

# Highlands Newspaper

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Thurs., Aug. 8, 2024

## Western NC town comes for residential property rights

By Daryl James & Ari Bargil  
Institute of Justice

Losing land through eminent domain can hurt. But property

owners at least get compensation. A move by town officials in Highlands, North Carolina, may destroy people's livelihoods without

paying a dime.

The scheme is called "amortization," a regulatory tool with du-

• See **RIGHTS** page 9

## After-school program rates to increase for '24-'25 school year

By Kristin Fox

At the July meeting of the Macon County School Board, members unanimously approved a request by Jennifer Love, coordinator of the afterschool program, to raise the rates of after-school care.

The new rates approved by the school board will be \$13 daily rate, a dollar a day increase; \$65 weekly rate, up five dollars; and \$260 for four weeks.

Macon County School's afterschool program, Macon Ed-venture Program formerly known as VIP, is also not funded by the state and is a program that is a licensed childcare facility.

Over the last three years, the

• See **AFTERSHCOOL** page 17

## HF&R is a family tradition



Photo by Marjorie Crowe

At the annual Highlands Fire & Rescue Open House Saturday, volunteer since 2004 John Crowe accompanied his 90-year-old uncle, Wayne Crowe, on a ride. This was the first time Wayne had been in a fire truck since his retirement. Wayne is the oldest living retiree of the HF&R Dept. and served from 1974 to 1994. About 400 people turned out for Open House for free firetruck rides and free hotdog lunches. About 350 hotdogs were served, about 25 rides were given through town and about \$1,200 was donated to the dept.

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## On-line eCourts system means less trips to the courthouse and more

By Kristin Fox

Since 2023, the North Carolina Judicial Branch has been working with counties across the state to switch counties from paper to digital court records in its efforts to switch to a statewide use of eCourts. ECourts is new software applications and technology infrastructure improvements that will transition the state's court system from paper to digital services by 2025.

Macon County and 10 other western North Carolina counties recently made the switch from paper to digital court records in the state's latest eCourts expansion. The recent additions mark the halfway point for a 10-track expansion project that will include implementation for district and superior courts in all 100 counties of North Carolina.

In addition to Macon County, the fifth track of the expansion also included Buncombe, Cherokee, Clay, Graham, Haywood,

Henderson, Jackson, Polk, Swain, and Transylvania counties, which all converted to eCourts digital court records in July.

North Carolina Chief Supreme Court Justice Paul Newby visited Macon County as a part of the recent expansion. Newby, his wife and staff spent several hours touring the Macon County Courthouse including the clerk of courts office and courtrooms. During his time at the courthouse, Newby visited with Macon County Deputy Clerk Shawna Lamb and Resident Superior Court Judge Tessa S. Sellers.

"There will be many benefits for us and the community with the new eCourts system," said Lamb. "With time and patience, everyone will benefit somehow from it. ECourts will empower the public with access to justice online 24/7 to check court dates, find records, and file documents instead of limiting access to courthouses

• See **ECOURTS** page 22

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# • THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

## • MAYOR ON DUTY •

### It's time to 'Reclaim Health Care WNC'



Highlands Mayor  
Patrick Taylor

On January 25th, I wrote in this column: "My suggestion is that HCA Mission needs to consider a new Asset Purchase Agreement and sell the system to another provider. They paid \$1.5 billion for Mission, which some critics now say was a giveaway price orchestrated by Paulus, Ball, and the Mission board. Dogwood, the recipient of the 1.5-billion-dollar sale, might very well have a role to play in the sale process."

When I wrote the piece in January, I didn't realize that other community leaders in WNC shared my view that it was time for HCA to sell Mission Health. In the following weeks, I met with many healthcare stakeholders concerning how to address the problems that were surfacing about Mission HCA. Last week, this group of concerned citizens and professionals rolled out Reclaim Health Care WNC. I am a charter member of the group. Please visit the Reclaim Healthcare WNC website for more information.

#### Highlands Newspaper

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#### Letter Policy:

There is a 500-word limit. We reserve the right to reject or edit letters-to-the-editor. No anonymous letters will be accepted. Views expressed are not necessarily those of Highlands Newspaper.

#### Obituary Policy:

We do not charge for obituaries at this time, but we reserve the right to edit as needed for space.

Reclaim Healthcare WNC has three primary goals. First, we call for replacing HCA with a non-profit healthcare provider committed to the healthcare needs of WNC residents. Put another way, the HCA corporate healthcare model does not work for Asheville and WNC. Second, we want HCA to be held accountable for harmful practices. Corporate profits have had priority over patient care. Third, we want a restoration of best-in-

class medical practices across the system. For instance, providing adequate staffing to meet patient needs and maintaining top specialist doctors in critical areas such as cancer treatment and urology.

Reclaim Healthcare WNC is not the only voice demanding change for Mission HCA. The attorney general, Josh Stein, has filed legal action maintaining HCA has not lived up to the 2019 asset purchase agreement. The new monitor tasked with verifying compliance with the asset purchase terms, Affiliated Monitors, also recently expressed compliance concerns. Now, this past week, the Dogwood Health Trust has weighed in by expressing concerns about the HCA's quality of care and healthcare access for residents.

Several months ago, the US Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services issued an immediate patient jeopardy warning for violations of federal care standards to Mission Memorial Hospital, the flagship of the healthcare system. While that status has been recently lifted, Mission is still under scrutiny by this federal agency. If that were not enough, Congressman Chuck Edwards just posted an op-ed in the Asheville Citizens Times stating that mega-mergers like HCA Mission increase healthcare costs and, at the same time, diminish patient care. The congressman points out that these cost increases put more pressure on federal programs like Medicare.

With all these issues now taking place, it was recently revealed that the Mission HCA Health system is the second most profitable unit in the HCA's 185-hospital corporation. The net patient revenue for Mission in the past 12 months was just under \$1.3 billion dollars, certainly an impressive return for HCA stockholders.

I have talked with nurses and doctors

who work at Mission Memorial. They paint a very concerning picture of what is going on there. As the nurses I talked with explained, HCA reduced staffing and services while increasing prices for services in order

to post those huge profits. That original cost to acquire Mission Health, \$1.5 billion dollars, turned out to be a tremendous deal for the corporation and stockholders and a





• See MAYOR page 4

## • HIC'S VIEW •



"Why all the flies? It's the ambiance."

## • WEATHER •

Thu, 8-Aug	Fri, 9-Aug	Sat, 10-Aug	Sun, 11-Aug
 79°F 65°F	 81°F 60°F	 82°F 58°F	 80°F 57°F
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## Crime-Solving sleuths in England



Kathy Manos Penn

### Locked in Pursuit

by Ashley Weaver

The quote about Phyllida Bright comes from this author of the Electra McDonnell series, another of my favorites. This mystery, set in England during World War II, has another strong female protagonist, but Ellie is no housekeeper. She's a safecracker, roped into working for Major Ramsey

to thwart the Nazis at every turn. Of course, both she and the major are good looking and single, but their backgrounds couldn't be more different. He's a nobleman. She's carrying on the family tradition of thievery.

In this fourth installment, they discover an odd rash of burglaries in London, and soon figure out that the crimes have their origin in Lisbon. Spies are in search of something more important than jewels.

Solving the crime is the main plot, of course, but the subplots are what keep me coming back. There's the chemistry between Ellie and the Major, something they fight hard not to give into it. There's Felix, the family friend who's clearly in love with her. There's her quest to find out more about her mother and father. In each book, these storylines evolve and intertwine.

Unfortunately for me, this fourth book came out in May, which means I'll have to wait until 2025 for my next fix. I'm hearing that Carly Simon song, "Anticipation," as I think about waiting a whole year.

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/).

It's no secret that I adore mysteries set in the UK. Make it a cozy mystery with a strong female lead, and I'm set. If an author wants to hook me for life, setting it during World War I, between the wars, or in the midst of World War II will do the trick. This week's books fit the bill.

### Murder by Invitation Only by Colleen Cambridge

The third book in the Phyllida Bright Mystery series is every bit as good as its predecessors, and I'm eagerly awaiting the fourth due out in October. Set between the World Wars in a country house in England, it is both charming and intriguing.

Phyllida is Agatha Christie's housekeeper, and in the earlier books, we learn that she and Agatha have a past. What it is exactly is leaked to us as the series goes on. I'm sure that keeping Phyllida's back story vague is part of what keeps readers coming back for more. But that's not all. Every book is peppered with witty dialogue and multiple allusions to Agatha Christie's books and plots.

