

# Highlands' Newspaper

**FREE**

Volume 8, Number 30

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Thursday, July 29, 2010

<b>FRI</b>	<b>SAT</b>	<b>SUN</b>
83 \ 64F	84 \ 65F	86 \ 66F

**Thurs., July 29**  
 •At the Nature Center, Dr. Andrew Methven's talk "The Good, the Bad and the Ugly: Mushrooms of the Southern Appalachians." 7 p.m.

**Fridays through Aug. 15**  
 •Aprix fixe dinner at Wolfgangs for \$60 per person with for Highlands-Cashiers Chamber Music Festival. For reservations for the concert and dinner call the HCCMF's office at (828) 526-9060.

**Fridays**  
 • Free Mountain Music Concert with dance and instruction from 6:45 to 7:30 p.m. The band performs from 7:30-9 at Highlands School's old gym, on Pierson Drive.

**Friday & Saturdays**  
 • At Paoletti's Restaurant, "Not Even Brothers" at 9:15 p.m. Featuring driving acoustic guitars, tight harmonies and unusual mix of original and obscure classics.

• Live Music at The Downhill Grill at Scaly Mountain Outdoor Center 7-9 p.m.. BYOB

**Saturday**  
 • At Paoletti's Restaurant, intimate Wine Tasting at the bar at 1 pm. \$20 per person.

• At Cyprus International Restaurant, live music beginning at 9 p.m.

**Through Sun, Aug. 8**  
 • At Highlands Playhouse, "The Andrews Brothers," a USO show in the South Pacific full of mistaken identities and madcap adventures. For tickets call 526-2695

**Wed., Aug. 4**  
 • Interlude Concert at the First Presbyterian Church at 2 p.m. Featuring Stell Huie, baritone accompanied by Angie Jenkins, piano.

• \$2 off bar drinks at El Azteca. 70 Highlands Plaza across from Bryson's Food Store.

**Thurs., Aug. 5**  
 • At Hudson Library, a book signing by author John Armor. "These Are the Times That Try Men's Souls - America - Then and Now in the Words of Tom Paine."

## Out-of-state tuition hot topic at BOE

The cost of educating out-of-state students attending Macon County Schools was the subject of an impassioned discussion at the July 26 School Board meeting.

Highlands School Principal Brian Jetter said there are 15 students - 14 from Satolah, GA and one from Sky Valley, GA - whose families are requesting entrance to Highlands School this year.

With across the board budget cuts, the board is considering reinstating its tuition policy for out-of-state students.

Several times over the past decade, Macon County's policy concerning "discretionary" students has swayed back and forth from upholding the generations-long policy of not charging Satolah, GA, parents, to charging them, to last

year's decision of foregoing tuition due to economic hardship, to considering charging tuition again.

It would cost Macon County about \$120,000 a year - \$8,000 per student - to educate those students whose parents don't contribute to the tax system.

Though NC taxes are taken out of paychecks of people who live in

• See TUITION page 27

## Need for bond questioned

At its meeting Monday night, the Planning Board quickly OK'd two subdivision requests but discussed at length the need for an erosion control surety bond.

One subdivision request was for 2731 Cashiers Road next to Highlands Storage where the owner wants to subdivide the tract because someone is interested in buying a .89-acre portion; the other involved the division of a residential lot on 87 Cave Road for the purpose of building another home on the property.

Though supplied information on the subject a month ago, the Planning Board still hasn't decided if a Surety Bond for Erosion Control and land disturbing activity is needed in the town ordinance.

Most vocal against the bond - about which the Town Board has requested action - were those involved in the building trades or those who align themselves with those trades - Ricky Bryson, Vice Chairman Mike Bryson and John Underwood.

The county passed a surety

• See BOND page 18



Though in poor repair, Randall Dam on Flat Mountain Road keeps silt from further contaminating Big Creek.

Photo by Jim Lewicki

## Highlands' water supply held hostage by Randall Dam

The silting of Big Creek weighs heavy on the minds of property owners along the creek and citizens who consider the waterway an asset to the town.

Big Creek property owners say it took two months, but on July 2, Mayor David Wilkes emailed answers to questions posed to him via email regarding the moving of an intake valve from near the bidge and US 64 to the Sequoyah Lake dam; the possibility of dredging Big Creek; the possibility of gaining control of Randall Dam whose breaching almost a decade ago

caused silt to contaminate Big Creek - Highlands' primary water source; and the continued silting of Big Creek due to run off from Azalea Circle.

