

Highlands Newspaper

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Thurs., Aug. 6, 2015

A skatepark could be the next addition at the Rec Park

Skateboarding is making a comeback and Highlands is ready to be proactive about it.

Due to town regulations, skateboarders aren't allowed to skate on town streets or sidewalks nor are they allowed to

skateboard in K-H Founders Park.

However, with a pro -kid and -family board now at the stern, the town is considering the best way to accommodate skateboarders without jeopardizing the life-

style of the rest of Highlands' residents.

"At this point I am just investigating the possibilities of a small skateboard park on the Rec Park property," said Recreation Director Lester Norris. "With the prob-

lem of skateboarders skating in the park and we asking them to leave, they need a place to be able to go and skate."

Norris and Mayor Pat Taylor, who is also behind the idea, first

•See SKATEBOARD page 13

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USFS is upgrading area trails this summer

Some of the county's most beautiful resources are getting upgrades this summer thanks to the work of local forest service workers and grants that are making it all possible.

The Bartram Trail

Macon County's most famous trail, the Bartram, is being revitalized this summer as part of an improvement plan that started in the '90s.

According to Mike Wilkins Ranger for the Nantahala District of the USFS, the Bartram Trail (BT) is getting three new miles through a partnership with the Bartram Trail Society. The project, which is nearing completion, ties down the long planned route to Hickory Knoll near the Little Tennessee River.

The project was made possible through a \$75,000 grant from the NCDENR, Division of Parks

•See TRAILS page 10



Highlands rallies for Hospice House of WNC

Fundraising events are through August 15, and on August 23 and Sept. 22

A silent auction to benefit the Hospice House Foundation of WNC is in progress through Saturday, Aug. 15 at Scudder's Gallery on Main Street in Highlands.

Up for bid is jewelry donated by an anonymous donor: a pair of pearl and brown

diamond earrings, a necklace of four strands of freshwater pearls with a diamond and emerald clasp, and a strand of freshwater Baroque pearls.

Auctioneer and owner Frank Scudder is a big supporter of Hospice and is waiving any commission on the sale of the neck-

lace. It is his way of helping the effort so the entire payment will be made directly to the Hospice House.

The generosity of both the anonymous donor and Frank Scudder will help the Foundation

•See HOSPICE page 9

One case of La Crosse Encephalitis confirmed in MC

It's been a wet, hot summer and with that comes mosquitoes, and over the years Highlands has had its share of La Crosse Encephalitis cases.

Macon County Health Director, Jim Bruckner recently confirmed that a child from Macon County has been diagnosed with La Crosse Viral Encephalitis (LAC).

The child is home and recovering from symptoms. But Bruckner reminds everyone how important it is to take necessary precautions to prevent mosquito-borne illnesses.

"La Crosse Encephalitis is actually the most common mosquito-borne illness in North Carolina, and is found predominantly in the western part of the state."

•See LA CROSSE page 6

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• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• MAYOR ON DUTY •

Dumping culprit is still at large

Rumors and speculation are afoot about the concrete dumping incident on the Greenway. One rumor is that the town is covering it up because town workers doing sidewalk repairs are the culprits. Furthermore, the Town Manager is just dismissing the incident to protect his workers.

Let me address these rumors and provide an update to the police investigation. I am speaking as the mayor and as a former magistrate with 10 years experience of issuing criminal charges.

First, the town does not have a concrete mixing truck, and our road crews do not pour concrete except an occasional small amount from bags. The town has recently had a contract with a local construction company for replacing broken sidewalk slabs around town. And, the contractor was completing the work during the time of the concrete dumping incident. In replacing sidewalk sections, he routinely employed a concrete trucking company.

Our police department has been investigating the incident and has reviewed whether the contractor was pouring sidewalks on, or near, the day of the incident. Records indicate the contractor was not pouring sidewalk slabs during that time. So to say the town, or our agent, was



Mayor Pat Taylor

responsible for the dumping is not substantiated.

In their investigation, Highlands Police have contacted all the concrete companies that operate on the plateau. Investigators have reviewed records and cannot determine that any company was working here at the approximate time of the incident. Representatives of all the companies also deny they were responsible. One

company owner even came to the site to see firsthand what happened. Now, it is possible a concrete truck working in the area passed through and dumped the load.

The police have also interviewed alleged witnesses. It turns out no one can make a definitive identification to who was doing any dumping. As Chief Harrell told me, the testimony that they gathered would be dismissed in district court as hearsay.

Now here is the magistrate's role. If the police want to charge a person, or company, with illegal dumping, an officer has to go before a magistrate and give sworn testimony of probable cause before an issuance of a charge. A magistrate always asks questions such as when did the offense take place, and who witnessed the offense? Without definitive information the magistrate would deny the charge.

If the charge was issued, the accused would have their day in court with full legal counsel. To the credit of our police chief and department, they will not criminally charge a person unless they believe they can prove the offense in court.

With that said, citizens observing suspicious acts should call 911 and request a police response. The 911 operator will immediately dispatch an officer. If someone had seen the concrete dumping and called 911, a Highlands police officer would have responded immediately. If that law enforcement officer saw the offense, charges could have been made. Citizen assistance is always welcomed.

The police have not closed their investigation. If anyone has information please call 526-9341.

• FORUM •

A local's testimony about Hospice

By Tracy Head

I would like to start off by thanking everyone for their prayers, food, cards, and visitation during my family's grieving over the loss of my Grandfather, Bud Dalton.

A few years ago I was entrusted with being in charge of my Grandfather's care after he was diagnosed with dementia. When he could no longer stay in his own home he came to live with me, my husband and children for nine months, but after the progression of his disease late last year we resorted to the help of a memory care unit to take over his care.

Over the last few months his appetite diminished along with his state of mind, I was watching him slip away ever so slowly. I began to accompany him to the Emergency

Room about once a week for falls and/or urinary tract infections -- a vicious cycle.

I received a phone call on Friday, June 26, only to learn that he stopped eating. I went to the nursing home and discovered him lying in bed, resting comfortably, but in a very weakened body. I spoke with the nursing staff, and we made the decision to call in Hospice to evaluate him."

HOSPICE! "I thought this day would never come, was this really happening to my "PAW?" I wasn't ready to let him go, but I knew I didn't want him to live in this physical condition, nor would he want to live this way.

Tuesday, June 30, he was evaluated and approved for hospice care and I was

• See FORUM page 12

• LETTERS •

Trump gets it right!

Dear Editor,

Traditionally, Americans have sent lawyers to congressional offices in Washington. The assumption was that they would be able to make laws and regulations. What they actually did is cut deals and trade agreements that are killing American businesses and jobs.

While you know me as the pistol instructor, my background is stronger in business, having run several major and medium-size corporations.

Over the years I've written many times that we need to send experienced businessmen/women to Washington. The government of the U.S. is one of the largest businesses in the world. Why would you send an inexperienced attorney, with no business experience to run it?

A man who have never held a job, never punched a clock, never supervised people, never managed people, never created business plans, budgets or negotiated business deals?

What Donald Trump is finally revealing is what I have written about for years. Fair

Trade Laws that Washington negotiated served to send large parts of American business overseas. It has created severe economic results

• See LETTERS page 10

Highlands Friday Relay for Life is CANCELLED

The American Cancer Society today announced that the Relay For Life event scheduled for this Friday, Aug. 7 has been canceled. Society staff are working with community volunteer leaders to organize an event to honor cancer survivors and celebrate the community's years-long efforts through Relay For Life to save lives from cancer. Details about the event will be announced later.

"The Highlands community has been a significant part of the American Cancer Society Relay For Life movement for many years," said Sarah Bishop. "For a variety of reasons, we were not able to hold the annual event this year in Highlands. We are looking forward to gathering with the community to celebrate cancer survivorship and the legacy of this great event this year. We're also working with community members to hold a Relay For Life event in Highlands in 2016"

For more information, or to get involved with Relay For Life, call Carrie Shuler at 828-788-3525.

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• MEMORIAL SERVICE •

Brown Memorial

A memorial service celebrating the life of Vernon Brown will be held on Saturday, August 8, 2015 at the First Baptist Church of Highlands, 200 Main Street, Highlands, NC. The service will begin at 11 am and is open to the community. There will be a celebration meal and a time for sharing thoughtful reflections of Vernon's life following the service.



• MILESTONE •

Adrian has 'real life' experience at American Legion 76th session this summer

This summer Highlands School rising senior, Remy Adrian, attended the American Legion Tar Heel Boys State, 76th Session, at Catawba College in Salisbury, NC.

Every year a few students are chosen to participate in this program designed to ensure the survival of the Republic by teaching the ideals and objectives of the American government.

The idea is simple, teach young

men the way democracy and government works so they can be better educated citizens.

This unique program takes students out of the typical learning environment of classroom lectures and textbooks, and has them participate in real world situations through a mock model state with elected public officials and governing bodies.

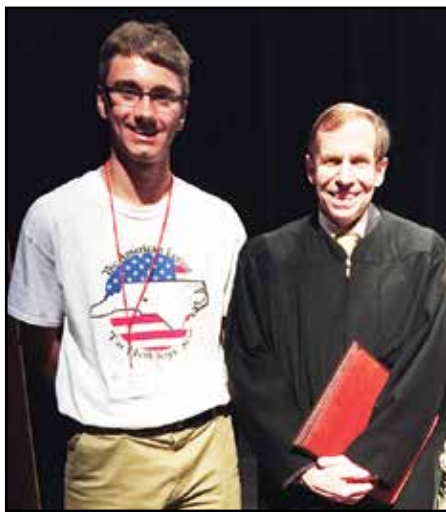
Remy was elected House of Representatives Minority Whip and used his position to create a bill that was centered on businesses obtaining gambling licenses.

The idea was simple, yet ingenious.

If a business wants to operate with a gambling license, it applies and if it meets all the requirements, it is approved and the proceeds from the sale of the license go toward funding education.

If a business is caught operating without a license, the revenue generated is seized and given to the state for education.

In addition, each county is responsible for charging a gambling tax rate it sees as appropriate.



Remy Adrian with NC Supreme Court Associate Justice Robert Edmunds Jr.

Adrian's bill was voted on and passed unanimously in both the House and the Senate, as well as by the Boys State Governor sponsor.

"Not to discredit what I have learned in school, but this opportunity awarded me real world experience and firsthand knowledge of how the government really works on a day-to-day basis," said Remy. "If every student was given this chance, the youth of America

would approach adulthood with a better understanding of how our government works for us and what we can do to influence change."

Remy said he has had his sights set on attending West Point or the Naval Academy since middle school and he feels the program has furthered his goal.

"I have worked almost my entire school career with my goal in mind. From serving as Student Government Treasurer, Beta Club Treasurer, Interact Sargent at Arms, to serving as Junior Marshall, I have used each of these opportunities to learn and grow as a student getting ready to embark on the next chapter of my life. The program helped me understand the workings of the American government."

Adrian is embarking on his senior year at Highlands School armed with the knowledge he learned this summer and is ready to share valuable information with his fellow classmates.



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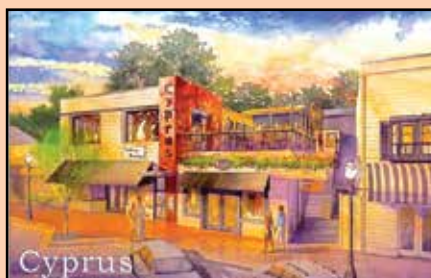
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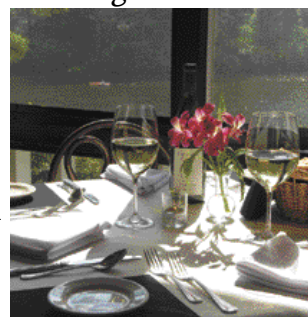
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UPCOMING EVENTS

"A curious mind knows no bounds"

• **THE MEANING AND LEGACY OF THE FRENCH REVOLUTION:** Monday, Aug. 10 Time: 10-12 Revolting against years of exploitation, French citizens redesigned their country's political landscape, uprooting centuries old institutions such as the feudal system and absolute monarchy. Lloyd Kramer, professor of History at UNC Chapel Hill will discuss the causes and events that led to the revolution and the impact it made.

