

# Highlands Newspaper

FREE Every Thursday

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## Judge rules in favor of SAVE Highlands

By Kim Lewicki

This week, the Macon County Superior Court ruled that the Town of Highlands must pay SAVE Highlands' attorney fees regarding Huff et al vs. The Town of Highlands.

SAVE Highlands – a group of residents whose livelihood centers around short-term rentals – sued the town after its ruling in Aug. 2021 that STRs would no longer be allowed in Highlands in any residential district effective

January 3, 2022.

They said they were fighting to secure the rights of all residential short-term rental owners, those in the R1, R2 and R3 districts.

• See JUDGE page 9

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Photo by Kim Lewicki

## Mtn. Findings proceeds put to good work

By Kim Lewicki

Last Friday morning, members of the Sky Valley-Scaly Mountain Volunteer Fire Dept. hung out at Mountain Findings to show patrons how proceeds from their purchases help the community.

Over the past three years, Mountain Findings has donated \$33,000 to the department which went to the purchase of a used, heavy rescue truck from Brevard Fire & Rescue for \$40,000. The truck even

came with some equipment. Since acquiring the truck late fall of 2024, it has rolled out 20 times on vehicle accidents and structure fires. The “new” truck replaced a tiny, rescue truck.

Pictured from left are Fleet Manager Thomas Sherburn, Mountain Finding board member John Warner and volunteer Jill Helmer and EMS Rescue Captain Mark Gramlich.

## The state and future of HC Hospital is highlighted

By Kim Lewicki

During the Worksession segment of the February Town Board meeting, in his enthusiastic and upbeat way Tom Neal, CEO and CNO of Hospital Corporation of America's Highlands-Cashiers Hospital updated the town on the state of the hospital and its future.

The first part of his presentation focused on the hospital staff's response to Hurricane Helene – how they came together as co-workers for the community and how the community came together for them.

With a hospital to run and patients and residents at the Eckerd Living Center to care for and feed, with some transportation avenues cut off, food and water for the hospital was airlifted in while community members supplied gasoline for employees so they could get to the hospital and return home each day.

A mini-mart and gas tanker were also on site to ensure employees had food and fuel.

As a major employee advo-

cate, Neal commended them for coming together in that time of need, rolling up their sleeves and doing whatever was necessary, including cleaning up dumpster trash spewed by bears.

He said Hurricane Helene taught them what can, and what must be done, should another such weather event happen.

Neal talked about HCA's ongoing Certified Nursing Assistant program which is providing a much needed service while training future nurses.

There is a Nursing School Partnership with Southwestern Community College which has restarted its LPN program with clinical rotations at HC Hospital and the Eckerd Living Center.

To help with the countrywide nursing shortage Mission Health and HC Hospital is also affiliated with the Galen College of Nursing which now has a campus in Asheville.

He talked about the Mountain Area Health Education

• See HOSPITAL page 8

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# • THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

## • MAYOR ON DUTY •

### Town Board retreat is rescheduled

Thursday, March 20, is the Town of Highlands Retreat. It starts at 9 am at the Recreation Center in the Arts and Crafts room and will go on to about 3:30 or 4 p.m. The public is invited to hear the reports by staff and the ensuing discussions between commissioners and staff. This annual retreat's primary purpose is to begin developing a town budget for the forthcoming fiscal year.

Each department head will make a presentation to the board concerning department needs and priorities for fiscal year 2025/2026. The reports made at this retreat are just a first step in finalizing a budget. The final vote to approve a balanced budget will be taken at the June meeting of the Highlands Board of Commissioners after a public hearing has been held.

In the interim, a series of afternoon budget workshops will be held as part of the process of refining the final budget. At this current retreat one might characterize



Highlands Mayor  
Patrick Taylor

the department presentations as wish lists of important needs in the future. Not all items will be funded in this upcoming budget.

The retreat will begin with a mid-year update of the town's final position. The Town Manager and Financial Director will inform the board where we stand with executing the current budget. Budget amendments, as always, will have to be made. Due to unanticipated expenses, it is virtually impossible not to need to amend the budget during the year. Something always breaks down, or some unanticipated expenditure pops up. To get through a budget year without a budget amendment would be comparable to picking a perfect bracket in March Madness; it simply hasn't happened.

