY PHOTO/KEVIN VINSON:** scanning photos, slides & negatives to CD or DVD for easier viewing. Video transfer to DVD. Everything done in house. Leave message at 828-526-5208.

# • BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NEWS •

## Local agents honored by Weichert Real Estate Affiliates

Highlands Properties is proud to announce that multiple agents from its brokerage were honored by the national franchise organization, Weichert Real Estate Affiliates, Inc., for their exceptional real estate performance in 2024. The following agents were recognized for their sales achievements in 2024, based on gross commission income or units closed.

Myrna Moore - President's Club (Gold)

Shepard King - Sales Achievement

Sukhin Chawla - Sales Achievement

"We are very proud of all our affiliates and their agents for everything they were able to accomplish this past year," said Bill Scavone, president of Weichert Real Estate Affiliates, Inc. "We are extremely fortunate to have such dedicated and knowledgeable agents who went above and beyond to offer exceptional service to their clients."

*Weichert, Realtors® - Highlands Properties is an independently owned and operated Weichert® affiliate.*

## The Laurel Garden Club Awards Grants for 2025

The Laurel Garden Club of Highlands is pleased to announce that grants totaling \$6,100 have been awarded to local non-profit organizations.

Those receiving grants for 2025 are: Highlands Historical Society, Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust, Coalition for Non-native Invasive Plant Management (CNIPM), and Peggy Crosby Center.

Each grant applicant met the Laurel Garden Club's purposes to protect and conserve our natural resources and to enhance the beauty of our town and its native mountain landscapes.

Laurel Garden Club is a non-profit educational organization. In keeping with its purposes, the Club periodically engages in fundraising activities such as cookbook sales, kitchen tours, luncheons and other special events. The Club's 2025 fundraising project will be announced soon. The proceeds of fundraising are donated as grants to non-profit organizations. Since 2002, Laurel Garden Club has given a grand total of more than \$234,645 through grants to community organizations.



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# • HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

## POOL SCHEDULE

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

## PICKLE BALL

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

## MOVIES

• No Movies at the Martin Lipscomb Performing Arts Center at PAC on Chestnut Street this weekend.

## MOUNTAIN FINDINGS

• Open: 10 am - 1 pm, April 4-5 and 18-19.

## SATURDAY MARKET

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

## 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 info, please visit [www.aawnc80.org](http://www.aawnc80.org) or to speak with a member of AA 24/7 at 828-349-4357.

## Mon-Wed-Fri

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

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

## Second Mondays

• The local chapter of PEO, an off-campus sorority founded in the 1800s that provides grants and loans to women with financial need who want to return to school or

further their education meets at 10 a.m. More meeting places call president Paula McDonald at 706-372-3004

• Indivisible Highlands from 5:15-6:15pm at the Hudson Library Meeting Room.

## 2nd Tuesdays

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

## Tuesdays

• Strength Training at the Rec Park 8:15-9:15 am. Aim for strong, lean muscles using light weights, body weight, and high repetition to shape and tone. Learn proper form and range of motion to safely target all muscle groups for a metabolic boost.

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

• ESL classes are held at the Presbyterian Church in Highlands from 6:30-7:30pm. No registration required – just show up and participate. Questions? call 828-526-0863 or email [info@maconncliteracy.org](mailto:info@maconncliteracy.org)

## 2nd Wednesdays

• Hudson Library, in partnership with VAYA Health, is hosting an educational series on adult mental health topics, at 11 AM. This series is aimed particularly at older adults and will focus on mental health topics of particular interest to them, but all ages are welcome to attend. To register, stop by the library or call 828-526-3031.

## 2nd & 4th Wed.

• Digital Navigators will be at the Hudson Library the second and fourth Wednesdays 1PM - 3PM of each month to help patrons with their tech needs. Bring a smartphone, laptop, or other digital device to receive free assistance and support. No appts are required - all are welcome.

## Mon., Tues., Thurs.

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

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

## Thursdays

• Kickboxing 8:15-9:15 am. at the Rec Park. An exhilarating and fun mix of martial arts for a calorie-burning workout. No martial arts background necessary. Contact the Recreation Department at 828-526-3556 for more info.

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

## Fridays

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

## 3rd Saturdays

• The American Legion Post 370 meets at the First Methodist Church at 315 Main St. in their community room/909 chapel. We serve breakfast at 9 AM and hold our monthly meeting at 10 AM. We invite ALL veterans to attend. Email [ncpost370@gmail.com](mailto:ncpost370@gmail.com) for more information or just join us at 9am .

