

Highlands Newspaper

Happy July 4th!

FREE Every Thursday

Volume 21, Number 27

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Thurs..., July 4, 2024

Highlands S. soccer field woes continue

When will the county supply the funds to fix it?

By Kristin Fox

A new uncertainty about whether Highlands School will be able to use their soccer field for the upcoming fall season was

recently realized by Macon County school officials. The construction of the renovation project at Highlands School, slated to begin this summer, has created a new con-

cern about the playability of the soccer field for the fall season.

The June meeting of the Macon County Board of Education

• See **SOCCER** page 18

Highlands Hurricanes sweep Cherokee and Jackson counties

The little engine that could!

By Steve Hott
Head Coach

On Thursday, June 27, the Highlands Hurricanes hosted Cherokee County Aquatics Club (CCAC) from Murphy and Jackson County Swim Team (JCST) from Sylva at the home pool at the Highlands Rec Park.

The Hurricanes won 666 to JCST's 273 and CCAC's 167, respectively. Every member on the Hurricane's team scored.

The Hurricanes were led by Jr. Olympian Aniah McKim who won three events and scored 25 pts. Bella Batista, Jr. Olympian Lilliana Jandera-Chambless, and

• See **HURRICANES** page 25

Fireworks cap off Highlands' July 4th celebration



It's a Highlands 4th of July celebration! Water rockets at the town ball field from 9-11 am. Field games at the town ball field from 11a to noon. MAMA helicopter visit at the town ball field at noon, weather permitting. Ladder Truck spraydown at the town ball field at 1 pm. Duck Derby at Bridge at Mill Creek at 2 pm. Outdoor Concert at KH Founders Park on Pine Street 6-8:30 pm. Fireworks at 9 pm. The Rec Park will be closed Thursday, July 4.

- Photo by Kim Lewicki

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Revitalized Dog Park is now open at Rec Park

By Brian O'Shea
Plateau Daily News

The revitalized public dog park on the back corner of the Highlands Rec Park grounds is now even better than when it first opened years ago.

The \$40,000 revitalization project was a collaboration with the Highlands Chamber of Commerce/Visit Highlands, NC,

which paid for the project, the Town of Highlands and Tate Landscaping that did the work.

The revitalization of the park has dramatically enhanced the park's aesthetics and provides a much better experience for residents, visitors, and their canine companions.

Renovations to the park ad-

• See **DOG PARK** page 10

Thanks to Community Fnd of WNC animals will get 'safe passage'

Black bears, bobcats and grey foxes, move across the landscape risking death and potentially harming motorists as they cross highways

After concluding its three-year wildlife connectivity research project in 2021, Safe Passage Coalition members, the National Parks Conservation Assoc. and Wildlands Network made 21 recommendations to the North Caro-

lina and Tennessee Departments of Transportation to improve "safe passage" for wildlife connectivity to reduce wildlife/vehicle collisions along I-40 in the Pigeon River Gorge.

• See **SAFE PASSAGE** page 18

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• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• MAYOR ON DUTY •

• HIC'S VIEW •

Let's remember how and why it all started

I gave a brief speech at the American Legion commemoration on Memorial Day, which I want to try to summarize in this piece. It is also appropriate for Independence Day, a time of celebratory reflection.

In recent years, my reading has centered around the American Revolution, the creation of the U.S. Constitution, and the first American president, George Washington. I now have a more in-depth picture of these critical events in our nation's history than what I learned during my schooling.

At my talk on Memorial Day, I focused my remarks on General Washington and the Continental Army as they camped at Valley Forge in the winter of 1778. In elementary school, I recall the painting of a Washington kneeling in prayer in pure white snow just outside the encampment. Historians have varied opinions about the authenticity of the scene, but notwith-



Highlands Mayor
Patrick Taylor

standing, Washington did believe the Revolution was driven by divine providence in a struggle for independence.

Conditions at Valley Forge were hard and miserable. The troops had built makeshift huts for barracks, and they were barraged all winter with episodes of rain, constant mud, freezing temperatures, and heavy snow. Supplies were practically nonexistent, and the soldiers survived on mill fire-cakes and rancid meat,

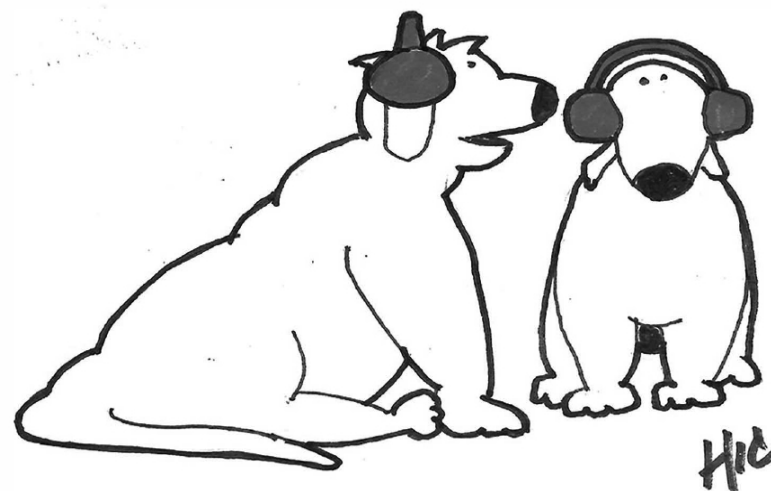
both of which were infested with maggots.

Disease was rampant. Washington had ordered all troops vaccinated with Edward Jenner's new, experimental smallpox vaccine. While some soldiers died from the vaccination, Washington stated that if smallpox wasn't contained, the British would have no need to fight the Americans since there would be no army left.

About 2,000 soldiers died in the camp from disease, malnutrition, and exposure to the elements, but Washington was able to hold the desertion rate down. Washington stoically endured criticism that he was incompetent and was not the general to win the war. The British had refused to give him an officer's commission when he was a young man and now denigrated him as a Virginia planter, aka farmer.

Enter Baron Friedrich Wilhelm Von Steuben, a Prussian military officer with French connections, to Valley Forge. He asked to be a part of Washington's staff and offered his expertise as an inspector and training officer. At the time, the Continental Army consisted of a ragged group of militias composed primarily of farmers and laborers. Discipline and military order were practically nonexistent. To the baron's credit, he trained the soldiers to march and work as a real military unit. He created the first functional U.S. Army for Washington and America.





When Washington broke camp in early summer he intended to use this new army to fight the British Red Coats, arguably the best army in the world. Washington had courage and marched his troops to Monmouth to engage the British. In



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• WEATHER •

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• INK PENN •

From Australia to New York City

I picked up four books from the library last week, and this is the first time in a long while that I only finished two. The other two I started but couldn't get into. As is my practice, my lips are sealed about the books I didn't care for. Both were written by best-selling authors liked by plenty of readers, and I'm sure others will enjoy them. Of the two I finished quickly, the first, set in Australia, was my favorite, and I plan to pick up its prequel soon. It's very cleverly written. What leaps out about the second book is its clever casting. If there's a third book in what promises to be a series, I'll read it too.

Everyone on This Train is a Suspect
by Benjamin Stevenson

I don't know how I missed this author's first book with Ernest Cunningham as the main character, but I did. Now, I feel compelled to find "Everyone in My Family Has Killed Someone."

I was especially intrigued with the plot because it's written in first person, and Ernest or Ern or Ernie is a writer. He is living the murder mystery.

The Ghan, a train through the Australian desert, is hosting the Australian

Mystery Writers' Society, and Ern is invited as a guest speaker. After all, he wrote the wildly popular "Everyone in My Family Has Killed Someone." That I hadn't read that book didn't get in the way of my enjoying this one.

Naturally, a murder on a train smacks of Agatha Christie's "Murder on the Orient Express," and for my money, it's every bit as complex and twisty as that Gold Age mystery. The difference is that it's also quite funny.

