

# Highlands Newspaper

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Thurs., June 8 2023

## Deadline looming, but county budget is far from finalized

By Brittney Lofthouse

While the county continues debating County Manager Derek Roland's \$64.5 million budget proposal, organizations depending on

their funding are forced to sit and wait.

The town of Franklin met Monday night at which time Town Manager Amie Owens informed

the board that commissioners are currently not recommending approving an increase to the town's fire tax to purchase desperately

• See BUDGET page 16

## Memorial Day celebration draws a crowd

Highlands American Legion Post 370 veteran member Keith Hall delivered an inspirational talk as the keynote speaker for the Memorial Day event at Veterans Plaza on Monday, May 29.

Hall spoke of his time as a prisoner of war "POW" during the Vietnam War.

Part of his time as a captive in Vietnam's infamous "Hanoi Hilton" Hall served with fellow prisoner John McCain who later ran for President in 2008.

In recounting the heroism of his comrades during their time in captivity, Hall left hardly a dry eye in the approximately 100 in attendance at the event.

He went on to describe the history of Memorial Day dating to the late 1860s, later called Decoration Day, with the official federal holiday coming in May 1971.

Also part of the program was the unveiling of the new bricks at the Veterans Plaza Honor Walk.

The bricks represent a tribute to plateau veterans and are installed twice a year on Memorial Day and then at Veterans Day November 11.

Mayor Pat Taylor and Post Commander Ed McCloskey also spoke at the event.

An opening and closing prayer by Post Chaplain Zach Claxton set the tone for honoring veterans from all wars who served and died in the service of their country. To all veterans the community says, "thank you for your service."



Ed Jones past commander of the post 370.

Photo by Gregg Clarkson

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## The Literacy & Learning Center to offer Pre-K program

By Anna Norton

The Literacy & Learning Center is planning to open a North Carolina certified Pre-K program, this coming school year, as a stop-gap measure until Pre-K is offered at Highlands School.

TL&LC is responding to the growing demand for additional early childhood education in the community. This initiative aims to bridge the gap and provide a nur-

turing and comprehensive learning environment for children in need of Pre-K education.

At this time, about 70 children are on a wait list for Pre-K education in Highlands currently available at the Gordon Center and Highlands Community Child Development Center.

"We are delighted to introduce the NC-certified pre-K pro-

• See PRE-K page 11

## Changes to UDO possible

Though the work on the town's Planning Board and Zoning Board doesn't get a lot of publicity, the work they do often ends up as part of the Unified Development Ordinance and in the case of the Zoning Board it upholds the "laws" of the UDO.

For a few months now, the Planning Board has been discussing the increase of the use of string lights in town through the lens of the Dark Sky Initiative

which works to protect the night skies from light pollution.

For years, string lights have been allowed when used above outside seating areas of dining establishments, but not to light up parking areas, or outdoor alleyways, which board members believe is the case today.

Consequently, the Planning Board is considering clarifying the UDO language regarding the in-

• See UDO page 10

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# • THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

## • MAYOR ON DUTY •

### Legislation aimed for Highlands

A furlong is a horse racing distance measurement of one-eighth of a mile. A typical horse race is a mile or eight furlongs. The North Carolina legislative procedures can be likened to a horse race, and this current session is in the last furlong of the race. The whips are out, and there is a mad rush to get budget bills over the finish line before adjournment. The race will probably be over in Raleigh sometime later this month or in early July.



Highlands Mayor  
Patrick Taylor

funding the dredging of Mirror Lake. This project is long overdue and, if funded, will have a very positive impact on the Highlands watershed, which also includes the county. The Highlands Plateau is the originating source of groundwater for many people in this area. We have our fingers crossed that it will cross the budget finish line and work can begin this coming fiscal year.

Our legislators are also working to secure funds for major upgrades to the Highlands water plant. The town continues to invest in the water system, but I hope state funds for important water improvements can get over the finish line in Raleigh.

In the past several years I have worked with other officials to address the problem of large tractor trailer trucks getting stuck on the Gorge Road. Flashing warning lights have been installed and the size of the trailers permitted have been reduced from 50 feet to 30. Frankly, while these measures have helped to some extent, more needs to be done.

Representative Gillespie has taken on this problem at the state level. He has introduced a piece of legislation that will get the attention of truck companies.

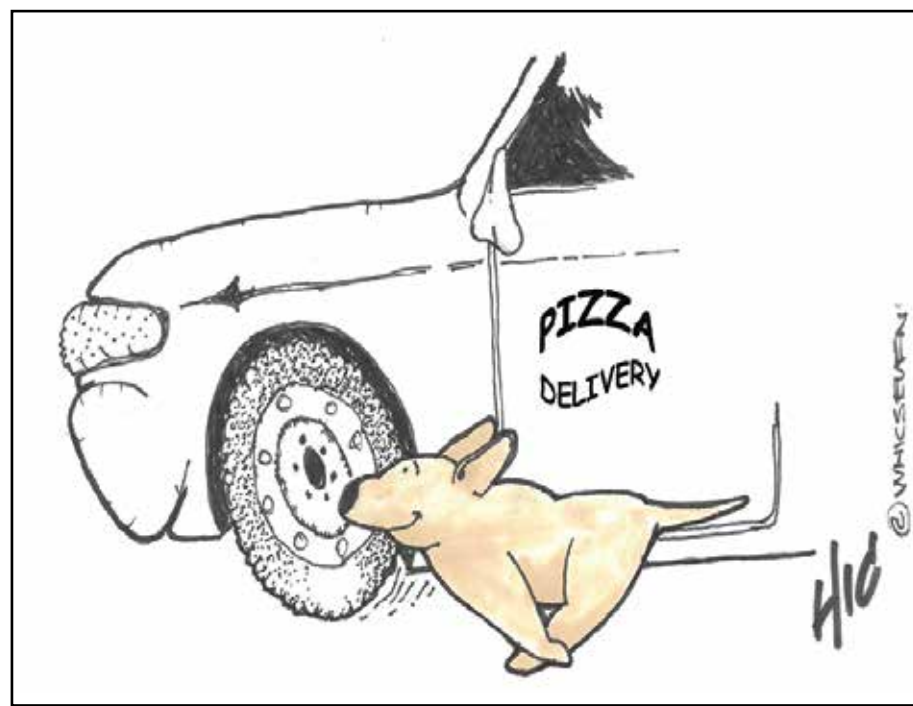
Currently, a violation on the Gorge Road is a fine of a few hundred dollars. Some companies pay the fine when cited and continue to repeatedly use the road.

