

Highlands Newspaper

Volume 20, Number 26

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Thurs., June 29 2023

Commercial fees to increase nominally at Transfer Station on Rich Gap

By Brittney Lofthouse & Kim Lewicki

The Macon County Board of Commissioners held a special-called meeting Monday morning June 26, to get clarification about solid waste fees that were debated

during the FY '24 budget talks.

During last week's continued session of the board, MC Commissioner John Shearl made a motion for the fee changes to be removed from the budget and not adopted. Commissioner Shearl said High-

lands residents already pay enough taxes and they should not have to pay additional fees. Commissioner Shearl's budget motion failed.

When Commissioner Josh Young made his budget motion,

• See RICH GAP page 30

4th of July Highlands style!



Fourth of July is an all-day thing in Highlands. Family-oriented activities begin at the Town Ballfield on Tuesday at 9a beginning with the shooting off of water rockets; then it's the annual lineup of traditional field games 11a-12 noon. Try your skill at Tug a War, 3-legged Sack Race, Water Balloon Toss and finally the Frozen T-Shirt Contest. Depending on cloud cover, there may be a visit from MAMA, the med vac helicopter, around noon. Once the MAMA helicopter leaves, the Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. will cool off participants with a spray down from the ladder truck. The Rotary Club will be serving food at the ball field starting at 11am. The annual fireworks show will start about dark. Look to the sky anywhere in town for the show.

Photo by Kim Lewicki

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Candidate filing begins July 7 for Nov. election

There will be a municipal election in Franklin and Highlands Nov. 7, 2023

Candidate filing begins at noon Friday, July 7. Filing ends noon Friday, July 21.

The following seats will be on the ballot:

Mayor of Franklin, 2-year term. The filing fee is \$72.

That seat is currently held by Jack Horton.

Three Town of Franklin council members for a 4-year term. The filing fee is \$36.

Those seats are currently held by Joe Collins, Adam Kimsy and Mike Lewis.

Three Town of Highlands board members also for a 4-year term. The filing fee is \$5.

Those seats are currently held by John Dotson, Marc Hehn and Brian Stiehler.

Highlands Hurricanes win 3 times in a row

By Steve Hott
Head Coach

On Thursday, June 22, 44 Highlands Hurricanes Swim Team members hosted Cherokee County Aquatics Club (CCAC) for a home meet. The Hurricanes won 743 - 307.

The Hurricanes were led by Anton Halldin who won three events and finished 2nd in another. Emilina Hernandez and Jr. Olym-

pians Finneaus Garner, Jasmine Abranyi, Ben Halldin, and Lillian Chambless all scored 27 pts. and won five events.

Chambless broke both a pool and a team record in the Backstroke. Jasmine Abranyi broke team records in both the 100 Butterfly and the 200 Individual Medley (IM). Morgan Mason and Jr. Olympians Aniah McKim,

• See HURRICANES page 27

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• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• MAYOR ON DUTY •

• HIC'S VIEW •

My 3 Hats



Highlands Mayor
Patrick Taylor

This past weekend I participated in the Village Square Art Show in Founders Park, created by Cynthia Strain 18 years ago and who just retired last year as the coordinator. The Mountain Top Rotary Club now organizes the art show, and the proceeds of the event go to nonprofit endeavors in the community. The Mountain Top Rotary Club volunteers are commended for all the hard work they put forth in making this a successful event. As an artist/craftsman for over 50 years, let me also thank the artisans who participated in the show. They, too, work hard at perfecting their art and craft. They are truly laborers who love what they do, not for the meager financial return but for the drive and joy to work with their hands, minds, and hearts to create objects of elegant form and beauty.

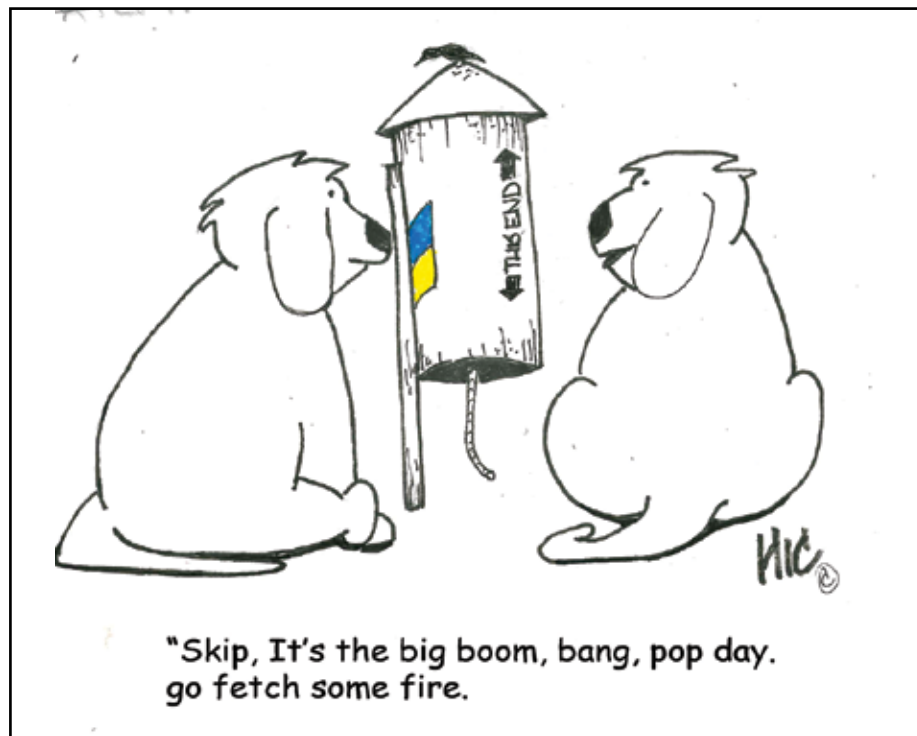
As an artist, who is 75, I sometimes struggle with the arduous labor of creating pottery, but I still do it because I fantasize that my next great work is just ahead. It may now just be a dream, but I am not ready to give it up. On behalf of my fellow artisans,

let me thank all the people who visited the art show and took the time to look at and, in some cases, buy the pieces on display.

Putting on my other hat, the Mayor's hat, I want to invite you to attend the June "Community Coffee with the Mayor," which will be held Friday, June 30th, at the Hudson Library. The coffee will get underway at 11 am and end by noon. The program will review the major items in the recently passed town budget.

Now putting on my other hat, the American citizen's hat, I must say that the Fourth of July is one of my favorite holidays. I always look forward to the food, games, and fireworks that we enjoy in Highlands. The American Legion and members of Wreaths Across America will be placing flags on the graves of our veterans. I appreciate and support this recognition of our veterans, but to me, the holiday celebrating our nation's liberty and freedom goes beyond just celebrating the contributions of our veterans. Liberty and independence is a complex structure that depends on and is supported by many institutions, such as governing bodies, the courts, law enforcement, educational institutions, private businesses, and faith-based and non-profit communities.

Looking back on the events of July 4th, 1776, our founders declared Americans were not subjects of a sovereign king, and we were not willing to do his bidding by being subservient to just one individual. The men who signed the Declaration of Independence had this radical idea that the people of this country, by working together, could govern themselves and make decisions that both protected individual liberty and were also for the common good. Such a plan, the American Experiment as it has been called, requires all of us as citizens to be actively involved in various ways to hold our country and republic in trust for now and for future generations. This holiday is an affirmation and renewal of our individual liberty and our sacred bond with one another. That common bond acknowledges and supports everyone's freedom.



• WEATHER •

Thu, 29-Jun	Fri, 30-Jun	Sat, 1-Jul	Sun, 2-Jul
80°F 61°F	83°F 61°F	84°F 62°F	83°F 61°F
Plenty of sunshine	A strong afternoon t-storm	An afternoon t-storm; humid	A shower and thunderstorm
RealFeel® High: 88° Low: 68°	RealFeel® High: 91° Low: 67°	RealFeel® High: 92° Low: 71°	RealFeel® High: 86° Low: 70°

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• MILESTONE •



Mark and Laura Rosenthal with daughter Eve.

Dan and JoAnn Chapman announce the graduation of their granddaughter Eve Rosenthal, daughter of Mark and Laura Rosenthal of Resenthal's on Main Street. Eve graduated cum laude in computer science at Princeton University.



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Our freedom comes with a price

July 4 signifies freedom and how often we take it for granted. I look at the sad faces of the people in Ukraine who have lost everything, and they are not concerned with the pettiness we have come to know; the internet is down, the cable is off and I can't watch my favorite show, Bryson's ran out of chicken before I got there, there is a traffic jam going to Cashiers or Ingles, I can't get a reservation at my favorite restaurant. They would give anything to have their home



Pat Allen BIC
Allen Tate Realtors/Pat Allen Realty Group.

life. The marriage is destined to fail.

