

Highlands Newspaper

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Thurs., June 23, 2022

\$27.4 million budget passes for FY '22-'23

No tax increase nor increase for town services

The FY 2022-'23 budget was finalized and passed 4-1 with very little fanfare at Thursday's June Town Board meeting.

Commissioner Marc Hehn

voted against it because he had issues with the Treasurer's report.

Interestingly, the budget that passed following the required public hearing that same night,

was less than the budget presented at the May Town Board meeting.

May's proposed bud-

• See BUDGET page 12

Town lays out the map to STR changes

At the June 16 Town Board meeting, Mayor Pat Taylor outlined the upcoming meetings and steps the town is taking regarding Short-term Rentals in Highlands.

He explained both the steps required for the adoption of the Comprehensive Plan and its STR verbiage and the steps required for adopting STR verbiage amendments to the town's Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) – which are two very different things.

The Comprehensive Plan – a plan mandated by the state and required to be adopted by all municipalities that have zoning by July 1, 2022 – is just a policy plan that must be consistent with the town's Land Use plan as well as its Unified Development Ordinance (UDO). Nothing in the Compre-

• See STR page 10



Highlands is named a 'Best Small Town for Shopping'

Places 5th among 19 towns nominated across the country

Highlands is a winner in the 2022 USA TODAY 10Best Readers' Choice travel award contest for "Best Small Town for Shopping." After weeks of online vot-

ing, Highlands placed fifth among the 19 towns nominated nationwide.

Highlands was nominated

• See HIGHLANDS page 7

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Why Brevard is taking on the nation's largest hospital system – part 2

Brevard is not the first issue to file a lawsuit against HCA, which grossed more than \$50 billion in 2020, according to the June 3 complaint. Another case filed in Buncombe County last summer by a group of individuals alleged the same monopolistic practices. But Brevard is the first local government in Western North Carolina to take this step.

Even so, HCA spokesperson Nancy Lindell said Brevard's lawsuit was "beyond disappointing" specifically because the hospital system's CEO Sam Hazen met with Copelof and other community members just a month before the complaint was filed.

The meeting before the lawsuit

In May 2021, Hazen traveled to Transylvania County to meet with Copelof and a handful of other individuals concerned with HCA's practices in Transylvania County. Among those was Mark

Weinstein, president and CEO of nonprofit Brevard Music Center.

"It was amazing that this guy, the head of this multibillion-dollar operation, would come and visit with us and talk to us," Weinstein said. "It was encouraging."

Weinstein served on Transylvania Regional Hospital's board of directors until he and fellow board member Parker Platt, owner of a Brevard architecture firm, resigned in September 2021.

Weinstein and Platt stepped down after realizing that board members had "no real ability to have any kind of positive impact" while HCA was in charge; the pair wrote in an opinion piece for the Transylvania Times.

Weinstein said he was excited when HCA bought the local hospital — expecting growth and exceptional health care to follow the sale. Since

• See BREVARD page 8

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• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• MAYOR ON DUTY •

With grant funding, more infrastructure improvements are possible

At last Thursday's Highlands Town Board meeting commissioners passed a 27.4 million dollar budget for this coming fiscal year. I hope that budget number increases by September. Let me explain, I'm not talking about more spending or a tax increase.

In May, the town submitted grants to the state for funding several important infrastructure projects. We submitted a grant for replacing an aging water pre-clarifier tank and the refurbishing of a pump station at the water plant. We are requesting about 4.75 million dollars for this grant project. Another grant was submitted for replacing an aging two-inch galvanized water line on Dog Mountain and for the replacement of a small, undersize water tank. This grant request is for 3.4 million dollars. If we are awarded both grants the town would receive over 8 million dollars from the state. As a result, the board would have to recognize the funding and add it to the budget. So, instead of a 27.3 million dollar budget, it could be several million dollars more.



Highlands Mayor
Patrick Taylor

Now I am not sure about what revenue the grants will generate. Our staff believes we have submitted strong applications and have demonstrated a critical need for support. But, the grants are competitive and there is no guarantee they will be funded. It is very likely we could receive partial funding from the state. In that case the town would have to cover the remainder in order to complete the projects. Partial funding, say 4 or 5 million, would be better than no funding at all. A lot of infrastructure funding is now available. Highlands simply wants a fair share.

Earlier this year we allocated our portion of the American Rescue Plan funds toward replacing an aging two-inch waterline on Morewood Drive. The good news is that project is now completed and residents should be back on line with a new six-inch water line. Several years ago, the town completed a similar project on Split Rail. We will continue our program of replacing the aging two-inch waterlines in the system.

There are several updates on road projects involving NCDOT and the town. Plans are moving forward to pave Big Bear Pen from Upper Lake Road down to Chestnut Street. NCDOT has completed two environmental impact studies and are in the final stages of designing the project. It will be several months before construction gets underway. The town will have to coordinate with NCDOT in relocating town utilities.

Our town staff recently talked with NCDOT officials about the short unpaved section from Upper Lake to Bowery Road. The unpaved section is a state road. The DOT folks indicated they would be open to giving that road section to the town so paving could continue to Bowery. Many years ago when the town limits were expanded out to the Bowery area, that section was never converted to a town road. There are several other small, unpaved state roads, such as a section of Wingina, that might also fall under the same consideration. The rationale for paving unpaved roads has been to minimize erosion and sedimentation in our water impoundment areas.

• HIC'S VIEW •



• WEATHER •

Thu, 23-Jun	Fri, 24-Jun	Sat, 25-Jun	Sun, 26-Jun
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A stray afternoon t-storm	An afternoon thunderstorm	A thunderstorm	Humid with a thunderstorm
RealFeel®	RealFeel®	RealFeel®	RealFeel®
High: 87° Low: 67°	High: 83° Low: 66°	High: 79° Low: 65°	High: 86° Low: 66°

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– Open Letter –

From: Attorney Robert c. Carpenter of Allen Stahl & Kilbourne representing Save Highlands
To: Town Attorney Jay Coward and Town Manager Josh Ward
Re: Public Records Request

Dear Jay,

As you know, the issue of regulating vacation rentals has been a prominent topic in Highlands since August of 2021. There have been many Board of Commissioner and Planning Board meetings on the topic. We know there have been many more closed door meetings, phone calls, text messages, emails, and other forms of communication that include public officials regarding the regulation of vacation rentals.

All such communications would concern the transaction of public business under N.C. Gen. Stat. § 132-1. They are therefore rightfully public records. We therefore request such documents and other public records of the Town from the time period of August 1, 2021, to the present as further specified below.