• **PARIS: THE CULTURAL CAPITAL OF MODERN EUROPE:** Tue., Aug. 11 Time: 10-12 Most people associate French culture with Paris, which is the center of fashion, cuisine, art, and architecture. Presenter Lloyd Kramer will look at how Paris still represents the traditions of "high culture."

• **THE CONCEPT OF SECULARISM:** Tue., Aug. 11 Time: 10-12 Presenter Christopher Hoyt will look at secularism from the humanism view point, the idea that values shall be derived from the empirical world and human life. Dr. Hoyt is an associate professor of Philosophy and History at WCU.

• **POLITICS 2015: LOOKING BACK, LOOKING FORWARD:** Wed., Aug. 12 Time: 10-12 With a big national election looming in the future this lecture will answer many questions such as "Does your vote make a difference?" "What kind of influence does North Carolina have in presidential elections?" and more! Chris Cooper has won awards for his teaching and lecturing and heads the Department of Political Science and Public Affairs at WCU.

• **GOD AND THE BRAIN:** Wed., Aug. 12 Time: 2-4 What is the evolutionary purpose of belief? Jeffery Smalling examines the fascinating scientific research on the persistent human faith throughout history. Jeffery Smalling is acclaimed speaker, and is the author of the bestselling book "The Breath of God." He holds degrees from Yale, Harvard, and Oxford Universities.

• **RUFFLES AND RUFFS: DISCOVERING THE HIDDEN MEANINGS IN DUTCH AND AMERICAN PAINTINGS:** Thur., Aug. 13 Time: 10-12 Kristen Miller Zohn will look at the hidden meaning in the art of 17th century Netherlands and 19th century American artists. Zohn is the Director of Collections and Exhibitions at the Columbus Museum in Columbus, GA.

• **A FINE HOUSE RICHLY FURNISHED: DECORATIVE AND FINE ARTS IN THE NOVELS BY JANE AUSTEN:** Fri. Aug. 14 Time: 10-12 Kristen Miller Zohn will explore the artistry found in Jane Austen's work represented through paintings, architecture, landscape, furniture, artwork and interior design.

**The cost for all lectures is \$25 members/\$35 non-members For more about classes at The Center for Life Enrichment stop by our office in the lower level of the Peggy Crosby Center at 348 S. 5th Street, call 828-526-8811 or visit www.clehighlands.com*

...LA CROSSE continued from page 1

said Bruckner. Two other mosquito-borne diseases, Eastern equine encephalitis and West Nile virus, are also found in North Carolina. While Eastern equine encephalitis is found largely in the eastern part of the state, West Nile virus is found statewide.

Donald Dewhurst, MD of Macon County Public Health said La Crosse symptoms occur from a few days up to two weeks after being bitten by an infected mosquito. These symptoms include fever, headache, nausea and vomiting. There may be neurologic symptoms such as confusion or loss of balance and in more severe cases, convulsions or coma may occur.

Children and the elderly are the most susceptible to the disease.

“Severe cases with invasion of the central nervous system and neurological symptoms occur primarily in children under age 16; but fortunately, most persons with Lacrosse

recover completely.”

“Thankfully, it is fairly easy for people to protect themselves by applying mosquito repellents and making their home or work environment less attractive to mosquitoes,” said Bruckner.

He offered the following advice for eliminating mosquito breeding areas:

1. Use “mosquito dunks” in ponds and other bodies of shallow standing water. These dunks are available at home improvement and most farm and garden centers.

2. Install or repair window and door screens so that mosquitoes cannot get indoors.

3. Drain all sources of standing water. At least once or twice a week, empty water from flower pots, pet food and water dishes, birdbaths, swimming pool covers, buckets, barrels, and cans.

4. Check for clogged rain gutters and clean them out.

5. Remove discarded tires that could collect water.
6. Be sure to check for containers or trash in places that may be hard to see, such as under bushes or under your home.

Dewhurst agrees insect repellent, as well as the elimination of mosquito breeding grounds are effective methods for preventing mosquito bites.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommend several repellents against mosquitoes – DEET, picaridin, oil of lemon eucalyptus, and IR3535. According to the CDC, oil of lemon eucalyptus should not be used on children under three years old. Consumers should look for products that contain the CDC- recommended ingredients, and should read and follow all label instructions.

For additional information about LAC and mosquito borne illness, go to the following websites: www.deh.enr.state.nc.us/phpm and www.epi.state.nc.us/epi/arbivirus.

Detailed information about insect repellants may be obtained by visiting the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency website at <http://www2.epa.gov/insect-repellents>.

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Bikers Welcome

• THE FREDSTER •

Stop the Earth, I wanna get off

No, no, no, this is not one of those political rants that blast a particular party for their actions. We all know the Republicans suks just as bad as the Democrats. And this has nothing to do with racial issues that we seem to be continually bombarded with, creating total insane bla, bla, bla and more.

What this is about is America's loss of common sense and decency, like the stuff we learned in kindergarten. What have we become? I don't know about you but I was never taught convoluted thinking in kindergarten. Now I'm choking on it.

The latest example of this is when some nutty smart-ass person overstepped his/her bounds and recorded a conversation with a Planned Parenthood leader. The discussion was about the sale of infant human body parts. How dare that person expose corruption? What? If you don't know what I'm talking about then maybe you should consider leaving the planet with me. And what is America's answer to this inhuman corruption? Let's go after the smart-asses that took the video of the corruption. Surly they were violating some law.

I know, I know, it's hard to get worked up over the sale of infant body parts while living in a paradise like Highlands. After all, we're pretty sure none of that is going on up here in this beautiful place. But ya know what? They may be selling a few infant livers to the highest bidder down in Atlanta. A person can make a lot of money selling infant livers. But who cares about that. After all, it does not affect my life in any way. When I look around, life is good.



Fred Wooldridge

In the interim, the Planned Parenthood videos are so graphic, they were ordered to stop showing them immediately. Hey, if we don't see the videos then it's not happening, right? And if none of this disturbs you in the least bit, please consider joining me on my voyage. Maybe we'll move to Mars.

And the whole Middle Eastern end of our planet is embroiled in war. A once rag-tag group of sand and rock people now called ISIS is blowing up that part of the planet. And they pledge to eventually get to America and blow us up as well. But who cares? I guess when they blow up chunks of the White House, America will begin to pay attention. Ha, too late! In the interim, none of this affects my life on the plateau.

And to add to all this insanity, America is working on a treaty with a country whose battle cry is "death to America." That country is holding four Americans hostage and they just

might kill them if we don't obey. And America is pretending everything is hunky-dory. Chances are good that, in time, they will kill these four Americas whether we obey or not. What do I care? None of them are my family members.

So I can't find anything good going on and that includes my Christian beliefs. Those beliefs are slowly being dismantled. Yes, I was upset when Catholic nuns were forced to include the distribution of prophylactics on

• See FREDSTER page 10

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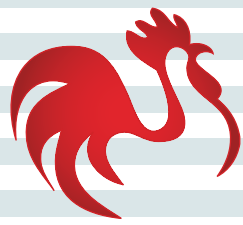


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...HOSPICE continued from page 1

raise funds for the renovation and expansion of the Hospice House building in Franklin.

But more immediately, it will help the Foundation come up with some of the \$2.2 million needed to meet the \$1 million challenge grant offered by the State Employees Credit Union (SECU) which must be raised by December 31, 2015.

A Hospice House is a special residence created to care for terminally ill patients with medical conditions which cannot be managed at home – basically a place that provides respite care and a place for one to spend his or her final days.

The facility will serve patients in Western North Carolina, including the counties of Macon, Jackson, Swain, Graham, Clay, and Cherokee, as well as the Qualla Boundary and northern Georgia. There are 59 hospice inpatient facilities in North Carolina but none in the western region.

The entire campaign goal for this inpatient facility is \$4.3 million which also includes the facility's first year's operating expense. Four Seasons CFL, the area's local hospice provider in Highlands and Franklin, will operate the facility.

Hospice Houses will offer a variety of services to meet the physical, emotional, mental and spiritual needs of its residents and their families.

The SECU Hospice House of WNC on its 3-acre site at 272 Maple Street in Franklin, will offer medical and nursing care provided by a staff of registered/licensed nurses and trained caregivers 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

A personalized care plan will be developed for each patient under the direction of the patient's primary care physician.

Chaplains will be available to talk about spiritual and/or religious issues of concern to the resident and their family.

Social Workers will be available to discuss emotional and family challenges, as well as grief and loss issues.

Bereavement services will be provided for the survivors following the death of a resident. Volunteers will be an important aspect of Hospice House care. They will be available to assist patients/families in helping with activities, care, and errands.

As a freestanding building Hospice House of WNC will offer patient suites

with private porches, a family kitchen, dining room, family room, family bath/showers room, family laundry facilities, chapel, children's area, therapeutic spa room, bariatric suite, sun room, screened-in porch, and a conference room.

The current house will be renovated to include the family areas, the chapel and offices. There will be a 10,000 sq. ft. edition in the back that will also include six patient suites with private porches overlooking the view.

At Carpe Diem Farms

The second fundraising event is "Art for the Heart of the Hospice House" on August 23.

It, too, is a silent auction featuring original art from the Public Children's Art Studio in Minsk, Belarus, but also includes food, spirits and music.

The event is being held at Carpe Diem Farms, 544 Western Rhodes Drive (off Buck Creek Road) in Highlands from 4-7 p.m. Tickets for this event are \$50 and include an evening of fun, appetizers, spirits, and music. Casual attire is suggested.

At Paoletti Restaurant

The third fundraising event is an evening at Paoletti on Main Street in Highlands on Tues., Sept. 22.

The evening begins with "Cocktails and Casual Grazing" from 5-7 p.m. This will be a come-as-you-are social cocktail reception with hors d'oeuvres and select wines. Tickets are \$150/person (\$100 is tax deductible).

At 7:30 p.m. "Dining for Dignity" begins. This will be a relaxed dining experience where patrons choose from a decadent 4-course menu especially selected for the evening.

Tickets for the 4-course menu are \$250/person (\$150 if tax deductible).

Each dining venue will be complemented by music and accompanied by a silent auction, including a wagon-filled assortment of wines.

Seating for this dining venue is limited – early reservations are strongly recommended. Please call 828-526-4906.

If you can't attend the events, donations will be gladly accepted. Please make checks payable to Hospice House Foundation of WNC and mail to: Hospice House Foundation of WNC, PO Box 815, Franklin, NC 28744.

For more information, check hhwnc.org.

– Kim Lewicki

Hospice of WNC Fundraising Dates to Remember:

Saturday, Aug. 15 – Scudder Silent Auction deadline

Sunday, Aug. 23 – Carpe Diem Silent Auction and Evening of Fun

Tuesday, Sept. 22 – Cocktails & Casual Grazing; Dining for Dignity and Silent Auction



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...TRAILS continued from page 1

and Recreation. The USFS contracted the work, which will be finished in the next three to eight weeks.

"While this completes the original route across the Nantahala Ranger District, there still remains sections that need relocation as the Bartram Trail Society and the

Nantahala Ranger district continue to partner to improve the trail and the long east-west hike it provides," explained Wilkins.