And now for the dos. Do respect others' rights. Gays and people of color have the right to a happy and fulfilled life, the same as you. Do respect homeowners' rights to do with their property as they choose if it doesn't harm others. It's not up to the government who collects taxes to control those rights. Do share with others in need and be grateful you are able to do so.

Do respect this country

July 4th stands as a momentous occasion in the United States—a day when the nation unites to commemorate its independence and the enduring ideals of freedom. It is a time for reflection, gratitude, and celebration, acknowledging the sacrifices of the past while embracing the present and future responsibilities. As the United States continues its journey, July 4th serves as a reminder of the unbreakable spirit and unwavering commitment to the principles that have made it a beacon of liberty for more than two centuries. If we divide as a country the threat of war increases and our freedom becomes vulnerable. United we stand, divided we fall.

back that was destroyed by a bomb, to have their loved ones alive that were killed in a senseless war, to have food and safe water, and to have the beauty of their country restored. The responsibility for our freedom and pursuit of happiness is composed of dos and don'ts.

Don't endanger others' lives by doing drugs and making bad decisions. Don't carry a gun to do harm to others. Don't expect the government to take care of you - that is your responsibility and no one else's. You will gain pride in your accomplishments. Don't bring children into the world if you can't afford them or are not happy with yourself...you just pass on unhappiness. Get counseling for any mental issues you are experiencing...it affects everyone around you, including your loved ones. Don't abuse children or animals...they are innocent, and your cruelty destroys their self-esteem and lives forever. Don't envy or begrudge others who are more fortunate than you...you have opportunities if you jump the hurdles. Don't marry so someone else can take care of you...that's your responsibility and it's hard enough for them to take care of one

and the flag. Do respect the military who risk their lives for us every single day. Many return home missing arms or legs and some live with post-traumatic stress disorder for the rest of their lives; the scars are permanent. Many live with the fact they killed others to keep us secure. Do respect them.

Do respect the flag and what it stands for. Do teach your children to do the same. Many lives were lost so that flag can wave and don't ever take freedom for granted.

All of us at AllenTate/PatAllenRealty-Group wish you a Happy and meaningful Fourth of July. When you hear patriotic music and watch the colorful fireworks illuminating the dark sky, may your heart be filled with pride and your eyes filled with tears.

• Pat Allen is the broker-in-charge of Allen Tate/Pat Allen Realty Group in the downtown office at 295 Dillard Road. She is a Certified Luxury Home Marketing Specialist, a consistent award-winner, and a top producer every year for her real estate career of 19 years. You may reach her at 828-200-9179 or email her at pat.allen@allentate.com



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• HOSPITAL NEWS •

Learn why it's critical to know the signs of stroke, and how Highlands-Cashiers Hospital provides the best in advanced stroke care

I believe that it is not possible to be overly alert to the warning signs of stroke, the second leading cause of death and a life-threatening health emergency that is a major cause of adult disability. It's important not only to be aware of the symptoms of stroke — which have been added to and updated — but to absolutely be proactive if you suspect in any way that you could be experiencing a sign of stroke. This is because the phrase “Time is brain” is the mantra for seeking timely stroke care, since brain cell loss due to stroke is irreversible.

You may wonder what a stroke is, exactly. When a person suffers a stroke, the blood supply to a portion of their brain is blocked. This is an ischemic stroke and accounts for 87% of strokes. The other 13% are hemorrhagic strokes, or strokes that happen because of a ruptured artery that bleeds into the brain.

Fortunately, the warning signs for stroke are organized into an easy-to-remember acronym: BE-FAST, which is yet another reminder to seek immediate medical care if you suspect stroke. The letters stand for:

- B – issues with balance
- E – eyes, in the form of double vision or vision loss
- F – face, look for one side of the face drooping
- A – arm weakness on just one side
- S – speech, which can become slurred or difficult to execute
- T – time is of the essence, and you should call 911 immediately

There are risk factors for stroke that you cannot change, such as having a family history of stroke and getting older, and African Americans, American Indians, Hispanics, and Alaska Natives have a higher risk of stroke. If you live with diabetes, you also have a



**Tom Neal CEO, CNO
Highlands-Cashiers
Hospital**

greater chance of being affected by stroke.

But the good news is that there are modifiable risk factors, such as having high blood pressure or heart disease, being a smoker, being overweight or obese, or living a sedentary lifestyle, that you can do something to change. Losing weight, getting more physically active, quitting smoking, and improving your diet can all go a long way in reducing your stroke risk.

If you do suffer a stroke, the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital (HCH) ER team is ready to treat you the moment you arrive. Well-coordinated care between EMTs and our team means that we're immediately briefed with medical status so we can begin lifesaving treatment immediately, as well as consultation with a neurohospitalist via telemedicine at Mission Hospital. If the patient needs to be transferred to Mission Hospital for treatment, that can happen quickly and we can provide treatment before they reach Asheville.

We work in conjunction with Mission Hospital's Comprehensive Stroke Center to mitigate and halt brain damage from a stroke. We also have even more highly advanced stroke interventions, including the ability to retrieve and remove clots, carotid stenting, a procedure that improves blood

flow in arteries and veins, and thrombolytics, which are “clot busting” drugs. In addition, we offer a coiling procedure that prevents a blood vessel that has not yet ruptured from bleeding or halts bleeding in one that has ruptured.

Telestroke is another type of care that employs audio and video capabilities so that Mission Hospital's stroke experts can consult with physicians and stroke patients here at HCH. This tool allows experts to converge, so a stroke patient can receive the most informed diagnosis and advanced care.

With prompt treatment, patients can often regain their speech and motor skills over time, with rehabilitation therapy. Occupational therapy, which helps you learn how to master everyday life skills again, like cooking and bathing, along with physical therapy and speech therapy, are all services we offer at HCH. We are also proud to offer education about stroke to our community.

I have two anecdotes from my own life about people's lives who have been saved thanks to prompt medical intervention for a stroke. Years ago, the person I reported to at work was in the middle of being interviewed on a radio show. During that interview, he started to experience differences in articulation and weakness in half of his body. He was rushed to the emergency department where he was diagnosed with a stroke. He was then given “clot busting” drugs, which stopped his stroke and allowed recovery from his symptoms.

The second was right here at HCH when we treated a retired physician for a stroke, and he was kind enough to give me his thoughtful assessment of his treatment, which was helpful to

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Located close to town, this starter cottage features 2 bedrooms and 3 baths. One car garage could be converted to a family room. 3 levels that house a livingroom/kitchen/dining on main, bedroom and bath on 2nd level. Primary bedroom, bath, den with tv, office, and full bath, outdoors has a patio-deck that enjoys the rushing water of the Cullasaja river overflow from Mirror Lake. Offered at \$499,000. mls #101709



3bd/3ba. 2 main bedrooms - one upstairs and one on the main level. Living room has 18' vaulted ceilings, stone fireplace with gas logs but could be converted to wood burning. 2-car detached garage with workshop space and second story, ready to make your own. Fire pit behind the garage. Less than 1/2 mile to town from the Holt Knob neighborhood. Offered at \$749,000. mls #101251



Eastside Duck Mountain This 3 bedroom 2 bath is located in Four States Subdivision and has a spectacular view of Winfield Farm, Blue Valley and vistas to the south. Main floor living plan has Living room with fireplace, kitchen, dining room/Sunroom with loads of windows to experience the 180 degree view. 2 guest bedrooms with a hall bath, upstairs has a huge master suite with fireplace and ensuite bath. Great bones and ready for your own taste. Offered at \$650,000. mls #101529



Located only 4 blocks from Main Street, this 2 bedroom, 1 bath cottage is compact but will be an entry into Highlands. low maintenance and lock and leave. Well maintained. Offered at \$429,000. mls #102202



An established short-term rental, in town on Little Bear Pen Mountain. Enjoy gorgeous panoramic mountain views from the expansive deck and open living room. The living room is the heart of the home with floor-to-ceiling windows with views of Whiteside and Short-off Mountains. The home has 3 BD, 3 BA, and 2 bonus rooms. The primary suite is spacious and has a view of the mountains. There are two bedrooms on the main level, each with its own bathroom. Offered at \$2,100,000. mls# 102307



In town vacation rental with Mirror Lake access to build your own dock. Recently renovated with new windows, doors, flooring, paint and more. Town utilities include water, sewer and garbage pickup. Easy hike to downtown Highlands. Offered at \$699,000. mls #101169



Located about 5 miles from town. This home 4BD/3BA home has a 2-car carport, main room has a pellet wood stove, updated kitchen with room for expansion. 2 bed/2 ba, suite upstairs has a primary bedroom, laundry, office-den and bath. The lower level has a huge unfinished room with a laundry, work area and is stubbed for a bath. Storage building has 2 levels on an acre of land. Offered at \$549,000. mls #100826



This is a wonderful family home in a great neighborhood! 3 bedrooms, 3.5 baths, office and loads of storage, great open plan has been updated with a new kitchen. Vaulted living room with fireplace. Separate guest bedrooms with the upper bedroom featuring a mountain view. 2 car garage. Flat usable lot. Offered at \$1,895,000. mls #101906