In his email, Mayor Wilkes said the intake valve is being moved to the dam because the current valve needs to be repaired or replaced. "This intake serves as a secondary intake and is used to augment the water supply when the intake further up Big Creek is down or water flow is reduced," said Wilkes. "It was decided that locating this intake close to the dam

• See RANDALL DAM page 21

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## Update on issues

Some residents and business owners of Wright Square aren't happy with the idea of an electronic gaming business opening up in their midst.

They are circulating a petition voicing their opposition and might suggest the town raise its business license fees for such establishments. They are even considering changing the covenants of the privately owned Wright Square shopping center to prohibit the business after Dec. 1, 2010.

Governor Bev Perdue signed a law outlawing such businesses effective Dec. 1, 2010, but the gaming industry is already rallying forces to file an injunction.

Wright Square residents also wonder why they weren't given a head's up about the business moving into their neighborhood.

Zoning Administrator Joe Cooley said the Special Use Permit hearing held by the Zoning Board on July 14 was duly advertised in The Highlander Newspaper and only during re-zonings is direct notification to adjacent property owners and signage required.

He also said the SUP issued July 14 can be revoked if any condition

• See UPDATE page 28



Hiking  
Waterfalls  
Fly Fishing



Highlands  
Cashiers  
Glennville



Nature's  
Website  
HighlandsInfo.com

# • THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

## • LETTERS •

### Highlands needs Floridians

Dear Editor,

I have read Fred Wooldridge's column "Go back to Florida" and I must admit I found his comments mostly laughable, almost humorous. My first impression is that it is time for him to move to Arizona and my second impression is, he sounds like a moron.

I have been coming to the area for over 15 years and very rarely do I hear those comments or arrogance. Although there is some truth to what you call the country clubbers and their attitude, it is not the norm or even close. Most of us love the slow pace of life, the fresh air and the locals and respect the local way of life.

I think the roofers and anyone else are thrilled to be working after some very difficult years, where has Fred been? They are not required to work seven days a week or stack appointments, that is their choice. He must not live here in the winter or perhaps doesn't go out much, but Main Street and the cash registers were not doing well this past winter, contrary to what he had published. I have heard very few or no locals over the past years talk about great success with their business, but just the opposite. Most are struggling and I see more vacant store fronts than ever. Like most of the country, we have all been hurt by the recession.

This whole area, from Cashiers-Glenville to Highlands area has always had a large summer population. It is that summer population that has truly helped shape this local economy over the past decade and longer. The economy has actually relied on it; just ask any local real estate agent or builder. It is that summer population who has helped the local economy thrive in the past. Just think about all of the residential construction and all that goes along with that. Most of the local restaurants could not stay in business if not for the "Floridians and others." I have spoken to many local business owners about his article and most were offended by his comments. Perhaps he should reconsider his views and be a bit more gracious. He owes many people a big apology.

But I doubt he feels the same way. He seems so angry and bitter. I really think Arizona is looking good. I hope he moves.