He continually refers to the rules of the Detection Club, a Golden Age group that included Agatha Christie, Dorothy Sayers and other well-known mystery writers of the era. They considered these as rules of fair play. There must be clues and red herrings, but no trickery, no ghosts, etc.

One rule is that the killer must be introduced in the beginning of the story before the murder occurs. No springing a new character late in the game and having them turn out to be the villain. He doesn't hit all



Kathy Manos Penn

20 rules, but the references are hilarious—at least to an author like me.

Which rule does the book break? "There must be but one detective—that is, but one protagonist of deduction—one deus ex machina. To bring the minds of three or four, or sometimes a gang of detectives to bear on a problem, is not only to disperse the interest and break the direct thread of logic but to take an unfair advantage of the readers." The Detection Club was very strict about the rules of fair play, but what's a writer to do when the train is filled with mystery writers who all want a say?

This was a thoroughly entertaining read, and I highly recommend it.

Holmes, Marple & Poe
by James Patterson and Brian Sitts
Of course, the title grabbed me. Three modern-day private detectives named after Arthur Conan Doyle's and Agatha Christie's detectives and a third named for Edgar Allan Poe. It never actually says that's how

they got their names, but what else are we supposed to think? Brendan Holmes, Margaret Marple, and August Poe open a detective agency in New York City. Mayhem ensues.

The three get along splendidly despite having three very different personalities and different areas of expertise. All are smart. Who are they and where did they come from? Their back story is only hinted at, which tells me a sequel is in the works.

I haven't read any of Patterson's books since the days of the Women's Murder Club mysteries. Back then, I was drawn to the women's strengths and their deep friendship. These characters are intentionally a mystery, so while I was intrigued by them, I wasn't invested in them. Perhaps that will change when or if there are more books.

The story is fast paced with several interwoven investigations. It's a 300 page book with 118 short chapters, a structure that hurtles you through the story. While each investigation is resolved and the culprits taken away, it left me a tad

• See INK PENN page 8

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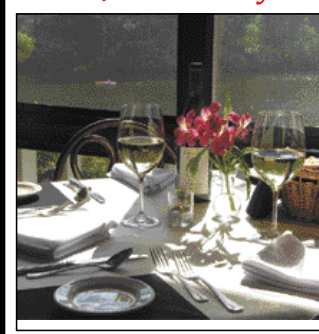


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• OBITUARIES •

Ann Elizabeth (Beth) Moore

Ann Elizabeth (Beth) Moore of Jacksonville, FL and Highlands, NC passed away peacefully on June 21, 2024, surrounded by her family after living with cancer for six years. She was born in Evanston, IL on July 6, 1945 to Clara and Lester Moore.

Beth received a BS in nursing from the University of Virginia in 1967. She is a life-long member of the UVA Alumni Club. In 1978, via a grant, she received a Master of Science in Nursing from Ohio State University. She began her nursing career as a staff nurse in Upstate New York and was always dedicated to providing excellent health care. One of her favorite positions was teaching nursing students. She was proud to have opened the Endocrine Unit when she was Chief Nursing Officer at a Richmond Virginia hospital. She held various other management and consulting positions in the health care field throughout her nursing career.

In 1998, she moved to Highlands, and began a real estate career. With a downturn in the real estate market in 2008, she returned to the healthcare field providing home health care services.

In 2012, she met her husband Wally Patzke. In 2015, they were married in New York's Central Park. When they were not traveling, they split their time between Jacksonville and Highlands.

Beth loved the mountains of North Carolina, walking in the woods, the beach and traveling. She would find peace and serenity walking the trails of Highlands Biological Center year-round. She visited six of the seven conti-

nents. One of her more remarkable trips was volunteering in an orphanage in Kenya.

She cherished her time that she spent volunteering in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at Wolfson Children's Hospital and serving on its Volunteer Board.

Beth is preceded by her parents Lester Charles Moore and Clara Elizabeth Moore, and her sister Mary Patricia (Patti).

She is survived by her husband, Wally Patzke, her son, Stephen Bartolacci (Jessica Baer), her brother, Tom Moore (Sharon), her stepdaughter, Beth Gibson (Don) and grandchildren Kloe North, Ashley Anne Gibson, John Gibson, Zoe Gibson and Teddy Gibson.

The family would like to thank her healthcare providers, Dr Vanderkwaak, Dr Nowicki, Dr. Modi, Debra, staff of Baptist MD Anderson, Bernadette, Hannah, Community Hospice and Concierge Care.

A Celebration of Life will be held at 1:30 PM on Saturday, August 10, 2024 at Timuquana Country Club, Jacksonville, FL. In lieu of flowers, a donation may be made in Beth's honor to Sulzbacher Center for the Homeless, Jacksonville, Florida or Highlands Biological Foundation, Highlands, North Carolina.

• See OBITUARIES page 14

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Some long-term thoughts on short-term rentals

Recently, the Short-Term Rental issue returned to the front page of the paper and social media vitriol. As Yogi Berra once said, "it's déjà vu all over again."

During the last Town Board Meeting, the elimination of Short-Term Rentals once again hit the fan. In case you missed it here's an overview. The Town Board moved to enforce the "amortization" of STRs (which is code for elimination). At the meeting, there were some passionate speeches by a few board members pro and con, there was a vote, and all but one member voted to send amortization to the planning board, for a future public hearing, and eventually it could be voted upon for passage or veto. The town's attorney gave his factual opinion, and said that if successful, Highlands would be the first town in the state to impose the amortization of STRs. My sense is that everyone is now lawyering up and it's going to be another long and divisive process.

Merriam Webster defines the word amortize as this; "to gradually reduce the value of something." If this were to happen, we would indeed reduce the value of a family's ability to visit Highlands in an affordable way, reduce the value of businesses who depend upon tourism to survive, reduce real estate values in some cases, and reduce the value of Highlands, NC as destination for all versus a destination for some. I speak selfishly of course, because I rented here for 20+ years, fell in love with the place, eventually left corporate America, purchased a small cottage, and along with my wife built a successful real estate practice in downtown Highlands.

It's important to recognize that the amortization of STRs is already occurring. The town imposed "no new STRs" awhile back but agreed to accept existing STRs as a non-conforming use. Since then, a number of these properties have sold. Some of the buyers have



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elected to discontinue renting. In effect, this dynamic has reduced the number of STRs without imposing amortization. Here's another interesting trend, every one of my customers who owns a short-term rental and the largest property management company in town all report a 25%-30% decrease in rentals this year versus last.

So what's next short of building a wall in Dillard, GA to keep the tourists out (a cheap political joke). One of the Town Board Members (Jeff Weller) made an astute comment at the meeting, "I favor regulating and enforcing some STR protocols."

That's not a bad idea. Palm Springs, CA has 650+ STRs, registers all of them, charges an annual fee, and publishes a Good Neighbor Brochure for visitors which clearly defines the responsibilities of the renter and the town's Vacation Rental Ordinance. Palm Springs provides the neighbors surrounding STRs with a 24-hour hotline to call to report a violation. Renters are reminded that they can be fined (minimum of \$500) cited, or even immediately evicted by the owner for an excessive violation of the Ordinance.

I'll close with an excerpt from the Palm Springs Good Neighbor Brochure which states: "Like many of our visitors, you have decided to rent a house or a condominium for your own unique experience. That's great. There are many benefits to doing that. Perhaps the greatest benefit is the pleasure of residing even for a short stay in one of our beautiful residential neighborhoods. You will be among many permanent residents who value the look and feel of a quiet and safe place to live. They, and the town, will look to you for your help in preserving that sense of peace and quiet. In short, being a vacation renter also means being a good neighbor."

...INK PENN continued from page 4

unsatisfied. Not so much that I won't read the next book. But I'll do that more to find out where the heck these three came from than I will for the writing.

I don't often stray from reading books set in England, but these two set in very different locales were well worth the change.

Happy reading.

PS: Book X in my Dickens & Christie

mystery series has now arrived at Franklin Office Supply & Gifts, and it's available along with the first nine.