Newly renovated and updated in a quiet neighborhood less than 12 minutes from downtown Highlands and very close to National Forest land. Great open living/dining and kitchen area on the main level and 2BD on the upper level and two on the lower level. A large covered deck and fireplace, and another deck overlooks a small creek. Offered at \$550,000. mls #101154



Incredible view from this 3BD, 2BA, walk-in level condo. Open kitchen to living area with nice wood burning fireplace, covered back deck with view. Separate laundry, plus outdoor storage room. All for \$650,000. Open kitchen to living area with nice wood burning fireplace, covered back deck to enjoy the view. Separate laundry, plus outdoor storage room. Owners can not move until July. Offered at \$625,000. mls #101546



Located close to town, this 3 BD, 3.5 BA sits high on a knoll and overlooks the Lake Sequoyah. On main level large living room, dining room, kitchen with a breakfast nook and pass through to the living-dining area. Owner's bedroom and spacious bath, stairwell to the lower-level family room, game room with full bath. upstairs has two large bedrooms with a hall bath. The porch overlooks the lake. This house has a rental history also. Offered at \$799,000. mls #100924



This home is over 100 years old and is ready to be brought back to the condition it deserves. 3 bedrooms, 1 bath plus an office. close to town and great location, walk to great food. nice usable yard. Offered at \$1,500,000. mls #100745



This 3BR/2BA house sits on 1.15+/- acre of gentle laying land in the midst of mature hardwoods with an understory of ferns. Private, serene at the end of the road. New metal roof in 2016. Attached double garage. Vaulted ceiling in living room. Bring your updating or renovating ideas. MLS#102291 Offered for \$495,000.



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• BIZ/ORG NEWS •



Lynch with his family during the swearing-in ceremony.

New MC Schools superintendent is sworn in

Joshua W. Lynch was given his oath of office June 13 during a special called meeting of the Macon County Board of Education. Lynch will begin his term as Superintendent of Schools on July 1. Lynch brings a level of experience to the school system that encompasses deep roots within the county as a Franklin High School graduate, career educator and parent.

Lighting Up Your Nights

Along with the free
Outdoor Concert Series,
the Highlands Chamber of Commerce/
Visit Highlands, NC is pleased to light
up the sky with the annual fireworks
display and concert on July 4th.

Join us for our June and July
concerts and festivities!



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Friday Night Live

Town Square | 343 Main St.

JUNE 2	Ezra & Katie
JUNE 9	Johnny Webb Band
JUNE 16	Steady Hand String Band
JUNE 23	Southern Highlands Band
JUNE 30	Byrds & Crows

JULY 7	The Foxfire Boys
JULY 14	Curtis Blackwell Band
July 21	Carter Giegerich & Friends
JULY 28	We Three Swing

Saturdays on Pine

Kelsey-Hutchinson Founders Park
Pine Street

Shows take place from 6 - 8:30 p.m.

JUNE 3	NU - BLU
JUNE 10	Firecracker Jazz Band
JUNE 17	Dive Bar Divas
JULY 1	Blaze the City

TUESDAY JULY 4 – Independence Day Festival **Diamond River Band - Fireworks begin after the concert!**

JULY 8	Bill Mattocks
JULY 15	Lazlurv
July 22	Back Porch Orchestra
JULY 29	Shane Meade & the Sound

For more information on the Outdoor Concert Series, July 4th fireworks display or other events, call 828-526-2112, write events@highlandschamber.org or stop by the Highlands Welcome Center, 108 Main Street.



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Pen Turning Class

Learn how to make your own wooden pen!
Choose from 5 different pen styles. Cost: \$40-50 per person and includes laser engraving.

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Learn how to make a Bird House, Bird Feeder or Bat House!
Choose from 5 different Bird House styles, 2 different Bird Feeder styles or a Bat House.
Cost: \$20-\$45 per person
Call 828-526-8800 or email scalmtncrafters@gmail.com to schedule a class!

Each class lasts approximately 90 minutes and provides 25 meals locally for each item made.

• FINANCIAL MATTERS • Protect yourself and your Money

As someone who has had their identity stolen, this subject is particularly important to me and lately, because of an uptick in activity, I've been increasingly worried about my client's falling victim to potential scams.

My personal information was stolen while I was in the hospital in 2014. I only found out 6 months later when a collection agency called about a credit card balance on an account I never opened. Fortunately, it wasn't that difficult to fix, but that is not the case for many.

If you're like me, you get dozens of emails and calls each day from less than reputable sources. While every request for your personal information may not amount to anything, there is always a chance it could be detrimental. As always, you should proceed cautiously and take steps to protect yourself, especially when responding to phone inquiries or unsolicited emails.

We know you've heard this a thousand times - but we'll say it again.

- The IRS or the Social Security Administration won't contact you initially by phone.
- Never provide your log-in & password.
- Don't give out your social security number to just anybody.
- Attorney's fees & bail aren't paid with gift cards of any sort.
- And be wary when clicking on suspicious links & emails. This is a big one! In a busy world where some of us are getting 100 - 200 emails a day, it's easy to have a temporary lapse in judgement.
- Remaining diligent is an im-



Michael P Henderson,
CFP® CKA®
Founder/Wealth Advisor
Crossover Point Advisors

portant step towards protecting your identity and finances.

Protecting your social security number is paramount. Criminals can do all sorts of damage with those 9 numbers! So, please do not offer this information to just anyone. You should feel some sense of comfort providing your Social Security number to the following or-

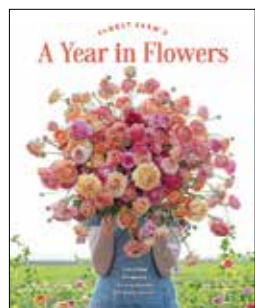
ganizations:

- Financial Institutions
- IRS
- Credit Bureaus
- Loan Applications
- Employers
- College Records

If another business not listed above is asking for it, you should inquire about alternative ways for them to identify you. Often your social security number isn't necessary for the power company or even at the doctor's office. Remember, mine was stolen while I was flat on my back hooked up to IV's.

If you believe you have been conned, contact law enforcement immediately and document as many details as you can. From there you should contact - family & friends, your financial institutions, the 3 credit bureaus, the Social Security Administration (SSA), the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), your state's attorney general's office and if applicable the business that was represented in the scam.

While it may seem like a lot of calls to make, by contacting all of these people and agencies you'll have taken the best steps to protect yourself, your assets and help others to not also fall victim to similar scams.



Lulu & You

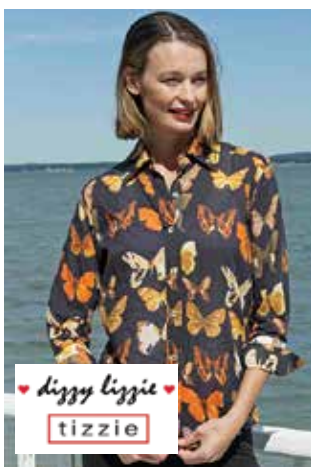
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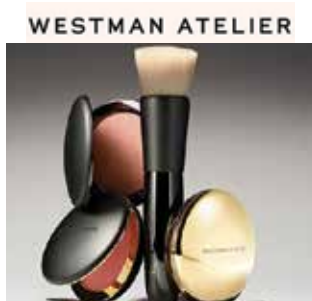
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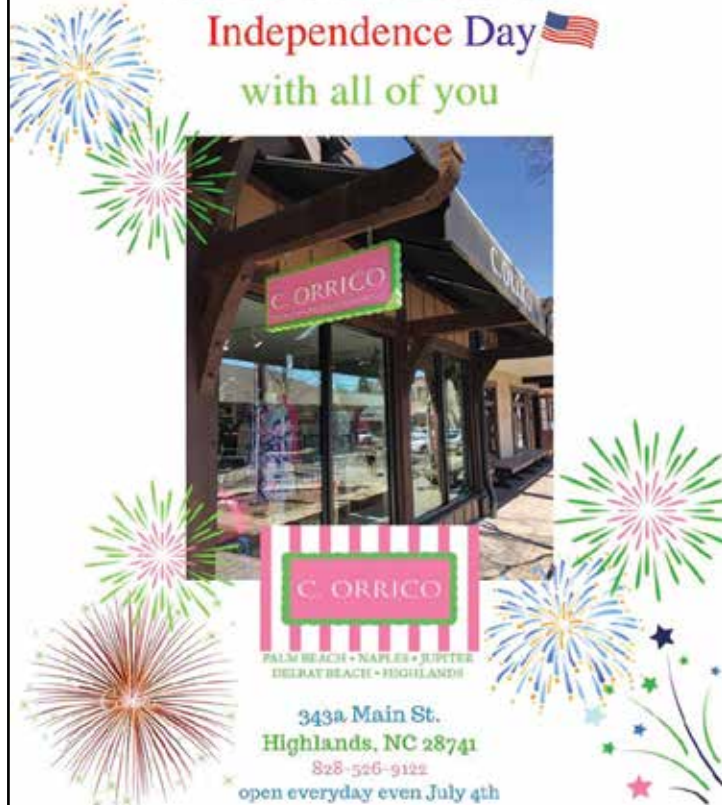


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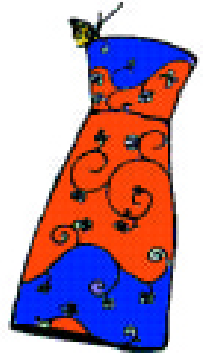
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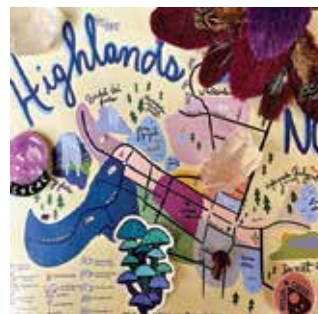


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• INK PENN •

Cozy mysteries set in the English countryside

What a treat! British mysteries are my favorite, and when they're set in the Cotswolds or Devon, I'm in heaven. I started the week with one set in the 1930s in Devon at Agatha Christie's fictional country house. Next was a contemporary cozy in the Cotswolds.



