

Highlands Newspaper

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Cabe is new Macon County Manager

By Kristin Fox
 At the March regular meeting of the Macon County Board of Commissioners, county officials named Warren Cabe as the new county manager. Cabe has been serving the county as inter-

im county manager since November after the resignation of former County Manager Derek Roland. After a motion by Chairman Josh Young seconded by Board Member Gary Shields, the board unanimously voted to name Cabe

the new county manager. "This has been something that's really given me anxiety," said Young. "When you lose your employee, you scramble especially in this economy. We opened this up
 • See **CABE** page 8

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Edelweiss Pastry Shop feels storm's wrath



Photo by Kim Lewicki

The severe weather system that brought death and destruction across the country last week spared Highlands compared to elsewhere, but the saturated ground was no match for the hurricane force winds that uprooted complete trees – root ball and all – in several places in town. This massive tree fell on the Edelweiss Pastry Shop on N. 4th Street. Another uprooted tree blocked the drive-through at First Citizens Bank and a huge tree was uprooted next to the Outpost damaging an outbuilding and vehicle. A tree fell on a power line near Lake Sequoyah causing a power outage to the Highlands Plaza quadrant. See photos on page 11.

Local food banks and schools react to DOGE cuts

By Kim Lewicki

Last week, the USDA announced around \$1 billion in cuts due to the cancellation of the country's Local Food for Schools (LFS) program and the Local Food Purchase Assistance (LFPA) Cooperative Agreement Program.

The cuts come amid efforts by President Donald Trump's administration to slash the federal budget

In North Carolina, the USDA has canceled \$11 million in federal funding for food banks like MANNA FoodBank that supplies Highlands Food Pantry, Highlands Emergency Council and Fishes and Loaves in Cashiers.

According to Claire Neal, CEO of MANNA, federal funding programs like the LFPA program are critical for investing in local food systems in Western North Carolina.

"We see firsthand how the LFPA program creates a win-win-win: it keeps local farmers thriving through direct sales, invests in our regional economy by purchasing goods close to home, and ensures

our neighbors have fresh, nutritious food on the table," said Neal. "By directly buying produce, eggs, dairy, grains, and meat from nearby farms – many of them still recovering from Hurricane Helene – LFPA doesn't just provide funding; it knits together the local supply chain in a way that boosts farm incomes, keeps dollars circulating in our communities, and delivers healthier meal options to those who need it most. Losing this support is devastating."

Over the last fiscal cycle, MANNA was awarded \$1,333,284 from the USDA's LFPA program with funds used to purchase produce, eggs, dairy, grains, and meat directly from 55 local and regional farms within a 400-mile radius. For 2025, North Carolina's allocation was expected to be \$11,424,325.

"However, we received notice that this funding was terminated on March 7," said Neal. "We strongly encourage community members, policymakers, and our food partner organizations across

• See **FOOD** page 9



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• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• MAYOR ON DUTY •

Wholesale electric rates to be discussed

Thursday, March 20, is the annual Highlands Town Retreat, starting at 9 am in the arts and crafts room of the Highlands Recreation Center. The retreat has been rescheduled twice now, but it is a go for Thursday. The retreat is open to the public.

We will also have our monthly Town Board meeting tonight at 7 pm. This meeting will be at the Highlands Community Center next to the ball field. I anticipate the meeting being short with only a few items.

At the board meeting, commissioners will hear an update from Ted Orwell of UTEC concerning our wholesale power contract. We have had a 20-year wholesale power contract with Duke Energy. It expires in the next three years and the town will have to enter a new contract with a wholesale electric provider.

When I first became mayor over a decade ago, I thought the Duke contract was very long, and maybe we had a bad deal. I have changed my mind now. Way back 20 years ago, the town locked down a very good pricing scale for electricity. My friends at Duke



Highlands Mayor Patrick Taylor

frequently remind me that we have had very good rates.

The bad news is two-fold. The new electric provider will not want to commit to a 20-year contract, given the electric power demand is now constantly changing. And those low wholesale prices will probably be off the table.

In the last few years electric power demand in this country has constantly increased. It isn't because of electric vehicles, although

they will be part of the equation in the future. More and more homes have increased their demand for electricity. A few years ago, a 200 amp breaker system for a regular home was considered adequate. Now, new homes are installing 400 amp systems.

Another driver of higher electrical costs will be bit-coin mining factories and AI centers. These technologies require ever-expanding use of power that will drive up costs for all consumers. The electric power industry is scrambling to meet this constantly growing demand by building new generator plants across the nation.

In short, our new wholesale electric contract will have higher wholesale rates. While the town has not increased customer rates in nearly a decade, that line will not be able to be held in the coming years. Electric power generation and access will be a major national issue in the near future.

The board will also review the chamber lease at the meeting. I hope this issue will come to an end Thursday night.

