

Highlands Newspaper

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Thurs..., July 18, 2024

Failure at Duke substation is reason for Saturday's in-town outages

By Kim Lewicki

A breakdown at the Duke substation in Highlands mid-morning Saturday, July 13 caused

about a 10-hour power outage and then short-lived outages Saturday and Sunday evenings.

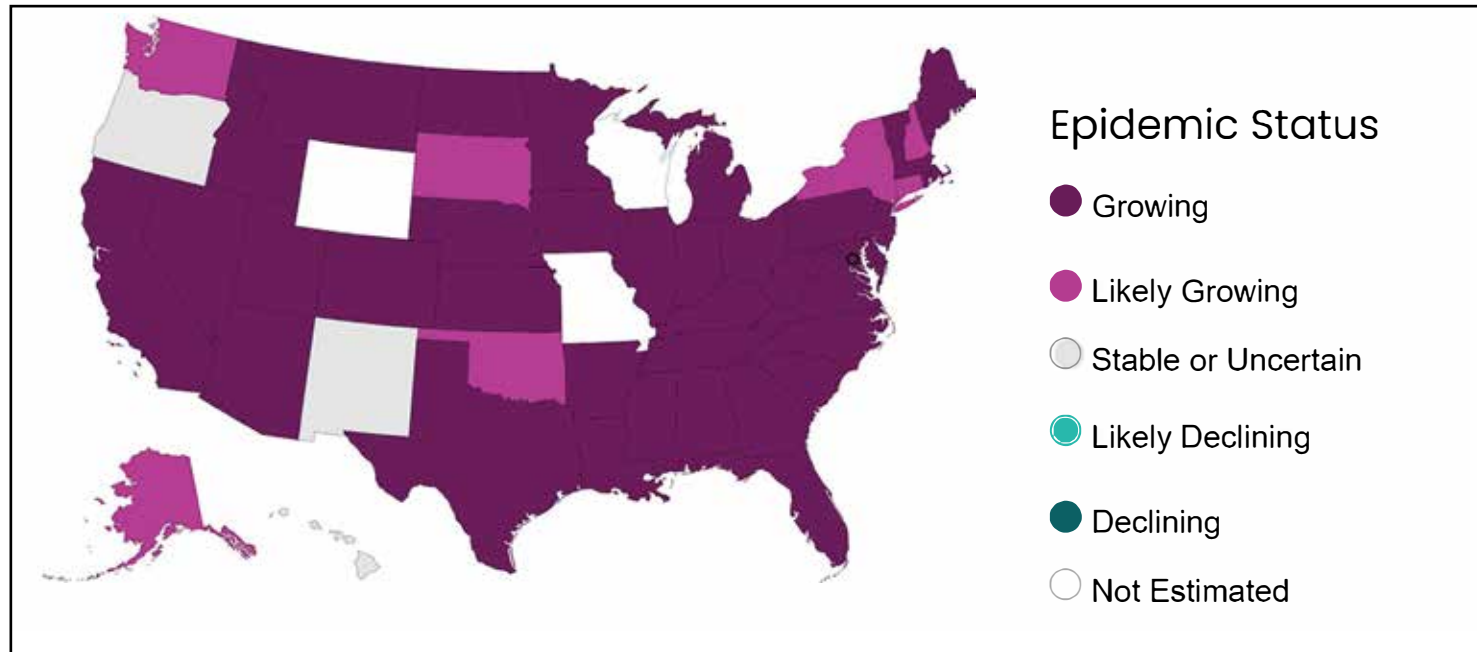
Not all of Highlands was

without power for those initial 10 hours – from about 11 am to 8 pm - but one of the two quadrants,

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Public speaks out against changes to 3 MC ordinances

By Kristin Fox

Proposed changes to three of Macon County's ordinances drew a larger than normal crowd at the recent July meeting of the Macon County Board of Commissioners. Since the crowd exceeded the room capacity for the commissioners' boardroom, the meeting was moved upstairs to a courtroom as required by the fire code.

The July meeting included proposed changes presented during three separate public hearings for the Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control Ordinance, Watershed Protection Ordinance and Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance. During public comment, citizens were given three minutes to speak on the proposed changes to each ordinance.

Most citizens who spoke expressed their opposition to the adoption of the proposed changes

• See **COVID** page 10

• See **ORDINANCES** page 15

COVID: Summer bump in cases is nationwide

North Carolina, Highlands and Cashiers have not been immune

By Kim Lewicki

COVID is making the rounds this summer with youth camps and private events in Highlands cancelled, though there isn't an uptick in hospitalizations at HC Hospital.

"Highlands-Cashiers Hospital has no patients hospitalized with COVID as of Tuesday," said Nancy Lindell with Mission Public and Media Relations.

But people in town have it, nonetheless.

This time around, thanks to the number of people inoculated, the cases and symptoms are typically milder but regardless, like Highlands Pharmacy owner Sherry Sims says, "It's not going away. It's here to stay."

"We are seeing a spike because this is our highest populated season with people here from everywhere," she said.

Sims said people are buying at-home test kits as well as cold

• See **COVID** page 10

• See **ORDINANCES** page 15

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• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• MAYOR ON DUTY •

Water guns are not the answer but ...

A recent editorial in one of our local newspapers asked how many tourists Highlands can handle in a given period of time. Other cities across the globe are asking similar questions. In Barcelona, Spain, organized groups are now confronting tourists by squirting them with water guns and telling them to go home. Residents there are revolting against mass tourism. While I certainly do not wish to see such a situation in Highlands, the question posed by the local editorial does have merit.



Highlands Mayor
Patrick Taylor

Highlands has assets and factors that make this community highly desirable for transient tourists and people looking for permanent residences. I have, and still contend, that we are not just a tourist town; rather, Highlands has a long history of also being a retreat community. These days, with access to airports and unlimited broadband, people have the option of working from anywhere, even in remote Highlands. I am very much supportive of more full-time or transitional residents locating in our community. These

residents are the backbone of the community.

Climate change will continue to drive people, whether tourists or those seeking permanent or transitory residence, to the Highlands Plateau. Just this month, places across the country have experienced days averaging 100 degrees or more, but Highlands remained in the low 80s. If this temperature differential remains, folks will retreat to the plateau to escape the extreme heat. Even

now we are already experiencing a super-residential building boom, where houses are going up in cost by millions of dollars.

A chart recently produced by Smoky Mountain Host Network is revealing about why visitors come to Western North Carolina. Festivals, dining, and local shopping have seen modest increases in attracting visitors in the 13% range. The huge increases have been in tourists seeking to visit towns, outdoor recreation like fishing and biking at 66.7%, visiting historic sites at 46.7%, and, unfortunately, in my opinion, motorcycle riding at 66.7%. The two biggest attractors are hiking 73.3% and nature viewing 100%. All this data informs me that Highlands is strategically positioned to be a tourist destination and a place to retreat to and relocate permanently—all good news.

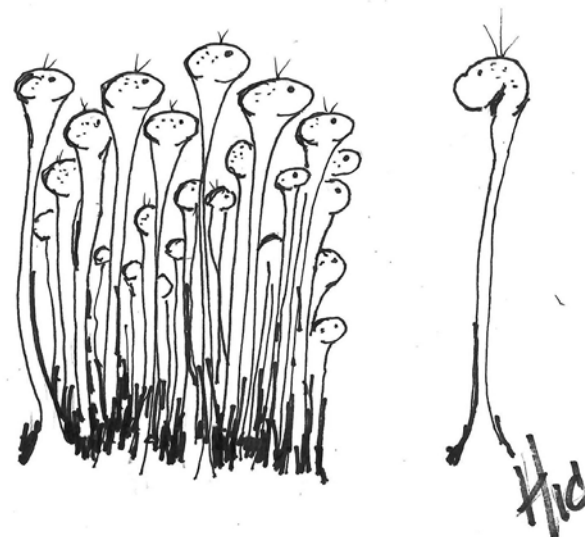
But I also see challenges that go back to the recent editorial about how much tourism the community can handle. The traditional economic model is based on an ever-expanding market where more and more is better. But in the tourist industry that expansive model has drawbacks, as witnessed in

Barcelona. Residents there contend cost of housing and living expenses are driving local residents out of the city, not to mention other concerns about quality of life. We see some of these impacts affecting the plateau, with housing costs off the charts to where any plan to provide workforce housing is becoming very problematic. Traffic too is increasing.

I see limitations on infrastructure capacity to handle more and more tourists and, to some degree, more permanent residents. Being surrounded by the national forest attracts visitors wanting to view nature and hike, but it also limits land available for expansion.

