

Highlands Newspaper

Remember the fallen

FREE Every Thursday

Volume 20, Number 21

Real-Time News, Weather & WebCams: HighlandsInfo.com

Thurs., May 25, 2023

Proposed budget earmarks \$800,000 for HS soccer field; nothing for HS Project

Taxes to drop to 27 cents per \$100 valuation

By Brittney Lofthouse

Highlands residents, along with the Macon County Board of Education, have made it abundantly clear that they want to see funding reinstated for design plans for renovations to Highlands School that would improve the li-

brary, expand CTE offerings, and create two PreK classrooms and more on the campus.

• See BUDGET page 10

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Highlands School Class of 2023



Ezra Branham, Beatrice Bryson, Lilly Bryson, India Clark, Riley Conner, Katerin Cortez, Brittany Damian-Clemente, Gabriel Diaz Martinez, James Earp, Luke Hartman, Getsemani Hernandez Rojas, Jacob Holt, Yasmin Jarquin-Colmenares, Karmen Jenkins, Alisia Johnson, Nathan Keener, Danny Lopez Rios, Gracie McCall, Kaden Mitchell, Owen Munoz Pioquinto, Anna Nichols, April Norton, Tristan Petrone, Ty Skiles, Anna Stiehler, Mason Stoltzfus, Alexander Suastegui-Benitez, Mary Tate, Conor Thorske, Ryan Ubertino, Angie Varela Hernandez, Adisyn Westendorf, Ashlynn Wilson, Bella Wilson, Caroline Woods and mascots 1st-graders Aislinn Contreras-Campos and Axel Fielding.

Supt. Baldwin sits at his last BOE meeting

By Brittney Lofthouse

Tuesday night, at the May meeting of the Macon County Board of Education, Macon County Superintendent Dr. Chris Baldwin completed the final board meeting of his more than 30-year career in public education.

While three decades is an impressive feat in and of itself, with the May meeting being held at Nantahala School, Dr. Baldwin finished his career serving the Macon County School system in the very same building, at the very same school where he began his career as a teacher – and even deeper than that – in the very same building, at the very same school, where Baldwin began his public education journey – as a kindergarten student.

Dr. Baldwin took the reins of the Macon County School system as Superintendent 10 years

• See BALDWIN page 27

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• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• MAYOR ON DUTY •

Remember the fallen Memorial Day

I had a crazy, distant uncle who got drunk with a friend one afternoon shortly after December 7, 1941, and they walked into a recruiting office and told the soldiers on duty that they wanted to be paratroopers. The recruiters made sure their wishes were fulfilled without delay.

My uncle went on to fight at the Battle of the Bulge with the 101st Airborne, where he was shot below the knee. He was taken back behind the lines, where someone cut off with a bayonet knife his mostly severed leg. Although my uncle went on to build a successful business as a civilian, he never fully recovered from that trauma. But, that amputated leg continued to give him health problems for the rest of his short life.

After the war, he had multiple surgeries on his wounded leg; the resulting amputations resulted in stump well above his knee, on which they outfitted an artificial leg. It was a daily ordeal for him to walk on that artificial leg. He never complained and would always joke that he left his leg back in Europe. My uncle, like other veterans, struggled with substance abuse after the war. The long and short of it is that this tough paratrooper died in the early 1970s as a young man. His disability took



Highlands Mayor
Patrick Taylor

its toll year after year, both mentally and physically, well beyond the end of the war.

He is just one example of what happens to many veterans, even to this day. After the guns of war go silent, we remember the battlefields on days like Memorial Day. But the nation is still losing many GIs to those past battles, as our veterans continue to struggle with their physical and mental war injuries. They suffer now, along with their families.

So, on this Memorial Day, I hope we will all remember the fallen and those veterans who continue to fight the internal battle from the trauma of war. America loses over 20 veterans to suicide every day. These men and women are today's casualties of war.

And on this somber day, Americans should remember the Gold Star families of the fallen and lost. Parents, spouses, and children carry a tremendous and continuous burden of loss and despair. They too, have given to and served our nation in the most profound way.

There are many ways we, as a country and as individuals, can support these families and veterans. There are opportunities for giving to the Disabled Veteran Association and the Wounded Warrior Foundation, to name only a few organizations.





Here in Macon County, there is a new and innovative program for Gold Star families and veterans. It is called the Special Liberty Project. This program is located on a mountain farm where special programs are available for families and veterans to meet, connect and experience the restorative, healing powers of being in nature. It provides support for all family survivors impacted by our nation's conflicts. They provide programs throughout the year for Gold Star spouses and children, as well as for veterans who desperately need care and support. So often, survivors and veterans fall through the cracks of official government programs. The Special Liberty Project is an innovative program dedicated to serving the forgotten who simply need acknowledgment, support and affirmation.

For more information, visit their website at Special Liberty Project. It is dedicated to creating a supportive community for our country's Gold Star Families. In this period of turmoil and division, making gifts on Memorial Day to support these fellow citizens is something we all can do.

• HIC'S VIEW •



• WEATHER •

Thu, 25-May	Fri, 26-May	Sat, 27-May	Sun, 28-May
 69°F 48°F	 67°F 44°F	 59°F 45°F	 59°F 49°F
Sun mixing with clouds	Some sun, then turning cloudy	Mostly cloudy, afternoon rain	Mostly cloudy with a shower
RealFeel® High: 79° Low: 58°	RealFeel® High: 74° Low: 54°	RealFeel® High: 65° Low: 45°	RealFeel® High: 64° Low: 51°

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Highlands Newspaper

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Digital Media/Circulation - Jim Lewicki

Locally owned and operated by

Kim & Jim Lewicki

Adobe PDF version at

www.HighlandsInfo.com

265 Oak St. PO Box 2703

Highlands, N.C 28741

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ALL ABOUT BOOKS

• INK PENN •

Two unputdownable books

Do you exchange books with friends? Years ago, my mother and I traded books by our favorite authors, and we also haunted used bookstores. These days, most of my books come either from the library or from a friend who's also an avid reader, plus the occasional selection from Amazon. There's nothing better than getting a stack of books, no matter where it comes from.

For me, the sign of a good book is my inability to turn out the bedside light at night. "Just one more chapter," I say to myself. That was the case with this week's books—one from my friend and one from the library.

Homer's Odyssey

by Gwen Cooper

When my friend lent me the latest batch of books, I gravitated to this one first, perhaps because of the cover photo of a tiny black cat. After a closer look, I recognized Gwen Cooper as the author of one of my favorite reads, "Love Saves the Day."

Though this book is nonfiction, I was once again mesmerized, just as I'd been with Cooper's novel. I'm convinced her life with Homer, an indefatigable blind kitten, prepared her to give voice to Prudence the cat in "Love Saves the Day."

Homer is a tiny two-pound kitten when she adopts him from the veterinarian who removed the poor thing's infected eyes after a couple found him on the street. Learning to find his litter box and his food, and to navigate around Cooper's apartment without help seemed like prodigious feats. His amazing agility was nothing short of a miracle and provided endless hours of entertainment for Gwen and her friends.

This is a story of love and patience and perseverance in the face of adversity. As People magazine said, "This memoir about adopting a special-needs kitten teaches that sometimes in life, you have to take a blind



Kathy Manos Penn

leap."

Homer and Gwen were a match made in heaven. It's been days since I finished the book, but I can't stop thinking about it. Give it a try. I predict you'll have the same experience.

The Echo of Old Books

by Barbara Davis

This is going to be one of those books that stays with me. The truth is that I still have a book "hangover," so much so that it's difficult to describe the experience of reading this story about a pair of mysterious books.

Ashlyn Greer, rare book dealer and owner of An Unlikely Story, a bookshop in Portsmouth, New Hampshire, stumbles on a mysterious pair of beautifully bound books. Neither has an author's name or publisher or copyright page, but each has a handwritten inscription inside. And that's the mystery. Who wrote the books? Who are the people they're inscribed to? Did these people really exist?