After the budget update, Tyler Trantham will be making a presentation concerning a mobile town App. This App could send residents instant messages concerning any local problem or development. Also, the town is in the process of working with CivicPlus to redevelop the town website. The website will also put out current announcements and information. I anticipate these two platforms being available sometime in the spring.

The board will also hear a report from our Public Works Director, Lamar Nix. He always identifies major ticket items for the upcoming budget. Paving will need to be done, upgrades to utilities will have to be made, and major pieces of equipment to be purchased.

We will also hear reports from our police and fire departments that new pieces of equipment and vehicles have to be acquired. I frequently ask why we have to replace a police vehicle or fire truck, only to be reminded that I have been mayor for 12 years, and the vehicle being referred to was purchased before I was mayor. Our priority is always to have vehicles able to respond in an emergency, and it is time to replace old vehicles with over a hundred thousand miles on them.

Parks and recreation and IT/GIS will also present their needs for the year. Replacement of equipment and maintenance is always needed in these areas.

There will be two items that I will bring up at the retreat. One is what to do with the Playhouse building. Last year, an architect-

• See MAYOR page 9

## • SNAPSHOT •





### Bidding a fiery good night along NC 28



Photo by DJ Owens

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## • WEATHER •

Thu, 13-Mar	Fri, 14-Mar	Sat, 15-Mar	Sun, 16-Mar
 62°F 42°F	 59°F 48°F	 60°F 48°F	 62°F 32°F
Pleasant with clouds and sun	A p.m. shower in places	Cloudy, showers, mainly later	A couple of morning showers
RealFeel® High: 64° Low: 43°	RealFeel® High: 59° Low: 44°	RealFeel® High: 54° Low: 47°	RealFeel® High: 62° Low: 39°

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### Highlands Newspaper

[www.highlandsinfo.com](http://www.highlandsinfo.com)

Phone: (828) 200-1371

Email:

[HighlandsEditor@aol.com](mailto:HighlandsEditor@aol.com)

Publisher/Editor: Kim Lewicki

Reporters: Kristin Fox

Brian O'Shea

Digital Media/Circulation - Jim Lewicki

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265 Oak St. PO Box 2703

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## • INVESTING AT 4,118 FT •

### The advantages of living inside a gated community

For decades, gated communities have become an increasingly popular choice for homebuyers here on the Highlands/Cashiers Plateau seeking a secure and comfortable lifestyle. Offering a blend of privacy, exclusivity, and amenities, these residential enclaves provide a distinctive living experience. If you're considering where to purchase this year, here are some key advantages of living inside a gated community.

#### 1. Enhanced Security

One of the most significant benefits of living in a gated community is the heightened security. Controlled access points, security personnel, and surveillance systems limit entry to residents and approved visitors. This added layer of protection creates a safer environment for families, retirees, and individuals alike.

#### 2. Privacy and Exclusivity

Gated communities offer a sense of seclusion from the hustle and bustle of the outside world. With restricted access, residents enjoy a quieter and more private atmosphere. This exclusivity can foster a sense of community while ensuring that only those who live there or are invited can enter.

#### 3. Well-Maintained Environment

Many gated communities have homeowners' associations (HOAs) that oversee the maintenance of common areas and enforce community standards. This means that landscaping, roads, and amenities are typically well-kept, preserving the community's aesthetic appeal and property values. Some HOAs provide additional services such as staff to maintain and improve your home from changing lightbulbs to remodeling your home. This convenience is an easy way to maintain a second home.

#### 4. Access to Amenities

Residents of gated communities often enjoy access to exclusive amenities such as golf courses, swimming pools, fitness centers, parks, and walking trails. These shared facilities provide convenient recreational options and encourage a healthier, more active lifestyle without leaving the neighborhood.

#### 5. Sense of Community

Living in a gated community can foster a greater sense of camaraderie among neigh-



Jody Lovell  
Highlands and Cashiers  
Sotheby's International Realty  
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bors. Regular community events, shared amenities, and the physical boundaries of the community create a social atmosphere where residents are more likely to know and engage with one another.

#### 6. Increased Property Value

Homes in gated communities often retain or appreciate in value better than those in open neighborhoods. The combination of security, amenities, and maintenance tends to attract

buyers willing to pay a premium for these benefits, making properties in gated communities a sound long-term investment.

#### 7. Reduced Traffic and Noise

With limited access points and no through-traffic, gated communities are quieter and safer for pedestrians and children. This reduced traffic also means less noise pollution and a more peaceful living environment.