I attended a transportation planning meeting this past week with regional, county,

• HIC'S VIEW •



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Bonnie Potts, and Rotary President Randy Foster.

This week at the Rotary Club of Highlands, the club heard from Rotarian Bonnie Potts, executive director of the Literacy and Learning Center of Highlands. Under Bonnie's direction, the Center has grown exponentially in its scope and accomplishments. The new big push is to get a NC certified Pre-K program open in Highlands by the beginning of this school

year starting with 18 children. The Center already has many programs benefitting Highlands such as GED (High School Equivalency), English as Second Language, Senior Book Exchange, and more. Always in need of tutors and volunteers, reach out to the Literacy and Learning Center to see how you can help. Call 828-526-0863.

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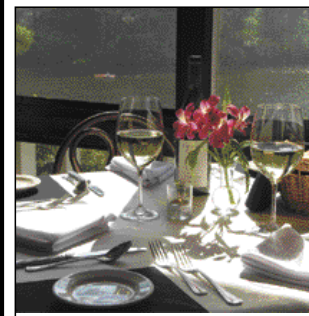


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Grat L. Rosazza



Grat L. Rosazza, native of Bedford, VA, passed away in Highlands, NC on June 28, 2024. He was 97 years old. He is survived by his wife, Diane M. Rosazza and daughter, Christa Annesi.

Also surviving are his sister, Edley R. Updike and a special cousin and friend, Thomas “Ikey” Rosazza.

He was predeceased by his parents, Grat Rosazza and Berta Jones Rosazza, his sisters, Ellen R. Quarles, Estelle R. Gray, and Laura R. Ayres, and daughter, Nicole Annesi.

Grat graduated from Lynchburg College with a degree in music and religious education. He served in the U.S. Army in the Chaplain Corp. He later received his Masters in Music from Westminster Choir College, in Princeton, NJ. He served as Minister of Music in several churches.

He was an avid tennis player throughout his life and used his skills as an instructor and pro at a Highlands country club.

He has directed a number of choral groups in Florida and in Highlands. Some of these choral members will be singing at the memorial service. If any members of past groups wish to sing, please contact Mary Beth Brody for a link to the music. The memorial service will be held at the Church of the Incarnation in Highlands on July 20, 2024 at 11 AM with a reception to follow.

• OBITUARIES •

Rickey David Talley



Rickey David Talley, age 62, husband of Reba Blackwell Talley, went home to be with the Lord on Wednesday July 10, 2024.

He is now rejoined with his son, DJ Madison Talley; grandparents, Arthur Madison Talley “Deck” and Myrtle Estelle Talley; and Rev. David Wilson.

He is survived by his loving wife, Reba; two sons, David Talley (Marina) and Richard Talley (Tina); three grandchildren, Madison, Justin, and Ryder; mom/grammy, Naomi Chastain; dad, Joe Talley (Sue); stepdad, Jack Marcus; half-brothers, Joe Wayne Talley, Barry Marcus, and Mark Marcus; along with several claimed children.

A funeral service was held Wednesday, July 17th at 1pm at Clear Creek Baptist Church in Highlands. Burial was in the church cemetery.

Pallbearers were Richard Talley, David Talley, Mike Shaw, Taylor Lee, Logan Orr, and Billy Higdon. Honorary pallbearers were Wesley Thomas, Bradley Blackwell, Robbie McCall, Casey Barnes, and Michael Keener.

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

• LETTERS •

Legacy

Dear Editor,

I want to thank all the people who take care of their neighbors in Highlands and elsewhere. That is what my mother taught me; we must be kind to our guests. She lived 93 years, was born and raised in Highlands and was a true native, there are very few of her generation left. All have left their legacy and I want to thank those “old timers” for their contributions through the hard times.

Another person who left a legacy was Art and Angela Williams; they had the vision and invested millions in creating many jobs and investment properties.

He has now left it with a younger generation, who (I hope) will have new ideas and keep improving.

But, it's a different kind of legacy that will be left by those town officials and those in the community who want to change things and create and enforce their agendas, and those who will leave a path of destruction causing loss of



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Are you one of the lucky ones?

If you are somebody that calls the Highlands or Cashiers home (even if it's your part-time home), you are one of the lucky ones. I was recently reflecting on the blessing I was given when my parents moved us here in 1986. I don't know how the stars aligned to bring us to Highlands all those years ago, but I know it was part of a bigger plan. That plan included the gift of growing up in a place that allowed me to become the person I am today. It has since provided the incredible blessing of raising my own two boys here where I have a true village to support me in that endeavor.



Tricia Cox, VP
Berkshire Hathaway
HomeServices Meadows
Mountain Realty
828-526-1717
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size fosters a sense of connection that's palpable as you stroll down Main Street. Shop and restaurant owners often greet customers by name, and it's not uncommon to bump into friends in the grocery store or at the park. In fact, it's remarkable when you go somewhere and you don't see someone you know!

Living in Highlands means embracing a lifestyle that values community, nature, and quality of life. It's a place where you can escape the hustle and bustle of city life without sacrificing cultural amenities or modern conveniences ... well Target,

you will sacrifice being near a Target! Whether you're looking for a permanent residence or a vacation home, Highlands offers a chance to be part of something special – a community that truly cares for its own.

For those considering making the Platteau their home, the real estate landscape offers a diverse range of options. From cozy mountain cabins to elegant estates, there's something to suit various tastes and budgets. Many properties offer stunning mountain views, while others are situated in the woods, providing a sense of privacy and connection with nature.

I moved back to Highlands a little over 15 years ago after a career in Information Technology that took me from Atlanta to New York with a great deal of travel all over the place during that time. When people know this about me, they often ask if I am happy being back in this small mountain town. My answer is always the same and it is very simple: I love my bubble!

Highlands is exactly that; it is a small bubble that feels almost insulated from the outside world. That is not to say that we don't have our share of small-town politics and disagreements about things ... look no further than the fight over short-term rentals for a case in point. However, Highlands is a community like no other, and that is our secret. Although it's a secret that has spread like wildfire over the past decade or so!

I heard one long-time resident put it this way, "In Highlands, you're not just buying a house; you're becoming part of a family." And in today's world, that might just be the most valuable real estate of all.

• Tricia Cox is Vice President of Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Meadows Mountain Realty and is Broker In Charge of their office in Cashiers. She can be reached at 828-526-1717 or tricia@bhhsmmr.com

In Highlands, and really this extends to Cashiers, neighbors aren't just people who live next door; they're friends who look out for one another. The town's small

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...LETTERS continued from page 7

jobs and businesses and higher taxes.

It is my opinion that any elected official, from the local level to the top of our government, should have term limits. There are town officials who have been on the board for years and should step aside and let the younger generation improve what they will not. Remember the line "make us mindful of the needs of others."

What legacy will you leave in this community?

Tucker Chambers
Highlands

The Democrat Party needs to be destroyed

Dear Editor,

Millions of people tuned in to the debate between President Biden and former President Donald Trump on 27 June. What did we see? No one could deny that we saw a president clearly diminished cognitively. There were many who were not surprised because they had not insulated themselves in a bubble of denial spun by the likes of the (hopefully) not much longer mainstream media, those who had been going on about how Joe Biden was "sharp as a tack."

What we also saw was the rank dishonesty of the media. After years of downplaying any reports or videos of his decline, attacking them as partisan hits or disinformation or cheap fakes, are we to believe that they were suddenly taken by surprise as, undoubtedly, those who consumed their product were? Oh no, they knew! The Democrat party knew. The press was their Praetorian Guard and they thought they could get away with it and drag feeble Joe across the finish line. However, they got caught, and at a very inconvenient time. It may be that they are stuck with Kamala Harris to replace him which is poetic justice for having her as a DEI selection in the first place.

What are thinking people to do with this knowledge? Even in

the best of times we should not accept "The Big Con" as a proper way of governing, but, having volatility around the globe we can even less afford to indulge those who treat us as fools.

The Democrat party has been described by David Sacks as a collection of interests whose goal is to stay in power in order to loot the republic by rewarding favored constituencies with government largesse while being protected by their lackeys in the media.

The Democrat party is anything but, and needs to be thoroughly repudiated at the polls. If Donald Trump wins, it should be accepted, unlike what happened in 2016. This is what happens in a real democracy, not "Our Democracy" which is code for one-party Democrat rule in perpetuity. The party needs to be destroyed in order to save it. Maybe out of the shattered remnants a sane party in opposition to the Republicans can emerge. It is not healthy for extended one-party rule due to the unfortunate corruption of human nature. Democrats, take your lumps, learn to lose gracefully, and purge the radical, hateful and mentally ill elements and let them go their own way and get the help they need. We will all be better off for it.