Representative Gillespie's bill increases fines for repeat offenders. A second violation would be \$2,500 and the third or more would be \$5,000.

If that bill passes the finish line it will get the attention of truck companies. A \$5,000 fine would negate any benefit of continuing to ignore the law by using the Gorge Road. Representative's bill would also facilitate the truck companies to post on their GPS routing software a warning not to route drivers to the Gorge Road.

Sometimes problems can only be solved by working with the folks in Raleigh. On behalf of the town, I thank Representative Gillespie and Senator Corbin for their advocacy for the needs of Highlands. Let's cheer their efforts to the finish line. We could have a photo finish.

## • HIC'S VIEW •



## • WEATHER •

Thu, 8-Jun	Fri, 9-Jun	Sat, 10-Jun	Sun, 11-Jun
69°F 41°F	72°F 44°F	75°F 51°F	75°F 55°F
Times of clouds and sun	Plenty of sunshine	Nice with plenty of sunshine	A stray afternoon t-shower
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# 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 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*

## • INVESTING AT 4,118 Ft •

### Mirror Lake mirrors us

Lately, I've been thinking about our town and its “nature.”

Nature, meaning our distinctive natural resources which is why folks like you consider buying real estate up here.

And nature, meaning our character and disposition towards others and other things.

It led me to ask this big question. What is our nature towards nature?

I think the story of Mirror Lake helps to answer the question and may help you understand why you should be here, and/or consider investing in Highlands.

Mirror Lake is an amazing natural resource in downtown Highlands. Mirror Lake is a secondary water source for our Town and it feeds Lake Sequoyah which is Highlands's primary water source. The lake is formed by a widening of the Cullasaja River whose headwaters are a few miles upstream. There's a dam on one end which creates her placid flow as she continues into Lake Sequoyah, and then forms the main branch of the Cullasaja to its confluence with the Little Tennessee River.

Surrounding Mirror Lake is the most charming collection of cottages and mountain homes, about 200 of them if you consider all five of the neighborhoods who call Mirror Lake their “home water.”

Its residents are a mix of full-timers, second-homers, bears, geese, and dog-walkers.

If you get a chance to see a Mirror Lake Cottage, don't pass it up.

Mirror Lake's rich history included legendary ice skating, fly fishing for native trout, canoeing for miles, a bird sanctuary, waterfalls, and picnic areas.

Who wouldn't want to live in a community like Mirror Lake?

But here's where the “nature towards our nature” comes in.

Over the years,



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Pat, Bee and Gemma**  
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Mirror Lake has been negatively “choked” by sediment build-up thanks to unrestricted runoff, unauthorized tree removal, and a gradual flow of impediments from her tributaries.

Mirror Lake is a designated trout stream, but I'm afraid the trout are gone, the waters have shallowed, and the temperatures don't lend themselves to ice skating. So we're at a critical gateway with our lake and we've decided to join in as one big community to “Save the Lake.”

Our nature is to do the work necessary to dredge and restore this natural watershed to its original glory.

Our nature is to help our neighbors, the sur-

rounding communities, the Town of Highlands, Macon County Watershed, and to raise the money necessary to fund the dredging project.

I can see a day soon where the trout are back, the sediment is gone, trees are planted on the Mill Creek island, the Mirror Lake Landing and Parkway is finished, and we open the Mirror Lake Yacht Club to all.

This may sound counterintuitive, but I think our nature as real estate professionals is less about selling you a house than it is about offering you a lifestyle; an enhancement that could enrich your life and that of your family. That's what Highlands is all about.

Trust me, we'll find you a house in time, but the first step is to experience our nature. I encourage you to discover Mirror Lake, it's one of the reasons you'll want to be here.

• Pat Gleeson, Bee Gleeson, Christal Green and Gemma are proud to be a team of “Helpers” and Real Estate Brokers at Highlands-Sotheby's International Realty in downtown Highlands (Kitty Corner from Old Edwards Inn). You can reach all of us at 828.526.8300. Please stop by for coffee and conversation.

## SAVE MIRROR LAKE



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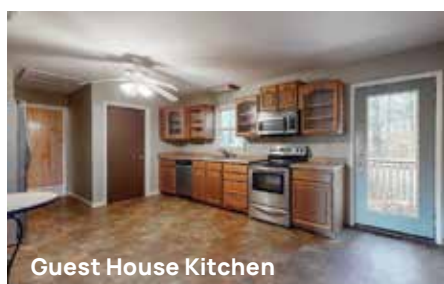
Main House Living



Main House Kitchen/Dining



Guest House Living



Guest House Kitchen

## HIGHLANDS

MLS# 102170 | \$699,000

4  
BR

4  
BA

This home would be perfect for anyone with a large family or for someone who needs live-in help. The newer house was built around 1990 and has two bedrooms, two baths, and a bonus room. The great room opens to an expansive deck that is both covered and open and has amazing mountain views. The lot is almost two acres, and there is plenty of space for outdoor enjoyment. The kitchen holds a six-burner gas range/oven, a wall oven, an additional gas cook top, granite countertops, and cherry cabinets. The older home was built around 1970. It boasts two bedrooms and baths, plus a living room with a brick fireplace, a large eat-in kitchen, and a one-car garage.



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## SAPPHIRE VALLEY MLS#

102174 | \$935,000

3  
BR

3  
BA

This home features updates galore with high-end furnishings and finishes throughout. The main level offers high ceilings in the open kitchen/living room combo. A large, leather-finished marble island with seating for four is the centerpiece of the kitchen, which also boasts white oak LVP flooring. New full roof replacement, new water heater, radon mitigation system, new HVAC as of 2022, and more. Offered furnished with short exclusions list. This home is currently a vacation rental with history available upon request. Sapphire Valley Master Association amenities include Lake Fairfield access, boating, pools, and much more.

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## • OBITUARIES •

### Phillip 'Frog' Alexander Rogers

Phillip Alexander Rogers, aka "Frog", age 79, passed away Sunday, May 28, 2023.

He was a native of Jackson County, born in Cashiers, NC, on June 14, 1943, to the late Arthur Lee Rogers and Bonnie Bird Rogers.

Alex owned his own painting business and was a musician. He loved his bluegrass music. He was the band leader of many bands, but Cash Valley Grass was the most prominent one. Other musical achievements were playing in the largest bluegrass festival, known as the Bean Bluegrass Festival of Indiana, opening acts for artists such as, Ralph Stanley, Ricky Skaggs, and Jimmy Martin. He enjoyed teaching other Appalachian youth the basics of bluegrass music. Amongst his musical talents, he was an artist, he has painted several paintings. He was a craftsman of furniture, decorative wooden bowls, toy chests, and he was also very proud of his Cherokee heritage.