#### 8. Prestige and Status

For some, living in a gated community carries a sense of prestige. The exclusivity, high-quality homes, and superior amenities often associate these communities with a desirable and upscale lifestyle.

#### Conclusion

Living in a gated community offers a range of benefits, from enhanced security and privacy to access to luxurious amenities and a strong sense of community. Whether you're seeking a safe place to raise a family, a peaceful retirement setting, or simply a more exclusive living experience, a gated community may be the ideal choice for your next home. Of course, many buyers pursue mountain living to escape having neighbors close by, so this lifestyle is not for everyone. The wonderful aspect of The Plateau is that there are choices for every desired lifestyle that your real estate advisor can help you navigate.

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# • OBITUARIES •

## Davis 'Dusty' Rhodes



and her husband TC. He was a loving father, a source of strength and comfort, and a constant presence in their lives.

His grandchildren, Ravyn, Riley, Shawn, Marci, and Dakota & great-grandchildren Lyla, Leah, Libby McCall held a special place in his heart. He was their beloved grandfather, a source of laughter and warmth, and his love for them was immeasurable.

We are left to mourn alongside his sister, Kitty Schultz, and her husband, Lou. Their loss is our loss, and we share their grief.

Davis's sudden departure has left us reeling. He was a pillar of our lives, a constant source of love and support, and his absence will be deeply felt by all who knew him. We will forever cherish the memories we shared, and his spirit will live on in our hearts.

A Celebration of Life service will be held Thursday, March 13, 2025, at 2PM at the Highlands First Baptist Church with the Rev. Dr. Mark Ford officiating. The family will receive friends from 1-2PM prior to the service at the church.

Online condolences can be left at [www.bryantgrantfuneralhome.com](http://www.bryantgrantfuneralhome.com)

Bryant-Grant Funeral Home & Crematory is honored to serve the Rhodes family.

Our hearts are shattered. On March 5, 2025, we unexpectedly lost Davis "Dusty" Rhodes, 65, born June 16, 1959, was a man who filled our lives with unwavering presence and boundless love. The void he leaves is immense, a gaping hole that will forever remind us of his absence.

Davis wasn't just a co-worker of Rhodes Superette; he was its heart and soul. He poured his life into the business, a legacy built by his parents, and his 51 years of dedication to this business was a testament to his character. He was ever-present, ever devoted, a constant force in our lives and to the people of our community. He will be greatly missed by all!

He had a great passion for old cars and photography, always wanting to learn more about them.

He loved a new place to adventure to and learn about.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Davis Rhodes Sr. & Manila Reese Rhodes.

But above all else, Davis was a family man. His greatest joy came from the love and time he shared with his son Keil Rhodes and his fiancé Cristina, his daughter Danielle Heart, and his stepdaughter, Julie Sherburn

## Gladys Jacobs



It's hard to find the right words to describe someone as incredible as Gladys Jacobs. She was born in Havana, Cuba, in 1940, and even from the beginning, she carried a strength and independence that would define her life. In 1949, she and her mother, Maria, came to the United States, starting a new chapter in New York City. It was there that she met her first husband, the father of all her children, and began building the beautiful family that became her greatest legacy.

Eventually, life led her to Miami, Florida, where she met Richard "the love of her life and her partner in adventure. They shared a love for driving around and looking at property, which eventually led them to the plateau. It was there they planted roots and created a place for the whole family to grow. Her kids followed, raising their own children in the same place that became the heart of so many cherished memories.

Gladys was nothing short of extraordinary. She was an independent and a fearless businesswoman who owned beauty salons and somehow still found time to earn a black belt in karate. She always made sure her daughters and granddaughters knew their worth and never let a man walk all over

them, advice we've carried with us every day.

Gladys had a curious mind and a creative soul. She loved watching cooking shows, always discovering new recipes and techniques to share with the family. She also had a passion for art, she could spend hours painting and drawing, finding peace and expression in her creations. History fascinated her, and she loved watching the History Channel, always eager to learn more about the past and share her knowledge with us.

Gladys is survived by her four children Diana, Vincent, Regina, and Kevin, and her love continues to live on through her grandchildren: Jennifer, Jose, Cristina, Taylor, Anthony, Gabriella, Kylie, Kayden, and James, and her great-grandchildren: Victoria, Isabella, Lilly, and Stella. Though her physical presence is gone, her strength, wisdom, and love will forever guide us.

