# Highlands Newspaper

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# Mirror Lake dredging plan decided

## *Town makes progress on Chamber/Visit Highlands lease*

**By Kim Lewicki**

At the April Town Board meeting, the commissioners moved forward on two pending issues – which dredging plan to back for Mirror Lake and hopefully, the culmination of the Chamber of Commerce/Visit Highlands lease.

**Mirror Lake**

The preliminary engineering study presented by McGill Engineering, suggested three solutions to decrease Mirror Lake sediment that has been building up for 70 years.

Currently, during Phase 1, which has been solely financed by Mirror Lake property owners and members of the Mirror Lake Improvement Association, sediment immediately downstream and upstream of the bridge is being hydraulically removed, placed in permeable bags to slowly dewater so the water can return to the lake and then the sediment is deposited off-site.

The work is being done by Riversand Dredging Company and the same hydraulic process is planned for the subsequent phases, but as McGill's Mike Hanson said from the start, how much can be done is driven by funding.

The dream was to dredge all of Mirror Lake and to bring it back to its former glory. But wetlands

• See MIRROR LAKE page 5

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# Town Board opposes HB 765

## *The legislature sees this and other bills as way to alleviate housing shortages in the state*

**By Kim Lewicki**

At a Special Town Board meeting late afternoon Wednesday, April 23, commissioners gathered to approve a resolution against

• See OPPOSES page 21

# Class of 2025 Val and Sal

Highlands School Class of 2025 Valedictorian and Salutatorian have been announced. Standing with Principal Sarah Holbrooks is Valedictorian Rea Miller and with Asst. Principal Alyssa DeBois is Salutatorian Max Deppe. Miller plans to attend San Jose University; her major is undecided. Deppe plans to attend UNC-Charlotte to study Psychology.

– Photo by Sunset Staff

# HPD closes 2023 case

## *Property recovered, arrest made*

**By Sgt. Tim Broughton**

Hard work and perseverance finally paid off for a victim and the Highlands Police Department.

HPD officers successfully closed a 2023 case involving felony theft from a construction site.

Back in March 2023, a construction trailer from a job site on Split Rail Row, off Bowery Road, was stolen, resulting in the estimated loss of over $36,000 worth of tools and equipment. The trailer was later recovered, but the tools and equipment had been removed.

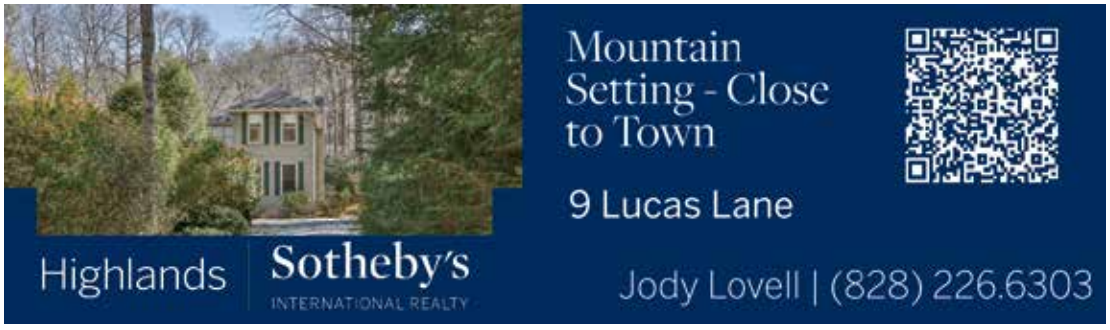
HPD investigators followed multiple leads, including inter-

• See CASE page 14

# New digs for ABC Store

On Thurs., April 17, the new ABC Store, now occupying the old fire department building on Oak Street, officially opened. Pictured from left are board members Rick Trevathan, Jim Ward, Dave O'Hara, Andy Chmar and Steve Mehder with manager Kevin Vinson. As a town entity, the rent is $1/year. By law, ABC Store proceeds go to law enforcement, drug and alcohol rehabilitation, the town's general fund, recreation fund and the scholarship fund.

– Photo by Jim Lewicki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# • The Plateau's Position •

## • Mayor on Duty •

### Prolonged Town Board meeting was chuck full

Well, I thought the Town Board meeting would be long, and I was right. The Town Board meeting last Thursday was a marathon, including the closed session, going to about 10:45.

Highlands Mayor Patrick Taylor

A lot of critical items were on the agenda, like moving the Mirror Lake dredging project forward. South 4th Street parking was a hot topic, as well as the Chamber of Commerce building lease.

I, along with some board members, believe the impasse on the chamber lease is symptomatic of greater issues about room occupancy tax and related issues. Nevertheless, the lease can possibly be separated from these other concerns and issues.

In my Mayor's Report, I cited some disturbing news from Raleigh in that numerous bills in the process would greatly impair municipalities when it comes to zoning and land use planning. I made our town commissioners aware of the situation by sharing the North Carolina League of Municipalities alerts to a number of troubling pending bills.

Commissioner Dotson asked to modify the agenda so that these bills could be discussed. The board decided to set up a special board meeting on Wednesday, the 23rd, to discuss these pending bills. Many towns and cities have already gone on record as opposing legislation that would strip them of authority to regulate land use and zoning in their communities. These towns, along with members of our board, believe these decisions are best made at the local level, not in far away Raleigh.

As Commissioner Dotson put it, we have checks and balances at the local level concerning land use and zoning policies. Put bluntly, if citizens do not like what local elected officials are doing in these areas, the residents can vote the officials out of office. Amen.

Let me review several bills that the North Carolina League of Municipalities and Towns express concerns about. First, there is the Omnibus HB 765 entitled Local Government Development Regulation. In the opinion of many experts and officials, this bill would pave the way for unchecked development in towns. What is so egregious to many locally elected officials, including me, is that elected officials could be personally sued for land use and zoning decisions under some vague fraudulent or negligent claims.

Whether valid or not, local officials would find themselves in court as defendants with their personal finances at risk. As a modest retiree from education, I would be unwilling to expose my wife to such a potential financial family disaster. I suspect there would be wholesale resignations or decisions to leave office if such a law was passed. Even citizens on volunteer Town Boards might be in jeopardy. In such a scenario, I cannot overstate the potential for municipal disruption and chaos. By the way, state legislators do not and would not have such personal exposure.

Also in this bill, is a requirement for local governments to permit five dwelling units per acre across the board. That provision would pretty much gut a town's ability to implement land use and planning that addresses local needs, such as watershed protection in sensitive areas such as we have here in Highlands.

Now, I can't go on to review all the proposed legislation that is in play in Ra-

• See MAYOR page 15

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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**
Obituaries are $8 per column inch.
$10 per photo.
Payable prior to publication.

## • SnapShot •

### Searing Sunrise

**Photo by Delainey Owens**

*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.*

## • Weather •

| Thu, 24-Apr | Fri, 25-Apr | Sat, 26-Apr | Sun, 27-Apr |
|---|---|---|---|
| 62°F / 55°F | 65°F / 53°F | 67°F / 48°F | 67°F / 47°F |
| A shower and thunderstorm | Cloudy with a stray t-storm | Variable clouds, a t- storm | Periods of sun |
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| High: 66° Low: 55° | High: 65° Low: 55° | High: 72° Low: 54° | High: 72° Low: 55° |

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# • Investing at 4,118 Ft •

## Mountain Living: The Highlands NC

As someone who has spent years helping our brokers match discerning buyers with their dream mountain properties, I can tell you that Highlands, North Carolina remains one of the Southeast's most captivating real estate markets.

