

Highlands Newspaper

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Town of Highlands adopts latest MC Comprehensive Transportation Plan

At the May Town Board meeting, commissioners joined the Town of Franklin, the Macon County Commission, the Southwestern Rural Planning Organization and the NC Board of Transportation and adopted the Macon County Comprehensive Transportation Plan. **• See PLAN page 16**

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MC Commission says 'yes' to FY '21-'22 tax increase for school construction; employee salaries

Taxes to go from 37.4 to 40 cents per \$100 valuation

By Brittney Lofthouse

When Macon County Manager Derek Roland first proposed his budget for 2021-'22, he recommended keeping the county's current tax rate flat with no increases. However, during a budget work session last Thursday, and again at Tuesday night's meeting the Macon County Board of Commissioners voted to increase taxes by about two percent to be able to fund future projects including a new Franklin High School.

The Macon County Board of Commissioners voted 3-2 to raise the county's tax rate from .374 to .40, (37.4 cents per \$100 valuation to 40 cents) increasing the county's budget by \$2 million to a total of \$56,641,096.

The request was made by Macon County Board Chair Jim

Tate who proposed increasing the tax rate enough to generate an additional \$2 million in revenue for the county.

Chairman Tate proposed taking the additional \$2 million and allocating \$400,000 to provide county employees with a two percent cost of living adjustment, something not in Roland's original budget, as well as \$600,000 to go toward the county's pay study implementation that will increase county salaries on average of nine percent to become competitive with neighboring counties.

Chairman Tate proposed the remaining \$1 million be spent to provide the Macon County Public Library with \$30,000 previously requested to boost salaries for their employees, \$25,000 for

•See TAX page 15



The FreeWheeling exhibit at The Bascom currently includes a 1954 Jaguar XK-120 once owned by Clark Gable.

People are revved up about this week's Highlands Motoring Festival

Amazing collector cars are coming to Highlands this week and there is no admission fee for spectators.

The first exhibit is "Free-

Wheeling-the Allure of the Automobile in Contemporary Art" at The Bascom Center of Visual Arts. Three cars are currently on display as part of the FreeWheeling ex-

hibit; including a 1954 Jaguar XK-120 once owned by Clark Gable, a "real" 1965 427 Cobra, and an original 1963 "split window" Cor-

•See MOTORING page 19



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• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• MAYOR ON DUTY •

Adopt a pet; they need you!

Ok, I view myself as an elected official but, some folks probably see me as a politician. You know the saying about politicians, if they want someone to like them, they need to get a dog.

That's just what Sallie and I did this past weekend; we got a dog. We drove to the Cashiers Highlands Humane Society and found a dog. We went to the shelter to look at the dog that had been advertised in last week's newspaper. We visited with the dog and was about to adopt her, when I began to walk around the compound. I spotted a yellow dog, and it came right up to me and began trying to lick me through the pen's fence. This "politician" thought he had finally found someone who liked him! I called Sallie over, and the dog did the same to her. We both decided that was the dog for us. The staff was very understanding



Highlands Mayor
Patrick Taylor

about our changing the dog we wanted to adopt. It probably didn't matter to them so long as we were going to adopt one of their animals.

I also started to believe this "politician" had a heart and soul. I felt so bad for the dogs we didn't adopt. As they barked, whined and tried to get our attention, I wanted to take all the dogs home with us. It is really sad to see how these innocent animals have been abandoned and neglected only to end up at the animal shelter.

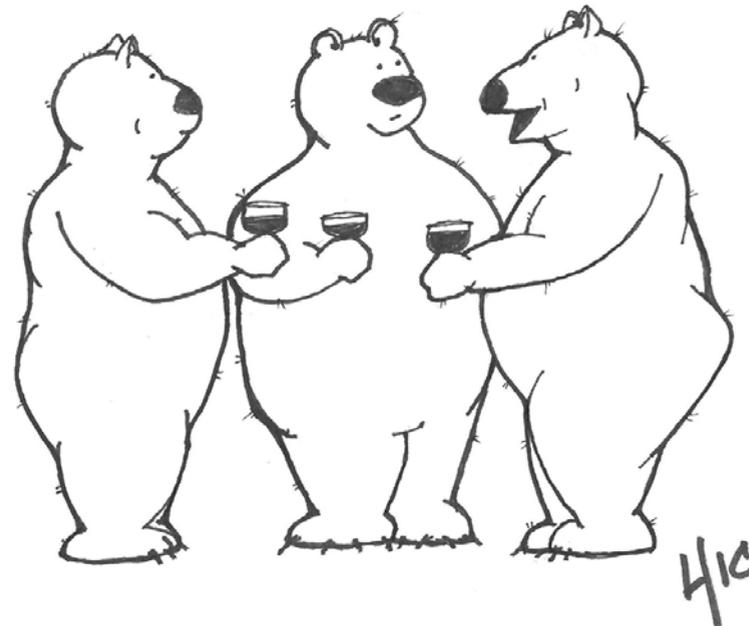
So, we did our small part last Saturday. I hope everyone who is considering getting a dog, or a cat, will go visit the Cashiers Highlands Humane Society to see if there is a pet for them to adopt. There will be no pressure to adopt. In fact, we had visited the shelter earlier this winter and didn't find a dog that we could connect with.

So, if you see me walking around town with a floppy eared, yellow dog, remember we got Lucy from the Cashiers Highlands Humane Society. A benefit of adoption is that when a match and an adoption is made, the animal is vaccinated, spayed or neutered. The adoption fee covers these items and the identity chip that lets folks, like our Highlands Animal Control officer, know who to contact if the dog is lost. We know Lucy is a runner, so she stays on leash at all times when outside.

By the way, the dog we didn't adopt is named Fern. She is a nice, sweet little dog that will make someone a great companion. We have so many community organizations on the plateau that make this a wonderful place to live. So many people, like the staff at the Humane Society, find great purpose in the work they do, whether it be their profession or as volunteers.

It has been hard trying to write this piece while a dog is trying to get into my lap. We're both in love again.

• HIC'S VIEW •



"Michael Lewis called. So I told him all about what those sneaky, 'I'm so cute' deer are really up to."

• WEATHER •

Thu, 10-Jun	Fri, 11-Jun	Sat, 12-Jun	Sun, 13-Jun
			
73°F 62°F	74°F 63°F	75°F 62°F	77°F 59°F
Mainly cloudy, heavy t-storms	Cloudy with a thunderstorm	Clouds and sun with a t-storm	A morning t-storm in the area
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High: 76° Low: 62°	High: 79° Low: 62°	High: 84° Low: 67°	High: 86° Low: 69°

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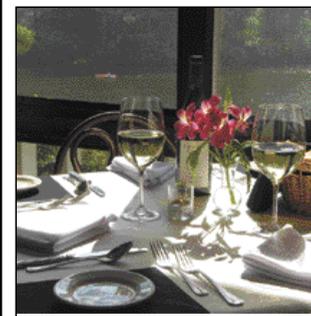
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A Memorial to Hillrie Quin

A memorial service for Hillrie Quin will be held on Sunday, June 13, 2021 at 2 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church of Highlands, 471 Main Street. Reception to follow the service.

By **Ran Shaffner**

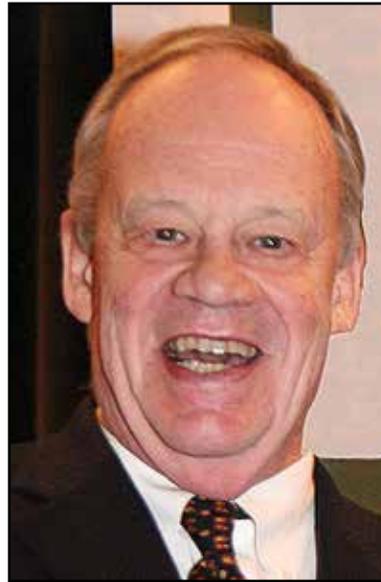
The Highlands Plateau Greenway owes much of its existence to Hillrie Quin, who passed away at a great loss to us on March 12, 2020. Having just settled in Highlands in 2003, Hillrie was soon to become cofounder of today's Greenway and commenced immediately to establish its foundation. Between 2006 and 2009 he single-handedly negotiated grants as large as \$100,000 each from the North Carolina Department of Environmental and Natural Resources and the Highlands Town Council. He secured National Park Service funding for equipment, construction, and maintenance of a proposed new trail.