We love you. Thank you for showing us how to be strong, how to love, and how to live without fear. You will always be with us.

Online condolences can be left at [www.bryantgrantfuneralhome.com](http://www.bryantgrantfuneralhome.com) Bryant-Grant Funeral Home & Crematory is honored to serve the Jacobs family.

# • LETTERS •

– In honor of Women's Month –

## On being paralyzed

Dear Editor,

As a woman who is active in Indivisible and has protested the decisions of our government since the inauguration, I find myself waking each day thinking "What can I do? What should I do?"

As a citizen of this country, a country that is of, by, and for the people, I wonder what we as citizens can do to keep our democracy, as every day I hear more evidence of President Trump pushing for "unitary executive authority."

In America the unitary executive theory is a Constitutional law theory that makes the president the sole authority of the executive branch with aims to centralize control of the government in the White House. President Trump has demonstrated this by overriding Congressional budget authority and ignoring court orders. We are waiting to see if he complies with the recent Supreme Court denial of his withholding payments to USAID con-

tractors; an action that is not within his rights as president. This is only one example of how he has exercised unconstitutional power over the Congress.

We, the concerned citizens of the United States, the citizens who don't want authoritarian rule, ask our representatives in Washington "What are you doing? What are you doing to temper this abuse of power in the White House? Why have you approved this cabinet, many of whom are without experience and aligned with the President in his abuse of the office?"

Here in North Carolina, we know part of the reason. Our own Senator Tillis was told by the FBI that there was a credible threat against his life as he considered voting against Pete Hegseth for Secretary of Defense. Did that affect his vote?

President Trump doesn't need the military on his side. He has an army of White Supremacists who are eager and willing to

move any obstacles in his path. We may not know the final goal but looking at Project 2025 it is not difficult to discern the desired outcome. I know from my reading that there is no room for me as a woman, as a senior citizen, or as a grandmother to be a contributing member of the country they are creating in this moment. Any respect for women's minds or their rights, for their achievements or their contributions, will evaporate as we are reduced to being stay-at-home wives and mothers.

I was raised in a patriarchal system and spent my life fighting against it. Having been told there was no reason, or money, to support my college education, I chose a different path, attending a three-year nursing school. It ensured I would be debt free and able to support myself, never knowing what the future would hold. I worked hard and ultimately achieved independence, mainly because I lived in a time where women fought, and succeeded, to have choices. Instead of joining in

celebrating women's achievements many men have expressed dismay at their successes. We are now living with the consequences of this disapproval.

It is time to stand up for women, women's rights, women's work and women's achievements, that have contributed to making this country what it is, while it still is this country and not an imitation of Russia or Hungary. I encourage you to look around and choose one thing to stand up for in this time. Join a group like Indivisible, Common Cause, Carolina Forward or one of many others that are bringing people together to fight back against unconstitutional changes that are not in our best interests, but in those of an Oligarchy of Billionaires. This is the time and we the people, women and men, were made for it. I hope.

**Margaret Pickett  
Highlands**

## ...HOSPITAL continued from page 1

Center (MAHEC) which is how Dr. Patti Wheeler got to Highlands as part of its family medicine rotation years ago.

MAHEC was established as a non-profit in 1974 to improve training and retention of healthcare professionals across Western North Carolina. MAHEC trains physicians, pharmacists, and dentists to provide evidence-based, patient-centered healthcare.

Neal said plans to build on site employee housing for health care professionals associated with the hospital is still in the works. Preliminary plans have been drawn up with investors being sought.

Since HCA bought the hospital, Neal said beside upgrades to brick and mortar, the quality of service at the hospital has also been upgraded.

Consequently, HC Hospital is 10 years infection free – something few hospitals can claim; there have been no catheter associated urinary tract infections; there have been no central line associated blood stream infections; and the HC Hospital Emergency Room has the highest ER overall rating of care in all of the HCA Healthcare facilities earning the Press Ganey Guardian Award for three years, as well as the Primary Stroke Care Accreditation.

He introduced providers who are either on site or coming including at Primary Care Provider (PCP) Cashiers: Allison Litchfield, PA-C and Dr. Kate Shattenkirk; PCP Highlands: Blue Ridge Health Highlands - Dr. Kristy Fincher; PCP Highlands: Patti Wheeler MD with a new nurse practitioner starting this summer.