Alex is survived by his wife of 22 years, Mary Rogers, of the home; two sons: Hank Rogers (Juleigh), Phil Rogers (Kim); stepchildren, Lynn White (Strotter), Scott White, and Bobbie White; five grandchildren and three great grandchildren. Many special cousins and friends also survive.

A celebration of life was held at the Pine Creek Baptist Church on Thursday, June 1st.

Honorary pallbearers were Bo Frady, Chris Tucker Jr., Michael Morgan, Jason Shelton, Clarence Russell, J.C. Norris, Jessie Palmer, and Samuel Palmer.

In lieu of flowers, the family request donations be made to the Pine Creek Cemetery, c/o Pine Creek Baptist Church, 4338 Pine Creek Rd., Cullowhee, NC 28723.

Online condolences can be made at [www.maconfuneralhome.com](http://www.maconfuneralhome.com).

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.

### Link Elliot Newton

Link Elliot Newton, 73, of Otto, NC, passed away May 6, 2023.

Link was a renowned career builder, who began his career in central Florida before moving to North Carolina and serving the Highlands area.

His reputation and work were well recognized. Link leaves behind two daughters, Leslie Newton and Lindsey Maggard. He loved auctions and classic cars, and his presence will be missed by many.



## • THANKS •

### Gala brought us all together!

Our June 3rd Gala Revue at the Highlands Performing Arts Center was an evening of fun, laughter, and great regional entertainment. I was filled with gratitude to see so much support from the community – and from all who organized and volunteered.

I want to thank Cindy Trevathan for chairing the event and for her tireless energy and compassion she gives to PAC. I also would like to thank Mark Ellis and Sean Dobruck for the amazing buffet, decor, and post-concert champagne; Carlton Chamblin, Farm2Cocktail, for the PAC signature drink - the Curtain Call; Scotty B for the wonderful pre-concert music; the V8s for the lively party music; the Foxfire Boys; Daniel Williamson, member of the Smoky Mountain Brass Band; Tina Rodgers for the line dance choreography and the Line Dancers; and Chris Wilkes for emceeing our event. In addition, a thank you goes to Wolfgang's Restaurant and Wine Bistro and the Ugly Dog Pub for their delicious post-concert desserts. And last but not least, I thank my staff - Erik Bishop, Technical Director and Lee Trevathan, Audience Service Manager for their support and tireless efforts. Because of all these people and the generous support of local businesses, patrons and attendees - the Highlands Performing Arts Center was able to raise much needed funds and exposure.

**Gratefully and Sincerely,  
Mary Adair Trumbly**

**Executive Director  
Highlands Performing Arts Center**



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## ALL ABOUT BOOKS

### • INK PENN •

## Books about strong women

I gravitate toward books about strong women. Who am I kidding? I rarely pick up a novel about a woman who can't take care of herself. Sure, my favorite female characters suffer setbacks and endure trials and tribulations. For me, their appeal lies in how they handle what life throws at them.



Kathy Manos Penn

### The White Lady

by Jacqueline Winspear

Another tour de force by this author. As a long-time fan of her Maisie Dobbs series, I knew this standalone would be a winner, and it did not disappoint. It's main character, Elinor, was a pre-teen in Belgium during WWI and is living in post-World War II Britain when the story opens in 1947. The tale moves between the two World Wars and details Elinor's role in both.

She seeks a quiet life in rural England, or so she tells herself. When she intervenes to protect the child of a neighboring farmworker, the reader wonders. Is she truly prepared to leave behind her life as a trained killer? Can she escape her past and put her demons to rest?

What follows is a story that shifts between introspection and action as Elinor follows her instincts. A bonus for me was learning about La Dame Blanche, an underground network in German-occupied Belgium. According to Wikipedia, "The network was known for its high proportion of female members; women may have made up as much as 30 percent of its total personnel."

Much as I did when I read the Maisie Dobbs series that spans pre-World War I through World War II in Britain, I learned a great deal about wartime life in Belgium. If you're a history buff, this book will fit the bill as not only engaging but also informative.

Now, I'm off to cleanse my palate with a bit of lighter reading. You know what I mean, don't you? Mysteries with witty dialogue and a bit of humor, despite the murders that are central to the plots.

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

### Lessons in Chemistry

by Bonnie Garmus

This book is everything you could want in a novel—fast paced, witty, touching in spots, and laugh aloud funny in others. Its portrayal of how women were seen in the 1950s and 1960s is more than believable, while other elements are intentionally fantastical. A character who makes coffee with a Bunsen burner and refers to salt as sodium chloride isn't something you encounter every day.

Bonnie Garmus is a debut author who has combined all these elements to come up with a book that entices you to finish it in one sitting.

Elizabeth Zott, the main character, is a brilliant scientist in a research facility in the early '60s. As far as her male colleagues know, she is fit only for making coffee, maybe typing research notes, and running errands, but not much more. She is, after all, a woman. Why would anyone think she had a brain?

Elizabeth, in fact, has a brain that far surpasses those of her co-workers. Seeing her run circles around them, get knocked down, and get back up time after time is one of the most satisfying elements of the book. What she endures from them in misogynistic insults will make your blood boil.

When she falls in love with an equally brilliant scientist who appreciates her for her brain and is equally smitten, you'll cheer.

I predict that this is a book people will talk about for years to come. And, in case you're wondering, I didn't read it in one sitting, but I stayed up way too late for too many nights to finish it.



UNRIVALED LUXURY



*Pat Allen*  
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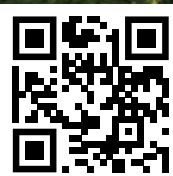
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## ...UDO continued from page 1

tensity of the string lights, the color as well as the times they are allowed to be on.

According to member Helene Siegel, the board is using the existing UDO, and the policies from other communities and the Dark Sky Initiative for reference to help guide them in determining recommendations.

Though nothing has been decided, the board is considering the hours of operation – when to turn them on and when to turn them off.

So far turning them off two hours after closing is being considered as well as whether to grandfather those businesses currently using them.

The board is also considering updating the long accepted “color palette” for commercial buildings in town. They are discussing limiting the number of colors allowed per façade and designating some as accent colors and others as exterior colors.

More will be discussed at the June 26 Planning Board meeting. The board’s recommendations will go to the Town Board for possible inclusion in the UDO.