Under his supervision volunteers began restoring an old half-mile trail and constructing a new half-mile loop through the Town Recreation Park. In 2009 work began on a new loop trail through Rhododendron Park, a large forested section of Big Bear Pen Mountain, which he and his wife Beverly had donated to the Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust.

Hillrie encouraged partnerships between the Greenway and the Highlands Biological Station, Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust, Bascom Gallery of Fine Art, and the Town of Highlands. Since 2007, membership in the Greenway has jumped eleven-fold; volunteers devoting over 7,100 hours to the trail's construction. Hillrie himself devoted 560 hours to working on the Trail.

The completed trail now descends from Sunset Rock, the high granitic dome overlooking the town; through the Botanical Garden, a living museum of labeled native plant species; up Big Bear Pen Mountain through switchbacks to a panoramic view of the mountains surrounding Highlands; through an old-growth forest down the 125-year-old Kelsey Trail, the oldest trail in town; across Mill Creek beneath towering hemlocks and pines; to the Bascom Art Center along a sculptured trail of native flora, a brook, and a waterfall; through a charming neighborhood along Oak Lane, and ending at Mirror Lake with a beautiful open view of the water.

The forests of oaks, hickories, and pines that shade the under-story old-growth rhododendron and mountain laurel surrounding Highlands now offer refreshing and striking alternatives to the town's streets and roads for foot travel between points of interest. The new and improved trails provide valuable exercise and companionship for the



growing number of volunteers who take pride in quality construction, which is so much appreciated by the ever-increasing number of walkers and hikers who frequent the Greenway Trail.

The people of Highlands owe their undying thanks, not exclusively but significantly, to Hillrie Quin for his strong vision, extraordinary competency, facility for networking and coordinating multiple organizations, leadership in goal-oriented and task-directed individual projects, and his inexhaustible reservoir of inspiration and encouragement in promoting the Greenway Trail. By 2010 the U.S. Secretary of Interior had officially awarded the Highlands Plateau Greenway the honored title: National Recreation Trail, one of over 1,000 trails nationwide that encourage people of all ages to get outside and use trails for exercise and exploration.

Hillrie himself is no stranger to such awards. But in all modesty he never mentioned any of his considerable accomplishments. Before he came to Highlands, the Georgia Environmental Council had given him its Lifetime Achievement Award; the Georgia Wildlife Federation, its Career Achievement in Conservation Award; the Georgia Appalachian Trail Club, its Trail Worker of the Year Award; and he was recipient of the Volunteer in the Forest Award, the National Wetlands Protection Award for Outstanding Wetlands Program Development, and a Certificate of Appreciation from the Georgia Forestry Commission for work in revising its Best Management Practices for Forestry. In 2010, the same year that the Highlands Greenway became a National Recreation Trail, Hillrie was honored by American Trails with its State Trail Worker Award for North Carolina.

For me personally, I knew Hillrie since his arrival in Highlands. His creative energy and irrepressible enthusiasm to achieve anything worth the fight endeared him to his many followers. I've said before that if Paradise harbors any corners where chaos might exist, Hillrie will organize them. He'll set aside sections of the Promised Land for preservation, build greenway trails for connectivity, climb mountains for clearer perspectives on human relationships, and fill the heavens with his infectious laughter. For many he was a trusted advisor, a sincere empathizer, and a dear friend who has left a painful void but lives on in the hearts of those of us he left behind. We miss him greatly.

• HIGHLANDS DINING •

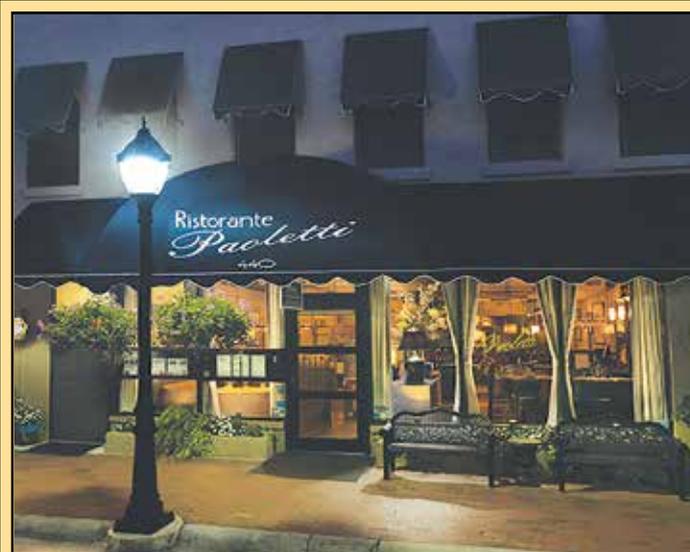


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Nantahala Health Foundation invests more than \$204,000 in 27 WNC nonprofits

Nantahala Health Foundation announced today its intent to invest more than \$204,000 in Western North Carolina nonprofits and public service organizations working to improve health and wellness outcomes for all. Needs Immediately Met (NIMble) grants have been approved for 27 organizations in support of essential organizational needs and/or health and wellness programs, said Nantahala Health Foundation Executive Director Lori Bailey.

"The devastating impacts of COVID-19 were front and center when we first envisioned how our NIMble grants could be implemented to support struggling WNC nonprofits early in 2020," Bailey said. "Now that pandemic concerns are relaxing, we are eager to continue our work to address the social determinants that impact all our lives and to building capacity within the nonprofit and public service agencies that work so diligently every day in support of others."

Organizations awarded NIMble grants are working to improve the health and well-being of individuals in Cherokee, Clay, Graham, Swain, Jackson and Macon counties, as well as on the Qualla Boundary. Additionally, NIMble grant funds support programs designed to address NHF's funding priorities, which include access to healthcare and general wellness opportunities, formal and informal education initiatives, economic stability, and community and organizational capacity building. Within these priority categories are many of the social determinants of health known to impact up to 80 percent of an individual's health outcomes over a lifetime.

"An ever-growing body of research has proven that where and how a person lives, learns, works and plays far exceeds cumulative clinical visits when it comes to determining health outcomes," said David Garrett, NHF's board chair. "Addressing these social determinants is the primary reason Nantahala Health Foundation has chosen to work with organizations to specifically identify and support upstream methods of improving wellness for all in Western North Carolina."

NIMble grant investments totally \$204,222 have been awarded to organizations in these categories:

HEALTH AND HEALTHCARE

- AWAKE Children's Advocacy Center, Sylva – To support the purchase of their current facility, thus providing the agency with a permanent operational headquarters.

- Blue Ridge Mountains Health Project, Cashiers – To enhance their organization's technological capacity to better serve free dental clinic patients.

- Erlanger Western Carolina Hospital, Murphy – To support the establishment of a health clinic within the Graham County School System, thus providing children and teachers direct access to medical care.

- Full Spectrum Farms, Cullowhee – To create an art studio and educational space that will allow the organization's growing list of clients to be served in a safe indoor setting.

- Graham County Sheriff's Office, Robbinsville – To purchase comprehensive first aid kits for each patrol car, thus ensuring sheriff's department officers have access to necessary equipment to provide first-responder medical care as needed.

- Hospice House Foundation of WNC, Franklin – To purchase appliances necessary to the operation of the nonprofit's facility, scheduled to open later in 2021.

- North Carolina Bartram Trail Society, Franklin – To repair trail maintenance equipment and ensure their secure storage, thus ensuring safe equipment is available to volunteers during scheduled workdays and further ensuring trail users experience a safer, more enjoyable outdoor activity.

- Rotary Club of Franklin-Daybreak, Franklin – To support the repair of a Little Tennessee Greenway pavilion, thus providing the public an additional outdoor meeting space within Macon County.

- Special Olympics North Carolina, Morrisville – To address the healthcare accessibility challenges and health inequities of more than 600 WNC children and adults who are at greater health risks due to leading sedentary lifestyles, thus ensuring this population has access to health and wellness programming targeting priority issues.

ECONOMIC SECURITY

- Appalachian Sustainable Agriculture Project, Asheville – To provide community food sites budgets to purchase local farm

• See NANTAHALA page 10

• INVESTING AT 4,118 Ft. •

Exurbia

In 2008, when Sotheby's International Realty invited Wood and my company, Cullasaja Realty, to be associated with their worldwide network of top-producing real estate firms, we had to choose a moniker in front of Sotheby's International Realty. We chose "Exurbia" based on a book by David Brooks, a political journalist who writes for The New York Times and National Public Radio, called "Bobos in Paradise."