The Highlands and Mountain Top Rotary clubs will present a design for a peace pole to be located on the campus of the Highlands Community Center. Rotary International has installed several thousand peace poles over the last decade.

A discussion concerning the floor area ratio in B-1 will also be discussed. The question is whether to change the ratio to allow more space flexibility in the zoning district.

The board will also appoint a new mayor pro temp, and go into closed session to get an update concerning the Huff v Town of Highlands lawsuit. A superior judge recently issued a ruling, and our attorney, Bob Hagemann, will brief the board.

I will also hold my first community coffee of the year at the Hudson Library this Friday at 11 am in the library meeting room. I will review the items of the town retreat and items covered at the monthly board meeting.

• SNAPSHOT •

At 2:30 a.m., March 14, a total lunar eclipse – when the entire moon falls within the umbra, the darkest part of Earth's shadow – occurred making it appear red-orange; hence the name Blood Moon.



Do you have a heartfelt, funny, interesting, or beautiful photo you would like to share in our "SnapShot" section? Email it to highlandseditor@aol.com or text it to 828-200-1371, with a brief description and a name. No anonymous photos will be accepted.

Photo by Rachel Lewicki

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Obituaries are \$8 per column inch.

\$10 per photo.

Payable prior to publication.

• WEATHER •

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• INVESTING AT 4,118 FT •

Real Estate anomalies on the plateau: An outsider's POV

As a relative newcomer to the Highlands-Cashiers real estate world, I've lost count of how many times I've texted colleagues asking, "Is this normal?" As a North Carolina real estate continuing education provider, I'm well-versed in the legalities and ethics of North Carolina real estate contracts and transactions, but the unique nuances of the Plateau's market come with a steep learning curve. That's why I believe it would be especially challenging for an outsider to effectively represent buyers or sellers without being fully immersed in this distinctive market.



Lauren Dahl
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One unique aspect of our area is the prevalence of dual agency, where a single broker (or two brokers from one firm) represents both the buyer and seller in a transaction. In fact, 21% of transactions recorded on our local MLS in 2024 involved just one broker. Given the high-dollar, high-stakes nature of our transactions, I've been surprised dual agency is so common.

One possibility is that our clientele — typically second-home owners with financial expertise and experience — are comfortable navigating deals without dedicated representation. On the other hand, experienced investors often recognize the value of having their own agent to advocate solely for their interests. Perhaps it's a matter of personal strategy — some may see dual agency as an efficiency, while others may view it as a risk.

Regardless, this practice is legal in North Carolina (it's not in eight states) and can be ethical when handled with transparency and care. The key, as always, is ensuring that all parties fully understand the arrangement and their options before making a decision on whether or not to allow it.

Along with dual agency, another feature that sets the Plateau apart is the infrequent use of due diligence fees, a common practice in many other areas of our state. From my experience in nearby Buncombe and Henderson counties, out-of-state buyers are often surprised to learn that North Carolina typically includes the option for a non-refundable due diligence fee in its standard purchase contract. However, on the Plateau, these fees are much less common — a fact that can catch non-local brokers

off guard when trying to break into our market, especially those accustomed to explaining them repeatedly to out-of-state buyers.

I suspect this is due to two key factors: first, approximately 50% of property purchases here are all-cash transactions, and second, many buyers come from states where due diligence fees don't exist. While homes in this area tend to stay on the market longer — typically around four months for a single-family home — cash transactions

close more quickly and with less friction from lenders, potentially reducing a seller's demand of a due diligence fee.

Another defining feature of the Plateau's market is the prevalence of exclusive communities, where access to properties often requires coordination with listing agents. Unlike standard "go and show" listings common in less-exclusive areas, access isn't granted with just a few clicks on an app. Gated entries, security systems, and key pickups must be coordinated within specific time frames.

And for those hoping to drop by a private golf club or book a tee time to "check the place out," it's not that simple. Many area brokers develop a niche for a certain club because they are members themselves. In the most exclusive communities, this is the easiest way to gain access and see the amenities in-person. As you know, the Plateau is both welcoming and exclusive — a unique blend of hospitality and invitation-only access.

Learning the Highlands-Cashiers real estate market has been an eye-opening experience. From the relative prevalence of dual agency to the absence of due diligence fees and the exclusivity of certain communities; it's clear that this market marches to its own beat. Mastering these nuances takes time (which is why so many of our area's most successful brokers have been here for decades), but one thing is clear — hyper-local expertise isn't just beneficial, it's essential.

• *Lauren Dahl is the General Manager and Broker-in-Charge at Landmark Realty Group where she supports an elite team of 30+ brokers. She can be reached at 828-279-4700 or via email at lauren@landmarkrg.com.*

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• OBITUARY •

Jeanne Hayes Bowen

Jeanne Hayes Bowen, beloved mother, grandmother, and friend, passed away peacefully on March 9, 2025. Born on May 19, 1928, in Miami, Florida, to Dorothy T. Hayes and Walter H. Hayes, Jeanne lived a life filled with love, dedication, and service to others.