Whiteside Mountain Trail

An additional \$84,000 from NCDENR made an elevation upgrade project possible at Whiteside Mountain. The Whiteside Mountain trail is a National Recreation Trail

...FREDSTER continued from page 7

their insurance policies. It's all part of the insanity that America has become.

Here's my common sense kindergarten approach to these issues. Let's create an organization to help women in need without offering the grotesque sale of infant body parts. If there really is a group of killers on their way to America to kill us all, wouldn't it be wise to get them before they get us? And remember what you learned in kindergarten and always say "excuse me" before blowing them up.

Note: Download Fred's nutty book titled "I'm Moving Back to Mars" on your Kindle or other electronic device.



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that receives 50,000 plus hikers a year.

"It has been a goal of ours for a number of years to improve the section of trail that ices over during periods of the winter," said Wilkins. "When completed, the steps will provide a much safer and pleasant experience for the typical hiker that uses the trail."

The Whiteside Mountain project is being handled by Williams Construction, who is currently working on constructing an elevated set of wooden steps where the trail system ices over due to water weeping out of the rocky shallow soils in the winter which becomes very hazardous.

Yellow Mountain Trail

Like the Bartram Trail, the county's Yellow Mountain Trail received a 3-mile extension this summer.

Wilkins said crews constructed three miles of new trail to avoid a section of steeply rutted trail on an unsustainable location and parts of the upper old route was partly on private land.

"The work was completed by the USFS employees over 3-year period," said Wilkins. "It is now open and the remaining sign and trail blazes will be installed by the end of next week. This project was completed without special funding by a 4-5 person crew of summer students lead by the Forest Service. The young folks on this crew have worked very hard over the last three years to construct three miles of new trail across the south face of Yellow Mountain. It was a very rough and rocky piece of ground on

...LETTERS continued from page 2

in the U.S. Our companies are not doing well, there are not enough jobs for Americans! It is difficult to achieve a middle class position.

Trump is validly pointing out that other countries are stealing from us, bad deals have been negotiated, and it is killing our economy. General Motors has now announced that it is going to build a new factory in Mexico. This is a company that the U.S. Government had to bail out with taxpayer financial aid.

Mitsubishi is closing its Illinois production factory, their only one in the U.S.

If you tour the industrial parks in Mexico you will find thousands of U.S. companies that have facilities and jobs there. From a business point of view, GM is forced to go outside the U.S. It is the UAW that has almost put our auto companies out of business with \$60 to \$70 per hour salaries for production line workers.

Toyota and Volkswagen have taken over our market. Trump has finally opened Pandora's box and has brought the truths to the surface.

Now, we all know he is a jerk, but one hell of a businessman. He is leading the polls not because of who he is, but what he knows. We missed one huge opportunity with Mitt

which to build a trail but we are extremely pleased with how it turned out. The trail is now on a much better grade that will be easier to maintain over time. More importantly, 100% of the trail is now located on National Forest Lands."

Ellicott Rock Wilderness Area

Another summer project crews handled this summer in Macon County, is continuing the priority of keeping up the designated wilderness areas of the county.

"It is especially important to maintain our trails in the designated Wilderness Areas," said Wilkins. "Keeping those hiking paths in good condition reduces the impact by man and helps keep the wild in wilderness. Maintaining trails with primitive tools like cross cut saws makes the Forest Service very appreciative of the assistance provided to us this summer by the volunteers of the Wilderness Society."

The Ellicott Rock Trail, which is one of the county's designated wilderness areas, saw routine maintenance throughout the summer.

"The Wilderness Society student crew worked for two weeks doing maintenance on the Ellicott Rock Trail near the Chattooga River," said Wilkins.

Recognizing the importance of both the cultural and economic benefits of the county's natural assets, the forest service also continued routine maintenance on areas of the county near Highlands such as the Cliffside Trail and Ranger Falls Trail.

Romney. He had the business skills to turn this country around.

Americans seem inclined now to want a woman in the highest office. Regardless of political party, there are many qualified women who head up major corporations who would make an excellent leader for our country. I am searching for a bumper sticker that says ANYBODY BUT HILLARY! She doesn't have the business qualifications and is just a crafty politician.

We need to send business people to Washington who wake up every day with these thoughts:

1. What can we do to strengthen American businesses today?
2. What laws and regulations can we get rid of today?
3. How can we lower the national debt today?

If your child came to you and asked you to co-sign for a credit card, and he/she said they were going to charge half of everything they spend, would you co-sign for the credit card? You bet your bippy you wouldn't!

Threats from phone scammers posing as IRS officials is on the rise

If you get a phone call from an unrecognized number claiming to be from the Internal Revenue Services (IRS), local authorities are advising that you immediately hang up the phone.

According to Macon County Sheriff Robert Holland, his department has received an increased number of complaints over the last few months from residents in Highlands and Franklin regarding suspicious phone calls claiming to be from the IRS.

“Scammers usually keep calling until they find someone that is elderly or clueless to the scam,” explained Sheriff Holland. “Generally the suspects are out of country and unable to be prosecuted. The crime is when the act is fulfilled but then can’t prosecute because out of jurisdiction boundaries.”

Holland noted that while IRS phone scams are not new, they do seem to be becoming more and more prevalent. He said his office received dozens of complaints a year regarding the scam.

They often threaten to sue if payment isn’t made.

According to the IRS’ website, “The IRS doesn’t initiate contact with taxpayers by email, text messages or social media channels to request personal or financial information. This includes requests for PIN numbers, passwords or similar access information for credit cards, banks or other financial accounts.”

In January, the IRS reported that phone scams are one of the top scams reported to their agency.

Aggressive and threatening phone calls by criminals impersonating IRS agents remain near the top of the annual “Dirty

Dozen” list of tax scams for the 2015 filing season, the Internal Revenue Service announced in January.

The Dirty Dozen is compiled annually by the IRS and lists a variety of common scams taxpayers may encounter any time during the year. Many of these con games peak during filing season as people prepare their tax returns or hire someone to do so.

The IRS will never:

- Call to demand immediate payment, nor will the agency call about taxes owed without first having mailed you a bill.
- Demand that you pay taxes without giving you the opportunity to question or appeal the amount they say you owe.
- Require you to use a specific payment method for your taxes, such as a prepaid debit card.
- Ask for credit or debit card numbers over the phone.
- Threaten to bring in local police or other law-enforcement groups to have you arrested for not paying.

If you get a phone call from someone claiming to be from the IRS and asking for money, here’s what you should do:

If you know you owe taxes or think you might owe, call the IRS at 1-800-829-1040. The IRS workers can help you with a payment issue.

If you know you don’t owe taxes or have no reason to believe that you do, report the incident to the TIGTA at 1-800-366-4484 or at www.tigta.gov.

If you’ve been targeted by this scam, also contact the Federal Trade Commission and use their “FTC Complaint Assistant” at FTC.gov. Please add “IRS Telephone Scam” to the comments of your complaint.

...LETTERS continued from page 10

Then, why did you let the U.S. Government do this over the past few years? That’s why the national debt has skyrocketed. Over 50% of the money they spent was borrowed! We need to wake up folks!

**Jim Sottile
Franklin**

Do you know Ben Carson?

Dear Editor,

Did you watch the Debate? How did you like Ben Carson? Would you like to know more about him

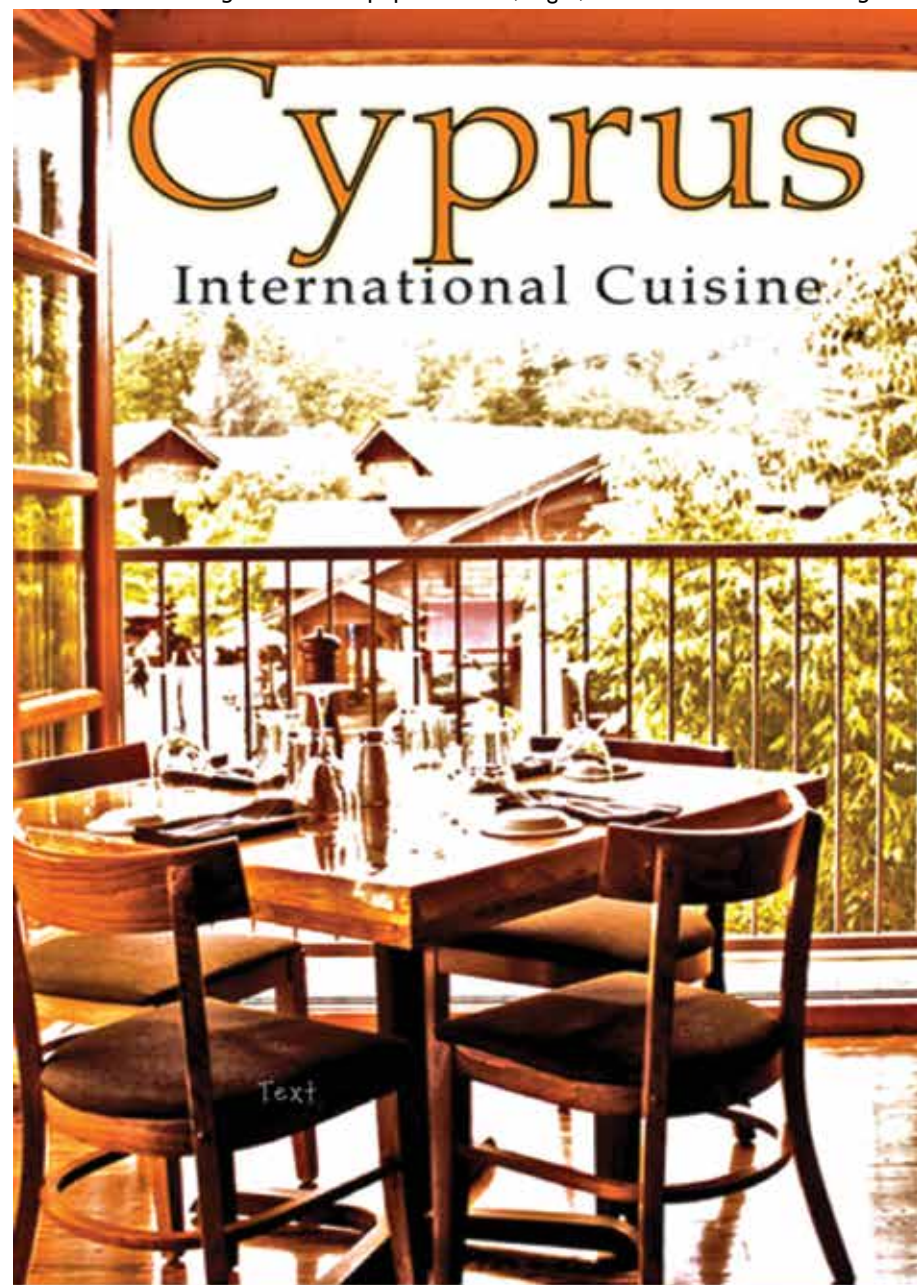
We will have a short video presentation

about Ben Carson at the Rec Center this Saturday, August 8th at 3 PM. All are invited.

As I consider the 2016 election and look over the field of candidates I can’t help thinking what turmoil our Country is in. Racial and sectarian tension is at an all-time high. Our elected officials, Republicans and Democrats, are constantly fighting and getting precious little done on behalf of the citizens to address the many problems facing our Nation. Political correctness seems to be becoming the law of the land.

When I first heard of Ben Carson, over a year ago, and learned of the effort to draft him to run for the Presidency, I wanted to know more about him. I read several

• See LETTERS page 19



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...FORUM continued from page 2

informed about all the services they offered. The same day that Hospice took over his care they brought all the medical equipment needed to make him more comfortable in the nursing home.

While this was very comforting I knew I didn't want him to die in the nursing home. My father and I stayed with him day and night for the next several days, sitting in a straight-back chair and leaning on the foot of his bed trying to get some rest ourselves; we were exhausted.