In this outing, Agatha, and her husband Max Mallowan receive an invitation to a murder party but are in London. Intrigued, Agatha sends Phyllida. Of course, there is a murder at the murder party.

Once again, Phyllida emulates her favorite detective, Poirot, as she ferrets out the clues that will reveal the murderer. If you haven't met Phyllida Bright yet, I highly recommend you do so soon.

What does one of my other favorite authors have to say about her? "Phyllida Bright, housekeeper to Agatha Christie, has the crime-solving skills to rival her employer's famous detectives . . . Utterly delightful."

## ...MAYOR continued from page 2

real sellout to the people needing healthcare in Western North Carolina.

Is more corporatization of healthcare the solution of the future? Or is there another alternative to viewing healthcare as an essential public service? In small, underserved areas, this is a huge, foreboding question. In Highlands, we are already seeing the pressure to save our local pharmacy in the face of major insurance companies and pharmaceutical companies teaming up to price independent pharmacies out of

business. Residents are routinely reminded that HCA could close our small hospital in the future, especially if it is not profitable.

I do not have the answers to these questions, but I do believe it is time for changes to healthcare in Western North Carolina. HCA selling the Mission system is a distant prospect. But hopefully, public demand and state and federal reforms will make the corporate decision-makers change how critical services are delivered.

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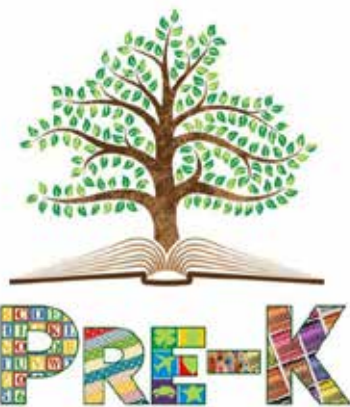
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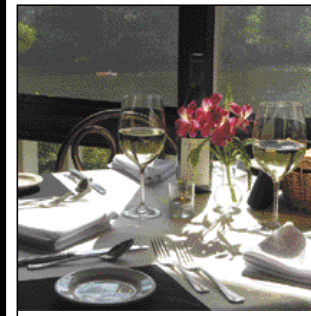


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# • LETTERS •

## We must make the world worthy of its children

Dear Editor:

Present-day political unrest reminds me of the Spanish cellist, conductor and composer, Pav Casals, known in English as Pablo Casals. Casals was born in El Vendrell, Spain, December 29th, 1876. He lived in France after 1936, and Puerto Rico after 1956, where he died, October 22nd, 1973.

In addition to his “virtuosic” technique and skilled interpretation of music, he was a deep thinker and valued sage in his time. A sampling of his profound beliefs include: “I feel the capacity to care is the thing which gives life its deepest significance.” “The first thing to do in life is to do with purpose what one purposes to do.” “We must all work to make the world worthy of its children.” He’s exactly right. America has benefited greatly because a lot was once expected of her children.

Casals captured the attention of Albert Einstein (a scholar in his own right) who had this to offer (circa 1938 during Hitler’s advance across Europe): “It’s certainly unnecessary to await my voice in acclaiming Pablo Casals a very great artist since all who are qualified to speak are unanimous on the subject. What I particularly admire in him is the firm stand he has taken, not only against the oppressions of his countrymen, but also against those opportunists who are always ready to compromise with the Devil. He perceives clearly that the world is in greater peril from those who tolerate or encourage evil than those who actually commit it.”

Martin Luther King also recognized the importance and true value of citizen involvement when, 30 years later, proclaimed, “Our lives begin to end when we remain silent about the things that matter.”

And, corroborated as well, by Nobel laureate Wole Soyinka, quoted in The Cable (Nigeria): “The man dies in all who keep silent in the face of tyranny.”

So, here we are - 2024. Former president #45 became the first U.S. president to refuse to concede an election, the first to incite a deadly armed attack (a Coup D’Etat) on his own Capitol and the first to be convicted of a crime (actually 34 crimes) which, in most Western democracies, would be disqualifying in the eyes of voters.

In the United States however, Republicans rally around their twice-impeached felon, uniting with their unprincipled role model to attack judges, prosecutors, or anyone attempting to hold the former president accountable. This undeniably speaks to the magnitude of the moral and ethical degeneration of the once proud Grand Old Party.

The core, the very heart and soul of the matter; although the former president is unquestionably guilty of crimes (some of which he’s been convicted, others for which he hasn’t and may never be), Albert Einstein observed: “The world is not dangerous because of those who do harm, it’s dangerous because of those who watch and do nothing.”

Americans must recognize that by choosing to remain silent and watch, we irrefutably confirm the major accomplice to the crimes and corruption occurring around us - is our own indifference.

David L. Snell  
Franklin

## Why it’s important to stand with Ukraine

Dear Editor,

As the conflict in Ukraine continues, it is crucial that we stand in solidarity with this resilient nation. Here are compelling reasons why supporting Ukraine matters:

**1. Sovereignty and Territorial Integrity:** Ukraine’s borders have been violated, and its territorial integrity threatened. Upholding international law means supporting Ukraine’s right to self-determination. Supporting Ukraine sends a message that the international community stands against aggression and the violation of national borders.

**2. Strategic Importance:** Ukraine lies at the crossroads of Europe and Asia. Stability in this region is vital for global security. Supporting Ukraine strengthens democratic values of freedom and democracy and counters aggression.

**3. Humanitarian Concerns:** Civilians suffer the most during conflicts. By supporting Ukraine, we aid those displaced, injured, and traumatized. Our compassion matters.

**4. Historical Ties:** Ukraine has a rich cultural heritage and historical ties to Europe. Supporting Ukraine honors shared values and promotes peace. Providing aid underscores American global leadership during times of crisis. It demonstrates commitment to international order and security.

**5. Energy Security:** Ukraine plays a role in Europe’s energy supply. Supporting its stability ensures energy diversification and reduces dependence on other sources.

Let us raise our voices, advocate for peace, and support Ukraine in its pursuit of sovereignty and justice.

Lyn de la Houssaye  
Highlands

• See LETTERS page 15

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# • INVESTING AT 4,118 Ft. •

## The Grandfather Clause

In 1967, there was a popular song by The Zombies, Time of the Season, and part of the lyrics were "What's your name? Who's your Daddy?" The song had a hypnotic beat and harmony. I'd like to go back another generation. The Grandfather. Most of the time, the connotation of Who's your Daddy? was 'who's the big man here?' or 'who's the boss?' Whereas grandfather is generally known as being more lenient, more forgiving and of course, giving more candy.



Jeannie Chambers  
Chambers Realty  
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Grandfathers are cool. I bet you know a few. Grandfathers are so special that the law recognizes the word to help people who don't comprehend lawyerly things and to better understand the law.

Now, there's no question that once zoning Czars add, enact or otherwise change things that used to be acceptable, those things are now considered to be a "non-conforming use."

I consider non-conforming to be a derogatory reference. I'm taking this next line way out of context but, like Tevye from Fiddler on the Roof said, "The good book says..." Romans 12:2, says "Be not conformed to this world..." To me, non-conforming says, "OK, you can be here, but nobody wants you because you're not like the others. You haven't conformed into one of us."

That's just rude. What if you bought a house and someone came to your house and told you that?

And that's where our sweet grandfathers come in. He may not be Santa Claus, but he's a good guy just like Santa, and in a way, still gives us candy. He's the GRANDFATHER CLAUSE, and the white beard is optional.

A grandfather clause translates to something like this, and remember, I'm no lawyer, "If a landowner is using land in a certain way prior to the enactment of a zoning ordinance, then the prior use may continue even if the new zoning laws do not allow for the prior use. The keyword here is PRIOR. Prior

use and prior to the enactment of zoning laws.

So, even if a use is being discontinued while the Orwellian Ministry of Whatever is in place, any past use should be covered under a grandfather clause. "Prior to the enactment" means prior, not necessarily prior to a certain date.

This is not an editorial column and this is not a letter-to-the editor. These are statements written in story/essay form from a Realtor with more than

30 years of real estate history in this market. You don't have to agree with me, but we all need to use common sense.