Perched at 4,118 feet in the Nantahala National Forest, our picturesque town continues to draw those seeking a perfect blend of natural beauty, small-town charm, and sophisticated amenities.

Let me share what's happening in our unique corner of the Blue Ridge Mountains and why now might be the perfect time to consider investing in Highlands property.

Tricia Cox, Broker-in-Charge
Berkshire Hathway HomeServices
Meadows Mountain Realty
828-526-1717 | tricia@bhhsmmr.

### Current Market Trends

The Highlands market has shown remarkable resilience compared to national trends. Our inventory is still tight, and demand remains robust for our limited housing stock.

Properties in the $750K-$1.5M range are moving particularly well if priced correctly. Luxury properties ($2M+) continue to command premium prices, especially those offering mountain views, privacy, and proximity to downtown. The ultra-luxury segment ($5M+) has also seen some activity, with seven sales in Highlands in the past year.

Vacant land has experienced renewed interest as custom home builders seek opportunities. Particularly desirable are parcels with established utilities, minimal building constraints, and, of course, those coveted long-range views.

### Why Highlands Remains a Smart Investment

Unlike some vacation destinations that feel like ghost towns in the off-season, Highlands boasts a vibrant year-round community. Our expanded calendar of events, from bluegrass Sunday brunches, summer concerts in the park, wine and culinary events to our Old Mountain Christmas Parade, means your investment works harder throughout the year.

The thoughtful development approach maintained by local leadership helps preserve our town's distinctive character while allowing for sensible growth. Our strict building codes and zoning ordinances protect property values by maintaining Highlands' aesthetic charm and preventing overdevelopment.

The accessibility factor cannot be overlooked. At just a 2-hour drive from Atlanta, GA, 3 hours from Charlotte, NC, and 1.5 hours from Greenville, SC, Highlands offers metropolitan residents an accessible mountain retreat. This proximity to major population centers ensures a consistent stream of potential renters if you're considering investment property.

### Beyond the Numbers

What truly distinguishes Highlands, however, isn't found in market reports or appreciation figures. It's in the misty morning walks along Mirror Lake, the familiar faces greeting you at Calders Coffee Cafe, and impromptu conversations at The Ugly Dog Public House or on the patio at the the Secret Garden.

It's watching fireflies dance on summer evenings from your deck or experiencing the breathtaking transformation of our forests during fall. It's knowing your neighbors and shopkeepers by name, while still enjoying world-class dining at places like Madison's, Stubborn Bull, Wild Thyme, Stubborn Buddah, Lakeside, Paoletti's or Highlands Tavern.

Our cultural scene rivals cities many times our size, with The Performing Arts Center and Mountain Theater Company hosting nationally recognized performers, The Bascom offering visual arts in a stunning facility, and our beloved local art galleries dotted throughout our town.

### Looking Forward

While no one has a crystal ball, all indicators suggest Highlands will continue its pattern of stable growth and strong value retention. Limited buildable land coupled with consistent demand creates a favorable long-term outlook for property owners.

The recent expansion of high-speed internet services throughout the plateau has opened new possibilities for remote workers seeking mountain living without sacrificing connectivity—a demographic that continues to grow.

So whether you're considering a vacation home, retirement property, or investment opportunity, Highlands offers that rare combination of lifestyle enjoyment and financial stability. In an uncertain world, mountain property in our special

• See INVESTING page 7

# ...MIRROR LAKE continued from page 1

have been established which due to the cost of the permitting process and the 6.6 acres needed to be dredged, the cost of that venture is prohibitive.

At Thursday's meeting, Mayor Pat Taylor stressed that the reason the state awarded the town $5 million to dredge Mirror Lake was to preserve the town's water supply throughout the watershed not to reinstate recreation opportunities on the lake.

"It's a water quality issue," said Commissioner Patterson, who with Mayor Taylor spent the better part of an hour discussing not only the history of Mirror Lake but what the town has done over the years to preserve the watershed. "So rather than a recreation or property value issue, this is a water quality issue."

Since some citizens feel the town has done nothing to prevent siltation, she and the mayor outlined every step the town has taken during Mayor Buck Trott's time as mayor and since, to alleviate the situation.

The mayor said the claim that the bankrupt Riverwalk development caused the siltation was far from the only reason for the sediment buildup in Mirror Lake.

The town took Riverwalk to court over its release of sediment during development, but it lost the case because the town's ordinance wasn't strong enough at the time and since the Cullasaja corridor already suffered from silt buildup the town couldn't document how much sediment had been released.

Now, with numerous erosion and sedimentation ordinance upgrades over the years the release of sediment and potential siltation of waterways is being kept at bay.

"We also paved roads all over to keep sediment from entering our waterways and now require subdivisions to pave their roads," said Patterson.

In the end, despite reiterating that the $5 million wasn't a "recreation" grant, the board agreed to move forward with the option 2A – Hybrid to Optimize Recreation.

Silt will be removed in the main lake, and upstream, in the riverine along the perimeter near Cullasaja Road and along the Mill Creek's wetland perimeter, so a "canoe path" can be created.

The estimated cost is $4,590,120 which should take care of the dredging and additional engineering costs, but the cost of permitting the work through the wetlands isn't included in that figure.

Pat Gleeson, with MILA who has spearheaded the project, worries that the $5 million will be eaten up by engineering and permitting costs, but it's too early to tell.

To keep Mirror Lake siltation at bay

• See MIRROR LAKE page 10

Pop Up Pipers!

Celebrating Highlands' Heritage

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

This Month's Performance:

**The First Presbyterian Church of Highlands**

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

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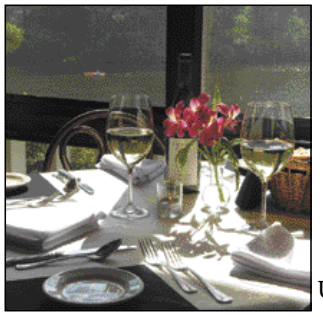

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# • Business/Organization News •

## Protesters unite against President Trump in hundreds of rallies across the U.S. on Saturday, April 18

### – Indivisible Highlands joined the movement –

Over the course of two hours on Saturday, about 80 citizens from Indivisible Highlands and others gathered at the corner of Main Street and NC 106 to protest the state of affairs in the country since President Trump has instated his Project 2025 doctrine to restructure America.

Every aspect of American life has been affected – the pending rise in the cost of food and goods due to tariffs, the depletion of retirement funds due to the falling stock market; cuts to the education system, libraries, healthcare, and the unprecedented rise in unemployment due to federal department cuts across the board.

Protestors held signs saying: Buck the felon; Buck the Musk; Buck the cults; Serve the PEOPLE!; Trump is not a King!; Congress, do your job!; Impeach Trump; Resist!; Never again is NOW!; No Kings!; Hands off our Rights, our Courts, our Benefits our Public Lands, our Democracy!; Hands off Reproductive Rights!

Passers-by honked in solidarity while protestors sang Woody Guthrie's song "This Land is Your Land" which advocates for shared rights and inclusivity across the nation.

– Photo by Kim Lewicki

# • Letter •

## A welcome relief

Dear Editor,

I loved Pat Gleeson's 4118 FT. column in the April 17 edition of Highlands Newspaper. He hit all the right seasonal nails squarely on their seasonal heads. It was a welcome relief to read something and get a good and well deserved laugh for a change instead of all those angry letters of late. Whew.