She can't let it go, and soon finds the person who donated the books to a nearby vintage boutique. It would spoil the story to reveal the changes wrought in Ashlyn's life as she searches for the origin of the books and their story. I predict the tale will grab you, and you'll stay up late night after night to find out where the literary mystery will lead.

Two unputdownable books—one about a cat and another about books—what more could a gal ask for? More books, of course.

• 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/.

Hymn Sing at Church in the Wildwood begins

The Church in the Wildwood will open its 2023 season at its Horsecove location on Sunday, May 28 from 7-8p.. Join them for an hour of singing your favorite hymns from the Cokesbury Hymnal. Call 828-506-0125 if questions.



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HIGHLANDS

MLS# 101680 | \$599,000

2 BR 2 BA

This renovated lake view cottage is the perfect Highlands hideaway! The well-appointed kitchen and large dining room make entertaining a breeze. Relax by the fire in the comfy living room that has a wood-paneled accent wall. Double doors lead to the spacious, partially covered deck, where you can enjoy views of Lake Sequoyah. The home offers one level living and there is a ramp in the back for accessibility. Easy access to Lake Sequoyah via a walking path. Once there, enjoy the private beach, or launch one of the two kayaks that are included in the sale of the home. Conveniently located just a few minutes from downtown Highlands.



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• DINING •

The 2023 Mountain Garden Club Plant Sale was dedicated to Sarah Sloan: November 9, 1943 - November 18, 2022

Sarah Sloan joined Mountain Garden Club in July 2002 and remained a member in good standing until her death in 2022. During her years as member, she served in several committees and was an active member.

Sarah was co-chair of The Butterfly Garden and enjoyed working with the 'hummers'. The hummers were the lower grade students who, with the help of Sarah and other Mountain Garden Club members, helped them learn about butterflies and how important they are to our gardens. She also helped with the club's Smoky the Bear initiative in helping those same children learn about fire prevention by having a visit by Smoky the Bear.

Sarah believed in helping children of all ages. She co-chaired the Mountain Garden Club's Scholarship committee which helped many Highlands' students further their education past high school.

Other committees she volunteered to were Garden Therapy at the Fidelia Eckerd Living Center, Member Care, Publicity, Devotions and Membership. Sarah and her husband, Wiley both took volunteerism to the next level. She opened her beautiful home many times for club meetings.

She enlisted Wiley to help with plant digging, transplant-



Sarah Sloan

ing, and helping with all aspects of the plant sale, and he dutifully obliged. In fact, it happened so many times, the club made him an honorary member, and he became known as Mr. Hosta for many years. They both enjoyed working in their own gardens and never hesitated to share their love of plants with others.

One of Sarah's favorite garden club times was participating in the annual luncheon, the only time members decked out in other than work hats while enjoying a meal not prepared by members while new officers of the club were installed. But she would probably say the most fun was participating in the annual Christmas Parade as a dancer. Sarah, being one of our taller ladies, set the beat for the locally famous Rockette-style leg kick at the end of the routine.

We miss them both terribly and feel fortunate to have had them in our lives for as long as we did. If Sarah were here today, she would shake her head and wave her hand at these comments at being singled out and maybe a bit over complimentary, but the garden club members who knew her, and knew how hard she worked for others know the value of a good person, and Sarah Sloan was such a good person.

• OBITUARY •

Edna 'Sis' Norton Crisp

Edna Norton Crisp (Sis), 93, passed away at home surrounded by family on Sunday, May 21, 2023.

Born to Ray Elias Norton and Agnes Baty Norton, Edna was a Highlands native. Growing up on a farm with eight brothers and sisters, Edna learned an appreciation for time spent with family and the simple things in life. She enjoyed nature and the outdoors, with wild strawberries, hummingbirds, and creek fishing being a few of her favorite things. She was an avid reader and an expert at needlework and puzzles. She finished Brevard College with a degree in economics, afterwards working for 30+

years at First Union Bank.

Edna was married to Guy Henderson Crisp for 58 years and had 3 sons: Jack, Mike and Charles "Chuck." She was a devoted mother and cherished her family. Above all, Edna had a remarkable love for Jesus. Edna was a dedicated member of Shortoff Baptist Church and served her church family and community with unmatched passion and care. Her life was a paradigm of faith; she moved through each day with a singular and unwavering focus on love. She was a testament to the power of example for sowing faith in others, and she showered grace and joy on everyone she met. Although her humility would cause her to disagree, those of us who knew her make no exaggeration in saying that we know our lives have been touched by a saint.

In addition to her husband, Edna was predeceased by a son, Michael Aaron Crisp, siblings: Herman Norton, Marion Higdon, Leona "Toni" Dupree, Edwin "Bud" Norton, Charlie Ray "Bo" Norton, Robert "Bob" Norton, and John Evan Norton; and daughter in law, Leesa Scott Crisp.

She is survived by a sister, Nancy McClain; sons, Jack Henderson Crisp and Charles Stanley Crisp; daughter-in-law, Judith Elizabeth Crisp; grandchildren: Michele Martin (Josh), Krista Chapman (Justin), David Crisp (Alyson), and Clara Beth Crisp; great grandchildren: Karson Martin, Emory Martin, Rachel Chapman, Zachary Chapman, and several nieces and nephews.

Family will receive friends from 10-11 at Shortoff

• See OBITUARY page 8



The Secret Garden is in The Village Square behind K-H Founders Park. Offering hot & cold sandwiches, a variety of salads, bakery items, and SECRET daily specials.

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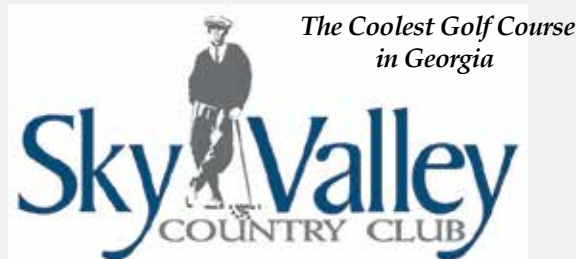
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...OBITUARY continued from page 7

Baptist Church in Highlands on Saturday, May 27th. The funeral will proceed directly after.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Shortoff Baptist Church, PO Box 1417, Highlands, NC 28741 or the Highlands Historical Society, PO Box 670, Highlands, NC 28741.

Online condolences can be made at www.maconfuneralhome.com. Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.



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Whether you are seeking ultimate relaxation and solitude or this area's thriving social scene, your definition of paradise is personal to you. If you are starting your search for your mountain retreat, here are some questions to focus your quest:

1. What type of home speaks to you? Is architectural style important such as arts and crafts, modern mountain, contemporary, traditional, farmhouse? Does it need to be younger than two years or are you willing to take on a fixer upper?

2. What home features must you have: the number of bedrooms, number of baths, type of kitchen, living areas, primary bedroom on main, fireplaces, outdoor living space, garage? One of my listings does not have a garage. When brokers show it, and I gather feedback for the seller, several of them said it does not work for their client because it doesn't have a garage. When I share this with the seller, it infuriates the seller who spent time preparing the home to show the house when all the public information states it does not have a garage. Be sure to inform your broker of features that are dealbreakers so that you don't waste your time and the sellers' time;

3. What kind of area do you prefer to live? Are you a hermit who wants to be in the middle of the woods with no neighbors? Do you want to be in a gated neighborhood? Do you want to be in a country club community with lots of amenities such as golf, tennis, swimming and dining? Do you want to be close to town?