• 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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...DOG PARK continued from page 1

dressed feedback from park users and included drainage improvements to ensure the park remains dry and safe after rainfall, while the expanded area around the pavilion offers additional space for relaxation and socializing. New lawn areas also

create a more comfortable environment for both dogs and their owners.

There are also two ways to enter the park now – one from the Rec Park back parking lot and one from Foreman Road.

The park is free to use day or night.



The revitalized Dog Park sports two entrances now - one from the back parking lot of the Highlands Rec Park on N. 4th Street and one from Foreman Road.

- Photo by Brian O'Shea

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Located at the end of the lane, this one needs someone to rebuild and restore it. 2 bedrooms, 1 bath plus an attic in the roofline. There is a carport and storage above. The lot is wonderful, with end of the road privacy and a grassy usable lot. It has loads of potential and has city water and power. Offered at \$400,000. mls #103136



This 3 bedroom 2 bath is located in Four States Subdivision and has a spectacular view of Winfield Farm, Blue Valley and vistas to the south. Main floor living plan has Living room with fireplace, kitchen, dining room/Sunroom with loads of windows to experience the 180 degree view. 2 guest bedrooms with a hall bath, upstairs has a huge master suite with fireplace and ensuite bath. Great bones and ready for your own taste. Offered at \$650,000. mls #103977



Dillard road This home is over 100 years old and is ready to be brought back to the condition it deserves. 3 bedrooms, 1 bath plus an office. close to town and great location, walk to great food. nice usable yard. Offered at \$1,300,000. mls #102847



A unique Highlands cabin located less than 3 miles from Main Street with over 19 acres of usable land. Cabin was added to an existing farmhouse with a barn, and meadow, views off the upper tier. A blank canvas. 4 bedrooms, stone fireplaces, retro kitchen, fantastic sleeping porch. Endless possibilities! Offered at \$3,575,000. mls #103398



This 3bed/3bath with old house charm has been updated. Hardwood and stone, and lots of glass. Great room concept with a stone fireplace, cook's kitchen with quality finishes and appliances. Sunroom with both a deck and porch. 2 bedrooms and 2 baths on the ground level, 1 bedroom with a bath upstairs. A large one car garage and private lot round out this package. Offered at \$1,250,000. mls #104330



Spectacular house off Buck Creek Road on Western Rhodes Road. 3 bedrooms, plus additional flex spaces. Multiple fireplaces. Open Great room concept with custom kitchen, plank wood floors, stone fireplace that flows onto a covered porch with hot tub spa. Master's on main and upper floors, plus guestrooms complete with baths. Outbuilding.. Offered at \$1,895,000. mls #100481



This authentic Highlands Charmer is located close to town on all paved roads, Home sits level to enter and has a side yard with a firepit. Watch the sun glisten off Mirror Lake and hear the water at the Mirror Lake dam. Kitchen/dining room, primary bedroom and bath on the main level with lovely porch. The terrace level has a living room that opens to the side yard, 2 bedrooms and a bath. Grandfathered Short-Term Rental. Ready to use and bring back some income. furnishings negotiable. Offered at \$749,999. mls #104017



Freshly renovated, this 3 bedroom, 2 bath has good rental history and is a nice getaway, or for year-round living. Recently renovated kitchen, and baths. Custom fire pit and masonry pizza oven. A very nice home just waiting for you! Offered at \$925,000. mls #103899



Highlands Cove at Old Edwards Club This condo is close to the clubhouse, swimming, tennis courts, and golf course. Three bedrooms, three baths, all on the main level, Coffered High ceilings, move in condition. Lovely decks and porches. Furnishings are negotiable. Offered at \$999,000. mls #101007



Lovely setting with the 2 bedrooms, 1 bath plus a large loft on Dendy Orchard Road. Move-in condition with good light and updated kitchen appliances. Starlink internet service. Six miles to the center of Highlands. Great rental potential. State maintained paved road scraped/salted when it snows. Usable lot with chicken coop and workshop. Dog lot. Adjoins USFS. Offered at \$474,000 mls #103620



This fabulous home is only one and a half miles from the center of Highlands. Move-in ready, furnishings included and lots of updates. The expansive deck offers stunning long range views to the west. The main / Spacious primary bedroom and bath on main level. Lower level has two more bedrooms and a bath with a soaking tub. Offered at \$1,300,000. mls #104361



Condo at Highlands Mountain Club has 2 bedrooms, 2 baths, screened in porch. Primary bath with a dream shower and tile floors. View overlooks a pristine lake. Open pass through kitchen/dining living makes entertaining a breeze. Furnishings negotiable. Offered at \$575,000. mls #104466



Close to town, this starter cottage has 2 bedrooms and 3 baths. One car garage could be converted to a family room. 3 levels with living-room/kitchen/dining on main, bedroom and bath on 2nd level. Primary bedroom, bath, den/office, and full bath. Patio/deck. Offered at \$499,000. mls #103969



Located off Buck Knob Road, this one-of-a-kind log cabin with a lovely yard and view. 2 bedrooms and 2 baths on the upper level, Main level has living room, dining room, kitchen, bath and two large porches. Lower level has a garage, family room and bath. Offered at \$1,495,000. mls #102878



One-of-a-kind mountain cottage located only minutes from downtown Highlands. Enter across the rocking chair front porch with a view of Satulah Mountain into the open-concept kitchen/dining/living room area. Original stone fireplace, beautiful wood floors, and vaulted ceilings. Two bedrooms and a shared bath flank one side and a spacious master suite and screen porch flank the other. Also a cute guest cottage complete with a bath and kitchenette. (Great proven vacation rental. Offered at \$1,985,000. mls #104513

Independence Day Celebration

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1 p.m.
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2 p.m.
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6 – 8:30 p.m.
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• FINANCIAL MATTERS •

Why interest rates will likely remain high

It's been bothering me for well over a year. Everyday, as I listen to the talking heads on at least one financial news network, it seems like the question asked the most is "when do you think the Fed will begin lowering rates"? Repeated, almost ad nauseum, the hosts ask this question of the guests as if they all have a crystal ball, and more annoying, why does it matter?

Fed Funds vs Real Rates

What bothers me is that the rate they're asking about - the Fed Funds Rate - doesn't really matter at this point. The Fed Funds Rate is the shortest of short-term rates and is not the most important driver of Real rates. It's defined as the target rate at which commercial banks borrow and lend their excess reserves to each other overnight. Some people even call it "the Overnight Rate."

Real rates are the ones we use every day - car loans, credit cards, mortgages, business loans, etc. They are determined by supply and demand in the U.S. Treasuries Market with the 10-year Treasury acting as the primary benchmark.

Until 2008, the Fed Funds Rate acted as a driver of real interest rates. It didn't always work perfectly, but as the Open Market Committee raised and lowered this rate, other government bonds with longer dated maturities would typically follow. However, the effectiveness of this strategy has somewhat diminished since 2008.



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

QE and QT

In 2008, the Federal Reserve began something known as QE or Quantitative Easing. From 2009 - 2014 they bought more than \$4 trillion worth of assets, mostly Treasuries and Mortgage-Backed Securities. By taking the supply of available Treasuries out of the market, the price of Treasuries rose - and when bond prices rise, rates go down. The Fed effectively was able to lower both short and longer-term rates - rather than just short-term rates as they had done historically

- essentially allowing our economy and housing market to recover. With the onset of Covid they began buying again in 2020, bringing the total amount held by the Federal Reserve to approximately \$8 trillion.

Then, in 2022 they changed their strategy to begin raising rates using a process known as QT or Quantitative Tightening. Currently, they are allowing \$40 billion per month (it started at \$80 billion) to "roll off" their balance sheet back into the markets. But there's more - in addition to the increase in supply from the Federal Reserve, Congress will borrow an additional \$1.5 trillion this year, which will be financed with more Treasuries, leading to approximately \$2 trillion of NEW debt being issued this year and likely next year.