A proud graduate of Miami Edison High School, Class of 1946, Jeanne went on to attend the University of Miami, where she excelled both academically and socially. She was the captain of the cheer-leading squad, a member of Alpha Delta Pi Sorority, and the sweetheart of Sigma Chi. She graduated with high honors in 1950, earning a Bachelor of Science degree. Her passion for helping others led her to continue her education at the Miami Jackson School of Nursing, where she became a Registered Nurse.

Early in her career, Jeanne returned to her alma mater to teach nursing before embarking on a lifelong commitment to

healthcare. Along the way, she married Dr. Alfred C. Bowen and became a devoted mother to her two sons, Hayes (1961) and Christian (1962). Following her divorce in 1971, Jeanne dedicated herself to providing the best life possible for her boys, working as a school nurse and administrative assistant to Marian Krutulius at Gulliver Academy in Coral Gables, a camp nurse at Camp Alpine in North Carolina, and as an RN Supervisor at the University of Miami Hospital and Clinics.

After retiring in 1992, Jeanne fulfilled a dream by relocating to a log cabin in Scaly Mountain, North Carolina. There, she immersed herself in the community, volunteering at the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital gift shop, working part-time at Suzette's Bou-



tique, and serving as president of the Scaly Mountain Women's Club and vice president of the Highlands Women's Club. She played a leadership role in organizing the original Highlands Arts and Crafts Show which continues to this day. Jeanne found joy in playing bridge with her Scaly Mountain friends, participating in local parades, and always lending a helping hand wherever needed.

In her later years, Jeanne split her time between Miami and the mountains she adored. Eventually, she settled in Mount Dora, Florida, before returning to North Carolina in 2021, where her son Hayes and his spouse Scott built a beautiful home with an attached cottage for her. Surrounded by family and the beauty of the mountains, she found great happiness in her final years.

Jeanne is survived by her two sons, Hayes Bowen (Scott Sasich) and Christian Bowen (Christine Bowen); and three beloved grandchildren, Tyler, Sydney, and Conner. She will be remembered for her unwavering and boundless love for her family, her warmth, and her generous spirit.

Jeanne's legacy is one of love, generosity, kindness and strength. She touched the lives of many, and her memory will forever be cherished by those who knew and loved her.

A celebration of Jeanne's life will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made in her honor to Sky Valley - Scaly Mountain Fire Department (<http://www.svsmvfr.org>).

Online condolences can be left at www.bryantgrantfuneralhome.com

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

• LETTER •

Re: The ONLY uncertified race from November 2024 elections in the entire country!

Dear Editor,

It's unfathomable that the citizens of North Carolina are still dealing with delays in the certification of Justice Allison Riggs's November 2024 election to the Supreme Court because of baseless attempts to overturn the results of a legitimate election.

Her opponent, Judge Jefferson Griffin, rightfully asked for a recount because of a close election where Riggs's was ahead by only 624 votes. Recounted twice, with both finding Riggs ahead by 724 votes, instead of gracefully accepting the outcome, Griffin, shamefully sued the North Carolina State Board of Elections, seeking to throw out over 60,000 votes on unfounded claims that they are invalid.

According to the North Carolina Board of Elections, even if a voter does not have a driver's license or social security number in their voter file – which could be due to a clerical error in the NC Division of Motor Vehicles or Social Security Administration databases – the voter law states neither are required – persons are entitled to vote by showing a valid ID. All voters on the Griffin List showed an ID to vote or included a copy of a valid ID with their stateside absentee ballot.

Griffin has also challenged 5,509 absentee ballots cast by military and overseas

voters covered by the federal Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act, which contains no provision for providing photo identification. For all the rules Griffin is claiming were broken however, he's not challenging every voter who committed alleged violations; his challenges target certain demographics and counties that lean Democratic.

The case went to Wake County Superior Court where Griffin lost, and Judge William Pittman ruled that the State Board of Elections had every right to dismiss Griffin's attempts to throw out the ballots. After his loss at trial, Griffin appealed to the Court of Appeals where he is currently a judge. The Board of Elections then asked the NC Supreme Court to skip the Court of Appeals and head directly to the Supreme Court for a speedier trial, which was supported by Riggs as well, because if there is a tie in the judgement, it follows the last court's judgement—the Wake County judgement. On Thursday February 20, 2025 the Supreme Court shot down that request in a 4-2 vote allowing the case to take the slower path that Griffin sought through the Court of Appeals.

There are two dissenting justices on the NC Supreme Court, one Democrat and one Republican. Republican Justice Dietz wrote in his dissent, "Permitting post-election liti-

gation that seeks to rewrite our state's election rules — and, as a result, remove the right to vote in an election from people who already lawfully voted under the existing rules — invites incredible mischief."