David Parker
Sylva

Who's Ruth?

Dear Editor,

Earlier this week I was checking out in a store when the cashier asked me "who's Ruth?" I was a little puzzled until I realized I had on my T-shirt that says VOTE, tell them Ruth sent you. "Are you Ruth?" she asked?

"Oh, Ruth Ginsberg", I replied. She shook her head. Being really taken aback I said, "You know, Ruth Ginsberg, a Supreme Court justice?" The woman just gave me a blank look, so I began to explain who Ruth Bader Ginsberg was thinking it would jog her memory. Nothing. Shocked, I left, telling her I would bring some information the next time I came in. This conversation has popped into my mind repeatedly over the last few days.

The Supreme Court has made monumental decisions this year which will affect our country in untold ways, the most recent of which is to give the President total immunity for "official" acts. What official, versus private, acts are was left undefined. Will it have to be defined case by case? By the court system, up to and including the Supreme Court? I am not sure. Neither is anyone else apparently. But trying to hold a president of this country accountable for his actions will become incredibly more difficult if not impossible.

Another power that has been bestowed on the presidency by their decision includes the power to pardon anyone without question. Also, the power of complete control of the executive branch, meaning the justice department cannot operate independently. For example, when the president demands someone be prosecuted, or not prosecuted, there will be no push back. An earlier decision gives all elected officials the right to take bribes, excuse me, gifts, if they are after the fact. You do me a favor, perhaps illegal, I do you the favor of pardoning you. I do you a favor, perhaps pardoning your son for a crime he committed, you give me an elaborate gift as a thank you. If your gift giving ability is limited, oh well, that's what jails are for.

Every day of the last two weeks it seems that decisions have been made by the court of last resort that will negatively impact the federal government, keeping it from doing its job. It would take too much space to enumerate them here. I know everyone doesn't follow political news the way we do in my house, but what the court is doing isn't justice. It's taking an axe to the constitution and the rule of law as it applies to each of us in this country. It's creating law rather than adjudicating it and delivering justice as a gift for the few at the expense of the many. It is undermining our democracy. Hopefully it will wake up the many to at least question what the few will do with these gifts of power. Reading Project 2025, a plan created by the conservative think tank known as the Heritage Foundation would be a place to

• See LETTERS page 10

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**...LETTERS continued
from page 9**

begin that questioning.

I wear my T-shirt because I hope it might make a few people think about not only who but what they are voting for, hoping Ruth Ginsberg will serve as an inspiration. However, based on my experience yesterday I wonder about the education, or the curiosity, of our electorate. Because one cannot vote without basic knowledge, based on truth, and a curiosity about what candidates hope do you with your vote. The right to vote is based on that kind of citizen engagement. The constitution granted the power to us, the people, and not to the court to give it to the presidency. Time to use it.

**Margaret Pickett
Highlands**

**Certain Town Board
members are selfish
and naive**

Dear Editor,

I want to thank Pat Gleeson for his Investing at 4,118 Ft. column in the July 4 edition entitled "Some long-term thoughts on short-term rentals," Finally, a business person gets the STR debate.

Unlike some of the closed-minded Town Board people he understands what shutting down STRs in Highlands will mean to the economy.

The people in charge, including the planning board, must look hard at how many people will lose their jobs. There will be a lot of house cleaners, wait staff, and store clerks who will have to move or find other jobs. Can the restaurants stay open 5-6 nights a week with no renters? Do Highlands citizens go to Wolfgangs, Madison's, Lakeside and others once a week? I doubt it.

One Town Board member is being very selfish by not wanting to share the beauty of the area with other people. As stated at the last Town Board meeting the number of STRs will only decrease. There's less than 200 now.

If there is a problem with noise, call the police. They've already stated they've had NO calls to check on renters but several to check on Highlands citizens.

**Carol Sandlin
Highlands**

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**...COVID continued
from page 1**

and flu medicine.

One of the popular Nature Center camps scheduled for July 9-12, "Appalachian Investigators: Secrets of the Earth" was cancelled due to confirmed COVID cases among the staff. However, the last camp of the summer, "Appalachian Investigators: Wonderous Waters" set for July 30-Aug. 2 is open. To register, go to <https://highlandsbiological.org/2024naturecamps/>.

Meanwhile, COVID levels have jumped significantly in wastewater across the nation, an indication that the summer bump is continuing to grow.

National virus measurements in sewage reached "high" levels for the first time this summer, according to estimates released Friday by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. COVID-19 is growing or probably growing in 44 states and in the nation's capital, the agency reported.

"As of July 9, we estimate that COVID-19 infections are growing or likely growing in 45 states and territories, declining or likely declining in 0 states and territories, and are stable or uncertain in three states and territories," it said.

In North Carolina the epidemic status is growing like most other states in the union.

The new series of COVID variants, nicknamed the "FLiRT" variants, are dominating across the U.S., according to data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The variants, identified as KP.1.1, KP.3 and KP.2, collectively make up more than

• See COVID page 22

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• INK PENN •

Crime-Solving sleuths in England



Kathy Manos Penn

It's no secret that I adore mysteries set in the UK. Make it a cozy mystery with a strong female lead, and I'm set. If an author wants to hook me for life, setting it during World War I, between the wars, or in the midst of World War II will do the trick. This week's books fit the bill.

Murder by Invitation Only

by Colleen Cambridge

The third book in the Phyllida Bright Mystery series is every bit as good as its predecessors, and I'm eagerly awaiting the fourth due out in October. Set between the World Wars in a country house in England, it is both charming and intriguing.

Phyllida is Agatha Christie's housekeeper, and in the earlier books, we learn that she and Agatha have a past. What it is exactly is leaked to us as the series goes on. I'm sure that keeping Phyllida's back story vague is part of what keeps readers coming back for more. But that's not all. Every book is peppered with witty dialogue and multiple allusions to Agatha Christie's books and plots.

In this outing, Agatha, and her husband Max Mallowan receive an invitation to a murder party but are in London. Intrigued, Agatha sends Phyllida. Of course, there is a murder at the murder party.

Once again, Phyllida emulates her favorite detective, Poirot, as she ferrets out the clues that will reveal the murderer. If you haven't met Phyllida Bright yet, I highly recommend you do so soon.

What does one of my other favorite authors have to say about her? "Phyllida Bright, housekeeper to Agatha Christie, has the crime-solving skills to rival her employer's famous detectives . . . Utterly delightful."

Locked in Pursuit

by Ashley Weaver

The quote about Phyllida Bright comes from this author of the Electra McDonnell series, another of my favorites. This mystery, set in England during World War II, has another strong female protagonist, but Ellie is no housekeeper. She's a safecracker, roped into working for Major Ramsey to thwart the Nazis at every turn. Of course, both she and the major are good looking and single, but their backgrounds couldn't be more different. He's a nobleman. She's carrying on the family tradition of thievery.

In this fourth installment, they discover an odd rash of burglaries in London, and soon figure out that the crimes have their origin in Lisbon. Spies are in search of something more important than jewels.

Solving the crime is the main plot, of course, but the subplots are what keep me coming back. There's the chemistry between Ellie and

the Major, something they fight hard not to give into it. There's Felix, the family friend who's clearly in love with her. There's her quest to find out more about her mother and father. In each book, these storylines evolve and intertwine.

Unfortunately for me, this fourth book came out in May, which means I'll have to wait until 2025 for my next fix. I'm hearing that Carly Simon song, "Anticipation," as I think about waiting a whole year.

Happy reading!

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

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HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS

SUMMER POOL SCHEDULE

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

PICKLE BALL

• At the Recreation Dept. every Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday 10am-1pm indoors for the winter (notice the days and time has changed), everyone is welcome meetings

ALL WEEK

• Alcoholics Anonymous: "Open Meetings" are for anyone who thinks they may have a drinking problem or for anyone interested in the A.A. program of recovery. Highlands Mountain View Group holds open meetings in Highlands at the First Presbyterian Church, 471 Main St., on Monday at 5:30 PM and Wednesday and Friday at noon. The Cashiers Valley Group holds open meetings at the Albert Carlton Cashiers Community Library Monday at 8:30 AM, Tuesday at 7 PM, Friday and Sunday at 5 PM, and Saturday at 9 AM. For more information, please visit www.aawnc80.org or to speak

with a member of AA 24/7 at 828-349-4357.

SUNDAYS AND TUESDAYS

• Movies at the Martin Lipscomb Performing Arts Center at PAC on Chestnut Street 5:30pm Sundays and 2pm and 5:30pm. on Tuesdays.