Since the Federal Reserve started this phase (QT), real rates have risen substantially, and with the massive supply of new debt instruments flooding the markets, I believe rates will remain elevated and somewhat stable for the foreseeable future. Perhaps what we're seeing is a return to interest rate normalcy, but it's difficult to make that case when you're carrying a \$34 trillion debt as a nation and the methods being used to maintain stability have never been used before.

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Louie Michaud



Maurice Joseph Michaud, affectionately known as Louie, stepped onto the first tee in Heaven on June 26, 2024. Louie was born in Bordeaux, France on July 23, 1934. He loved and excelled in all kinds of sports including hockey, skiing and golf. He was an accomplished skier and, in his younger years, competed in ski jumping competitions. As an amateur wrestler and boxer, Louie represented France in the Empire Games in New Zealand where he took the Bronze Medal in wrestling and the Silver Medal in Boxing.

Rather than return to France, Louie traveled to Canada with the Canadian team landing in Quebec City. He crossed into the United States in the 1950s with only his wrestling boots in a brown paper bag and began a prolific career as a professional wrestler, under the name of Louie Tillet. Louie liked to joke that when he came to the U.S., he only knew a few words – apple pie and ice cream – so that is what he ate until his self-taught English became more well versed!

Louie wrestled all over the United States, and in over 35 countries around the world, showcasing his skills as a master technician in the ring despite his 5'9" stature. He earned numerous titles, including Junior Heavyweight Champion and Brass Knuckles Champion, and he became one of the most respected promoters in the wrestling business, working in Florida, Georgia, California, Tennessee, and Ohio.

In addition to his sports career, Louie had a passion for cooking. He amassed an

impressive cookbook collection and honed his culinary skills to become an exemplary chef. In 1986, Louie moved with his family to Highlands and put down roots in this extraordinary community. He worked as a sous chef at Hildegard's (now Wolfgang's) and later as Executive Chef at Highlands Falls Country Club. He opened his own restaurant, Louie Michaud's, where he loved creating savory dishes and

was renowned for his extraordinary Sunday brunch. Louie also started the first "Breakfast with Santa" in Highlands, a tradition that continues today.

After selling his restaurant in 1998, Louie returned to his love of golf and became an avid golfer and club maker. Louie loved to tell jokes, pull pranks on friends and was usually the life of the party. He was a force of nature, determined to provide for his family and give them the life they deserved. His family was Louie's greatest treasure, and he often spoke proudly of them.

Louie was a devoted husband, father and grandfather. He passed away in the arms of his wife surrounded by family. Louie will be remembered for the immense love he shared with his friends and family. His heart was as large as his spirit, and he left an indelible mark on everyone who knew him.

"You never said I'm leaving, you never said goodbye. You were gone before we knew it, and only God knew why. A million times we needed you, a million times we cried. If love alone could have saved you, you never would have died. In life we loved you dearly, in death we love you still. In our hearts you hold a place that no one could ever fill. It broke our hearts to lose you, but you didn't go alone. For part of us went with you, the day God took you home." Author Unknown.

Louie is survived by his wife of 52 years, Judy Michaud, his daughters Tricia Michaud Cox (Tom Goldacker), Michelle Michaud, and Claudine Michaud from his first marriage. He is also survived by his grandchildren, Alexandra Michaud, Wesley Cox, and Christopher Cox. Louie was preceded in death by his parents and his brother, Jean Guy.

In lieu of flowers, please donate to the Highlands Food Pantry or your favorite charity.

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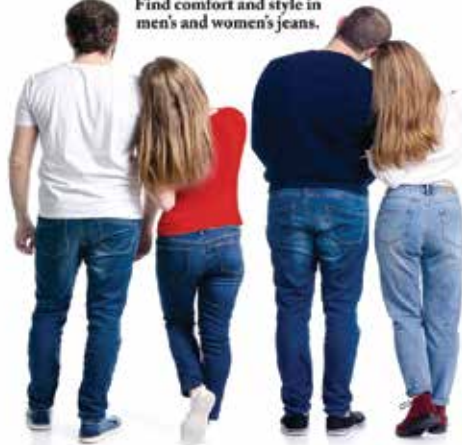
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The Bascom: A Center for the Visual Arts to re-dedicate the Will Henry Stevens Bridge

The Bascom: A Center for the Visual Arts is delighted to announce the re-dedication of the Will Henry Stevens Bridge following recent repairs. We invite the public to join us for the re-dedication ceremony at 10 AM on July 6th, preceding our annual Community Day, which begins at 11 AM with a variety of free art activities for all ages.

The Will Henry Stevens Bridge is a defining feature of The Bascom campus and is cherished by the community. Named in honor of Will Henry Stevens, a Southern Modernist painter who practiced both in North Carolina and in New Orleans, the bridge celebrates his legacy. In 2023, The Bascom undertook repairs to the understructure of the bridge to ensure its functionality for the years to come. The bridge was originally acquired with the help

of the Coleman and Winingder families who had strong ties to Will Henry Stevens and who are the founders of the New Orleans Academy of Fine Art (NOAFA).

Bascom Executive Director, Karin Peterson, states that "as an example of the American tradition of covered bridges, The Will Henry Stevens Bridge is an integral and iconic part of The Bascom grounds. Serving as the welcoming entrance to our rustic campus, the bridge perfectly frames the rural farm setting which is revealed as visitors cross it -- old barns and other wooden structures, and the artistic purpose of our organization. We would like to thank our community for their support and extend an open invitation to celebrate with us as we re-dedicate the Will Henry Stevens Bridge, one of our region's most beautiful place-based amenities."



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...SOCCER continued from page 1

concluded with a liaison report by Board Member Hilary Wilkes in which she explained that as construction begins, the location of a construction fence may jeopardize the playability of the field this fall.

The construction project is adjacent to the field and construction machinery will be located at the back corner near the soccer field. The fence is expected to be in place by August as Vannoy Construction moves forward with the construction.

"In discussion with Vannoy Construction, based on the diagram, the location of the construction fence is right on the out-of-bounds line on the field," said Todd Gibbs, Macon County Schools Auxiliary Services Director. "You can't play soccer with a construction fence right on the out of bounds line fence."

Wilkes said parents and players needed more conclusive answers.

"I have a child that plays soccer so I know there will be other parents like me who will be concerned as we already have the schedule," said Wilkes. "If there is something that is going to interrupt it, I know how that is going to be received, and I think the sooner we have that information the better."

Gibbs said he will contact the North Carolina High School Athletic Association to see if there are any viable options to play soccer on the field with the construction. He will ask what the minimum distance the fence needs to be from

the out-of-bounds line and then ask the construction company if the fence could be moved back.

If that is not a possibility he will ask if the school could get a waiver to move the out-of-bound lines to gain enough clearance for play. Another possibility would be to temporarily locate the fence where it needs to be to allow for play for the fall season, and then move it back after soccer season.

"I just want to shine a light on the fact that the fence is an issue and want to make sure everybody is talking with each other so that we don't have confusion," said Wilkes. "However, while I want to keep everyone updated about the construction project, my biggest question is how are we going to fix the soccer field?"

Wilkes stated the year-long soil and grounds study requested by the Macon County Board of Commissioners was completed in March and now the school board needs to come up with the next steps to fix the field to bring to the commissioners. Creekstone, who completed the study, confirmed that there is swamp and river muck at the bottom of the soccer field creating problems on the surface.

Gibbs consulted with Vannoy Construction as a second opinion, and they agreed with Creekstone adding that most likely a drainage system was put there at one time, but as often happens with such drainage systems it has failed especially in that kind of environment.

The construction company

gave Gibbs three options for fixing the field.

The first option, also recommended by Creekstone, would be to take out all the swamp and pond muck and refill the area with solid material. This option would be the most permanent but would come with a hefty price tag.

The second option would be to add another drainage system, but this option would only be a temporary solution. As long as swamp and pond muck are under the field, the drain will eventually become plugged up and fail, continuing to cause problems on the surface.