After several teary drives home at midnight I knew the time had come, if I wanted to be with him 24/7 until he passed away, I needed to get him home.

I made the call the next morning to our hospice nurse letting her know that we wanted him brought home, but in order to do that I (or someone) had to commit to be in charge of his care at home. Hospice would be there if I needed them but not 24/7, I would have to be the one responsible from that point on until he died.

Needless to say I was very nervous about that, but I felt I had no other choice, so I committed to be his caregiver along with my father's help.

Friday, July 3, he arrived home; hospice had already delivered all the equipment we needed to care for him there. The nurse had gone over all the medications and dosages with me and then told me I could call them anytime day or night we needed them.

Although this was very reassuring, I was in charge of helping him go through this passage to the end of this life on earth! I was scared. What if I couldn't keep him comfortable? What if something happened I didn't want see? What if the nurse couldn't get there quick enough?

All these questions were going through my mind. But with all those fears and questions I trusted God and the hospice professionals that we would be OK at home.

Looking back on my experience now, I wouldn't have changed a thing. My Paw died on Monday, July 6, with my father and me right by his side and with God's grace, just the way I imagined it would be; quiet, peaceful, and in a home filled with lots of love.

Thank you Lord!

My conclusion to this story is that I believe when we, as humans, have life-altering experiences we should give our testimony and pass it on so that others may benefit or be blessed by it.

Here is what I have discovered; there is a very special place for hospice in all of our lives and you don't realize it until you need them.

Once we are born we are meant to die, as much as we don't like to think about it, it will happen to all of us. So whether it is us or a loved one who needs guidance down the pathway to the end of life, hospice is a light that can lead the way.

My Grandfather had someone willing to take charge and bring him home but so many people don't have that option and they die at home alone and in pain.

I believe if we had another option such as a Hospice House available in our area, many sick people wouldn't have to be afraid and alone when they pass away.

Had we had the Hospice House available, I might have chosen to take my Grandfather there instead of home. We now have the beginning of a Hospice House in Western North Carolina. This is something that will bless so many dying people and their families.

A Hospice House is a place that would not only keep patients in a homelike environment, but also allow their loved ones to be with them 24/7 until the end.

My heart is with this project and I hope my story inspires some of you readers to donate not only money, but time to help finish the Hospice House in Franklin, NC. The house would serve all of Western North Carolina and North Georgia, what a blessing for our community.

Please follow your heart and know any donations would be greatly appreciated. There will come a day when you and I could need this home as a place of rest in our final days here on earth. God Bless You!

Donations can be made to Hospice House Foundation of WNC, Inc., PO Box 815, Franklin, NC, 28744.

• BIZ/ORG NEWS •



At the weekly meeting of the Rotary Club of Highlands on August 4, Bob Kieltyka, executive director of the Highlands Chamber of Commerce, presented a donation from the Chamber to support the Rotary sponsored 3rd annual Twilight Rock 'n Roll 5K race, to be held on August 22 at 6 pm. All proceeds from this year's race go to support the Highlands Hurricanes Youth swim team. From left: Kieltyka with Rotary President Christy Kelly and Rotarian and race chairman Derek Taylor

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...SKATEBOARD continued from page 1

thought of using the outdoor basketball park on the south side of the property.

"It turns out this area is very small for a skateboard park. It is possible, but we would probably only get one piece in especially if we put in a half pipe," said Norris.

About four years ago the town briefly considered turning the tennis court nearest the Civic Center building into an in-line or roller blading park, but the idea was squashed. However, it's possible that area would lend itself to a skateboard area.

Meanwhile, Norris has talked to a couple of groups that specialize in skateboard parks and have given them the dimensions of the areas in mind. "I am waiting on suggestions back from them," said Norris.

Turns out skateboard professional Tommy Hawk may be able to help guide the town in its endeavor – and possibly, depending on the median income of the residents and the number of at-risk youths, award a grant to offset the construction costs.

According to the Tommy Hawk Foundation website, after receiving thousands of e-mails from parents and children across America who did not have a

safe, legal place to skate and in some cases were arrested for skating on public property, Tony Hawk decided to establish a foundation whose mission would be to serve this population. He wanted to help them develop quality places to practice the sport that gives them much needed exercise and a sense of self-esteem.

"So in 2002 he established the Tony Hawk Foundation, financed the organization with a personal gift, and assembled a Board of Directors that represents a diverse range of backgrounds and expertise.

"Since its inception, the Tony Hawk Foundation has sought to foster lasting improvements in society, with an emphasis on supporting and empowering youth. Through special events, grants, and technical assistance, the Foundation supports recreational programs focusing on the creation of public skateboard parks in low-income communities, and other causes in the U.S. and overseas. The Foundation favors projects that have strong community involvement, grassroots fundraising, and a base of support from the skaters, parents, law enforcement, and local leaders."

The website goes on to say that in re-

• See **SKATEBOARD** page 21

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ITALIAN RED TOMATO, ITALIAN WHITE CREAM, PESTO BASIL, OR BARBECUE

CHOOSE UP TO 5 TOPPINGS:

PEPPERONI, ITALIAN SAUSAGE, GROUND BEEF, HAM, BACON, CHICKEN, CARAMELIZED ONION, FRESH ONION, ROASTED RED PEPPERS, GREEN PEPPERS, BANANA PEPPERS, OLIVES, MUSHROOMS, PINEAPPLE, SPINACH, EGGPLANT, ARTICHOKE, ANCHOVIES, GRANDE MOZZARELLA, GORGONZOLA, PROVOLONE, FETA, AND PARMESAN

ITALIAN STREET FOOD \$10.95

LEMON ROSEMARY SAUTÉED CHICKEN, CRISPY CHICKEN FRITTE, ITALIAN SAUSAGE OR MEDITERRANEAN STEAK

ADD YOUR SAUCE: POMODORO, PESTO BASIL, ITALIAN WHITE CREAM, CREAMY PESTO

THEN IT'S ALL SAUTÉED WITH FRESH ANGEL HAIR PASTA, TOPPED WITH PARMAGIANO & SERVED WITH FRESH BAKED PIADINA

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ENTERTAIN at The Bascom



The spacious grounds and unique buildings of The Bascom are available for rent. Large, medium and small-sized venues for receptions, weddings, meetings and other gatherings are available to the entire community.

The Main Building Atrium and Terrace can accommodate numerous guests, while The Horst Winkler Sculpture Trail's Pavilion would be the perfect site for an intimate ceremony with a small reception. Whether you are planning your only daughter's wedding, corporate board meeting and retreat, company party, or large birthday bash for your best friends, The Bascom has a unique setting for every special occasion.

The Bascom's list of approved caterers will provide many choices for you to have the perfect event.



323 Franklin Rd.
Highlands, NC 28741
www.TheBascom.org
828-526-4949

• HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

Mon.-Sat.

• Nantahala Tennis Club meets at 9a.m to noon each day. All visitors welcome.

Sun. - Tues.

• Movies at the Playhouse: 2, 5 & 8 p.m.

Call 526-2685 for weekly movie.

Mondays

• Shortoff Baptist Church hosts a non-denominational Men's Meeting the first Monday night of each month at 7 pm and all men are invited to attend.

Mon. & Wed.

• Zumba with Mary K. Barbour at the Rec Park from noon to 1p. For more information, call 828.342.2498.

• Donation Based Family Fitness Class at The Nature Center every Monday at noon

and Wednesday at 7pm for Teens and Adults,

Mon., Wed., Fri.

• Heart Healthy Exercise Class Monday,

Wednesday and Friday 8:30am-9:30am

• Aerobics with Tina Rogers 8-9a.

First Tuesdays

• The monthly family support group for those with family members, friends, or loved ones living with the challenge of mental illness meets the first Tuesday of each month, 7p.m. at Memorial United Methodist Church, 4668 Old Murphy Road, Franklin. This group is sponsored by the local affiliate of NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness). For more information: Ann 828 369-7385

Tuesdays

• Growing Stronger Together - A support and learning group for women who have physi-

cal or mental difficulties including depression or high stress. \$5 per session. Meets weekly on Tuesdays through August 4 at the Peggy Crosby Center, Rm.203. Led by Bonnie Gramlich, LPC and sponsored by HUMC and the Counseling and Psychotherapy Center of Highlands. Call 828.342.0546 to register or for more info.

• FREE Community Table Dinner at the Community Bldg. at 6p.

• FREE Yoga in the K-H Founders Park Tuesdays from 6-7 p.m. Bring the whole family (along with a towel and a bottle of water) for a gentle, community stretch!

2nd and 4th Tuesdays

• OccupyWNC meets at the Jackson County Justice Center. For more information, visit www.occupywnc.org or call 828.331.1524

Tuesday and Thursdays

• Zumba with Connie at the Rec Park at 8a. \$5.

• Pickle ball is played from 9:30-11a in the gym at the Rec Park.

1st Wednesdays

• Family Movies at the Hudson Library at 3:15pm. Call 828-526-3031 for titles.

Estate Sale

814 Eastover Drive, Highlands

Saturday, Aug., 8 • 9a-4 p

Quality furniture and accessories,
china, crystal & more!

Directions: Go Cashiers Hwy to Cowee Ridge; left on CR to top of mountain, (paved road will turn to tar & gravel; #814 is on left.

Watch Facebook for more information; 828-200-0361 more info.

Cast for HCP's 'Vanya & Sonia & Masha & Spike'



Playing the six characters in the Highlands Cashiers Players' first play of their new season are from left: Lauretta Payne, Michael Lanzilotta, Chris Hess, Adair Simon, Raina Trent, and Frannie Oates. New among the experienced actors seen in past HCP productions are Lauretta Payne from Sky Valley and Frannie Oates of Cashiers—both with impressive theatrical backgrounds. The recent Broadway comedy, Vanya & Sonia & Masha & Spike, which won the Tony for Best Play in 2013, will be presented by HCP August 27 through September 6 at the Highlands Performing Arts Center. Season subscriptions are now available. Tickets for Vanya go on sale for season subscribers Thursday and Friday, August 20 and 21, and for others starting Saturday, August 22. Leave messages at 828-526-8084. Web site: highlandscashiersplayers.org

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 - 20 Minutes from Highlands, NC



• HIGHLANDS EVENTS •

2nd Wednesdays

- General Audience Movies at Hudson Library at 2pm. Call 828-526-3031 for titles.

Wednesdays

• Children's Book of the Month Club and Story Hour with Nonnie (Diane McPhail) at Shakespeare & Company in Village Square at 11 a.m.

• Live music at Satulah Mountain Brewing Company with Jimandi, a local duo, 7:30-10:30p.

Thursdays

• Storytimes with Miss Deanna at Hudson Library 10:40 am. Open to the public.

• Weight Watchers support group meets every Thursday at 6pm at the Cashiers Community Center. Questions? Call Lisa 828-506-3555.

• NAMI Support Group for individuals dealing with mental illness: depression, bipolar, schizophrenia, etc. and the family members of individuals dealing with these challenges from 7 - 8:15 pm. Call Donita for more info (828) 526-9510.

• Free lectures at the Highlands Nature Center, 930 Horse Cove Road in Highlands at 6:30 p.m. For more information, call (828) 526-2221.

2nd Thursdays

• Sapphire Valley Needlepoint Guild meets at the Highlands Rec Park at 10 a.m.

3rd Thursdays

• Kidney Smart Classes in Franklin: Every 3rd Thursday of month, 4:30pm-6pm, Angel Medical Center, Video Conference Room, 3rd Floor, 120 Riverview Street, Contact Majestic 828-369-9474

• Kidney Smart Classes in Sylva: Every 3rd Thursday of month, 7:30am-9am, DaVita Sylva Dialysis Center, 655 Asheville Highway, Contact Sue 828-631-0430

Last Fri. of each month

• Community Coffee with Mayor Pat Taylor from 11a to noon at The Hudson Library.