ON-GOING

• At Hudson Library, Readers from 0 to 99 will have adventures this summer as Hudson Library presents "Adventure Begins at Your Library" summer learning program. The 2024 Summer Learning Program is free to all participants and starts June 1. No registration is needed for any of these programs. For more information about any of these summer activities, contact Hudson Library at 828-526-3031, or stop by the library during open hours.

Mountain Findings Hours: May:

• Fri. and Sat. 10a to 1p. **June:** Thurs.-Sat., 10a to 1p.

Mon.-Fri.

• Nantahala Tennis plays at the Highlands Rec Park 9a-1p.

Mon-Wed-Fri

• Aerobics with Tina Rogers 8-9am at the Rec Park.

• Heart Healthy Exercise Class at the Rec Park 8:30-9:30am. The cost for the class is \$25 a month. The class

is led by Cathy Hodgson. Contact the Recreation Department at 828-526-3556 for more information.

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

• Indivisible Highlands from 5:15-6:15pm at the Hudson Library Meeting Room.

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 at the Rec Park 8:15-9:15 am. Aim for strong, lean muscles using light weights, body weight, and high repetition to shape and tone. Learn proper form and range of motion to safely target all muscle groups for a metabolic boost and feel great.

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

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

• ESL classes are held at the Presbyterian Church in Highlands from 6:30-7:30pm. No registration required – just show up and participate. Questions? call 828-526-0863 or email info@maconncliteracy.org

3rd Tuesdays

• Free Community Stretch & Yoga in the Park Summer Series, sponsored by the Highlands Chamber of Commerce-Visit Highlands NC, will be offered by Certified Instructors/ Yoga Highlands on the 3rd Tuesday of the month @ 6pm beginning May 21. Please bring a mat and water, dress comfortably, and let's celebrate health and relaxation. No experience necessary! (next dates: 6/18, 7/16 and 8/20)

2nd Wednesdays

• Hudson Library, in partnership with VAYA Health, is hosting an educational series on adult mental health topics, held on the first Wednesday of each month at 11 AM. This series is aimed particularly at older adults and will focus on mental health topics of particular interest to them, but all ages are welcome to attend. The November 1 program is Dementia: A Deeper Understanding. Reservations are required for this free event. To register, stop by the library or call 828-526-3031.

2nd & 4th Wed.

• Digital Navigators will be at the Hudson Library the second and fourth Wednesdays 1PM - 3PM of each month to help patrons with their tech needs. Bring a smartphone, laptop, or other digital device to receive free assistance and support. No appointments are required - all are welcome.

• Pickle Ball inside and outside at the Rec Park. 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-6p.

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

Thursdays

• Kickboxing 8:15-9:15 am. at the Rec Park. An exhilarating and fun mix of martial arts for a calorie-burning workout. No martial arts background necessary. Contact the Recreation Department at 828-526-3556 for more info.

• At Hudson Library, Family Storytime continues during the summer, every Thursday morning at 10:40 AM. We'll read books, sing fun songs, and move with the music.

• At Hudson Library, special children's events will be on tap on Thursday afternoons at 3:30 Kids Zone programs. June 6 features Aquatic Insects, an EcoSplash program presented by Mainspring Conservation Trust. Kids will have the chance to learn all about the macro invertebrates in our local rivers, getting hands-on with them and also viewing them through a digital microscope.

• Highlands Biological Foundation's Zahner lectures is held at the Highlands Nature Center (930 Horse Cove Road) on Thursdays at

6:00 p.m. through August 15. To preview HBF's full Zahner lecture lineup, please visit highlandsbiological.org. The Highlands Nature Center is part of the Highlands Biological Station, a multi-campus center of Western Carolina University.

Fridays

• At Hudson Library, Friday afternoons at 2 PM, there's a variety of children's programs including board games, STEM programs, and craft afternoons. The June 7 STEM program will feature a variety of building sets, including some that are brand-new to our library collection. Kids will love seeing what they can create!

Saturdays

• Story Ballet - a gentle ballet & creative movement class for Children 3-4. The flow of class follows a story or theme that changes each month, engaging imaginations! Saturday 5:30-6:30pm. 828-421-6720

• Adult Ballet - crafted for beginners, but mindfully taught for all levels. Ballet is an excellent way to move, grow stronger, improve balance, flexibility and coordination while having fun. 6:30-7:30pm. 828-421-6720.

2nd Saturdays

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

3rd Saturdays

• The American Legion Post 370 meets at the First Methodist Church at 315 Main St. in their community room/909 chapel. We serve breakfast at 9 AM and hold our monthly meeting at 10 AM. We invite ALL veterans to attend - email ncpost370@gmail.com for more information or just join us at 9 AM on the 3rd Saturday of the month.

Sundays

• Church in the Wildwood, Horse Cove RD, Highlands. Sunday 7-8 p.m. traditional hymn-sing. Call or text Gwyn Hardin for information or directions. 919-523-7067. All are welcome.

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

Thurs., July 18

• HC Chamber Music Festival will present a free family/children's

Sip, Snip and Support! A Fundraiser for the Highlands Child Development Center

September 18 at 4 PM
Church of the Incarnation

Flower Arranging Demonstration and Childcare Celebration

Levels of Support

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Together, we can help children blossom!

HCCDC is designated as a Four-Star Center by the State of NC based on the quality of its programs and the educational credentials of the staff and class size.



• HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

concert and performance entitled "Paddington Bear's First Concert" and "The Three Little Pigs" at 3pm on Thursday, July 18 at Highlands First Presbyterian Church.

Fri., & Sat., July 19 & 20

• At M&CO. on Dillard Road, "Ladies Day" Fine and Estate Jewelry Sale 11a to 5p.

Fri., July 19

• Friday Night Live on Main Street's Town Square 6-8:30 p.m. – Leadfoot Lily

Sat., July 20

• Greenway workday and lunch at 4118. The workday will be from 9a to noon. Lunch at 4118 following the workday. The focus will be on trail maintenance. Meet at the large upper parking lot behind the Recreation Center at 9 AM for a brief orientation session, and you will be furnished with the necessary tools and equipment.

• Saturdays on Pine at Kelsey-Hutchinson Founders Park 6-8:30 p.m. – LazrLuvr

July 23-27

• At CK Swan on N.4th St., a Clara Williams trunk show

Tues., July 23

• Movie at Hudson Library at 2 PM. Watch a stirring WWII drama in which Sir Nicholas 'Nicky' Winton, a young London broker, rescues over 600 children from Nazi-occupied Czechoslovakia in the months leading up to World War II.

Wed., July 24

• Sky Valley Garden Club Art & Crafts show 10a to 2p inside the Sky Valley Country Club in Sky Valley, GA, and is open to the public.

• The Interlude series which is sponsored by First Presbyterian Church continues with a concert at 2pm on Wednesday with a performance by the Trey Clegg Chamber Singers.

Wed., July 24

• Glenville and Tampa resident Nancy Turner will be signing copies of her books at the Highland Hiker in Cashiers (743-1732) on Wednesday from 2 to 4 pm, with refreshments.

Thurs., July 25

• Glenville and Tampa resident Nancy Turner will be signing copies of her books at the Highland Hiker in Highlands (526-5298) on Saturday from 2 to 4 pm, with refreshments.

• At Hudson Library, "Finding Fish" EcoSplash program with Alex from Mainspring Conservation Trust. Kids will learn about the fish

in local waters, catching them and will be viewing through a digital microscope.

• The North Carolina Baroque Orchestra will perform in a 5pm concert at Highlands First Presbyterian Church.

• Bingo fundraiser for The Scaly Mountain Womens Club 6:30-8:30p in the Highlands Community Building by the ballfield.

• The Highlands Biological Foundation (HBF) next installment of their Zahner Conservation Lecture Series. Join HBF at the Highlands Nature Center on Thursday, at 6 PM for an engaging and informative talk. The lecture, titled "Climate-informed Forestry in the Southern Appalachians," will feature Adam Warwick, the Southern Blue Ridge Stewardship Manager for The Nature Conservancy. A small reception will follow..

Fri. & Sat., July 26 & 27

• At The Bascom, 13th annual Pottery Show and Sale 10am - 4pm.

Fri., July 26

• At Hudson Library, Community Coffee with the mayor at 11 AM in the Meeting Room.. The topic will be: "Town Parks: Past, Present and the Future with Hank Ross and Friends of Founders Park."

• Friday Night Live showcase on Main Street's Town Square 6-8:30 p.m. – Kettle

Sun., July 28

• The Barak Norton Heritage Association cordially invites all descendants and friends of Barak Norton to the annual family reunion on Sunday. This year marks the 154th anniversary of the family reunion started in 1872! The meeting begins at 11:30 a.m. at the Historic Whiteside Cove School House located at 4601 Whiteside Cove Road, Highlands NC. Bring your favorite dish to share and join us for a day of music, stories, food, and fellowship as we celebrate our mountain heritage.