1. The closed session meeting minutes for any closed session held pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 143-318.10(e) between August 24, 2021, and the present.
2. All meeting minutes from Planning Board meetings held from August 2021 to the present.
3. All meeting minutes from the Zoning Board meetings held from August 2021 to the present.
4. All completed "Short Term Rental Zoning Compliance Permits" and "Non-Conforming Use Permits."
5. Any contract with any newspaper for the publication of legal notices for the Town.
6. The "proper notice of the public hearing" and the "affidavit" referenced in the June 9, 2022, public statement of the Town.
7. Records indicating the amount of money paid to legal counsel from August 2021 to the present.
8. Drafts of changes to ordinances including work product of attorneys for the Town. See *McCormick v. Hanson Aggregates Se., Inc.*, 164 N.C. App. 459, 473, 596 S.E.2d 431, 439 (2004) ("work product [of City Attorney] was subject to disclosure under the [Public Records Act]" because there is no exception for attorney work product under the Public Records Act)
9. Any grant or denial of a non-conforming use permit issued by the Town.
10. Communications – whether by email, text message or other means – to and from Josh Ward or Michael Mathis and the following persons regarding short term rentals, vacation rentals, and the comprehensive land use plan.
 - a. Any owner of real property in Highlands;
 - b. Other Town employees, including among themselves;
 - c. Any public official of the Town, including, but not limited to the Mayor, members of the Board of Commissioners, and members of the Planning Board;
 - d. The Highlands Neighborhood Coalition, Highlands Neighborhood Preservation, Inc., Cathy Henson, Tom Coley, Bill Long, Lila Howland, Kelly Cochran McDuff, Charles M. Nalbhone, or legal counsel for any of these persons;
 - e. A member of the media.
11. Communications – whether by email, text message or other means – to and from the Mayor and/or Board of Commissioners and the following persons regarding short term rentals, vacation rentals, and the comprehensive land use plan.
 - a. Any owner of real property in Highlands;
 - b. Any Town employee;
 - c. Any other public official of the Town, including, but not limited to the Mayor, members of the Board of Commissioners, and members of the Planning Board;
 - d. The Highlands Neighborhood Coalition, Highlands Neighborhood Preservation, Inc., Cathy Henson, Tom Coley, Bill Long, Lila Howland, Kelly Cochran McDuff, Charles M. Nalbhone, or legal counsel for any of these persons;
 - e. A member of the media.
12. Phone records of Josh Ward, Mayor Patrick Taylor, John Dotson, Amy Patterson, Brian Stiehler, and Eric Pierson (since Mr. Pierson has been in office) showing any phone calls or text messages made with the persons listed in Request 11 and any records that identify the phone numbers and phone carrier (e.g. Verizon, AT&T, etc.) of these individuals.
13. Meeting notes, calendar entries, and other similar documents regarding any meeting of the subcommittee of the Board of Commissioners formed to consider changes to the UDO.
14. Meeting notes, calendar entries, and other similar documents regarding any meeting held or conversation between the Mayor and/or Board of Commissioners and those persons listed in Request 11.
15. Communications – whether by email, text message or other means – to and from members of the Planning Board and the following persons regarding short term rentals, vacation rentals, and the comprehensive land use plan.
 - a. Any owner of real property in Highlands;
 - b. Any Town employee;
 - c. Any other public official of the Town, including, but not limited to the Mayor, members of the Board of Commissioners, and members of the Planning Board;
 - d. The Highlands Neighborhood Coalition, Highlands Neighborhood Preservation, Inc., Cathy Henson, Tom Coley, Bill Long, Lila Howland, Kelly Cochran McDuff, Charles M. Nalbhone, or legal counsel for any of these persons;
 - e. A member of the media.



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..HIGHLANDS continued from page 1

by a panel of editors and experts as part of the contest. Nominees for all categories are chosen by a panel that includes a combination of editors from USA TODAY; editors from 10Best.com; relevant expert contributors; and sources for both these media and other Gannett properties.

The contest allowed voters to select the winner, allowing one online vote each day until it closed on June 6. The top ten winners in the “Best Small Town for Shopping” were announced June 17 and are as follows: Frenchtown, N.J., Rhinebeck, N.Y., Montpelier, Vt., Cape May, N.J., Highlands, N.C., Dahlonega, Ga., Carmel-by-the-Sea, Calif., Sedona, Ariz., New Hope, Pa., and Camden, Maine.

Other towns which were nominated but did not place in the 10Best include Aspen, Colo., Chagrin Falls, Ohio, Healdsburg, Calif., Lahaina, Hawaii, Mendocino, Calif., Paia, Hawaii, Saugerties, N.Y., St. Michaels, Md. and Sun Valley, Idaho.

“The picturesque Main Street in the small North Carolina town of Highlands is a shopper’s paradise stocking a little of everything – sportswear, gift items, European and American antiques, home decor and accessories, fine art and kitchen gear,” reads the description on the 10Best website.

“Congratulations to our business community and town for being recognized in this national contest for the quality experience it gives to visitors and residents alike,” says Kay McHan, executive director of the Highlands Chamber of Commerce/Visit Highlands, NC.



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...BREVARD continued from page 1

then, however, he said he's been disappointed and discouraged.

That article in the local newspaper stated, "In almost all instances, from the essentials of staff and community relations to marketing to the mass exodus of our physicians, our inability to provide direction or influence decisions have been apparent."

Weinstein and Platt sat in on the May meeting with Hazen to express their concerns that the hospital was being operated from the top down rather than with input from community members.

During that meeting, Weinstein said the idea to create a "community council," a group intended to link citizen concerns directly to hospital officials, was established. The 10-person council, which includes three physicians, has met only once so far.

Regardless of how the lawsuit unfolds — if Brevard does win and a jury requires HCA to pay the city's legal fees and "recover three-fold the damages determined to have been sustained by (Brevard) as a result of Defendants' misconduct" — the community council will still gather to discuss issues with hospital officials, Weinstein said.

Aside from the establishment of the council, the meeting appears to have been less productive than HCA assumed.

"We hoped that meeting would be the beginning of a thoughtful and ongoing dialogue about health care in the city of Brevard and the broader Transylvania County region," HCA's Lindell said last week. "In fact, we provided information requested during the meeting and hosted our first Community Council meeting just this week. At no point did Mayor Copelof mention this apparently

long-planned lawsuit, which is frustrating and undermines what we thought were sincere efforts to build open, constructive relationships and lines of communication. We will now turn our attention and efforts to vigorously defending the lawsuit while continuing to provide excellent health care to the citizens of Western North Carolina."

Copelof said the lawsuit has been in the works for several months, and while she "appreciates" Hazen meeting with her in May, that conversation surrounded issues specific to Transylvania Regional Hospital that are not "directly addressed in the lawsuit."

"The lawsuit deals specifically with predatory monopolistic actions by HCA that impact available health care options and raise the cost for self-funded health care plans in the region and specifically the self-funded plan that we offer to city of Brevard employees," Copelof said.

"Both the community concerns and the larger systemic practices alleged in the lawsuit are, however, related in that they impact the overall availability of quality healthcare for our local community.