Kathy Manos Penn

series.

What could be better than two entertaining reads? Being able to find them in a conveniently located independent bookshop. If you're fortunate enough to live in year round in Highlands, summer there, or simply visit for a few days, you're sure to find your next great read at Shakespeare & Co.

A Trace of Poison by Colleen Cambridge

This was a marvelous follow-up to "Murder at Mallowan Hall." Phyllida Bright, housekeeper and friend to Agatha Christie, is in fine fettle once again. The members of The Detection Club — G. K. Chesterton, Dorothy L. Sayers, and of course, Agatha—are on hand for a Murder Fete. The event includes a writing contest for local authors, and the prize is enough to kill for.

There's a superb twist, but for me the fun part was glimpsing hints about Phyllida and Bradford, the chauffeur. We know Phyllida worked with Agatha Christie during the war, but not much beyond that. Even less is known about Bradford. What we DO know is that he has a unique ability to get under Phyllida's skin.

I'm looking forward to learning more in the third book in the series, due out in September. Meanwhile, "Mastering the Art of French Murder," also by Cambridge is on my desk.

Death in an English Cottage by Sara Rosett

It was a pleasure to return to another book in the Murder on Location series. I don't know why I waited so long after reading Book I.

Location scout Kate Sharp is back in the Cotswolds, this time working on a documentary about Jane Austen. As if that weren't entertaining enough, the plot involves newly discovered Jane Austen letters, a literary find, if indeed they exist.

Add an evolving romance, and you have all the ingredients for another cozy read, especially for an Anglophile like me.

Sara Rosett's descriptions of the English countryside, the cottages, and the village transported me to one of my favorite British locales. It won't be long before I visit again with the next entry in this seven-book

Naturally, I'm delighted that they carry my Dickens & Christie cozy mystery series, but they carry so much more. Whenever you're intrigued by one of my book reviews, stop by Shakespeare & Co. If they don't have the book on hand, they'll happily order you a copy.

• Award-winning author Kathy Manos Penn is a Georgia resident. Find her cozy mysteries at Shakespeare & Co. in Highlands, Franklin Office Supply & Gifts, and on Amazon. Contact her at inkpenn119@gmail.com, and follow her on Facebook, www.facebook.com/KathyManosPennAuthor/.

...HOSPITAL continued from page 10

hear. Upon arrival, he was taken directly to get a CT scan so a definitive diagnosis could be made. When he returned to his room, literally within minutes of arrival, he was greeted by an emergency room physician and a neurologist by telemedicine. They collaborated to start his treatment. He was highly impressed and encouraged me to share the great care we offer right here. He also asked that we work to increase awareness of stroke symptoms and call 911 if you experience any of them.

I am pleased to report that we have applied to the Joint Commission for Primary Stroke Ready Certification. This recognition is a seal of approval that HCH is committed to providing evidence-based stroke care to our community.

The care that HCH offers stroke patients should make our community feel certain they will receive the best stroke care should they or a loved one ever need it. We are fully committed to providing the Plateau with world-class stroke care, close to home.

Hummingbird
LOUNGE

Try Our New
Summer Menu

View Menu



• BIZ NEWS •



PEO Chapter BJ, Highlands Cashiers awarded a \$1,000 scholarship to Skylar Kruckum at Rabun County High School. Attending from left were Patty Hutchins, Sarah Wallin, Skylar and Marci Henderson. Skylar will be attending the University of North Georgia in the fall and is studying to be a Physician's Assistant.

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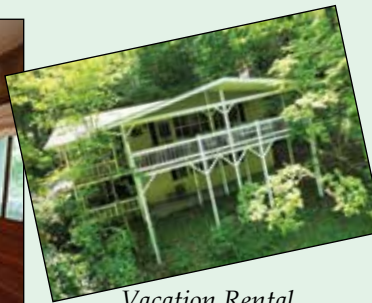
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• BIZ/ORG NEWS •

Recreation businesses call everyone to Get Up-Get Out!

Heralding recreation as an integral element of appeal to Highlands and surrounding communities, seven recreational members of the Highlands Chamber of Commerce have come together to promote their businesses as an important element to tourism.

They would like area chambers and visitor centers to acknowledge their importance by promoting them as an entity through advertisements and board membership.

According to George Powell who is spearheading the initiative, recreation is both free-based and fee-based and both are important contributors to attracting visitors.

The "Free" includes hiking trails, waterfalls, long-range viewing, fishing, boating and more. The "Fee" are the commercial activities that provide employment, revenue, charitable donations, and generate active visitors to the towns that surround them.

Recreation is not a Main Street activity, and as such risk being "out of sight-out of mind." Out of sight can be favorable in that the business doesn't contribute to park-

ing, congestion, sanitation, water usage, and other infrastructure concerns while still being conveniently accessible. Out of mind is problematic.

Powell said keeping the local shop owners, lodging and restaurant operators, as well as residents aware of the recreational opportunities is the challenge. To combat that, an advertising campaign has started in Highlands Newspaper and the Laurel Magazine in a collaborative ad.

"In addition to the specific individual marketing efforts, we are proposing a collaborative campaign with a working title of "Get Up-Get Out" that originates from Highlands early motto when the town was a health resort," he said, "The idea is a design that includes the logo of each participating business and a website to visit to gain more information as can be seen in the ads that have been running in Highlands Newspaper and The Laurel Magazine."

Powell envisions an oversized decal that can be displayed on doors, registers, and other prominent locations in the towns that the businesses serve to remind everyone to "Get Up-Get Out!"



Hummingbird
LOUNGE

Try Our New
Summer Menu

View Menu




Left: Stell Huie, Sunshine School Afterschool Program; Chris Wilkes, President

Rotary supports the Sunshine Afterschool Program at First Presbyterian Church

At the meeting held on April 11, 2023, Rotary Club of Highlands presented the Sunshine Afterschool Program a contribution check, accepting on their behalf, Stell Huie.

• BIZ/ORG NEWS •



Volunteers gathered at the Highlands Mountain Club for the 2023 Mountain Findings Annual Membership meeting.

Mountain Findings is volunteer proud volunteer run - volunteer driven

Volunteering isn't just about the good feelings - it's about action. And action is what our Mountain Findings members have taken, fueled by passion, drive, and a commitment to make a positive difference in our community. As members gather to celebrate their tireless efforts during the 2023 Annual Meeting, they are filled with pride at the accomplishments that have been achieved.

From raising funds for local charities and nonprofits to working to preserve our natural resources, to giving toward food insecurity for children and families the Mountain Findings volunteers have proven time and time again that they're ready to run with whatever task comes their way. They've given their time, energy, and skills to make the world a better place, and that's something that we should all be proud of.

Taking a moment to reflect on the incredible work that's been done in past

12 months - \$330,000 raised to go toward grants that will be awarded in June 2023 to help organizations thrive and \$50,000 in senior scholarships to pave the way for our youth. Over 186 donations picked up and hundreds of drop-offs received. These volunteers are truly driven, and we can all learn something from their dedication. Volunteers donated over 15,000 hours in the past 12 months!

The future - let's continue to support the volunteers who make a difference in our communities and appreciate the donors who make it all possible. Together, we can achieve great things, one volunteer at a time. Volunteer proud, volunteer run, and volunteer driven!

Mountain Findings is open during the summer months every Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 10 am to 1 pm.

For more information visit Mountain Findings at www.MountainFindings.org.