With a call for on site surgeries still high, Facial Plastic Surgery with Dr. Chris Wenzel, is available; General Surgeon/Hand Surgeon Dr. James Osborne; General Surgeon Dr. David Jarrett for Orthopedic Surgery; Dr. Zach Phillips, with Surgical Physician Assistant Robert Merck coming in the summer. For Pain Management Dr. Eric Roslonski and Dr. Jennifer Windsor will be coming in the spring.

HCA Healthcare Capital Investment for Direct Patient Care includes a CT Replacement (128 slice) which has been purchased and a MRI Replacement has been relocated inside hospital; an Pneumatic Tube System now sits between ED and Lab; 3D Mammography is available; there is a Digital Radiology Suite; a Bone Density and Ultrasound; as well as ongoing Surgical Suite renovations to include LED surgical lighting, ortho equipment, sterilizer, Neptune suction; cell phone booster and a second chemistry analyzer.

As to HCA's brick and mortar investment, \$300k has been allocated to replace kitchen equipment; \$500k for a generator and replacement of HVAC at the Cashiers Clinic; electrical power system upgrade; air

handler and boiler upgrade; medical air and vacuum replacement; grease trap replacement; elevator modernization; alarm panel upgrade; a chill water pump replacement; the replacement of the nurses station, and overall ADA improvements throughout the hospital.

He closed reminding the board that since the hospital is no longer a nonprofit Highlands-Cashiers Hospital contributes to Macon County taxes -- Property tax, \$520K; Sales/Use tax, \$874K; Unemployment and Provider tax, \$435K for a total of \$1.86 million in tax contributions with Charitable Care amounting to \$19.7 million.

As to the future he sees Primary Care expansion, an expanded Swing Bed Program, additional surgical services and outpatient services, as well as an evolving Emergency Department.

Regarding Labor Management, he said recruitment is ongoing and housing solutions are on the drawing board.

All in all he believes the Highlands and Cashiers communities are in good hands at HCA's HC Hospital.

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**On the corner of 3rd & Spring**



# • HS SPORTS NEWS •



Highlands in Hayesville last week.

## Last week's athletic results

On Tues., March 4, the varsity boys golf team traveled to Sequoyah National in Cherokee for a match. Highlands finished 3rd out of five schools with a score of 213.

Individual results for 9 holes were: Carson Forrester 48, Chase Kenter 54, Rowen Carnes 55, Gavin Small 56 and Isaiah Vilardo 60.

On Wed., March 5, the varsity boys golf team traveled to Oconee CC for a match against West Oak High School. The team scores were West Oak, 199 Highlands, 219.

Individual scores were: Carson Forrester 46, Gavin Small 51, Chase Kenter 55, Rowen Carnes 59 and Bryan Jarquin 65.

Also, on Wed. March 5, the varsity girls soccer team traveled to Hayesville for a conference match. Highlands won 10-1.

Goals scored by Highlands were: Aislynn Wyatt-Luck 6, Gaby Diaz 2, Charlotte Westendorf 1, and Cayden Pierson 1.

– Submitted by Athletic Director Brett Lamb

## ...MAYOR continued from page 2

ture firm specializing in historic restoration did a study and made a conservative estimate that rebuilding the Playhouse would cost 2.6 million dollars. It is time to move forward with a decision.

Also, I will lead a discussion concerning parking on South 4th Street. Currently we have a section of diagonal parking that some

folks believe creates a safety hazard on that section of 4th. The decision will be whether to keep the parking as is or convert the diagonal parking to parallel parking like what is on the opposite side of the street. Such a plan would result in the loss of some parking spaces but would improve the safety of that area.

## ...JUDGE continued from page 1

With the Blowing Rock and Wilmington cases ruling in favor of STRs and pending state legislation on the issue in the works, the town and SAVE Highlands agreed to “stay” the case and the ordinance while awaiting legislation.

Though in Sept. 2022, the town ruled to grandfather existing STRs in the R1 and R2 zoning districts, it ruled to ban new STRs.

Though not what they wanted, SAVE Highlands agreed, as a compromise, to go along with the new ordinance.

However, when the cry for amortization was sounded in earnest last year, SAVE Highlands Attorney Derek Allen with Al-

len Stahl & Kilbourne reminded the Town Board of the standing compromise and said that the “stay” on the case would be lifted if the town moved to amortize.