"As such, I will continue to work on those issues that can be resolved locally via our community council and the larger issues of monopolistic practices in the region will be addressed via the legal system."

Other counties react

The lawsuit alleges HCA's monopoly has impacted seven Western North Carolina counties. The hope, McKeller said, is that those counties will join the lawsuit as plaintiffs.

Whether Madison, Mitchell, Buncombe, Transylvania, McDowell and Macon counties

will join remains up in the air.

"I will tell you, since the lawsuit was filed, I have received a lot of phone calls," McKeller said.

Carolina Public Press reached out to each of the counties and the city of Asheville and asked whether they planned to join the lawsuit. Representatives of Macon, McDowell and Transylvania counties as well as Asheville declined to comment, citing attorney-client confidentiality, or said no official decisions have been made.

Buncombe County, however, reacted to the lawsuit in a roundabout way during its June 7 County Commission meeting when commissioners approved a letter of support for a new, alternatively owned hospital — citing the need for more acute care beds and residents becoming "increasingly vocal of their desire for improved access and patient choice," a county press release stated.

"There's at least two non-profit hospitals who have submitted proposals or expressed their intent to submit proposals (for a new hospital)," Buncombe County Commission Chair Brownie Newman said, specifying that the two interested entities were AdventHealth and Novant Health.

"The letter that's been drafted does not endorse any one organization over the other but does endorse that we would like to see additional alternatives for families who need health care in our areas as well as endorsing the idea that it would be desirable to have a nonprofit hospital serving the region."

Commissioners unanimously approved the letter. No further plans about establishing a new hospital were discussed.

See part 1 at www.highlandinfo.com/PDFs/22june16.pdf

The HCCMF 2022 season begins July 1

The H-C Chamber Music Festival's 2022 season, premieres with Three Concertmasters on Friday, July 1, and Saturday, July 2.

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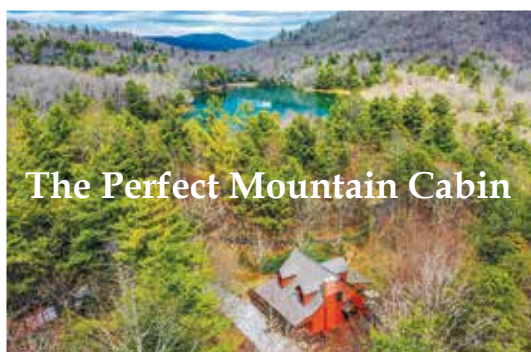
HCCMF's 'Best of Beethoven' to be performed at The Bascom June 26

Highlands-Cashiers Chamber Music Festival previews its dazzling 2022 season with a unique collaboration with The Bascom Center for the Visual Arts, set for 5 p.m. Sunday, June 26, at The Bascom.

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...LETTER continued from page 4

16. Meeting notes, calendar entries, and other similar documents regarding any meeting held or conversation between the members of the Planning Board and those persons listed in Request 15.

17. All non-privileged communications within and between the Town and its employees, Mayor, Board of Commissioners, Planning Board members, and/or attorney(s) not otherwise requested herein and regarding short term rentals, vacation rentals, and the comprehensive land use plan.

18. Documents showing the rental history of property owned by Commissioner John Dotson in Highlands, including calendars of previous and prospective stays and any rental contract used by John Dotson for the rental of said property.

19. Documents showing the income John Dotson received from the rental of property he owns in Highlands.

20. Communications between John Dotson and any future or current tenant of his property regarding the rental of his property.

We understand that searching for and compiling the communications, in particular, may take time. You may therefore produce requests 1-9 as soon as possible and then produce the other requests once compiled. We do request that everything be produced within 30 days. Please keep me apprised of the Town's ability to meet this timeline.

Best Regards,
Robert "Bo" Carpenter

...STR continued from page 1

hensive Plan is regulatory, it's just a road map for the future – a series of recommendations and suggestions regarding all things Highlands.

The UDO details specific dos and don'ts – rules and regulations regarding land use and zoning.

With the STR controversy in the mix it's gotten a little confusing.

General Comprehensive Plan recommendations for STRs from Chad Essick of Poyner and Spruill were heard at the special closed meeting on June 10 and subsequently have been included in the Comprehensive Plan.

The required public hearing for the Comprehensive Plan is June 30 at 6 p.m. in the Community Building. It's assumed that after the public hearing the Comprehensive Plan will be adopted that night just in time for the July 1 deadline.

The amendments regarding STRs in the Comprehensive Plan are on the town website and Atty Essick's suggestions regarding section LU 5.5 under Land Uses were incorporated.

Land Uses LU 5.5 reads — "Consider updating land use regulations to define short-term rentals as a use and establish geographic restrictions, approval requirements and/or performance-based standards for the use."

Atty Essick said: "On page 67 of the Comprehensive Plan — LU 5.5 includes suggestions regarding the regulations of STRs, some of which the proposed ordinance includes and others that it does not. Specifically, the proposed ordinance does

• See STR page 14



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*"Dogs are not our whole life,
but they make our life whole"*
(Roger Caras)



Pat Gleeson
Highlands-Sotheby's
International Realty
828.526.8300

Dear Human,

My name is Gemma Gleeson. I'm a 77-year-old (11 in people years) Yellow Labrador living in Highlands, NC. My Parents are Real Estate Brokers at Sotheby's and asked me to write about why Highlands and Cashiers are the perfect place for 4-legged families. It's the truth, dogs are more accepted here than just about anywhere. Several of my friends say we get treated better than most mother-in-Laws, rich uncles, and yuppies (I always say it's better to be a puppy than a yuppie).

I would like to share exactly why you should consider investing in Highlands and Cashiers either part-time or all the time like me. Simply put, we dogs deserve to be here along with our kids and extended dog family. Just last week, we hosted "Cain," a chocolate, lab buddy from Columbia, SC and "Chili," a cream, golden retriever from Atlanta, GA. Both ignored my advice and annoyingly barked at the bears as they ambled harmlessly through our yard, chewed up a couple of my toys, and along with my neighbor "Brice" decided to eat the charcuterie tray on my parent's coffee table (including the stinky cheese). Some of my younger less-educated friends are still learning their manners, and they paid the price that evening which my parents had to clean up.

Life as a canine here is special. I ditched my dog pen a long time ago because I run freely without much threat of speeding cars, buses, or trucks like some of you city dogs. In fact, I really don't see many cars unlike my days in Atlanta. My parents carry a leash on our walks, but hardly ever use it unless we run

into a nervous owner from a big city. It rains here pretty much every day, so there's plenty of mud holes. When I need a wash, I'll head to Mirror Lake, Harris Lake, Lake Sequoyah, or any number of nearby streams. All of the water is clean, cold, and sure beats the dumb bottled stuff (only a human would call it Smart Water).