After spending more than four years abroad, Brooks returned in 2000 to an America that seemed confusing to him. The difference between the bourgeois world of capitalism and the bohemian counterculture were blended.

The bourgeoisie were the square, practical ones who worked for corporate America living in the suburbs and attended church. The bohemians were the free spirits who flouted convention and were the enterprising yuppies of the 1980s. Brooks observed that the bohemians and the bourgeoisie were integrated. Hippies had become capitalists.

He noted that it was impossible to tell an espresso-sipping artist from a cappuccino-gulping banker. As part of this new culture, he noted that there was a national trend to move out of the suburbs to high-quality small towns such as our local resort area referred to as "The Plateau." This trend he dubbed "Exurbia."

In 2008, we saw a trickle of these educated folks who have one foot in the bohemian world of creativity and another foot in the bourgeois realm of ambition and success moving to this area.

Over the years, a few couples with whom we worked moved to this area full-time. They had retired at an early age and wanted a small town with cultural opportunities and nature as a playground to settle down in. The majority of our residential sales were still for second-home buyers. Because most people could not pronounce and did not appreciate the



Jody Lovell
Highlands Sotheby
828.526.4104

cerebral meaning of "Exurbia," we succumbed to an easier moniker by changing our name to Highlands Sotheby's International Realty a few years later.

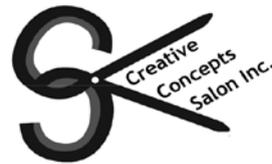
Fast forward to 2020. What David Brooks described in 2000 burst forth during COVID. The intangible world of ideas merging with the material world of money caught fire and created a stampede to "Exurbia." With the ability to now work from home, the two worlds of work life and home focus became one. Concentrating and contemplating what matters most in life, buyers came in droves to purchase

homes in this idyllic area. In addition to the desire for an area less populated, the desire for security and safety became paramount to buyers flocking from the cities. The recalibration of values in this area is definitely here to stay.

The uncertainty and fear that we saw in 2008 with the financial crisis is the same uncertainty and fear that we saw during COVID. Both events created an introspection about priorities in life. We were grateful in both times to be part of the stalwart Sotheby's International Brand as consumers naturally gravitated to quality brands with a solid reputation and track record during difficult times. Referrals in our Sotheby's network rose by 42% last year as people shuffled their locations.

To those of us who figured out Exurbia decades ago, to new citizens of this area, let us give thanks for such a spectacular place on the planet with a group of kind, thoughtful residents who care more about each other and nature than worrying about crime in the streets. Have a healthy, safe, fun season here on our piece of Exurbia.

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• FINANCIAL MATTERS •

What a difference a year makes

With the economy and markets recovering, it seems clear we're on the other side of this pandemic.

I wrote an article last year on April 8th at a time when things were much less certain. In fact, I would say there was a greater amount of uncertainty at that time than we've seen since the Second World War.

On that day, the S&P 500 closed at 2789, today it's at 4208. We now know the bottom was a decline of about 35%. In fact, it was the fastest 35% decline and recovery in history.

Unemployment has gone from 14.8% to 6.1%, with some business offering hiring bonuses and practically begging their employees to come back to work.

According to reports, some of this reluctance to return is because people have used their time off to pursue new careers.

Right now, in some cases, unemployment benefits provide more than what some workers can make at their old positions, and about half of the states are preparing to cut back on the Federal portion of unemployment to encourage people to go back to work.

I know business owners in Highlands who have told me they can't find help and there's at least one small restaurant chain with 15 locations in the greater Orlando area that has 200 unfilled positions. Their solution...close one day per week.

Meanwhile 50% of adults in the U.S. are fully vaccinated. As I wrote last year, "we're going to need to learn to live with or without this virus."

Thanks to Operation Warp Speed and some incredible scientists, we are now seeing COVID 19 infections plummet and if somewhere between 25 and 100 million people have already had the virus, we're approaching a level of herd immunity no one expected this time last year.

In addition, in April 2020 I wrote in this column,

"A week or so later, I began seeing posts on Twitter saying this didn't come from the wet market but might have come from a lab in Wuhan. This was backed up online with news articles alleging doctors



Michael P Henderson,
CFP®/CKA®
Founder/Wealth Advisor

were suddenly disappearing for speaking out and supposed screen shots of job postings in Wuhan for scientists who would study the corona virus in bats."

Apparently, the Biden Administration now thinks that might be the case, even though much of the media and the "experts," along with the CCP, have denied this could have happened. We'll see. I always find it interesting who and what the media, left and right, cares to report

and when.

Either way, we are all getting a lesson in Keynesian economics. The amount of monetary stimulus pumped into this economy is staggering, and it isn't finished yet. Demand side stimulus has indeed worked (for now), but at what cost? What are going to be the longer-term consequences?

The GOP just announced a \$928 billion infrastructure counteroffer. Remember in 2009 when we choked on \$780 billion in stimulus that mostly went to the banks. We really are in uncharted waters and no one really knows how this will end.

However, the recovery for now is real and broadening, and this time, the velocity of money (how often and how quickly it changes hands) has accelerated. This appears to be leading to inflation at present, but some commentators feel we can handle a little inflation and the current surge will cool.

The run-up in tech stocks has cooled a bit, but large industrials like Boeing, Caterpillar, GM, and others are recovering, and supply chains appear to be getting back online. Gas prices have risen as the economy re-opens, but crypto's have fallen substantially from their all-time highs.

Interest rates are still at or near historically low levels which, in addition to a new generation now wanting to get out of the big cities into suburbs and more rural areas, has created a housing shortage.

Another piece to the housing shortage is normally we need approximately 1.4 million new housing starts per year to keep up with the demand of a growing population. We didn't reach that level in

..FINANCIAL continued from page 8

any year from 2008 to 2020 leaving a massive gap in houses needed. Couple that with mortgage rates at or near all-time lows and boom, you have housing prices at all-time highs.

So, I guess we'll eventually see how all this plays out. My wife and I are heading to Highlands on June 25th for 6 weeks. Now that we don't need to wear masks, I'll "see" you in town.

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A BBQ party this weekend at OEI's The Farm

Saturday, June 12, there is a Fox Brothers Disco Pig Party at The Farm at Old Edwards at 6:30. Warm southern nights in June beckon for southern barbecue! Enjoy a lip-smacking evening at the Farm at Old Edwards on Saturday, June 12 with pitmasters Jonathan and Justin Fox. They're the tour de force behind the award-winning Atlanta restaurant Fox Brothers Barbecue. Get your taste buds ready for their unique Southern-style barbecue infused with their home state of Texas flair. Enjoy pulled pork, brisket, wings – you know - Bar. B. Que. That's Saturday, June 12 at the Farm at Old Edwards. \$155 per person, plus tax and gratuity. Book online: <https://www.simpletix.com/e/fox-brothers-dinner-at-the-farm-tickets-6544> or call 855-421-2919 to book.

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JUNE 11

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JUNE 18

Johnny Webb Band

JUNE 25

Trudition

Saturdays on Pine

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Kelsey - Hutchinson
Founders Park

6pm

JUNE 12

The Crowe Brothers

JUNE 19

Americana Jones

JUNE 26

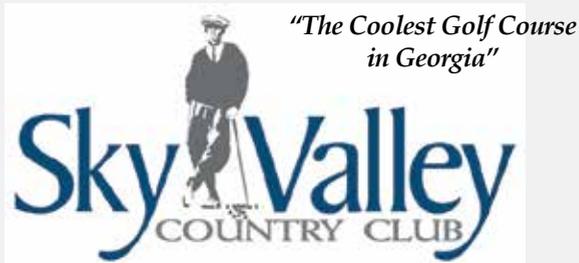
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LUNCH ONLY \$25

Country Club of Sapphire Valley



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CRUSHERS \$1,000

..NANTAHALA continued from page 6

products that meet the needs of their programs.

- God's Way Fellowship, Balsam Grove – To increase food security for at-risk residents of Jackson County.

- Grace Place, A Community Table, Robbinsville – To expand the organization's current food pantry capacity to address food insecurity within Graham County.

- Jordan Peer Recovery, Candler – To establish a Community Health Worker Apprenticeship program to support recovery and re-entry efforts of individuals returning to society after time spent in prison and/or drug rehabilitation facilities.

- Macon Program for Progress, Franklin – To decrease financial hardships for Macon County's most vulnerable populations, including the elderly, disabled, and veterans of America's armed forces, thus ensuring their basic, day-to-day needs are met.