The interference of the state Supreme Court in the electoral process sets a dangerous precedent. Recounts of close elections are customary in democracy; however, disre-

garding the results of those counts is dangerous and undermines the people's will.

Jefferson Griffin needs to respect the democratic process and concede, while the court needs to dismiss the baseless accusations and uphold the results of the Riggs election.

**Kelli Davis, Cashiers
Karen Hawk Highlands**

HCP presents "The Outsider" March 20-23 & 27-30

This weekend, the Highlands Cashiers Players presents "The Outsider," the first full-length production of their 30th anniversary season, March 20 - 23 and 27 - 30 at the Martin Lipscomb Theater in the PAC. "The Outsider" is written by Paul Slade Smith and directed by Michael Lanzilotta. Cathy Myers is the assistant director, and Jayne Pleasants is the line coach.

This two-act non-partisan political comedy focuses on Ned Newley, the lieutenant governor of a small state. After he is unexpectedly thrust into the limelight when the governor resigns due to a scandal, it becomes quickly apparent that Ned is a genius at policy but a disaster at public speaking and politics. The focus then turns keeping Ned in office following a disastrous televised swearing-in ceremony.

The cast includes Ron Leslie as Ned

Newley, Craig Eister as his loyal chief-of-staff Dave Riley, and April Getz as Paige Caldwell, an experienced pollster who Dave has hired to help Ned navigate politics. Diandra Mundy who plays Louise Peakes, who starts out as a temporary receptionist in the governor's office and somehow ends up as the replacement nominee for lieutenant governor. That "somehow" has a lot to do with high-profile Washington political consultant Arthur Vance, played by Randy Lucas.

Thursday and Friday performances are at 7:30pm and the Saturday and Sunday shows are 2pm matinees.

The opening night performance features a free wine and hors d'oeuvres reception. Tickets are available at highlandscashiersplayers.com, or by calling 828-526-9047.

...CABE continued from page 1

publicly and had some interest. We had a lot of applications but very few were qualified.”

“Fortunately, we had a gentleman (Cabe) step up, and he has absolutely knocked it out of the park,” he added. “I’ve spoken with about every department head in this county, and we have overwhelmingly great reviews. They are not all just flattering; he’s making them go to work and expecting a very high performance which is a very high priority of mine.”

Since being named interim county manager, Cabe has taken charge of the county affairs including two large capital projects – the Highlands School renovations and expansion and the Franklin High School replacement facility. Both projects

are well underway and moving along smoothly.

Cabe also stated he would immediately get to work on finding a replacement for his former role of Macon County Director of Emergency Management Services (EMS). Prior to serving as the interim county manager Cabe was the county’s EMS director.

Cabe started working for Macon County as a part-time 9-1-1 telecommunicator in 1990, becoming a full-time 9-1-1 telecommunicator in 1992. The following year, he transferred to EMS as a paramedic.

In 1996, Cabe was promoted to EMS director in 1996 and served in that role until 2011. He left Macon County government to become the fire chief for the Town of Franklin in 2011.

Cabe was named the Franklin Town Manager in 2013 and served in that role until 2014. In 2014, he returned to Macon County to serve again as the EMS director.

Cabe has a Bachelor’s Degree in Business Administration with a concentration in Management from Mars Hill University. He is a certified NC EMT-Paramedic obtaining this certification through Southwestern Community College. Cabe previously has held a Critical Care Paramedic Certification with concentrations for both adult and pediatric patients obtained through a shared course through the University of Maryland-Baltimore County and Asheville-Buncombe Technical Community College.

Cabe said he wanted to continue the work started by the previous boards and managers providing the best quality services to the residents and visitors of Macon County in the most financially responsible way possible.

“I appreciate the opportunity,” said Cabe. “I’ve been asked by a lot of folks how it’s been, and it’s definitely been challenging,



Warren Cabe

but I have good relationships with the board, the departments and other agencies.”

Change to Public Comment

In other business, the board moved forward with a change to the Macon County Board of Commissioners Rules of Procedure. After the recommendation of Chairman Young, the board decided to change the allotted time individuals have to speak during public comment. Individuals signed up to speak during the public comment period will now be allotted three minutes rather than five minutes to address the board.

Young suggested the change to give more citizens the opportunity to speak during public comment. With the 45-minute allotted time for public comment, the change will give 15 people the opportunity to speak rather than just 9 speakers.

The rules of procedure also states that additional time periods may not be yielded to a speaker by another individual who has also signed up to speak.

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• HS SPORTS NEWS •

Highlands Weekly Sports Recap

By Brett Lamb
Athletic Director

The past week was packed with action for Highlands' high school and middle school athletes, with strong performances across multiple sports. Here's a recap of how our teams fared:

High School Boys Golf @ Swain (March 10)

The Highlands High School boys' golf team had an impressive outing at Swain, finishing in 3rd place with a team score of 196. Individually, Chase Kenter secured a 2nd place finish with a score of 44, while Carson Forrester followed closely behind, earning 4th place with a score of

...FOOD continued from page 1

the region to advocate robust support for local agriculture and food banks – whether through the restoration of LFPA or similar funding streams – so we can continue to invest in our local farms and provide food to every neighbor in need.”