Fridays and Saturdays:

• The Highlands Historical Museum is open every Friday and Saturday from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.. On display is a Botanical History of the Highlands Plateau, a gallery of local photographs by George Masa, and presentations of Mary Lapham's TB Sanatorium, the Moccasin War of 1885, Abraham Lincoln's alleged origins, Joe Webb's tools, and books and DVDs about Highlands history. For more information, email highlandshistory@nctv.com.

Fridays

- Live music in Town Square from 6-8p.

Saturdays

• Highlands Marketplace in the vacant lot next to K-H Founders Park on Pine Street from 9a to 2p.

• See EVENTS page 16

WellStrung at Interlude Wednesday



At 2pm on Wednesday, August 12, the Interlude Concert Series which is sponsored by First Presbyterian Church and the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation will feature WellStrung Band. The concert will take place at First Presbyterian Church.

Based in Highlands, members of the group are: Rachel Friday; bass fiddle, clawhammer banjo; Jeff Scheneck, mandolin, harmonica, fiddle, vocals; David Goodrow, rhythm guitar, vocals; Knight Martorell, banjo, harmonica, mandolin, back-up vocals. The group was organized in 2011 and has quickly become very popular in the area.

There is no admission charge for the Interlude concerts, which constitute a ministry in music to the community. Dress is casual - come as you are. 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.



MOUNTAIN FRESH GROCERY DINNERS-TO-GO SUMMER MENU 2015

MON

JAMES BEARD AWARD-WINNING CHEF, LOUIS OSTEEN'S LOW COUNTRY LOBSTER/SHRIMP BOIL FOR TWO
LOBSTER TAILS, WILD CAUGHT LARGE SHRIMP, RED BLISS POTATOES, SUMMER CORN, HOUSE MADE SAUSAGE, ALL STEEPED IN LOUIS'S PROPRIETARY SEASONING. SERVED WITH DRAWN BUTTER AND COCKTAIL SAUCE.

\$33.95
SERVES TWO

TUES

OVEN OFF NIGHT
2 FRESH CHICKEN BREASTS, GRILLED WITH ROSEMARY INFUSED OLIVE OIL. SERVED ON A BED OF MIXED GREENS, WITH STUFFED BRIE, SPICY/SWEET PECANS, MOUNTAIN FRESH OIL AND VINEGAR ON THE SIDE AND TWO CUPS OF HOUSE MADE GAZPACHO, WITH A MOUNTAIN FRESH BAKERY FRENCH BAGUETTE

\$23.95
SERVES TWO

WED

PRIME RIB WITH BAKED POTATOES & SALAD
PREMIUM ANGUS STANDING RIB ROAST, COOKED MEDIUM RARE WITH RED WINE AU JUS, TWO BAKED POTATOES AND A LARGE CAESAR SALAD.

\$33.95
SERVES TWO

THURS

BABY BACK RIBS
COOKED FALL-OFF-THE-BONE-TENDER. SERVED WITH HOUSE MADE BACON/APPLE BAKED BEANS, AND POTATO SALAD.

\$25.95
SERVES TWO

FRI

SHRIMP; FRIED OR STEAMED
WILD CAUGHT LARGE SHRIMP EITHER LIGHTLY BREADED IN OUR SEASONED CORN FLOUR MIXTURE, AND THEN PROPERLY FRIED IN PEANUT OIL AND SERVED WITH HUSH PUPPIES; OR STEAMED TO ORDER IN OUR LOW COUNTRY SEASONING. BOTH COME WITH COLESLAW AND ROSEMARY SEA SALT BROILED RED POTATOES, TARTER AND COCKTAIL SAUCE.

\$26.95
SERVES TWO

SAT

IN-HOUSE SMOKED BBQ
SERVED WITH COLESLAW BACON/APPLE BAKED BEANS AND YEAST ROLLS.

\$22.95
SERVES TWO

**COME BY OR CALL IN YOUR DINNER ORDER!
AVAILABLE FROM 4:30PM - 8:00PM MON - SAT
STORE HOURS: 7AM-9PM MON - SAT, 8AM-6PM SUNDAY**

CORNER OF FIFTH & MAIN, HIGHLANDS NC • 828.526.2400

• HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

- Children's Story Hour with Nonnie (Diane McPhail) at Shakespeare & Company in Village Square at 11 a.m.

- At MountainTop Wine Shoppe on Main Street, free wine tasting from 1-3 p.m.

- Music in the K-H Founders Park from 6-8p. Bring a picnic.

Aug. 6-22

- At the Highlands Playhouse, First Date. Wed.-Sat., at 8 p.m. and Sat. & Sun. at 2 p.m. for Tickets call 828-526-2695.

Thurs, Aug 6

- Taize at 5:30 PM at Holy Family Lutheran Church 2152 Dillard Road (Just past the Summer House)

- The Molly Grace on 4th Street across from Town Hall is presenting

"Wine and Design with Dawn" from 5:30 to 7:30p for \$45. Just bring YOU and she will have your canvas and paint supplies. Please call (828) 526.8390 to reserve your spot. Space is limited.

- Free Zahner Lecture: 'Waterfalls and Wildflowers in the Southern Appalachians' at The Nature Center at the Highlands Biological Station from 6:30pm to 7:30pm

Thurs. & Fri., Aug. 6-7

- At the Center for Plastic Surgery, Injectable Filler Open House from 10a to 4p. Special pricing for Today's Lift.

Fri.-Sat., Aug. 7-8

- HCCMF presents "Rising Stars from the Juilliard School" with Fei-Fei Dong, piano; Margeaux Ma-

loney, violin; Andres Gonzalez, viola; Khari Joyner, cello. Friday at PAC at 6p and Saturday at the Cashiers Library at 5p. For tickets call 828-526-9060.

Fri., Aug. 7

- At 5:30 p.m., the final production of HUMC's Summer Music Camp - "Everywhere I Go" by Luke Osteen and Les Scott at the K-H Founders Park on Pine Street. Bring something to sit on.

Sat., Aug. 8

- An Open House is set for the new Fire Department Sub Station on Cherrywood Drive at The Meadows on Saturday.

- A weekend with the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation. Concert & Auction at PAC and an



First Date

August 6- August 22

Wednesday - Saturday 8pm
Saturday & Sunday 2pm

 Highlands Playhouse 362 Oak Street • Highlands, NC 28741
Box Office: 828-526-2695
www.highlandsplyhouse.org
highlandsplyhouse@yahoo.com



Wednesday, August 12
7:30pm

Reserved Seating

Adults \$22 PAC Members \$19

Highlands Performing Arts Center 507 Chestnut Street

Tickets available online: highlandspac.org or by calling 828.526.9047

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• HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

elegant Garden Party from 5 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. at the beautiful gardens of Frank Langford in Highlands Falls Country Club. Ticket price for each event is \$50 or \$90 for both. Tickets are available online at incarnationwnc.org, at the Church office or by phone at 828-526-2968. Proceeds from the auction and concert benefit health and human services in the community.

• Shortoff Baptist Church will be having a Bluegrass Gospel singing this Saturday, August 8th at 6:00pm with a Group from Madison County which features a native Highlander, Jamie Calloway the son of Coach Doyle and Margaret Calloway. So come out to this great time of song and fellowship.

Sun., Aug. 9

• Highlands-Cashiers Players is hosting a Country Tea to celebrate its volunteers, past, present and future from 2-5p at K-H Founders Park on Pine Street. Please RSVP to 526-8084 or ashleypearman04@gmail.com

gmail.com

• The Highlands Plateau Audubon Society Annual Picnic will be held at 5 p.m. at the Highlands Civic Center picnic shelter. A meat dish and soft drinks will be provided. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share. There is a \$5 fee per person. For reservations, contact Dee Andry at 828-787-1586. Members and their guests are invited.

• HCCMF presents the final gala concert and dinner "Mozart in the Mountains" at 5p at PAC presenting the festival chamber orchestra with Brice Andrus, horn; Laura Ardan, clarinet. Dinner follows at Wildcat Cliffs Country Club. For ticket information call 828-526-9060 or go to hccmf@frontier.com.

Mon., Aug. 10

• The Battle of Sugartown Chapter of the North Carolina Society, Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), will hold its monthly meeting at 11:30 in the Boiler Room Restaurant at 1024 Georgia Road in Franklin. All DAR members and pro-

spective members are welcome. For further information, please contact 828-524-2673.

Wed., August 12

• Free Interlude Concert Series at the Presbyterian Church at 2 p.m. WellStrung.

• At PAC Live in HD Series present Helen Mirren in The Audience at 7:30p. Call 828-526-9047 for tickets.

• Church Youth night at the Rec Park pool on Wednesday, from 6:7:30pm

Thurs.-Sun, Aug. 13-16

• Bascom in Bloom. Thurs: Horticulture Lecture Series and Demonstrations. FREE. Open all day. Fri. & Sat., Aug. 14-15, Bascom in Bloom

Flower Show. Demonstration and Champagne Luncheon. Tickets are \$85 per person. Sun., Aug. 16, Benefactor Party: Music by The Tams and dinner by award winning Avalon Catering. For more information, call 828-4526-4949.

Thurs., Aug. 13

• Zahner lecture at the Nature Center is all about salamanders. "Pheromones, Mating Behavior and the Biomedical Relevance of Salamander Research" It's free and begins at 6:30 p.m.

• The Macon County Cancer Support Group will meet Thursday at 7 p.m. in the cafeteria of Angel Medical Center. Reesa Boyce, Instructor at the Macon County Senior Services

Center, will speak on the benefits of Tai Chi for cancer patients, survivors, and caregivers along with the art of relaxation and meditation. A \$50 door prize will be given away. Light refreshments will be served. Everyone is invited to attend.

Fri., Aug. 14

• The annual Alpha Delta Pi Sorority alumni luncheon at Wildcat Cliffs Country Club at 11:30 a.m. All ADPis are invited to come and renew acquaintances and college memories. To make a reservation or for more information, contact Emily Buskirk at 787-1015 or Vesta Jones at 526-0477. Reservations need to

• See EVENTS page 22

HCCMF presents 'Rising Stars from the Juilliard School'



Andrew Gonzalez



Fei-Fei Dong

Even in its earliest days, the Highlands-Cashiers Chamber Music Festival served as a showcase for bright young talents just beginning to earn accolades. Inevitably, those musicians became national and internationally recognized artists who would return to the festival.

This year, in its 34th season, the Highlands-Cashiers Chamber Music Festival is offering "Rising Stars from the Juilliard School," on Friday, August 7, and Saturday, August 8.

Pianist Fei-Fei Dong, violinist Margeaux Maloney, violist Andrew Gonzalez, and cellist Khari Joyner will perform Schumann's "Fantasie Pieces," Chopin's "Nocturne and Waltz," Ysaye's "Solo Sonata," Messiaen's "Louange," and Dvorak's "Piano Quartet in Eb."

This week's concert will be held at 6 P.M. Friday at the Martin-Lipscomb Performing Arts Center in Highlands and repeated at 5 P.M. Saturday at the Albert Carlton-Cashiers Community Library in Cashiers.

For tickets and information, call (828) 526-9060.