## Sundays

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

## Fri., April 4

• The Boys & Girls Club of the Plateau, in partnership with Western Carolina University's Department of Chemistry and Physics, will host a free evening telescope viewing party on the campus of the Boys & Girls Club of the Plateau located at 558 Frank Allen Road, Cashiers, NC, on Friday beginning at 7:30 p.m for stargazers of all ages!

• Highlands Nature Center, Wildflower Walk 3-4 p.m. Join us for an easy stroll through the Botanical Garden to explore what spring ephemerals are blooming. Along the way, we'll learn tips for identifying them & a little about their unique characteristics. Free. No registration necessary.

## Sat., April 5

• Low country Oyster Roast at Outpost Inn. Outpost Inn partners with Lowcountry Oyster Company and Munkle Brewing Company, both of Charleston, SC, to host it's first oyster roast in its courtyard. Tickets include all-you-can-eat freshly roasted oysters with one Munkle beer. Other beer and wine offerings are available

ala carte at the wine bar. <https://www.highlandermountainhouse.com/>

## April 11-12

• At the Bascom, Clay Symposium. Free.

## Fri., April 11

• Highlands Nature Center, Wildflower Walk 3-4 p.m. Join us for an easy stroll through the Botanical Garden to explore what spring ephemerals are blooming. Along the way, we'll learn tips for identifying them & a little about their unique characteristics. Free. No registration necessary.

## April 13-18

• At the Mountain Learning Center, Music Week. Classes, workshops, and one-on-one sessions with nationally touring musicians. Early-Bird Discount - \$50 off if registered before Valentine's Day! <https://www.themountainrlc.org/event/homecoming-2/>

## Sun., April 13

• The Masters Sunday viewing party at Highlander Mountain House a viewing party on Masters Sunday complete with drink and food specials inspired by the storied menu found at Augusta National. <https://www.highlandermountainhouse.com/>

## Thurs., April 17

• Grand reopening ceremony, for the new ABC Store on Oak Street at 11 a.m.

## Fri., April 18

• Highlands Nature Center, Wildflower Walk 3-4 p.m. Join us for an easy stroll through the Botanical Garden to explore what spring ephemerals are blooming. Along the way, we'll learn tips for identifying them & a little about their unique characteristics. Free. No registration necessary.

## Sat., April 19

• At Highlands Nature Center, Morning Bird Walk 8-9 a.m. Meet at 111 Lower Lake Road. Birders of all skill levels are welcome to join us as we take an easy walk around the garden to find our feathered friends. Binoculars available to borrow. Weather Dependent Free. No registration necessary.

• Annual Easter Egg Hunt at the Rec Park on N. 4th St. For ages 0-9 years. Begins at 10 a.m.

## Sun., April 20

• Easter Brunch Special at Highlander Mountain House. Chef Adam Bresnahan pulls out all the stops for a festive and seasonal East-

ter brunch. Expect dish + drink specials, along with their normal menu. <https://www.highlandermountainhouse.com/>

## Wed., April 23

• At Highlands Nature Center, Drawing Club 3-4 p.m. Supplies will be provided, or bring your own. We'll explore the garden trails, followed by an optional drawing prompt, time to sketch, and an opportunity to share our work. Free. No registration necessary.

## Thurs., April 24

• Salon Series at Highlander Mountain House. Enjoy the smooth sounds of Lucero front man, Ben Nichols at the next installment of HMH's popular Salon Series. <https://www.highlandermountainhouse.com/>

## Fri., April 25

• At Highlands Nature Center, NC Bioblitz 3-4:30 p.m. The NC Bioblitz is part of the City Nature Challenge, a friendly citizen science competition between cities & regions all over the world. Upload observations to Naturalist, and help Western NC win against the rest of the state! Visit [sciencecrossnc.org](http://sciencecrossnc.org) to learn more. Free. No registration necessary.

## Sat., April 26

• Plateau Pickup. Keep – a community-wide cleanup day dedicated to preserving the town's natural beauty. For more info, go to [highlandschamber.org](http://highlandschamber.org) or call 828-526-2112.

• Join the Cashiers Historical Society on Saturday from 11 am to 3 pm for the annual Apple Heritage Day Festival. This event celebrates the apples of early settlers, offering a unique blend of history, tradition, and community. There will be hands-on activities for all ages, an apple baking contest, demonstrations, storytelling, and live music. This event is free and open to the public. For more details, visit CHS on Facebook or by phone at (828) 743-7710.

• Start-up funding to benefit Sol & Son DLA will be raised at the La Copa Primavera Inaugural Golf Tournament at Sky Valley Country Club. For information about the golf tournament, contact [David@cbchighlands.com](mailto:David@cbchighlands.com).

• The Pop-Up Pipers will appear in unexpected locations throughout downtown Highlands 4:30-5p

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