4. Is nature important to you? Do you need to be close to hiking trails and fishing streams? Do you want to live on a lake for boating? Do you want to be adjacent to the National Forest? This area has it all, so you can choose your venue;



Jody Lovell
Highlands and Cashiers
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5. Do you want to be a short driving distance to go to dinner at night? Some of our mountain roads are windy and narrow. When I take clients to see a home, they say that they would never drive that road at night. Ask your broker about access to homes before you set up a showing. Find out before you go if it is more challenging than you desire;

6. Is the distance from your primary residence important to you? Where you

choose a home on the Plateau can add another hour to your travel time. Be clear if you have travel time requirements from your "other" home;

7. Do you need to be close to an airport? Find out where the public and private airports are, if so, and determine where on the Plateau is better for your trips;

8. Do you want the highest altitude for the best cool temperature in the summer? Find out the altitude of homes before you tour.

A unique aspect of this section of Western North Carolina is that we do not have cookie cutter homes. We have tiny cabins in the woods to sprawling estates on waterfalls with views. Only you know what the dream retreat is for you and your family. Discuss these factors and any other special wishes with your broker upfront, and you will find your sanctuary sooner and with less frustration. Happy house hunting!!

• *Jody and Wood Lovell own Highlands Sotheby's International Realty, the Number One Producing Firm in Highlands for over the last decade with over thirty brokers covering The Plateau. When choosing a real estate firm or agent, ask to see the rankings which tell you who is implementing the best tools and resources for their clients. Call us today to show you how we can release the power of Sotheby's International Realty for you! 828.526.4104 or 828.526.8300.*

Flag placement on Veteran's graves is Thursday, May 25

The public is invited to join Highlands Wreaths across America and Highlands American Legion Post 370 as they place flags on veteran's graves in observance of Memorial Day.

This takes place at Highlands Cemetery on Thursday, May 25 at 5:30p, Contact Phil Potts 828-200-9753 or ppotts63@frontier.com with any questions.

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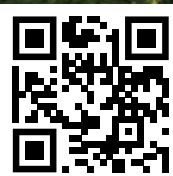
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HHS announces events for 2023 season

It begins with the Memorial Day Weekend 2023 grand opening of The Museum and Prince House a 11a, Saturday, May 27 featuring new exhibits including the history of Mountain Music. There will be entertainment and food provided at no charge.

The Walk Through Memorial Garden Park has been resurrected! Join the group as we tour the cemetery and hear from the ghosts of Highland's past Fri., July 14 and Sat., July 15 at 4p. Tickets are \$15, children are free. Tickets can be purchased at the Highlands Museum.

August 6 it's the Big Hats-Bow Ties fundraiser on a Kettle Rock estate. The brunch starts at 12:30.

The Dahlia Festival is Sat., Sept. 9 with arrangements place throughout town.

HHS is partnering with the Chamber for Heritage Day where families who have had roots in Highlands for at least 100 years come together to pay tribute to those who contributed so much to our town.

An upcoming youth program will offer Highlands' history to history and civic classes.

• LETTER •

Facts matter. Well done.

Dear Editor,

The article "The facts, not misinformation, about Highlands Renovation/PreK Project" in the May 18 edition was very thorough and well researched.

I thank you, and all Macon County res-

idents and particularly the Highlands community should thank you.

While I cannot imagine how you recovered all the information, I think you should send the article to the MC Commissioners.

Jim Oesterle, Highlands

...BUDGET continued from page 1

After commissioners canceled the active contract with LS3P for the completion of schematic designs for the project after the first phase was completed, Highlands residents urged county leaders, specifically Commissioners John Shearl who represents Highlands, to reinstate the funding in the upcoming budget cycle, however during County Manager Derek Roland's budget presentation Tuesday night, there was no specific mention of the Highlands renovation project.

Roland's proposed budget topped at \$64,566,978 with revenues and expenditures balanced at the "revenue neutral" tax rate of 27 cents per \$100 of assessed property valuation, or the lowest ad valorem property tax rate in the State of North Carolina.

The proposed ad valorem rate of 27 cents per \$100 of assessed property value marks the first time a tax decrease has been considered in 16 years. According to Roland, the request for a tax decrease is possible following the county's revaluation process and due in large part specifically to the Highlands area which continues to see a growing real estate market and record tourism activity.

Throughout FY '23 real estate sales prices have stabilized in the Franklin area but have continued to increase in and around the Highlands area of the county. Residential and commercial development remains at levels not seen in over a decade. Results of the 2023 revaluation indicate the property tax base in Macon County has increased by 51% since 2019. Additionally, a "red hot" travel and tourism industry, highlighted by the destination resort Old Edwards Inn and Spa continues to drive substantial increases in sales tax revenue, currently up 14% YTD through March.

"Revenue increases in the FY '24 Budget are largely a product of local economic growth," said Roland. "Growth in the tax

base will result in increases to ad valorem tax collections and increases in the purchase of goods and services by residents and tourists alike will lead to increases in sales tax revenue. Ad valorem and sales tax collections combined account for 76% of total revenue in the General Fund Budget. Although increasing, FY '24' revenue estimates for these two primary sources are budgeted conservatively in that they are based upon growth that has occurred as opposed to projected future growth. As a result, we will remain largely insulated from economic uncertainty including any "dampening" effect that FY '23' increases to the federal funds interest rate could potentially have on local economic growth during FY '24."

With the growth of the local economy, Roland's proposed budget included the first increase in local expenditures for public education since before the COVID19 pandemic and he is proposing that operational funding to education be increased for the first time in four years.

At \$9,696,369, the FY '24 Recommended Budget is reflective of an \$880,368 increase in operational funding and teacher supplements to the Macon County School System. The school system requested an increase of \$1,584,197 resulting in a proposed recommendation that is \$703,829 less than requested, however it still reflects a 10 percent increase of current year funding.

"The increase in local funding will enable Macon County Schools to address inflation in the cost of goods, personnel and services," said Roland. "Additional funding will be used to maintain locally funded teaching positions required to meet class-size mandates, provide state-mandated salary increases to locally paid teachers and staff, increase coaching supplement pay, enhance the Science, Technology Engineering and Math (STEM) program and expand course

• See BUDGET page 18

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pat.allen@allentate.com
828.200.9179



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julie.osborn@allentate.com
828.200.6165



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Reminiscent of a European resort, this country inn offers contemporary elegance combined with natural beauty on almost 15 acres of private green space. Expansive 50+ mile spectacular mountain views!



\$600,000

151 Helens Barn Avenue, Highlands, NC 28741 | MLS #101096

Business only for sale, well-known restaurant located one block off of Main St with plenty of surrounding parking!

DESIRABLE WILDCAT CLIFFS



\$2,400,000

653 Country Club Drive, Highlands, NC 28741 | MLS #101055

If quality and location matter to you, right this way please! After a renovation by Dave Warth, this lovely home emerged with spacious rooms and additions, creating a luxurious home worthy of Architectural Digest.



\$1,078,000

462 Birchwood Drive, Highlands, NC 28741 | MLS #101559

This thoughtfully designed 3 bedroom/3 bath unit at The Birches of Wildcat Cliffs leaves nothing to be desired. Come see this wonderful and active club community!



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NIGHTWATCH

Written by Lucille Fletcher / Directed by Michael Lanzilotta

Thursday–Saturday, May 18, 19, 20 @ 7:30 pm
Sunday, May 21 @ 2:30 pm

Thursday–Saturday, May 25, 26, 27 @ 7:30 pm
Sunday, May 28 @ 2:30 pm

Highlands Performing Arts Center—507 Chestnut Street

For more information:

www.highlandsp performingarts.com/hcp.html | 828-526-9047

Mental Health begins with Kindness: 'Bee Kind'

Alisia Johnson
3rd place
12th Grade

My piece is about being kind to let kindness grow. The water surrounding the girl represents being surrounded by kindness. Because of this, there are flowers blooming out of her skin to symbolize her growing into a kinder person. She's still sad, as evident by her facial expression, because of what she's been through but the kindness is helping her live. The flowers are blossoming just as she is blossoming.