The third suggested option would be to add a surface draining system. The upper 24 to 30 inches of the field would be rebuilt with a drainage layer system and a new surface. This option would keep the surface playable by handling whatever falls on it; however, this option would only be temporary as the mess underneath the field would remain causing problems again in the future. The approach would be somewhat experimental, and consultants said the mess under the field would eventually destroy the new surface on top.

Any of these options will cost money, the question is whether commissioners will want to spend more money to have a permanent fix for the soccer field or spend less money for a temporary short-term solution.

...SAFE PASSAGE continued from page 1

Some of these recommendations included wildlife-friendly modifications to existing infrastructure with directional fencing that encourages wild animals to use these safer routes. But to fully reopen the landscape for unfettered wildlife movement, new standalone structures (like land bridges) are needed at key strategic locations.

One potential area for such a structure is the Single Tunnel near mile marker 8 in North Carolina. Currently, eastbound traffic flows under the existing natural spur

ridge, whereas westbound traffic flows openly via a cut through a gap in that same ridge.

Ridge and gap landforms serve as paths of least resistance for many species, including black bears, which use these landforms to easily move across their territories for foraging and mating opportunities.

During the study, researchers deployed multiple wildlife cameras in this area to observe the ways different species interact with this existing infrastructure — and thus documented some of

the highest wildlife activity in the entire 28-mile study area at the I-40 border.

The construction of a new land bridge would fully reconnect this important wildlife corridor and restore the historical flow of wildlife between protected public lands, from Great Smoky Mountains National Park west of the highway to Pisgah National Forest in the east — and beyond.

Thanks to the funding in 2024 from the Community

• See **SAFE PASSAGE** page 30

Interlude Concert to feature Timothy Miller, tenor; and Willian Ransom, piano

The Interlude series will kick off at 2pm on Wednesday, July 10, with a performance by tenor Timothy Miller, entitled "Songs of Love," featuring music of Schumann, Gershwin, and Puccini- with pianist William Ransom.

A native of Augusta, GA, tenor Timothy Miller is an active performer with both national and international credits. Operatic roles include First Armored Man in Mozart's Die Zauberflote, Parpignol in Puccini's La Boheme, Un Messaggero in Verdi's Aida, and more. In addition to a busy performance schedule, Mr. Miller is an Assistant Professor of Voice and Music at Moorehouse College and serves on the board of the Meridian Herald.

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Willam Ransom



Timothy Miller

for international competitions, William Ransom appears around the world as soloist with orchestras, recitalist, and chamber musician. He is the Mary L. Emerson Professor of Piano at Emory University and founder and Artistic Director of the Emory Chamber Music Society of Atlanta. He has served as Artistic Director of the Highlands-Cashiers Chamber Mu-

sic Festival for many years. The concert is jointly sponsored by the Highlands-Cashiers Chamber Music Festival and First Presbyterian Church of Highlands. 2024 marks the 26th anniversary of the Interlude Concert series, sponsored by First Presbyterian Church of Highlands. There is no charge for the 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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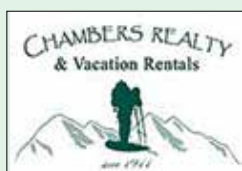
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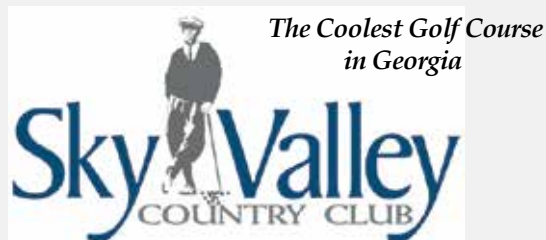


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I wanted to use my July CEO column to share with our community that every team member at Highlands Cashiers Hospital (HCH) and Eckerd Living Center (ELC) is honored to care for the people of this community. Their commitment to our patients is evident each day as they live out our core values of compassion, integrity, respect, and inclusion.

I believe that midway through the year is an ideal time to highlight the patient-centered programs and services that are firmly in place at HCH and ELC, as well as talk about our carefully considered strategy for the future.

HCH and ELC are ever changing and ever growing — everyone here is grateful for that, because patients can count on us to be forward-focused innovators. We need investment from the community, our board, local government, partners like the police and fire departments and EMT services, and HCA Healthcare to keep thriving. Ongoing commitment from these groups fosters our present and future.

Living proof of this is that HCA Healthcare invested \$15 million in us when they acquired HCH. This translates to update imaging technology, Surgical Suite renovation, and more, in addition to significant infrastructure improvements.

The element that allows us to meet our strategic goals and provide superior care across many service lines is our people, HCH's and ELC's most important resources. I prioritize recruiting and retaining the kindest, most concerned, and engaged providers and staff who all share the same goal - to care for every patient and their loved ones with the utmost sensitivity - from the moment they enter our facility to when they are discharged, whether their stay lasts hours, days, weeks, or months. This investment has earned us some of the highest marks within HCA Healthcare for employee and physician satisfaction.

The team we have is a true gift, but it doesn't just materialize magically. We invest in training and I'm happy to report that just this past fall, we saw our first CNAs accepted to Galen College of Nursing who had graduated from our HCH CNA Training Program. This local training program allows those who hope to work as CNAs to get trained during a five-week program. We offer attractive incentives to participants, including paid training, a generous sign-on bonus, and the opportunity



**Tom Neal CEO, CNO
H-C Hospital**

to start their career with us at Mission. This is transformational for these students, and also allows them to launch their nursing careers from a powerful place.

We are also enthusiastic about our partnership with Southwestern Community College, whose Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) program features a clinical rotation at HCH and ELC. Hands-on opportunities like this are invaluable for creating exceptional caregivers.

Additionally, the Highlands Cashiers Health Foundation (HCHF) is helping to increase access to primary care for individuals and families on the Plateau by funding a new Community Health Center. It will house a rural teaching program, together with UNC Health Sciences at MAHEC (Mountain Area Health Education Center). A partnership with Blue Ridge Health (BRH) and MAHEC means that we have powerful allies whose priorities focus on making Highlands, Cashiers, and the surrounding communities healthier.

Also vitally important to our success in delivering extraordinary care to our patients is continuously investing in new technology and services, which in turn allows more patients in our community to get their care close to home, rather than having to travel to Asheville. We are incredibly proud to hold the #1 spot within HCA Healthcare for offering an outstanding Emergency Department experience, we're in the Top 10 for both inpatient and outpatient surgery, and there hasn't been a case here of either of the two most frequently suffered hospital-acquired infections in a decade. We are happy as well to have earned Primary Stroke Care Accreditation for a second time last year.

Another ingredient in our recipe for success and continued growth is our commitment to community involvement. We treat our community, and we are our community. This takes many forms, from our involvement in Halloween and Christmas events, showing appreciation for veterans in the community, the Crush the Crisis prescription drug takeback event, our popular Teddy Bear clinic for kids, and more.

These meaningful, deep investments - in our services, community, and caregivers - have built our success for generations and will continue to, far into the future. We are all deeply grateful for your investment in us.

• BIZ/ORG NEWS •



From left: Highlands Rotary Bingo Chair Bob Baxter; Gordon Center Board Member Allison Tate; Super Bingo Winner Katherine 'Kat' Dubrule; Highlands Rotary Bingo Caller Tracy Franklin.

Last week's Rotary Bingo benefits Gordon Center for Children

During the evening of June 27th, The Rotary Club of Highlands once again hosted the ever popular Highlands Rotary Bingo, partnering with the Gordon Center for Children.

There were 15 rousing Bingo games, culminating in Super Bingo won by Kat Dubrule.

The evening drew a crowd at the Highlands Recreation Center, with net

proceeds from the evening benefiting the Gordon Center's important work to strengthen families and individuals by providing early childhood education opportunities to families of Highlands and the surrounding areas.