The Zoning Board of Adjustment, which is a quasi-judicial board, meets less frequently than the Planning Board because it only meets to hear variance requests and to issue Special Use Permits.

At the May Zoning Board meeting, two variances were requested – one from Old Edwards Inn and one from a homeowner in Mirror Lake. Both were denied.

Old Edwards Inn wanted a variance to erect a larger, free-standing menu board at the entrance of Madison’s Restaurant.

As the ordinance is currently written, free-standing signs, electronic or otherwise, can only be 27 inches long diagonally. The request was for a 49-inch screen.

The second variance request was from Richard Adams who wanted a built-upon variance so he can build his desired house on a challenging lot on Chowan Drive.

Typically, the only way a variance can be issued for a piece of property is if the owner can’t make use of the property without the variance due to various constraints.

Since use can be made of the property

• See UDO page 11

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 Highlands**





## ...PRE-K continued from page 1

gram at The Literacy & Learning Center in Highlands,” said Bonnie Potts, the center’s executive director. “We recognize the pressing need for early childhood education in our community, and our goal is to provide a supportive and enriching environment that prepares children for future success.”

The Pre-K program at TL&LC will offer a comprehensive curriculum that aligns with the rigorous standards set by the NC Department of Public Instruction. Through a play-based and child-centered approach, young learners will engage in activities that enhance their language and literacy skills, develop mathematical and scientific

thinking, nurture social-emotional well-being, and promote physical growth.

The center’s facility has been purposefully designed to create a safe and stimulating learning environment. Classrooms will be equipped with age-appropriate resources, technology, and materials that encourage exploration, creativity, and critical thinking. TL&LC is committed to providing a welcoming and inclusive space that fosters the holistic development of each child.

Specifics about the program -- the start date, days and times the program will be offered - will be announced at a later date. The program will be free, like the other TL&LC programs.

## ...UDO continued from page 10

without the variance, it wasn’t issued.

Board members offered several suggestions as a way to continue without a variance, but the owner wasn’t receptive.

Chairman Margot Teed suggested people request changes to the UDO but as it stands now the board must heed stipulations in the UDO..

- Kim Lewicki

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## Lighting Up Your Nights

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Visit Highlands, NC is pleased to light

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display and concert on July 4th.

Join us for our June and July  
concerts and festivities!



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

## Friday Night Live

Town Square | 343 Main St.

Shows take place from 6 – 8:30 p.m.

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

## Saturdays on Pine

Kelsey-Hutchinson Founders Park  
Pine Street

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 7	The Foxfire Boys	JULY 8	Bill Mattocks
JULY 14	Curtis Blackwell Band	JULY 15	Lazluvr
July 21	Carter Giegerich & Friends	July 22	Back Porch Orchestra
JULY 28	We Three Swing	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](mailto:events@highlandschamber.org) or stop by the Highlands Welcome Center, 108 Main Street.



# • HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •



## Family Classes at Scaly Mountain Crafters

### 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.

### Bird House/Bird Feeder & Bat House Classes

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 [scalymtncrafters@gmail.com](mailto:scalymtncrafters@gmail.com) to schedule a class!

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

### POOL SCHEDULE

• Lap Swim: Mon.-Fri., 6-9:45am, 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.highland-sbiological.org](http://www.highland-sbiological.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](http://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 5-6:30 pm 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 [budandlynn@me.com](mailto:budandlynn@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.

### 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 movement. 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, and some very special Kids Zone programming. Kids Zone afternoon programs each Thursday at 3:30 pm continue through the summer months. We'll have programs presented by 4-H, Talewise, and Big Bang Boom, plus Lego Club, crafternoons, and Bingo for Books! 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 oppor-



# HIGHLANDS

ELEV. 4118 | THE HEIGHT OF HAPPINESS

## Highlands Volunteer Event

Are you looking to get involved?  
Join us to learn more about volunteer opportunities in Highlands!

Thursday, June 8  
11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Highlands Community Building  
71 Poplar Street

Light refreshments will be served.

This event is hosted by the  
Highlands Chamber of Commerce/Visit Highlands, NC.

For more information:  
[highlandschamber.org](http://highlandschamber.org)  
828-526-5841



# • HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

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

## Tues. & Thurs.

• New 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

## First Wednesdays

• Hudson Library, in partnership with VAYA Health, is hosting an educational series on adult mental health, at 11a. This series is aimed particularly at older adults and will focus on mental health issues of particular interest to them.

## Wednesdays

• ESL classes are held at the Presbyterian Church in Highlands from 5:30-6:30pm. No registration required – just show up and participate. Questions? Visit [www.maconncliteracy.org](http://www.maconncliteracy.org), call

828-526 – 0863 or email [info@maconncliteracy.org](mailto:info@maconncliteracy.org)

## Thurs. June 15-Aug. 10

Highlands Biological Foundation's free Zahner lectures 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](http://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, 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 – Thursdays 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, Chair

Yoga may be the perfect fit for you. Dana Thiele has been teaching Chair Yoga since 2017 and is ready to guide you on your new health adventure.

• At Wayfarers Chapel, Gentle Mat Yoga – Thursdays from 5-6 PM. Looking for greater strength? More flexibility? Time to focus on YOU? Join Dana Thiele at the chapel for Gentle Mat Yoga on the Deck. With more than 20 years experience, Dana Thiele is here to lead you in gentle, yet highly ben-

eficial yoga routines.

## 3rd Fridays

• At the Rec Park, Senior Lunches noon in the meeting room. For any other information call Lester Norris or Maxine Ramsey 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 Street in their Community Room/909 Chapel. We serve breakfast at 9am and hold our monthly meeting at 10am. We invite ALL Veterans to attend. Contact Ed McCloskey, Commander for any information @828-787-1660.

## Sundays

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

• See **EVENTS** page 14

## At Highlands Mercantile



*jane iredale*  
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# • HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

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0125 if questions.

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

### Thurs., June 8

• Volunteer Fair at the Community Building on Poplar Street. Come learn about volunteer opportunities in Highlands. 11a-2p. Light refreshments will be served.

• At the Macon County Library, on Siler Road in Franklin, Jen Seymour, an avid international hiker, will share one of her eight children's publications at 6 p.m.