Thank you, Pat. And, as for those unfortunate hydrangeas, please accept my condolences. We've all been there and done that. Good luck on their replacements.

**Alice Nelson**
**Highlands**

## ...INVESTING from page 4

community represents not just a place to build memories, but a tangible asset with enduring appeal.

Come visit us soon - the mountain air is especially fine this time of year – and see for yourself what makes Highlands not just a smart investment, but a life-enriching decision.

• *Tricia Cox is Vice President of Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Meadows Mountain Realty and is Broker In Charge of their office in Cashiers. She can be reached at 828-526-1717 or tricia@bhhsmmr.com*

February 20 1945 - March 22 2025

**Joseph Eddie Shmalo**
**IN LOVING MEMORY**

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to remember and
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## Dear Highlands Community...

I am Mirror Lake, and for more than half a century, I've been neglected and ignored. I've survived uncontrolled construction runoff, hurricanes, pollutants from unknown sources, and unregulated water release. As a designated North Carolina Trout Stream, it breaks my heart that I can no longer shelter trout in my waters – my streambed has become too shallow and too warm. I remember when families used to paddle through my bays and channels, but now they lie choked by sediment and deadfall.

I need your help... and now is the time.

This year, there is hope. A dedicated group of my neighbors have begun the crucial work of dredging my waters – a chance to restore me to health. Through the summer months, they will work to remove years of accumulated sediment, giving me back my depth and clarity. I know there will be some disruption – unusual sounds and activity along my shores – but please understand that this temporary disturbance is my chance at renewal.

Remember me as I once was: a haven for trout, a playground for paddlers, a peaceful retreat for all who visited my shores. With your support, I can be that place again.

But I cannot do this alone. The Mirror Lake Improvement Association (MLIA) has established a Dredging Fund to support this vital work. If you value my presence in our community, if you remember the joy I once brought, or if you dream of the beauty I can be again, please consider contributing. Your generous donation will help secure my future for generations to come.

To help restore my waters, please contact Pat Gleeson at 828.782.0472.

During the project, you'll notice changes:
- Dredging equipment along my shores
- Varying water levels as the work progresses
- Construction sounds during working hours
- Some areas' traffic will be temporarily restricted for safety

But imagine what I can become again – clear, deep, healthy waters teeming with life. A restored Mirror Lake, ready to serve as your community treasure once more.

Thank you for hearing my voice. Thank you for caring. Thank you for helping me become whole again.

*With hope and gratitude,*
*Mirror Lake*

# • Hospital News •

## Spring into the season with safety as your top priority

Spring is a time for renewal, getting outdoors again, and the less enthusiastically anticipated but necessary task of spring cleaning. As we enjoy the new season of longer days and warmer temperatures, it's important to do a safety check in our homes and as we venture into nature — especially if we're older than 50. Prioritizing safety can save us from a trip to the Emergency Room.

One of the most important, but quick and easy tasks you can tackle as you get ready for the season is checking your smoke alarm and carbon monoxide detector. You should do this monthly, and April is no exception.

Tom Neal CEO, CNO
Highlands-Cashiers Hospital

While you're in the midst of spring cleaning, take a look around your home for hazards. Make sure to corral lamp and appliance cords that could trip you up, and remove small throw rugs, since they slide around easily and present a fall hazard. Another important thing to do to ensure that your home is safe is to keep it well lit. Dark hallways and dim bulbs make it hard to see and easy to trip. Increasing the wattage in the bulbs of your existing lights and adding some to areas that need it are both good ideas.

Accidents can also happen when we're in a hurry to get something done, so we may not take the best precautions. If you need to, for example, hang a picture or dust the top of your ceiling fan, don't teeter on a chair. Instead, pull out the step ladder, put the supplies you need on top of the ladder (rather than having them in your hands as you climb it), and take your time. In the long run, you'll save time doing the task and you won't need to recover from any mishap.

When it comes to actual spring cleaning, potential hazards lurk in the cabinet where you keep your cleaning supplies. It's important to know that combining certain strong cleaning ingredients, such as ammonia and bleach, form a toxic recipe. The fumes can cause throat burns and respiratory harm. Combining bleach and vinegar isn't recommended either, since this mixture can cause chemical burns to the lungs and eyes. Mixing hydrogen peroxide and vinegar creates peracetic acid, which is corrosive to metal, but can also irritate your respiratory system, skin, and eyes.

Finally, in your home, don't hesitate to install devices that reduce risks for falls, like grab bars in the shower or a shower seat, a lipless shower threshold, and non-slip flooring.

This month, our thoughts also turn to spending as much time outdoors as possible. If you're a fan of hiking our beautiful mountains and marveling at the waterfalls, be sure to heed all the warnings on posted signs. Each year, tragic accidents occur because people get too close to a waterfall and slip on slick rocks, dive into the water near a waterfall, or swim in a waterfall pool — all are dangerous choices.

When you're out and about enjoying nature, make sure to bring your smartphone with you, but also head out with a map, since remote areas don't always have cell reception. Dress in layers, pack a small first aid kit in your backpack, and make sure you have a food and water reserve. If you're allergic to bees, remember to always have your epinephrine autoinjector with you. Don't forget to protect your skin from the sun's powerful rays by using sunscreen liberally.

Getting back on the tennis, pickleball, or basketball court, or the soccer field also calls for caution. We know exercise is one of the pillars of good health, but when you play any sport, be sure to dress appropriately and wear proper footwear that's specific to the activity you're engaged in. This can help you avoid ending up in the ER with a broken bone or hip fracture, which will really slow you down.

The broad rule of thumb when it comes to indoor and outdoor safety this season is, remember you're not 20 years old anymore, be smart about taking precautions, and take stock of your surroundings and consider what could happen — then take steps to make sure it doesn't.

Since the best laid plans can still go wrong, I am pleased to share that we offer access to a board-certified orthopedic surgeon, Dr. David Jarrett, right here on the Plateau. He sees patients in the Jane Woodruff Clinic at 209 Hospital Drive in Highlands, and performs surgery at HCH. To schedule an appointment, call 828-526-4346.

While we offer comprehensive rehabilitation services that include physical therapy, occupational therapy, and speech therapy, I'd like to take a moment to recognize our occupational therapist, as April is Occupational Therapy Month. Our occupational therapists (OTs) and Certified Occupation Therapy Assistants (COTAs) provide vital rehab to help patients overcome physical, mental, and social challenges so they can function better with their daily living skills. Some examples include everyday basic routines like getting dressed, bathing, cooking, organizing a backpack, holding a pencil, writing and copying notes, throwing and catching, etc. They also help patients function better in work and school settings.

We are grateful for the service of our OTs at HCH. They're one of the committed teams that round out the advanced care we aim to provide to every patient in our community.

**Spring Wine Tasting**

Wednesday, May 7 from 5-7 p.m. at The Secret Garden
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## *June 26*

**VIEW DETAILS**

# ...MIRROR LAKE continued from page 5

once dredging is complete – hopefully the fall of 2026 – and to mitigate siltation in other waterways in the watershed, Mayor Taylor suggested imposing a stormwater utility fee on property owners. That suggestion didn't get any traction Thursday night.

**Chamber of Commerce**

For years, the Chamber/Visit Highlands' lease has been in limbo because the town has been trying to get $40,000 in room tax money for the upkeep of the bathrooms in Town Square in lieu of rent.

At Thursday's meeting, Tricia Cox, past chairman of the Chamber board, presented documentation explaining that the chamber paying anything other than a $1 a year for rent for less than 10 years goes against the original intent of Jane Woodruff, who donated the building to the town for a public and civic use.