- Mountain Projects, Waynesville – To decrease financial hardships for Jackson County's most vulnerable populations, including the elderly and disabled, and low-income workers, thus ensuring their basic, day-to-day needs are met.

- Rolling Start NC, Sylva – To repair at least six donated vehicles, which can then be gifted to individuals in need of safe, reliable transportation.

- Southwestern Resource Conservation and Development Council, Waynesville – To support the implementation of a WNC Farm-to-Table project in Jackson County by covering transportation (fuel and maintenance) costs, thus ensuring food products can be delivered from local farmers to at least five categories of end-users, including restaurants, farmers markets, food banks, institutions, and producers of value-added products.

- State of Franklin Health Council, Bryson City – To install a commercial kitchen within the Swain County Senior Center, thus ensuring the staff's ability to prepare healthy, hot meals and make them available on-site and for home delivery.

- Stecoah Valley Arts Crafts and Educational Center, Robbinsville – To upgrade their facility's internet, WiFi and telephone technology, thus ensuring community residents and visitors to Graham County have access to these vital services.

EDUCATION

- Andrews Elementary School, Andrews – To purchase 60 desks and chairs constructed of anti-micro bacterial materials for three classrooms and to purchase a

UV cleaner.

- Big Brothers Big Sisters of WNC, Asheville – To support the initiation of an outdoor hiking program for youth and their adult mentors, thus teaching at-risk, under-served children about the advantages of spending time in natural surroundings, increasing their physical fitness level, and instilling long-term, healthy habits around leisure activity and nutrition choices.

- Cherokee Indian Hospital Authority, Cherokee – To establish a Nurse Aide training program, which will attract individuals interested in access to healthcare jobs.

- Graham County Public Library, Robbinsville – To provide library users with a comprehensive collection of online materials and resources to aid their pursuit of information, research, education, recreation, and the development of creative capacities in their leisure time.

- Graham County Schools, Robbinsville – To repair an elementary school freezer by replacing its compressor, thus ensuring the safety of food available to students.

- Heart for Families, Franklin – To purchase materials and support facilitator stipends as required to offer the Love and Logic program, thus providing parenting classes designed to improve childhood and family experiences.

- Smoky Mountain Pregnancy Care Center, Franklin – To provide Earn While You Learn program availability online and in Spanish via DVDs, thus eliminating a variety of barriers their clients have faced when attempting to access this educational resource.

- Southwestern Community College, Sylva – To purchase a chemistry analyzer, thus ensuring health science students have access to this educational tool in support of their chosen field of study and to support the outcomes of community clinics offered to the public.

Included in the total NIMble grant investments, \$112,104 (or 55 percent) has been allocated to grow organizational capacity-building efforts, while \$146,122 (or 72 percent) will address organizational needs related to overcoming the impacts of COVID-19.

Soon after their establishment in early 2019, Nantahala Health Foundation's Board of Directors focused on strategic planning and information gathering. Af-

•See NANTAHALA page 11

• BIZ/ORG NEWS •



Rotary President, Zach Claxton with Mary Adair Trumbly, Executive Director of Martin-Lipscomb Performing Arts Center

At the Rotary Club of Highlands meeting on June 1, 2021, the featured speaker was Mary Adair Trumbly, Executive Director of the Martin-Lipscomb Performing Arts Center. Trumbly, also a Rotarian, previewed this summer's line up of events at the Center including Seldom Scene on June 18, Terry Barber on June 26, "Men are from Mars, Women are from Venus" on August 14 and more. After a year of closure due to Covid-19, the Center is thrilled to be open once again.

..NANTAHALA

continued from page 10

ter hosting an extensive series of listening sessions designed to identify issues challenging Western North Carolina, they defined their initial priorities and set about allocating funds in support of achieving their mission. During this time when we have all been impacted by COVID, NHF has continued their listening sessions and work to connect with the communities they serve during 2020 and 2021 and have further refined funding priorities accordingly.

NHF's 2021 NIMble grant cycle, during which grants were capped at \$10,000 each, marks the organization's fourth completed grant cycle and a collective community investment to date of nearly \$2.4 million in support of addressing social determinants of health.

For more information about Nantahala Health Foundation's mission to work with non-profit service providers and public agencies to improve SDoH throughout the region or to offer input about regional needs related to social determinants of health, please visit nantahalalhealth-foundation.org or connect with them on Facebook and Instagram.

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EXPERIENCE
 Live Concerts

Seldom Scene
BLUEGRASS

Friday
 June 18, 2021
 7:30pm

Highlands Performing Arts Center 507 Chestnut Street, Highlands NC
 Tickets available online: www.HighlandsPerformingArts.com

• HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

NOTICE

• The Church in the Wildwood, Horsecove Road, will not be holding June services. Please check papers and radio for possible July opening. Questions? 1-828-506-0125 and leave message.

Ongoing

• Movies at Highlands Playhouse Friday-Sunday.
• American Legion 370 meets every Saturday at 10a at the Highlands United Methodist Church in the Fel-

First Live Concert at PAC since pre-Covid!



The Highlands Performing Arts Center is extremely excited to welcome audiences back into the PAC. On Friday, June 18 at 7:30pm we will present the Bluegrass nationally known, Seldom Scene. Since forming nearly 50 years ago, The Seldom Scene has brought both freewheeling joy and immaculate musicianship to their take on bluegrass, offering up spirited interpretations of songs from limitless genres. On their new album Changes, the band sharpens their focus to a highly specific body of work: songs first recorded in the 1960s and very early '70s, rooted in the archetypal storytelling of classic singer-songwriters. And in taking on the music of iconic artists like Bob Dylan and Townes Van Zandt, The Seldom Scene perform a sort of subtle magic; transforming the most stripped-bare songs into harmony rich and elaborately arranged compositions, while wholly sustaining the charmed simplicity of each piece. On Changes, The Seldom Scene more than proves itself up to the task, gracing every song with breathtaking instrumental interplay and heavenly three-part harmonies. Co-produced by the band and Rounder Records so-founder Ken Irwin, the album also spotlights The Seldom Scene's sheer ingenuity as song arrangers, with even the most starkly composed tracks taking on wondrously intricate textures and tones.

There are only a few tickets remaining so log on today to get yours: www.HighlandsPerformingArts.com click on the red Performing Arts Center tab.

lowship Hall. All veterans are welcome.

• The Bookworm at 555 Main Street is now open Thursday-Saturday 11a to 3p. For more information, call 828-526-3031.

• Mountain Findings Thrift Store at 432 Spruce Street is open Friday and Saturday from 10a to 1p.

• Highlands/Cashiers Alcoholics Anonymous "Open Meetings" are for anyone who thinks they may have a drinking problem or for anyone interested in the A.A. recovery program. In person meetings have resumed and are held at 12 Noon Wednesday And Friday at 1st Presbyterian Church Library, 471 Main St., Highlands. On line meeting information can be found @ www.aawnc80.org or to speak with a member of A.A. call (828) 349-4357.

Every Saturday

• Highlands Marketplace in K-H Park on Pine Street. 8a to 12:30p. (At the Ballfield one time only, Sat., June 12)

Fri.-Sun., June 11-13

• At Acorns on S. 4th Street, Highlands, Elizabeth Locke Jewelry Trunk Show, 10a to 5p. Elizabeth Locke travels the world in pursuit of the uncommon elements to make up her designs. All pieces are individually designed by her and completely handmade in 19K gold using coins from Greece, Rome, and forgotten empires, as well as luminous pearls from the South Seas. For more info: call (828) 787-1877

Fri. June 11

• Friday Night Live in Town Square: 6-8:30p. Frank & Allie

Fri., Sat., Sun., June 12-14

• MOVIE at Highlands Playhouse – "The Space Between," starring Kelsey Grammer. Showtimes: Fri. & Sat.: 4p and 7p, Sun.: 1p and 4p. Tickets are \$12 plus tax available on line or at the door.

Sat. June 12

• Author Deena Bouknight will have a book signing of her book "Light Fracture" at Shakespeare and Company Bookseller in Village Square in Highlands at 2-4 p.m.