May is National Mental Health Awareness Month. Highlands Middle School and High School students created 22 artworks that illustrate acts of kindness and the importance of mental health awareness. The top three winners are being printed in successive issues of the paper. 1st Place winner, 7th grader Arabel Aulisio (May 11). 2nd Place went to 10th grader Ophelia Contreras and 3rd Place went to 12th grader Alisia Johnson.



Highlands Performing Arts Center Gala Revue

Showcasing Highlands Finest

Saturday, June 3 | 6 pm

\$200



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HEIGHT
OF
ENTER
TAINMENT

507 Chestnut Street, Highlands, NC
HighlandsPerformingArts.com



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Featuring

Gourmet Cocktail Buffet by
Mark & Sean

Signature Drinks

Wine | Champagne
& Dessert by Wolfgang's,
The Oak, The Ugly Dog &
MidPoint

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performances by

The Foxfire Boys
The V8s
& Scotty B

and special appearances by
some of our local Broadway
stars!

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Do not miss this move in condition, spectacular house located off Buck Creek Road on Western Rhodes Road. 3 bedrooms, plus additional flex spaces. Multiple fireplaces. Open Great room concept with custom kitchen, plank wood floors, stone fireplace in the Great room that flows onto a covered porch with hot tub spa. Masters on main and upper floors, plus guestrooms complete with baths. Outbuilding. Trails lead to your privacy and to explore your own kingdom. Offered at \$1,895,000. mls #100481



This wonderful estate home in Highlands Falls Country Club with all the amenities one would expect in a home of this quality with a breathtaking view of Whiteside Mountain. This post and beam home features a grand main level bedroom suite with walk in closets, a jetted tub and shower and a guest bedroom and bath. Also on the main level you will find the living room with a stone, wood burning fireplace, wet bar, dining room area and large kitchen. Upstairs you will find 2 large bedrooms and baths, a large entertaining area and office. Offered at \$1,850,000. mls #102088



3 bedrooms 2 - 1/2 baths. The home has wood floors in every room, in addition to the open floor plan, double pane cathedral windows and solid wood doors. This home has been lovingly cared for. Boasting an updated kitchen, bathrooms and a great screened in porch with tile floors for enjoying the fresh mountain air. Come enjoy our Mountain town in your new home! Offered at \$1,450,000. mls #102114 mls #102114



Mountain charm in this adorable cabin located in the Mirror lake area. Two bedroom two bath kitchen, living area, nice deck overlooking front yard. Single carport on .32 acre. \$625,000. Furnished mls #102004



Fallen leaf Lane. 3 bedrooms 2 baths easy living Rancher with a wing bedroom plan, 2 car garage, extra lot for additional possibilities! offered at \$675,000. mls #101997

This cabin is less than 3 miles from Main Street with over 19 acres of usable land. Existing farmhouse, barn, meadow, and views. A blank canvas to improve to your personal taste and have a family heirloom for another chapter. 4 bedrooms, stone fireplaces, retro kitchen, sleeping porch. Endless possibilities! Offered at \$3,575,000. mls #98048



Great Family home has flat grassy spaces and lovely outdoor entertaining areas. View of Shortoff mountain from the historic outdoor fireplace. 3-4 Bedrooms, 3 baths, office, 2 car garage and a 2 car carport. This is a Do not miss and in move in condition. Offered at \$1,174,000. mls #97458



Lovely 3 bedroom, 2 bath Golf Villa sits atop a knoll at Highlands Fall Country Club. It has a lovely deck to take in the fresh air and a ridgeline view. Enter in the foyer to a split bedroom plan with an updated kitchen that is open to the dining and living areas. Fireplace in the great room for the chilly evenings. A great way to get into Highlands Falls to enjoy peace, Golf, tennis, pickleball, swimming, fitness center, new friends and great food! Offered at \$675,000. mls #100788



Lovely 2 bedroom, two bath condo has a gas stone fireplace in the living room, wonderful kitchen with granite countertops, wine cooler, new stove, side by side refrigerator, full size stack washer/dryer. Two in-suite bedrooms, large screened porch to enjoy with gas fireplace. Completely furnished. Offered at \$545,000. mls #101956



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



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 \$599,000. mls #100826



This is a great package, 3 bedroom, 2 bath fully renovated home with stone patio & firepit, outdoor pizza oven. Great rental or home for personal use, this is a large business condo space that makes a nice office, man cave, and car storage area. There is an additional .98 acre that would be great for retail, or storage buildings to be built. Offered at \$1,275,000. #101952.



2 Bedroom 2 bath with loft. Located on Buck Creek Road. Main level living with additional loft area. Stone, wood burning fireplace in the living room. Private setting with just over 3 acres of land. Additional workshop. Offered at \$450,000. mls #100577



Highlands Cove at Old Edwards Club This lovely condo features easy access directly Off of Highlands Cove Drive and is close to the clubhouse, swimming, tennis courts, and Golf course. Three bedrooms, three baths, all on the main level, Coffered High ceilings, move in condition. Lovely decks and porches to enjoy the cool summer air. Furnishings are negotiable. Offered at \$1,125,000. mls #101007



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

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Clothes To Go!
Don't miss our
HUGE PORCH SALE
Friday thru Sunday**



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...on Bob's side • 828-526-1029**

**2060 Dillard Rd, Highlands
2 miles south of Main**

• THEN & NOW •

Let's 'Bee Kind' and stop shooting each other

Once upon a time in America, we didn't shoot each other to take out our frustrations on friends and family, neighbors, classmates and teachers, co-workers and colleagues or just random people who somehow just irritated us. Nope. Those were happier days with Ritchie and "The Fonz."

Yet now anger, hatred, and shootings have become as All-American as hamburgers, baseball caps, obesity, smart phones, Facebook, and superheroes. I miss those good ol' days, that mythic, simpler past where the grass was always greener.

Except for those rebellious few who listened to Elvis or watched Marlon Brando strut in a tight black leather jacket, back in that nostalgic, golden era we were all mentally healthy even with that mushroom cloud hanging over us, Godless communism taking over the world, Sputnik spying on everybody, rock and roll blaring everywhere, and nefarious characters in soap operas. I still long for the phone booth, yellow pages, jukebox, and Walter Cronkite. You could trust him.

Then all of us lived in traditional nuclear families, had the Bible read to us almost daily by our parents, lived by the golden rule, nobody got a divorce, and men didn't have declining sperm counts because of toxic pollution. Father knew best even when he was occasionally laid off and drunk, moms didn't work outside the home and didn't vote except when told how, everyone gladly did their homework and chores, smoking was healthy and manly, and my brothers and cousins never got into



Milton Ready

trouble and certainly did not take drugs except legal, domesticated ones like alcohol, nicotine, and caffeine. Nor have unrestrained sex in drive-in-theaters which only showed John Wayne westerns and Flash Gordon serials. There was no sex in westerns or comic books, and I remember Dale Arden telling Flash, "Flash, Flash, not now! We only have fourteen hours left to save the world!"

I still blame The Pill and the NFL having Sunday games for the overall decline of western civilization. Moreover, as a responsible parent and grandparent, I had nothing to do with the slackness, lack of ambition, social media obsession of the present generation, and I never wanted to live with my parents.

Like many reading this, I grew up in a gun culture, hunted with all sorts of cursing, angry, often inebriated Texans, later joined a posse to track anyone who suicidally escaped from Huntsville state prison (unlike Shawshank, no one ever did), and, as a responsible, reverent, gun-toting teenager, only

accidentally shot my cousin, Calvin Lee's big toe off. He limped afterward but it grew better with time and it kept him out of the draft. He never thanked me.

Cousin Calvin eventually became a sheriff, had a really big belt buckle, and folks thought his limp was part of his swagger.