I go everywhere with my parents, and in downtown Highlands dogs have celebrity status. Many merchants have water bowls and offer doggie treats. I can lick ice cream that's dripped to the sidewalk from a kid's cone in a couple of places, and a lot of restaurants have outdoor seating so I can hang out with humans for lunch and dinner. I take a wide berth around those places handing out "free" cosmetics which in fact will cost you a fortune. I travel in style, because there's one of those Orvis cradle-beds in the back seat of our cars. I can actually hang my head out the window at high speeds without any mosquitos pelting me in the face (it's too cold up here for many bugs).

In closing, I would tell your parents "ruff-aarf-woof-yelp-grrr" (which means, Let's head for Highlands). I'll introduce you to Brice, Cain, Buddy, Otis, and all of my friends. A very special shout out to my friend "Lucy," who was an absolute angel here on earth. We lost her last week. God's Speed Lucy!

Love,
Gemma

• 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.



Gemma Gleeson





List Price \$3,300,000
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7195 S.F. Living Space / 4 BD / 8.5 BA



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"Martinis & Mozart"

Wednesday, July 13th @ 5:30 PM
Orchard House @ Old Edwards Farm - Highlands

HCCMF presents, in collaboration with the Old Edwards Hospitality Group, a special concert featuring the Ulysses String Quartet.

Refreshments will be served and a cash bar will be available.

Price: \$75/person - call 828-526-9060 for required reservations.

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...BUDGET continued from page 1

get of revenues and expenditures was \$28,282,743; the budget that passed last week was \$27,392,428.

"Since the budget presentation on May 19, the Morewood Road Waterline Improvement Project was completed removing \$550,000 from the Capital Projects Fund expenditures. Also, the majority of the walkway access to the clear-well at the water treatment plant has been completed reducing the expenditure within the Water Treatment Plant capital by \$135,000," said Town Manager Josh Ward. "In addition, the upcoming fiber lease payments of \$212,500 were added as revenue within the general fund for the last two quarters of FY 2022-'23."

Capital Expenditures included in the budget total \$6,328,304, some of which are carryover from FY 2021-'22 due to supply chain shortages, said Ward.

Hotwire payments

At the Town Board meeting, Commissioner Hehn said he had seen the red-line Hotwire contract documents that the lawyer in Washington, DC sent and suggested he had found something that enabled the town to get paid more than it had expected.

However, Ward and Treasurer Rebecca Shuler said the projected fiber revenue amount that affected the 2022-'23 budget had nothing to do with the red-line documents Hehn was referring to.

"I wanted to clarify something that was said at the board meeting," said Shuler. "The red-line fiber draft versions had nothing to do with my calculations regarding revenue in the FY 2022-'23 budget as I haven't seen or read them. In addition, I have not had any discussions with anyone other than Josh about these numbers."

She said the way to calculate the expected fiber revenue for FY 2022-'23 budget purposes was "pretty straight forward in the contract after the first year had past. I just wanted to set the record straight."

According to the Hotwire lease: For the use and occupancy of the Highlands system assets, beginning on the first full quarter of the second year of the lease and throughout the lease term, Hotwire will pay to the town the rent in consecutive equal quarterly installments of \$106,250 on the 45th day after the end of each calendar quarter with respect to the preceding calendar quarter.

The contract was signed in November 2021.

As per the contract, the end of the first full quarter will be March 2023 and Hot-

wire has until May 15, 2023 to pay. The next payment is due June 2023 which can be paid by Aug. 15, 2023 and will be accrued to be correctly reflected within the FY 2022-'23 budget at the end of the fiscal year - June 30, if it's not paid by then. The next payment is due Sept. 23 but can be paid by Nov. 15.

To present a balanced budget, it was necessary to appropriate \$2,236,219.86 from undesignated General Fund Balance, \$2,647,041.89 from Water Fund Balance, \$1,358,962.00 Sewer Fund Balance and \$213,750 from the Sanitation Fund Balance.

These fund balance appropriations were used to offset capital project deficits and debt service within several departments.

Ward said all funds are self-supporting and with the exception of the Sanitation Department where there is a \$78,750 shortfall, they don't require a fund balance appropriation to operate.

The first thing citizens want to know is "Are taxes or fees going to increase?"

The ad valorem property tax rate remains at \$0.1565 per \$100 valuation. The tax rate does include .015 earmarked for street paving projects, which is scheduled to sunset June 30 of 2023.

The valuations are determined by the Macon and Jackson counties tax departments and the approximate property valuation of \$1,856,000,000 with an estimated collection rate of 98%.

The Highlands Volunteer Fire Department tax rate remains at 3 cents per \$100 valuation which took effect FY 2019-'20.

The current Town of Highlands charges for water, sewer, electric and sanitation services remains unchanged.

Ward said the financial outlook for Highlands is strong.

"Highlands is an unique popular mountain getaway in close proximity to several large cities and many visitors are deciding to relocate to Highlands as permanent or part-time residents. I feel this trend will continue well into the future," he said.

The Town's undesignated General Fund Balance remains strong at \$4,400,000, and with the exception of the Sanitation Department, all enterprise funds are stable and covering their operating costs.

"The Electric Fund continues to

• See BUDGET page 13

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Highlands, NC



• BIZ/ORG NEWS •

...BUDGET continued from page 12

provide funding when necessary to offset capital project costs in other departments. Due to the ability to transfer funds from the Electric Fund Balance, the town has been fortunate to keep its long-term debt extremely low," said Ward.

The current Electric Reserve Fund is approximately \$5,500,000.

The Local Option Sales Tax distribution is projected to remain strong, however, Kaye McHan, Director of the Chamber of Commerce said it has already seen a decrease in room tax proceeds which could mean a decrease in sales tax proceeds if less people seek short-term accommodations in area hotels, motels and rentals.

However, a decrease in room tax fees may also be due to the fact that Mitchell's Lodge has been taken out of the mix; it is now employee housing for the Old Edwards Hospitality Group.

Fees for the recreational uses at the Rec Park including the fitness center, swimming pool and pickleball are being increased. For instance, single and family memberships for one year at the fitness center was increased \$50; 6-mth. membership by \$25, etc. Annual pool memberships have increased by \$65; summer memberships by \$20, monthly by \$10, etc. The daily price at the pool went up a dollar from \$3 per person to \$4. These fees go into effect July 1, 2022.

The FY 2022-'23 budget includes a 6% cost-of-living adjustment for employees and a 4% increase in the employee health insurance premiums with BlueCross

BlueShield NC.

Legal Fees

After the FY 2022-'23 budget was accepted, budget amendments were made to close out the FY 2021-'22 budget.

Since revenues and expenditures must match, this is an annual procedure. One of the several budget amendments made were for legal fees in the amount of \$95,000.

"We made the \$95,000 year-end budget amendment because we had only budgeted \$70,000 for legal fees and we are already about \$67,000 over budget between our regular legal invoices and the STR legal invoices," said Shuler. "Therefore, I made a budget amendment of \$95,000 to add to the \$70,000 originally budgeted to cover the \$136,106.92 already spent and to estimate what may still be charged for this fiscal year."