• Saturdays on Pine. 6-8:30p. The Crowe Brothers

• Fox Brothers Disco Pig Party at The Farm at Old Edwards at 6:30. Warm southern nights in June beckon for southern barbecue! Enjoy a lip-smacking evening at the Farm at Old Edwards on Saturday, June 12 with pitmasters Jonathan and Justin Fox. They're the tour de force behind the award-winning Atlanta restaurant Fox Brothers Barbecue. Get your taste buds ready for their unique Southern-style barbecue infused with their home state of Texas flair. Enjoy pulled pork, brisket, wings – you know - Bar. B. Que. That's Saturday, June 12 at the Farm at Old Edwards. \$155 per person, plus tax and gratuity. Book online: <http://www.simplertix.com/e/fox-brothers-dinner-at-the-farm-tickets-6544> or call 855-421-2919 to book.

Sat., June 13

• Highlands Motoring Festival. Cars in the Park. (Pine Street) 10a to 4p

Mon., June 14

• HUMC will be hosting a blood drive in the Old Fellowship Hall, from 10am - 3pm. Sign up to donate blood at www.redcrossblood.org

Tues., June 15

• 8th annual Big Brothers Big Sisters Croquet Tournament, at Country Club of Sapphire Valley. Play & Lunch \$125, Lunch only, \$25. Sponsorships available. Register at bbbswnc.org/2021Croquet

Wed., June 16

• The first stab at the Highlands Community Plan will be presented at the Highlands Community Building next to the ballfield from 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Thurs., June 17

• Erick Baker: Orchard Sessions at The Farm at Old Edwards at 6 - 8 pm. Guest-favorite singer-songwriter Erick Baker from Knoxville, TN returns to Highlands for this special Orchard Sessions event. Settle into comfortable seating and relax into a summer evening under the heirloom apple trees at the Farm at Old Edwards. The music of Popular self-taught singer-songwriter Erick Baker, from Knoxville, TN will fill the magical mountain air in the stunning surroundings of the orchard, while you enjoy light bites and a cash bar. Old Edwards Hotel Guests & Members \$15. General Admission \$25 (bookable two weeks prior to the event) Cash Bar & Complimentary Light Bites will be served. \$15 - \$25. Tickets: <https://www.simplertix.com/e/erick-baker-orchard-sessions-at-the-farm-tickets-67598>

Fri. June 18

• Friday Night Live in Town Square: 6-8:30p. Johnny Webb Band.

• At PAC, live music concert "Seldom Scene" at 7:30 p.m. There are only a few tickets remaining so log on today to get yours: www.HighlandsPerformingArts.com click on the red Performing Arts Center tab.

Sat. June 19

• Join us for a free Scottish Ceilidh in Franklin, NC, a musical treat with Norma Jean and Jim, the dynamic duo, and the Jacobites By Name, a well-known band in western North Carolina, at the Rathskeller on June 19 from 5 to 9 pm. Rathskeller will have Scottish beverages and Rockin Rollie Pollies will have Scottish hand foods such

Frank & Allie at Town Square Friday, June 11



Frank & Allie Lee are old time and folk musicians in western North Carolina. Their newest album Treat A Stranger Right, was #1 on the folk radio charts for January and February 2020. See them in Town Square by Wild Thyme Gourmet on Main Street from 6-8:30 p.m.

• HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

as bangers and mash for sale.

• K-H Founders Park Annual Shrimp Boil. Drive Thru. 5-7 p.m. Rain or shine.

• Saturdays on Pine. 6-8:30p. Americana Jones

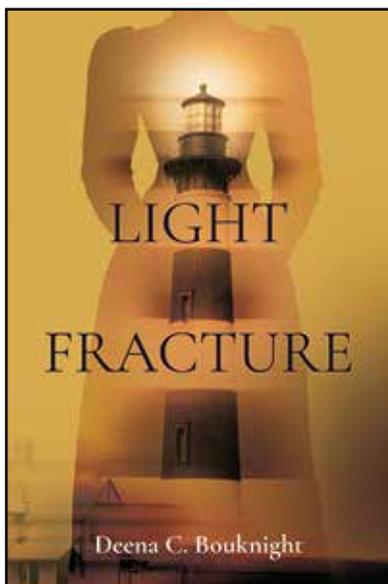
Fri. June 25

• Friday Night Live in Town Square: 6-8:30p. Tradition

Sat. & Sun., June 26 & 27

• Mountaintop Art & Craft Show (previously the Village Square Show) will be held in downtown Highlands at K-H Founders Park (Pine St.) from 10 to 5. The FREE

Booksigning Sat., June 12 at Shakespeare & Co.



The 1886 earthquake that devastated Charleston, S.C., is the worst on record to ever affect the East Coast. Author Deena C. Bouknight's historic literary novel, *Light Fracture*, is a well-researched, sense-of-place, post-Reconstruction tale that builds in and around a lighthouse culture to climax with a natural disaster involving strange phenomena before, during, and after an estimated magnitude-7 earthquake.

Though steeped in accurate history, the fictional tale focuses on Agnes Larsson's plummet inside the Morris Island lighthouse during the earthquake's aftershocks and explores whether her death was driven by mental illness or involved something sinister on the part of her lighthouse keeper husband or their children's teacher. *Light Fracture* illumines struggles meant to stay shrouded in a time when patience was a virtue, a lighthouse saved lives, and an earthquake was the furthest notion in the minds of those living in South Carolina's lowcountry.

The booksigning is at 2- 4p.m., Sat. June 12 at Shakespeare & Company in Village Square next to Pine Street Park on Oak and 5th streets.

event features regional potters, jewelers, woodworkers, fine artists, etc. plus food. For more info call (828) 526-9227 or visit www.mountaintopshow.com.

Sat., June 26

• At Acorns on S. 4th Street, Highlands, Southern Botanicals Trunk Show, 10a to 5p. Description: Specializing in collecting, pressing, mounting and framing flowers, leaves and other plant materials in the style of botanical engravings, all items are original hand-crafted artworks. The Latin and common names, dates and locations are recorded in the style of herbariums on archival quality, 100% cotton rag paper. Call (828) 787-1877

• NO CONCERT in the park.

• Author Deena Bouknight will have a booksigning of her book "Light Fracture" at the Hudson Library in Highlands at 11 a.m.

Thurs.- Mon., July 1-12

• At Acorns on S. 4th Street, Highlands, Ali & Bird Jewelry Trunk Show, 10a to 5p. Ali & Bird jewelry was founded by Ali Howell, an Atlanta resident, and Memphis native, in 2009. Ali brings her passion for bold color combinations and timeless design to the creation of each piece of Ali & Bird jewelry. She designs unique jewelry that brings a modern flair to classic looks; no two Ali & Bird pieces are ever the same and all materials are real, unique, and sometimes quite rare. For more info: call (828) 787-1877

Fri. July 2

• Friday Night Live in Town Square: 6-8:30p. Foxfire Boys

Sat. July 3

• Saturdays on Pine. 6-8:30p. TBA

Sun., July 4

• Chamber event: Fireworks and Concert.

• Saturdays on Pine: Moon Dance. 6-8:30p.

Fri., July 9

• Friday Night Live in Town Square: 6-8:30p. Southern Highlands

Sat., July 10

• At Acorns on S. 4th Street, Highlands, Theresa Forman Trunk Show, 10a to 5p. As a child, Theresa Forman had a passion for art and the process of creating something beautiful. However, it was not until later in life that she was able to pursue fine art and painting. Theresa most enjoys painting inspiration from life where she can observe both the colors and subtle nuances in the landscape or in a still life. Working primarily in oils, she uses the plein air studies and photographic references to produce studio pieces that reveal the harmony found in nature. For more info: call (828) 787-1877.

• Saturdays on Pine. 6-8:30p. Kurt Thomas Band

Fri., July 16

• Friday Night Live in Town Square: 6-8:30p. Johnny Webb

Sat., July 17

• At Acorns on S. 4th Street, Highlands, Carol Misner Trunk Show, 10a to 5p. There is no mistaking Carol Misner's botanical paintings. Each is her unique interpretation of flora, in monochromatic tones, reflecting the simple beauty, gracefulness and fragility of the botanical

it portrays. Ms. Misner so delicately layers her acrylics to achieve a diaphanous, gossamer quality that it has been said her works resemble x-rays in watercolor. The majority of Ms. Misner's subjects come from the beautiful flora she finds in her community and in her travels. For more info: call (828) 787-1877.

• Saturdays on Pine. 6-8:30p. Shane Meade

Sat., July 21

• At Acorns on S. 4th Street, Highlands, Phillip Curcuro Trunk Show 10a to 5p. Philip Curcuro, artist and owner of Upland Nature Lab, focuses on celebrating natural specimens by dramatizing objects through isolation, light, and backdrop. All specimens are found in the southern Appalachian Mountains, and photographed at a home studio in Highlands, North Carolina. For more info: call (828) 787-1877.