From left: Ricky Siegel, Program Host; Danielle Hernandez-Juarez, H-C Program Coordinator; BBBS of WNC; Lelia Duncan, President/CEO, BBBS of WNC; Chris Wilkes, President

Rotary hears about area's Big Brother Big Sister program

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11 AM - 2 PM | FREE

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- Community mural
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with Director of Ceramics, Frank Vickery
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with The Highlands-Cashiers Hospital
- Storytelling with Connie Regan-Blake
- Glassblowing demonstrations
with Green Energy Park
- Zentangle Doodles with Margie Bauer
- Quilting with Richard Tichich
- Natural necklaces
with the Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust
- Woodturning demonstrations
with the WNC Woodturners

Free Popcorn!

This Event Made Possible by
Highlands-Cashiers Hospital | Eckerd Living Center

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• HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

POOL SCHEDULE

• Lap Swim: Mon.-Fri., 6.-9:45a, and Sat., 10a-11p - 6 lanes.
Water Aerobics: 18 yrs plus, Mon.-Fri. 10 -11am with Karen Chambers. Public Swim Mon. thru Thurs. 11a-7p; Fri. and Sat. 11a-6p and Sun. 1-6p. For info, call 828-526-1595.

ONGOING

• The "Kids Hike Highlands" trail passport program has been refreshed for the 2023 season. pick up a copy of the Kids Hike Highlands passport map at one of the four prize locations or you can download a copy at www.highlandsbiological.org.

Thurs-Sat.

• Highlands Historical Society Museum at 320 N. 4th Street is open 10a to 4p through October.

Mon-Wed, Fri-Sun

• Alcoholics Anonymous: "Open Meetings" are for anyone who thinks they may have a drinking problem or for anyone interested in the A.A. program of recovery. Highlands Mountain View Group holds open meetings in Highlands at the First Presbyterian Church, 471 Main St., on Monday at 5:30 PM and Wednesday and Friday at noon. The Cashiers Valley Group holds open meetings at the Albert Carlton Cashiers Community Library Tuesday at 7 PM, Friday and Sunday at 5 PM, and Saturday at 9 AM. A ZOOM meeting is available Wednesday at 7PM (ID# 921 817 2966, password CVG2020). For more information, please visit www.aawnc80.org or to speak with a member of AA 24/7 at 828-349-4357

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

1st Tuesdays

• Indivisible Highlands from 5-6:30pm at the Hudson Library.

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 budann@me.com

Tuesdays

• Strength Training 8:15-9:15am. Aim for strong, lean muscles using light weights, body weight, and high repetition to shape and tone.

Wednesdays

• Hudson Library, in partnership with VAYA Health, is hosting an educational series on adult mental health topics, held on the first Wednesday of each month at 11:00 AM. This series is aimed particularly at older adults and will focus on mental health topics of particular interest to them, but all ages are welcome to attend.

Mon-Fri

• Water Aerobics 18 years plus 10-11am. Contact the Recreation Department at 828-526-3556 for more information.

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

Mon., Tues., Thurs.

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

Mon. & Wed.

• New Mobility Class with Anna Norton It's all about move-

ment. 5:30-6:30pm and Wednesday 6:45-7:45. For more info, call 267-825-0716.

Mon, Wed, Fri

• Heart Healthy Exercise Class 8:30-9:30am. \$25 a month. The class is led by Cathy Hodgson. Contact the Recreation Department at 828-526-3556 for more information.

• Aerobics w/Tina Rogers 8-9a. Contact the Recreation Department at 828-526-3556 for more info.

Tuesdays

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

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

• ESL classes are held at the Presbyterian Church in Highlands from 5:30-6:30pm. No registration required – just show up and participate. Questions? call 828-526 – 0863 or email info@maconncliteracy.org

Tues. & Thurs.

• Zumba class with Gay Chaplin from 4:30-5:30p. Contact the Recreation Department at 828-526-3556 for more information.

• Exercise Class with Michelle Lane at 5:30. A combination class with different types of exercise. Contact the Recreation Department at 828-526-3556 for more information

Thurs. through Aug. 10

• Highlands Biological Foundation's free Zahner lectures

Pop Up Pipers!

Celebrating Highlands' Heritage

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

This Month's Performance:

Highlands United Methodist Church

315 Main Street

Saturday, July 1

4:30 – 5 p.m.

Performances are made possible by the Highlands Chamber of Commerce/

Visit Highlands, NC.

828-526-2112
visithighlandscnc.com



• EVENTS •

at the Highlands Nature Center (930 Horse Cove Road) at 6 p.m. To preview HBF's full Zahner lecture lineup, please visit www.highlandsbiological.org.

Thursdays

• Kickboxing 8:15-9:15am. An exhilarating and fun mix of martial arts for a calorie-burning workout. Contact the Recreation Department at 828-526-3556 for more information.

• At Hudson Library, Family Storytime continues throughout the year on Thursday mornings at 10:40 AM.

• At Hudson Library, Kids Zone at 3:30 pm with a wide variety of STEAM, nature, and craft activities. For more information about any of these summer activities, contact Hudson Library at 828-526-3031.

• At Wayfarers Chapel, Chair Yoga – from 4-5 PM. If you are interested in greater strength and flexibility but have difficulty getting up and down from a sitting or reclining posture.

• At Wayfarers Chapel, Gentle Mat Yoga – from 5-6 PM. Looking for greater strength? Join Dana Thiele at the chapel for Gentle Mat Yoga on the Deck. With more than 20 years experience,

3rd Fridays

• At the Rec Park, Senior Lunches noon in the meeting room. For any other information call Lester Norris or Maxine Ramey at 828-526-3556.

2nd Saturdays

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

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 9 AM on the 3rd Saturday of the month.

Sundays

• Church in the Wildwood Hymn Sing Sundays 7-8 p.m. through Sept. 3. 828-506-0125.

• 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).

Through July 8

• "Jersey Boys" at Mountain Theatre Company now in residence at the Performing Arts Center on Chestnut Street. For tickets go to www.mountaintheatre.com

Fri. - Sat., June 30 - July 1

• This special artistic weekend will feature the return of husband and wife duo, writer John T. Edge and artist Blair Hobbs. Social Hour Fri. and Sat. from 5-6 pm with complimentary hors d'oeuvres and special cocktails prepared by John T. available for purchase in J. Henry Farmhouse Tavern. To book your stay today. To book your stay, go to <https://www.oldewardhospitality.com/half-mile-farm/#/booking/step-1>

Thurs., June 29

• At Hudson Library, at 3:30 PM, we'll be holding our first-ever Kids Zone Bingo for Books! Kids of all ages are invited to join the fun. Everyone will play bingo, with free children's books as the prizes! We'll have books for children from toddlers to high schoolers; there's sure to be something for everyone! Children under 5 will need an adult with them throughout the program.

Sat., July 1

• At The Bascom, Free "Community Day" from 11 am - 2 pm. Free Popcorn, Artist Demonstrations, Make your own

• See EVENTS page 24

Mirror Lake Restoration and Dredging Update

"**SAVE MIRROR LAKE**" has been our battle cry for the past 3-years while it's been my pleasure to serve the M.L.I.A. along with our Board of Directors. Our Mission Statement has always been "People Joining Together Sharing Time and Resources in Order to Save, Restore, and Preserve Mirror Lake and its Environs."

A little background for those of you unfamiliar with our cause. For 20+ years, Dredging Mirror Lake has been the goal of many. Providing residents and visitors with pristine waters, navigable stream flows, native wildlife & fish, and recreation areas for all to access and enjoy will be the result. Mirror Lake is a "critical watershed" which flows directly into Lake Sequoyah; the Town of Highlands primary water source. A choked, silt-laden, unhealthy Mirror Lake negatively impacts the environment, the "Highlands way of life" and overall water quality. The time to act is right now.

It is a pleasure today to update all of you with our recent progress:

• We set a Goal to raise \$4.2-\$5.2 million in order to dredge Mirror Lake in 3 Phases.

• **Phase 1:** Dredge from Mirror Lake Bridge upstream (approximately to Billy Cabin Rd.), and downstream to the second bay.

• **Phase 2:** To deepen and clear the Mill Creek channel from Cullasaja Road to the Lake.

• **Phase 3:** To continue where we left off in Phase 1 upstream towards Big Pine Acres and downstream towards the Mirror Lake Dam where it feeds Lake Sequoyah.

• I am pleased to announce that through generous givers and significant private donations, our community has secured the funding to complete Phase 1 dredging.

• Our dredging consultant and partner in the project, RiverSand, Inc. have been given the green light by M.L.I.A. to secure dredging permits for Phase 1 and Phase 2. RiverSand is working in concert with the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and with the U.S. Army

SAVE MIRROR LAKE



MIRROR LAKE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION
HIGHLANDS, NC • ELEV 4118'

Corps of Engineers (USACE) to gain approvals, so that we can begin Phase 1 as soon as possible. If we interrupt your canoeing this Summer, we apologize in advance.