Jeffrey Schnee

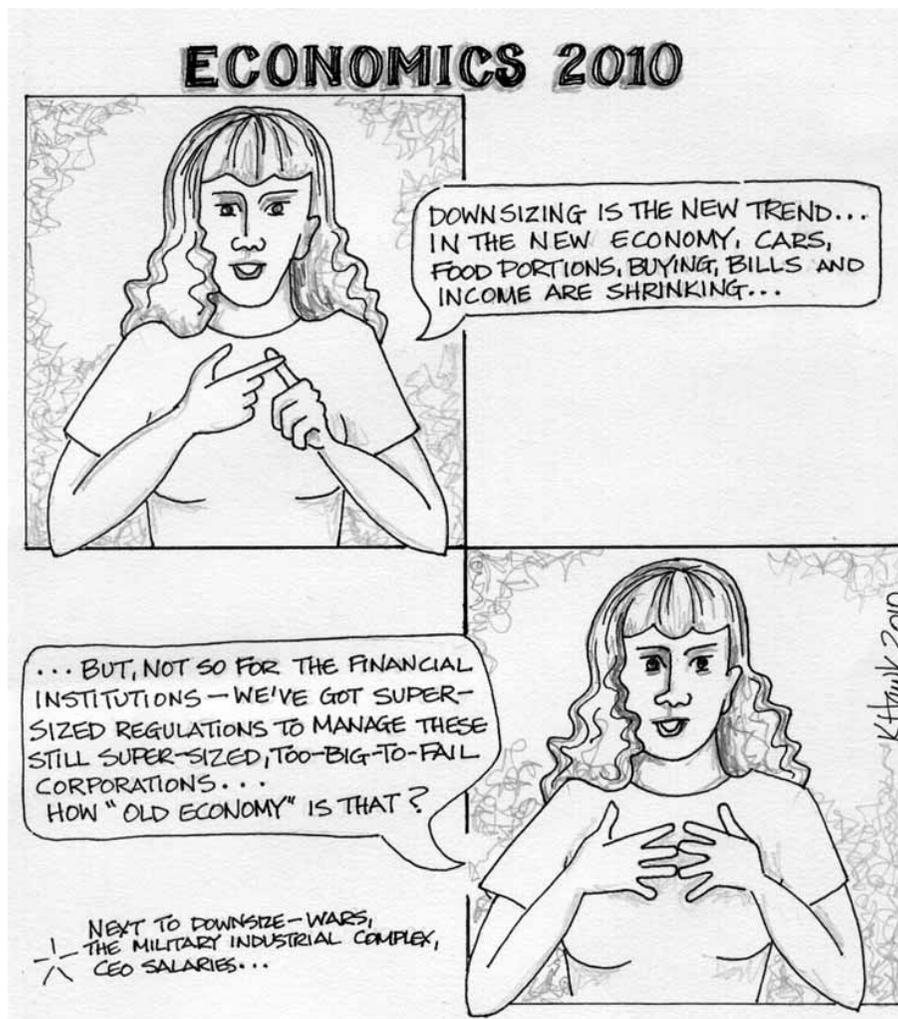
### Say you're sorry

Dear Editor,

This letter is in response to Fred Wool-

• See LETTERS page 8

## • HAWK'S EYE VIEW •



### LETTERS-TO-THE EDITOR-POLICY

We reserve the right to reject or edit submissions. **NO ANONYMOUS LETTERS WILL BE ACCEPTED.** Views expressed are not necessarily those of Highlands' Newspaper. Please EMAIL letters by Monday at 5 p.m. There is a 500-word limit without prior approval.

## Highlands' Newspaper

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## • OBITUARY •

### Ralphe Boyd Bake

Ralphe Boyd Baker, 78, of Horse Cove in Highlands died Saturday, July 24 in Atlanta. He was a native of Haleyville, AL, the son of Lucien and Velce Bonds Baker.

Mr. Baker served in the Air Force in Germany during the Korean War and later had a flourishing career as a couturier and salesman in high-end retail womens' fashion at Saks Fifth Avenue in New York and Atlanta. He attended the Episcopal Church of The Incarnation in Highlands.

Surviving are two sons, Andrew Morgan Baker, 34 of Dublin, Ireland and Curtis Bonds Baker, 31 and wife Angela of Atlanta who have a daughter, Lillian Choe Baker; one sister, Betty Randolph of Atlanta and one brother, Robert Baker of Gadsden, AL.

Graveside services were held at 5 PM Sunday July 25 in the Horse Cove Cemetery with Rev. Brian Sullivan officiating.

Charitable donations may also be made to Hospice Atlanta or the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation in Highlands.

BryantGrant Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements. Online condolences may be made at [www.bryantgrantfuneralhome.com](http://www.bryantgrantfuneralhome.com)

## • MILESTONE •



Jack and Barbara Mathews of Tequesta, FL and of Highlands, NC will be celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary this week in Sapphire, NC.

Their three children, their spouses, and their 10 grandchildren are traveling from various parts of the country to join in a family reunion to mark the occasion.

The couple was married on December 24, 1960 in Birmingham, AL. Immediately following their wedding, the happily married couple moved to Tequesta, FL where they raised their three children, Scott (Springdale, AR), Steven (Hobe Sound, FL), and Kay (Highlands, NC).

Jack was a mechanical engineer with Pratt and Whitney Aircraft for over 40 years. Barbara was a homemaker, caterer and bookkeeper, but her greatest joy was taking care of her family.

Barbara and Jack currently split their time between Tequesta, FL and Highlands, NC traveling to visit with their children, grandchildren, and friends.

# Open Letter to the Mayor of Highlands

July 26, 2010

Dear Mr. Wilkes:

"Highlands Citizens for Good Government" is a new group, which was founded by a group of more than 100 Highlands area residents, to promote ethical, efficient government in Highlands. All full-time and part-time residents, tourists, and business owners are stakeholders in the government of Highlands. The reputation of Highlands' government affects our property values, our safety, our area's attractiveness to new residents and tourists, and our ability to attract competent town leaders and staff, and the preservation of the small resort town atmosphere that we enjoy.