### Fri., June 9

• **Highlands Motoring Festival** - Main Street Parade of Classics 5:30 - 6:30p. Starting at Kelsey-Hutchinson Founder's Park

### Sat., June 10

• **Highlands Motoring Festival** - "Cars in the Park" Classic Car Show. 9:30a. - 3:45p. Kelsey-Hutchinson Founder's Park

### Sun., June 11

• **Highlands Motoring Festival** - "High Octane" Car Show and Gathering. 8-11a. Kelsey-Hutchinson Founder's Park

• The Highlands Performing Arts Center will present the Empire Trio, Sunday at 7:30pm. Empire Trio is an exhilarating and uniquely

talented classical crossover ensemble, that has been taking concert halls by storm all over the world. Bravissimo Broadway features your favorite Broadway tunes, plus pop selections. Tickets are available online: [www.HighlandsPerformingArts.com](http://www.HighlandsPerformingArts.com)

• Death Café at Wayfarers Chapel 2-4 PM on the chapel deck. This is not a bereavement group or a therapy session, but rather an opportunity to express thoughts, concerns, questions, and revelations -- anything and everything to do with death -- in a safe, confidential environment. For more info, please contact Jan Brewer at 510-684-5555.

### Thurs., June 15

• At Highlands Mercantile, Jane Iredale Makeup Event from 11a to 3 p. Call for FREE 30-minute consult appointment. 322 Main Street. 828-482-0818.

• At The Bascom, free public reception celebrating our exhibition Into the Wood: Ed, Philip, and Matt Moulthrop. 5 p.m.

• At OEI's The Farm, from 6-8 p.m., Erick Baker, Emmy Award-winning writer, TV show host, and singer-songwriter. Tickets are \$40. Book Online: <https://www.simpletix.com/e/erick-baker-orchard-sessions-at-the-farm-tickets-124377>.

### Wed., June 21

• REIKI at Wayfarers Chapel 4-6 PM. Reiki is a simple, natural, and safe method of spiritual healing that treats the whole person. Sessions are free and open to everyone.

Donations may be placed in the baskets near the front door.

### June 23-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](http://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 attend these complimentary events at Half-Mile Farm book your stay today. To book your stay, go to <https://www.olderdwardshospitality.com/half-mile-farm#/booking-step-1>

### Sat., July 1

• At The Bascom, Free "Community Day" from 11 am - 2 pm. Free Popcorn, Artist Demonstrations, Make your own art, Help paint a community mural, Storytelling, Teddy Bear Hospital. Bring your own picnic to enjoy in the shaded amphitheater.

### 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>

## Bravissimo Broadway with the Empire Trio at PAC June 11

The Highlands Performing Arts Center will present the Empire Trio, Sunday June 11 at 7:30pm. Empire Trio is an exhilarating and uniquely talented classical crossover ensemble, that has been taking concert halls by storm all over the world. Bravissimo Broadway features your favorite Broadway tunes, plus pop selections. Tickets are available online: [www.HighlandsPerformingArts.com](http://www.HighlandsPerformingArts.com)

Empire Trio features the lush and mesmerizing voice of soprano Erin Shields, the versatile and vir-

tuosic David Shenton on piano and violin, the world's first (and possibly only) musician to play violin and piano simultaneously. The third member of the trio is the illustriously talented baritone Adam Cannedy.

From deliciously witty to incredibly moving, Empire Trio's shows have it all; they breathe new life into familiar toe-tapping favorites with their unique and innovative arrangements. The trio has garnered rave reviews from audiences and critics alike.



## Empire Trio BRAVISSIMO Broadway

Broadway, Pop & More  
Sunday, June 11, 2023  
7:30pm



THE  
HEIGHT  
OF  
ENTER  
TAINMENT

Highlands Performing Arts Center  
507 Chestnut Street, Highlands, NC

For Tickets and Information  
[HighlandsPerformingArts.com](http://HighlandsPerformingArts.com)



## Highlands Motoring Festival events begin Thurs.

Thursday evening will feature an opportunity to meet and talk with racing legend Brian Redman. Wine and beer will be available along with light appetizers.

The festival will stage five driving tours for owners of classic cars with its "One Lap of the Mountains" driving tours. These tours were sold out months ago. One hundred and forty drivers and their classics will be seen experiencing on the back roads of WNC mountains.

On Friday, June 9, there will be a parade on Main Street of classics cars. Open to the public, cars will gather at Kelsey Hutchinson Park at 5:30pm for instructions. The parade procession will depart the park at 6:05pm onto 5th Street and then proceed down Main Street and return up Main Street and back to the park. Following the parade there will be a social gathering in Kelsey Hutchinson Park.

The centerpiece of the festival will be the 'Cars in the Park' car show on Saturday, June 10th, featuring 85 classic cars that have been specifically curated and invited. This year's featured marque is BMW which will tell the history of the brand through a specially curated group of twenty BMWs. Over sixty other classics from Porsche, Cord, Jaguar, Mercedes, Alfa Romeo, Ferrari, Rolls Royce, and Packard will be displayed and judged. Entrance gates open to



On Saturday, KH Park will be full of cars and car enthusiasts.

the public at 9:30am. The event is free to the public but a donation to the festival's charities will be welcomed.

One of the most popular events is the Fund Raising Gala, this year held at Wildcat Cliffs Country Club. A special program will feature automotive legend Brian Redman, who will share stories from his sixty plus years in auto racing at some of the most famous venues in the world. There will also be a silent auction of automotive oriented items. This Gala includes a full dinner and cocktails. The attire will be resort casual.

All proceeds of the various festival events go to the festival's charity partners, the Literacy and Learning Center, REACH of Macon County, and the Community

Care Clinic of Highlands and Cashiers.

To volunteer, contact Jerry Hermanson at (828) 342 3571. The Highlands Motoring Festival has benefited local charities in Highlands for 16 years! For information visit the group's website [www.highlandsmotoringfestival.com](http://www.highlandsmotoringfestival.com)

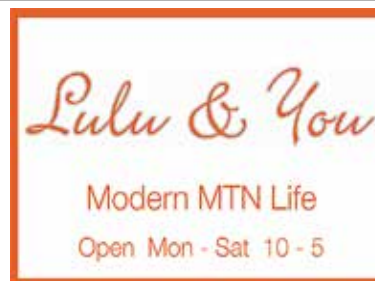
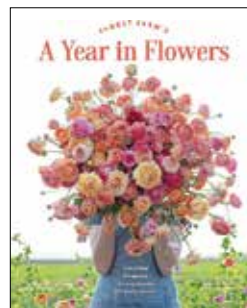
## Summer Reading Challenge at Hudson Library

Come to Hudson Library to sign up kids and adults for summer reading fun! Readers from 0 to 17 will be exploring the theme of "All Together Now" this summer with Hudson Library's summer learning program. Adults can enjoy Adult Summer Reading Bingo. The 2023 Summer Learning Program is free to all participants, and starts June 1.