Back when David Wilkes was mayor, Jane Woodruff asked him to find out if Gus and Jan Lard would sell her their building on the corner of Main and 1st streets which she would then gift to the town for the purpose of making it a Welcome Center – now the home of the Chamber of Commerce/Visit Highlands – for $1 per year for 15 years.

The building was appraised at $1,172,000 but the Lards agreed to sell it to Woodruff for $700,000, which was a substantial contribution on their part, said Cox.

Woodruff gifted the building to the town with the stipulation that it be leased to the Chamber for $1 per year. She made the same agreement for the post office.

Should either entity cease to exist, the properties will revert to the town for its use.

"Ms. Woodruff's explicit intention was for this building to house the Highlands Chamber of Commerce and Visitors Center," said Cox. "The Board unanimously approved this donation with the understanding that a 15-year triple net lease would be developed. In November 2012, the Board formalized this as a 10-year triple net lease at $1 per year, which expired in November 2022."

Cox said the town's proposed change to a shorter lease term [5-year] with a $40,000 annual rent, represented a significant departure from the donors' original intentions.

"Jane Woodruff and the Lards gave generously with the specific purpose of providing a permanent home for the Highlands Chamber of Commerce and Visitors Center, as reflected in both their actions and the town's meeting minutes," she said.

Cox said maintaining the current lease arrangement allows the Chamber to maximize its service to the community using room tax money to provide numerous services which directly benefit the town's budget.

Those investments total more than $682,000 in the past five years – an average of over $136,443.88 each year – all directly benefiting the town budget, she said. For 2025, $187,825 has been budgeted.

Room tax money spent by the Cham-

• See MIRROR LAKE page 11

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8:30am - 12:30pm

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And we need a little help from our friends.

We'll begin at Kelsey-Hutchinson Founders Park, Pine Street, Highlands.

A light breakfast and lunch will be provided.
Participants receive a free t-shirt.

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This event is hosted by the
Highlands Chamber of Commerce/Visit Highlands, NC.
For more information: highlandschamber.org or 828-526-5841

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## ...MIRROR LAKE continued from page 10

ber includes funds for the July 4th fireworks, Christmas lights, hanging flower baskets, pressure washing the town trash receptacles, repairing the town entrance signs, wayfinding signage, renovation of the dog park, replacement of holiday wreaths, contribution to the new playground, stage heaters and upgrade power supply at the KH Founders Park, and the new 3-phase disconnect for the ice rink.

Mayor Pat Taylor has long held the belief that towns should be able to use room tax money collected by lodging establishments and sent to the chambers of commerce and visitor centers to help with infrastructure costs and upgrades due to tourism.

However, state legislature has decreed that room tax money can only be used to promote tourism. But over the years, some North Carolina counties have had the statute amended in favor of municipalities and not just visitor centers, but Macon County isn't one of them.

The mayor argued that maintaining public bathrooms could be a room tax expense if the town's dog park renovation at the tune of $44,000 was a legitimate expense.

However, the county disburses the money to the chamber and its attorney said room tax money can't be used for the bathrooms.

In a heated exchange, Mayor Taylor asked "How does a dog park promote tourism?"

Cox said they advertise the dog park as an amenity for tourists but agreed that amending the legislation is something they can look at but it's not the Chamber's job.

Commissioner Weller ended the discussion saying the legislation and the lease agreement were two different subjects.

"The legislation can be discussed at a later date. If the property ceases to be the Chamber/Visitor Center, then we get the building back. Take it off our roles. Let them have it in the spirit of Jane's wishes. This is friction we don't need," he said.

The board agreed to put the issue to bed but now has to figure out a way to legally separate the Chamber of Commerce from Visit Highlands because they occupy the same builing but aren't both public entities. The chamber is a private nonprofit that gets membership dues.

The Town Attorney said Visit Highlands exists as a public purpose solely funded with room tax money.


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From left: Cole Johnson, Mia Loia, and James McManus

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# Spring Home Improvement 2025

## A homeowner's guide to understanding glass performance and types

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You don't need to completely understand the technology, but you should know that you have options.

When purchasing a window very little consideration is given to the glass itself. Many people don't even know they have an option of choosing one type of glass over another. Here is a helpful guide about the performance of glass, glass types, and the various glass options. Whether building a new home, remodeling, or considering replacement windows, this article will give you a better understanding about which window glass will be best for your home.

**Two Panes Are Better Than One**

While glass objects were being made as early as 2500 BC, glass windows did not become a standard feature in the average home until the 17th century. For the next 300 years, windows were constructed with a single pane of glass, which worked fine for letting in sunlight, providing views, and preventing wind and rain from entering a home, but one pane was not effective at keeping homes warm in the winter or cool in the summer. In the 1950s, residential glass manufacturers started combining two panes of glass separated by a small air space. The motionless air between the panes acted as an insulator and reduced the buildup of condensation in the winter. This new technique decreased the dependence on storm windows.

**Low E Coatings Block Radiation**

Radiation from the sun, in the form of infrared light, can shine through a window and heat up the objects inside a room, which is not what you want on a hot summer day. Also, warm objects themselves can emit heat radiation, which means a warm room can lose heat by radiating it right through the window glass to the outdoors, and that's less than desirable on a cold winter night. Glass alone will not reduce the effects of radiant heat transfer, but low emissivity (Low E) coatings can

Low E coatings are microscopically thin metal coatings added to the surface of window glass. They are designed to reflect radiant heat, which reduces heat gain in the summer and heat loss in the winter. Low E coatings can also block ultraviolet light (UV) produced by the sun. UV radiation can cause flooring, furniture, and other indoor objects to fade and deteriorate. Ultraviolet light is also the form of radiation produced by the sun that causes damage to our skin.

A Low E coating is hundreds of times thinner than a human hair, so it's nearly invisible and only noticeable as a slight tint. They are often made out of silver because of that metal's ability to reflect radiation without significantly altering visibility. There are different proprietary names for these coatings, but one way to distinguish one type of Low E glass from another is by how many coatings have been applied. Low E glass has one coating, Low E2 has two, and Low E3 has three.

**Insulating Glass With Gas**

Glass manufacturers discovered they could achieve greater insulating values by separating the two panes by about 1/2 inch and filling the space with argon, an inert gas found in the air we breathe. This type of assembly is referred to as an insulating glass unit (IGU). Krypton is an even more effective insulating gas than argon and will achieve the same insulating values in a space smaller than 1/2 inch, but krypton is much more expensive to create, which is why argon remains the standard in insulating glass. While insulating glass helps thermal performance, indoor comfort levels are still mostly controlled by Low E coatings.

When purchasing a window, many people don't know they have an option of choosing one type of glass over another.

**How Glass is Rated**

U-FACTORSimply put, U-factor measures how well a window keeps heat inside your home. It's a measure of total heat flow through a window from room air to outside air. Lower numbers indicate greater insulating capabilities. It's a particularly important measurement for climates with colder winters.

SOLAR-HEAT GAINIf U-factor denotes how much heat leaves your home, the Solar Heat Gain Coefficient (SHGC) measures how much radiant heat enters your home. The lower the number, the less heat a window lets in.

**Visible Transmittance**

As you may have guessed, this measurement describes how clear the glass is. While Low E coatings are thin, each layer does reduce the visibility just a little. The higher the visible transmittance number, the clearer the glass.