Tues July 30

• A HCLT Community Reads: Braiding Sweetgrass Section 4 - Braiding Sweetgrass (Chapters 18-25) noon to 2p. Albert-Carlton Community Library, 249 Frank Allen Rd, Cashiers

Wed., July 31

• A HCLT Community Reads: Braiding Sweetgrass Section 4 - Braiding Sweetgrass (Chapters 18-25) 10a – noon. Hudson Library, 554 Main St, Highlands. Where: Hudson Library, 554 Main St, Highlands, NC 28741

• Village Nature Series Presents: Restoring Landscapes with John Lane, 5:30-6:30p at Lewis Hall at The Village Green 160 Frank Allen Rd, Cashiers. Free and open to all.

Thurs. Aug. 1

• At The Bascom, The Aaron Shearer Foundaton Summer Guitar-fest 7 p.m., cash bar opens at 6:15 p.m.

Fri., Aug. 2

• At The Bascom, Artist Talk with TJ Erdahl and Beau Raymond from 4:30-6p.

• Friday Night Live in Town Square 6-8:30 p.m. – Ezra & Katie

Sat., Aug. 3

• Pop-Up Bagpipers are scheduled from 4:30 p.m. to 5 p.m.

• Saturdays on Pine at Kelsey-Hutchinson Founders Park 6-8:30 p.m. – The Holiday Band

Mon., Aug. 5

• High Mountain Squares is sponsoring a new class for beginning students beginning Monday. The classes will be taught by Keith Lester, caller and instructor, from 6:30-8:30pm at the Robert C. Carpenter Community Building on Highway 441, Franklin, NC. The first two of 12 classes are free; the remaining ten classes are \$50 per person. For more info call Betty at 828-787-2324 or Bob at 828-332-0001.

Thurs., Aug. 8

• At The Bascom, Artist talk with TJ Erdahl and Beau Raymond 4 pm

Fri., Aug. 9

• Friday Night Live showcases traditional mountain music and exceptional local talent on Main Street's Town Square 6-8:30 p.m. – ABC Combo

Sat., Aug. 10

• Saturdays on Pine at Kelsey-Hutchinson Founders Park 6-8:30 p.m. – Will Thompson Band

Fri., Aug. 16

• Friday Night Live showcases traditional mountain music and exceptional local talent on Main Street's Town Square 6-8:30 p.m. – Steady Hand String Band

Sat., Aug. 17

• At The Bascom, Blacksmithing Trunk Show 1-5 p.m.

Thurs.-Sun., Aug. 22-25

• At PAC, Highlands Community Players presents "The Lifespan of a Fact" at 7:30p and 2p on Sunday. For tickets go to: www.highlandscashiersplayers.com or call 828-526-9047.

Thurs., Aug. 22

• Highlands School Orientation./Open House is 3-6 pm • At

• The Bascom, From the Lowlands to the Highlands Exhibition Reception 5-6:30 pm

Fri., Aug. 23

• Friday Night Live on Main Street's Town Square 6-8:30 p.m. – Southern Highland Band

Sat. & Sun., Aug. 24-25

• Art and Craft Show in KH Founders Park on Pine Street. 10a to 5p Saturday and 10a to 4p on Sunday. Rain or shine.

Sun., Aug. 25

• OEI's Chef Dinners at The Farm. 3RD ANNUAL SUNDAY SUPPER. Book Online at OldEdwardshospitality.com/ChefDinners

Thurs.-Sun., Aug. 29-Sept. 1

• At PAC, Highlands Community Players presents "The Lifespan of a Fact" at 7:30p and 2p on Sunday. For tickets go to: www.highlandscashiersplayers.com or call 828-526-9047.

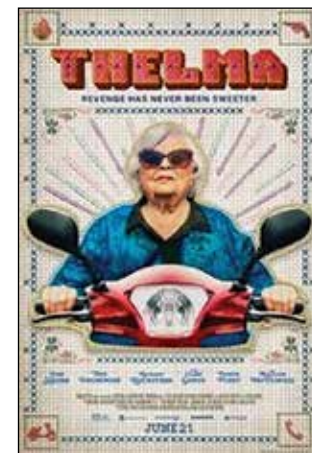
Fri., Aug. 30

• Friday Night Live on Main Street's Town Square 6-8:30 p.m. – Spare Parts Bluegrass Band

MOVIES

at PAC's MLPC

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Sun., July 21 at 5:30p

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HIGHLANDS

NORTH CAROLINA

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Join us for our July 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

JULY 5
Nitrograss

JULY 12
Silly Ridge

JULY 19
Leadfoot Lilly

JULY 26
Kettle

Saturdays on Pine

Kelsey-Hutchinson Founders Park
Pine St.

Featuring a variety of popular, regional bands and musicians

JULY 6
Blaze the City

JULY 13
Dive Bar Divas

JULY 20
Lazluvr

JULY 27
The Breakfast Club



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...MAYOR continued from page 2

and NCDOT officials. The group prioritized road and transportation needs in Macon County.

While the bridge at Middle Creek on NC 106 is about to be replaced, and the C. Tom Bryson bridge on US 64 will eventually be replaced, there are no plans for road widening or new roads on the plateau for the foreseeable future. In fact, roads like the Gorge Road cannot be widened.

One DOT engineer told me that the peak-period traffic load is so heavy on US 64 between Highlands and Cashiers that it rivals any tourist corridor in WNC. The environmental impact of widening that road would be shocking and, in the engineer's estimation, would probably cost three-quarters of a billion dollars.

Several years ago, NC 106 was slated for improvement, but public resistance canceled the project, which would have begun around 2030. There are no plans to revisit that project in the near term. At Cashiers, there are already two-mile back-ups at the crossroads at peak tourist periods. Any plan to address this problem is several years away

at best.

Also, those traffic backups are now beginning to appear in Highlands. As the editorial noted, downtown sidewalks are very narrow, and parking has its limitations. On peak weekends, the downtown may already be at full capacity.

With growing issues related to climate conditions, Highlands can not hold onto the notion that we have unlimited water supplies. We are dependent on groundwater from continuous rain. Last summer, we faced a major drought that pressured our municipal water plant. This summer, we have also had drought conditions. Since Cashiers is unincorporated its water situation and utility systems are even more challenging for unlimited growth, more development, and tourism.

Some may say the mayor and Town Board should solve all these issues. My response is we are not the sole players in this development drama. Some variables are probably beyond our control. Save the water guns for your children and grandchildren.

...OUTAGES continued from page 1

the Highlands Plaza quadrant occupied by Bryson's Food Store and other businesses there and to the east, was in the dark.

Two hours in, it was assumed a circuit was out and the repair would be eminent.

As it turns out, that same day numerous Duke power outages were reported across the state corresponding to state-wide heat alerts, but it's not known if heat was the reason for the substation failure in Highlands.

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Around noon the power was still out and according to Public Works Director Lamar Nix, at that point Duke determined there was an issue with the substation and an additional crew was needed so it would take a while to repair.

Once the additional crew came, they worked on "jerry-rigging" a solution, as Mayor Pat Taylor later said, until a permanent solution could be had. Duke was making repairs from Nantahala to Highlands on Saturday, he said.

Nix said it turned out that the transformer at the substation was the issue.

Once power was up and running in the original downed quadrant, Saturday night around 7:30 and again Sunday night around 7:15 power flickered on and off in the other quadrant - areas of town initially unaffected.

A cruise through town Sunday night found power out this time from Main Street and beyond to the north. Happily, it was only out about 15 minutes so folks swarming Main Street were able to get back into the restaurants that didn't have generators.

According to Nix the temporary on-and-off of power Saturday and Sunday evening was because Duke was resetting the circuit and working to switch everything back to normal operation.

He said expanding the town's electric grid, which is currently in the works, would not have helped the situation because it was a Duke issue.

...ORDINANCES continued from page 1

to the ordinances.

"As your chairman I see you have done a tremendous amount of work and research of these ordinances," said Chairman Gary Shields to the large crowd. "I have received over 100 emails discussing the ordinances and all of them have been very proper and respectful. I appreciate you practicing your part in this give and take of information in a respectful manner."

Shields said he was not prepared to make a decision on the proposed changes to the ordinances at the July meeting, especially as they have only had the ordinance changes for a week to review, and each ordinance is over 30 pages.

While the public hearings were held as advertised, and the public was given the opportunity to speak, Shields recommended that the board table further discussion and any vote on the ordinances, splitting action over the next three meetings. He also encouraged the public to come to these meetings and speak again on the ordinances.