She said it's hard to estimate exact costs because no one knows how much attorneys will bill for services before the end of FY 2021-'22 which is June 30.

As of June 9, 2022, the STR attorneys billed and the town has paid \$54,487.28.

"That doesn't include the extra amounts for our regular lawyer fees [to Jay Coward] that we have paid - \$65,261.88 - for a total of \$119,749.16," said Shuler.

According to Shuler, as of Thursday, June 16, the total in STR related legal fees is \$64,184.71 between Coward, Justus, Essick and Hagemann, with another \$71,861.88 for normal legal fees to Coward for a total of \$136,106.92.

- Kim Lewicki



At the annual meeting of the Highlands Plateau Greenway, President Jim Ward presented the "Trail Worker of the Year" award to Mike King for his exceptional dedication to continued improvement of the Greenway trail system over the past year.

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The Dry Sink on Main St.

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...STR continued from page 10

not require a Special Use Permit and does not impose a minimum night stay requirement, as suggested in the LU 5.5. Therefore, we would advise removing or amending those suggestions in LU 5.5 to align with the proposed ordinance.”

Subsequently, Town Manager Josh Ward said since the town doesn't require Special Use Permits for any reason anymore, that was taken out of the Compre-

hensive Plan as was the minimum stay requirement because at this point, that issue has not been finalized.

Commissioner Marc Hehn voted against setting the public hearing for the Comp Plan because he said he wasn't allowed to speak to the lawyers who attended the meeting virtually so that vote was 4-1.

Later during the June 10 meeting, commissioners heard legal counsel regarding the

erred adoption of amendments to the UDO regarding STRs that took place at the May Town Board meeting.

Since the February public hearing regarding STR amendments to the UDO wasn't advertised correctly in The Highlander newspaper Feb. 10 and Feb. 17, the amendments passed by the Town Board at the May meeting don't count.

It should be noted that those amendments were not what the Planning Board recommended. However, the Town Board doesn't have to accept recommendations from the Planning Board regarding any issue – it just has to hear them.

After Save Highlands – the group for STRs – brought the publication “mishap” to light, it demanded the STR amendments to the UDO be rescinded.

After the special closed June 10 meeting, Attorney Craig Justus, who the town hired early on to help with STR verbiage, but whose recommendations the board has mostly disregarded, drafted a notice saying

there was nothing to rescind because the amendments weren't lawfully adopted.

For the Town Board's UDO STR amendments to be official, the Planning Board must see them, give its recommendation followed by a public hearing on the matter followed then by possible adoption.

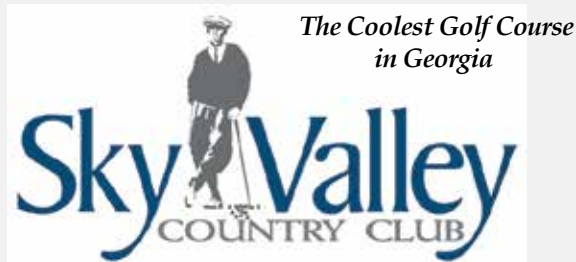
At its upcoming July 12 meeting at 5:30 p.m. in the Community Building, the Planning Board will go over the Town Board's STR amendments to the UDO that it passed in May.

A public hearing for UDO STR amendments will be July 28 at 6 p.m. in the Community Building.

However, if the Planning Board needs more time, the mayor said the public hearing could take place as late as Aug. 18.

“As everyone knows, we have to start this whole process over due to a technical miscommunication where proper notice wasn't given in The Highlander newspaper,” said the mayor. “Hopefully by June

• See STR page 19



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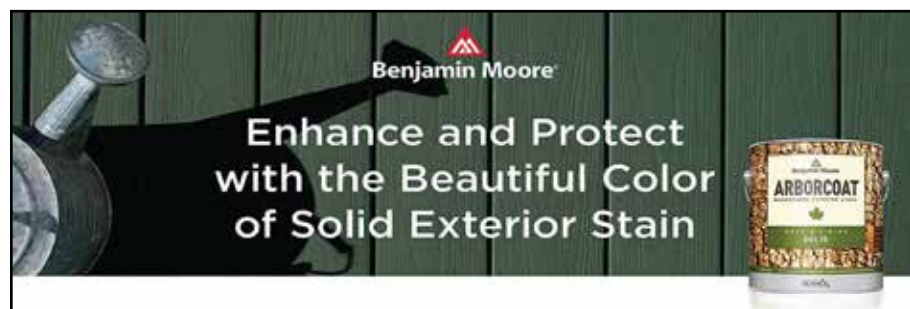
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• BIZ/ORG NEWS •



Photo by Luke Osteen

Highlands Chamber of Commerce/ Visit Highlands, NC awards 8 grants – \$101,785 – to local organizations

The Highlands Chamber of Commerce/Visit Highlands, NC recently announced its latest round of grants to support local nonprofit organizations.

During a presentation on June 9, representatives from eight Highlands-area non-profit organizations received grants totaling \$101,785. The funds will support special events or activities organized or hosted by the organizations, including:

- The Bascom for Program Marketing - \$10,000
- Highlands Festivals for the Bear Shadow Music Festival - \$50,000
- Highlands-Cashiers Chamber Music Festival - \$7,500
- The Center for Life Enrichment for Porchfest - \$8,785
- Friends of Founders Park for the Low Country Shrimp Boil - \$1,500
- The Highlands Historical Society for the Dazzling Dahlia Festival - \$7,500
- The Highlands Motoring Festival - \$12,500
- The Rotary club of Highlands for the Twilight 5 K Run - \$4,000

Each year, the Highlands Chamber of Commerce/Visit Highlands, NC supports local nonprofit organizations through its Tourism Grant Program and sponsorship programs. The program is funded by a portion of occupancy taxes collected from guests staying in Highlands' accommodations. A committee of volunteers headed by Highlands Chamber of Commerce/Visit Highlands, NC Board

of Directors Member Charlotte Muir, along with staff, reviewed the grant applications and recommended approval.

Since July 1, 2021, the beginning of the current fiscal year, \$255,521.06 has been invested back into the community through the grants program.

"It is an honor to be stewards of these funds that are invested back into our community," says

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.

Kaye McHan, executive director. "As a non-profit organization ourselves, we understand and share the goal of making Highlands a great place to live, work and visit."

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...on Bob's side • 828-526-1029

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Cath Connolly

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- Museum - 4,000 Artifacts
- Old Jail - 1918
- Lapham Tent House 1908
- Uniform Exhibit

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• HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

NEW Rec Pool Schedule:

• Public Swim: Mon.-Thurs. 11a-7p; Fri. & Sat. 11a-6p; Sunday 1-6p 828-526-1595.