Highlands Central Baptist Church

"Where the Cross is Central"

Celebrates 5 Years of God's Faithfulness Sunday, August 9



Pastor Dan Robinson • 670 N. 4th Street (Next to the Civic Center)
PO Box 2922 • Highlands, NC 28741 • 828-526-0774 or 828-371-2579

Worship Times

Sunday: 10:45a & 6p

Wednesday: 6:30p Children's and Adult Bible Study & 7:30p Prayer Meeting

"I will bless the Lord at all times. His praise shall continually be on my lips" Psalm 34:1

• REAL ESTATE SNAPSHOTS •



Just 5 minutes from Downtown Highlands. 3br/2ba with private setting, lots of glass to bring the outdoors in, additional lot included. \$380,000. MLS# 82336



In City Limits with a grand mountain view! 4br/3ba plus loft with two master suites on the main level. Great buy, needs some repair. \$350,000. MLS #82000



Highlands Falls Country Club. Completely renovated 3br/2ba Golf Villa with a garage and a view of lake and golf course. \$495,000. MLS# 82264



Beautiful acreage with a 3br/2ba home. Over 13 acres with great mountain views, creek and three springs, owner will consider financing. \$325,000. MLS# 78961



Highlands Falls Country Club beauty! 3br/3.5ba with 3-car garage, listen to the waterfall on the 15th hole, golf course view, wrap-around porches. \$777,000. MLS# 81880



Sequoyah Point Way. Homesite on Lake Sequoyah with exceptional views of the lake, privacy, city water and sewer. Great reduced price! \$347,000. MLS# 77522



Holt Knob. Just what everyone wants! Walk to town with a great mountain view. 3br/2.5 furnished with a large deck. Reduced to \$515,000. MLS# 76583



Highlands Falls condo with 3br/3ba and great golf course view, sunroom, stone fireplace, vaulted ceiling. Just reduced to an amazing \$295,000! MLS# 73808



Best buy in Highlands Falls Country Club! 3br/2ba single unit detached Golf Villa with lake and fairway view. Reduced to \$235,000. MLS# 78712



Fronts on Lake Sequoyah and amazing view of the lake! Great value for this 3br/2ba furnished cottage, wood floors, stone fireplace, family room and lovely yard. \$329,000. MLS# 81623



Great building lot at almost 4000 feet elevation in picturesque Coldsprings just minutes from town. Ridgeline views of Shortoff Mountain, community water, tennis courts, stables, lake access to canoe lake, paved roads. \$145,000 MLS #82251



Great long range mountain view lot in a terrific subdivision located between Highlands and Cashiers. Easy building site. This subdivision is beautifully manicured and will have just a few homeowners for maximum privacy. \$200,000 MLS #75799



This 3/2 villa in Highlands Falls has a wonderful covered and open deck for enjoying those cool summer evenings with friends. Enjoy watching the golfers as they putt for that birdie on the 11th. Vaulted greatroom and 2 car garage. \$325,000 MLS # 73139



Sweet Mirror Lake area cottage. 3 bedrooms on one level with 2 renovated baths. Large open back deck with some mountain ridge line views! The lower level has large bonus room with a 2nd fireplace & a renovated bath. \$349,000 MLS#77220



Renovated 2/2 condo is one of the most beautiful units in Highlands Mountain Club. The kitchen is sleek and elegant and the greatroom is spacious with wall to wall glass doors which lead to the open deck. \$320,000 MLS# 81182



Great value in Highlands Falls on the golf course. Greatroom has vaulted ceilings with beams. All 3 bedrooms open to decks, plus there is a screened porch off of the greatroom. The terrace level boasts the third bedroom and a large family room. \$437,000 MLS #79180



Charming 3/3 home behind the Wildwood Mountain on a flat lot with plenty of space to enjoy the peaceful setting. Vaulted ceilings are featured in the living room and along with the separate dining room connects to the kitchen, with an open and bright floor plan. \$450,000 MLS #82228



On nearly 2 acres in a semi-wooded private setting with two large, stream-fed ponds with young, golden Koi and recirculating waterfall. 3/2 on the main floor plus a large, open, room on the lower level, family room, media room. About 4.5 miles to Highlands and 5.5 miles to Cashiers. \$524,000 MLS #81863



Like new 3/3/1 home, only 4 miles from town. Screened from the road by a thick Holly hedge. Property is bordered by 3 creeks. This parcel is like a wildlife sanctuary. Expansive wrap around front porch in front and a screened porch in the rear. \$599,000 MLS #82064



Immaculate 4/4/2 home in Highlands Falls CC. On a corner lot with a great mountain view, with water feature. Gourmet kitchen, large family room with fireplace. Playroom/storage above the garage. Offered fully furnished. \$1,197,000 MLS #79582

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Record Sales at Record Low Prices

Real estate sales are setting record highs for the past two years since our Highlands area recession hit hard in 2010. However, due to the vast inventory of unsold properties, average prices are the lowest points we have seen in many years.



Lynn Kimball
Meadows Mountain Realty

make out better financially in the end and can enjoy what you really want and/or need now, without waiting.

Do you own investment property? This may include commercial, vacant land or qualifying rental property. Maybe there is another property out there that has more advantages for income, a

You will be surprised at the number of incredible buys that have been made in Highlands. Although there are many more buyers, with so many available properties many sellers are getting tired of waiting. Many paid cash for their homes, but their time to be in Highlands has come and gone. With the market dragging since the recession, sellers are realizing that if they want to sell in the current market, they are looking at an average of 30% + less value. This is driving the market prices down, but creating opportunities we thought we'd never see.

One of the greatest advantages to selling today is when you want to buy another property. If you sell now, you most likely will sell low, however if you repurchase you will have many exceptional opportunities to buy at the lowest prices we've seen in many years. Chances are you will

more suitable location or a better value today for potential appreciation in the future. If you sell low now, then purchase another qualifying property at an even better value, an additional advantage could be a 1031 Tax Deferred Exchange. (only with advice from your qualified tax professional)

Another important advantage to buying today is that interest rates are still at record lows.

Finding the right Realtor® is the key to your success. After taking the time to find someone you can trust...who is an experienced professional and knows the Highlands market, you can settle back and allow them to do what they do best...provide the service and expertise you need in buying or selling a property.

- Lynn Kimball has over 41 years of real estate experience, with 30 years serving the High-

lands Cashiers area. She has gained Emeritus Status with the National Association of Realtors and is currently serving as Vice President for the Highlands Cashiers Board of Realtors. Whether you are interested in searching properties or

comprehensive information about our area, you are invited to visit her user friendly website at www.signatureproperties-nc.com. Meadows Mountain Realty has two locations, at 41 Church Street in the Old Edwards Inn complex or visit Lynn

at her 2334 Cashiers Road location across from Highlands Falls Country Club. Lynn Kimball may be reached at 828-421-8193 or by email at Lynn@MeadowsMtnRealty.com.

• REAL ESTATE SNAPSHOTS •

View Lot Under \$50K



Amazing price for a view lot in picturesque Horse Cove. This 1 +/- acre lot is tucked in a gated community and features an easy building site with a stunning view of Black Rock Mountain. Close to waterfalls, swimming holes, fishing, hiking and picnic spots. 10-minute drive to Main Street. This lot is perfect for building either a mountain getaway or year 'round home. Life is good!

Offered at \$38,000. MLS #81920.

Contact Susie deVille (828) 371-2079.

Premium River Front Acreage



In one of Highlands' most desirable neighborhoods, this rare acreage offers a unique opportunity to envision and build your mountain dream home. Situated on the Cullasaja River section of Mirror Lake, there are 4.83 +/- acres in total, with 2.1 +/- acres of usable land. With a potential to subdivide, investors, too will want to take note! Acreage features lush, native shrubs and plants; stream and river frontage; good building pockets; and proximity to town (yet feels a world away).

Offered at \$295,000. MLS #79819.

Contact Susie deVille (828) 371-2079.

Adorable Stream Front Cottage



Can you say completely adorable? Nestled amongst a magical forest of rhododendron, this sweet getaway features lovely waterfall and stream views. 2BR/2BA with a little sleeping loft for children. Open living, kitchen and dining area that flows out to an expansive, open deck (overlooking the stream). Price recently reduced, making this property this season's best buy and investment. Furnished down to the pots and pans!

Offered at \$162,500. MLS #77322.

Contact Susie deVille (828) 371-2079.

Great Investment Property Close to Town



In-town, pristine gem under a mile from Main St. 3BR/3Bath! Upstairs master suite; open living/dining room and granite-countered kitchen. Large deck in canopy of trees with outdoor dining. New roof, floors, paint & updates. Lower level for storage/more living space. Charming and neat-as-a-pin. Tennis courts and pickleball courts for home owners and guests.

Offered at \$349,000. MLS #75156.

Contact Susie deVille (828) 371-2079.

...LETTERS continued from page 11

books about him and came to the conclusion that here was maybe the only person who could heal the divisions we as a nation face.

Here is a man who has no political ambitions. He merely wants to serve and make things better and when finished, go

back to his civilian life, much like our founders.

If you are concerned about the state of our Country and would like to learn more about Ben, I encourage you to join us at the Rec Center for about an hour and a half on Saturday.



Susie deVille
Broker-in-Charge
(828) 371-2079

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Recent Broadway hit opens at Highlands Playhouse

The Highlands Playhouse will present the smash hit musical, **FIRST DATE**, August 6th – August 22nd.

The musical, which opened on Broadway in 2013 to resounding raves, will be a North Carolina premiere.

FIRST DATE continues the Playhouse's recent tradition of bringing new, energizing work to

the Highlands community.

FIRST DATE follows the uptight Aaron, a financial advisor, as he embarks on a blind date with the artistic and edgy Casey – the sister of his coworker's wife. They are able to move past their first impressions of one another and work to find if the connection is something that will last.

The story is told in one brisk,

ninety minute act. "First Date is captivating. It is hilarious, touching and just plain fun," says Playhouse Artistic Director, Bill Patti.

Featuring a cast of professional actors from around the nation, audiences are sure to be wowed by the talents they see on stage. Playing the role of Aaron, a role which was written for TV star Zachary Levi, is New York actor (and Ole Miss graduate) Christian Lane Green.

"We found Christian at our open call in New York City. He is an incredibly versatile performer that our audiences are growing quite fond of," Patti said.

Casey will be played by Playhouse veteran Lissa deGuzman. Patti was thrilled to have the actress back for another season,

"There is not a performer in the United States with the voice of Lissa. She is the best vocalist I have worked with in my career in the theatre. It isn't even close."

Patti will be making his season directorial debut.

"I love this show, and I have been waiting over a year to bring this to life on the Playhouse stage. I really hope audiences fall in love with the piece as much as I have," Patti stated.

The hope is to continue to bring new and edgy works to the Playhouse stage.

"We have really worked on perfecting our season's formula. We do a family friendly show or two to open our season, and close with a newer, edgier work. We have an educated, sophisticated crowd at the Playhouse and they deserve unique and interested offerings on our stage."

Individual tickets are \$32.50 for adults and \$15 for children 12 and under. Show times are Wednesday - Saturday at 8 pm with Saturday and Sunday Matinees at 2 pm.

For additional information or to order tickets, call the Box Office at 828-526-2695 or email highlandsplyhouse@yahoo.com.



Christian Lane Green



Lissa deGuzman

• RE SNAPSHOTS •



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Salamanders to be the 'talk' at the Nature Center

Did you know that the diversity of salamander species is highest right here in the southern Appalachians? Are you familiar with the fascinating courtship and mating behaviors of these animals that take place in the dark of night? On August 13th the Zahner Conservation Lecture Series continues at 6:30 in the Nature Center of the Highlands Biological Station. This series is designed to help educate and inspire the public through a series of talks from well-known regional scientists, conservationists, artists, and writers. Please join us for a talk by Dr. Rick Feldhoff, Professor at the University of Louisville, entitled: "Pheromones, Mating Behavior and the Biomedical Relevance of Salamander Research"

...**SKATEBOARD** continued from page 13



Rather than chasing kids away from stairwells where they skate on the railings, steps and walls – just to name a few areas – many towns are opting to control the sport by constructing skateparks.

cent years, hundreds of municipalities have come to embrace the recreational—and societal—benefits of skateboard parks.

