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The Highlands Community Orchestra dazzled us all, with music that celebrated America's 250<sup>th</sup> birthday! With over 140 people in attendance, and a reception provided by Claire's Cakes, we can honestly say it was a very festive birthday party indeed.



  
Presents  
**RHYTHM ROAD**

  
  
  


**MAY 9th | AT 7PM**  
**THE HIGHLAND CENTER**  
**\$10 ADMISSION**

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## Highland County Library Features New Exhibit

A new art exhibit is scheduled for the Mountain View Room at the Highland County Public Library for May and June. The exhibit will feature the art work of Kristen Donnelly, a local acrylic and oil painter. A reception will be held on Sunday, May 3 from 2:00 to 4:00 pm to launch the show.

Kristen Donnelly started drawing and painting as a child and continued through high school. She returned to her passion of art upon wandering into the Sirril Art Gallery in Salado, Texas while on a work trip. For several years her work was represented there. She currently resides in Highland County and is in the process of starting a small farm raising Tarentaise cattle. According to Kristen, “As a painter I strive to create an emotion with my art. Reflections of moments in time; things I love such as animals, nature, rural life; and my travels are my primary sources of inspiration. Pieces that make the viewer wonder how the story ends bring me the greatest satisfaction in my art.”

The reception on Sunday is sponsored by the 3<sup>rd</sup> Space as part of their mission to provide artists with the opportunity to gather together and share their talent along with their love of art. Kristen is a participating member in the Art on Main at 3<sup>rd</sup> Space gallery and current President of this group of artists at 132 West Main Street in Monterey.





The 3rd Space and the Highland County Arts Council will host the 16th annual Artists' Weekend in Highland County on June 19 – 21, 2026. We have once again received special permission from local landowners and Hayfields, Virginia's newest state park, to paint at their scenic locations around the county so artists can capture the beauty of our area. Check-in will begin on Thursday evening June 18, from 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm at Big Fish Cidery for the participating artists, followed by a special social hour at the cidery. This is a time to meet old friends and new artists, complete paperwork and pick up instruction packets. Registration will also be available on Friday morning, June 19, from 8:00 am - 9:00 am at the Highland Center. Picnic lunches, catered by Claire's Cakes & Cafe, are available for pre-purchase and can be ordered through a link that will be emailed to you prior to the event. The weekend will culminate in a Wet Paint show on Sunday the 21st from 1 pm - 3:00 pm and is open to the public where artists can display and sell paintings finished during the weekend.

To register or for more information, please visit this link!  
[Registration](#)



Be sure to sign up for our newsletter, and follow our social media pages, so you don't miss the latest news, events and performances! To donate, simply scan the QR code, or follow the donation link.

We appreciate your generosity!



[Donation Link](#)

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**HIGHLAND  
COUNTY  
ARTS  
COUNCIL**

**THANK  
YOU**

Without the support of the following organizations, the Highland County Arts Council would not be able to provide the programming that is its hallmark.

The Virginia Commission for the Arts  
The Community Foundation of the Central Blue Ridge  
The Little Swiss Fund    The Charles Pinckney Jones Foundation