The board is also interested in hearing other citizens speak who are in favor of the proposed changes and urged them to attend upcoming board meetings.

"Thank you for showing up in person at this meeting, that's powerful," said Vice Chairman Joshua Young. "This is how democracy works, and I think it's our job here to listen to you guys. There's power in numbers, and I also feel like we should table this but for a bigger reason. I think there needs to be more round-table discussion maybe outside this meeting, and we could all collaborate a little more."

He also said as a generalization, it's likely 90 percent of the county doesn't have a clue what's going on with these ordinances; most people don't know what the flood plain ordinance is, he added.

"We need to find a solution that suits everybody, what suits the county, but with the understanding that there's no way everybody's going to be happy with everything," said Young. "If nothing else, we need to take the time to listen and come up with a better plan."

In related business, the commissioners appointed Caleb Gibson as the county's ordinance administrator. Recently, Gibson has worked in the county planning office after moving from the tax office. Gibson presented the proposed changes to the ordinances which opened up the public hearings.

Macon County Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control Ordinance

The first proposed ordinance change discussed by commissioners was the Ma-

con County Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control Ordinance. The soil erosion and sedimentation control ordinance was originally adopted by Macon County in 2001 and was amended in 2022.

Currently, this ordinance reads that any land disturbance over a half-acre requires a sediment erosion control plan from a design professional. The proposed change to the ordinance would be to revise the land disturbing activity to one acre. According to Gibson, this change has already been reviewed by the Department of Environmental Quality.

Sarah Johnson from the Otto area of Macon County spoke against the proposed change to the ordinance. Johnson's family owns property on Coweeta Creek and North Fork County Creek in Otto.

"I oppose the proposed amendment to the soil erosion and sedimentation control ordinance," said Johnson. "I believe that allowing up to an acre of disturbance weakens the purpose of the ordinance. The county has several federally protected species of fish, amphibian and freshwater mussel that would be endangered if the proposed change to the ordinance is passed."

She said the county has a very high amount of biodiversity in its freshwaters.

"It is worth protecting and paying attention to the scientific studies funded by taxpayers and the government."

Macon County resident, Susan Ervin also expressed her opposition to the proposed changes.

"We've all seen our rivers run really dirty, and we've all seen muddy water gushing off construction sites," said Ervin. "Some people do a bad job because they really don't know what 'best practices' are, while others just want to do it fast and cheap. Please

• See **ORDINANCES** page 16



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Concerts July 20-23



Saturday, July 20 – 5 PM, Highlands

Sunday, July 21 – 5 PM, Cashiers

“Quartet for the End of Time”

David Shifrin, clarinet; Zuill Bailey, cello;
Victor Asuncion, piano; Risa Hokamura, violin

Monday, July 22 – 5 PM, Highlands

Tuesday, July 23 – 5 PM, Cashiers

“Concerto Night”

Zuill Bailey, cello; Risa Hokamura, violin; Victor Asuncion, piano



**Highlands-Cashiers
Chamber Music Festival**

www.h-cmusicfestival.org
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...ORDINANCES continued from page 15

don't vote for more mud in our waters, more ditches and culverts full of sediment, more deep gullies in our mountains.”

She said many places in the world have had clear, flowing streams and rivers to enjoy and use appropriately, have had productive agricultural land forest covered hillsides and mountains, plentiful clean drinking water, a good rural way of life, but they didn't take care of it.

“They chipped away at it; they went for what they wanted or thought they needed in the moment, every man for as much as he could get. Now they're paying a high price.”

Ervin said Macon County still has all those good things, but it has to choose to have them continue.

“Every one of them can be destroyed very easily; as you make your decisions on each of these ordinances, we hope you will treat the land where we live as more than a commodity but will choose to treat it with respect as the home we love,” she said.

After a motion by Chairman Gary Shields, the board voted 3 to 2 to table any action and discussion on the proposed change to the ordinance to the August 13 commissioners meeting. Commissioners John Shearl and Paul Higdon voted against tabling the proposed change to the ordinance.

Macon County Watershed Protection Ordinance

The county's watershed protection

ordinance restates and amends the ordinance of 2021. This ordinance regulates the county's watershed management and includes water supply watershed protection requirements. These areas are designated as public water supply watershed by the NC Environmental Management Commissioner and are established on watershed protection maps adopted as part of the ordinance. These areas are designated as “excellent quality waters” meaning areas which are exceptional value in the county for recreational or ecological significance.

The proposed change would allow specific amendments to the ordinance to remove the prohibition of Recreational Vehicle (RV) Parks as a non-permissible use in a special non-residential intensity allocation. Under the nonresidential intensity allocation, the variance would allow commercial-type properties to request and be granted more allowable in-service areas. Up to 70 percent of usage is for businesses and as a RV park is a business, it would be treated as such and be permitted under the ordinance change.

“I think that allowing recreational vehicle parks to receive a special non-residential intensity allocation this close to the waterways in our water supply watershed poses a risk to the community's right to clean water,” said Sarah Johnson, who spoke again, this time in opposition to the proposed change. “It also will take up a lot of the county's agricultural land.”

She said currently on a map for the US Forest Service, most of Macon County is labeled as functioning at risk.

“The forest service is telling you that your watershed is functioning at risk, and with this proposed change you would be doing things to increase the intensity on land cover and messing up the land's ability to absorb the water while allowing the rain to wash the pollutants from the septic off these RV units into the watershed,” she said.

Commissioners voted 3 to 2 to table further discussion and any change to the watershed protection ordinance to the September 10 meeting. Shearl and Higdon once again voted against tabling the proposed ordinance change.

Macon County Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance

The final public hearing was for proposed changes to the Macon County Flood Prevention Ordinance which was restated and amended in 2021.

Commissioners are considering a proposal to make certain amendments to

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• MUSICAL HAPPENINGS AT 1ST. PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH •

North Carolina Baroque Orchestra to perform in free concert, July 25

The North Carolina Baroque Orchestra will perform in a 5pm concert at Highlands First Presbyterian Church on Thursday, July 25.

The NCBO, a period instrument ensemble, was co-founded in 2011 by sisters and musical collaborators Frances Blaker and Barbara Blaker Krumdieck for the purpose of providing orchestral and chamber music opportunities for musicians specializing in baroque performance practice. The NCBO maintains a goal of

presenting refined, stylistic, artistic, and fun performances engaging both the players and the listeners in the stories and historical context behind the music. Musicians in the group come from all over the country. Co-founder Frances Blaker serves as Conductor and Artistic Director.

First Presbyterian Church is located at the corner of Main and Fifth Streets. Handicapped accessible entrances are located on Church Street and on Fifth Street.



North Carolina Baroque Orchestra.



The Trey Clegg Singers.

Interlude Concert to Feature Trey Clegg Singers

The Interlude series which is sponsored by First Presbyterian Church continues with a concert at 2pm on Wednesday, July 24, with a performance by the Trey Clegg Chamber Singers.

Founded by Artistic Director Trey Clegg, the Chamber Singers is a group of 20 voices from among the 70 voices of the

Trey Clegg Singers, Inc., Atlanta's premier multi-cultural choral ensemble. With a mission to inspire the passion of reconciliation, equity, and harmony, this selectively auditioned ensemble performs at the highest level of choral discipline and standards.

There is no charge for the Interlude concerts, which constitute

a ministry in music to the community. Dress is casual- come as you are. Visitors to Highlands are especially invited to these concerts. First Presbyterian Church is located at the corner of Main and Fifth Streets. Handicapped accessible entrances are located on Church Street on and Fifth Street.



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• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

The truth of salvation

"I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned, he has crossed over from death to life."

Whiteside Presbyterian Church, Cashiers

Pastor Sam Forrester

Jesus speaks these words to the man from the pool of Bethesda. He healed this man and when the Jews found out they questioned the man. They wanted to know who healed him. The man had no idea who had healed him. When he ran into Jesus again and found out who he was he went back to the Jews and told them it was Jesus who healed him.

The Jews were really upset that Jesus was doing all these wonderful things that helped people. They were jealous and when they confronted Jesus his answer about his Father made them even madder and they wanted to kill him.

Jesus Christ came into this world to do for people things they could never do for themselves. He came to deliver them from the terrible bondage they were trapped in by sin, Satan and death. He tells the Jews that he has some truth they need to hear. That truth was they needed to listen to him and believe who he was. Jesus was the Word, he was the revelation of God. He brought a wonderful message of hope. The path to salvation begins with the hearing of God's promise to save everyone who hears the gospel and believes it with all of their heart.