Since the town ruled 4-1 to amortize STRs last year, the “stay” was lifted so the case was heard first Nov. 20, 2024 and again this week.

At the in-person hearing Nov. 20 in Macon County Superior Court, an outcome was not decided because Superior Court Judge Tessa Sellers, who was new to the bench, said she hadn't had a chance to fully research the case.

The town's stance at the No-

• See JUDGE page 14

# • BIZ/ORG NEWS •



On Saturday afternoon, citizens and members of Indivisible Highlands gathered at the corner of Main and the Dillard Road to stand in unity for continued support of Ukraine. The gathering also honored Women's History Month – an annual observance to highlight the contributions of women to events in history and contemporary society. It is celebrated during March in the US, the UK, and Australia.



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## SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING



### A negative world needs a positive response

**Pastor Mark Ford**  
First Baptist Church  
Highlands

For my article this time around I am going to act as a resonator for an up-and-coming voice - Aaron Renn. Renn was just profiled by The New York Times and considered by many to be one of the most important Christian intellectuals and social commentators in America today. In simple terms, Renn's recent best seller - Life in the Negative World: Confronting Challenges in an Anti-Christian Culture - is a call for Christians to learn how to live in today's new social and cultural environment through self-examination, trial and error, and adaptation over time. And through it all remain true to our faith and the Word of God. He echoes the teachings of Jesus Christ who made it abundantly clear that His followers would encounter persecution and rejection, just as He himself would and did (Mt. 5:9-12; John 15:18-25). But nonetheless, we are called to be salt and light in our cultural milieu. His book is an attempt to answer what that might look like.

His best-known idea of "living in a negative world" is a warning to Christians that America is in an era of distinct hostility, and we must accept this despite recent political developments. His schema argues that the Church has passed through three recent epochs as applied to its status. In the "positive world" of 1964 to 1994, the Church remained a positive influence and being a Christian could still enhance your status in society despite the sexual revolution and beginnings of post-modernism. But in the "neutral world" of 1994 to 2014 (approximation), the church was no longer a privileged institution but simply one of many options in the pluralist public square. Beginning a decade ago, being a Christian in high-status domains like media, academia, political circles and powers actually made us a social negative. Holding to traditional, Biblical Christian orthodoxy and morality - especially related to sex and gender, and opposition to progressivism - is now seen as a threat to the public good and the spirit of tolerance and inclusive ideals. The Christian faith and its genuine devotees are now treated by secular elites as pariahs. We remain, despite the recent politically inspired "shift in vibes", open to increasing skepticism regarding our cherished beliefs and susceptible to subterfuges of "cancel culture." We remain spiritually, politically, and socially a deeply divided country.

In Renn's analysis, Christians have no choice but to exist as a countercultural presence in a "negative world." Being true to Christian values and our Lord's radical teachings on what it means to be one of His followers does not allow us to fit neatly and unreservedly into partisan politics. More than ever, the disciples of Jesus must try to understand our place in contemporary America, making our allegiance to the Lord Jesus Christ our ultimate guide. We must acknowledge that we are no longer a "moral majority"

• See **SPIRITUALLY** page 11

## • 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: 1:5p 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

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Sunday School: 10 am. Worship Service: 11 am

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

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### HAMBURG BAPTIST CHURCH

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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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www.highlandsmethodist.org

### HOLY FAMILY LUTHERAN CHURCH: ELCA

2152 Dillard Road • 526-9741

Rev. Ken Langsdorf

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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.;

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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)

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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 Feb. 23. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a summons/citation, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor or those of public officials have been used.**

### Feb. 23

• At 8:18 p.m., Tristan Adler Petrone, 20, of Highlands, was arrested for DUI on N. 4th Street. He was issued a \$1,500 unsecured bond. His court date is April 2,

### March 4

• At 8 a.m., Sydney Cooper Freeman, 31, of Franklin, was arrested for an outstanding warrant. She was issued a \$9,000 secured bond. Her trial date is April 6.

**The Highlands Fire & Rescue log from March 5.**

### March 5

• At 11:34 a.m., the dept. responded to a CO2 alarm at a location on Main Street.

• At 5:32 p.m., the dept. investigated the source of smoke at a residence on Mt. Lori Drive.

• At 7:24 p.m., the dept. responded to a structure fire at a residence on Country Club Drive.