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11 AM - 2 PM | FREE

JULY

6

323 Franklin Road | Highlands, NC
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Join us at The Bascom for
a day of free and abundant
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**Artist Demonstrations
& Activities**

Empty Bowls

Free Popcorn!

Teddy Bear Clinic

Thank you!

Mountaintop
Rotary
Club of Highlands



HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS
HOSPITAL

ECKERD
LIVING CENTER

...MAYOR continued from page 2

the early part of the engagement, Washington encountered a Continental brigade in rout step retreat. He was furious and reorganized the fleeing troops to move forward to engage the enemy. Washington was right there giving the orders to fight, not to retreat.

The battle of Monmouth was indecisive. Accounts estimate that casualties on both sides were about the same, around 500 to 700 a piece. But Washington, in many respects, turned the tide of the war by demonstrating that he had a trained army that would and could fight as a military unit.

But I think there were other patriots of this historical event that were not on the battlefield

that day. They were the soldiers who endured and died in camp at Valley Forge. They did not desert and forsake their duty to seek freedom for this nation. If war had been lost, Washington and the signers of the Declaration of Independence could have been hung for treason against the crown. They put their lives and fortunes on the line for a new America.

On this Independence Day, we should take time during the fireworks, picnics, and celebrations to thank those who came before us and made untold sacrifices so we could all be free. Like the Founders, we all should do our duty as citizens and never desert our nation.

• BIZ/ORG NEWS •

Longtime Organist, Angie Jenkins retires after serving for 58 years

Angie Jenkins was honored by Highlands First Presbyterian Church on Sunday June 30, 2024. If you have attended services there at any time during the past 58 years, then you have been blessed by Angie Jenkins' sensitive and skillful piano and organ playing. After serving her church for so many years as Organist and Pianist, seventh generation Highlander, Angie Jenkins played her final service at the church this past Sunday. It is truly the end of an era.

A fourth-generation member of the church, Angie is the longest tenured Organist and Pianist in the history of Highlands area churches and probably in all of Western North Carolina.

Angie began her musical involvement at the church by joining the adult choir at age 8. That same year, she began playing the piano for Sunday School each week. Angie: "It has been such a joy to serve the Lord in this way. I have had the opportunity to work with 16 wonderful ministers and 13 choir directors during my 58-year tenure, all of whom have become lifelong friends. I have had the opportunity to play our beautiful Wicks pipe organ for two decades. I am so grateful to the ministers, as well as to the members of the congregation for their love and support through the years. I have been so blessed."

Angie's teachers were: first, her paternal grandmother, Mrs. Lizette B. Lewis of Raleigh, who was a church organist. Former organists of First Presbyterian Church, Mrs. Edwina Summer and Mrs. Mary Dupree were her teachers through high school graduation.

Angie became the official church pianist at age 12. When she became Assistant Organist at age 14, she first played the Hammond electric organ. In 1981, the Hammond was replaced by an Allen organ. Then in 2004, a two manual



Angie Jenkins

16 rank pipe organ took the Allen organ's place. The pipe organ was built by the Wicks Organ Company in Highland, Illinois. Angie had the opportunity to visit the organ factory on two occasions while the organ was being built. Dedicated on Feb. 4, 2004, the organ's "Cymbelstern" stop was dedicated in honor of Angie.

In addition to serving as Organist and Pianist, Angie also serves as "Director of Music Ministry" at the church. In this position, she oversees every aspect of the church's extensive

music ministry.

Angie plans to continue in her role as "Director of Music Ministry" at the church and will be very visible as she continues directing the church's extensive music ministry.

"As Chairman of the Music Committee at First Presbyterian Church, I want to express my extreme gratitude to Angie for faithfully dedicating her extraordinary talents to the First Presbyterian Church of Highlands for so many years," said Stell Huie, Chair, Music Committee

Now
Scheduling
Appointments



HM Beauty opening July 24th!



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- Hair Cuts and Color
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• BIZ/ORG NEWS •



From left: Bonnie Potts, Rotarian and foster mom; Dave O'Harra, Rotary Club of Highlands President; Julie Adams, speaker and founder and Executive Director of Together We Can! and Josh Bryson, Host and Rotarian.

Foster Family support group 'Together We Can!'

Julie Adams, founder and executive director of 'Together We Can!' spoke to the Rotary Club of Highlands about the organization's efforts to support children in need of foster care or adoption through education, support and advocacy - the cornerstones of the non-profit organization.

Since incorporation in 2023 as a 501C3 non-profit, TWC has raised over \$300,000 to buy and renovate a "Transition Home" for children in need of placement.

Adams' passion for establishing a transition home began when she realized that children removed from dangerous home situations, and waiting for placement in foster homes, had no place to go. Many of them were spending nights sleeping on inflatable mattresses in social workers' offices at the NC Department of Social Services.

A foster Mom herself, Julie said "I believe every child should have a caring, child-centered environment while awaiting placement. With the in-kind help of contractors and volunteer workers, contributions from vendors and donors, and help from Highlands School's Interact Club, we are close to finishing the refurbishment of our Transition Home. Next we want to create an Education Center on the same property."

Currently there are 74 children in the Macon County foster system. Since 'Together We Can!' was established, the number of foster families has increased from 19 to 34 and in 2023 there were 22 adoptions.

For more information or to support the work of 'Together We Can!' please visit www.TogetherWeCan.xyz, email info@TogetherWeCan.xyz or call 828/634.1834

Pat Allen has booksigning at Acorn's

On Saturday, June 29, Acorns hosted a book signing for Pat Allen featuring her new book "Hurdles in a Girdle: Holding Life Together When You're Bursting at the Seams."

In this \$15.99 paperback available on Amazon, Allen shares her stories and wisdom of how she



jumped many hurdles and emerged on the other side with a richer, more fulfilling life and how readers can, too.

- Photo by Kim Lewicki

THE HEIGHT OF HAPPINESS

HIGHLANDS
NORTH CAROLINA

— ELEV. 4118 —

Outdoor Concert Series

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

Join us for our 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
Lazrlyvr

JULY 27
The Breakfast Club



visithighlandsnc.com

• HIGHLANDS EVENTS •

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

• Saturdays on Pine features a variety of popular, regional bands and musicians at Kelsey-Hutchinson Founders Park 6-8:30 p.m. – Dive Bar Divas

Mon., July 15

• Regional Prayer Event - Uncovering truth in the digital age of misinformation with pastors Steve Doerter and Jim Murphy at Grace Community Church in Cashiers at 6p. Visit www.gracecashiers.com for more information.

Wed., July 17

• A HCLT Community Read: Braiding Sweetgrass Section 3 - Picking Sweetgrass (Chapters 12-17) 10a-12p at the Hudson Library, 554 Main Street.

• A HCLT Community Read: Braiding Sweetgrass Section 3 - Picking Sweetgrass (Chapters 12-17) noon-2pm at Albert-Carlton Community Library, 249 Frank Allen Road, Cashiers.

Fri., July 19

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

Sat., July 20

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

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.

Fri. & Sat., July 26 & 27

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

Fri., July 26

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

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 the public.

Fri., Aug. 2

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

Sat., Aug. 3

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

• Saturdays on Pine features a variety of popular, regional bands and musicians 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 information call Betty at 828-787-2324 or Bob at 828-332-0001.

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

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.

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 showcases traditional mountain music and exceptional local talent on Main Street's Town Square 6-8:30 p.m. – Spare Parts Bluegrass Band

Sat., Aug. 31

• Saturdays on Pine features a variety of popular, regional bands and musicians at Kelsey-Hutchinson Founders Park 6-8:30 p.m. – Full Circle

...HURRICANES continued from page 1

first-time Jr.

Olympic qualifier Emilina Hernandez all also won three events and had 24 pts. Jandera-Chambless broke both team and pool records in the 50-yard backstroke and the 100-yard Individual Medley (IM). Hernandez qualified for the 2024 Jr. Olympics in the 50-yard freestyle.