Yup, I always respected law enforcement including Cousin Calvin Lee, never harassed teachers or librarians because they forced me to read To Kill A Mockingbird or Shakespeare's plays which had a lot of bad words in them, and, most of all, respected my parents and pastor.

When I reached middle school my older brother taught me to defend myself against a switchblade knife like James Dean did in East of Eden or gangs in West Side Story.

My mother always sent out family Christmas cards with a Bible verse, usually something from the gospel of Luke, but never with photos of all of us happily posing with assault rifles. I did that in the Army but never looked like Chuck Norris or as threatening as Lauren Boebert.

Finally, my sainted Mother forever told me that it was far too convenient to worship at the altar of blame, usually singling out a group of individuals like Cajuns or Methodists, rather than doing the bothersome work of passing on our spiritual and tender assets.

Today we just pass on material ones. As that famous philosopher, Cary Grant, once maintained, in the end "We should all just try to get along more and smell better." And not shoot each other.

American Legion Post 370 is selling red poppies Sat., May 27 in front of Bryson's Food Store

Highlands American Legion Post 370 is selling red poppies Sat., May 27 at 10a in front of Bryson's grocery store.

Wearing poppies on Memorial Day is a way to honor and remember fallen soldiers. The tradition of wearing poppies originated after World War I, when Lt. Col. John McCrae wrote a poem titled "In Flanders Fields," which described the poppies that grew

on the battlefields where soldiers had died. The red poppy became a symbol of remembrance for those who had been lost in war. The American Legion adopted the sale of poppies as a way to raise money for the Legions Children's Fund.

Selling and wearing poppies serves as a reminder of the sacrifices made by those who have served our country.



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BROKER-IN-CHARGE

PAM NELLIS
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by Lauren G

pj harlow
SURROUND YOURSELF IN SOFTNESS

eva varro
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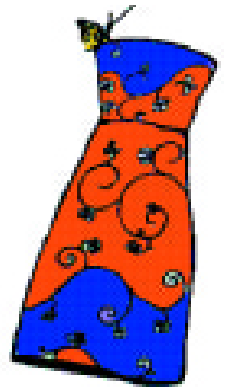


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Where Summer is a state of mind!



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Featuring more than 90 local artists offering hand-crafted items for sale with a percentage of every item sold goes to provide non-perishable food boxes to distribution sites in Highlands and Scaly Mountain, NC as well as in Rabun County, GA.

Come Dress for SUMMER!

ANNAWEAR

- Free People • THML
- Z Supply
- Michael Stars
- Vintage Havana

Jeans by:
Joes • AG

- Citizens
- Hudson

Shoes by:

- ShuSh
- Diba
- Blowfish
- Matisse



355 Main Street
(in The Galax Theatre
526-4660

SCALY MOUNTAIN CRAFTERS

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 to schedule a class!

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

Highlands School - Class of 2023



Valedictorian
Riley Caroline Conner
UNC Chapel Hill



Salutatorian
Luke Savage Hartman
Virginia Tech



Adisyn Kara Westendorf
Clemson University



Alexander Suastegui-Benitez
Full-time Employment



Alisia Michelle Johnson
Southwestern CC



Angie Cristina Varela
Hernandez
Full-time Employment



Anna Elizabeth Stiehler
UNC Chapel Hill



Anna Kristen Nichols
UNC Charlotte



April Erin Norton
Northeastern University



Ashlynn Faith Wilson
Cape Fear CC



Beatrice Rae Bryson
Athens Technical College



Bella Maria Wilson
University of Alabama



Brittany Damian-Clemente
Southwestern CC



Caroline Stewart Woods
WCU

...BUDGET continued from page 10

offerings in Career and Technical Education (CTE).”

In addition to increasing the school system’s operational budget by 10 percent, Roland proposed increasing the district’s capital outlay budget by 9 percent, with a large chunk of the increase, \$873,658, being earmarked for the replacement of the Highlands Soccer Field, which was

identified as a priority by the school system.

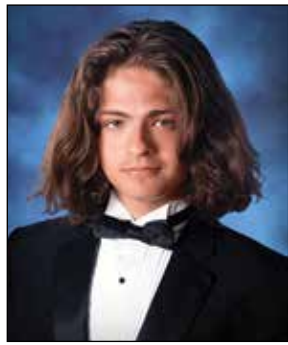
While the budget included no mention of reinstating the Highlands renovation project, it did provide the first official proposal regarding the funding to construct a new Franklin High School.

The project, which has a total price tag of \$118 million

has been approved by the county with phase 1 nearly ready to begin. However, prior to Tuesday night, there had been no official discussions regarding capital to make it happen. While Roland’s budget doesn’t specify the funding source directly, it does earmark money for debt payments assumed

• See BUDGET page 22

Highlands School - Class of 2023



Conor Thorske
Full-time Employment



Danny Lopez Rios
Full-time Employment



Ezra Grace Branham
Athens Technical College



Gabriel Jomar Diaz Martinez
WCU



Getsemani Hernandez Rojas
WCU



Gracie Mae McCall
N. Georgia Technical College



India Jade Clark
Gap Year



Jacob Steven Holt
Full-time Employment



James Augustus Earp
Full-time Employment



Kaden O'Brian Mitchell
Full-time Employment



Karmen Alisia Jenkins
N. Georgia Technical College



Katerin Cortez
Southwestern CC



Lilly Katherine Ada Bryson
WCU



Mary Eliza Tate
University of Kentucky



Mason Scott Stolfus
Athens Technical College



Nathan Wesley Keener
WCU



Owen De Jesus Munoz
Pioquinto
WCU



Ryan Glenn Ubertino
High Point University



Tristan Adler Petrone
Full-time Employment



Ty Gatlin Skiles
Full-time Employment



Yasmin Jarquin-Colmenares
Southwestern CC

**The HS Class
of 2023
Graduation
Ceremony is
Saturday,
May 27
10 a.m. at
Highlands
School**



**Aislinn
Contreras-Campos**



Mascot Axel Fielding

Highlands Fire Station Dedication Fri., May 19



Friday's Fire Station Dedication Ceremony culminated with a "hose cutting" by town staff, department volunteers and members of the Town Board. Chief Gearhart used the "Jaws of Life" to do the honors. Mayor Pat Taylor said the new Highlands Fire Station - Macon County Station #12 - will be more than a place to house fire trucks - it will house bodies and souls. "It will embody the tasks they swear to undertake when they take the oath to serve and protect the public even to the point of risking their own life and safety. They fight fires, but they also do search and rescue missions, hazmat control of chemical spills, extractions of car accident victims, and assist law enforcement in emergency response situations. The station will house equipment, be a barracks, an educational training center, a headquarters and staging facility in emergency situations." Mayor Taylor offered a special thanks to the late Jane Woodruff who sold the property at an undervalued price. "Without her commitment, this project may have not taken place," he said.



Town Manager Josh Ward thanked the many people who helped make the fire station a reality.



Ryan Bryson, with Bryson Grading, presented Chief Ryan Gearhart with a framed photo of Gearhart making the first dig on the site.



American Legion Post 370 was the color guard for the flag-raising.

2023 GRAND OPENING

OF THE

Highlands Historical Society Museum



**SATURDAY,
MAY 27**

11:00 - 12:30



*Food, Refreshments and Entertainment
by Charles and Leila Wood*

THE MUSEUM IS LOCATED AT 520 N. 4TH STREET

OPEN 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM, THURSDAY - SATURDAY

THROUGH OCTOBER 31, 2023



Photos by Kim and Jim Lewicki



Dennis Wilson and Anne Tate donated the three flag poles. At the base is a rock with a plaque commemorating their father Curt A. Wilson, who was on the force when the first fire truck was purchased for \$12,000. Wilson also gave Chief Ryan Gearhart his father's fire helmet which will be mounted inside.