Fri.-Sun., July 23-25

• At Acorns on S. 4th Street, Highlands, Monica Rich Kosann Trunk Show 10a to 5p. Monica Rich Kosann's collection of 18k gold and sterling silver fine jewelry is rooted in the idea that every woman has a story to tell. For more info: call (828) 787-1877.

Fri., July 23

• Friday Night Live in Town Square: 6-8:30p. Sycamore Flats

The Crowe Brothers in the park Sat. June 12



With Josh Crowe on guitar, and Wayne Crowe on bass, the Crowe Brothers' music career has spanned more than four decades and a dozen recording projects. Growing up in Clayton, Georgia, Josh and Wayne began playing music as boys with their dad, Junior Crowe, and with various local bands playing bluegrass and gospel. At music in the park Sat., June 12 from 6-8:30.

CNA Training Program set to begin at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital

The State of North Carolina recently approved a CNA Program for Mission Health at two locations: Highlands-Cashiers Hospital and Mission Hospital. This program provides a pathway for high school graduates or second-career individuals who are passionate about starting their healthcare career. The program starts July 6, with training being held Monday through Friday at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital.

Interested individuals will be hired by Mission Health as Patient Safety Attendants and will be paid a salary while participating in the 6-week training to become a Certified Nursing Assistant. The program is comprised of 156 hours - 40 classroom hours; 60 hours in the simulations lab and 56 hours in the clinical units with supervision. During time on the clinical unit, students will be able to perform tasks that they have completed in the simulation lab.

Mission Hospital has also been approved by the state to be a state testing site. Once the 6-week course is completed, state CNA examiners will come to Mission Hospital to facilitate the test. There are limited testing sites across the states, so this is a huge convenience for those in western



Yuridia Sanchez, Ajahannah Nicole Kapoutsos, Amber Rogers, Brittany Kirkland, Leonard H. Crane, Ashley Holcomb and Staley C. Beck

North Carolina. After passing the test, participants receive a \$1,000 sign on bonus.

"Before this program, I was working in housekeeping at Eckerd Living Center. I made the decision to become a companion so I could work directly with the residents. I am thankful the program offered me a paycheck while attending class, otherwise, I could not have entered the program. I

am excited to begin my career and I think the nurse aide program was a great opportunity for me. I wanted the skills to help people and ELC made it happen," said Yuridia Sanchez of Franklin, who was part of the first class at HCH.

For more information, or to apply for the CNA training program, visit <http://careers.hca-healthcare.com/CNATraining>.

Highlands-Cashiers Hospital DAISY Award winner



Terry Taylor, RN

Congratulations to Highlands-Cashiers Hospital's 2021 DAISY Award recipient Terry Taylor, RN. Terry serves as a nurse in the hospital's Emergency Department. The award was presented recently at a ceremony at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. The DAISY Foundation is a national nonprofit that honors nurses and the amazing care they provide to patients and families.

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...TAX continued from 1

funding for the partnership with the Nikwaski Initiative, \$10,000 for Cowee School for infrastructure repairs, with the remaining funding being placed in contingency to be spent as needed for pending capital projects such as refurbishing a building donated to Southwestern Community College. That property was just purchased in Nantahala for a potential new community building.

The remainder of the money will be used to begin generating revenue to fund the costs associated with moving forward with construction of a new Franklin High School.

In addition, the board approved a one-time allocation of \$127,500 to Highlands to assist with lighting replacement at the Highlands Ballfield. The county will be providing half of the funding for the project.

The vote to increase taxes passed 3-2 with Commissioners Paul Higdon and Josh Young voting against it. Young said he supported raising taxes for the \$1 million associated with improving county employee salaries, however, he could not vote for the full \$2 million increase without more of a plan on how the funds would be spent.

A new high school is estimated to cost the county a minimum of \$60 million, which led commissioners to begin discussions on how to fund the project.

While various funding options are possible – commissioners voted to increase the county's current tax rate by 2.53 cents to bring the county's ad valorem tax rate to 40 cents per \$100 valuation – which will generate an additional \$2 million in revenue for Macon County each year.

In addition to the tax increase to fund the FHS project, the Macon County Board of Commissioners took an additional step and voted in a split vote to solicit RFQ (Request for Qualifications) for architectural design services for the project.

During the RFQ phase, interested architectural firms will submit conceptual plans to coun-

ty commissioners, and based on the firm's qualifications, the county will rank the firms and ultimately award the architectural contract to the winning firm.

In addition to raising taxes for future school construction, the Macon County Board of Commissioners are considering moving a portion of the \$1.1 million in funding for capital outlay projects for the school system into the operations budget for the school system to allow the district to address staffing needs such as art and music positions that have been requested by the public.

Macon County Schools Superintendent Dr. Chris Baldwin spoke to commissioners and noted that the school system is unsure of requirements on how \$15 million in federal COVID19 relief funding will be allowed to be spent, but that the district anticipates receiving around \$15 million and knows that it has to be spent by 2024.

Dr. Baldwin said that based on the criteria given by the state, he believes \$1.6 million in personnel for art teachers, music teachers, school

nurses, and school psychology that were requested as part of the budget request to commissioners, could be funded out of the anticipated \$15 million.

Roland noted that while the school system figures out how the money can be spent, freeing up half of the school system's capital outlay funding to be spent on operations will give the school system additional flexibility to meet the needs of the district.

Weekend Trunk Show at Acorn's

Fri.-Sun., June 11-13, there is a trunk show at Acorns on S. 4th Street, Highlands, Elizabeth Locke Jewelry Trunk Show, 10a to 5p. Elizabeth Locke travels the world in pursuit of the uncommon elements to make up her designs. All pieces are individually designed by her and completely handmade in 19K gold using coins from Greece, Rome, and forgotten empires, as well as luminous pearls from the South Seas. For more info: call (828) 787-1877

Highlands Community Plan

DRAFT PLAN PUBLIC MEETING

Save the Date!

June 16th, 2021

5:30-7:30 PM

Presentation at 6:00

Highlands Community Building

869 N 4th Street

The Town of Highlands is excited to present the draft Community Plan for public review! The Plan integrates input received in the fall from the community. It will guide Town decisions into the future, so come by to learn more and give your input!

Can't make it in person? A **Virtual Public Meeting** will be hosted

July 1 | 6:00-7:00 PM

Details on website below.

Review and comment on the draft plan at

www.highlandscommunityplan.com

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..PLAN continued from page 1

portation Plan projected through 2045.

Based on state statute, comprehensive transportation plans must be adopted locally – in this case throughout Macon County -- and by the North Carolina Board of Transportation.

The purpose of the long-range plan is to forecast future needs by taking into consideration population and job growth while planning for multi-modal transportation system – highway, bicycle, pedestrian, and public transportation.

These transportation systems are to connect people with destinations; support economic development, promote healthy communities, and adapt to changing technologies while preserving the natural beauty and rural character of Macon County.

The first step in planning for the future is looking at the here and now.

• Traffic Crash Assessment identified 58 intersections and 168 roadway sections as having high frequency of crashes.

• Bridge Deficiency Assessment identified 48 structurally deficient and functionally obsolete bridges. Two of these were scheduled for improvements in the 2020 STIP.

• Major Highway Capacity Deficiencies include N.C. 28 (Highlands Road) from E Main in Franklin to Sugarfork Road on the Highlands Road. It was said to be near capacity in 2017 and is expected to be over capacity by 2045.

• Also, U.S. 441 business from Womack Street to Porter Street in Franklin was said to be over ca-

capacity in 2017 and will stay over capacity through 2045.

Bicycle and Pedestrian Analysis

Bicyclists and pedestrians are a growing part of the transportation system in North Carolina. Many communities are working to improve mobility for cyclists and pedestrians.

The study looked at the N.C. 2 Bike Route that runs through Macon, Cherokee and Jackson counties and determined that increased signage would help guide bikers. The Little Tennessee Greenway in Franklin was deemed an important facility that provides transportation options to the community such as walking and biking.

In Macon County in both Franklin and Highlands the ex-

• See PLAN page 17

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..PLAN continued from page 16

isting sidewalks are concentrated in the downtown areas. There are also gaps between sidewalk segments, and other segments do not extend all the way to desired destinations.