**Which Window Glass is Best for Your Area?**

If you live in a colder climate the less heat you want escaping your home and the more radiant heat from the sun you want entering your home in the winter months, which means a lower U-Factor and higher SHGC.

If you live in a warmer climate, heat escaping your home is not as important as preventing the radiant heat from the sun from entering, which means a higher U-Factor and lower SHGC.

There are additional factors when considering Low E coatings. If you want to protect grandma's family heirloom or a valuable art collection, you may want to add specific coatings that will reduce the harmful effects of UV radiation, even if you live in a cold climate. In far northern climates the sun will not shine directly through windows located on the north side of the building, so it

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may be unnecessary to install windows with a high SHGC to take advantage of the warm sun rays. Large shade trees can reduce the need for windows with a low SHGC. If perfectly clear glass is important to you, remember that the more coatings you apply to a window, the more tint it will have.

Here's the bottom line when it comes to glass performance: when building a new home or replacing windows in your existing home, make sure to have a conversation with the installation contractor or window dealer. Let them know which glass characteristics are most important to you.

**Is Triple Pane Glass the Best Solution?**

Windows with triple pane glass are more expensive. If you live anywhere but the coldest climates, the extra cost is unlikely to pay off in energy bill savings within the lifespan of the windows, especially if the rest of your home is poorly insulated. It's not just the extra pane of glass that increases the cost. Adding a third pane increases the thickness and weight of an IGU, so window sashes, frames, and hardware need to be reconfigured to accommodate that extra size and weight.

All that said, an additional pane of glass creates an additional space which can be filled with argon and an additional surface in which to install another Low E coating. More insulation can provide an extra layer of comfort, especially in cold climates. Another advantage is that condensation is less likely to form on the inside of the glass when the temperatures dip far below freezing. Many people who live in a loud city or near an airport choose that extra layer of glass because windows with three panes will reduce more outdoor sounds that reach the inside of a home.

**Tempered Glass is Tough**

Tempered glass is considered "safety glass." It's manufactured in such a way that makes it up to four times stronger than standard glass. Building codes often require a window be made with safety glass if it's installed in a location where there is an increased risk that a resident could fall and collide with a window. Examples include areas where a window is installed close to the floor, in bathrooms near a tub or shower, and stairways. All glass doors and extremely large windows also require safety glass like tempered glass.

**Laminated Glass Holds Together**

If you live on a golf course and someone drives a ball into your window, chances are, the glass will break and fall into the room in large dangerous shards. If your window is fitted with tempered glass, the odds are greater that it will withstand the impact, but there's still a chance it will break and spray small fragments of glass. If that same ball hits a pane of laminated glass, the glass could still break, but if it does, the sharp fragments will stay intact inside the window sash.

Like tempered glass, laminated glass is considered "safety glass." It's constructed by sandwiching a thin, near-invisible sheet of plastic between two panes of glass. When a laminated glass pane is broken, the plastic holds all of the pieces together. In addition to preventing airborne glass, laminated glass is strong and cannot be cut with a standard glass cutter, so it offers an additional layer of security against forced entries. Another benefit of laminated glass is that it's better at dampening loud sounds than non-laminated glass.

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## ...CASE continued from page 1

Alejandro Franco Garcia

viewing several "persons of interest" as well as sending recovered fingerprints and DNA evidence to the state crime laboratory.

On April 16, 2025, Detective Amber Wright of the Highlands Police Department assisted on a search warrant the Macon County Sheriff's Office conducted on Alejandro Franco Garcia's property in Franklin on Sanderstown Road.

During this search warrant, officers and deputies located evidence related to crimes involving drug possession, weapons charges, theft, and possession of stolen goods.

Among the stolen goods located on the property were multiple tools identified as having been taken from the stolen trailer in Highlands in 2023.

Alejandro Franco Garcia was a prime suspect in the Highlands case, and Detective Wright was able to link him to the job site in Highlands.

Following the recovery of the tools, Detective Wright filed charges against Alejandro Franco Garcia for Breaking and Entering a Trailer, Felony Larceny, and Damage to Personal Property. He was issued a $5,000 bond for those charges.

The Macon County Sheriff's Office also charged Franco Garcia with other offenses, for which he is currently being held.

Those charges are PWIMSD Schedule II Controlled Substance, Maintain Dwelling Place CS, Possession of a Weapon of Mass Destruction, Possession of Stolen Goods, and Possession of Drug Paraphernalia. He was not issued a bond related to those charges.

The weapon in question was a paintball-style pistol that had been modified in a way that strongly suggested it was capable of discharging a shotgun round – classifying it under the legal definition of a weapon of mass destruction due to its altered and potentially deadly functionality.

The search warrants executed on

• See CASE page 15

## ...CASE continued from page 14

April 16, were on multiple locations in Macon County which resulted in the arrests of Franco Garcia, Benito Garcia Bandala and Angelica Cuevas Mendoza.

The warrants resulted in the seizure of approximately 18 grams of meth, 12 firearms, numerous items of stolen property valued at approximately $20,000 and drug paraphernalia.

According to Sheriff Brent Holbrooks, this was a long-term, ongoing investigation, involving multiple agencies spanning several months. The investigation also spanned several counties.

## ...MAYOR continued from page 2

leigh. Nevertheless, one bill in particular illustrates the concern of many local officials. That bill is HB 9-Firearm Discharge Pre-empt Local Ordinance.

Currently, in our 6.5-square-mile town limits of Highlands, we have an ordinance that prohibits the discharge of firearms. The ordinance pretty much goes hand in hand with no hunting within the town. HB.9 would allow the discharge of firearms on private property within a town's limits so long as the bullets or shot did not leave the private property area. I must ask, what could possibly go wrong with that? Not to mention the disruption of the peace in the town. Skeet ranges could be permitted or private pistol or rifle galleries and ranges. I am not saying these activities should be banned in all towns in North Carolina. What I am saying is these zoning issues, as well as other town-sensitive issues, are best determined at the local level, not from distant Raleigh.

I will keep you posted as to what happens in the legislature. One can look up HB 765 through a search engine such as Google. Simply type in NC HB 765 or any of these: HB 9, SB 291, HB 372, HB 369, HB 627, HB 495, SB 713, and especially SB 736, which is called the Foundation Act Building NC Housing Future. Sounds great, but read it for yourself.

It does have some positive provisions, such as a tax credit for converting STRs into affordable, long-term rentals. On the other hand, there is the provision for permitting dwelling units on less than a quarter of an acre. Some may see that as positive in certain cases, while others may not.


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# • HS Sports in Review

## Teams continue to show 'Highlander Pride'

**By Brett Lamb**
**Athletic Director**

It was a busy and competitive week for Highlander athletics, with student-athletes showcasing grit and determination across multiple sports.

**Varsity Boys Golf**
**Tuesday, April 15**

The varsity boys golf team had a strong showing on Tuesday, finishing third in a tight match that saw them just three strokes behind first-place Murphy. Carson Forrester led the way for the Highlanders, carding the match's low score with an impressive 44 over 9 holes.

**High School Track & Field**
**Wednesday, April 16**

The Highlander track and field team traveled to Murphy on Wednesday and turned in several standout performances:

High School golf team at Murphy.

At the Middle School soccer game against Tallulah Falls 8th-grade leaders: Keeley Bosdell, Miley Zagal-Damian, Aubree Brooks, and Anabelle Hays were honored.

• Kasen Mitchell set two season bests, finishing 2nd in the high jump at 6'-0" and 2nd in the 100-meter dash with a blazing 11.14 seconds.