By winning two events and finishing second in a third event Stefan Halldin, Jr. Olympian Justin Powell, Jr. Olympic qualifier Alex Lopez, and first-time Jr. Olympic qualifier Emma Denisoff scored 23 pts each. Denisoff qualified in both the 50- and 100-freestyle.

Jasmine Abranyi continued her record-breaking ways with three firsts, 21.5 pts, and three team records. Dodo Zhang, Jayce Powell, and Agatha Jestin contributed 21 pts each. Zhang qualified for Jr. Olympics for his first time in the 50-freestyle. Annabelle Searles and Junior Olympian Ben Halldin won an event and 20 pts.

The trio of Ellie Bysura, Wylie Hinton, and Nikita Denisoff scored 19.5 pts. Hinton and Denisoff won two events, Bysura, one.

Finneas Garner won two events, contributed 19 pts, and broke the pool record in the 50-freestyle. Max Jestin won an event and 18 pts.

Hayden Bysura and Anna Shchelgachova scored 17 pts, while brother Ben Shchelgachov and AnnMarie Hinton had 16. Sister Charlie Hinton had 15.5 pts, Jr. Olympian Chase Kenter 15, and Max Basil 14.5.

Both Ian Batista and Corena Dearth scored 14, Asa Garner 13, Zoe Ivey 11.5, and the pair Andre Jimenez and Ellie Skier scored 10.5. Skier won an event. Valerie Nadzorau had 10, John Bradshaw Spencer 9.5, Rocco Basil 9, and brother Michael Spencer scored 8.5. Kate Vanderweile scored 8, Briella McKim scored 7.5.

Angelina Levy scored 6.5, brother Cody Levy, 6, and Senna Sherrill, 3.5.

In his first meet, Lucas Zabrian scored 2 pts, and both Harrison McKim and back from a tough break, Katherine Wise, scored 1 point. Margaret Cole was out sick.

The Highlands Hurricanes Swim Team is a 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 (one length of the rec park pool) unassisted. For more information, please call 828.421.4121

Opening Concerts July 6-9



Saturday, July 6 – 5 PM, Highlands | Sunday, July 7 – 5 PM, Cashiers

"Now Here This" with violinist Scott Yoo and Friends

Scott Yoo, violin; Ani Aznavoorian, cello; Yinzi Kong, viola; William Ransom, piano

Monday, July 8 – 5 PM, Highlands | Tuesday, July 9 – 5 PM, Cashiers

"All in the Family"

Andres & Roberto Diaz, cello & viola; Ani & Marta Aznavoorian, cello & piano; Kate & William Ransom, violin & piano



Highlands-Cashiers Chamber Music Festival

www.h-cmusicfestival.org | hccmfnc@gmail.com | (828) 526-9060

• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •



From comfort into chaos

Jacob Tedder
Congregational Pastor
Christ Church of the Valley

From the 1950s until the 1970s, John Calhoun ran experiments on mouse behavior. He wondered, "If I created a mouse utopia, where they lacked for nothing materially, what would happen to mouse society?" His theory was that we could learn about our own human society through these tests. The results were shocking. In every test he ran, they all concluded the same way.

At first, things started well. The mice had normal social behaviors - eating, making mouse babies, establishing a hierarchal structure, and generally getting along. But over time, the comfortability of the mice eventually gave way to total degenerative behavior. Despite having everything they could ever want; the mice would begin to turn on each other. They fought and ate each other, mother mice gave birth to litters, only to forget about half of them or abandon the babies when danger arose. In the end, they completely lost touch with normal, social behaviors. It was not a mouse utopia of peace, happiness and comfort, but complete chaos.

Do you know that we live in the most comfortable society that has ever existed? At the touch of your fingers, you can have everything you could possibly want. Yet, no one seems at peace with themselves or with others. The United States, especially in a year of political turmoil, seems at a breaking point. Even with all this comfort, our society seems as chaotic as it has ever been.

Social and political divide, the culture wars, the economy, the questioning of the ethics of artificial intelligence - the list goes on. We've also seen, for the past 20 or so years, the decline of religion. Comfort rises, Christianity declines. The West starts falling apart. Perhaps Calhoun and his tests were prophetic - it seems as though today we have every material comfort but we've gone from comfort into chaos.

If we have everything that we could possibly want to make us comfortable, and yet nobody seems to be fulfilled, is there something wrong with our belief system? Although Christianity has been on the decline, it does seem, as of recently, there is a glimmer of hope.

Many people such as actor Shia LeBeouf, politician and author Ayaan Hirsi Ali, TV host Kat Von D, and comedian/actor Russel Brand, are embracing Christianity, often opting for the more traditional Christian faith. If we are to listen to skeptics, these successful people are the least likely to convert because they are not poor, they have material goods, they are successful and living in a modern society that has embraced them. Why, then, do they embrace Christianity? Russell Brand said this, "I've been through a lot of things personally, I know you have, too. But, for me, I've reached a point where the figure, the personage, the presence of Jesus Christ became overwhelming, unavoid-

• See SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING page 27

• PLACES TO WORSHIP •

BLUE VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH

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

BUCK CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

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

CASHIERS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Rev. Aryn Williams-Reubel. Pastor 828-743-5298
Sundays: School at 9:30; Worship: 10:30

CHAPEL OF THE SKY

Sky Valley, GA • 706-746-2999

Sundays: 10 a.m. Worship; Holy Communion 1st & 3rd Sundays

CHRIST ANGLICAN CHURCH

The Rev'd Dr. Michael Matlock, Rector

464 U.S. Hwy. 64E, Cashiers, NC

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. 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.

CHURCH IN THE WILDWOOD,

Horsecove Rd, Highlands - 919-523-7067

Traditional Hymn Sing Sundays 7-8p, thru Sept 21.

Everyone welcome.

COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH

www.cbchighlands.com • 526-4685

3645 Cashiers Rd. Highlands, NC • Sr. Pastor Gary Hewins

Sundays: Service 10:45am, Children's 10:30am

Wednesdays: Youth 5:30-7pm; Women's Bible Study: Mondays

4:30pm, Tuesdays 10am; Men's Bible Study: Wednesdays & 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

GOLDMINE BAPTIST CHURCH

(Off Franklin/Highlands Rd)

Sunday School: 10 am. Worship Service: 11 am

GRACE COMMUNITY CHURCH OF CASHIERS

Non-Denominational-Contemporary Worship

242 Hwy 107N. 1/4 miles from Crossroads in Cashiers

www.gracecashiers.com • Pastor Steve Doerter 743-9814

Services: Sundays 10am - Wed. - 7pm; Dinner - Wed. 6pm

HAMBURG BAPTIST CHURCH

Hwy 107N. • Glenville, NC • 743-2729 • Nathan Johnson

Sunday: School 9:45a. Worship 11a & 7p. Bible Study 6p

Wed. Kidsquest 6p.; Worship 7p.

HIGHLANDS ASSEMBLY OF GOD

Randy Reed. Pastor 828-421-9172 • 165 S. Sixth Street

Wed. Bible Study: 6 p.m.; Sundays: Worship: 11

HIGHLANDS CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Dan Robinson • 11339 Buck Creek Road

The Highlands Central Baptist Church is temporarily

sharing the facilities of the Shortoff Baptist Church.

Sunday Worship is at 9a. Wednesday Worship is 6:30p

HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Rev. Dr. Randy Lucas. Pastor 526-3376

In-Person and live-streamed Worship Services

909a Bluegrass and 11a Traditional

www.highlandsmethodist.org

HOLY FAMILY LUTHERAN CHURCH: ELCA

2152 Dillard Road • 526-9741

Rev. Ken Langsdorf

Worship/Communion: 10:30 All are welcome.

Visit our website: Holy Family Lutheran Highlands NC

MACEDONIA BAPTIST CHURCH

8 miles south of Highlands on N.C. 28 S in Satolah

Pastor Zane Talley

Sundays: School: 10 a.m.; Worship: 11. Choir: 6 p.m.