Sundays

• Church in the Wildwood's hymn sing is at the Highlands United Methodist Church on Main Street in the Old Fellowship Hall instead of the Horsecove location. Come sing your favorite hymns from 7-8 pm. Enter from Main Street. Questions? Call Les Scott at 828-200-9532.

Mondays

• 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

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

Thursdays

• At Hudson Library, Family

Storytime at 10:40a. For more information about any of these summer activities, contact Hudson Library at 828-526-3031.

• 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.

Mon-Fri

• Water Aerobics 18 years plus 10:15-11am.

Mon., Tues., Thurs.

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

Mon. & Wed.

• Cardio Kickboxing with Crystal Corbin 5:30-6:30 p.m. A full body workout for every muscle

• New Mobility Class with Anna Norton It's all about movement. 5:30-6:30pm and Wednesday 6:45-7:45. For more information, call Anna 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.

1st Tuesdays

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

Tuesdays

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

Tues. & Thurs.

• Pilates-Strength and Stretch with Autumn Lucas

• New Zumba class with Gay Chalpin from 4:30-5:30p.

• Exercise Class with Michelle Lane at 5:30. A combination class with different types of exercise.

Thursdays

• Kickboxing 8:15-9:15am. An exhilarating and fun mix of martial arts for a calorie-burning workout.

Fridays

• Friday Night Live Concerts in Town Square on Main Street. 6-8:30 p.m. Bring chairs.

Saturdays

• Saturdays on Pine in K-H Founders Park on Pine Street. 6-8:30 p.m. Bring chairs, blankets and a picnic.

2nd Saturdays

• The Western North Carolina Woodturners Club meets in High-

lands 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.

Thurs., June 23

• At Hudson Library Summer Learning begins at 3:30p. Balsam Mountain Trust brings slithery Ssssnakes This program is suitable for children of all ages. For more information about any of these summer activities, contact Hudson Library at 828-526-3031.

Fri., June 24

• Live music in Town Square on Main Street featuring Southern Highland Band. 6-8:30p.

Sat., June 25

• At the Bascom from 1-4p, meet the Artist Penny Pollock (encaustics). For more information call 828.526.4949 or visit thebascom.org

• The Women's Guild of St. Francis Church will hold its annual Good Stuff Sale 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday at the church hall of 299 Maple St. in Franklin. The event supports the Guild's ministry activities.

• At PAC, Live Music Performances continue with Chris Collins & Boulder Canyon – a John Denver Tribute at 7:30 p.m. For tickets go to HighlandsPerformingArts.com

Sat -Sun, June 25 & 26

• Highlands Mountaintop Rotary Art & Craft Show in Kelsey-Hutchinson Park on Pine Street in Highlands from 10a to 5p. Fine art, folk art, crafts and furniture. Dogs are allowed, and food will be available. For info contact coordinator Cynthia Strain at (828) 318-9430 or visit: www.mountaintopshow.com.

June 27-July 1

• Free Kelsey's Kids Camp for ages 11-13. The camp is daily from 9am to 12 noon. You may register your child by calling Highlands Historical Society at 828-787-1050 or emailing tammalowe@gmail.com. Students will learn about the history of the Highlands Plateau and the ways our ancestors lived their lives. Space is limited to 12 participants per week.

Thurs., June 30



142 HWY 107, Cashiers, NC 28717 • 828-482-5011 • Open Year Round

• HIGHLANDS EVENTS •

• Public Hearing for adoption of the Comprehensive Plan at 6 p.m. in the Community Building.

Tues., - Fri., June 28-July 1

• At the Bascom, a class with Larry Moore – Abstraction in Acrylics & Gouache. (Acrylic and gouache painting). For more information call 828.526.4949 or visit thebascom.org

Fri. & Sat., July 1 & 2

• HCCMF 2022 season launches with Three Concertmasters on Friday and Saturday. The regular Concert Series performances are held Fridays and Sundays at the Highlands Performing Arts Center – 507 Chestnut Street; Saturdays and Mondays at the Village Green Commons in Cashiers at 160 Frank Allen Road.

Sat., July 2

• At the Bascom, Community Day, 11 am – 2 pm. A day filled with free art activities for the whole family. In addition to free popcorn, artist demonstrations, and things to make, this year there is a community day picnic. Bring your picnic, a blanket or lawn chairs and enjoy the beautiful Bascom campus, and a storytelling artist. For more information call 828.526.4949 or visit thebascom.org.

• At First Presbyterian Church Lawn, Highlands Bagpipers 4:30-5 p.m.

Sun. July 3

• HCCMF will celebrate Independence Day with American Salute on Sunday at the Highlands Performing Arts Center. This suite will feature selections about America and works by American composers. For more information or to purchase tickets for the season or for individual concerts, call (828) 526-9060, send an email to hccmfnc@gmail.com, or visit h-cmusicfestival.org.

Mon. July 4

• 4TH OF JULY ACTIVITIES will be hosted at the Town Ballfield on Monday: Boy Scouts will be shooting off water rockets starting at 9am. At 11am the Rec Dept. will be hosting traditional field games until noon (Tug a War, 3-legged sack race, water balloon toss and frozen T-Shirt contest). At noon there will be a visit from MAMA the med vac helicopter. Once the helicopter leaves, the Highlands Fire Department will have the ladder truck for the annual spray down. At 2 p.m. the duck derby is at the Bridge at Mill Creek. Also, Rotary will be serving food at Town Ball Field starting at 11am. The annual fireworks show will start about dark on Monday, July 4th.

Sat., July 9

• Low Country Shrimp Boil to benefit K-H Founders Park at the park. Doors open at 5p and Dinner is at 6p. Rain or Shine. \$70/person. Live music. Tickets are available at www.foundersparkhighlands.org and The Dry Sink on Main Street.

Sun.-Sun., July 10-17

• The Village Green 6th biennial Plein Air Festival. Featuring over 20 professional artists painting throughout the community. The art will be displayed in Lewis Hall and the gallery is open to the public (free admission) from Thurs., July 14 - Sun., July 17. A portion of the art sales benefits The Village Green. For a full schedule of events please visit the Easels on the Green website: www.easelsonthegreen.com.

Tues., July 13

• HCCMF presents, in collaboration with OEI, a special concert entitled Martinis & Mozart featuring the Ulysses String Quartet at 5:30p at The Orchard House at Old Edwards Farm. An hors d'oeuvre reception will precede the performance, with a cash bar available. Tickets are \$75 each, for reservations call (828) 526-9060 or emailing hccmfnc@gmail.com.

Highlands Mountaintop Rotary Art & Craft Show June 25 & 26

This is year 17 year for the art & craft show held in K-H Founders Park 10a to 5p Sat. and Sun.

The show has over 80 vendors, and their creations include rustic and fine furniture and other woodcraft, pottery, fabric crafts, leather bags, soaps, blown glass, baby items and much more.