• Blaine Dendy took 2nd in the 300-meter hurdles (53.54) and added a 3rd place finish in the 100-meter hurdles (21.14).

• Claire Worley secured 2nd in the long jump at 12'-11.75" and 2nd in the 1600 meters with a time of 6:29.

• Mallory Shriver rounded out the podium with a 3rd place in the long jump (11'-11.25").

**Girls Soccer**
**Wednesday, April 16**

The varsity girls soccer team faced a tough out-of-state opponent in Rabun County, falling 5-2. Gabi Diaz was a bright spot for Highlands, scoring both goals and continuing to be a consistent offensive threat.

**Middle & High School Girls Soccer**
**Thursday, April 17**

Thursday was 8th Grade Day for middle school girls soccer as they hosted Tallulah Falls. Though the match ended in a hard-fought 2-0 loss, the team honored its 8th-grade leaders: Keeley Bosdell, Miley Zagal-Damian, Aubree Brooks, and Anabelle Hays.

The high school team also competed Thursday, traveling to Summit Charter and falling 10-2. Gabi Diaz once again found the net twice for Highlands.

**Varsity Girls Soccer**
**Monday, April 21**

The Highlanders hosted Smoky Mountain Conference leader Swain County in a challenging match. After trailing 4-0 at halftime, Highlands battled back to match Swain 2-2 in the second half, ultimately falling 6-2. Gabi Diaz added two more goals to her week's tally, with Jordyn Borino assisting on one.

As the season progresses, Highlander athletes continue to show heart, improvement, and Highlander pride. Stay tuned for more highlights next week!

# • Biz/Org News •

**First-Place Category Winner**

**Country**

**That's Me**
**Betty Holt**
Highlands NC

3:32

Hall of Fame 2025

The Great American Song Contest honored local songwriter Betty Holt with a 1st place win in the Country category. Over 1,700 writers from 28 countries entered the contest, now in its 26th year. There were 350 entries in the Country category. Other categories included Adult Contemporary, Pop, Singer-Songwriter, Folk/America, Rock/Alternative and several more.

According to Betty, she wrote the lyrics and music to "That's Me" in the winter of 2011, during a 3-day power outage. "I wrote three songs that weekend," she remembers. "I had nothing to distract me. There was no television or internet. All I could do to entertain myself was play the piano." The song details an encounter between a younger male singer and an elderly couple at the grocery store. The singer comes to a realization that someday this could be him.

In 2012 a publisher/songplugger in Nashville signed the song for two years, but he never found an artist to record it.

After a long absence, the publisher/songplugger contacted Betty. He said he still believed in the song. "I think that's what gave me the courage to enter the contest," she says.

To listen to the song, go to www.greatamericansong.com. Click on Winners at the top of the page, then scroll down the page to the Country category and Betty's photo.

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## • Spiritually Speaking •

# The heaviness of emptiness

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

A mother of an enemy combatant humbly approached the Emperor Napolean to beg for a pardon for her convicted son.

Napolean replied to the distraught woman, "Your son has been convicted of two heinous crimes, justice demands death."

"It is not justice that I ask for Emperor." "Sir, I plead for mercy."

"But your son does not deserve mercy."

"Sir," the woman cried, "it would not be mercy if he deserved it, and mercy is all I ask for."

"Well then," the emperor said, "I will have mercy." He spared the son's life.

In the hours leading up to His arrest, trial, and crucifixion, Christ dealt with severe heaviness. In a late-night spiritual encounter, He experienced the weight of extreme anxiety. In this garden, olives are pressed down upon with a heavy stone, causing virgin olive oil to ooze out into clay jars. Christ, born of a virgin, was severely pressed down upon to drink the cup of suffering that caused blood to seep out from His forehead. Christ knows the weightiness of anxiety.

In a practical sense, our Lord was challenged with hoisting and carrying the heavy weight of His cross. So heavy was this instrument of death, an innocent bystander was remanded to step in and take over its transport. It was necessary to hoist His frame upwards on the very post His feet were affixed to with a nail just to get a breath.

Who can truly articulate the mind-bending phenomenon of becoming one with the sin of the world. Christ, a pristine vessel, was defiled with the collective, putrid weightiness of all that is vile. Only He knows the exponential infinitude of sin that He "bore." This internal collision of divinity and deplorability exceeds the finitude of our minds' ability to emotionally calculate. Let's just say, Christ knows the weight of all humankind's, past, present and future transgressions however small, huge or evil we personally define them to be. Christ knows weight.

Each of us carry weight as well. Who doesn't know the weightiness of anxiety and duress? Do you carry the weighty import of bitterness and fear at times? Due to medical science, many people today have the knowledge that death is approaching.

Like Christ, we bear the weight of the sickness in our own bodies and challenging treatment that follows. We too bear the weight of not only our sin and imperfection but the relational, physical, and spiritual consequences. Are you unnecessarily carrying far too much weight?

Do you know what the "heaviness of emptiness" feels like? Such a void needs continual feeding. This musty

• See SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING page 21

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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:11a.m.
1st & 3rd Sunday night Service: 7.p.m.
Wednesdays –Supper at 6 p.m.

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

**COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH OF SKY VALLEY**
706. 746.3144 • 696 Sky Valley Way #447
Pastor Steve Kerhoulas
Worship: Sun. 10:30 a.m. Holy Communion 2nd Sunday

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

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

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

**GOLDMINE BAPTIST CHURCH**
(Off Franklin/Highlands Rd)
Sunday School:10 am.Worship Service:11 am

**GRACE COMMUNITY CHURCH OF CASHIERS**
Non-Denominational-Contemporary Worship
242 Hwy 107N. 1/4 miles from Crossroads in Cashiers
www.gracecashiers.com • Pastor Steve Doerter 743-9814
Services: Sundays 10am - Wed. - 7pm; Dinner - Wed. 6pm

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

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

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

**HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**
Rev. Dr. Randy Lucas. Pastor 526-3376
In-Person and live-streamed Worship Services
909a Bluegrass and 11a Traditional
www.highlandsmethodist.org

**HOLY FAMILY LUTHERAN CHURCH: ELCA**
2152 Dillard Road • 526-9741
Rev. Ken Langsdrof
Worship/Communion:10:30 All are welcome.
Visit our website: Holy Family Lutheran Highlands NC

**MACEDONIA BAPTIST CHURCH**
8 miles south of Highlands on N.C. 28 S in Satolah
Pastor Zane Talley
Sundays: School:10 a.m.;Worship:11. Choir:6 p.m.
Wed: Bible Study and Youth Mtg.:7 p.m.

**MOUNTAIN SYNAGOGUE**
Franklin • 828-634-1312 • 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)
Weds:Youth Group 6 p.m.; Bible Study 6:30 p.m.;

**OUR LADY OF THE MOUNTAINS CATHOLIC CHURCH**
Rev. Fr. Jason K. Barone – 526-2418
Sat. 4pm 5/24/25-10/25/25; 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**
Mass: Sun. 9a (English); Mon. 9:30a (Vatican II in Latin);Tues. 7p (Spanish);Wed.,9:30a (English)

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

**UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP**
85 Sierra Drive. Franklin • uufranklin.org
Sunday Worship - 11 a.m.

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

# • Police & Fire Reports •

**Highlands Police entries from April 15. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a summons/citation, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor or those of public officials have been used.**

**April 15**

• At 12:18 p.m., officers responded to a one-vehicle accident on NC 106 (Georgia Road) where the driver ran off the roadway and hit a fire hydrant before coming to rest in a ditch.