For instance, where my office is located, my husband's ancestors once had a nine-hole golf course. Does that mean I think I should be able to go outside and whack a few golf balls every now and then? No, or course not. The building we use as our office has been a home, a Bed and Breakfast, multi-family, a home office for several businesses and lastly as a real estate and vacation rental office. It should be able to be used for many things, and so should your home if it had prior uses.

Zoning has its place, and so do grandfather clauses and independent conforming uses. (That sounds so much better and inclusive than "non") Instead of saying NO!, you're saying, "in a different way."

A Realtor can help you learn more before you buy or sell. Real estate forms keep having additional pages and changing verbiage. Every time there are variations made to real estate law, or if the lawyers who make up the verbiage of the forms think it should be worded differently, there's a change. The forms are to protect the consumer, both buyers and sellers.

Agency transparency is what is being hammered these days, although North Carolina has been disclosing agencies for decades.

(Check last week's well-written Investing at 4,118 Ft. in the Aug. 1 edition of Highlands Newspaper by Carl Romberg for more information on that topic.)

## ...MAYOR continued from page 4

Since 2019, HCA has had a healthcare system monopoly in Western North Carolina. The people of Western North Carolina deserve stewardship of a hospital system that is committed to the highest quality of care possible. Residents should welcome

more competition and healthcare options.

Let me stress my support for the dedicated staff, nurses, and doctors who work in Mission HCA facilities. My concerns center around the corporate administration of the system.



## ...RIGHTS continued from page 1

bious origins. While eminent domain invites abuse, the Constitution at least allows it under certain circumstances. Amortization, on the other hand, is totally made up.

The process works in slow motion. Rather than transferring real estate to itself for public use, the government puts an expiration date on revenue-generating activities it wants to cancel and then waits. When the deadline arrives, targeted property owners must shut down or move.

No title changes hands. And nobody is grandfathered in, the normal procedure when zoning laws change. People earning an honest living — sometimes for years in the same spot — suddenly find themselves outside the law.

It's like telling vehicle owners they can keep their cars but no longer drive them. Or telling musicians they can keep their instruments but no longer play them. The objects stay the same but lose value.

This is what Highlands wants to do with short-term rental units in residential zones. If a proposed ordinance passes, host families could keep their houses but not list them on sites like Airbnb or Vrbo. The measure would build on existing restrictions, which already prohibit new vacation rental listings.

Hosts already in operation, who pre-

viously invested in home repairs, interior design, and landscaping to attract guests, would be out of luck. So would retirees who rely on short-term rentals to pay bills.

If Highlands officials implemented this plan right away, the Fifth Amendment might call the crackdown a taking and demand “just compensation.” But Highlands officials claim a workaround. They say that by delaying enforcement to Sept. 15, 2027, homeowners would have time to recover their investments and alter their plans — a counterfeit type of compensation that would cost the town nothing.

The North Carolina Court of Appeals struck down a similar scheme in Wilmington in 2022. Retirees David and Peg Schroeder, who bought a townhouse and fixed it up for vacation rentals, sued when the city attempted to shut them down using amortization. They won on grounds unrelated to amortization, and now Highlands thinks it can take



**Daryl James**



**Ari Bargil**

advantage of something the court left unsaid. Our public interest law firm, which represented the Schroeders, will closely watch what Highlands does next. We already countered an amortization plan that Highlands contemplated two years ago. Now the town is trying again. We sent a letter to the mayor and Board of Commissioners on July 17, 2024, laying out the constitutional problems.

Forcing homeowners to eliminate a lawful existing land-use would violate their reasonable expectations when they purchased real estate and made improvements. North Carolina courts have allowed amortization only in narrow cases. One state Supreme Court decision from 50 years ago involved an industrial scrapyard. More recent rulings have involved billboards.

North Carolina courts have never allowed amortization for low-intensity uses in residential zones. Highlands would be push-

ing the boundaries. The step backward on property rights would be one more example of misguided policies that needlessly limit reasonable activities on private land.

Examples abound nationwide. Zoning police tried to stop Bianca King from running a small day care at her home in Lakeway, Texas. They tried to stop Pat Raynor from styling hair at her home in Nashville, Tennessee. They tried to stop Kathy Hay from operating a “little free pantry” in her back yard in Asotin County, Washington. And they are trying to force Rick Polizzi to tear down a front-yard treehouse at his home in Los Angeles.

Municipal planners often cite vague goals like preserving “neighborhood harmony,” “stability,” “desirability,” “morals,” “comfort,” “convenience,” and “general welfare.” But laws already exist to keep neighbors in line. If partygoers blast music after 10 pm or cause other disturbances, the police or code enforcers can respond.

An extreme measure like amortization is not only unconstitutional but unnecessary. Homes are sacred spaces. Public planners should not intrude without good reason.

•Daryl James is an Institute for Justice writer. Ari Bargil is a senior attorney with the Institute for Justice. Founded in 1991, the Institute for Justice (IJ) is a nonprofit, public interest law firm.

### Own a piece of Highlands history!

**MLS #103319 & 103221 • \$3,400,000**

This is the first time it's been on the market. Built in 1931, with chestnut paneling on the main level, this property has been a residence, home occupation, B&B, and now the location of Chambers Realty.

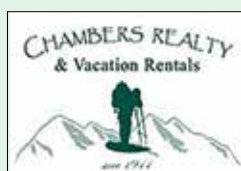


### In the coveted Webbmont area

**MLS #105769 • \$795,000**

This property is the prize of this season! It's a log home with all the charm of an old log cabin, even though it's not even half a century old. It has two bedrooms, two baths, a bonus room, a covered porch, and a wrap-around porch. A workshop, covered firewood storage, a circular drive, and perennial favorites help complete the charm.

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Participants from left: Barbara James, Lyn de la Houssaye, Bobby Grace, Jane Glass, Nan Cummins, Freda Bennet, Virginia Nix, and Vivian Brewer. (Several members aren't pictured.)

## Stay younger longer

Wilma Gordon, 92, a longtime resident of Highlands, has been going to exercise classes at the Rec Center for almost 30 years. When asked how it has improved her life, the first thing she said was it keeps her moving. It keeps her flexible and able to walk up and down stairs. She said she has good balance and strength from the exercises and walking in class.

The exercise class at the Rec Center has been going on for almost 40 years. Hundreds of men and women have participated and benefitted from consistent attendance. It makes a difference in everyday life.

Balance improves stability and prevents falls. Building balance not only increases confidence but also contributes to overall safety in daily life.

Strength tones your muscles using floor exercises and walking.

Stretching gets rid of stiffness, increases flexibility, reduces muscle tension,

and enhances circulation.

Come join our friendly community of like-minded individuals who are committed to improving their health and well-being. Meet new people and keep moving.

The name of the class is Balance, Stretch and Strengthen.

It meets Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 8:30-9:30a in the gym at the Highlands Recreational Center. Our temporary instructor is Vivian Brewer while Cathy Hodgson heals from hip surgery.

This is the best deal in town - \$30 a month.

No need to sign up; just show up! Wear comfortable workout clothes and shoes.

If you have a question call the front desk at 828-526-4799.

Note: always consult with your healthcare provider before starting any new exercise program.

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# • MILESTONES •



## Preschoolers head to kindergarten!

On August 1, the Highlands Community Child Care Center held its annual preschool graduation for the students leaving HCCDC and moving on to "Big School," entering kindergarten later this month.



## 60 and fabulous!

After turning the big 6-0 Thursday, Aug. 1, Tina Rogers celebrated with friends and family at the High Dive Sat., Aug. 3 with a night full of dancing and comraderie. Happy Birthday Tina!