Children will be awarded prizes for reading (or being read to) 20 minutes per day. For every 7 days that your child reads at

least 20 minutes (or that you read to him or her), your child will earn a prize. Prizes include UV pens, card games, a free book, and the final prize for finishing 7 full weeks of reading is an age-appropriate pass to the Highlands Aerial Park!

Adults will earn prizes for completing "bingos" on their reading bingo cards. Prizes include bookmarks, a gift certificate to The Bookworm, journals, free books, and all participants will earn entries into a prize raffle at the end of the summer.



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**Remember:  
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Upstairs and Across the  
Walkway at Falls on Main  
Highlands

## ...BUDGET continued from page 1

needed — and required — equipment.

The recommended budget for Macon County for the upcoming Fiscal Year 2023-'24 totals just over \$64.5 million for an increase of 9.3% over the previous year.

Owens and Ben Ormond spoke to commissioners during last week's budget work session to plead their case for an in-

crease in the fire tax to cover the estimated \$120,000 in debt service payments to purchase two new trucks. Commissioner John Shearl questioned the need for such a request, asking for an explanation why the Franklin Fire & Rescue needed an increase when other fire departments in the county are able to operate with budgets not even half as large as Franklin's existing budget.

"Why can a fire department operate on \$140,000 with two substations and it takes other departments \$1.2 million to operate?" Shearl asked.

Shearl said that eventually Macon County was going to have to transition to a county-wide fire department rather than the community based volunteer departments, at which point he sees the county's municipalities taking over their respective departments.

"In my mind, eventually you're gonna have the Town of Franklin...overseeing the [fire department, and the Highlands fire department overseen by the Town of Highlands, and the rest of these rural fire departments we're gonna eventually have countywide fire service."

Ormond defended the need for a fire tax rate increase and Franklin's budget by explaining to Shearl that the Franklin department averages 2,000 calls a year while the department

with the next closest call volume reported around 500 calls.

Commissioners agreed to take the fire tax increase from the town of Franklin under advisement while considering the county's entire budget, which means the town of Franklin was unable to approve their proposed budget this week.

The county is scheduled to meet for their second budget work session on June 8 and are tentatively scheduled for a public comment session and budget approval for June 13.

The town of Franklin called a special meeting for June 15, anticipating a decision from the county by that time so they can approve their budget prior to the end of the fiscal year on June 30.

Macon County Schools are also having to pause their budget discussions pending a decision from Macon leaders.

Macon County Schools requested a \$1.5 million budget increase over the current fiscal year, however Roland's budget proposed a \$880,638 increase, just a little more than half of what schools requested.

Retiring Superintendent Dr. Chris Baldwin joined incoming superintendent Josh Lynch and Macon County Schools Finance Director Angie Cook at the commissioner's work session to explain the school

• See BUDGET page 17



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## ...BUDGET from page 16

system's budget and justify the request.

Historically, budget work sessions have served as an opportunity for members of the board of commissioners to ask questions regarding specific budget items or to seek clarification from either a specific department or from the county manager. However, last week, the budget work session was presented as more of a way to provide the board of commissioners with "on the job training" regarding the overall purpose and function of the county's budget and how individual departments vary.

Dr. Baldwin walked commissioners through every step of the school system's budget, breaking down how the state decides how much money to allocate each district and went into detail explaining that at the very basic core of the district's budget, the school system spends roughly \$60 per day per student — of which the county contributes \$12.

Commission Chair Paul Higdon asked Dr. Baldwin about funding spent to educate the Hispanic population and asked if the county was allowed to require proof of citizenship prior to enrollment. He said he was aware that him asking such a question "would make people's heads explode."

Higdon said that funding spent to provide a translator and other services to non-english speaking "non-American citizens" was a "burden on taxpayers."

Federal law prohibits proof of citizenship for enrollment, however students are required to show current residency and provide immunization records and documentation. Preventing a child from enrolling in school because of the child's citizenship, immigration status, or the status of their parents or guardians is unconstitutional. The U.S. Supreme Court decided that exact issue more than three decades ago, in a case called Plyler v. Doe.

While waiting for commissioners to finalize its budget, the school system is at a standstill. Without the additional \$600,000, the district will have to reprioritize its budget.

The budget work session also included information from public safety departments including the Macon County Sheriff's Office and Emergency Management.

During this week's budget work session (scheduled for June 8 at 5 p.m.), commissioners are expected to hear from other county departments — however Commissioner Shearl requested each individual department be prepared to present their budgets to commissioners prior to budget approval.

Roland explained that was not feasible or necessary as the majority of other departments' requests were either flat — meaning unchanged over the current fiscal year — or operated within the county's budget - essentially independent of county funds - which is the case for the solid waste - an enterprise fund - or the health department, which is primarily funded through outside funding sources.

The general public will be given the opportunity to comment on the proposed budget on June 13.

Commissioners can elect to take public comment under advisement and approve the budget at a later date or can elect to approve the budget on the same night. The county must have a budget approved by June 30. In North Carolina, if a county fails to approve a new budget before

June 30, it can have various implications depending on the specific circumstances and legal provisions within the state and county.

Typically, in North Carolina, counties are required to adopt a balanced budget by June 30, which marks the end of the fiscal year for most local governments. If a county fails to approve a new budget by that deadline, several consequences may arise:

**Continuing Resolution:**

• See BUDGET page 22



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# • SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

## 'Be a blessing'



Pastor, Emily Wilmarth  
First Presbyterian Church

Such wisdom came from the heart of a former church member here at First Presbyterian. He was close to the end of his life, reflecting on what matters most. "Be a blessing."

Which got me thinking: what is a blessing, actually? I think "blessing" is one of those words we know we know, but could we easily describe what it means to be a blessing?

One of the most famous blessings in the Bible is found in the book of Numbers. It takes place during a tough time for the Israelites, the people who received it. They had been in the wilderness, without a home, wandering and wandering for quite some time. They wondered if the journey would ever end. They wondered if God was even with them anymore. They were about to head out from their camp on another leg of their journey. They had to be tired and so, so weary.

Then God instructed their leader, Aaron, to give them the blessing before they went on their way:

The LORD bless you and keep you;

the LORD make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you;

the LORD lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace. (Num 6:24-26)

I think this blessing is like medicine for the heart. It's a promise of protection. It's an assurance that God loves these people so much that God will always look at them in delight, will always shine the light of love on. God will always act graciously towards them. And God will grant them peace, well-being, and comfort.