President of Highlands Emergency Council Teresa Speed said the Emergency Council gets 20,000 pounds of food every other week – fresh produce, canned and packaged goods – mostly from the MANNA FoodBank.

“It's ludicrous to pull that amount of money,” said Speed. “So many people are in dire straits when it comes to food. We have no idea how we are going to feed people. Regardless of who you are, or what you believe, you need food.”

According to T.J. Smith, executive director of the International Friendship Center and the Highlands Food Pantry, the impact of cuts to LFPA will probably impact the Food Pantry down the road relative to USDA marketplace and farm subsidies.

“For us, the impact at this point is minimal because we made a commitment to keeping fresh produce on-hand long before LFPA and, thus, have funds already built into our budget for

45.

High School Girls Soccer @ Swain (March 13)

The Highlands girls' soccer team faced a tough challenge against Swain, ultimately falling 4-1. The team's lone goal came from Gaby Diaz, who put in a strong performance despite the loss.

High School Girls Soccer @ Blue Ridge (March 17)

The girls bounced back in a big way in their match against Blue Ridge, dominating with a 9-1 victory. Gabi Diaz and Aislynn Wyatt-Luck both scored four goals each, while Jordyn Borino added one to the tally, securing a well-

that purpose,” said Smith. “However, the impact of the cuts will be felt all down the food supply chain.”

Speed said the cuts will definitely affect the food aspect of the Emergency Council which also provides clothing, firewood and household goods.

“We are going to have a meeting to brainstorm and see what can be done and what we can come up with to continue feeding people,” said Speed. “Highlands has people who have the means to help, and they have said they will, but we're not sure people understand how much food goes out.”

Fishes and Loaves Food Pantry, in Cashiers will likely also be impacted.

“Since the major portion of the food we distribute has historically come from MANNA, any defunding of USDA would likely have a significant impact on the availability of food for free distribution in our area,” said Peter Hall with the Grants & Funding arm of Fishes & Loaves.

The programs affected by the DOGE cuts – the Local Food for Schools (LFS) and Local Food Purchase Assistance (LFPA) -- were designed as active subsidies for farmers that provided resources specifically for school systems and

earned win for the team.

Middle School Golf @ The Orchard (March 17)

The middle school golf team competed at The Orchard, where 6th grader Brynn Mason shined as the girls' medalist with a low score of 39. On the boys' side, Highlands' top scorers were Sam Conner (46), Walker Kittrell (51), and Camden Westendorf (58). The boys' team finished in 3rd place overall.

Middle School Track @ Hayesville (March 17)

The Highlands middle school track team showcased some incredible performances at Hayesville, with many athletes

food banks to purchase food from local producers, including fruit and vegetable farmers and those cultivating proteins from livestock.

For schools, this provided additional funding designated specifically to improve nutrition for many school children, for whom school breakfast and school lunch are their most consistent sources of nutrition.

According to Macon County Schools Nutrition Director David Lightner, school nutrition programs have already felt the harmful impacts of federal funding cuts.

“Macon County Schools, has already experienced the elimination of the Local Food for Schools grant,” he said. “This cut will negatively affect Macon County, as our program is expected to lose over \$50,000 this school year due to this grant being removed.”

In addition, proposed cuts to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and Medicaid would make it more difficult for families to qualify for free and reduced meals.

“These cuts and regulatory changes are undermining the ability to meet the needs of students who rely on school meals to fulfill their basic nutritional needs and succeed in the classroom,” said Lightner.



Middle School golf team.

achieving personal bests. Among the standout performances:

- Annabelle Hays took 1st place in the 100m hurdles.
- Riley Brooks placed 6th in the 1600m (mile).
- The boys' 4x100 relay team finished in 4th place.

In addition, the following Highlands High School Varsity Basketball Players received Little Smoky Mountain All-Conference

and All-District Honorable Mention honors: Jordyn Borino, Hunter Conner, Aislynn Wyatt-Luck, Kasen Mitchell, Isaiah Vilardo and Coach Brett Lamb was named Girls Coach of The Year.

Congratulations to all our athletes for their hard work and dedication! We look forward to more great performances in the coming weeks. Go Highlands!

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Highlands United
Methodist Church

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and darkness overwhelm,
so that simple things elude me
in that murky, foggy, realm.

I ask of you one favor,
if you could take the time.
Please remember for me
when the dots are hard to find.

Remind me of the pleasant days
when life was full of joy.
Recall to me our laughter,
when we were girls and boys.

Tell stories that I love to hear,
over and over again.
And even if I forget your name,
I'll know I'm with a friend.