The department's volunteers stood at attention during the ceremony.

2023 Outdoor Concert Series

Each Friday and Saturday night from May through October, the Highlands Chamber of Commerce/ Visit Highlands, NC hosts live music downtown.

Join us for our May and June concerts!

All shows take place from 6 – 8:30 p.m.

Friday Night Live

Town Square | 343 Main St.

Showcasing traditional mountain music and local talent

MAY 19

Jay Drummonds

MAY 26

Silly Ridge

JUNE 2

Ezra & Katie

JUNE 9

Johnny Webb Vabd

JUNE 16

Steady Hand String Band

JUNE 23

Southern Highland Band

JUNE 30

Byrds & Crows

Saturdays on Pine

Kelsey-Hutchinson Founders Park
Pine St.

Featuring a variety of popular, regional bands and musicians

MAY 20

The Boomers

MAY 27

The Swingin' Richards

JUNE 3

Nu-Blu

JUNE 10

Firecracker Jazz Band

JUNE 17

The Troupers



visithighlandsnc.com

THE HEIGHT OF HAPPINESS

HIGHLANDS
NORTH CAROLINA
— ELEV. 4118 —

...BUDGET continued from page 18

to be added to the county's debt load in the coming fiscal year.

"In addition to the capital outlay appropriation, \$811,283 previously transferred from the General Fund to Fund 46 for planning and design work at Franklin High School in FY '23, will now be transferred to the debt service fund as additional revenue to offset anticipated debt service related to the Franklin High School Project," said Roland.

Roland also proposed an increase to \$533,626 for the county's contingency fund and explained the increase is attributed to increased interest earnings on investments and should be in the contingency fund rather than the county's general fund.

"Because this is not a reliable revenue source to which ongoing operational expenses should be tied, I am recommending this money be placed in the county's contingency fund," said Roland. "Around \$300,000 of these funds can be used for a non-recurring expense — something like a one-time capital expenditure or project."

Roland's budget proposal is the first step in the county's budget process. After reviewing the proposed budget over the weekend, county commissioners will hold their first budget work session on Tuesday, May 30 at 3 p.m.

Tuesday's budget work session will focus on two of the county's largest budget items - Public Education, which includes both the Macon County Schools budget and funding for Southwestern Community College, and Public Safety, which includes the sheriff's office budget, emergency medical services, fire, and dispatch.

Budget work sessions are open to the public, however public comment is not generally entertained. The public will get its first opportunity to share comments about the budget during the June meeting of the Board of Commissioners.

• **This is the first in a series about the county budget.**

• HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

Pool will be closed Sat. May 27

• Public Swim: Mon.-Wed. 3:30-7p; Sat. 11a-6p; Sun. 1-6p. Adult Swim: Mon.-Wed. 11a-3:30p and Thurs. and Fri., 11a-2p. Lap Swim: Mon-Fri 6a-9:45a and Sat. 10-11a. Water Aerobics: Mon.-Fri. 10-11a. 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 Com-

munity 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 5-6:30 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

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.

Tues. & Thurs.

• New Zumba class with Gay



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
828-526-5841

• HIGHLANDS EVENTS •

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, call 828-526 – 0863 or email info@maconncliteracy.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.

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 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 through Sept. 3. Call 828-506-0125 if questions.

Through May 31

- The Fontana Regional Library system, including Hudson Library in Highlands, is starting an Active Audio Challenge that will run from March 1st through May 31st. Participants who listen to 25 hours of audiobooks, while being active, will receive a prize. To register for the Challenge, come by Hudson Library and pick up the logbook used to record entries. For more information or to request an accommodation, please call the library at 828-526-3031.

• See EVENTS page 25

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www.highlandsiscalling.com

2023 Feasts

“Miller and Ransom – 2.0” Thursday, J

June 29 – 6 PM

\$150/person – 25 places

Timothy Miller, tenor &

William Ransom, piano – Perform!!

Hosts: Greg and Mary Thompson

“Meet and Greet with Julie!” Sunday, J

July 16 – 7 PM

\$125/person – 12 places

Non-performing guest, Julie Coucheron

Host: Marcia Weber

“Satulah welcomes Herskowitz”

Sunday, July 23 – 7 PM

\$150/person – 13 places

Non-performing guest, Matt Herskowitz

Hosts: Darren Whatley and David Moore

“Pianist Extraordinaire Charms”

Saturday, July 29 – 7 PM

\$125/person – 15 places

Non-performing guest, Michael Gurt

Hosts: Kay and Frank Cohen,

Cathy and Mike Crosby



2023 Salons

“Returning Gryphon will Delight – Again!”

Wednesday, July 12 – 5 PM

\$75/person - 20 places

Performing musicians: The Gryphon Duo

Hosts: Robert and Kathleen Rivers Carroll

“Festival Favorites: Hong and Krueger!”

Friday, July 14 – 5 PM

\$75/person – 25 places

Performing musicians:

Alice Hong & Charae Krueger

Hosts: J. F. and Peggy Bryan

“A Dynamic Duo!”

Thursday, July 27 – 5 PM

\$75/person - 20 places

Performing musicians:

Chee-Yun & William Ransom

Hosts: Steve and Sherri Ozcomert

“Grammy (s) Winner Mr. Bailey!”

Wednesday, August 2 – 5 PM

\$75/person - 30 places

Performing musician: Cellist Zuill Bailey

Hosts: Paula and Michael Fay

Join us at this season’s events by calling the Highlands-Cashiers Chamber Music Festival at 828-526-9060 or email us at hccmfc@gmail.com these annual Feasts and Salons provide important and vital financial support to the Festival which allows us to bring world-class chamber music to the mountains each year.



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• FINANCIAL MATTERS •

Investing and wealth creation for women – How to get started

In past generations, women were often excluded from conversations about financial planning and wealth creation. However, the tides are changing, and more women are beginning to take control of their financial futures by investing their money. In this article, we'll discuss the importance of women investing and some strategies to help them get started.

Why Women Should Invest

According to a 2020 study published by McKinsey & Company, \$30 trillion of wealth will change hands in the next decade, and women will be the primary beneficiaries.

However, for women still in the accumulation phase of their lives, investing is an important tool for building long-term wealth and achieving financial independence. But studies also show that women tend to be more risk-averse than men, and as a result, they are less likely to invest their money.

This is a problem because women typically earn less than men over their lifetimes, making it even more important for them to invest in order to grow their wealth and secure their financial futures. According to a recent study by



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

the National Institute on Retirement Security, women in the accumulation phase of life have significantly less retirement savings than men. By investing, women can potentially close this gap and ensure that they have enough money saved for retirement.

Investing Strategies for Women

1. Educate Yourself: The first step in investing is to educate yourself about the various investment options available to you. This includes learning about stocks, bonds, mutual funds, and other investment vehicles. There are many online resources available to help you learn about investing, such as Investopedia, which offers a wealth of information about the stock market and investing strategies.

2. Start Small: If you're new to investing, it's important to start small. This means investing only a small amount of money that you can afford to lose. As you become more comfortable with investing, you can gradually increase the amount of money you invest.

3. Diversify Your Portfolio: One of the most important principles of investing is diversification. This means spreading your money across different types of investments to reduce your risk. For example, you might invest in stocks, bonds, and real estate to create a diversified portfolio.

4. Consider Professional Help: If you're unsure about how to invest your money, it may be worth considering professional help. A financial advisor can help you create a personalized investment strategy based on your goals and risk tolerance.

5. Invest in What You Know: Another important principle of investing is to invest in what you know. This means investing in companies and industries that you understand and are familiar with. For example, if you work in the healthcare industry, you might consider investing in healthcare stocks.

Key Takeaways

Investing is an important tool for building long-term wealth and achieving financial independence, and women stand to benefit from investing as a means of securing their financial futures.