Recent events have put a black mark on Highlands' reputation and its leaders. False, malicious rumors, which had been repudiated by their original perpetrators, were used in late 2009 and early 2010 to attempt to gain influence over the Highlands police department. The purpose of these rumors seems to have been to undermine the reputation and leadership of the chief of police, who has tried to do his job honestly and to be removed from town politics.

The lack of action on these false rumors lead to a serious EEOC complaint against the Town of Highlands. A valued law enforcement officer reputedly was harassed and intimidated; she resigned from the Highlands police department rather than continue working in a hostile environment. Without the rumors being forcefully addressed and strong support for the police department, the rumors were repeated, embellished and achieved "credibility," even after the law enforcement officer and the police chief took and passed lie detector tests. Why would anyone want to live in, invest in, or visit a town whose government seems to be manipulated so easily?

Erika Olvera, the police officer, came to Highlands 20 years ago with her family. She entered Highlands School in the third grade and later graduated with honors. Erika, a U.S. citizen, worked for the Highlands Police Department for several years as the only female and only Hispanic officer. She is a single mother raising two children. Unable to clear her reputation of the rumors, she has been unable to find employment, in spite of several applications for vacancies in area law enforcement agencies.

The EEOC complaint, if found in Ms. Olvera's favor, will cost the town and taxpayers considerable funds, as past and future salaries, as well as other damages, could be awarded. The town would be required to divert resources to begin diversity, anti-harassment and sensitivity training and for reporting on this training and its progress for years to come.

In the meantime, Ms. Olvera's name should be cleared and the injustice done her needs to be rectified. Corrective action should be taken with any town officials or employees responsible for this incident.

This community expects more of its elected officials and town employees and should take the steps necessary to prevent the reoccurrence of an incident such as this. Racism, sexism and other forms of bigotry should not be tolerated in our community and we should not allow residents, who seek to unduly influence police matters and town administration, to continue to promote their selfish agendas.

Sincerely,

**Highlands Citizens for Good Government**

***This letter is signed by and endorsed by the following area residents:***

Dan Adcock	Zane Collins	Lourie Greehey	Teresa Kelly	Kathy Meeker	Mrs. & Mrs. Robert	Virginia Talbot
Larry Ainsworth	Lindy Colson	Bill Greehey	Chadwick Kenney	Helen Moore	Ray	Kelly Tandy
Melba Ainsworth	Tom Cox	Mary Guy Green	Kitty Kincaid	David Moore	JoAnn Read	Carolyn Tanner
Vivian Armor	Anne Curtis	Bonnie Halperin	Carlton King	Bobby O'Dell	Roland Saurage	Rhett Tanner
Carol Avinger	Charles Dasher	Barry Halperin	Donald Lairer	Sallie Oglevie	Jim Schute	Frank W. Turner
John Barter	Pat Davis	Ginny Harris	Barbara Landwehr	Don Oglevie	Nell Seaton	Ann D. Turner
Mary Lou Barter	Judi Davis	Betty Heery	Michael Lanzilotta	Faviola Olvera	Jim Shearon	Mary Vaughn
Vaughn Berry	Miriam Duncan	Allen Hoffman	Jean Levinson	Gilberto Olvera	Linda Shearon	Sara Wallace
Dean Bordelon	Gail Durkin	Teresa Hollingsworth	Randy Lyons	Josefina Olvera	Faye Siegle	William Wallace
Bob Boshell	Ray Faubion	Jill Howland	Lucy Lyons	Ramona Olvera	Irwin Siegle	Lydia Ward
Garrison Boyce	Jeannine Faubion	Martha Hunter	Lydia S. Macauley	Francisco Olvera Jr.	Allen Sullivan	Michael Wentz
Al Brady	Joyce Flemming	Ray Joelson	Kathleen Marsh	Nancy M. Parker	Mindy Sullivan	Barbara Werder
Sally M. Caffery	Freddie Flynt	Pam Joelson	E. Ann Maxwell	Geoff Parker	Ann Sullivan	Darren Whatley
Andrea Chalker	Berty Franzen	Elaine Johnson	George Mayer	Julie Potts	Claude Sullivan	Randy Wickline
Linda Clark	Victor Franzen	Jack Kaplan	Marion Mayer	Peter Ray	Brian Sullivan	
Rhea Coleman	Alston and Betty Glenn	Shirley Kaplan				