Tell me I made a difference,
if indeed that is the case.
As I study carefully,
your gentle voice, and face.

For perhaps a time is coming,
when my memory dies away,
and I'll need the patience of a friend
to sit with me that day.

Try not to ask me questions
because I'll search and strain
for answers that came easily
when I had a healthy brain.

You won't always get it right,
don't worry, grace abounds.
But if you'll journey with me,
your gift will be profound.

Love can be a burden,
we all know it's true.
But if you'll just be gentle,
and do the best that you can do,

you'll give a timeless blessing,
the blessing of your care.
And I will be so very blessed
just to know you're there.

So please remember for me.
Tell me stories to delight.
And you'll be to me, like Jesus,
walking with me in the night.

PLACES TO WORSHIP

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Sundays: School at 9:30; Worship 10:30

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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

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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

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5th and Main streets • www.incarnationwnc.org
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am in Sanctuary, Wed: Healing Eucharist 12 pm in Chapel,

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH HIGHLANDS

828-526-4153 • www.fbchighlands.org
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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

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Wed. Kidsquest 6p.; Worship 7p.

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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

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www.highlandsmethodist.org

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

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(4.5 miles from NC 107)

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

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Wednesdays: Prayer Mtg.: 7 p.m.

SCALY MOUNTAIN CHURCH OF GOD

290 Buck Knob Road; Pastor Donald G. Bates • 526-3212
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Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study: 6 p.m.
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WHITESIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Sunday School: 10 am. Worship Service: 11 am

• POLICE & FIRE REPORTS •

• CHHS NEWS •

Highlands Police entries from Feb. 16. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a summons/citation, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor or those of public officials have been used.

Feb. 16

• At 1:30 a.m., officers responded to a call of someone taking a jacket that didn't belong to them from the Ugly Dog Pub.

March 3

• At 8:58 a.m., officers responded to a 1-vehicle accident at Sherwood Forest and US 64 east (Cashiers Road).

March 5

• At 9 a.m., officers responded to an

unattended death at a residence on Upper Buttermilk Road.

March 12

• At 3:32 p.m., officers responded to a call of shoplifting at Sphinx Gas Station on N. 4th Street where someone left without paying for a coke.

March 14

• At 12:30 p.m., officers responded to a 2-vehicle accident in the Highlands Plaza parking lot.

The Highlands Fire & Rescue log from March 11.

March 11

• At 12:18 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on NC 106

(Dillard Road).

• At 3:03 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Aunt Dora Drive.

March 12

• At 5:35 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Country Club Drive.

• At 2:36 p.m., the dept. provided public assistance at a residence on Wilson Road.

• At 2:58 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Clubhouse Trail.

March 14

• At 5:45 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a location on Main Street.

March 15

• At 7:36 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on US 64 west (Franklin Road).

March 16

• At 9:10 a.m., the dept. responded to a call of a tree down on Lower Lake Road.

• At 10:07 a.m., the dept. provided traffic control on Buck Creek Road.

March 17

• At 2:51 p.m., the dept. investigated the cause of smoke at a location on Thisle Drive.



Photo by Marty Boone

Handsome Homer needs a home. Sweet, gentle, seven-year-old Homer is a recent arrival at the Cashiers-Highlands Humane Society. He is housetrained, easygoing and affectionate. Homer's adoption fee is only \$50 which includes already being neutered, microchipped, and up to date on vaccinations. For more information please visit chhumanesociety.org or call (828)743-5752.

Uprooted trees fell Saturday night



First Citizens Bank.



The Outpost outbuilding.

Photos by Kim Lewicki

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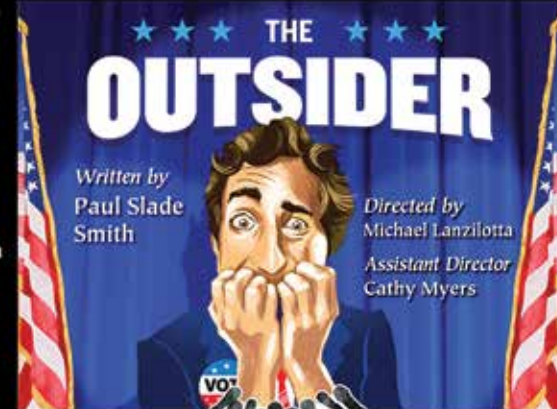
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(st. 3/6)



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HIGHLANDS/SCALY MOUNTAIN/CASHIERS

Highlands Hurricanes win St. Patrick's Invitational

Steve Hott
Head Coach
Highlands Hurricanes

On Saturday, March 15, 24 Highlands Hurricanes members traveled to Cullowhee to swim in the first meet ever in the new Jackson County Aquatics Center. The Hurricanes prevailed 356 to 289 over the Jackson County Swim Team.

The Hurricanes were led by Jr. Olympians Aniah Mc-Kim, Justin Powell and Bella Batista each winning 5 events and scoring 24 pts.