### March 6

• At 1:56 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Flat Mountain Road.

### March 7

• At 9:23 a.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on Blue Valley Road.

• At 10:12 a.m., the dept. investigated a possible gas leak at a residence on Sky-lake Drive.

• At 3:53 p.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on US 64 west (Franklin Road).

• At 11:25 p.m., the dept. responded to a structure fire at a residence on Mirror Lake Road.

### March 8

• At 4:01 p.m., the dept. responded to a call of an electrical malfunction at a residence on Warren Road.

### March 9

• At 1:48 p.m., the dept. provided public assistance at a residence on Warren Road.

• At 2:53 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Mt. Lori Drive.

### March 10

• At 10:01 p.m., the dept. provided mutual aid to the Sky Valley/Scaly Mountain FD.

## • BIZ/ORG NEWS •



### Bridging Generations: TL&LC after-school program fosters connection between students and seniors

By Anna Norton

The Literacy & Learning Center (TL&LC) recently launched a heartwarming initiative, connecting after-school students with residents of the Eckerd Living Center through a series of monthly inter-generational activity days.

Students from Highlands School were taken by bus to the Eckerd Living Center, where they engaged in a collaborative craft project, creating vibrant felt flowers. Students and residents also enjoyed card games and puzzles, fostering conversation and shared experiences.

Students brought youthful energy, while residents shared valuable life experiences and wisdom. The felt flowers served as a tangible reminder of the connections formed during the afternoon.

Each month, the first 15 students whose parents register them will be able to participate in these enriching activities. Parents are encouraged to register their children early, as space is limited. Pick-up will be at the Eckerd Living Center between 4:30 and 4:45 PM. This program strengthens the bonds within the High-

lands community and provides enriching experiences for both students and residents.

To learn more about TL&LC's programs, contact Caroline Cox, Programs Manager, at [CCox@TheLiteracyandLearningCenter.org](mailto:CCox@TheLiteracyandLearningCenter.org) or 828-526-0863.

## • CHHS NEWS •



Photo by Marty Boone

Three-year-old Rascal was found as a stray in Scaly Mountain and brought to the Cashiers-Highlands Humane Society. He loves playing with other feline friends, cat toys and lasers. CHHS currently has a "BOGO" adoption special – adopt one cat or kitten and we will waive the adoption fee for the second kitty. For more information, please visit [chhumanesociety.org](http://chhumanesociety.org).

## ...SPIRITUALLY continued from page 10

but the "moral minority." Washington D.C. cannot fix the hearts of a whole nation. It may be trying to address some of the symptoms of the past confluence of progressivism, socio-political engineering, and marginalization of Christian values, but it cannot legislate morality. The disease of secularism and rejection of God remains entrenched.

The Church must reject the spirit of relevance and trying to fit into the secular spaces. We must instead take our place as a prophetic voice in this "negative world" and be salt and light. Yes, the "vibe shift" is at work right now. We have a new president with a clear agenda to move us back to common sense government. Tech companies are pivoting to the right. Bible sales are booming! The decline of Americans who call themselves "Christian" has paused – about 40%. Even celebrities, former atheists and TV personalities are coming out more vocal for Christianity. But as Renn

argues – and I agree – this "vibe shift" is way too fragile. While there is a new openness to Christianity, and a seeming course correction to the right by those on the left, the broad erosion of our traditional, Christian values is probably permanent in Renn's view. Past pushback has not created anything of permanence in turning our nation back to God. It will take a broad revival of the people of God to pursue our calling to be salt and light, declaring unwaveringly the Word of God in all its truth and power. It must start with us, His followers and true believers. We must honestly acknowledge our negative world and not be fooled by social and political events. Then, give a countercultural, positive response rooted in the Gospel and the Lord Jesus Christ. That has always been our God-given agenda, and nothing has changed except that the Light of His love and grace can now shine more brightly in our negative, spiritually dark world.

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**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)

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nifer at 828-371-2582 (st. 2/6)

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# • HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

## WINTER 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, March 21-22, April 4-5 and 18-19.

## Thurs., March 13

• At The Highlander House, Thursday Blues from 6-9 p.m. \$25 burger and a draft beer night. \$5 cover charge. **March 14-16**

• At the Mountain Learning Center Youth Programs - Spring Elementary CON <https://www.the->

[mountainrlc.org/event/homecoming-2/](http://mountainrlc.org/event/homecoming-2/)

## Fri. & Sat., March 14-15

• Highlands Elementary School presents Disney's Alice in Wonderland, Jr. at PAC at 6pm.