By following these five steps, women can begin to take control of their financial futures and have a better chance at achieving their long-term financial goals.

Securities offered through LPL Financial, Member FINRA/SIPC. Investment advice offered through Crossover Point Advisors, an SEC Registered Investment Advisor and separate entity from LPL Financial

Content in the material is for general information only and not intended to provide specific advisor or recommendations for any individual. Historical performance is no guarantee of future results. The economic forecasts set forth in this material may not develop as predicted. All investing involves risk including loss of principal. No strategy assures success or protects against loss.

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• HIGHLANDS EVENTS •

Thurs-Fri, May 25-26

• "Nightwatch" with the Highlands-Cashiers Players at PAC at 2:30 p.m. Unable to sleep, Elaine Wheeler paces the living room of her Manhattan townhouse, troubled by unsettling memories and vague fears. Her husband tries to comfort her, but when he steps away for a moment.

Thurs., May 25

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

• **BEE Kind** Yoga Movement is Medicine led by Thomas Taulbee 4 pm, Village Green Pavilion at the Commons Lawn in Cashiers.

• At OEI's The Farm, from 6-8 p.m., the talented duo of Jilly Martin and Ryan Brooks Kelly. Tickets are \$40. Book Online: <https://www.simplertix.com/e/martin-and-kelly-orchard-sessions-at-the-f-tickets-124374>

Friday, May 26

• At the Hudson Library, Community Coffee with the Mayor at 11 a.m. in the Hudson Library Meeting

Room. There will be a Q&A session with Highlands Zoning Director Michael Mathis.

Sat., May 27

• Highlands Historical Society campus **GRAND OPENING**. There will be refreshments and live music with Charles and Leila Wood from 11a-12:30p. There are new exhibits including the history of Mountain Music.

Mon., May 29

• Special Memorial Service hosted by American Legion Post 370 at the Veterans' Plaza at the Highlands Police Department at 10 am.

Thurs., June 1

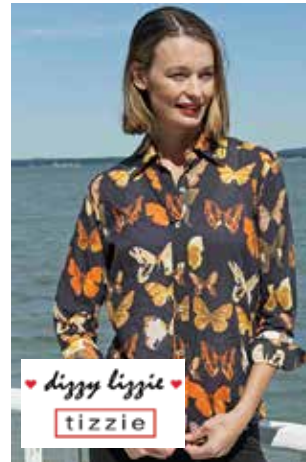
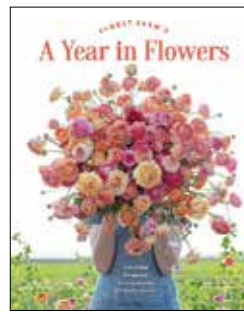
• Highlands Volunteer Fair from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. at the Community Building, 71 Poplar Street. For more info 828-526-5841

Fri., June 2

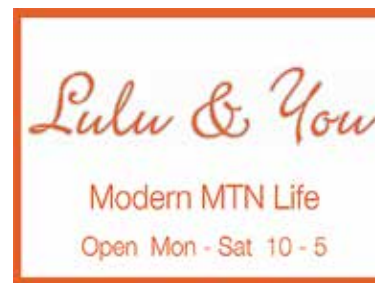
• Hendersonville author Leanna Sain will appear at Hudson Library on Friday June 2 at 2p to talk about her latest romantic suspense release

Sat., June 3

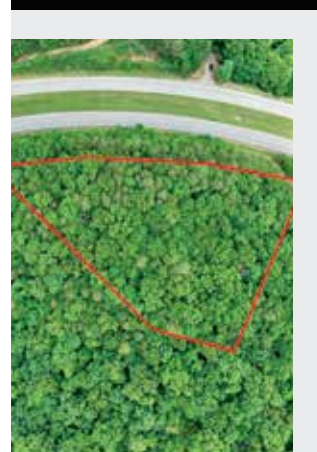
• Kids Free Fishing Day 7:30a-noon at Cliffside Lake. For kids 15 and under.



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• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •



Beware of thieves in the night

Brent Metcalf
Mission and Direction Pastor
Christ Church of the Valley,
Cashiers

After college, my brother and I rented a house together. One evening I fell asleep on the couch watching Sportscenter. My brother abruptly woke me telling me someone was trying to break in. How would you have responded? Panic, fear, fight, or flight? Whatever your response, all would agree we would prefer not to interact with a thief, especially in the middle of the night.

Interestingly, Jesus used the terms thieves and robbers to describe the Pharisees. The Pharisees were the teachers of Jewish law and typically would have been held in high esteem. Why would Jesus use such a cutting term to describe the Pharisees?

We gain some clarity when you examine the Greek language for the terms Jesus used.

The first term is kleptes, where we get our English term kleptomaniac. Someone that steals by cunning or stealth. The other term is lestes for which we do not have an English derivative. The term means "steals utilizing violence." Jesus is describing the religious leaders of the day as shoplifters and bank robbers. Shoplifters are sneaky and subtle, often going undetected under the radar. A bank robber, on the other hand, is bold and willing to be violent.

In John chapters 9 and 10, Jesus is in a prolonged dialogue with the Pharisees. Much of the conversation centers on Jesus' healing of a man born blind on the Sabbath. The Pharisees are angry with Jesus because they believe he broke the law.

Jesus makes a bold statement in John 10:10, an often quoted and well-known verse in the Bible.

John 10:10

The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life and have it to the full.

When people teach this verse, they commonly refer to the thief as Satan. Maybe that is what Jesus had in mind. I believe the context of the passage supports that he was referring to the Pharisees, and they were the thieves and robbers.

How were they, thieves and robbers? They are trying to control Jesus and the people by placing heavy burdens on them. They believed that following rituals and rules would connect people to God. Jesus had a contrasting message. Jesus taught that a person relates to God through himself. He (Jesus) "was the way, the truth, and the life." The Pharisee's message focused on rules and rituals. Jesus' message focused on the heart and a relationship with an approachable God.

Let's ask ourselves, Who are modern-day thieves and robbers? Remembering that some are sneaky and subtle, and others are bold and willing to do whatever it takes to steal, kill and destroy.

I want to name a few for you to consider, but I believe there are many. Most of which are subtle -- meaning they are difficult for us to spot in our lives.

Some modern-day thieves are our addiction to control,

• See OBITUARY page 30

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; 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.

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.

MOUNTAIN SYNAGOGUE

Franklin • 828-634-1312 • mountainsynagoguewnc.com.

Services: 1st /Fri. and 3rd Sat.

and Rosh Hashanah & Yom Kippur.

MOUNTAIN BIBLE CHURCH

743-2583 • Independent Bible Church

Sun: 10:30 a.m. at Big Ridge Baptist Church.

4224 Big Ridge Road (4.5 miles from NC 107)

Weds: Bible Study 6:30 p.m.; Youth Group 6 p.m.

OUR LADY OF THE MOUNTAINS

CATHOLIC CHURCH

Rev. Fr. Jason K. Barone - 526-2418

Tues. - 9:30am Latin; Thurs. - 9:30am English; Sun. - 11am English

SCALY MOUNTAIN BAPTIST CHURCH

Rev. Marty Kilby

Sundays: School - 10 a.m.; Worship - 11 a.m. & 7

Wednesdays: Prayer Mtg.: 7 p.m.

SCALY MOUNTAIN CHURCH OF GOD

290 Buck Knob Road; Pastor Donald G. Bates • 526-3212

Sun.: School: 10 a.m.; Worship: 10:45 a.m.; Worship: 6 p.m.

SHORTOFF BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Rev. Andy Cloer

Sundays: School: 10 a.m.; Worship: 11 a.m.