**The Highlands Fire & Rescue log from April 15.**

**April 15**

• At 10:41 a.m., the dept. investigated the cause of smoke at a location on Buck Creek Road.

• At 11:49 a.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on NC 106 (Dillard Road).

**April 16**

• At 10:44 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on NC 28 south (Walhalla Road).

**April 17**

• At 4:12 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at the hospital.

**April 18**

• At 2:38 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Cheney Lane.

• At 7:28 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Turtle Pond Road.

• At 9:02 p.m., the dept. investigated the cause of smoke at a location on Arnold Road.

**April 19**

• At 1:34 p.m. the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Arnold Road.

• At 4:04 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on NC 106 (Dillard Road).

• At 9:23 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a location on Main Street.

**April 20**

• At 8:46 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on 4 ½ Street.

**April 21**

• At 10:18 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Maple Street.

• At 12:20 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a location on S. 2nd Street.

• At 8:34 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Pinewood Lane.

**April 22**

• At 8:02 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on US 64 west.

# • CHHS News •

Photo by Marty Boone

Two-year-old Peggy was just a young kitten when she was found under a house in Highlands along with her siblings Percy and Paul. Peggy is sweet but shy. As a longer-term Cashiers-Highlands Humane Society shelter pet, Peggy's adoption is only $50 which includes already being spayed, microchipped, and up to date on vaccinations. For more information please call (828)743-5752.

## HIGHLANDS CHURCH
**9a Sunday mornings**
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# • CLASSIFIEDS •

**YARD SALE**

**SAT.APRIL 26 AT 9A.** Proceeds to benefit cander paitent Travis Carter. At Old Satolah Fire Station, Hwy 28 south. 9-10 miles from town. near Glade Road. Lots of items! Donations appreciated. For more info call Loretta Picklesimer at 828-200-2717.

**WANTED**

**SEEKING GARAGE RENTAL** for auto storage. Secure, long or short-term. 561-866-8631 (st. 3/6)

**FOR SALE**

**2022 DODGE CHALLENGER** wide body Hellcat for sale. Only 8,300 miles. Great shape, great car. $89,000. Call 828-226-291 1 for details. Appointments only. e-mail is brysonsfoodstore@mindspring.com. (4/24)

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

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

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

**TINY HOME LOTS FOR SALE**. $55k-$85k ea. Each lot comes with water, power, and sewer run to each lot. www.TinyMountainEstates.com for more info. (10/30/25)

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

**FOR RENT**

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

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

**SERVICES**

**PLATEAU PAINTERS** – Interior and exterior painting, pressure washing, decks, and sanding and staining wood floors. Division of Chatlos Construction. Fully insured. Free estimates. Call Mike at 828-200-4071. (6/26)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## ...SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING continued from page 18

crawl space within can stay insatiably hungry for status, vanity, and affirmation; and it can temporarily be filled with distraction, money, success, sex, a career and even service to others.

Life can be heavy at times. So, what is the good news? How do we tread in these waters?

Followers of Christ just celebrated His resurrection, thus also celebrating their future resurrection. For me, this past Easter was incredibly special. Who cannot be moved by the laughter, playfulness and the faith of children, or the testimonies of teenagers that speak to the relevance of their faith in Christ. Whether we realize it or not, something Christ carried was carried so you do not have to be burdened with it in this life and so that you are with Him beyond this life. What are you schlepping through life that causes some form of weariness? What or who has a strong hold on you and weighs you down?

My prayer for you is that you move more toward weightlessness in Christ. Let Him have some, or all, of the weight you carry. He died to have it, let Him have it. His words, "Come unto me all who are weary and heavy laden, and I will give you rest…I am gentle and humble of heart…I will give you rest for your souls (Matt. 11:28-29). If you are not accustomed to praying, if it has been a while, consider praying the following:

Father, I am approaching you through your Son. I need your help. I am carrying too much. I can get heavy laden, please help me shed that which comes between us. Carry me if needed. Please reveal who you truly are to me that I may know you, love you and count on you. Show me Christ in a way I have never seen before. Keep me from the weightiness of emptiness. Fill my heart with you. Please Lord, fill my heart with you. "It is not justice that I ask for Lord. I plead for mercy." I ask you to forgive and pardon of my sin. Show me your love and show me how to love you and others more. Thank you. Amen.

## ...OPPOSE continued from page 1

proposed House Bill 765, Local Gov't Development Regulation Omnibus, and other proposed legislative action that would impair municipalities when it comes to zoning and land use planning.

Commissioners were reacting to a memo the NC League of Municipalities sent all municipalities warning of HB 765 "Local Development Regulation Omnibus" that the League said is poised to dismantle local land-use planning and regulations.

"This unprecedented shift will strip towns of their ability to apply tailored regulatory standards, paving the way for unchecked development in some cases while imposing rigid statewide mandates in others," the memo warned.

The League urged municipalities to contact their House members to oppose the bill and others in the pipeline.

To that end, at last Thursday's April Town Board meeting, Commissioner John Dotson requested the board to formulate a resolution like the Village of Clemmons did to oppose changes to local planning and zoning statutes by the NC General Assembly.

"We know better how to govern our territory," he said. "We are elected by our voters to do what's best for our folks and if they don't like it, they can vote us out. This proposed legislation is misguided and politically biased."

Many of the proposed bills have to do with housing – allowing STRs in all zoning districts with regulations; eliminating down-zoning and non-conforming uses; expanding permitted home businesses; allowing accessory dwelling units to be inhabited without parking requirements; expanding middle housing (duplexes, triplexes, quadplexes and townhomes) in residential areas; limiting local government environmental requirements and more.

Mayor Taylor suggested citizens look up HB 765 through a search engine such as Google. Simply type in NC HB 765 or any of these: HB 9, SB 291, HB 372, HB 369, HB 627, HB 495, SB 713, and SB 736, he said.

# • Highlands Area Events •

**POOL SCHEDULE**

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

**PICKLE BALL**

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

**MOVIES**

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

**MOUNTAIN FINDINGS**

• Open: 10 am - 1 pm, May 2-3, 9-10, 16-17. And May 22-24 and May 29-31. 452 Spruce Street. www.mountainfindings.org

**SATURDAY MARKET**

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

**ALL WEEK**

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

**Mon-Wed-Fri**

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

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

**Second Mondays**

• The local chapter of PEO, an off-campus sorority founded in the 1800s that provides grants and loans to women with financial need who want to return to school or further their education meets at 10 a.m. More meeting places call president Paula McDonald at 706-372-3004

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

**2nd Tuesdays**

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

**Tuesdays**

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

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

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

**2nd Wednesdays**

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

**2nd & 4th Wed.**

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

**Mon., Tues., Thurs.**

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

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

**Thursdays**

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

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

**Fridays**

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

**3rd Saturdays**

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

**Sundays**

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

**Thurs., April 24**

• Live on Screen at the Martin Lipscomb Theatre at PAC at 1 p.m., the Met's LeNozze di Figaro. Box office@highlandsperformingarts.com. 828-526-9047.

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

**Fri., April 25**

• At Hudson Library, Community Coffee with the Mayor at 11am in the Meeting Room Mayor Taylor will be discussing agenda items covered at the April Town Board Meeting.

• At Highlands Nature Center, NC Bioblitz 3-4:30 p.m. The NC Bioblitz is part of the City Nature Challenge, a friendly citizen science competition between cities & regions all over the world. Visit scienceacrossnc.org to learn more. Free. No registration necessary.