We've all known people who are blessings in our lives. People who have looked out for us, protected us, given us guidance. We've known people who helped us build our self-confidence, or given us opportunities we wouldn't have had otherwise, or helped us discover our gifts and talents. We've had people who have been there for us, no matter what.

I think God blesses us with people like this in our lives. I also believe God uses us to bless others. We can love and protect others. We can shine a light of graciousness into someone's life – even a stranger! We can help someone find and know peace. In May, we hosted the Highlands School Baccalaureate, and the seniors were invited to bring along a mentor or special adult who has been a blessing to them. We had a time in the service when the mentors stood behind their seniors and shared a spoken blessing. It was so heartwarming to see these family and non-family members alike come and support the seniors. I cherish the thought that each one blessed the other by the grace of God.

• See SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING page 19

## Proverbs 3:5

# • PLACES TO WORSHIP •

## John 3:16

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Rev. Oliver Rice. Pastor (828) 421-1315

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Wednesday night Dinner and Service 5:30

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Pastor Brent Metcalf • 743-5470

www.cashiers.church

Sun. 10:45am. S.S. 9:30am. Wed. 6pm supper and teaching.

Tues. 9:30 study 8am. Gals 10am.

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283 Spring Street - Sunday Service: 10:30 a.m.

Testimony meeting: 3rd Wednesday at 5:30 p.m.

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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.

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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

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Pastor Steve Kerhoulas

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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; Choir 5p; Prayer Mtg 6:15p

### FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Emily Wilmarth, pastor

828-526-3175 • fpchighlands.org

Sun.: Adult Ed.: 10 a.m.; Worship 11 a.m.

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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

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### HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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and Rosh Hashanah & Yom Kippur.

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### SCALY MOUNTAIN BAPTIST CHURCH

Rev. Marty Kilby

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Wednesdays: Prayer Mtg.: 7 p.m.

### SCALY MOUNTAIN CHURCH OF GOD

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### SHORTOFF BAPTIST CHURCH

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Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study: 6 p.m.

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### WHITESIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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# •POLICE & FIRE REPORTS•

**Highlands Police entries from May 31. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a summons/citation, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor or those of public officials have been used.**

## May 31

• At 9:30 a.m., officers responded to a report of destruction and damage to property on Foreman Road where someone hit a trash can enclosure and mailbox with a vehicle.

## June 1

• At 8 a.m., officers responded to a report of a worthless check and someone obtaining property by false pretenses by scamming someone into sending money.

• At 10 a.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident at the Spinx Gas Station on N. 4th Street.

## June 2

• At 2:25 p.m., officers responded to a one-vehicle accident at Horse Cove and Bowery roads.

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

## May 23

• At 5:27 p.m., the dept. was first-responders at a residence on Spruce Point Lane.

• At 5:59 p.m., the dept. was first-responders at a residence on Happoldt Dr.

## May 24

• At 8:55 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Buck Creek Road.

• At 1:16 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence at VZ Top.

## May 25

• At 3:29 p.m., the dept provided public assistance at a location on Hickory Street.

## May 26

• At 2:26 p.m., the dept. provided public assistance at a location on 3rd Street.

• At 2:30 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Edwards Creek Road.

• At 6:32 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to Glenn Falls where a hiker had an adverse reaction to a bee sting.

## May 27

• At 1:01 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Falls Drive East.

• At 9:13 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Flat Mountain Road.

## May 28

• At 8:38 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Ridge Lane.

## May 30

At 1:35 p.m., the dept. provided public assistance at a location on US 64 East.

At 3:53 p.m., the dept. responded to a CO2 alarm at a residence on Pipers Court.

At 5:48 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence at the Highlands Mountain Club.

## May 31

• At 6:44 a.m., the dept. responded to a vehicle fire on NC 106.

• At 8:34 a.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on Buck Creek Road.

• At 10:20 a.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on US 64 east.

• At 10:25 p.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on Buck Creek Road.

## June 1

• At 3:10 p.m., the dept. responded to a medical alarm at a residence on Falls Drive East.

## June 2

• At 8:35 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Flat Mountain Road.

## June 3

• At 6:30 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Upper Lake Road.

• At 7:55 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Split Rail Row.

## June 4

• At 11:58 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Walhalla Road.

## June 5

• At 3:28 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on NC 106.

• At 3:33 p.m., the dept. provided public assistance at a location on US 64 East.

## ...SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING from page 18

I trust with all my heart that God gives us the ability and capacity to bless others just as we have been blessed. We all have something to offer another, most of all, love.

I encouraged the seniors to go and be a blessing that afternoon, and you know

what? They listened! We received the kindest card in the mail, full of their words of gratitude for the service. A blessing for a blessing.

So, for whom can you be a blessing today? I promise, it won't be a waste of your time, energy, or love.

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## Upcoming Program Highlights

### China in 2023: A Year of Living Dangerously

Presenter: Robert Goldberg, Friday, June 9, 10am-12pm \$30/\$40

### Presidential Transitions: Friendly and Hostile Takeovers

Presenter: Daniel Franklin, Monday, June 12, 10am-12pm \$30/\$40

### The Artists Series

Presenter: Norma Hendrix, Monday, June 12, 2-4pm \$30/\$40

### Europe's Persistent and Adaptable Far Right

Presenter: Dr. William M. Downs, Tuesday, June 13, 2-4pm \$30/\$40

### Cocktail Reception and Author Book Talk with John Cribb: "The Rail Splitter"

Wednesday, June 14, 4-6pm \$70/\$80

### The Speeches of Winston Churchill

Presenter: Tim Riley, Thursday, June 15, 2-4pm \$30/\$40

### Churchill and the Monarchy

Presenter: Tim Riley, Friday, June 16, 10am-12pm \$30/\$40

### Botanical EcoTour: Wildflowers at Panthertown Valley

Presenter: Adam Bigelow, Tuesday, June 20, 9am-12pm \$50/\$60

### Stark Raving Mad: Contemporary Politics in Historical Perspective

Presenter: Karl Campbell, Tuesday, June 20, 2-4pm \$30/\$40

### Pirates, Patriots, Tar Heels, and Slaves: Historical Roots of Modern NC

Presenter: Karl Campbell, Wednesday, June 21, 10am-12pm \$30/\$40

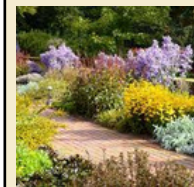
### Putin's War in Ukraine: The Russian Empire Reborn?