The B.E.A.R. Task Force will have a booth with bear information, and Rotary will be raffling off art and crafts to benefit their charitable causes.

The Scaly Mtn. Women's Club will have homemade chocolates and baked goodies. To top it off, there is live music and kettle corn. There is no admission charge, but donations to Rotary are much appreciated.



These canvas hats and bags are made by Jan Kleinrath.

Celebrate July 4th Weekend

FRIDAY, JULY 1ST

6 – 8:30 p.m.

Outdoor Concert Series
Silly Ridge Trio
Town Square

SATURDAY, JULY 2ND

4:30 – 5:00 p.m.

Highlands Bagpipers
First Presbyterian
Church Lawn

6 – 8:30 p.m.

Outdoor Concert Series
The Swingin' Richards
Founders Park

MONDAY, JULY 4TH

9 a.m. – Noon

Family Fun
Town Ball Field

2 p.m.

Duck Derby
Bridge at Mill Creek

6 – 8:30 p.m.

The Business
Founders Park

~ 9 p.m.

Fireworks!
Downtown Highlands



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108 Main Street
Highlands, NC 28741
828.526.5841

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• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

Surrender ... if only for a moment

Pastor Angie Ballard
Holy Family Lutheran
Church: ELCA

Jesus said to him, "No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God." – Luke 9:62

For the most part, I am the type of person who likes to have some sort of a plan. I like to know, or at the very least, have a pretty good idea, what I am supposed to do, where I am headed, and when and how to get there. This is not to say that I don't like risks because I do, as long as they are risks that I decide to take and can have some kind of choice over. Needless to say, there have been moments, particularly over the past several years, when I have felt less than in charge of my life and a bit anxious about the future.

I think at some level, all of us possess a deep-seated desire to be in control; to maintain some impression of order in a rather chaotic and confusing world. Yet in this passage from Luke, Jesus is clearly not willing to give in; rather, he demands that his mission come before all of our plans, even those that seem most reasonable. But why would Jesus do this? I think it is because we really aren't in control, that it's an illusion. It's true that an earthquake, a tornado, a pandemic, a personal tragedy, or any number of other things may squash our hopes as well as our plans and bring us to devastation. And what does Jesus do? He invites us to let go and give it over to him; even if only for a while.

So perhaps that's the promise of the Gospel – not that we can be in control of every aspect of our lives. Rather that God in Jesus joins us in our out-of-control-ness, holds onto us, and brings us to the other side. It may not always seem like all that much of a promise. I mean, look at all of the time, energy, and money we spend trying to be in control. Yet the world is still a terribly chaotic and unsettling place. So, what if the deepest calling of a Christian disciples isn't to be in control, but rather to give up the illusion, to take some risks, and to throw ourselves into this turbulent life and world God loves so much trusting that God will join us in the adventure?

Maybe, just maybe, that's faith. And when we, like Jesus' first disciples, fall short yet again, then all we can do is give thanks that Jesus will journey with us; taking on our chaotic lot and joining us in our turbulent lives so we may know that absolutely nothing can separate us from the love of God. And that is definitely Good News!

Proverbs 3:5

BLUE VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH

Rev. Oliver Rice. Pastor (706) 782-3965

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. Arlyn 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

Sun. - 9:30am Worship (no music); 10:30am 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

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

Sun.: 9:30am - Adult Sunday School; Worship Service 10:45am;

10:45am Children's Program. Youth-12:15 – 2:30pm Tues:

Women's Bible Study 10am-noon

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

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 Services Chapel: Rite I spoken, 8a. Rite II with Choir in

Sanctuary 10:30a; Morning Prayer Mon-Thurs 8:30a 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

Curtis Fussell & Emily Wilmarth, pastors

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

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• PLACES TO WORSHIP •

John 3:16

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

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909 Bluegrass and 11a Traditional

www.highlandsmethodist.org

HOLY FAMILY LUTHERAN CHURCH: ELCA

Rev. Angie Ballard • 2152 Dillard Road • 526-9741

Worship/Communion: 10:30 All are welcome.

We wear masks and social distance.

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

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Services 2x/month May-Sept.; 1x/month Oct. -April

mountainsynagoguewnc.com.

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

Mass: Wed. noon (Latin); Thurs. noon; Sun. 11a

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

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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.

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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 21. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor or public officials have been used.

June 8

• At 1:11 p.m., officers responded to a 2-vehicle accident on NC 28 at Brushy Face Road.

June 12

• At 2 a.m., officers responded to a 1-vehicle accident on US 64 east at Sherwood Forest.

• At 3:30 p.m., officers responded to a shoplifting call from Potpourri where a silver bracelet valued at \$30 was taken.

June 13

• At 7 a.m., officers received a call about a bear on Oak Lane.

• At 5:42 p.m., officers received a report of a DVPO violation at The Farmers Market at Main and NC 106.

• At 10:15 p.m., Mark Edward Rutter, 45, of Highlands, was arrested for a protective order violation and resisting arrest. He was not issued bond. His trial date is July 7.

June 14

• At 12:40 p.m., officers responded to a 2-vehicle accident on NC 106 and the Highlands Mountain Club.

• At 4 p.m., officers responded to a 2-vehicle accident on US 64 east and Sherwood Forest.

• At 4 p.m., officers responded to a 1-vehicle accident on US 64 east and Sherwood Forest.

June 15

...STR continued from page 14

30 we will have those UDO recommendations for the Planning Board ready for review.”

Given recent legal ramifications, whether the Town Board’s May UDO amendments for STRs will change by July 12 is unclear.

“I say that is the plan, but there is always the possibility of some changes. If the Planning Board needs more time or needs to meet more than once that will be an option for them,” he said. “If the Planning Board fails to provide a recommendation, the public hearing will be continued until Aug. 18.”

Meanwhile, on Friday, June 17, attorneys for SAVE Highlands sent the town a Public Re-

• At 12:55 p.m., officers responded to a 2-vehicle accident on South Street at the Highlands Professional Building.

June 16

• At 1:35 p.m., officers received a report of cyberstalking from a resident on US 64 west.

• At 2:30 p.m., larceny from Highland Hiker was reported where various clothing items valued at \$484 were taken. At 3:50 p.m., officers responded to a shoplifting incident at Cabin Couture where wooden and metal art pieces and a cowhide valued in total at \$1,600 were taken.

• At 3:50 p.m., larceny of metal and wooden items and a cowhide valued at \$738 p.m., officers responded to a 2-vehicle accident on US 64 east and Sherwood Forest.

• At 7:38 p.m., officers responded to a 2-vehicle accident on US 64 east and Sherwood Forest.

June 17

• At 11:53 a.m., officers responded to a call of simple assault on a female at Cabin Couture.

The Highlands Fire & Rescue log from June 10.

June 10

• At 7:30 p.m., the dept. provided public assistance at a location on Main Street.