“Most cities in the process of building a public skatepark are working on their first, and for them there is no precedent, no blueprint. Once the cement is poured and formed, there is no changing it. All the right questions must be addressed before that step. The Tony Hawk Foundation was established to help cities develop that checklist and ensure that the hard work of skaters, parents, and city officials will result in a quality skatepark that will serve that community for years to come.

Of course insurance is a big question when it comes to inviting people to participate in an extreme sport on town property.

According to a Liability Law Research Analyst John Moran, towns have addressed the skateboard insurance liability question in three different ways: by (1) providing coverage under the town’s policy, (2) purchasing a separate policy when the town’s current carrier declines to add coverage of the skate park, or (3) arranging for a private group, such as the local YMCA, to run the skate park and thus bear most of the liability. Under all scenarios park

operators require skaters to wear certain safety equipment (helmets, at a minimum), and most require participants to sign a release agreeing not to hold the town liable. In this way, most skate parks accommodate both skateboard users and in-line skaters.

Mayor Taylor said it’s likely all activities on the Rec Park grounds would be covered under the town’s broad insurance policy, but these are aspects still under consideration.

As always funding the endeavor is a consideration and Highlands, as other municipalities have, may be able to use the Parks and Recreation Trust Fund (PARTF) to offset costs.

According to Spohn Ranch Skate Parks, the top benefits of Skateboard Parks are: the reduction of illicit behavior, the fact that they provide a safe environment for skateboarding, they reduce damage to private property, skateboarding has significant physical and mental health benefits and finally, skateparks have a positive economic impact.

If nothing else, increased recreation options in a town show prospective home and business owners that the community is kid- and -family friendly.

– Kim Lewicki

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• HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

be made by Aug. 7.

Sat., Aug. 15

• At Cliffside Lake, Live Birds of Prey with Michael Skinner with the Balsam Mountain Trust at 11 a.m. Program on the patio at Cliffside Lake. No pets allowed. Please arrive 15 minutes prior to program. Free by \$4/vehicle admission to recreation area.

• Bob Plott is a North Carolina native who can trace his family roots in the Old North State back to 1750. At that time, he had a relative who arrived with hunting dogs – the Plott hound. That dog in now our North Carolina State dog. At 11 am, Bob will be presenting a program at the Cow-

ee Celebration and Macon County Heritage Day event to be held at the historical Cowee School. Bob will be accompanied by a Plott hound and will speak to the history and lore of the dog. Bob has provided programs in Macon County before but now has music incorporated into the presentation.

• WCU's Best of Controlled Chaos Film Festival & Benefit at the Martin Lipscomb Performing Arts Center from 6-9 p.m. \$75 plus \$5 NC sales tax per ticket. For more information, go to Bccff.wcu.edu or call 828-227-7028

Tues., Aug. 18

• "Birds & Beer," a Highlands

Plateau Audubon Society social, will be held at 5 p.m. at the Ugly Dog Pub in Highlands. This is an informal gathering to discuss birds and critters and most anything except religion and politics. Get to know some of the Audubon members and stay for a bite to eat if you care to. Be sure to check www.highlandsaudubonsociety.org for updates or call Avary Doubleday at 828-526-8414.

• The Botanical Garden at the Highlands Biological Station is presenting a Creating Pollinator Habitat Workshop from 2pm to 4pm. \$10 for HBF Members, \$35 for new members

Wed., August 19

• Free Interlude Concert Series at the Episcopal Church at 2 p.m. Richard Clement, tenor Robert Henry, piano.

Thurs., Aug. 20

• Highlands School orientation from 4-6p. Open House for ALL students.

Friday, August 21

• Eco Tour: "Serpentine Barrens," Join Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust as we explore a unique ecosystem within the Nantahala National Forest and learn more about its inhabitants from your herpetologist and botanist guides. \$35 new friends includes the guided hike, lunch on the trail and a year membership

to Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust! HCLT members: \$10. Reservations required: Julie.hitrust@earthlink.net, 526-1111.

Sat., Aug. 22

• The Laurel Garden Club kitchen tour from 9a to 3p. Tickets go on sale May 1 at The Dry Sink, 450 Main Street in Highlands, and online at www.laurelgardenclubhighlands.com. Tickets are \$65 each.

Sunday, Aug. 23

• At K-H Founders Park and Yoga Highlands, FLOW:Yoga and River festival to benefit the Chattooga Conservancy from 1-6 p.m. Meditation classes, river update, healing arts silent auction. Collaboration with Cashiers Valley Fusion, Highland Hiker and Yoga Highlands. Special Concert with Blue Spirit Wheel! \$10 online tickets. www.bluespiritwheel.com/events/. Donations for mini-classes and silent auction support Chattooga Conservancy.

Mon., Aug. 24

• Noted photographers and videographers Ed and Cindy Boos will present "Wild Critter Adventures" in photos and commentary at the Hudson Library in Highlands. Ed and Cindy are Highlands Plateau Audubon Society members who accomplish truly extraordinary, professional-level avian photography. This group of photos was taken in Bosque



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The Dry Sink Main Street Highlands, NC

• HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

It can be hard to find a parking place on Main Street but....



Photo by Melissa Dorsey

Around 10 a.m., last Friday, a tow truck with a Honda in tow, turned right on Main Street from 4th Street and lost its load.

The front of the Honda broke away from the back end of the car which was still attached to the tow truck and careened across the median landing on the sidewalk in front of the Stone Lantern.

Luckily no cars were parked in the median on Main Street nor pedestrians on the sidewalk at the time. Miraculously, the Stone Lantern building sustained light damage.

del Apache in New Mexico, Bear River in Utah, Yellowstone and Kenya as well as Highlands. The program begins at 7:30 p.m. with light refreshments at 7 p.m. Please enter through the rear door.

Tuesday, August 25

- Free Interlude Concert Series at the Presbyterian Church at 2 p.m. Trio Carolina with Oral Moses, bass-baritone.

- Village Nature Series: "Bug Appetit!" – a "tasteful" presentation about insects with Zack Lemann. Zack Lemann, Chief Entomologist at The Audubon Insectarium in New Orleans. No reservations are necessary, everyone is welcome, rain or shine. Programs begin at 5:30 PM and usually last about an hour. All programs are family friendly.

Aug. 27 – Sept. 6

- HCP presents Vanya & Sonia & Masha & Spike at the Performing Arts Center. For ticket information call 828-526-8084.

Sat., Aug. 29

- Jackson County Parks and Recreation and Chinquapin to host 3rd Annual Cashiers Trail Mix trail run and team adventure mud run -- a 5 mile competitive trail run over diverse terrain or a 3.1762 mile team adventure run including obstacles, mud, and much more! The athlete may sign up for one or both events and must have a team of four for the adventure run. For more information visit <http://www.cashierstrailmix.com> or call Jackson County Parks and Recreation Department at 828.631.2020.

Sat.-Sun., Aug. 29 & 30

- Highlands Village Square Art & Craft

Show. Regional artisans, music, food. 10 - 5 in Kelsey-Hutchinson Park on Pine Street, downtown Highlands, NC. Admission free. Sponsored by Macon County Art Assn. Call (828) 787-2021 for info.

Sat., Sept. 6

- At Cliffside Lake, Live Birds of Prey with Michael Skinnner with the Balsam Mountain Trust at 11 a.m. Program on the patio at Cliffside Lake. No pets allowed. Please arrive 15 minutes prior to program. Free by \$4/vehicle admission to recreation area.

Sun., Sept. 13

- The 23rd Annual Bel Canto Recital will again present a quartet of renowned singers from the world of opera – Jennifer Black, Audrey Babcock, mezzo-soprano, Jonathan Burton, tenor, and Mark Walters, baritone. Don't miss this year's performance! If you have any questions, please call us at 828 526 5213 or email at highlandsbelcanto@gmail.com.

Thursday, Sept. 17

Eco Tour: "Bald Rock." Join Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust on this special access hike to the summit of "Old Bald" through Camp Merrie-Woode. You'll have the chance to see and learn about a number of rare plants from your botanist guide and be rewarded with a grand view from above. \$35 new friends includes the guided hike, lunch on the trail and a year membership to Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust! HCLT members: \$10. Reservations required: Julie.hitrust@earthlink.net, 526-1111. Together we are saving mountains: www.hicashlt.org.

Sept. 18-20

- At the Highlands Playhouse, 2015 High-

lands Playhouse Classic Film Festival celebrating 1939 -- Cinema's Greatest Movie Year. For more information, call 828-526-2695

Tues., Sept. 22

- Paoletti's Reataurant is having a charity dinner for the Hospice House Foundation of WNC from 5-7 p.m. Cocktails and Casual Grazing - \$150/person (\$100 is tax deductible). A come-as-you-are social cocktail reception with hors'dourves and select wines. At 7:30 p.m. it's Dining for Dignity - \$250/person (\$150 if tax deductible) This will be a relaxed dining experience where patrons choose from a decadent 4-course menu especially selected for the evening. This dining venue is limited – early reservations are strongly recommended. Please call 828-526-4906.

Wed., Sept. 23

- Eco Tour: "HCLT's Annual Elk Excursion". Join Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust on this enchanting journey that has become an annual tradition. We will travel to Cataloochee Valley at the peak of the rut. As the autumn leaves are donning their colors you will begin with a hands on orientation by one of the Bugle Corp specialists then have a chance to witness the intriguing behaviors of these magnificent creatures in their own habitat. \$35 new friends includes the guided hike, lunch on the trail and a year membership to Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust! HCLT members: \$10. Reservations required: Julie.hitrust@earthlink.net, 526-1111. Together we are saving mountains: www.hicashlt.org.

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Dark and Light

By Curtis Fussell

First Presbyterian Church

Recently on a radio program, participants were asked the question, "We know the speed of light is 186,000 miles per second, but what is the speed of dark?" One participant said that since darkness leaves with the arrival of light, the speed of dark must be the same as light. But the right answer is that the speed of dark is zero. That is, there is no speed of dark since darkness is everywhere and does not move as light does.

So "dark" does not move or have a speed, but dark is something. We know what dark is because we know it in terms of light. We define dark as the absence of light. Or, to put it another way, dark has no movement but light has movement.

Spiritual people often make use of this contrast between dark and light in terms of movement. Dark is associated with death and the absence of movement while light is associated with life and presence of movement. The Genesis creation story says that "darkness covered the face of the deep" and everything was without movement except for the movement of the "Spirit" or "Wind" of God. It was from God's moving that light and life came.

Think now of light and life as movements that push unmovable dark away. So, if you woke up breathing this morning, woke up with your lungs moving to push air in and out of your body, then congratulations you have another chance to move in the moving light of life. The movement of breathing provides another chance to engage others and be engaged by others; or, to move with and be moved by others.

Perhaps I am getting a little too carried away with the idea of life and light as movements. But, if you recall the times you were in a dark house, then you know that walking around is difficult and scary. You can all too easily run into things that could result in pain or harm. How wonderful it is when the lights come back on or the daylight arrives; then, you can see and it's no longer difficult or scary to move!

With light, we can see what is physically there before us. But seeing because of light can also mean "seeing" as a way of living. We "see" one way to live, to act, and to speak, as opposed to another way to live, to act, and to speak. Obviously, there are many different ways of seeing how to live, although not all of them are good for us.

No wonder, then, that Jesus once said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life." He was referring to a certain way of seeing him as our guide for a way of living that brings abundant life.

Jesus as our guide, Jesus as our light, means moving forward in abundant living. Jesus guides us to love others as we love ourselves. He guides us to love even our enemies. He guides us to receive the forgiveness of God and to forgive others. He guides us to move in the grace of God so we can push away the dark making us kinder and more giving and accepting people.