Ian Batista and Jr. Olympians Dodo Zhang and Elizabeth Burnette all won 4 events and added 22 pts. Anna Nicole Shchelgachova won 3 events and scored 19 pts. Morgan Mason, Katherine Wise and Hananiah Edwards scored 18 points. Edwards won 3 events, Mason and Wise, 1. Jr. Olympian Emilina Hernández brought home 16.5 pts. and

won 3 events.

Jaycee Powell and Andre Jimenez scored 11 pts – Powell won 2 events, Jimenez, 1. Ivan Shchelgachov and Benji Vines scored 11 pts. Vines also won an event. Aleks Petric-Sakonjic scored 10.5, Kate Vanderweile, 10, Stella Kerr and Agatha Jestin, 9, Alex Lopez and Max Jestin, 8, Emily Mason and Azariah Edwards, 7, and Nehemiah Edwards, 6.

The next Hurricanes meet will be Saturday, April 26, 2025 at home.

The Highlands Hurricanes Swim Team are a Highlands Recreation Park Team that practices in the evenings at the Highlands Recreation Park Pool. The only requirement to join the team is that a potential swimmer must be able to swim 25 yards (1 length of the rec park pool) unassisted. For further information please call Head Coach Steve Hott at 828.421.4121.

• 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.

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, 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.

• At the Rec Park, Senior Lunch at 12 noon.

March 22

• At the Bascom, a spring exhibitions reception at 3p. It's free.

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,

or by calling 828-526-9047.

April 11-12

• At the Bascom, Clay Symposium. Free.

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/>

Sat., April 26

• Plateau Pickup. Keep Highlands beautiful is a community-wide cleanup day dedicated to preserving our town's natural beauty. For more info, go to highlandschamber.org or call 828-526-2112.

• 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.

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

May-Sept.

• Outdoor Concert Series. Every Friday and Saturday evening 6-8:30 p.m. in Town Square and KH Founders Park.

May 1-4

• At PAC, Educational Theatre performance, Matilda.

Sat., May 17

• High Style. Explore the intersection of style and culture during the High Style event. For more info, go to highlandschamber.org or call 828-526-2112.

May 23-26

• At The Mountain Learning Center, Homecoming - Join us for our 45th Annual Gathering of Members and Friends from as we renew old connections and make new ones! Through workshops, entertainment and the annual meeting, we will speak of current projects and possibilities for the future. Featured Presentation: Environmental Impacts on Wellbeing with Dr. Stephen Lloyd. <https://www.themountainrlc.org/event/homecoming-2/>

Thurs., June 12

• Volunteer Fair. Looking to give back? Find the perfect volunteering opportunity at our annual Volunteer Fair, where local organizations share ways to make a difference. For more info, go to highlandschamber.org or call 828-526-2112.

• BIZ/ORG NEWS •

Love named Executive Director at The Bascom

The Bascom: A Center for the Visual Arts is pleased to announce the appointment of Billy Love as its new Executive Director. A longtime leader within the organization, Love has played a vital role in The Bascom's growth, serving in various leadership capacities, including multiple terms as Interim Executive Director.

"Well known and respected across the Plateau, and a gifted leader in the nonprofit arts sector, and under Billy's leadership, it's brighter still."



Billy Love

Billy has been at The Bascom for more than a decade," said Ann Wroblewski, Chair of The Bascom's Board of Directors. "He has served as Interim Executive Director several times, and the Board is delighted to remove the 'Interim' from his title. The future of The Bascom is bright for many reasons,

Landmark names Dahl General Manager and BIC

Landmark Realty Group and Landmark Vacation Rentals have named industry veteran Lauren Dahl as their new General Manager and Broker-in-Charge.

Bringing more than 15 years of experience in property management, brokerage leadership, and real estate education, Dahl

will oversee Landmark's five real estate sales and vacation rental offices across Sapphire, Cashiers, and Highlands.

Dahl brings extensive experience in real estate sales and short and long-term property management, having owned and led brokerages in Salt Lake City, Utah; Portland, OR; and Asheville, NC.

As an approved continuing education provider with the North Carolina Real Estate Commission, Dahl teaches required broker-in-charge and general update courses. She will serve as a key resource to Landmark's brokers, ensuring the highest standards of legal and ethical compliance for the firm's clients.

Dahl joined Landmark as a



Lauren Dahl

Project Manager in 2024 and has quickly made an impact by implementing key initiatives, including enhancing broker training and mentorship, optimizing technology and operations, and strengthening recruitment and retention of high-performing, client-focused

brokers. Looking ahead, she plans to introduce innovative marketing strategies and forge strategic partnerships to drive the company's continued growth and success.

Dahl will primarily be based at Landmark's Frank Allen location in Cashiers while regularly rotating between the company's other four offices to support its team of experienced, top-performing brokers. As a newer member of the community, she welcomes industry partners, local residents, and prospective clients to connect and collaborate. She can be reached at lauren@landmarkrg.com or 828-743-0510, extension 3645.

