

• POLICE & FIRE REPORTS •

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

Feb. 23

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

March 4

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

The Highlands Fire & Rescue log from March 5.

March 5

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

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

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

March 6

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

March 7

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

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

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

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

March 8

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

March 9

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

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

March 10

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

• BIZ/ORG NEWS •



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

By Anna Norton

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

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

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

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

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

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

• CHHS NEWS •



Photo by Marty Boone

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

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

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

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

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