I am glad to know that dark has no speed. I am also glad to know that light moves and that Jesus is the light who moves us to a better way of seeing and living with and before others. Of course, moving has its challenges; but be grateful for this day on which you can see and move in the light of Jesus' love and grace.

Proverbs 3:5

BLUEVALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH
Rev. Oliver Rice, Pastor (706) 782-3965
Sundays: School: 10 a.m., Worship: 11
Sunday night services every 2nd & 4th Sunday at 7
Wednesdays: Mid-week prayer meeting: 7 p.m.

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Sundays: School: 10 a.m.; Worship: 11
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Sky Valley, GA • 706-746-2999
Sundays: 10 a.m.: Worship
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Wednesdays: 9 a.m. Healing and Prayer w/Holy Communion

CHRIST ANGLICAN CHURCH
Rector: Jim Murphy, 252-671-4011
464 US Hwy 64 east, Cashiers
Sun.: 8:30a Traditional (Quiet) 1928 Prayer Book Service;
9:30a Sunday School; 10:30a Family Service w/ Music
Mon.: Bible Study & Supper at homes - 6 p.m.

CHRIST CHURCH OF THE VALLEY, CASHIERS
Pastor Steve Kerhoulas • 743-5470
Sun. 10:45am, S.S 9:30am. Wed. 6pm supper and teaching.
Tues. Guys study 8am, Gals 10am.

CLEAR CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH
Pastor Jim Kinard
Sundays: School: 10 a.m.; Worship: 11 a.m.
1st & 3rd Sunday night Service: 7 p.m.
Wednesdays - Supper at 6 p.m.

COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH
www.cbchighlands.com • 526-4685
3645 Cashiers Rd, Highlands, NC
Senior Pastor Gary Hewins
Sun.: 9:30am: Sunday School
10:30am: Middle & High School; 10:45am: Child. Program,
10:45am: Worship Service
Wed.: 5pm Dinner (\$7 adult, \$2 child), 6pm CBC University

EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE INCARNATION
Rev. Bruce Walker • 526-2968
Sundays: Holy Eucharist (chapel) at 8 a.m.
Education and choir rehearsal, 9 am,
Holy Eucharist Rite II, (sanctuary), 10:30
Wednesday: 10 a.m., Morning Prayer
Thursdays: Holy Eucharist, (chapel), 10 am

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH HIGHLANDS
828-526-4153 • www.fbchighlands.org
Dr. Mark Ford, Pastor
220 Main Street, Highlands NC 28741
Sun.: Worship 10:45 am; Sun.: Bible Study 9:30 am
Wed.: Men's Bible Study 8:30 am; Prayer Mtg 6:15 pm;
Choir 5 pm

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Curtis Fussell & Emily Wilmarth, pastors
526-3175 • fpchighlands.org
Sun.: Worship: 11 a.m.; School: 9:30
Mondays: 8 a.m.: Men's Prayer Group & Breakfast
Wednesdays: Choir: 5:30p

GOLDMINE BAPTIST CHURCH
(Off Franklin/Highlands Rd) • Rev. Carson Gibson
Sunday School: 10 am, Worship Service: 11 am
Bible Study: 6 pm

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John 3:16

PLACES TO WORSHIP •

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Wed. Kidsquest 6p.; Worship 7p.

HIGHLANDS ASSEMBLY OF GOD
Randy Reed, Pastor 828-421-9172 • 165 S. Sixth Street
Sundays: Worship: 11

HIGHLANDS CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH
Pastor Dan Robinson
670 N. 4th Street (next to the Highlands Civic Center)
Sun.: Morning Worship 10:45 a., Evening Worship, 6:30 p.
Wednesday: Prayer Service, 6:30 p.

HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Pastor Paul Christy 526-3376
Sun: School 9:45a.; Worship 9:09, 10:50.; Youth 5:30 p.
Wed: Supper: 5:15; youth & adults activities: 6; Handbell rehearsal, 6:15; Choir Rehearsal 7. (nursery provided);
7pm Intercessory Prayer Ministry

HOLY FAMILY LUTHERAN CHURCH:ELCA
Chaplain Margaret Howell • 2152 Dillard Road • 526-9741
Sun: School and Adult discussion group 9:30 a.m.;
Worship/Communion: 10:30

HEALING SERVICE on the 5th Sunday of the month.

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8 miles south of Highlands on N.C. 28 S in Satolah
Pastor Troy Nicholson, (828) 526-8425
Sundays: School: 10 a.m.; Worship: 11, Choir: 6 p.m.
Wed: Bible Study and Youth Mtg.: 7 p.m.

MOUNTAIN SYNAGOGUE
at St. Cyprian's Episcopal Church, Franklin
828-524-9463

MOUNTAIN BIBLE CHURCH
743-2583 • Independent Bible Church
Sun: 10:30 a.m. at Big Ridge Baptist Church,
4224 Big Ridge Road (4.5 miles from NC 107)
Weds: Bible Study 6:30 p.m.; Youth Group 6 p.m.

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Parish office (Father Francis): 526-2418
Mass: Sun: 11 a.m.; Sat. at 4p

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 Jerry David Hall • 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
Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study: 7

THE CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD
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Rev. Douglas E. Remer
Oct-May: Sunday Services: Rite I, 8a Rite II, 10:30
June-Sept: Sunday Services: Rite I, 8a, Rite II, 9:15 & 11a
Nursery available for Rite II services
Sept 6-Oct 25- Informal Evening Eucharist-5:30 p.m.
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Sunday Worship - 11 a.m.

WHITESIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Rev. Sam Forrester/Cashiers
Sunday School: 10 am, Worship Service: 11 am

• POLICE & FIRE REPORTS •

The Highlands Police log entries from June 22. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor or public officials have been used.

July 22

• At 6:53 p.m., a noise ordinance violation was reported at a residence on Cullasaja Drive.

• At 10:30 p.m., officers responded to a call about damage to property and a burglary with non-forced entry at the Old Edwards Inn on Main Street

July 24

• At 5:50 p.m., officers received a call about someone losing cash and changed in the parking lot of the Regions Bank.

July 25

• At 11:36 p.m., Christopher John Schmidt, 32, of Tampa, FL, was arrested for DWI at the intersection of Main Street and NC 106.

July 26

• At 11:13 a.m., officers responded to a call of unattended death at a residence on Wahoo Trail.

• At 3:30 p.m., officers responded to a call about damage to property on Choctaw Ridge Tail where a lock was cut off a gate.

July 28

• At noon, larceny from a vehicle parked at the Highlands Rec Par lower

parking lot was reported when approximately 10 gallons of unleaded gasoline was missing from a landscaping truck.

July 29

• At 5:08 p.m., officers responded to a call of a non-physical simple assault at a residence on Satulah Ridge Road.

July 30

• At 12:11 p.m., officers were called about a man not being allowed to leave a residence on Paul Walden Road.

July 31

• At 9:31 a.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident on Main Street.

• At 11:55 a.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident in the Rec Park parking lot.

Aug. 1

• A little after midnight, officers responded to a claim of blackmail and extortion from a resident on Maple Street.

• At 8:10 p.m., the larceny of a motor vehicle was reported by a resident on Oak Lane when it was not returned at a reasonable time after being granted to use it by the owner.

Aug. 2

• At 4:15 p.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident in the parking lot of the Highlands BBQ Company.

The Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. log from July 28

July 28

• At 11:13 a.m., the dept. stood by for the MAMA helicopter at the hospital.

July 29

• At 3:17 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Broadview Circle.

July 30

• At 9:29 p.m., the dept. investigated the source of smoke in the vicinity of Big Bear Pen.

• At 9:50 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm on Main Street.

• At 3:08 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm on Big View Drive.

• At 7:12 p.m., the dept. stood by at the hospital for the MAMA helicopter.

• At 9:08 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on U.S. 64 west.

July 31

• At 10:54 a.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on U.S. 64 west.

• At 2:08 p.m., the dept. was first-responded to a residence on N.C. 106.

Aug. 1

• At 8:06 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Clear Creek Road.

Aug. 3

• At 8:33 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Cullasaja Drive.

• At 12:49 p.m., the dept. provided public assistance to a person on N. 4th Street.

• At 3:48 p.m., the dept. provided public assistance to a person on Bonita Drive.

• At 9:06 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on N. 5th Street.

Aug. 4

• At 1:28 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Cullasaja Drive.

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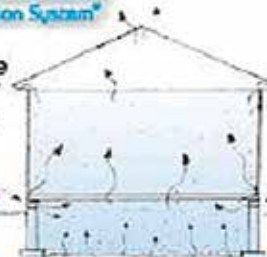
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• BUSINESS & ORGANIZATION NEWS •

Highlands Rotary happenings



Rotarian Rick Trevathan gave an interesting program on Criminal Law and the Media on July 21. He is pictured with Christy Kelly, President of Rotary Club of Highlands.

Rotarians MaryAdiar Leslie, Ashley Mitchell, Rick Siegel and Jodie Cook greeting guests.



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Free Dental Clinic the 'talk' at Rotary

Howard Meister, President of the Blue Ridge Free Dental Clinic, accompanied by three winsome Tooth

Fairies, gave the July 28th presentation to The Highlands Rotary Club. Raising empathy for those who can-

not afford good dental care, Meister asked Rotarians to imagine what it would be like to lack the confidence to smile, or even speak, because of the condition of your teeth. The Free Dental Clinic was established to help people in these circumstances. In 2014, over 13,000 free office visits were provided to low-income residents of Jackson, Macon and Transylvania Counties. The current group of 15 volunteer dentists donates over 1,000 hours annually; many additional hours are given by the 16 volunteer members of "The Order of the Tooth Fairies". The Order of the Tooth Fairies was established to increase awareness of the Clinic's free dental services as well as the importance of good dental health habits. For more information about the Clinic call 828/743-3393 or visit BlueRidgeFreeDentalClinic.org.



From left: "Big Wing" (Ron Keller); "Blue Suede" (Duncan Wheale); Christy Kelly, Highlands Rotary President; "Fire Fly" (Ron Freeman) and Howard Meister

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• HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

A summer weekend garden party and jazz concert to benefit the Episcopal Church and its work with community services

Not to be missed is the Langford Garden Party on Saturday, Aug. 8 from 5 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. This garden offers an extensive garden art from all over the world. Some of the most interesting pieces of garden art are the straddle stones used under the foundations of ancient buildings in Europe, especially granaries and barns, to prevent vermin and other unwanted "critters" from entering. Flowers everywhere add to the drama of the gardens. Grab a glass of wine, beer or lemonade, and some fine food and stroll through this beautiful garden. Remember to wear walking shoes. Proceeds from the Garden Party benefit the garden at Incarnation and health and human services in the community.

Jazz Performance by Virginia Schenck

Jazz singer Virginia Schenck will be performing on Sunday, August 9, with the Incarnation choir at the 10:30 service. To her this is like coming home. She and her family have a long history with Incarnation, thus her dedication to this Church.

During "A Summer Weekend with Incarnation" she will be performing again with a "Sacred Jazz" concert at PAC on Monday, August 10. The cocktail buffet begins at 6p offering delicious food and drink and an opportunity to socialize. A silent auction will begin at that time offering time, talent and services by our generous parishioners and friends of Incarnation. A live auction beginning at 7p (Rev. Howard L'Enfant will be in his element as auctioneer), with the concert beginning promptly at 7:30p.

Tickets for the concert and the garden party are available online at incarnationwnc.org, at Sunday breakfast, following the 10:30 service, by phone at 526-2968 or in person at the church office. The cost is \$50 for each event, but if you would like to attend both events the cost is \$90. Please join us for both these enjoyable summer events.



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