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

ST. JUDE'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

Mass: Tues. noon (Latin). Thurs. 9a.; Fri.. noon;

Sat. 5:30p; Sun. 9a

THE CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

1448 Highway 107 S.. Office: • 743-2359 • Rev. Rob Wood

Sunday Services: 8a. 9:30 & 11a

Visit our website www.goodshepherdofcashiers.com for

schedules of activities both virtual and in-person.

Bazaar Barn is open Fri. & Sat. 10a -2p.

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP

85 Sierra Drive. Franklin • uufranklin.org

Sunday Worship - 11 a.m.

WHITESIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Rev. Sam Forrester/Cashiers

Sunday School: 10 am. Worship Service: 11 am

• POLICE & FIRE REPORTS •

Highlands Police entries from May 10. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a summons/citation, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor or those of public officials have been used.

May 10

• Officers responded to a 2-vehicle accident on Main Street.

May 14

• At 1:05 a.m., Alfredo Morales Hernandez, 39, of Highlands, was arrested for DUI when he was stopped for driving left of center on Horse Cove Road. He was issued an unsecured bond. His trial date is June 14.

May 18

• At 7:50 a.m., officers responded to a report of destruction and damage due to reckless driving on Biscuit Road where two mailboxes were hit by a vehicle. Damage is estimated at \$500.

May 20

• At 1:10 p.m., officers responded to a report of someone using fake \$100 bill to

make a purchase at Mountain Heritage on Main Street.

The Highlands Fire & Rescue log from May 16.

May 16

• At 3:23 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Retreat Lane.

May 19

• At 9:01 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Hedden Lane.

• At 12:31 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Retreat Lane.

• At 8:15 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a location on Main Street.

May 20

• At 3:16 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a location on N. 4th Street.

May 22

• At 1:20 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Happoldt Drive.

• At 4:15 p.m., the dept. responded to a call of a motor vehicle accident on Falls Dr. west but nothing was found.

Highlands Police Chief was guest speaker at National Law Enforcement presentation



To close out National Law Enforcement Week, the community came together to honor those who made the ultimate sacrifice.

On Friday May 19th on the square in Franklin, various Law Enforcement agencies gathered to pay tribute to fallen officers.

The annual event, organized by the FOP Lodge 81 Jackson/Macon Counties, included Highlands Police Chief Andrea Holland as the guest speaker. This year, the name of 556 law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty were added to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial in Washington D.C.

Chief Andrea Holland

...BALDWIN continued from page 1

ago, taking his official oath of office in the boardroom of the central office on July 1, 2013.

“In the state of North Carolina a superintendent serving for 10 years is almost unheard of in today’s world,” Macon County Board of Education Chairman Jim Breedlove said. “It really truly is. I think it speaks to how successful and just how good Dr. Baldwin has been in his work as superintendent.”

Dr. Baldwin spent the entirety of his career as an educator working in Macon County – the same school district where he attended kindergarten through 12th grade.

“It is rare I think for someone to have been able to attend 12 years in a school sys-

tem and then have only ever worked in one school system,” said Baldwin. “I’m honored to have had that opportunity here.”

Prior to being named Superintendent in 2013, Dr. Baldwin served as Principal of Franklin High School, filling the giant shoes left by longtime Principal Gary Shields in 2010 following Shields retirement from the position he held for 21 years. Prior to Franklin High School, Dr. Baldwin served the district as the Principal of Nantahala School — a position he earned in 2001 after first working in the school as the School Suspension teacher for teachers and then as the science teacher for 7th through 12th grade.

Dr. Baldwin also served as the basket-

• See BALDWIN page 30

Highlands-Cashiers
Center for Life Enrichment

Enrich your life this season with these upcoming CLE programs!

Upcoming Program Highlights

Talk and Hike: "In the Footsteps of a Wild Vision - Japanese Immigrant George Masa's Journeys on the Highlands Plateau."

Presenter: Brent Martin, Wednesday, May 31, 10am- 3pm, \$70/\$80 (or for the talk only, \$30/\$40, 10am-12pm)

Home Landscape Design (Part 2 of 3)

Presenter: Mary Palmer Dargan, Wednesday, May 31, 2-4pm \$60/\$70

Settings On Your iPhone/iPad

Presenter: Loraine Smith, Monday, June 5, 10am-12pm \$40/\$50

Reduce Junk Mail and Spam

Presenter: Loraine Smith, Monday, June 5, 1-2pm \$40/\$50

Ellicot's Rock: Surveyors' Footsteps on the 35th Parallel

Presenter: Tom Robertson, Tuesday, June 6, 10am-12pm, \$30/\$40

Intro to Wild Mushrooms

Presented By: The Mountain Retreat and Learning Center, Tuesday, June 6, 1-4pm \$50/\$60

Home Landscape Design (Part 3 of 3)

Presenter: Mary Palmer Dargan, Wednesday, June 7, 10am-12pm \$60/\$70

China in 2023: A Year of Living Dangerously

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

Featured Programs:



Vignettes From 39 Years of Diplomacy

Presenter: Ambassador Gene Cretz, Thursday, June 8, 10am- 12pm, \$30/\$40 Member/Non-member

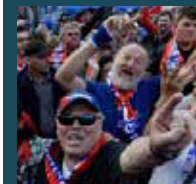
Come peer behind the curtain and join Ambassador Gene A. Cretz as he offers a lively discussion centered around his 35-year career in the foreign service.



The Artists Series

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

Follow presenter Norma Hendrix as she leads you on an educational exploration of key artists whose commitment to one specific subject brought depth and innovation to their work.



Europe's Persistent and Adaptable Far Right

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

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...SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING continued from page 26

comfort, security, and certainty.

Jesus claims in this passage that those that seek and find life in him will find life and find it abundantly. This does not mean that we will be free of difficulty or hardship, and Jesus is not promising that we will be in complete control, have absolute security, and know precisely what will happen tomorrow. That is where our faith becomes real, and it is in those moments that we trust in a God that we can't see.

Back to my story, someone was trying to break into our home. Not only did they try to break into our house once, but they tried

twice. Once when my brother woke me up and then another time later in the early morning. We chased them off by turning on the lights and running outside with baseball bats. Not my brightest moment.

I believe we need to do the same with the modern-day thieves in our lives. We need to be alert that they are present and to confront them.

What are they stealing from us? They are robbing us of what life is truly about. They are stealing, killing, and destroying our lives because they have taken our focus, time, and attention away from Je-

sus. We desire to be in control, to have security, and to have certainty of what will happen in the future. Jesus did not promise us those things. He promised to be with us and show us what life is truly about.

I encourage you to reflect on what could be a thief in your life. It can be anything that robs our perspective, time, or focus away from Jesus.

...BALDWIN from page 27

ball coach for Nantahala for a decade in the early 90s, not too many years after he was playing on the same court as a high school senior. Baldwin graduated from Nantahala High School in 1986, 12 years after he first became a Hawk as a kindergarten student.

After high school, Baldwin attended Western Carolina University to pursue his career in teaching and aside from completing his student teaching at Murphy High School, his entire career as existed within Macon County.

Being an educator has been a family affair for Dr. Baldwin. After also graduating from Nantahala School, Dr. Baldwin's father also pursued a career as an educator.

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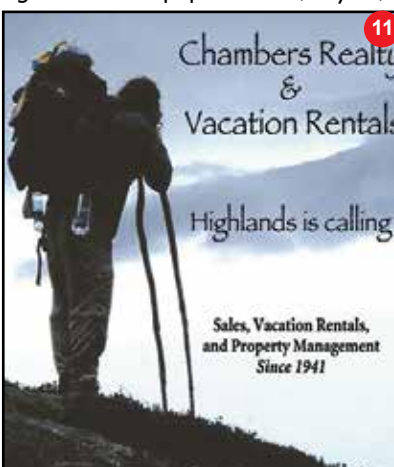
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