Presenter: Eren Tasar, Thursday, June 22, 2-4pm \$30/\$40

### NEOM: Line City in the Saudi Desert

Presenter: Eren Tasar, Friday, June 23, 10am-12pm \$30/\$40

## Featured Programs:



### Native Plants to Benefit Your Vegetable Garden

Presenter: Adam Bigelow, Thursday, June 15, 10am-12pm, \$30/\$40 Member/Non-member

Join Horticulturist Adam Bigelow for a fun and informative presentation on which plants, shrubs, and trees are invasive, and the benefits of using native plants in your landscaping.



### Goldwater Girls Grow Up

Presenter: Robin M. Morris, Monday, June 19, 10am-12pm, \$30/\$40 Member/Non-member

Join presenter Robin M. Morris for a lecture on how unknown women created our current political landscape by laying the foundation of the modern Republican party in the South.


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

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**HOUSEKEEPERS WANTED TO WORK 2 OR 3 DAYS A WEEK IN THE HIGHLANDS AREA.** Work in pleasant homes, with nice customers. No weekends, or holidays (unless you want to). Experience preferred, but will train. Dependable car needed & cell phone. Drug test & background check required. \$13.00 per hour to start, plus gas allowance. If interested, please reply to: TheCleaningTeam4U@gmail.com. ( 6/8)

**PART-TIME HOUSEKEEPER HELPER** Tuesdays and Thursdays 8:30a-3:30p. Requirements: A prompt, fast and detailed worker who is trustworthy with 2 references. Hours may grow over time. Call 828-342-8430. (st. 5/25)

**FAMILY IN NEED OF LONG-TERM HOUSING.** Humble, no furniture needed. Jessi 386-406-5490. (st. 5/4)

## FOR SALE

**SPODE 'TURKEY' CHINA.** 27 pieces (plates, salad, cereal, mug, mini-bowls) Dishwasher and microwave safe. \$950. 828-200-9777. (st. 6/8)

**3 RV CLASSA SITES** at Wildflower Creek RV Resort. A small, secluded, mature luxury resort. Call for more information. 828-421-1709. (st. 10/13)



**TWO VIEW LOTS FOR SALE (0.93 AC AND 1.17 AC) IN SHERWOOD FOREST;** close in with easy walk to Highlands and 3 minute drive to downtown, paved roads, sewer permits, easy to build on; \$239,500 each; contact SFviewlots@gmail.com (st. 3/9)

## FOR LEASE

**STUDIO APARTMENT** - walking distance to downtown Highlands, available June only, \$2500 monthly rental only, no pets. Call 828.526.2793. (st. 5/25)

**BRAND NEW TRAILERS FOR RENT.** 2 bedrooms/2 baths \$1700/month and 3 bedrooms/2 baths \$1900/month. Between Highlands & Cashiers. Includes hi-speed internet, water, & washer/dryer. No dogs. Inquires, Marcy - (706) 982-0444. (st. 5/4)



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### **COZY LAKE- FRONT COTTAGE AVAILABLE AS OF**

**APRIL 16.** Fully furnished, one bedroom, one bath. Easy access from Highlands Road in Franklin. Ideal corporate or seasonal rental between Highlands and Franklin. Call Sarah Miller at 770-757-7500 or email sarahmilleratl@aol.com (st. 11/23)

### **HELP WANTED THE GORDON CENTER FOR CHILDREN**

in Highlands, NC is seeking an Executive Director to oversee programming and operations of its early childhood education center. Must be a team player; have good organizational and communication skills, and a genuine love for children. Bachelor of Science Degree in Education preferred. Part-time/Full-time hours can be negotiated. Pay commensurate with experience and educational background. Inquiries, please email: allisonmtate@hotmail.com (st. 6/29)

### **PART TIME JOB**

Property Manager for Chestnut Cove Condo Assn. in Highlands Falls Country Club (35 units). Call Kris 239-331-1113 or email: Kris.Kaltenborn@gmail.com (st. 6/8)

### **WOLFGANGS RES- TAURANT** - Experienced

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**JOIN OUR TEAM!** We're Hiring an Administrative Assistant. Email resume to info@hchealthfnd.org.

### **IF YOU ARE A BROADCASTER OR INTERESTED IN BEING ONE,**

we are expanding our team at WHLC FM 104.5 Highlands, NC. This position can be full-time or part-time. You will be working with experienced staff who enjoy serving the residents and visitors in Highlands and Cashiers and the surrounding area. If you want to learn to be in the business of broadcasting, we can teach you. Please send your resume to info@WHLC.

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**HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS HANDYMAN** - Chatlos Construction - Remodels, Additions, Framing, Siding, Roofing, Decks, Painting. References. Insured. 828-200-4071. (6/29)

**NEED FURNITURE MOVED OR ANYTHING HAULED AWAY?** I can do it. Call or text James of Going Gone at 828-421-2655. (3/30)

**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.

## ...BUDGET continued from page 17

In some cases, if a county cannot reach an agreement on the new budget by June 30, a continuing resolution may be enacted. A continuing resolution allows the county to continue operating based on the previous year's budget until a new budget is approved.

### **Essential Services Funding:**

Even without an approved budget, certain essential services like public safety, emergency response, and critical infrastructure must continue to be funded to en-

sure the safety and well-being of residents. However, discretionary spending may be impacted until a new budget is in place.

### **Financial Constraints:**

Operating without an approved budget can create financial uncertainties and constraints for the county. It may affect the ability to fund new projects, hire personnel, or make significant expenditures until a budget is approved.

Public Perception and Accountability: Failing to approve a

new budget on time may lead to public scrutiny and raise questions about the county's governance and financial management. It could impact public trust and accountability.

### **Legal Implications:**

Depending on the specific circumstances and applicable laws, there may be legal ramifications for county officials if they fail to meet their budgetary responsibilities. This could include legal challenges or actions seeking to enforce budgetary requirements or holding officials accountable.



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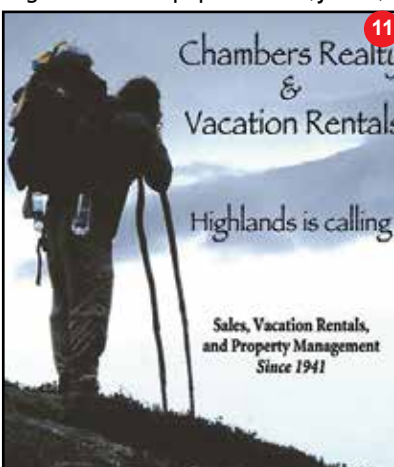
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