Jesus came to do three things for mankind. He came to live a perfect life which the law requires to come into the presence of God. He also died the atoning death to pay the price for the sins of those who place their hope and trust in him and in him alone. He won the resurrection victory, defeating death and setting all who believe in him as the Son of God free from death. These are the things you must believe if you are going to be delivered from condemnation and given the gift of eternal life.

Man is born into a life of sin and spiritual death. He is the subject of death; death is his lord. There is absolutely no way he can ever free himself from this terrible plague. This is why Jesus came into this world because he knew man was helpless and hopeless. Jesus came with a mission and that is what he is telling the Jews in John 5. He came from God to act in the place of sinful men. To take upon himself their sentence of death and give to them the hope of life. He came to help them cross over from death to life.

How are they going to be able to do this? He is going to give them a new heart and a new spirit and place his Holy Spirit in their hearts (Eze. 36:26-27). Once he has done this work that person will be able to see his sin and his need of a Savior and know that Jesus Christ is his Savior. He will open his ears and listen; he will open his heart and believe. One of the important things you need to hear is found in John 14:6 when Jesus says "I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except they come through me."

The truth about salvation is that it comes through Jesus Christ and through him alone. God sent Jesus into this world with a mission to save all the Father had given him. If you will open your ears and hear his word and open your heart and believe what he teaches about himself. You will be saved from your life of sin and made alive and given a place with Jesus and the Father in heaven.



• PLACES TO WORSHIP •

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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

CHAPEL OF THE SKY
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Sundays: 10 a.m. Worship; Holy Communion 1st & 3rd Sundays

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CAC@christanglicancashiers.org • 828-743-1701
Sunday: 9:30a Adult Christian Ed; 10:30a Holy Eucharist;
6p Contemplative Worship; Wed: 6p Potluck, Bible Study

CHRIST CHURCH OF THE VALLEY, CASHIERS
Pastor Brent Metcalf • 743-5470 www.cashiers.church
Sun. S.S 9:30a, 10:45a & 6p thru Oct. 27 informal contemplative
service with communion and healing prayer; Tues. Guys study
8am. Gals 10am.; Wed. 6pm supper and teaching.

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.

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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 & Thurs-
days 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, Morn-
ing Prayer: Mon-Thurs 8:30 am in Chapel

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH HIGHLANDS
828-526-4153 • www.fbchighlands.org
Dr. Mark Ford, Pastor • 220 Main Street, Highlands
Sun.: Worship 10:45 am; Sun.: Bible Study 9:30 am
Wed.: Men's Bible Study 8:30 am; Women's 10:30 am

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Emily Wilmarth, pastor
828-526-3175 • fpchighlands.org
Sun.: Adult Ed.: 10 a.m.; Worship 11 a.m.
Tues: Men's Group 10 a.m. Wed: Bell Choir 4 p.m.. Choir: 6p

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Wed. Kidsquest 6p.; Worship 7p.

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Randy Reed. Pastor 828-421-9172 • 165 S. Sixth Street
Wed. Bible Study: 6 p.m.; Sundays: Worship: 11

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Wednesdays: Prayer Mtg.: 7 p.m.

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Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study: 6 p.m.
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• POLICE & FIRE REPORTS •

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

July 3

• At 10:51 p.m., officers responded to a male resident on Holt Knob Road misusing the 9-1-1 system by calling multiple times without purpose.

July 4

• A little past midnight, Hilaro Ruiz Mendoza, 38, of Highlands was arrested on misdemeanor counts. He was issued a \$500 unsecured bond. His trial date is Aug. 1.

July 8

• At 4:10 p.m., officers responded to a shoplifting incident at Potpourri on Main Street where \$15 of costume jewelry was taken.

July 12

• At 1:18 p.m., officers responded to a 2-vehicle accident on South 5th Street involving a vehicle traveling north on South 5th street and a tractor-trailer truck travelling south on South 5th Street. A utility line snagged the top of the truck, which caused a utility pole to break at the intersection of South 5th and Spring streets resulting in four utility lines falling onto South 5th Street and onto the other vehicle causing minor damage.

Hurricanes beat Cherokee and Jackson counties

By Steve Hott

On Tuesday July 9, the Highlands Hurricanes Swim Team traveled to Murphy to compete with Cherokee County Aquatics Club (CCAC) and Jackson County Swim Team (JCST) for a 3-way match.

The Hurricanes won 365 to 297 (JCST) to 248 (CCAC).

The Hurricanes were led by 1st time Jr. Olympic Qualifier Bella Batista and Jr. Olympians Jasmine Abranyi and Chase Kenter. All three scored 24 pts. Abranyi and Batista won four events. Kenter, three. Abranyi broke team records in the 100-yd freestyle and the 100-yd backstroke.

July 13

• At 8:02 p.m., officers responded to a one-vehicle accident on US 64 east (Cashiers Road) near Sherwood Forest when a motorist traveling toward Highlands crossed the center line, ran off the road, traveled on the embankment for 90 feet, returned to the roadway, flipped upside down and came to a rest facing east in the westbound lane. Traffic was rerouted to town through Flat Mountain and Hicks/Mirror Lake roads.

• At 9:37 p.m., Ferncli Hernandez Perez, 26, was arrested for Driving under the Influence on US 64 east (Cashiers Road). He was issued a \$1,500 unsecured bond. His trial date is Aug. 28.

The Highlands Fire & Rescue log from July 9.

July 9

• At 5:06 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Big Bear Pen Road.

July 10

• At 4:39 p.m., the dept. provided public assistance at a location on N. 4th St.

• At 5:58 p.m., the dept. provided public assistance at a location in Highlands Meadows.

July 12

• At 11:40 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a location on Main Street.

• At 8:27 p.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle acci-

dent on NC 106 (Dillard Road).

July 13

• At 6:20 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Whiteside Mountain Road.

• At 9:07 a.m., the dept. provided public assistance at a location on Bowery Road.

• At 2:53 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a location on Log Cabin Road.

• At 7:53 p.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on N. 4th Street.

• At 11:19 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Brush Face Road North.

July 14

• At 11:21 a.m., the dept. provided public assistance at a location on US 64 west (Franklin Road).

• At 5:35 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Maple Way.

• At 10:40 p.m., the dept. responded to a call of a tree on Clear Creek Road.

July 15

• At 9:35 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Kettle Rock Road.

• At 8:46 p.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on Buck Creek Road.

NOTE:

“Public Assistance” responses can mean various things: keys locked in vehicles, batteries in a smoke detector and more.



Delivery truck brings down utility lines on S. 5th St.

On Friday, June 12 Highlands Police and local utility crews had South 5th Street closed for several hours for downed utility lines.

A large truck was delivering to an address on Pierson Drive. While the truck was leaving the area, it got caught on utility lines which were hanging too low into the roadway near the intersection of Spring and South 5th streets. The utility pole holding the lines was broken, bringing the lines down and blocking the roadway.

The utility pole only held phone, cable, and Internet lines therefore power lines were unaf-

ected. Minor damage was reported to one vehicle driving through the area as the lines fell.

South Fifth Street was closed for several hours while utility companies repaired the lines.

Highlands Police Department thanks residents for their patience while the roadway was closed as well as Hotwire Communications for its quick assistance in getting the lines cleared from the roadway, as well as Frontier Communications, Balsam West, and Vyve Broadband who also responded to repair affected lines.

New informal service offered at Christ Anglican Church in Cashiers

Christ Anglican Church launched a 6 PM Sunday evening service on July 7.

The new informal contemplative worship service is open to all with music, spoken word, silence, communion, and healing prayer.

The service will be held every Sunday through October 27.

For more information contact Fr. Michael Matlock, office 828-743-1701. The church is located in Cashiers on Hwy 64 East. www.christanglicancashiers.org

Another 1st time Jr. Olympic qualifier Xincheng Zhang brought home 23 points two blue ribbons and two 2nd place finishes. Wylie Hinton, 1st time Jr. Olympic qualifier Alex Lopez and Jr. Olympians Conner Hughes and Justin Powell all scored 22 pts with two 1sts and one 2nd each. Hughes broke the team record in the 100-yd butterfly.

Jr. Olympian Lilliana Chambless won three events and brought home 21 pts. Jr. Olympians Paolo McCrae and Corena Dearth won one event and two events, respectively, McCrae with 20 pts, Dearth with 19.

Ian Batista scored 18, Jayce Powell 17, Annemarie Hinton 16,

Charlie Hinton 13, Andre Jimenez and Penelope McRae 14. All won a race. Max Jestin scored 15 pts including a 2nd place finish, sister Agatha Jestin scored 14 pts and two first places. Cooper Fisher swam well and scored a point.

