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...and more!

August's Second Saturday will coincide with "Taste of Highland," the Highland Center's 14th annual fundraiser dinner featuring local foods. Stay after the delicious dinner on August 12 for the Elizabeth and Mary Hille Memorial Concert at 7 p.m. featuring Kate MacLeod's Mind the Gap. This concert is generously provided by the Highland County Arts Council and the Charles Pinckney Jones Foundation.

The McCoy sisters were beloved fixtures of the Highland community for nearly 90 years and the last Jones descendants to live in the iconic West Main Street home. Granddaughters of C.P. Jones and his wife Martha Jane "Mattie" Wilson Jones, Elizabeth (age 7) and Mary Hille (age 9) McCoy moved into the C.P. Jones House in 1929 with their mother Mabel Jones McCoy after their father Dr. George McCoy died unexpectedly. After graduating from Highland High School, they attended Longwood Teacher's College in Farmville and pursued careers as educators. Neither sister ever married. After a brief time away, Elizabeth returned to Highland to live with her mother in the ancestral home. Mary Hille retired in 1981 and returned to Highland and joined Elizabeth. Elizabeth passed away in 2012 at age 89, Mary Hille in 2018 at age 98.

Concert attendees can enjoy a performance by the talented Kate MacLeod from the generosity of the Charles Pinckney Jones Foundation. SingOut! Magazine states MacLeod "channels the spirit of the great Carter Family classics." She is a versatile musician adept at guitar, fiddle, mountain dulcimer and harmonica. Her songs have been featured on nationally syndicated radio shows including Tom May's "River City Folk," and were sung by others on "A Prairie Home Companion." In addition to her performing, she teaches songwriting and fiddle workshops in schools, concert outreach programs, summer camps and at music festivals. She is a sought after vocalist, fiddler and guitar player, working regularly with other artists.

This year's Taste of Highland meal will be prepared by The Warm Springs Inn using items generously donated by a variety of Highland County farmers and producers. Tickets are \$75 each or \$425 for a table of 6. Tickets are limited and must be purchased in advance at www.thehighlandcenter.org/tasteofhighland or by contacting Highland Center staff at 540-468-1922. The Highland Center executive director, Elizabeth Lohr-Myers, says "The Highland Center is very grateful to the Highland County Arts Council for allowing the McCoy Memorial Concert to coincide with and contribute to the Taste of Highland. Elizabeth and Mary Hille McCoy were deeply involved with and great supporters of both The Highland Center and the Arts Council and it is fitting that these two organizations should come together to celebrate their memory."

The concert is free, and donations will be collected to support the work of the Arts Council. Come out for a great evening of fellowship, delicious food and good music!

Take note

Our email:
HighlandCoArts@gmail.com

FUNDING FOR YOUTH PROGRAMING

The Highland County Arts Council is the proud recipient of an Educational Impact Grant from the Virginia Commission for the Arts in the amount of \$3,750. This matching grant will be used to continue monthly youth programming in collaboration with The Wayne as well as visiting artists that are a part of the Second Saturday roster. The funds will also allow us to bring back the summer drama camp in June 2024. Stay tuned for dates and offerings! For questions, or to be a matching sponsor for this program, please contact Brit Chambers, HCAC vice president at britchambers@gmail.com or 540-468-2474.



Keep an eye on our website
<https://www.highlandcountyartscouncil.org/>
for upcoming events!

HCAC IN THE WILD: PLEIN AIR PAINTING

Highland County Arts Council board members Jim Sherman and Brit Chambers volunteered on July 21 with the Highland County Recreation Commission to give children the opportunity to experience plein air style painting. Through generous donations and membership fees, the arts council provided all materials for this amazing event and gave students a hands-on experience that included lots of messy fun. This collaboration between the Highland County Arts Council and the Highland County Recreation Commission is in its second year.

En plein air, or plein-air painting (plein air is French for “outdoors”), is the act of painting outdoors. Any form of painting or artistic creativity helps improve motor skills and self esteem in children. Other benefits of painting in childhood are spatial intelligence, sensory development and an increase in both concentration and patience.

The creativity of children within our community can be viewed in the display in the Mountain View Room at the Highland County Public Library.



Fall Preview

The Highland County Arts Council has a history of bringing outstanding performers to Highland County thanks to the support from the Virginia Commission for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts. Both agencies are dedicated to funding activities that make it possible for areas such as ours to have access to the full range of performing artists.

The Fall Season of Second Saturday @ Seven will again give evidence of that dedication. The engagement of three of the performers is only possible because of matching grants from the VCA and NEA. In September, Andrew McKnight and Beyond Borders will offer a combination of folk and traditional music. In November, Martha Spencer will provide a concert of American Roots Music. And in December, Mark Nizer will entertain the whole family with his juggling, music, and dance performance. If ever one wants an example of the return on our tax dollars, the Fall Season at the Highland Center is it.



MESSAGE FROM THE ARTS COUNCIL PRESIDENT, DONNA BEDWELL

It's been a busy season for the Arts Council! We've been hard at work securing funding such as the new educational impact grant, and hosting wonderful Arts Academy workshops.

In July, the Highland Arts Academy successfully held a full basketry workshop and the barn quilt painting workshop had so much interest, a second one is being planned for late October. The pottery workshop kicked off in July and will finish up in early August. The August broom-making workshop is full with a waiting list and momentum is building for the remaining workshops this year.

If you would like copies of our new rack card for your business, or want to check out the remaining workshops, let us know with an email at HighlandCoArts@gmail.com.

Creativity Corner

David Cockerham



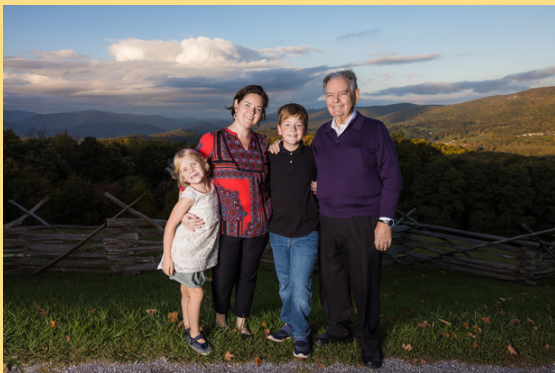
Highland County resident David Cockerham's passion for photography grew after attending Media Arts, a trade school in Richmond, Virginia. Cockerham took his graphic design background from creating websites to the art of capturing landscapes and portrait photography. He is taking his photography interest to the next level and recently re-started his photography business, David Cockerham Photography.

Cockerham grew up in Richmond, and moved to Highland County in 2007 after attending the Highland County Maple Festival. "That's when my family discovered the picturesque beauty of the mountains. I love living in a small town where most folks know each other either directly or indirectly, which gives a greater sense of belonging," he said.



Cockerham's favorite things to photograph around Highland County are serendipitous moments on dramatic cloudy days. He started as a landscape photographer, and now does mostly portrait work. "I love to photograph everyone -- ranging from high school seniors, weddings, maternity photos, newborns and still life and animals. When taking portraits, I always endeavor to capture my subject's personality in the moment," he said.

Cockerham can be reached at 540-679-6119 or chronovisor@gmail.com to book a photography session.



THANK YOU

NATIONAL
ENDOWMENT
for the **ARTS**
arts.gov

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