# Highlands-Cashiers Center for Life Enrichment Program Highlights

**Clean Up, Clear Out, Unclutter iPhones/iPads**  
Instructor: Loraine Smith, Friday, August 9, 10:00-noon, \$40 for members / \$50 for non-members

**Understanding the Cloud**  
Instructor: Loraine Smith, Friday, August 9, 1:00-2:00, \$40 for members / \$50 for non-members

**Politics and Film**  
Presenter: Daniel Franklin, Monday, August 12, 2:00-4:00, \$30 for members / \$40 for non-members

**Botanical EcoTour: Through an Old Growth Forest**  
Guide: Adam Bigelow, Tuesday, August 13, 8:30-noon, \$50 for members / \$60 for non-members

**The Life and Legacy of Bobby Jones**  
Presenter: Catherine Lewis, Tuesday, August 13, 2:00-4:00, \$30 for members / \$40 for non-members

**Don't Ask What I Shot: How Eisenhower's Love of Golf Helped Shape 1950s America**  
Presenter: Catherine Lewis, Wednesday, August 14, 10:00-noon, \$30 for members / \$40 for non-members

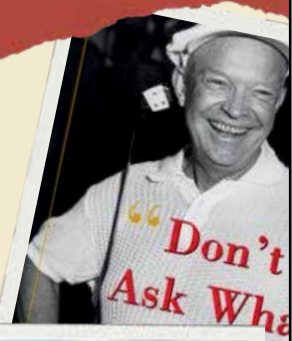
**George C. Marshall and Robert E. Lee**  
Presenter: Rob Havers, Thursday, August 15, 2:00-4:00, \$30 for members / \$40 for non-members

**War and Remembrance: How Wars Are Predicted and How Wars Are Remembered**  
Presenter: Rob Havers, Friday, August 16, 10:00-noon, \$30 for members / \$40 for non-members

**Art Workshop: Drawing For All!**  
Instructor: Mary Cavaioli, Friday, August 16, 1:00-3:30, \$70 for members / \$80 for non-members

**Freedom of Speech: The Essential Prerequisite to Liberal Democracy**  
Presenter: Robert Corn-Revere, Monday, August 19, 10:00-noon, \$30 for members / \$40 for non-members

**The Art and Science of Pairing Food and Wine**  
Presenter: Joe Frank, Tuesday, August 20, 3:00-5:00, \$80 for members / \$90 for non-members



To register for these and other CLE programs, please visit [clehighlands.com](http://clehighlands.com)

(828) 526-8811

[office@clehighlands.com](mailto:office@clehighlands.com)



# • HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

## SUMMER POOL SCHEDULE

**Lap Swim** Mon.-Fri. 6am-9:45am, and Saturday 10am-1pm 6 lanes. **Water Aerobics** 18 years

## MOVIES

### at PAC's MLPC

507 Chestnut St. Highlands



**Tuesday, Aug. 13**  
at 2p

**Tues., Aug. 20**  
2p

### Tickets:

**Adults: \$13.20**

**Children: \$11**

boxoffice@

highlandsp Performingarts.com

828-526-9047

plus Mon.-Fri. 10am-1am with Karen Chambers. **Public Swim** Mon. thru Thurs. 11am-7pm, Fri. and Sat. 11am-6pm and Sun. 1pm-6pm. For info, call 828-526-1595.

### PICKLE BALL

• At the Recreation Dept. every Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday 10am-1pm indoors for the winter (notice the days and time has changed), everyone is welcome meetings

### ALL WEEK

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

### SUNDAYS & TUESDAYS

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

### ON-GOING

• At Hudson Library, Readers from 0 to 99 will have adventures this

summer as Hudson Library presents "Adventure Begins at Your Library" summer learning program. The 2024 Summer Learning Program is free to all participants and starts June 1. No registration is needed for any of these programs. For more information about any of these summer activities, contact Hudson Library at 828-526-3031, or stop by the library during open hours.

• **Mountain Findings Hours:** Thurs.-Sat., 10a to 1p.

### Mon.-Fri.

• Nantahala Tennis plays at the Highlands Rec Park 9a-1p.

### Mon-Wed-Fri

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

• Heart Healthy Exercise Class at the Rec Park 8:30-9:30am. The cost for the class is \$25 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 and feel great.

• At Hudson Library, Nature Kids on selected Tuesday mornings. For more info call the Hudson Library at 828-526-3031.

• At Wayfarers Chapel, Workshop for Writers – Tuesdays from 5-6:30 PM. Facilitated by Sam Renken, this group has a simple mission: to foster and provide consistent community for local writers thereby giving writers of all ages and genres

the opportunity to write, read, revise, and present their work to the group.

• 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)

### 3rd Tuesdays

• Free Community Stretch & Yoga in the Park Summer Series, sponsored by the Highlands Chamber of Commerce-Visit Highlands NC, will be offered by Certified Instructors/Yoga Highlands on the 3rd Tuesday of the month @ 6pm beginning May 21. Please bring a mat and water, dress comfortably, and let's celebrate health and relaxation. No experience necessary! (next dates: 6/18, 7/16 and 8/20)

### 2nd Wednesdays

• Hudson Library, in partnership with VAYA Health, is hosting an educational series on adult mental health topics, held on the first Wednesday of each month 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. The November 1 program is Dementia: A Deeper Understanding. Reservations are required for this free event. 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 appointments are required - all are welcome.

• Pickle Ball inside and outside at the Rec Park. 10am-1pm, everyone is welcome so come out and enjoy a game of Pickle Ball.

### 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 combination class with different types of exercise. Contact the Recreation Department at 828-526-3556 for more information

### 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, Family Storytime continues during the summer, every Thursday morning at 10:40 AM. We'll read books, sing fun songs, and move with the music.

• At Hudson Library, special children's events will be on tap on Thursday afternoons at 3:30 Kids Zone programs. June 6 features Aquatic Insects, an EcoSplash program presented by Mainspring Conservation Trust. Kids will have the chance to learn all about the macro invertebrates in our local rivers, getting hands-on with them and also viewing them through a digital microscope.

• Highlands Biological Foundation's Zahner lectures is held at the Highlands Nature Center (930 Horse Cove Road) on Thursdays at 6:00 p.m. through August 15. To preview HBF's full Zahner lecture lineup, please visit [highlandsbiological.org](http://highlandsbiological.org). The Highlands Nature Center is part of the Highlands Biological Station, a multi-campus center of Western Carolina University.

### Fridays

• At Hudson Library, Friday afternoons at 2 PM, there's a variety of children's programs including board games, STEM programs, and craft afternoons. The June 7 STEM program will feature a variety of building sets, including some that are brand-new to our library collection. Kids will love seeing what they can create!

### Saturdays

• Story Ballet - a gentle ballet & creative movement class for Children 3-4. The flow of class follows a story or theme that changes each month, engaging imaginations! Saturday 5:30-6:30pm. 828-421-6720

• Adult Ballet - crafted for beginners, but mindfully taught for all levels. Ballet is an excellent way to move, grow stronger, improve balance, flexibility and coordination while having fun. 6:30-7:30pm. 828-421-6720.

### 2nd Saturdays

• The Western North Carolina Woodturners Club meets in Highlands at The Bascom at 10 a.m. thru Nov.

### 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

## Highlands Hurricanes place at 'Nationals'

By Steve Hott  
Head Coach

Over the 6-day period from July 23-28, 12 Highlands Hurricanes Swam at AAU Nationals (Jr. Olympics) held in Greensboro, NC.

Representing Highlands were Finneas Garner, Aniah McKim, Jasmine Abranyi, Conner Hughes, Paolo McCrae, Dodo Zhang, Justin Powell, Alex Lopez, Aleks Petric-Sakonjic, Emilina Hernández, Lilliana Jandera-Chambless and Bella Batista. Qualifying, but unable to swim due to injuries were Dasha Halldin and Emma Denisoff.

Four of the 12 medaled.

Jandera-Chambless brought home a gold medal (100 freestyle), two silvers (100

backstroke, 100 breaststroke), two bronzes (50 back, 50 breast), and a 5th (50 free).

Abranyi was 5th in the 100 freestyle; Garner finished 6th in the 50 free; McKim scored 8th in the 100 breaststroke and Powell finished 9th (1st alternate for finals and medals) in the 200 freestyle.

Next year Houston, Texas, last year Des Moines, Iowa.

The Highlands Hurricanes are a Highlands Recreation Park Team that practices mostly in the evenings at the Highlands Recreation Park Pool.

The only requirement to join is that a prospective swimmer must be able to swim 25 yards, the length of the pool, unassisted. For more information, call 828.421.4121.



# ● HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS ●

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 9 AM on the 3rd Saturday of the month.

## Sundays

• Church in the Wildwood, Horse Cove RD, Highlands. Sunday 7-8 p.m. traditional hymn-sing. Call or text Gwyn Hardin for information or directions. 919-523-7067. All are welcome.

• 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).

## Thru Mid-October

• Visit the Cashiers Historical Society every Friday & Saturday for a guided tour of the 1850s Zachary-Tolbert House and other historic structures on their five-acre campus. Tours will be available from 11am - 3pm on the top of the hour. CHS is located at 1940 HY 107 S Cashiers, NC 28717.