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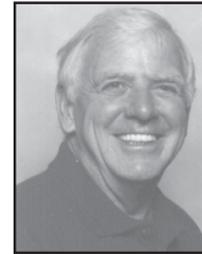
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• LAUGHING AT LIFE •

The Clapper Crapper



Fred Wooldridge

Everyone thinks ole watchmaker Thomas Crapper invented the toilet in the 18th century. Ha... wrong again, poopy-breath. In reality, water flushed toilets were operating in India 2,000 years before the birth of Christ. That's even before people in India went to work for Verizon and said stupid things like, "Thank you for calling Verizon on this wonderful day and thank

you very much for using Verizon and how may I assist you with perfect service on this beautiful, wonderful day?"

Then, in 1596, a guy even tackier than me named John Harrington, also a Brit, invented an improved indoor water closet for Queen Elizabeth. But then Harrington published a book with tasteless puns (Don't ya just hate people like that?) about his own invention. The Queen, having zero sense of humor, was enraged and the toilet dropped out of sight for nearly 200 years, leaving Londoners with no place to poop. This may be why they were so grumpy and mean. Also, remember Brits talked weird back then. If you asked a Brit if he had to go to the bathroom, his reply would've been, "Thou wouldst, thou couldst."

In 1775, London watchmaker Alexander Cummings patented the forerunner of today's toilet, the standard flush toilet. What is this weird connection between toilets and British watch makers? There's gotta be a joke there somewhere.

Then, along came Thomas Crapper who designed the indoor toilet that closely represents what we use today. For unknown reasons, his name stuck in our minds and, to this day, the toilet has been nicknamed "the crapper." It could have just as easily become known as "the Harrington." Then we might be calling the toilet "a Harry." And yes, I'm thinking of several tacky puns I can't put in print.

On Mars, all toilet seats remain in the upright position until there's a need to sit and then they're lowered. When the user is finished sitting, the seat is returned to the upright position. How simple is that? When planet Earth became infested with Venetians, they used their powers of persuasion, like threatening us with no sex, and the toilet seat remained in the down position for the remainder of time. Are you writing this down?

Having the seat in the down position

is not good because the male user must actually touch the seat twice to complete his activity. Yuck! There are millions of scary growing things on that seat waiting to jump on the user's hand. This is why men die before women; it's from years of touching toilet seats.

I decided to come up with a new improved toilet seat that men don't have to touch. I ran my idea by sev-

eral friends and a very sick puppy, Cathy Bartinikas, loved it the most and thought I should name it the "Clapper Crapper." Splendid!

We already know about the lamp that turns on and off with two claps of your hands so it was not that difficult to transfer that device to a standard motorized toilet seat. Here's how it works. If you're a person living with no Venetians in your home, leave the toilet seat upright at all times. Should the need arise to have it lowered, you can even clap twice from another room and by the time you arrive, the seat is lowered; Ta Da, a simply awesome invention.

WARNING: Do not clap while sitting on this toilet. The motor is very powerful and you could become pinned between the seat and the tank. Should this occur, quickly clap twice and check for broken bones.

And there have been other problems. Guys are coming home late after a night out with the boys and sometimes find a need to hang their heads in the toilet. Their Venetian partners, usually a wife, become very unhappy about this and take the opportunity to clap twice while their hubby's head is in the toilet. While there have been no deaths reported so far, severe neck sprains are common.

Next year, we plan on introducing a toilet seat just for women. The seat remains in the down position at all times. Should a male visitor raise the seat and forget to clap to lower it, the seat defaults to the down position after a few minutes. We expect a run (Excuse the pun.) on these seats by widows who never plan to have a Martian in their home, which is most every woman in Highlands.

• Have you read Fred's book, *I'm Moving Back to Mars?*

## • THE VIEW FROM HERE •

### How about 'off the leash' training?

**M**arley has completed a three-week training course, a diploma to prove it. To be honest, there's proof in his performance, too. He's starting grad school while we are in Saint Croix.

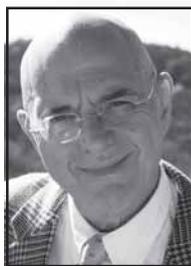
Upstate Dog training and Pet Resort in Greer, SC, is a fine school. Friends of ours, fellow proud parents of an Upstate grad, a Boston terrier named Yo-Yo, visited us this weekend. Jeff wanted to take his dog outside. It sounded pretty good at first, "Yo-Yo, come." Authoritative, decisive, the way they teach it at good old Upstate. But Yo-Yo must be on summer vacation, or maybe he's deaf, because he showed no interest in obeying.