## Fri., March 14

• Megan Drake will be bringing a troop of her trained Irish Dancers to perform St. Patrick's Day music from 7-9 p.m. at the Otto Community Center. Mountain Muse Band is the musical headliner and Slanted Window Tasting Room will supply refreshments for purchase.

## Sun., March 16

• Highlands Cashiers Players will hold an open audition for its May production of "Social Security" on Sunday, 3 p.m. in the Martin Lipscomb Theatre at the Highlands Performing Arts Center. There are roles for three men and three women. A copy of the script is in the community drawer at the Hudson Library. For more information, visit [highlandscashiersplayers.com](http://highlandscashiersplayers.com)

## Mon., March 17

• Annual Highlands School PTO St. Patrick's Day bingo at the Rec Park from 6:30-8:30p. There will be a 50/50 raffle and hot dogs, chips,

popcorn, candy and drinks for sale.

## March 20 - 23

• At the MLT at PAC, HCP's "The Outsider," 7:30p Thurs. and Fri. and 2p Sat. and Sun. The opening night performance will be followed by a free wine and hors d'oeuvres reception. Tickets are available at [highlandscashiersplayers.com](http://highlandscashiersplayers.com), or by calling 828-526-9047.

## Thurs., March 20

• Highlands Town Board Retreat at the Rec Park 9a to 3p.

## Fri., March 21

• Community Coffee with Mayor Pat Taylor in the Hudson Library meeting room 11 a.m. He will be discussing the upcoming 2025-2026 budget.

## Wed., March 26

• The Cashiers Historical Society and Albert Carlton-Cashiers Community Library will present Lillian Smith: Breaking the Silence, a film screening exploring the life and legacy of Southern writer and activist Lillian Smith. th, from 3-5pm. This event is free and open to the public, with a discussion to follow.

## March 27-30

• At the MLT at PAC, HCP's "The Outsider," 7:30p Thurs. and Fri. and 2p Sat. and Sun. Tickets are available at [highlandscashiersplayers.com](http://highlandscashiersplayers.com), or by calling 828-526-9047.

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## ..JUDGE continued from page 9

vember hearing was that the lawsuit should be null and void due to a technicality by previous representation. Town Attorney Bob Hagemann had filed a motion to dismiss the case.

But SAVE Highlands said the action to ban STRs was illegal in the first place, and they requested a summary judgement.

A summary judgment is a legal decision made by a court that allows one party to win a case without a full trial, essentially deciding the case based on the presented facts without needing to go through the entire trial process, typically when there are no disputed material facts in the case; it's considered a "shortcut" to resolve a legal dispute quickly.

This week the court denied the town's motion to dismiss and granted SAVE Highlands' motion for summary judgment on attorney's fees.

Though SAVE Highlands'

motion has been granted, attorney fees will now be submitted, and another judge will decide the figure owed SAVE Highlands.

The judge could rule that Highlands must pay nothing, or \$1 or what they are asking which at this point could be north of \$75,000.

"We were thrilled to learn that the judge denied the Town's motion to dismiss, and that our motion for attorney's fees will move forward. While there is still a process to determine how much we will receive, it's definitely moving in the right direction," said Jennifer Huff. "We have said for years that the law is on our side, and we are still confident that this is the case. As the town is still committed to amortization, we remain committed to fighting for the rights of our properties."

Attorney Bo Carpenter with Allen Stahl & Kilbourne said the judge's orders were absolute vin-

dication for everything they have fought for from the beginning.

"What they did was illegal. Full stop. For all intents and purposes, we won," he said.

The judge's statement at the end of the summary judgement is as follows:

"It is therefore ordered, adjudged and decreed partial summary judgement shall be granted as to there is no dispute of any material fact that the Town of Highlands Board of Commissioners exceeded its authority in interpreting the Town's Unified Development Ordinance as prohibiting short-term vacation rentals and directing the Town to start enforcing the UDO pursuant to its interpretation."

Town Manager Josh Ward said the issue will be discussed with the town attorney in Closed Session at the end of next week's Town Board meeting, March 20.

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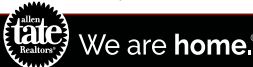
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