## Thurs., Aug. 8

• At The Bascom, Artist talk with TJ Erdahl and Beau Raymond 4 pm

• The Highlands Biological Foundation (HBF) invites the community to its next Zahner Conservation Lecture on Thursday, from 6 to 7PM. Dr. Aimee Rockhill, an Associate Professor at Western Carolina University, will present "Roaming the Wilds: Exploring NC Mammals Shore to Summit." A small reception will follow.

## Fri., Aug. 9

• Author Shelli Altopp Miller will appear at Hudson Library on Friday at 11a to talk about her newly-released novel Where Your Treasure Lies. Books will be available for purchase and signing at this free event.

• Friday Night Live showcases traditional mountain music and exceptional local talent on Main Street's Town Square 6-8:30 p.m. - ABC Combo

## Sat., Aug. 10

• Saturdays on Pine at Kelsey-Hutchinson Founders Park 6-8:30 p.m. - Will Thompson Band

## Wed., Aug. 14

• At Hudson Library, Adulting 101. Please join Julie Upshaw, Esq. of Blue Ridge Legacy Law at Hudson Library on August 14, 2024 at 4:00 PM for Adulting 101: Estate Planning for Young Adults, Their Parents and anyone 18+. Did you know? If your children are 18 or older, you don't have the authority to help them in an emergency, unless they have the proper legal documents in place.

## Thurs., Aug. 15

• At The Bascom. A Barn Dance. Tickets are \$10 for adults. Children under 12 are free. Food will be available for purchase from The Secret Garden. A cash bar will also be available. Reserve your tickets today by visiting [thebascom.org](http://thebascom.org) or calling 828.526.4949

## Fri., Aug. 16

• Friday Night Live showcases traditional mountain music and exceptional local talent on Main Street's Town Square 6-8:30 p.m. - Steady Hand String Band

## Sat., Aug. 17

• At The Bascom, Blacksmithing Trunk Show 1-5 p.m.

## Thurs.-Sun., Aug. 22-25

• At PAC, Highlands Community Players presents "The Lifespan of a Fact" at 7:30p and 2p on Sunday. For tickets go to: [www.highlandscashiersplayers.com](http://www.highlandscashiersplayers.com) or call 828-526-9047.

## Thurs., Aug. 22

• Highlands School Orientation/Open House is 3-6 pm\* At  
• The Bascom, From the Lowlands to the Highlands Exhibition Reception 5-6:30 pm

## Fri.-Sat., Aug 23 - 31

• Cashiers Designer Showhouse is the Cashiers Historical Society's signature fundraising event. The Showhouse has become a cherished tradition for over two decades, showcasing stunning homes and exquisite designs by interior designers from the Southeast and beyond. The special events during the Showhouse are a beloved part of this tradition, highlighting community and lifestyle events. Tickets for this event are \$40 and \$50 at the door. They are available for purchase at [cashiershistoricalsociety.org](http://cashiershistoricalsociety.org) and select local retailers.

• The Cashiers Historical Society's Jan Wyatt Symposium Exhibit "Talking Trout" will be displayed at Brookings Anglers Fly Shop throughout the run of the 2024 Showhouse. Stop by Brookings Cashiers location to see the exhibit and to learn about the history and evolution of native trout and fly fishing in Western NC.

## Thurs., Aug. 22:

• HCH's Dinner with Doc - Facial plastic surgery options at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital - Chris Wenzel, MD, 6-7p in Whiteside Cafeteria. Online registration is available at [www.missionhealth.org/calendar](http://www.missionhealth.org/calendar). For more information, call 828-526-1345. Attendance is limited to 50 people. A buffet-style dinner will be provided.

## Fri., Aug. 23

• The Cashiers Historical Society presents "Historically Cashiers Designer Panel Luncheon" on Friday, from 11am - 1pm at Canyon Kitchen in Lonesome Valley. This is a Cashiers Designer Showhouse Special Event and all proceeds benefit the Cashiers Historical Society. Tickets for this event are \$175 and available for purchase at [cashiershistoricalsociety.org](http://cashiershistoricalsociety.org).

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

## Sat. & Sun., Aug. 24-25

• Art and Craft Show in KH Founders Park on Pine Street. 10a to 5p Saturday and 10a to 4p on Sunday. Rain or shine.

## Sat., Aug. 24

• The Cashiers Historical Society presents "Talkin' Bourbon with Blade and Bow" on Saturday, 1- 2pm at the Pavilion at Village

Green. This is a Cashiers Designer Showhouse Special Event that is free and open to the public. Visit [cashiershistoricalsociety.org](http://cashiershistoricalsociety.org) for more information.

## Sun., Aug. 25

• The Cashiers Historical Society presents "Introduction to Mountain Gardening: What am I supposed to do with my landscape?" with the Oconee Bell Chapter of the NC Native Plant Society on Sunday 1 - 2 pm at the Pavilion at Village Green. This is a Cashiers Designer Showhouse Special Event that is free and open to the public. Visit [cashiershistoricalsociety.org](http://cashiershistoricalsociety.org) for more information.

• OEI's Chef Dinners at The Farm. 3RD ANNUAL SUNDAY SUPPER. Book Online at [OldEdwardsHospitality.com/ChefDinners](http://OldEdwardsHospitality.com/ChefDinners)

## Mon., Aug. 26

• The Cashiers Historical Society presents "Shag You Say, Let's Dance the Away" - Step into the World of Carolina Shag with Danie Beck on Monday 3 - 5 pm at Micas Mountain

Kitchen. This is a Cashiers Designer Showhouse Special Event and all proceeds benefit the Cashiers Historical Society. Tickets for this event are \$40 and available for purchase at [cashiershistoricalsociety.org](http://cashiershistoricalsociety.org).

## Thurs.-Sun., Aug. 29-Sept. 1

• At PAC, Highlands Community Players presents "The Lifespan of a Fact" at 7:30p and 2p on Sunday. For tickets go to: [www.highlandscashiersplayers.com](http://www.highlandscashiersplayers.com) or call 828-526-9047.

## Thurs., Aug. 29

• The Cashiers Historical Society presents "Entertaining with Biscuits" Live Cooking Demo & Luncheon with Food & Lifestyle Expert Chadwick Boyd 11a to 1p at The Orchard Restaurant. This is a Cashiers Designer Showhouse Special Event and all proceeds benefit the Cashiers Historical Society. Tickets for this event are \$175 and available for purchase at [cashiershistoricalsociety.org](http://cashiershistoricalsociety.org).



**Dahlias By the Lake**  
September 10th, 2024  
5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.  
*Bringing the Garden to You*

**\$50 per person; payment confirms reservation**  
**Music-Cocktails-Hors d'Oeuvres**  
**On the Patio of the Sky Valley Country Club**  
*(one complimentary drink ticket included, cash bar available)*

**For more information: Joy Akin \* 770-842-6810**  
[skyvalleygardenclub@outlook.com](mailto:skyvalleygardenclub@outlook.com)

**Please make Checks payable to the Sky Valley Garden Club.**  
**You may place your payment, with contact information,**  
**in the Garden Club box in the hallway at the SVCC, or you**  
**may pay at the August Garden Club meeting.**

*We greatly appreciate our sponsors:*  
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**Poss Realty, Sky Valley Country Club, Radlee Heating & Cooling,**  
**Slap Shot Contracting, LLC, & Stifel Investment Services.**



# • HIGHLANDS EVENTS •

## Come celebrate the Wicks pipe organ's 20th birthday!

The public is cordially invited to a free concert at 5pm on Thursday, August 15 at Highlands First Presbyterian Church, commemorating our Wicks pipe organ's 20th Birthday.

Featured will be renowned organist Norman Mackenzie, who also performed the inaugural concert on the organ in 2004.

Norman Mackenzie's abilities as a music collaborator, conductor, and concert organist have brought him international recognition. He holds the position of Direc-



Norman Mackenzie



tor of Music and Fine Arts at Atlanta's Trinity Presbyterian Church and is also a Grammy award winner as Director of Choruses with the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra.

The 2-manual 16 rank pipe organ was crafted by the Wicks Organ Company in Highland, Illinois. It was the desire of the organ committee for the instrument to look and sound like an organ of 1885, the year the church was dedicated. The organ has around 1,000 pipes. The visible pipes are adorned with stenciled designs that were inspired by symbolism found throughout the Christian faith.