Input from the public via surveys revealed concerns.

"Expand public transportation options: times, routes, etc."

"Making Franklin more bike-friendly would be nice"

"The intersection of U.S. 441 and Humnicut Lane is a very dangerous merge area."

"Large trucks and a high volume of traffic make (travel on) Hwy. 64 through the gorge between Franklin and Highlands difficult."

"U.S. 441 (Georgia Road) has turn lane issues with traffic congestion."

"U.S. 441 (Georgia Road) holds water, especially in outside lanes; extremely dangerous when raining."

"Need sidewalks on Siler Road to the library, SCC, and on to local shopping."

"We need more sidewalks that connect our schools to the greenway"

Projected 2045 needs for each mode of transportation were analyzed and project proposals were developed.

Highway Project Recommendations

- US 64/NC 28 (Highlands Road) from Rogers Road to Walnut Creek Road (SR 1533) – Modernize the facility to improve mobility and safety. Construct 4-foot paved shoulders throughout, and a park-and-ride lot near the intersection at Ellijay Road (SR 1001).

- US 64 (N 4th Street): From Highlands Town Limits to the Jackson County Line – Modernize facility to improve mobility and safety, including 4-foot paved shoulders.

- NC 28 (Highlands Road): In Franklin, from US 441 business (E Main Street) to Thomas Road – Redesign to a two-lane divided facility by replacing the center turn lane with a median, providing reduced conflict intersections and improvements to access management. Add bicycle lanes and complete existing sidewalk.

- NC 106 (Dillard Road): From the Georgia State Line to US 64 – Modernize to 12-foot lanes with 4-foot paved shoulders. Add sidewalk from Hummingbird Lane to Highlands Plaza.

- Buck Creek Road (SR 1535): From US 64 (Highlands Road) to Teague Estates Road – Modernize to 11-foot lanes with 4-foot paved shoulders.

Bicycle and Pedestrian Project Recommendations

- US 64/NC 28: From Mirror Lake Road (SR 1551) to Will Henry Steven's Bridge – Add sidewalk to continue existing sidewalk to connect the west side of Highlands to the downtown area.

UNADDRESSED DEFICIENCIES

While developing the plan, some initiatives were identified that are not included. They are:

Improvements to U.S. 64 from Franklin to Highlands; Improvements to Wayah Road, Walnut Creek Road, Tellico Road, and Otter Creek Road; Improvements to Hickory Knoll Road and Tessentee Road; Downtown Franklin road improvements.

Though the purpose of the plan was to identify projects and prioritize them for funding, these recommendations are 25 years out and most will not be funded.

"Don't expect any of these projects to be done anytime soon," said Mayor Pat Taylor. "It takes a very long time to design and then build these plans and funding-wise these are a long way off. But I would really like to see a sidewalk from Main Street down NC 106 to Hummingbird Lane. A lot of people walk that road."

– Kim Lewicki

• OBITUARY •

Willa Mae Baumgarner Stewart

Willa Mae Baumgarner Stewart, 90 of Cullowhee passed away Tuesday June 1, 2021. She was born April 27, 1931 in Jackson County, NC to the late Claude Baumgarner and Arizona McCall Baumgarner.

Willa Mae was a life long resident of Jackson County and was a homemaker. She was an active member of the Sr. Walk Program at the Cashiers Rec Center and a member of Yellow Mountain Baptist Church.

Willa Mae is survived by a daughter, Cynthia Stewart; a sister, Eddie Robinson; four grandchildren, Dixie and Michael Romano, Kent and Ashley Stewart, Kyle and Rachel Jacobs and Amiee Stewart marquez; two great grandchildren, Mia Mae Romano and Nico marquez.

In addition to her parents, Willa Mae is preceded in death by her husband Deck Stewart, Jr.; a son, David Stewart; a grandson, Joshua Boyer; a sister, Martha Ingram and a brother, Marvin Baumgarner.

A graveside service was held Friday, June 4, 2021 in the Stewart Cemetery, Cullowhee with the Rev. Carl Stepp officiating.

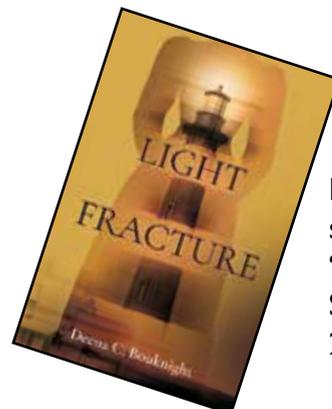
In lieu of flowers the family asks that memorials be made to Yellow Mountain Baptist Church, 34 Mill Creek Road, Cullowhee, NC 28723.

Bryant Grant Funeral Home and Crematory served the Stewart family. Online condolences can be made at www.bryantgrantfuneralhome.com

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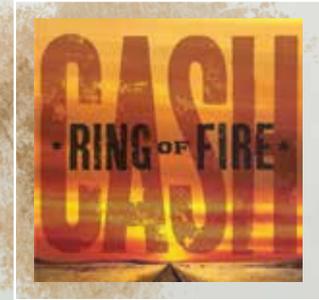
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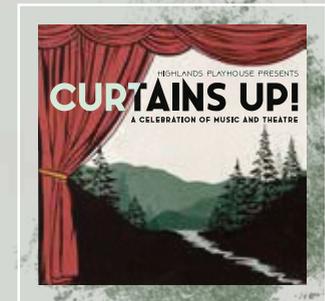


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• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

The Resurrection, The Gospel of Mark, and You.

Rev. Bentley Manning
Episcopal Church of the Incarnation

Churches committed to the fixed cycle of the lectionary will find themselves listening to a lot of stories from the Gospel of Mark this year. If you have a Bible nearby, I invite you to open it up and turn to the 16th Chapter of Mark where you will find an account of Jesus' resurrection. One of the things you will notice, having read through this chapter, is that Mark's Gospel has three different endings! Indeed, your Bible might even have separate headings which could read something like, "The Shorter Ending of Mark" and "The Longer Ending of Mark." As you can imagine, there are a host of explanations for all these divergent endings - some more plausible than others!

One option when reading this Gospel is to stop right after the 8th verse. Here the narrative ends with the women, Mary Magdalene and Mary, seized with terror and amazement such that they are unable to say anything to anyone about what they had seen. (Obviously, they must have eventually told the tale, or Mark's Gospel could not have been written!)

If I were to choose an ending to Mark's Gospel, I would choose to end my reading at the 8th verse. Of course, the other endings can, at first blush, seem a bit more compelling and who doesn't like to hear about the handling of snakes (see verse 18)! But I think there are good reasons to end the chapter abruptly.

Throughout Mark's Gospel, Jesus says again and again not to mention who he is to other people. Jesus performs astonishing miracles and then he says, "make sure you don't tell anyone about what you have seen!" Biblical scholars call this puzzling feature of Mark's Gospel the "Messianic Secret." And yet, at the very ending of Mark's Gospel (18:7) we hear, for the first time, the command to "go [and] tell."

Another feature of Mark's Gospel, in addition to the "Messianic Secret," is the way different groups are portrayed in their response to Jesus. The disciples are typically confused; the scribes are antagonistic; and the crowds are amazed but their lives are rarely, if ever, impacted by Jesus' teaching.

I end my reading of Mark's Gospel at Chapter 16 verse 8 because it seems to me that Mark is asking his readers what they will do with the information they have been given. Will we, as it were, sit in quiet confusion like the disciples? Will we be antagonistic like the scribes? Will we be amazed but detached like the crowds or run away like the women? Or, just maybe, will we do something different?

We, the readers, must make our own response to this

Proverbs 3:5

• PLACES TO WORSHIP •

John 3:16

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Tues. Guys study 8am, Gals 10am.

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Thurs: Men's Bible Study 7:30-8:30 a.m.

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Wed: Choir: 6p

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Wed. Kidsquest 6p.; Worship 7p.

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Sundays: Worship: 11

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Pastor Dan Robinson • 11339 Buck Creek Road

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Sunday Evening Worship 5PM 1st and 2nd Sundays

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• POLICE & FIRE REPORTS •

Highlands Police entries from May 24. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor or public officials have been used.

May 24

At 1:40 p.m., officers responded to a 2-vehicle accident on Oak and Main streets.

May 25

At 2 p.m., officers were called about a shoplifting incident at Potpourri on Main Street where clothes were put in a bag and taken from the store without paying.