• Mayor Patrick Taylor has invited us to present our Dredging Plan and updates to the Town of Highlands Board on 3 separate occasions. We

have support from the Town of Highlands, and are collaborating with Leadership to gain approval, financing, and coordination within the scope of our plan in order to identify Town resources we can access for the necessary improvements to the watershed. Mayor Taylor has also brokered introductions and meetings with our State of North Carolina Senate Representative (Kevin Corbin) and our Congressman (Carl Gillespie) here in Highlands and in Raleigh. Both gentlemen took a full day to meet with the Mayor at Mirror Lake for an overview of our Dredging Plan, and immediately embraced it's importance to the Town of Highlands for all the reasons we've already mentioned.

• In the current Legislative Session in Raleigh, we are pleased to report that our Representatives have designated "The Restoration of Mirror Lake" as one of the funding priorities in Macon County for 2023.

• The M.L.I.A. has been invited to present our 3-Phase Dredging Plan to the Highlands Rotary, and the Highlands Country Club Garden Club for consideration and support.

It's extremely important that all of us now embrace this positive momentum to continue the fundraising efforts in order to "Save Mirror Lake". While we commend the entire community for the progress made thus far, our job has only just begun. On behalf of the M.L.I.A. we thank you in advance for your continued giving, enthusiasm, and positive support of these efforts. Please continue to communicate to us your positive ideas and kind words as we move forward. In the end, we will all have the jewel that is Mirror Lake to enjoy!

Patrick J. Gleeson
Representing The Mirror Lake Improvement Association

Tax Deductible Donations may be made directly by calling Tom Roberson, Treasurer, M.L.I.A. (770.329.9919) or you can email Tom at tom.roberson2@gmail.com

• HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

art, Help paint a community mural, Storytelling, Teddy Bear Hospital. Bring your own picnic to enjoy in the shaded amphitheater

Tues., July 4

• 4th of July activities will be at the Town Ballfield on Tuesday. The shooting off of water rockets starting at 9am; at 11am traditional field games until 12 noon (Tug a War, 3-legged Sack Race, water balloon toss and frozen T-Shirt contest); at 12 noon a possible visit from MAMA the med vac helicopter. The HF&R Dept. will have the ladder truck for the annual spray-down once the MAMA Helicopter leaves. Also Rotary will be serving food at Town Ball Field starting at 11am. The annual fireworks show will start about dark.

Thurs., July 6

• HCCMF presents "Bach in a Sacred Space," Thursday at 5 p.m. at the Episcopal Church in Highlands. \$80 per person includes

refreshments following the performance. Reservations required. Call 828-526-9060.

Wed., July 12

• At OEI's The Farm, from 6 - 8 pm the music of Andrew Wooten & Caroline's Roost feels like a pine-covered moonshine still on a foggy mountainside somewhere in the Carolinas. Tickets are \$40. <https://www.simpletix.com/e/andrew-wooten-with-carolines-roost-orchard-tickets-125>

Fri.-Sat., July 14-15

• Highlands Historical Society resurrects its Walk Through Memorial Garden Park. Tour the cemetery and hear from the ghosts of Highland's past at 4 p.m. Tickets are \$15, children are free. Park at the Civic Center and for buses to the cemetery. Tickets can be purchased at the Highlands Historical Society Museum on N.4th Street.

Sat., July 15

• In Dillsboro, 8th Annual Front Street Arts & Crafts Show that showcases local Artisans & Musicians once again over 40 booths on Front Street 10a to 4p.

• Low Country Shrimp Boil to benefit K-H Founders Park. Doors open at 5. Dinner is at 6. Tickets are \$80 and include low country boil dinner; dessert and 2 drinks. Rain or Shine. Tented event at the park. Live Music by Lazr Luvr of Asheville. Tickets are available at www.foundersparkhighlands.org and The Dry Sink on Main Street.

Tues., July 18

• Melanie Vickers will speak at 4p.m. at the Highlands Biological Center pavilion on Firding Apps on the smart phone. Beginning birders and experts are welcome. Question? 772-249-2045.

Sat., July 22

• Soiree for Pre-K at the Vineyard at High

Holly, 5:30 p.m. until. \$250 per person. Eight per table. Includes Dinner; drinks and dancing. Featuring Steel Toe Stilletto from Greenville, SC. For tickets call 828-526-0863. Or email, info@TheLiteracyandLearningCenter.org.

Thurs.-Sat., July 20-22

• PAC fundraiser. Satulah Mountain Home & Garden Tour 10 a.m. and 12:30-3p. five homes and gardens found on historic Satulah Mountain. Tickets are \$125 each. Shuttles run from the PAC every 15 min. starting at 9:45am. Last shuttle departs the PAC at 2pm. This is a walking tour so wear good walking shoes; rain or shine event.

July 28-Aug. 19

• "Rock of Ages" at Mountain Theatre Company now in residence at the Performing Arts Center on Chestnut Street For tickets go to www.mountaintheatre.com.

• LETTER •

It's good to be home

Dear Editor

This is a "thank you note" to explain why I realized this past weekend (June 24 and 25) that I am finally at home.

On this past Saturday and Sunday, I had the pleasure and privilege of being able to take part in the Mountaintop Rotary Art and Craft show. Normally, you are hesitant to publish names unless I am being critical of some foolish politician or group of politicians. Since the lady I wish to name is well known and loved by most Highlanders, please allow me to thank my dear friend (she has many who call her friend in Highlands), Cynthia Strain. I had what I consider to be a distinct privilege of being able to participate in her early art shows by sitting under large umbrella just outside her framing shop trying to sell homemade note cards and unframed photo prints.

On this past Saturday at the show, she was publicly recognized as the founder of what is now this amazing Highlands event held twice a year. I suspect that at the beginning she had no idea of what her show would become.

Now my recognition of and heartfelt thanks to the multitude of Mountaintop Rotary volunteers. They are an outstanding, diverse bunch of people who through much hard work and smarts have created an event that I consider to be a great contribution to Highlands. While witnessing these fine people at the show and observing how friendly and supportive each was to the vendors, the public and to each other. I had the pleasure of talking to and being helped by many of the volunteers ranging from an obviously well-known and liked (this is an understatement) retired surgeon to two very kind young men who helped me dismantle and load all my stuff. Then I came to the conclusion that I was finally at my home!

Now, the back story. During the depression, when I was five years old, my family started repeatedly moving. My father worked at the Wichita Kansas railroad switching yard. One the biggest problems during the depression was the huge number of men without a job, so the railroad decided to cut the work hours in half for anyone not in management. My parents, with four children, could not survive with this cut in earnings. We were already eating a lot of turnip and rabbit soup.

My father joined the Iron Workers Union. The up side of this was that the union pay was pretty good and they always had a job for the men. The downside was that once the steel was up, so were you. You had to pack everything (which we did not own much of) and move to the next job site. We eventually were in a small wooden cabin at the most northwest corner of Oregon. Then traveled back to job sites in several states to settle in Carlsbad, New Mexico. After high school in 1953, the draft for the "Korean Conflict" was in effect. So, off to San Diego Navy boot camp.

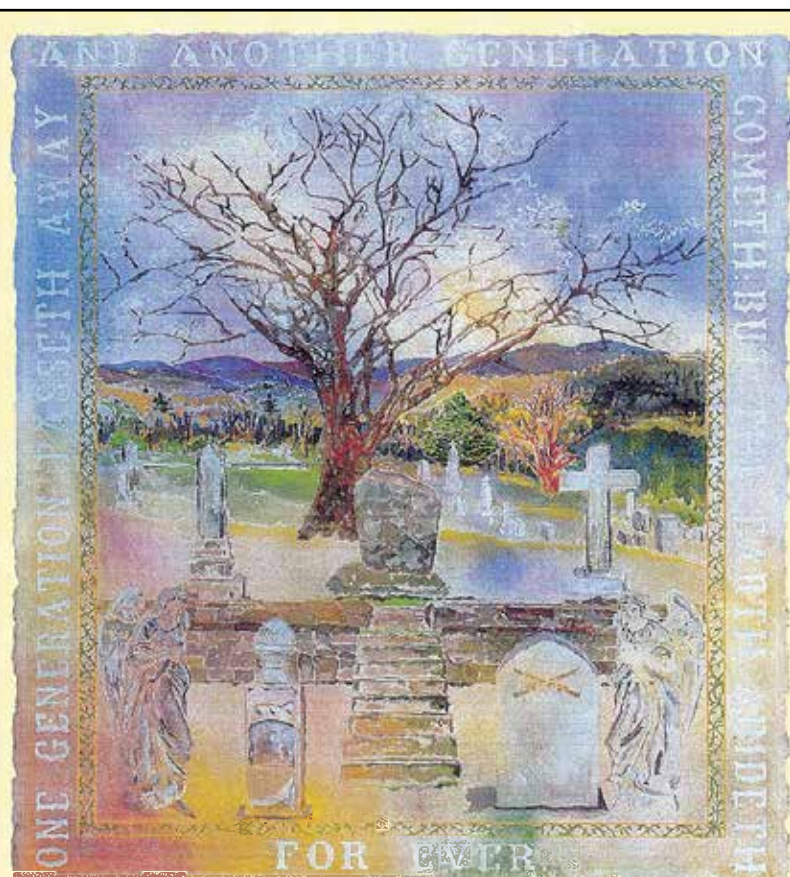
After the Navy, it was back to New Mexico for college, on to a missile base in South Carolina for two years, and to a Scotland missile base for two years. After many years back in South Carolina, in 1997 my wife and I purchased our house in Highlands.