• At 8:15 p.m., the dept. was on special assignment at Skyline Lodge road.

June 13

• At 2:45 p.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle acci-

dent on Horsecove Road.

• At 5:12 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Satulah Road.

• At 9:29 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Chestnut Hill Dr.

June 14

• At 10:54 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a location on Pierson Drive.

• At 3:46 p.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on N. 4th street.

• At 5:12 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Worley Road.

June 15

• A little past midnight, the dept., was first-responders to a residence on Blue Valley Road.

• At 10:53 p.m., the dept. helped in a search on the Dillard Road.

June 17

• At 9:54 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Log Cabin Lane.

• At 9:13 p.m., the dept. was called about a downed power line on Chestnut Street.

June 18

• At 11:59 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to Glen Falls Road.

• At 12:03 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Hemlock Drive.

June 20

• At 1 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Foreman Road.

He said the town will make an announcement as soon as possible.

– Kim Lewicki

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• BIZ/ORG NEWS •



Highlands School graduate is awarded scholarship from BHHSMMR

Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Meadows Mountain Realty (BHHSMMR) awarded the Leland and Bessie Speed Scholarship to Colton Gibson, son of Gregg Gibson (father, deceased) and Lori (mother) and Mark Rogers (stepfather). Gibson is a recent graduate of Highlands School. The scholarship is a \$5,000 award toward tuition to a post-secondary school of the winner’s choice. This is the second year the scholarship has been awarded by BHHSMMR. Gibson will attend Southwestern Community College in the fall of 2022. He plans to earn a certificate in Welding Technology. The Realtors and staff at BHHS Meadows Mountain Realty are happy to be able to contribute to his success. “We admired that he even applied for the scholarship. He was the only one that took the time to type an autobiographical statement. Essentially, he realizes that his college path is non-traditional, but worthy of education, nonetheless,” said Louise Booth, a member of the BHHSMMR scholarship selection committee. “The world needs welders and people who can work with their hands. He didn’t have time for a lot of sports, but he did attend games to support his fellow students. He worked after school with his stepfather.”

Highlands Sotheby’s International Realty opens Cashiers Sotheby’s International Realty

Regional real estate leader Highlands Sotheby’s International Realty is pleased to announce they have opened a new affiliate office, Cashiers Sotheby’s International Realty, in Cashiers, North Carolina.

The Broker-in-Charge of the new Cashiers location is an experienced and top-producing agent, Rob Whitney. Rob has over 17 years of experience listing and selling homes in the Cashiers, Lake Glenville, Sapphire and Lake Toxaway markets. His knowledge and talents bring the top real estate brand in the world to the doorstep of homeowners seeking local expertise and worldwide exposure.

“In today’s hot real estate mar-

ket, it’s important for our clients to work with knowledgeable and exceptional agents living within the Cashiers community. We are thrilled to bring the Sotheby’s brand to Cashiers,” said Jody Lovell, Broker-Owner of the firm.

Cashiers Sotheby’s International Realty is located at 395 Highway 64 West, Unit D, Cashiers, North Carolina and can be reached at (828) 743.8563.

Highlands Sotheby’s International Realty operates two offices in Highlands, NC and an affiliate office, Cashiers Sotheby’s International Realty, in Cashiers, NC.



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• CLASSIFIEDS •

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DOMESTIC IRONING – Needed In Highlands. Pick up and return when finished. Call Dottie Butler at 941-735-8996. Leave message. (st. 6/19)

MCCULLEY'S IN HIGHLANDS AND CASHIERS is seeking full- and part-time help. Inquire at 828-200-0928. (st. 6/9)

MINISTRY STAFF POSITION AVAILABLE. Highlands United Methodist Church is looking to hire a dedicated, enthusiastic and gifted Christian leader to serve as Director of Children, Youth and Family Ministries. Please contact Rev. Dr. Randy Lucas at randyhumc@icloud.com. (6/23)

SWEETREATS AND HIGHLANDS

DELI IS UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT and is hiring full and part time staff for the season. Competitive starting wage, great tips, and reasonable hours (not too early, not too late). Pick up an application in store at 115 S. 4th Street or apply on Sweettreatshighlands.com. (st. 5/19)

THE DRY SINK IS HIRING! We have several entry level positions open. We are fun, fast-paced, hard working, and we love our customers! If you love to cook or just enjoy helping folks, pop by for an application at 450 Main St. Highlands, or email Sam at shays@thedrysink.com. We are open 7 days a week, 10a-5p Monday-Saturday and 1-5p Sundays. (st. 5/5)

WOLFGANG'S BISTRO is looking for full-time prep and line cook and waitstaff. Evenings only. Call Jacque at 828.526.3807 or email wom2@me.com. (st. 2/17)

HIGHLANDS INN - Now hiring Guest service representatives for all shifts, all days. Part time or Fulltime. We are flexible. Email Resume to : sales@highlandsinnlodge.com, stop by for an application or give us a call at 828-526-5899. (st. 4/14)

COUNSELING CENTER OF HIGHLANDS is seeking additional therapists. Looking for a place where you can build or add to your private practice, provide mental health care to those in need, and be part of a counseling center that is dedicated to the behavioral health needs of all members of the community regardless of ability to pay? Our Center is looking for licensed therapists who share this mission and YOU may be one. If you are interested – or just want to learn more about the Center – let us know by sending an introductory email with your resume to info@

• See CLASSIFIEDS page 22



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HIGHLANDS PHARMACY has full and part-time positions open for a Certified Pharmacy Technician and a clerk/merchandiser. No nights, no Sundays, and great co-workers. Pay and benefits determined by position, qualifications, & experience. Apply in person or contact Sherry Sims 828-526-2366. (st. 4/7)

CHURCH PIANIST NEEDED IN CASHIERS, NC. A church is interested in hiring a capable pianist as worship leader, immediately. High hourly pay. Respond to Molly @ 828-507-5153 or christanglicancashiers@yahoo.com

CHESTNUT HILL OF HIGHLANDS is an Upscale, Small Assisted Living Facility looking for Med Aides, CNA's, Housekeeper and Dietary Staff. You may apply in person at 24 Clubhouse Trail, by Phone at 828-526-5251 or by email to ce.chestnuthill@yahoo.com or lindabtiff@aol.com.

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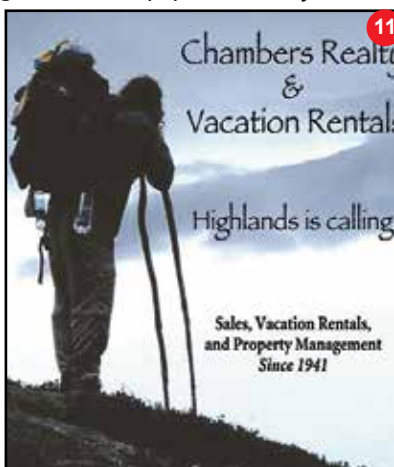
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