The Highlands Hurricanes Swim Team is a year-round Highlands Recreation Park Team that practices mostly in the evenings at the Highlands Recreation Park Pool. The only requirement to join is that a prospective swimmer must be able to swim 25 yards (the length of the Highlands Recreation Park Pool) unassisted. For further information please call 828.421.4121.

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SEASONED FIREWOOD - Any size load. call 828-342-6806. (st. 1/25)

LAND FOR SALE - 3 tracts, 7.5 miles south of Highlands, 8.64 acres with spring, by far the best view in the area at \$200,000; 6.12 acres with spring (already subdivided into 2, 3-acre lots) \$140,000; 3.99 acres with southern exposure, \$70,000. 828-974-1137. (8/29)

TINY HOME LOTS FOR SALE. \$55k-\$85k ea. Each lot comes with water, power, and sewer run to each lot. www.TinyMountainEstates.com for more info. (st. 11/22)

RV SITE - class A only - in Wildflower Creek RV Resort. Just minutes from Highlands and Sky Valley. Full hook-up, concrete pad, landscaped and storage shed. Reduced \$192,500. For more info call 828-421-1709 or email bobnancync@gmail.com. (st. 1/25)

FOR RENT
DREAM SUMMER GETAWAY IN KEY LARGO, FLORIDA. Newly remodeled 2 bed 3 bath condo on the bay. Amazing sunset views, great amenities and more. CasaPalmaKeyLargo.com. (st. 5/23)

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SEASONAL NEW LOG CABIN ON SAGE DRIVE, 2 bedroom & 2 bath suites on Creek. 1

1/2 mile to downtown. Monthly or seasonally \$8,700 (1) month \$7,200 (3) Months. email: renee7726@gmail.com (st. 5/2)

WORKFORCE HOUSING - 2 bedroom/2 bath and 3 bedroom/2 bath with between Highlands & Cashiers. Includes hi-speed internet, water, & washer/dryer. No dogs. Inquires, Marcy (706) 982-0444 or (828)-482-4239, (st. 5/2/24)

HELP WANTED

TRAINED SINGER NEEDED TO CANTOR
Sunday morning Masses at Our Lady of the Mountains (Highlands) and St. Jude (Cashiers / Sapphire) Catholic churches. Qualifications: strong vocal and sightreading skills; technical ability to access music digitally; experience singing in liturgical settings; commitment to Sundays, Holy Week, Christmas services. Pay negotiable. Contact: 828-526-2418 or olmountainshighlands@rcdoc.org. (7/25)

ORGANIST/PIANIST NEEDED to play for 11am Sunday worship services and Wednesday evening choir rehearsals (5:30-7pm) at First Presbyterian Church, Highlands, NC. \$20K annual salary. No administrative duties involved. Our organ is a circa 2004 16-rank 2 manual Wicks pipe organ. For more information, contact Angie Jenkins, Director of Music Ministry @ 828-200-0183. (st. 6/13)

ESTABLISHED CUSTOM HOMEBUILDER IN HIGHLANDS/CASHIERS area looking for project superintendent to manage multiple sites and subcontractors. Please send resume to: JW Underwood Construction LLC P.O. Box 147, Highlands NC 2974. Or email: john@jwunderwoodconstruction.com (st. 5/2)

SERVICES

CAREGIVER/SITTER with 40 years experience available for part-time personal care, errands, transportation, meals, etc. Highlands full-time resident. Robert Doe 828.399.0262. (st. 6/13)

HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS HANDYMAN - Chatlos Construction - Remodels, Additions, Framing, Siding, Roofing, Decks, Painting. References. Insured. 828-200-4071. (4/25)

MURPHY'S PAINT CO. - interior/exterior painting/sheetrock repair/wallpaper removal/log homes/decks. Insured. Free estimates. 828-332-0525 or 828-421-8600. (8/1)

NEED FURNITURE MOVED OR ANYTHING HAULED AWAY? Call or text James of Going Gone at 828-421-2655. (3/28)

ANYTHING GOES CLEAN-UP SERVICE
Complete property cleanup - house, garage, property, etc. Call at 828-200-2855. (st. 9/28)

HIGH COUNTRY PHOTO/KEVIN VINSON: scanning photos, slides & negatives to CD or DVD for easier viewing. Video transfer to DVD. Everything done in house. Leave message at 828-526-5208.



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...ORDINANCES continued from page 16

the ordinance to allow limited fill and development within the flood fringe or flood plain - not in the floodway - provided that such fill is not more than 25 percent of the total of the flood fringe area contained in each parcel, and if fill in excess of the 25 percent is sought, that such an application be accompanied by a Certification of No Adverse Impact from a NC licensed Civil Engineer.

The objectives of the floodplain ordinance are to:

Protect human life, safety and health; Minimize expenditure of public money for costly flood control projects; Minimize the need for rescue and relief efforts associated with flooding and generally undertaken at the expense of the general public; Minimize prolonged business losses and interruptions; Minimize damage to public facilities and utilities that are located in flood prone areas; Minimize damage to private and public property due to flooding; Make flood insurance available to the community through the National Flood Insurance Program; Maintain the natural and beneficial functions of floodplains; Help maintain a stable tax base by providing for the sound use and development of flood prone areas; Ensure that potential buyers are aware that property is in a Special Flood Hazard Area.

...COVID continued from page 10

54% of COVID cases in the U.S., per the CDC's most recent variant tracking data. KP.3, in particular, made up the most cases of any variant at 24.5% of cases, according to the latest forecasting data.

Health officials said that while there are no indicators the new strains cause more severe illnesses than other strains, the CDC is monitoring community transmission of the virus and how vaccines perform against this strain.

A variety of symptoms are the same across the strains - cough, sore throat, runny nose, sneezing, fatigue, headache, muscle aches, altered sense of

Jordan Smith, Executive Director of Mainspring Conservation Trusts, spoke against the proposed change to the floodplain prevention ordinance.

"I represent a board of 16 people and about 15 staff that live and work in Macon County and surrounding counties," said Smith. "Mainspring typically avoids political involvement in matters like this as we believe land conservation, sustainable agriculture and clean water are nonpartisan issues; however, the proposed amendments to this ordinance directly threaten the lands that we've worked to protect for more than 27 years. These lands represent investments of our private landowners, state and federal tax dollars as well as private donations to protect these lands."

He said Mainspring has publicly stated that any weakening of the current flood damage prevention ordinance would ultimately harm downstream property owners and negatively impact rare and prime farmland soils as well as critical habitats within the floodplain.

"Yes, floodplains and floods aren't a new thing, but the reason they aren't worse than they were 20 or 30 years ago is because of this ordinance that has been in place for a couple of decades," he said.

The Peek's Creek landslide tragedy occurred in 2004 and instigated changes to the floodplain

ordinance.

He said bottom lands, particularly mountain bottomlands, contain prime agricultural soils.

"North Carolina currently ranks second in the nation in the rate of farmland loss. In addition our bottomlands hold not only significant agricultural value, but also essential cultural and environmental importance. Mainspring advocates for smart development that supports both residents and visitors of this region," he said. "The land that we have here is really special, and I think all of us would agree we are dedicated to preserving the unique values and the natural treasures that make this area globally significant."

Commissioners voted unanimously to table further discussion and a vote on proposed changes to the flood prevention ordinance to the October 8 board meeting.

"Tonight, has been very educational for myself, and I thank all of you for coming in to share," said Commissioner Danny Antoine. "There are obviously many issues on all sides of this; personally, for me I am not in favor of government or any other entity telling landowners what they can or cannot do on their own land; however, I also believe you should do your best to be a good neighbor not be a nuisance or a danger to your neighbors."

smell, congestion, fever or chills, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, nausea or vomiting and diarrhea.

Over-the-counter medicines, such as acetaminophen, ibuprofen, and decongestants are suggested for symptom relief.

Symptoms can last for several days. People are typically contagious for about 10 days after the onset of symptoms. For those with mild to moderate symptoms, this period can be shorter, often around 5-7 days. For people with severe symptoms or those with a weakened immune system, contagiousness can last up to 20 days.

In 2024, there is no one-size-fits-all duration for how long to

isolate. Health officials say people can resume regular activities - ideally still using other prevention strategies, like masking and distancing - based on when symptoms have improved and fever has gone away.

According to Jimmy Villiard, Population Health Section Administrator with the MC Public Health Dept., North Carolina no longer requires cases to be reported to Health Departments, so it does not have current local data to share but offered the following links to track the virus: <https://covid19.ncdhhs.gov/dashboard#HospitalAdmissions-6376> and <https://covid19.ncdhhs.gov/dashboard/respiratory-virus-surveillance>

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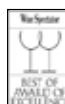
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