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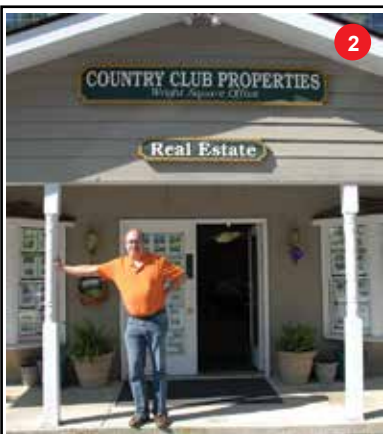
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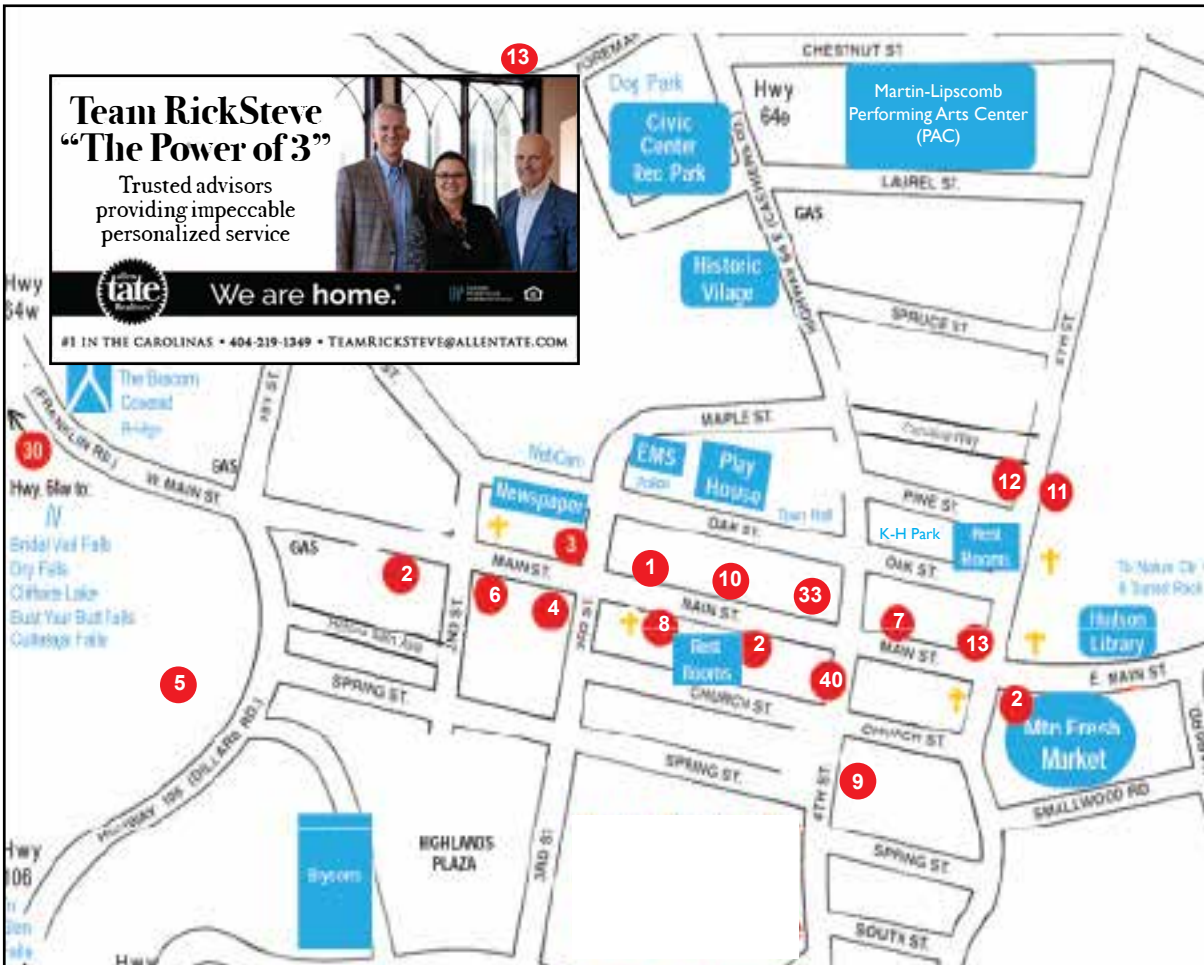
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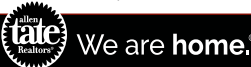
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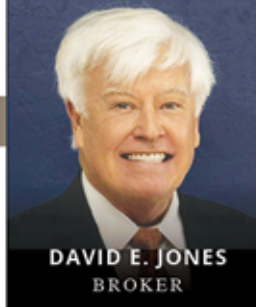
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