First Presbyterian Church is located at the corner of Main and Fifth Streets. Handicapped accessible entrances are located on Church Street and on Fifth Street.

## Highlands-Cashiers Hospital offers 'Dinner with the Doc' series

Beginning in August, Highlands-Cashiers Hospital will host a monthly Dinner with the Doc series. These free programs will be held at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital, 190 Hospital Dr., from 6 to 7 pm in the Whiteside Cafeteria. The community will have an opportunity to meet surgeons and doctors providing services at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital, receive education on the services they provide and learn about a variety of medical conditions and potential treatment options.

The series, which kicks off August 22, will include:

- Thurs., Aug. 22:

Dinner with Doc - Facial plastic surgery options at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital - Chris Wenzel, MD, 6-7p in Whiteside Cafeteria. Online registration is available at [www.missionhealth.org/calendar](http://www.missionhealth.org/calendar). For more information, call 828-526-1345. Attendance is limited to 50 people. A buffet-style dinner will be provided.

- Wed., Sept. 18

Dinner with Doc - Colon cancer awareness - Zach Phillips, MD, 6-7p in

Whiteside Cafeteria. Online registration is available at [www.missionhealth.org/calendar](http://www.missionhealth.org/calendar). For more information, call 828-526-1345. Attendance is limited to 50 people. A buffet-style dinner will be provided.

- Tues., Oct. 22

Dinner with Doc - Surgical services options at HCH such as general surgery, hand surgery and colonoscopies - James Osborne, MD, 6-7p in Whiteside Cafeteria. For more information, call 828-526-1345. Attendance is limited to 50 people. A buffet-style dinner will be provided.

- Tues., Nov. 12

Dinner with Doc - Chronic pain management options - Eric Roslonski, DO, with Comprehensive Pain Consultants, 6-7p in Whiteside Cafeteria. For more information, call 828-526-1345. Attendance is limited to 50 people. A buffet-style dinner will be provided.

Online registration is available at [www.missionhealth.org/calendar](http://www.missionhealth.org/calendar). For more information, call 828-526-1345. Attendance is limited to 50 people. A buffet-style dinner will be provided.

## Outdoor Concert Series

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

*Join us for our August concerts!*

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

### Friday Night Live

Town Square | 343 Main St.

Showcasing traditional mountain music and local talent

AUGUST 2  
Ezra & Katie

AUGUST 9  
ABC Combo

AUGUST 16  
Steady Hand String Band

AUGUST 23  
Southern Highland Band

AUGUST 30  
Spare Parts Bluegrass Band

### Saturdays on Pine

Kelsey-Hutchinson Founders Park  
Pine St.

Featuring a variety of popular, regional bands and musicians

AUGUST 3  
The Holiday Band

AUGUST 10  
Will Thompson Band

AUGUST 31  
Full Circle



[visithighlandsnc.com](http://visithighlandsnc.com)



# • HIGHLANDS EVENTS •

## 14th annual 'Dazzling Dahlia Festival' is gearing up Aug. 27 and Sept 5-7

Highlands Historical Society is busy preparing for the 14th annual Dazzling Dahlia Festival. This year we are adding a patrons' party and also starting the Dr. Randolph P. Shaffner scholarship party for a Highlands School student. A beautiful painting of the historic Prince house was painted by acclaimed artist Paul Arsenault. He has generously donated it to HHS where we will raffle it to kick off the scholarship.

Our lady of summer, Dahlia, will wow us as FLOWER POWER will take over Highlands August 27th, September 5th, 6th & 7th. Experience brilliant floral displays as Flower Power is expressed all through Highlands, in many different ways.

You can still enter the vignette competition, and dazzle us with your own vision of Flower Power, there is no charge to enter, but the deadline is this coming week.

Festivities begin with a groovy "Elevated Woodstock" patrons party Tues., Aug. 27, from 5-8p; at the combined campus of Highlands Smokehouse & High Country Wine & Provisions. We will be leaning hard into the '60s, with three stages of music, cocktails, wine, art, surprises and some one-of-a-kind experiences available at auction.

Dust off your gogo boots and bell bottom pants, man, and join in on the party to support Highlands Historical Society, and be there as we formally kick off the Ran Shaffner scholarship for a Highlands School student.

There will be prizes for Best Dressed, and VIP experiences at both Smokehouse & High Country, for those "High on the Hog" who want to sponsor the evening. Single tickets are \$150 each, and "High On the Hog" VIP experience are \$1,000 for two tickets.

The Bascom will host the dahlia poster party Thurs., Sept. 5th from 5-6:30p, where Marina Tsatch will be awarded a \$500

check for her winning poster design for this year's festival. A few limited-edition posters will be for sale, come enjoy cocktails, wine, and lite bites as we kick off dahlia week with this complimentary reception.

Do not forget to groom your dahlias to have some ribbon winning blooms to enter in the single bloom on Fri., Sept. 6. Single-bloom entries accepted at the Bascom from 8-11a. Tim Wheatley will give a talk on dahlias Fri., Sept. 6 at 1p at The Bascom. The single-bloom will be open for public viewing Fri., Sept. 6, from 1-4p, and Sat., Sept. 7 from 10a-4p.

The vignettes will be available for people to vote online for their favorites Saturday from 10a-5p, so pick up a map of vignettes from our dahlia festival sponsors, The Chamber of Commerce/Visit Highlands visitor center, the Bascom, Highlands Historical Society and Kelsey Hutchinson Founder's Park. The map will have all the vignette locations and details of weekend activities.

There will be entertainment Sat., Sept. 7 at the Historical Village. Storytelling from 12-1p, and The Shedhouse Trio, a five-piece band featuring Darren Nicholson will play from 1-4p. There will be docent guided tours of the Prince house, food, mason jar arrangements for sale and more.

Saturday at 6p Flower Power will finish with a dazzling concert in the park featuring Steel Toe Stiletto. The same 10-piece band as last year will be back to get everyone on their feet, thanks to the very generous Dahliabolics.

The Dahliabolics are anything but as they are sponsoring both The Shedhouse Trio & Steel Toe Stiletto, all of the festival music. The winners of the dahlia festival will be announced at intermission; and the drawing will be held for the "Take A Chance on History" raffle.

For more information on all of the events, to enter "Take a Chance on Highlands," and to purchase Woodstock tickets go to [highlandshistory.com](http://highlandshistory.com).

## ...LETTERS continued from page 7

### Women rights aren't on the block

Dear Editor,

This letter is in response to a letter that was published in the Highlands Newspaper on July 25, entitled, "Vote carefully: Basic rights of women are on the chopping block."

Women's rights are certainly not on the "chopping block" and anyone saying so refuses to look at the facts. There are 4 women justices on the Supreme Court, women comprise 150 member of congress, 12 governors, 34 mayors of our 100 most populous cities with a record number of CEOs leading Fortune 500 companies.

As for abortion, even after Dobbs, according to NPR last year there were over a million abortions performed in the U.S., up by almost 5% since the Dobbs decision in 2022 and the most since 2012. Abortions have increased every year since 2017 and Dobbs did nothing to slow down that number. In fact, the largest percentage increase since 2017 occurred between 2022 and 2023.

The darling of the liberal left, Ruth Bader Ginsburg, strongly criticized Roe v. Wade saying, "Roe isn't really about the woman's choice, is it? It's about the doctor's freedom to practice...it wasn't woman-centered, it was physician-centered." She went on to criticize the opinion as too, radical preferring instead that abortion rights be secured more gradually, in a process that included state legislatures. RBG

spent a career criticizing Roe as a poor decision that was "too far-reaching" that never addressed a woman's right to privacy.

The truth of the matter is that abortion laws were undergoing significant changes across the country in the 1960s on a state-by-state basis. Just as many institutions in our society had been challenged during the 60s and 70s, abortion rights were no different. As the father of three highly successful daughters involved in professions previously dominated by men, I've seen and cheered the rise of women's rights.

Roe was a bad decision. The Court acted beyond its stated purpose of interpreting the law by legislating a trimester standard to be applied to all states. It usurped the state's power to have their citizens decide the issue of viability and eroded the purpose of our federal system and the Constitution without even addressing a woman's right to privacy.