For myself, with all this moving, I never before quite felt like I belonged or was at "home."

Now I do feel that I belong and am at home. So, thank you again Cynthia and Mountaintop Rotary.

I thank you all for letting me have this wonderful and memorable adventure.

Larry Brannan
Highlands



Walk in the Park Highlands Memorial Park

Friday, July 14, 2023 4 pm - 6 pm

Saturday, July 15, 2023 4 pm - 6 pm

Tickets Available at Highlands Historical Museum

• HIGHLANDS EVENTS •

'Soiree for Pre-K' is July 22

The Literacy & Learning Center is hosting Soiree for Pre-K, a fund-raising event on July 22, with all proceeds benefiting our new NC-certified pre-K program.



Soiree for Pre-K will be a fun-filled evening featuring dinner, drinks, and dancing to Steel Toe Stiletto, a premium events band based in Greenville, SC. The band was formed from friendships between some of the Southeast's most impressive vocalists and musicians. Multi-year winners of The Knot's Best of Weddings and Couples' Choice Awards, they cover favorites across genres and decades. Bring your friends to the Vineyard at High Holly and make some new ones in this charming spot nestled on nearly 30 acres of lush, rolling hills and boasts a working vineyard, award-winning dahlia garden, pond and waterfalls, an event pavilion, and walking trails throughout.

The pre-K program is designed to help children ages 3-5 develop the skills they need to succeed in school and be-

yond. The program includes a focus on literacy, math, and social-emotional development. TL&LC is dedicated to providing high-quality early childhood education to all children, regardless of their family's income.

We invite all community members to join us for this excellent opportunity to support TL&LC's mission and help ensure that all children have access to quality education. Tickets can be purchased online for \$250 per person at www.theliteracyandlearningcenter.org/soiree.

In addition to dinner, drinks, and dancing, the event will feature a live auction with various items up for bid, including weekend getaways to several exciting destinations!

The Literacy & Learning Center is so grateful for the community's support. The funds raised from this event will help to ensure that we can continue to provide more high-quality early childhood education to Highlands' children.

Max Owre takes CLE to France for a look at its politics

Max Owre, rxecutive director of Carolina Public Humanities at UNC at Chapel Hill, will make two presentations on French history at the Center for Life Enrichment on Thurs. and Fri. July 6 and 7.

This year, Owre will help participants understand French politics by reviewing the history of the French right and its populist appeal throughout the 20th century and today, and explain the nation's long debate over religious liberty and national identity.

In France, multiple viable parties, parliamentary coalitions, and run-off national elections make the process of politics quite different from the United States. Although the French ideas of "right" and "left" generally mean the same things as they do in the U.S., in France, the political system leads to more complex combinations of opinions than those that emerge from a binary partisan division. Both of Owre's lectures will provide historical context that will help participants understand how to read salient issues in French politics today.

CLE will explore the evolution of the French right in Right-Wing Politics

and Populism in Modern France on July 6 from 2-4pm. Ranging from conservative republicans to Catholic social conservatives, to neoliberals and extreme nativist nationalists, the right in France represents a wide-array of groups who don't always see eye-to-eye. Owre will review both formal French right-wing political parties, and the populist traditions.

Owre's CLE presentation on July 7 from 10 to noon: The Secular State and Its Discontents: Religious Freedom in France, will introduce participants to the French concept of republicanism — not to be confused with the GOP — and its assimilationist demands on French citizens. The lecture will examine how republicanism's secularist policy, called *laïcité*, has fostered social and political conflict for over a century.

Both lectures will take place in the CLE Lecture Hall at the Peggy Crosby Center, 348 S. 5th Street, Highlands. Cost is \$30/\$40 Member/Non-Member for each presentation. Visit clehighlands.com or call (828) 526-8811 to register.



Peggy Crosby Center

PEGGY'S HEROES 2022

The Board of Directors, Staff and Tenants of the Peggy Crosby Community Service Center are grateful for the generosity of our 2022 Donors.

THANK YOU!

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Gerry & Avery Doubleday • H.Ray & Diane McPhail • Tom & Becky Willis

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• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •



What does freedom mean to you?

Pastor Randy Lucas
Highlands United
Methodist Church

As we prepare to celebrate the anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776, thoughts of freedom abound. As a grateful nation, we contemplate the many freedoms we enjoy in the United States. We acknowledge the gift of the freedom of speech. We give thanks for the freedom to worship and practice our faith (or not) in alignment with our own conscience. We acknowledge how fortunate we are for the freedoms afforded to us in our nation's charter to live our lives as we choose, providing we don't infringe on the rights of others or diminish the dignity of our neighbor. And as we ponder the blessings of our national and individual freedoms, we acknowledge with gratitude the debt we owe to those men and women who have secured and defended our freedoms.

What does freedom mean to you? In addition to examples listed above that easily come to mind around the Fourth of July, a broader reflection around the idea and ideals of freedom brings other images to mind. For the person struggling with addiction, freedom means sobriety. For a family behind on their bills, freedom is the removal of debt. For people mired in conflict, freedom means reconciliation. For the sick, freedom is wellness. For individuals pushed to the margins, demeaned, disregarded, dismissed, and diminished, freedom is no more complicated than hospitality, acceptance, understanding and friendship.

Freedom can come in many forms. And the lack of freedom can be experienced in many ways. For people of the Christian faith, our view of freedom is informed by our understanding of God's saving work in Jesus. The Apostle Paul, a major contributor to the New Testament, wrote in a letter to the church at Galatia, "For freedom Christ has set us free" (Galatians 5:1a). Paul wrote these words in support of the foundational Christian understanding of justification by grace. He was arguing against those who insisted that justification came through adherence to the law. Paul championed a freedom born of grace.

This kind of freedom seeks to loose the bonds that easily bind us. This freedom challenges all the chains with which we can easily become entangled. The bondage of fear, regret and despair, the yoke of anger, bitterness, prejudice and hatred, the tether of entitlement, arrogance and haughtiness, all the things that can cultivate life-draining and life-denying attitudes and behaviors that serve as barriers for the fruit of the Spirit to grow within us. According to Paul, the fruit of the Spirit is "love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control" (Galatians 5:22b-23a, NRSV).

What does freedom mean to you? Or perhaps a more appropriate question might be, from what do you

• See SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING page 27

Proverbs 3:5

• PLACES TO WORSHIP •

John 3:16

BLUE VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH

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

BUCK CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

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

CASHIERS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Rev. Aryn Williams-Reubel, Pastor 828-743-5298
Sundays: School at 9:30 Worship 10:30
Wednesday night Dinner and Service 5:30

CHAPEL OF THE SKY

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

CHRIST ANGLICAN CHURCH

828-743-1701 • 464 Hwy 64E, Cashiers, NC 28717
www.christanglicancashiers.com
9:30am Sunday School; 10:30am Worship Service. Mon. Night
Bible Study & Dinner, 6pm, call for details.

CHRIST CHURCH OF THE VALLEY, CASHIERS

Pastor Brent Metcalf • 743-5470
www.cashiers.church

Sun. 10:45am. S.S. 9:30am. Wed. 6pm supper and teaching.
Tues. Guys study 8am. Gals 10am.

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE CHURCH

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

CLEAR CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

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

COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH

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

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• POLICE & FIRE REPORTS •

Highlands Police entries from June 21. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a summons/citation, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor or those of public officials have been used.

June 21

• At 1 p.m., officers responded to a 2-vehicle accident on US 64 west at Mirror Lake Road.

June 22

• At 6:05 p.m., officers responded to a 2-vehicle accident on NC 106 at Spring and Log Cabin Lane.

June 25

• At 9:49 p.m., officers responded to a one-vehicle accident on US 64 east and Sherwood Forest.

The Highlands Fire & Rescue log from June 20.

June 20

• At 10:32 a.m., the dept. responded to a call of a tree down on Goldmine Church Road.

June 21

• At 12:25 p.m., the dept. was

first-responders to a residence on Magnolia Drive.

• At 1 p.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident at US 64 west and Mirror Lake Road.

• At 3 p.m., the dept. helped a stranded motorist on US 64 east.

June 22

• At 8:50 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Kelsey Court.

• At 10:24 p.m., the dept. responded to a call of a tree on a power line on S. 4th Street.

• At 11:59 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Johnwood Road.

June 23

• At 4:06 p.m., the dept. responded to a CO2 alarm at a residence on Flat Mountain road.

• At 7:43 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Morewood Circle.

• At 9:59 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Hammond Drive.