Wed: Bible Study and Youth Mtg.: 7 p.m.

MOUNTAIN SYNAGOGUE

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

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

and Rosh Hashanah & Yom Kippur.

MOUNTAIN BIBLE CHURCH

743-2583 • Independent Bible Church

Sun: 10:30 a.m. at Big Ridge Baptist Church. 4224 Big Ridge

(4.5 miles from NC 107)

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

OUR LADY OF THE MOUNTAINS

CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

Tues. - 9:30am; Thurs. - 9:30am; Sat. 4pm; Sun. - 11am

SCALY MOUNTAIN BAPTIST CHURCH

Rev. Marty Kilby

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

Wednesdays: Prayer Mtg.: 7 p.m.

SCALY MOUNTAIN CHURCH OF GOD

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

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

SHORTOFF BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Rev. Andy Cloer

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

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

ST. JUDE'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

Sat. 5:30p; Sun. 9a

THE CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

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

Sunday Rites-Holy Eucharist: 8a. 9:30 & 11a

Visit our website www.goodshepherdofcashiers.com for

schedules of activities.

Our Bazaar Barn is open Thurs. - Sat. 10a -2p.

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP

85 Sierra Drive. Franklin • uufranklin.org

Sunday Worship - 11 a.m.

WHITESIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Rev. Sam Forrester/Cashiers

Sunday School: 10 am. Worship Service: 11 am

• POLICE & FIRE REPORTS •

Highlands Police entries from June 9. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a summons/citation, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor or those of public officials have been used.

June 9

• At 11:30 a.m., officers responded to a 1-vehicle accident on Main Street.

June 19

• At 4 p.m., officers responded to a 2-vehicle accident at the OEI parking lot on South Street.

June 24

• At 4:20 p.m., the dept. responded to a 2-vehicle accident on US 64 east between Main and Laurel streets.

June 25

• At 11:32 a.m., officers responded to a 2-vehicle accident on US 64 east between Chestnut and Laurel streets.

• At 11:37 a.m., officers responded to a 2-vehicle accident on Moorewood Drive.

June 28

• At 12:15 p.m., the dept. responded to a two-vehicle accident on US 64 west.

The Highlands Fire & Rescue log from June 25.

June 25

• At 1:40 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Summit Trail.

• At 4:51 p.m., the dept. responded to a Co2 alarm at a residence on Hutchinson Court.

• At 4:56 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a location on N. 4th Street.

June 26

• At 11:05 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Hummingbird Lane.

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

June 27

• At 1:17 p.m., the dept. responded to

a motor vehicle accident on US 64 east.

• At 4:05 p.m., the dept. investigated the cause of smoke at a residence on Eastover Drive.

• At 7:28 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Morewood Circle.

June 28

• At 9:41 a.m., the dept. provided public assistance at a location on N. 4th Street.

• At 11:25 a.m., the dept. investigated a burning at a residence on Eastover Drive.

• At 12:16 p.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on Hospital Drive.

• At 4:30 p.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on US 64 east.

June 29

• At 8:50 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Wilson Road.

• At 2:49 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Apple Mountain Circle.

• At 4:19 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Happoldt Drive.

• At 6:09 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Big Pine Lane.

June 30

• At 5:11 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a location on Main Street.

• At 10:28 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Barney Lane.

July 1

• At 2:31 p.m., the dept. provided public assistance at a residence on Dixon Drive.

• At 5:44 p.m., the dept. provided public assistance at a location on Main Street.

• At 5:47 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Upper Divide Drive.

• At 5:52 p.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on Horse Cove Road.

...SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING from page 26

able, welcome, necessary." In the end, the world can't offer us a solution to this problem of satisfaction and comfort, it does not produce a solution to the dilemma of the soul.

I believe people are beginning to discover what is written into the fabric of our soul — that nothing material can satisfy the desires of the human heart. No comfort is great enough to soothe the inner parts of our being that desire something more. When a society finds out that material comforts don't fulfill them, there are two options: they can either go into chaos or into true satisfaction.

Jesus says, "I am the bread of life, whoever comes to me shall never hun-

ger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst." Jesus' answer to this question is startling. "Come to me," he says, "and that hole in your soul will be filled up."

Earthly bread rots, heavenly bread fills. The world offers a comfort that leads to chaos, but Jesus offers us comfort that leads to being filled up. The world promises us comfort and material satisfaction telling us this will be enough. But when that bread begins to rot, when you have achieved what you hoped, often times, the hunger is still there, untouched and unsatisfied. Jesus promises us no earthly or material comforts, no wealth or possessions but he does promise rest, peace and satisfaction for it is only heavenly bread that can fill our soul.

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SEASONAL NEW LOG CABIN ON SAGEE 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)

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• See CLASSIFIEDS page 30

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...CLASSIFIEDS continued from page 29

Wicks pipe organ. For more information, contact Angie Jenkins, Director of Music Ministry @ 828-200-0183 (7/11)

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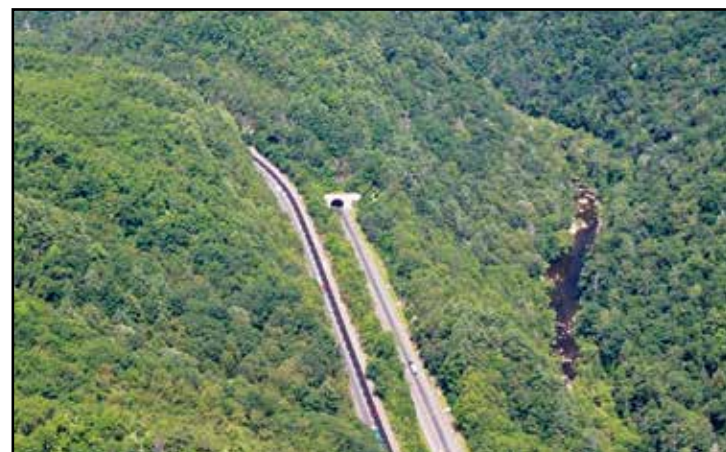
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...SAFE PASSAGE continued from page 18

Foundation of Western North Carolina, the Safe Passage Coalition can build on the momentum it's created in the last several years and advance the implementation of wildlife crossings in North Carolina, with I-40 through the Pigeon River Gorge as the state's flagship project.

"This is our second grant to support the Coalition's work to create safe passages for wildlife to cross I-40 in the Pigeon River Gorge," said Tara Scholtz, senior program officer at the Community Foundation of Western North Carolina. "Wildlife crossing projects are long-term, complex and involve many partners and agencies. They are also critical to ensuring our forested landscapes and natural resources are interconnected in order to protect wildlife diversity and habitat, as well as ensure the safety of motorists."

The Community Foundation is a nonprofit serving 18 counties in Western North Carolina. The Foundation is a permanent regional resource that facilitated \$29 million in charitable giving last year. CFWNC inspires philanthropy and mobilizes resources to enrich lives and communities in Western North Carolina.



Wild animals move freely over the landscape above eastbound I-40 at the Single Tunnel in North Carolina. A land bridge across the open westbound lanes would significantly reduce wildlife-vehicle collisions near this highly trafficked crossing.

- Photo courtesy of SouthWings

Traveling along I-40 the start of Pigeon River Gorge and the river as well as the interstate that follows it sort of bisects two major expanses of public land - the Great Smoky Mountains National Park off on the western side and the Pisgah National Forest to the east.

These are really important reservoirs, for biodiversity major, large habitats of all kinds of wide ranging and species that travel through and across this corridor. This highway is preventing a lot of free-flowing movement which

leads to a high degree of animal mortality along the roadway. Everything from deer to black bear to even elk which have been reintroduced here a few decades ago.

The safe passage coalition is made up of more than 20 organizations in NC and Tennessee. Some are national organization like Defenders of Wildlife, who are working together to install safe passage for wildlife across Interstate 40 and other places in WNC

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