While there is much more to be done, the United States remains the bastion of individual freedom with the projection of women's opportunities moving steadily upward. As for women's rights, the U.S. is not sliding down any slope, slippery or not. It continues to climb toward the moral arc of the universe despite being hamstrung by the current policies of this administration. Please consider this come November.

Chip Miller  
Highlands, N.C

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# On any given day things are happening in Highlands!





# • BIZ/ORG NEWS •

## 'Go Nuts' for a good cause

Of the many delicious snack foods available, none seem to surpass the value and taste of nuts - especially nutritious are pecans which have been certified by the American Heart Association as a "Heart-Healthy Food." Pecans help lower cholesterol levels and contain more than 19 vitamins and minerals. These include Vitamins A & E, folic acid, calcium, magnesium, phosphorus, several B vitamins and zinc.

Additionally, one ounce of pecans provides 10% of the recommended daily value of fiber. Fiber is an essential nutrient that is often lacking in diets. Another benefit? Pecans are also rich in protein which is also often lacking in diets, especially those of seniors.

They also make a perfect addition to salads and baked goods and a crust on chicken, fish, or pork!

The Cashiers-Highlands Chapter BJ of PEO is having its annual pecan sale. P.E.O. is a Philanthropic Educational Orga-



Chapter BJ members from left: front row: Fran Leftwich, Judy Liphman, and Gerri Tulley. Back row: Jeanne Smith, Sarah Wallin, Paula McDonald, Becky Byard, Marci Henderson, and MaryAnn Ray

nization where women celebrate the advancement of women; educate women through scholarships, grants, awards, loans and the stewardship of Cottey College and most importantly, motivate each other to achieve their highest aspirations. Pecan sales is Chapter BJ's only fundraising effort each year.

Order are now being taken for one-pound bags of pecans,

either whole or pieces. Delivery will be in late October. Pecans are harvested in the fall and arrive in Highlands fresh from harvesting in south Georgia.

Each pound bag of pecans is \$14 and can be ordered now by calling Sarah Wallin at 828-200-1598. Add a healthy snack to your diet and support an important educational organization. Sometimes it's good to go nuts!!

## ...AFTERSCHOOL from page 1

program has received childcare stabilization grants. However, those grants ran out at the end of June. The grants enabled the program to give the afterschool staff a slight increase in salaries as well as an end of the year bonuses, just like the county's other teachers have received.

The good news is that the program will still receive partial funding through December giving the program some money to use until the new state budget is approved.

"In the afterschool and childcare worlds, we are very hopeful that in that the new legislation and in the new budget that there will be sustained funding that will help support childcare facilities and afterschool care," said Love. "With that being said, because we

raised the salaries of our employees and since we will not be getting that funding anymore, we need to raise the current rates in order to serve the number of students we anticipate."

"I meet with other afterschool programs that charge a fee in Macon County such as the Nantahala Learning Center and Danny Antoine's Karate Academy and that's exactly what everyone else is charging, so we're all kind of on the same page as far as the costs," said Love.

Students in the afterschool program will continue to receive a free, hearty snack through the school system's nutrition program.

Love also proposed two new changes which will benefit Macon County families. Both changes were approved in the same motion

to increase the afterschool program fee.

Families will no longer be charged the \$30 registration fee for afterschool care. The money from the registration fee paid for a program, Ultra Camp, that was used for registration. With the implementation of the Infinite Campus student information system, the afterschool program will do registration through that program eliminating the \$30 registration fee.

Another change that will greatly benefit families is that the school system will be offering afterschool services to students on some teacher workdays. On some workdays, afterschool care will be from 12:30 or whenever school is released to 6:00 p.m. In the past, the afterschool program has not

• See AFTERSCHOOL page 22

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## • SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •



### What is the origin of the Catholic Church?

**Fr. Jason Barone**  
Our Lady of the Mountains  
Catholic Church

Everyone knows that the Catholic Church is pretty old, but how old? First mention of the name “Catholic Church” comes to us by way of Saint Ignatius of Antioch around 107AD. Saint Ignatius was a direct disciple of Saint John the Apostle and the third bishop of Antioch, following Evodius and Saint Peter himself, who had ventured to Rome where he eventually was martyred.

Ignatius’s immediate contact with the Apostles places him in a special category of what are called “Apostolic Fathers,” whose writings and teachings are deeply cherished.

Roman Emperor Trajan, seeking greater uniformity of religious practice and wishing not to displease the pagan gods, demanded Christians to offer pagan sacrifice at the threat of death. Ignatius, not only as a Christian leader, but a strong and leading voice of opposition, soon landed in the crosshairs of the persecution. Arrested while in Syria, he was forced to travel on land to Rome, where he was condemned to die in an amphitheater to be eaten alive by wild beasts.

Along the way, he wrote seven letters that survive to us today. Ignatius even pleaded with the Romans not to prevent his execution: “I am writing to all the churches and I enjoin all, that I am dying willingly for God’s sake, if only you do not prevent it. I beg you, do not do me an untimely kindness. Allow me to be eaten by the beasts, which are my way of reaching God. I am God’s wheat, and I am to be ground by the teeth of wild beasts, so that I may become the pure bread of Christ?” (Letter to the Romans).

So, what does Saint Ignatius say about the Catholic Church? In his letter to the Smyrnaeans he writes: “See that you all follow the bishop, even as Jesus Christ does the Father, and the presbytery as you would the apostles; and reverence the deacons, as being the institution of God. Let no man do anything connected with the Church without the bishop. Let that be deemed a proper Eucharist, which is [administered] either by the bishop, or by one to whom he has entrusted it. Wherever the bishop shall appear, there let the multitude [of the people] also be; even as, wherever Jesus Christ is, there is the Catholic Church.”

To be fair, one may not be sure whether Ignatius “Catholic” with a capitalized “C” and thus identifying the Church of his time with the institutional Catholic Church that we know today. With a lowercase, “catholic” simply means “universal.” So, it is likely in the second century it became common to call the Church the “universal Church” or, there, “catholic Church,” and, over time, that adjective became a proper noun and thus associated with the visible and identifiable Catholic Church of history that persists to this day.

If you would like to read the letters of St. Ignatius of Antioch, they are a mere Google search away.

## • PLACES TO WORSHIP •

### BLUE VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH

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

### BUCK CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

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

### CASHIERS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

### CHAPEL OF THE SKY

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

### CHRIST ANGLICAN CHURCH

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

### CHRIST CHURCH OF THE VALLEY, CASHIERS

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

### CHRISTIAN SCIENCE CHURCH

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

### CLEAR CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

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

### CHURCH IN THE WILDWOOD,

Horsecove Rd, Highlands - 919-523-7067  
Traditional Hymn Sing Sundays 7-8p, thru Sept 21.

### COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH

www.cbchighlands.com • 526-4685  
3645 Cashiers Rd. Highlands. NC • Sr. Pastor Gary Hewins  
Sundays: Service 10:45am, Children’s 10:30am  
Wednesdays: Youth 5:30-7pm; Women’s Bible Study: Mondays  
4:30pm, Tuesdays 10am; Men’s Bible Study: Wednesdays & Thurs-  
days 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, Morn-  
ing 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  
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)  
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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

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Wed: Bible Study and Youth Mtg.: 7 p.m.

### MOUNTAIN SYNAGOGUE

Franklin • 828-634-1312 • mountainsynagoguewnc.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)

Wed: 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  
Tues. - 9:30am; Thurs. - 9:30am; Sat. 4pm; Sun. - 11am  
**SCALY MOUNTAIN BAPTIST CHURCH**

Rev. Marty Kilby

Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11 a.m. & 7  
Wednesdays: Prayer Mtg.: 7 p.m.

### SCALY MOUNTAIN CHURCH OF GOD

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

### SHORTOFF BAPTIST CHURCH

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

### ST. JUDE’S CATHOLIC CHURCH

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Sat. 5:30p; Sun. 9a

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Sunday Worship - 11 a.m.



# • POLICE & FIRE REPORTS •

**Highlands Police entries from July 25. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a summons/citation, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor or those of public officials have been used.**

## July 25

• A little past midnight, officers responded to a 2-vehicle accident on Carolina Way where a driver who left the scene hit a parked vehicle while backing out of a parking spot.

• A little past midnight, William Dancy Hoyt, 69, of Atlanta, GA, was arrested for DUI when he was stopped on S. 4th Street. He was issued a \$2,000 unsecured bond. His trial date is Sept. 25.