June 24

• At 5:53 a.m., the dept. responded

to a call of a power line down at N. 4th Street and Cullasaja Dr.

• At 6:46 a.m., the dept. provided public assistance at a residence on Flat Mountain Road.

• At 3:50 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Hammond Drive.

• At 6:12 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a location on S. 4th Street.

June 25

• At 4:37 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Walhalla Road.

• At 10:13 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence at VZ Top.

June 26

• At 9:02 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a location on Main Street.

• At 8:46 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Birch Point.

• At 9:33 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Country Club Drive.

...HURRICANES continued from page 1

Jack Sumner and Chase Kenter brought home 25 pts with four wins and a second.

McKim, along with Tate Wilson were 2022-'23 High School Academic All American Swimmers. McKim also broke a team record in the 100 Butterfly and both a pool and team record in the 100 Breaststroke. Sumner broke a pool record in the Butterfly, and Kenter got both a MSL record and a pool record in the Backstroke.

Penelope McRae and Jr. Olympian Corena Dearth scored 23 pts with a blue ribbon and two seconds. Jayce Powell and Jr. Olympian Tate Wilson had 22 and 21 pts, respectively. Wilson broke a team record in the 200 IM.

AnnMarie Hinton, Miley Zagal and Jr. Olympian Paolo McRae all scored 20 pts. McRae and Zagal had 2 seconds, Hinton a 1st. Justin Powell, Elizabeth Burnette, Annabelle Searles, Valerie Nadzorau and Blake Kenter all scored 19 pts. Kenter and Nadzorau each won an event, Powell had two 2nds, Burnette and Searles a blue ribbon each. Ian Batista, Ivan Shchelgachov, Bella Batista, Katherine Wise, and Jr. Olympian Conner Hughes brought home 18 pts each. Bella Batista won an event, Wise two, Hughes, Ian Batista, and Shchelgachov each had a 2nd and 3rd.

Aleks Petric and Wylie Hinton won 16 pts and a 2nd each. Asa Garner, Bo Curcuru, Maxwell Basil and Stefan Halldin all scored

15 pts. Curcuru won a race, and all four got a second. Michael Spencer had 12 pts, brother John Bradshaw Spencer and Agatha Jestin each had 9. Michael and Agatha both won an event. William Burnette and Nicole Shchelgachov won 6 pts. Kenley Birchfield scored 5 pts. Alyssa Atwood 4 pts, and Harrison McKim 2.

Visitor Grayson Banks and sister Annabelle had good exhibition swims. Grayson broke a pool record in the IM. Margaret Cole had to leave due to illness.

The Highlands Hurricanes are a Highlands Recreation Park Swim Team that practices at the Highlands Recreation Park Pool on weekday evenings. For further information please call at 828.421.4121.

...SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING continued from page 26

need to be set free? If we think long enough, I imagine we could all come up with a thing or two. Possibly more. I know I could jot down a few things and I sus-

pect you could too. So here's a thought. As we prepare for next week's special community events, for our family gatherings and festive celebrations I simply invite

you to join me in giving thanks to God for, being open to, living into the fullness of, and helping others experience, the gift of freedom.

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...RICH GAP continued from page 1

which passed 4-1 with Shearl voting “nay,” county staff was unclear if the final budget proposal addressed the solid waste fee changes - thus the need for Monday’s special-called meeting.

Macon County Solid Waste Director Chris Stahl’s budget request included two fee changes and a third amendment to an existing fee to include brush.

The fee changes would not impact the majority of Macon County residents, just a small subsection – commercial businesses many of which aren’t owned by Macon County residents who use the station.

The first fee request regards the Transfer Station in Highlands on Rich Gap Road where the county charges a transfer fee on top of the tipping fee for commercial customers. This is a pass-through fee based on the county’s costs to move that waste from the Transfer Station to the Landfill.

Last year, the Board approved an increase from \$175 per pull, to \$250 per pull. The county is allowed to haul 20-tons in a trailer per NCDOT limits. So, \$175/20 = \$8.75 per ton which is the current fee, but the increase is now \$12.50 per ton.

The theory behind the increase is that the county doesn’t supplement the hauling costs of commercial customers when they deliver waste to the landfill. Therefore, the county should not supplement businesses’ hauling costs when delivering waste to the transfer station.

“If it costs the county \$12.50 per ton to finish carrying their waste to the landfill, they should pay for their portion of that load,” said Stahl.

The change would only apply to commercial customers - household customers

are still allowed to dump for free, just like at any convenience center. Residents with bulky waste that are charged a tipping fee, do not have the transfer fee applied.

The requested fee change would mean an additional \$41,250 in revenue based on the previous 12 months.

The second fee request was to raise the fee for brush/stumps or wood waste from \$30 per ton to \$35 per ton. This would be applicable to anyone delivering vegetative waste to the landfill or the Highlands Transfer Station.

According to Stahl, when the current fee was set, the county was paying \$8 per ton to have woody waste ground, but the cost to do that now is \$22 per ton for grinding. The fee increase is needed to help close the shortfall between tipping fees received and the cost of managing those operations, which involves more than grinding costs.

When there was a landfill in Highlands, the mulch from the wood waste was utilized on site. Now, however, it must be transported away from the site to either the MSW Landfill Facility, or an alternate end-user.

Stahl said his staff is actively seeking to find alternate approved methods for use of mulch as a commodity. He said should those efforts bear out, the Transfer Fee will be removed, thus making it temporary. Meanwhile, this change would generate an additional \$21,500 in revenue.

The third change would also only apply at the Highlands Transfer Station and is not a new fee, but a correction to an oversight made during last year’s budget process.

The request increased the transfer fee for brush and stumps because that material has to hauled away from the site and it costs

more than hauling trash.

According to Stahl, it takes many man-hours and equipment-hours to maintain the wood-waste areas. The piles must be monitored for unacceptable debris, which must be removed. The waste pile has to be pushed into windows for fire protection and to maintain an adequate dumping area. This process is then repeated for ground mulch, which requires even more frequent manipulation to prevent spontaneous combustion. This fee correction would generate an additional \$20,000 in revenue.

The Solid Waste Department operates as an Enterprise Fund and does not rely on ad valorem tax revenues for operating or capital expenditures. The department operates like a business within the county and must generate its own revenue. The two primary funding sources are user (Tipping) fees and Availability Fees.

Availability Fees are on tax bills of all property owners, but unlike property or fire taxes, everybody pays the same fee.

That fee covers the costs related to operations and services provided by the Sanitation Dept. - the Transfer Station, Recycling, Convenience Centers - and covered the cost of handling the household waste which is taken at no charge.

Without commercial fee adjustments, the availability fee paid by all taxpayers would have to be increased around \$3 per property owner. Currently, the availability fee is a flat fee of \$108 for all property owners.

Commissioner Shearl wanted the availability fee for all residents increased rather than increasing the commercial cost.

Highlands’ residents can use the transfer station for waste disposal (household garbage) for free, but commercial customers who elect to use the Highlands Transfer Sta-

tion rather than driving from Highlands to the Franklin Landfill have to pay fees.

The Solid Waste Department’s customers most impacted by the adjustment would be the town of Highlands followed by businesses in the building and construction industry.

The town of Highlands spent \$129,892.84 in 2019-’20 and around \$134,000 during the last two years.

Unfamiliar with the county’s past policies, Shearl said commercial businesses using the Highlands station would not have had to pay a transfer fee if the county had not closed down the Highlands landfill in 2008. He said the availability fee should have been increased in 2008 so all taxpayers would have shared the burden of generating the multiple million dollars needed to keep the Highlands Transfer Station open.

However, the closing was due to state regulations and had the county not closed it in 2008, it would have cost taxpayers millions of dollars to keep it open. Also, due to capacity limits, it would have only been open another two years.

While the Solid Waste Department’s operating budget is increased by only 0.3% (approximately \$21,000), and keeps the costs tied to the two main revenue sources level with the current budget year, the request for some minor adjustments to two of the fees were requested for FY ’23-’24.

Commissioner Josh Young, who operates a private business that frequently uses the Highlands Transfer Station said he understands the cost of doing business and the convenience of utilizing the facility and made a motion to approve the fee changes.

The board voted to approve the fee changes 4-1. Commissioner Shearl again voted “nay.”

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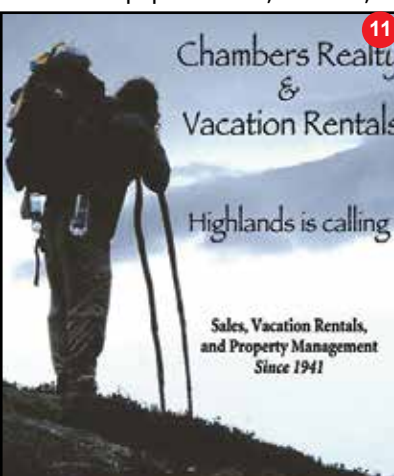
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