**Sat., April 26**

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

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

• Celebrate Earth Day with the Found Object Relief Sculpture 10a to 2p at the Cowee School Arts and Heritage building in Franklin at 51 Cowee School Dr.. To pre-register email Carol.contistudio.com

• 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

**Sun. April 27**

• Fiber Sunday Cowee School Arts & Heritage Center at 51 Cowee School Dr. Franklin N.C. from 1 to 4p. Bring a textile project you are working on to visit with other textile people. Bring your spinning wheel or anything else. Contract Teresa Bouchonnet at coweetextiles@gmail.com for more information.

**May-Sept.**

• Beginning Wed. May 7, Farmers Market every Wednesday May-Sept. at the Cowee School Arts & Heritage building in Franklin at 51 Cowee School Dr.

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

**Thurs.-Sat., May 1-3**

• The 14th annual 3 River Fly Fishing Festival tournament is May 1-3 with proceeds going to the Town of Highlands Scholarship Fund. The weekend includes lunches, opening night reception and closing night banquet with dinner and prizes. To register go to 3riverflyfish.com

**Fri., - Sun. May 2-4**

• At PAC, Educational Theatre performance, Matilda. Box office@highlandsperformingarts.com. 828-526-9047.

**Sat., May 3**

• The Boys & Girls Club of the Plateau will be hosting its free May Fest event at the Club's headquarters on Frank Allen Road in Cashiers on Saturday from 12 to 3p.m.

**• Highlands-Cashiers Chamber Music Festival presents their FREE Spring Residency Concert with the Katarina Quartet Saturday at 5p at the First Presbyterian Church. Sponsored by the Cullasaja Women's Outreach.**

**Wed., May 7**

• At The Secret Garden in Village Square, Spring Wine Tasting 5-7 p.m. $40 per person. Small bites included. Call for reservations: Call (828) 305-7509 or 828-332-0224.

**Thurs., May 8**

• Live on Screen at the Martin Lipscomb Theatre at PAC at 5 p.m., GAOS's Munch: Love, Ghosts and Lady Vampires. Box office@highlandsperformingarts.com. 828-526-9047.

**Sun., May 11**

• At PAC, Steep Canyon Rangers at 4 pm. For tickets call (828) 526-9047 or email: highlandspacnc@gmail.com

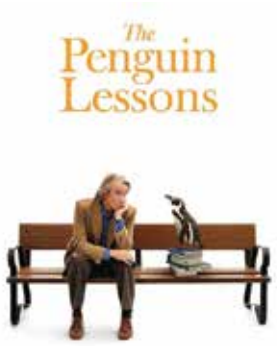
**Thurs, May 15**

• At The Bascom. Artist Talk with Kelly Odden. 4 pm. Free

**Sat., May 17**

• At Sky Valley/Scaly Mtn. FD, 189 hale Ridge Road, Scaly Mtn. Pet Vaccination Day 10a to 2p. Dogs must be leashed and cats must be in a carrier. Sponsored by Drs. Joanne Roesner and Stephanie Pierce.


**MOVIES**
**at PAC's MLPC**
507 Chestnut St. Highlands




Fri., April 25 – 2pm and 5:30pm
Sat., April 26 – 2pm
Sun., April 27 – 2pm and 5:30pm
(with captions) and 5:30pm

**Tickets:**
**Adults: $13.20 • Children: $11**
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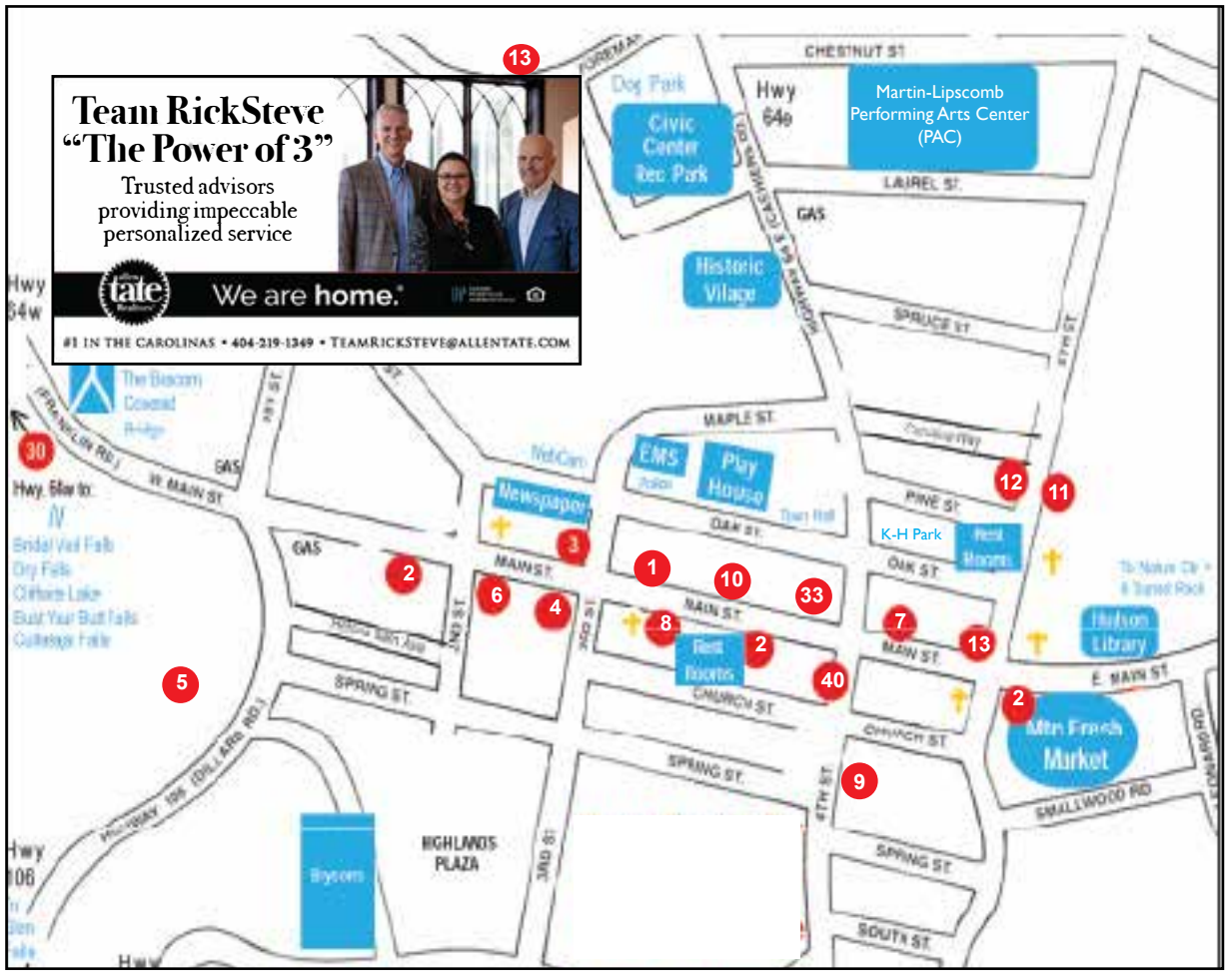


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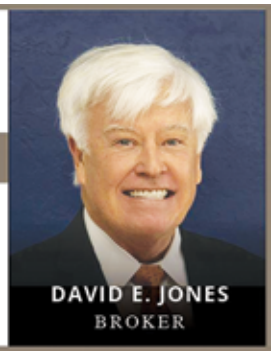

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