May 29

A little past midnight, officers responded to a 2-vehicle accident in the parking lot of 200 Main.

May 30

At 6:10 p.m., officers responded to a 2-vehicle accident at Main and 2nd streets.

At 7:40 p.m., officers were called about bags being taken from lockers at Mid Point Restaurant.

May 31

At 1:40 p.m., officers responded to a 2-vehicle accident in The Bridge parking lot.

At 6:30 p.m., officers were called about a handgun that was left in a room.

at Highlands Inn Lodge.

The Highlands Fire & Rescue log from June 1.

June 1

At 12:22 p.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on Big Pine Lane.

At 3:08 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm on Oak Street.

At 8 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a location on S. 4th Street.

June 3

At 5:25 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a location on Spring Street.

June 6

At 5:42 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Happoldt Drive.

At 8:10 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm on Hospital Drive.

June 7

At 1:14 p.m. the dept. was first-responders to a location on Poplar Street.

June 8

At 1:08 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Village Walk.

At 2:24 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Sassafras Gap Road.

...MOTORING continued from page 1

vette.

The largest classic car viewing will be at the 14th Annual Highlands Motoring Festival, Thursday through Sunday, June 10-13.

On Friday, June 11, at 5:45 p.m. classic cars will gather in the Kelsey-Hutchinson Founders Park for a "Parade of Main Street."

Dozens of special cars will lap Main Street to entertain spectators. No registration is required for the parade.

The centerpiece of the Highlands Motoring Festival "Cars in the Park," will be on Saturday, June 12 at K-H Founders Park. This is a juried display of approximately 90 invited automobiles.

The featured marque for 2021 is titled "Pure Bloods d'Italia" and is for Italian super cars from the '60s and '70s.

Wrapping up the festival on Sunday, June 13, will be a second car show "High Octane" at K-H Founders Park, also free to the public.

The focus, of course, is the field of over 75+ high quality invited classic cars. Owners of their collector pieces have gone to considerable effort and expense to put these cars on the show field for all to enjoy. An eclectic field of entries will ensure that there is something for everyone.

Over the years, the net proceeds have gone to many different charities. This year, REACH of Macon County, Literacy Council of Highlands, and the Community Care Clinic have been selected as the charity partners.

Spectator entry to the show field is free, but a contribution to our charities is appreciated.



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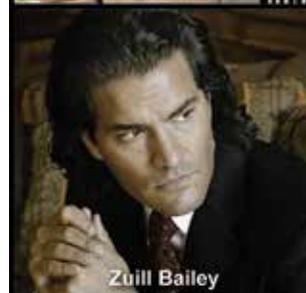
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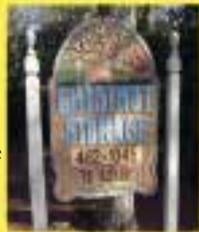
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Hi Y'all! I'm Sarah Klocke, and this season I'll serve as Director of Production and Design.

This will mark my 6th season with The Playhouse. (7th year if we count the pre-season planning before covid closed our doors in 2020.)

I can't express how excited I am to return to Highlands Playhouse!

Most recently, I created and implemented scenic designs for Buddy, the Buddy Holly Story and Oklahoma!, but my favorite scenic design for the playhouse was for Godspell in 2015. My most recent directing credit for the Playhouse was Always, Patsy Cline in 2019.

Highlands has a special place in my heart. When building a career in theatre, you follow the work. Three years ago, I accepted the position of Associate Professor and Program Director of Theatre and Communication at College of Saint Mary in Omaha, NE. Though I've settled in Nebraska, Highlands will forever be my home away from home.

Perhaps it's my background in design, but one of my favorite parts of Highlands is its variety of shops with reclaimed materials. Two of my favorite spots in the area to shop for specialty props and scenic pieces are Mountain Findings and the Whistle Stop Depot. I would be remiss if I didn't mention my gratitude to the best store in town, Reeves Hardware! I'm so grateful to the wonderful staff at Reeves. Their stellar customer service helps our scene shop run smoothly! (They also have a friendly store cat, "Ace," that often greets you when you enter!) Thank you Reeves!

On a personal note, I desperately hope Wild Thyme still offers Salmon on Puff Pastry on their menu. It's my absolute favorite lunch in Highlands and I've thought about it non-stop since I signed my summer contract to return to The Playhouse.

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HELP WANTED

THE HIGHLANDS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & VISIT HIGHLANDS, NC

is seeking a part-time employee to work in the Welcome Center on Saturday and Sunday. The ideal candidate should have excellent knowledge of the Highlands and Plateau areas and enjoy greeting visitors to our town. Hours are Saturday 10a.m. – 4p.m. and Sunday 11a.m. – 3 p.m. For consideration, please send resume to visitor@highlandschamber.org or call 828-526-2112. (st. 5/27)

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Highlands.

FULL AND PART TIME RETAIL SALES ASSOCIATES WANTED. Contact Potpourri at 828-200-0044 to schedule an interview. Eyewear experience is a plus. (st. 5/13)

DO YOU LIKE TO CLEAN AND ORGANIZE? Private club seeking a few energetic individuals with a happy state of mind to join our staff in the housekeeping department. Early hours, routine schedule, competitive pay, benefits, one daily meal provided, and uniforms provided. If you are interested, please contact us at Highlands Country Club at 828-526-2181. (st. 5/13)

FAST ON YOUR FEET? Private club seeking personable individuals that enjoy pleasing people to join our staff in the Food & Beverage Department, such as, server, bartender, and other various positions. Great pay, plenty of hours to be had, and one daily meal per shift. If you are interested, please contact us at Highlands Country Club at 828-526-2181. (st. 5/13)

CALLING ALL MERMAIDS! Spartina 449 now hiring part time key and sales position. Apply in person. 394 Main St, Highlands. 828-787-1178 (st. 4/29)

THE MOUNTAIN RETREAT AND LEARNING CENTER - Are you looking for a summer job? We are still looking to fill the following positions: Kitchen Staff, Cabin Counselor, Health Center Coordinator (must be 21+, EMT certified or higher), CIT Mentor (21+), ASCENDER Mentor (21+) You can find more details about these positions and apply on our website: The MountainRLC.org. Please reach out with any questions or concerns at youthcamp@themountainrlc.org. I look forward to seeing your application! (st. 4/1)

OLD EDWARDS INN & SPA, HIGHLANDS NC - Gardener's Assistant, Assistant F&B Manager, Ban-

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PART OR FULL TIME SALES ASSOCIATE needed. - Retail experience preferred. Please call 828-371-2582. (st. 2/18)

WOLFGANGS RESTAURANT Looking for full-time hostess (great pay) dishwasher, prep cook, pantry and waitstaff. PM shift only. Call Jacque at 828.526.3807 or email wom2@me.com. (st. 2/4)

CASTING CALL! The Highlands Playhouse is reopening and we are looking for talented and committed team members in a variety of roles. Leadership and box office staff positions are available (both full and part-time). Experience in business management/customer service and an interest in the arts is a must! The Highlands Playhouse is an 83 year old institution offering movies year-round and live entertainment in the Summer and Fall. Please send resumes and inquiries to HighlandsPlayhouse@gmail.com (st. 2/18)

LUXURY LODGE MANAGER NEEDED FOR LIVE IN POSITION. - Prefer a local couple/individual to entertain and maintain facility while enjoying living in an exceptional facility. Strong people/communication skills needed. Must be flexible and have impeccable references and experience in hospitality/facility maintenance. Background/knowledge in wine and bar beverages a plus. Interest/knowledge in hiking/construc-

tion and outdoors is good also. Email mrpaulkrk@yahoo.com. (st. 2/11)

THE SUMMER HOUSE BY REEVES FURNITURE STORE IN HIGHLANDS is looking for full and part time positions in sales and warehouse & delivery personnel. Must be professional appearing, friendly, self-motivated, and enthusiastic. Previous sales and/or customer service experience preferred. Competitive starting pay. Generous benefits for full-time positions. Apply in person at The Summer House, 2089 Dillard Road in Highlands. (st. 5/20)

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HANDIMAN - Electrical, plumbing, painting, carpentry. Call Al Edgar. 828-332-7271. 828-369-6245. (4.1)

HIGHLANDS HANDI-MAN - Can fix anything inside or out. carpentry, interior and exterior painting, pressure washing, lawn care, hauling. Will also monitor house during winter. Free Estimates. References. Call Tony. 828-200-5770 or 828-526-5984. (5/27)

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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.

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