## July 26

• At 11:33 a.m., officers responded to a call of shoplifting at Potpourri on Main Street where a pair of earrings valued at \$15 was taken.

## Aug. 1

• At 11:40 a.m., officers responded to a 2-vehicle accident in the Mill Creek Village parking lot where a driver attempting to park hit another parked vehicle.

• At 1 p.m., officers responded to a 2-vehicle accident on NC 28 (Walhalla Road) when they collided at 3rd street

and NC 28.

• At 4:15 p.m., officers responded to a 2-vehicle accident on US 64 (Main Street) where one driver backed onto US 64 from a parking spot and hit a vehicle waiting for the light on Main Street.

## Aug. 4

• At 3 p.m., Cesar Alejandro Arevalo, 39, of Highlands, was arrested on three failure-to-appear charges. He was issued a \$10,000 secured bond. His trial date is Dec. 18.

**The Highlands Fire & Rescue log from July 23.**

## July 30

• At 1:03 p.m., the dept. responded to a Co2 alarm at a residence on Culasaja Club Drive.

## July 31

• At 8:15 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a location on Main Street.

• At 9:26 a.m., the dept. responded to a call of a grease spill on Oak Street.

At 10:40 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Blue Valley Road.

## Aug. 1

• At 2:42 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Hutchinson Court.

• At 4:35 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on High Cotton Lane.

• At 8:21 p.m., the dept. investigated the cause of smoke at a residence on Bowery Road.

## Aug. 2

• At 4:23 p.m., the dept. investigated the cause of smoke at a residence on Cove Drive.

• At 5:25 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Falls Drive East.

## Aug. 3



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• At 1:30 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on NC 106 (Dillard Road).

• At 7:44 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Rolling Acres.

## Aug. 4

• At 12:12 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Sassafras Court.

• At 11:52 p.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on Clear Creek Road.



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## Operating golf carts and other low speed vehicles in Highlands explained

Golf carts cannot be legally driven upon Highlands' streets and North Carolina state roads and highways. They are designed to be used on a golf course and can not be legally tagged and insured in North Carolina.

Operating a golf cart on a city street of NC state road could result in a citation but more importantly, could result in a serious traffic crash. The operator of a golf cart is taking a risk when traveling at lower speeds on the area's curvy roadways. If an accident occurs, the fault could be with the operator of the golf cart as it should not have been on the road.

Low-speed vehicles and modified utility vehicles can be legally tagged and insured in North Carolina. These types of vehicles have a list of requirements that must be met before being legally tagged.

Definitions of the three vehicles in question:

The definition of a golf cart: a vehicle designed and manufactured for operation

on a golf course for sporting or recreational purposes and that is not capable of exceeding speeds of 20 miles per hour. Golf carts cannot be legally tagged and insured in North Carolina.

The definition of a low-speed vehicle: may be operated only on streets and highways where the posted speed limit is 35 miles per hour or less. The low-speed vehicle must be equipped with headlamps, stop lamps, turn signal lamps, tail lamps, reflex reflectors, parking brakes, rearview mirrors, windshields, windshield wipers, speedometer, seat belts, and a vehicle identification number.

The definition of a modified utility vehicle: must be equipped with headlamps, stop lamps, turn signal lamps, tail lamps, reflex reflectors, parking brakes, rearview mirrors, a speedometer, seat belts, and a vehicle identification number.

If you have any questions, contact Captain Leah McCall at 828-526-9431 or 828-482-2756.

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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)

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- class A only - in Wildflower Creek RV Resort. Just minutes from Highlands and Sky Valley. Full hook-up, concrete pad, landscaped and storage shed. Reduced \$192,500. For more info call 828-421-1709 or email bobnancync@gmail.com. (st. 1/25)

### FOR RENT

### DREAM SUMMER GETAWAY IN KEY LARGO, FLORIDA.

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SAGEE DRIVE. 2 bedroom & 2 bath suites on Creek. 1 1/2 mile to downtown. Monthly or seasonally \$8,700 (1) month \$7,200 (3) Months. email: renee7726@gmail.com (st. 5/2)

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- 2 bedroom/2 bath and 3 bedroom/2 bath with between Highlands & Cashiers. Includes hi-speed internet, water,

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to play for 11am Sunday worship services and Wednesday evening choir rehearsals (5:30-7pm) at First Presbyterian Church, Highlands, NC. \$20K annual salary. No administrative duties involved. Our organ is a circa 2004 16-rank 2 manual Wicks pipe organ. For more information, contact Angie Jenkins, Director of Music Ministry @ 828-200-0183. (st. 6/13)

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## ...ECOURTS continued from page 1

during business hours.”

He said one important benefit for the justice system is the transition to eCourts will help to connect the clerk of court’s office with public safety systems to more readily help court officials and law enforcement file and access critical information.

With the latest expansion, the eCourts system now serves about half of North Carolina’s population in jurisdictions that include the state’s three largest cities and counties across the Triangle, Triad, Outer Banks, and northeast region.

There are currently 38 counties live with eCourts -- Alamance, Beaufort, Buncombe, Camden, Chatham, Cherokee, Chowan, Clay, Currituck, Dare, Durham, Franklin, Gates, Graham, Granville, Guilford, Harnett, Haywood, Henderson, Hyde, Jackson, Johnston, Lee, Macon, Martin, Mecklenburg, Orange, Pasquotank, Perquimans, Person, Polk, Swain, Transylvania, Tyrrell, Vance, Wake, Warren, and Washington.

“This eCourts milestone highlights the diverse landscapes of our great state — connecting citizens from Murphy to Manteo — as historic progress replacing isolated paper files with digital court records reaches the westernmost regions of North Carolina,” said Ryan Boyce, director of the North Carolina Administrative Office of the Courts.

Since February 2023, over one million electronic filings have

been accepted through eCourts, saving an estimated four million pieces of paper. The eCourts portal application, which provides the public with no-cost access to digital court records, has averaged more than 1.5 million online searches per month.

Other benefits of eCourts include:

- Helping customers file common legal actions through the online Guide & File service that assists users with an interview-style forms process.
- Reducing travel time to courthouses for the public by expanding videoconferencing and creating shared digital access to records.
- Saving valuable courthouse facilities space and millions of sheets of paper through electronic workflows.
- Standardizing court business processes and forms to promote consistency and predictability statewide.
- Updating hardware infrastructure, network bandwidth, and wireless connectivity in courthouses for better and faster internet connectivity for both court officials and the public.
- Updating cybersecurity and data recovery capability systems from aging and costly mainframe technology to state-of-the-art cloud services.
- Training the public about engaging with their court system through a centralized, easy-

## ...AFTERSCHOOL continued from page 17

served students on workdays. Students who are registered with the afterschool program will be able to use this service on early release workdays.

The program will not be able to serve students with afterschool care on all workdays, because the program needs some of those days for training afterschool staff to complete required courses during the school year. However,

Love stated that there are several workdays she would like to offer the extended afterschool care for families. The workdays that will be available for extended afterschool care will be advertised to registered families.

Registration for afterschool care will be open August 1. Paper applications will be available at all school open houses. When the

to-access hub with on-demand guidance and Q&As.

- Providing judges and staff remote access to electronic case files from different locations; when used with videoconferencing, this access reduces travel time and increases judicial availability especially in rural and multi-county districts.
- Reducing foot traffic in courthouse facilities, shortening lines at security checkpoints and customer service counters.
- Freeing court staff to handle complex issues for court customers by lowering the volume of phone calls regarding court date and records inquiries.
- Centralizing a statewide financial management system to facilitate more convenient, transparent, and timely payments to the court system.
- Reducing the number of returned forms that are filled out incorrectly resulting in court delays for self-represented litigants.

The final county grouping to transition to eCourts in 2024 – Track 6 – consists of counties in the southern and central piedmont regions of North Carolina and is scheduled to go live on October 14, 2024. Track 6 will include Anson, Cabarrus, Cumberland, Hoke, Montgomery, Moore, Randolph, Scotland, Stanly and Union.

All remaining counties will transition to eCourts in 2025.

To learn more about eCourts visit [NCCourts.gov/eCourts](http://NCCourts.gov/eCourts).

new online campus system is up and running, online applications will also be available.

Families are still eligible for vouchers for afterschool care and can apply for them through the North Carolina Health and Human Services. Families can receive full tuition or part tuition help for afterschool care with funding from the NC DHHS.



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