Pretty soon, Jeff was calling, "Come here, Yo-Yo. Come, come, come. Please. Please, doggie." That's not the way they teach it. Call once. If he doesn't respond immediately, give a sharp tug on the lead. There might be a small problem with the Upstate Method which features nationally recognized training methods and positive motivational techniques. Yo-Yo wasn't on a lead and most dogs lounging around the living room aren't either.

We've had the same problem with Marley. His behavior is exemplary on the lead, and he has a degree from UDTandPR. However, if I released him outside, he'd be in Rabun County before he stopped for breath.

Marley doesn't have behavioral problems, unless being a Husky is defined as a behavioral problem. He doesn't jump on guests. He doesn't bark, or pee in the house. He's playful with other dogs after they acknowledge his superiority. He doesn't bite, or show his teeth. When we took him to Upstate, the trainer interviewed us. What, he asked, somewhat too confidentially, "What problems, does Marley have?" When we responded with blank stares, he enumerated common bad habits, offered us multiple choice. Lizzie and I exchanged glances and agreed that he was really a pretty good dog. The trainer's questioning look betrayed his disbelief. It turns out the goal is not so much training as rehabilitation. I started to wonder why a guy in his right mind, would shell out \$500 so his dog would "Come." "Sit", "Stay," only when he is attached to a leash. For a dog whose habit of eating grandmothers, it would be worth it.

That leads me to wonder how one would go about training a dog to abstain from grandma. Marley's problem is that he is a Husky. Huskies run, and once under way show little inclination to come home. Marley makes running away a game. In the days before he was under constant restraint he would run



**Feedback is encouraged.**  
email:  
[hsalzarulo@aol.com](mailto:hsalzarulo@aol.com)

joyously in and out the rhododendron thickets, always out of reach. Whether on foot, behind the wheel, or on my bike, I was rarely able to bring him home. The same is probably true today, but I don't dare check. If he obeys, fine. If, as I suspect, he saunters up the mountain, we may never see him again.

Marley has one problem that was somewhat reminiscent of eating grandmothers. He kills goats; only one goat that we know of, and that's probably the

extent of his spree, but if he were free, I'm afraid he'd become a serial goat killer. Once again, the recurring problem; how do you teach a dog not to kill a goat (off lead)?

My thanks to the Mosley's, who understood that dogs are creatures of the wild, and that the urge runs deeper in Huskies than in other breeds. When Ginger saw Marley sitting beside her dead goat, she saw something good in him. I think she saw the enigma of the dog human relationship, a wild thing who suppresses his instincts shares his master's tent, but who can't help falling off the wagon Marley being Marley, Marley being a Husky.

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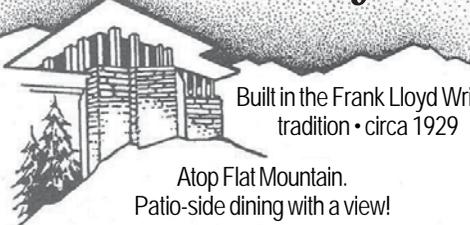


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## • COACH'S CORNER •

### To Rebel or not to Rebel?

One of the interesting things about the summer is that with very little going on in the sporting world you tend to look at stories a little more closely than you would in a time of NBA Playoffs or NFL and College Football season. One of the major stories coming out of NFL training camp has been about Dallas Cowboy rookie WR Dez Bryant and his refusal to carry the pads of his veteran teammate Roy Williams.



**Ryan Potts**  
tryanpotts@hotmail.com

here to do... not to carry someone's bags" is admirable in the eyes of those who follow this line of thinking.

My opinion on this is reflective of aspects of both sides of the coin. I am in no way, shape or form in favor of hazing of any kind. I would applaud Bryant or any other rookie who took

a stand against hazing in order to protect themselves. However, I define hazing as something humiliating, dangerous or harmful that could affect someone either physically or mentally. I have a hard time placing "carrying pads" in that particular category.

At Highlands we require first year players to carry the water coolers and training equipment as a rite of passage. By doing so it is hoped that a modicum of respect will be given to the veteran players. In the real world, the newest employees are the ones given the task of making coffee or cleaning bathrooms, because with experience comes wisdom and so experience is rewarded in the workplace.

While I doubt that Dez Bryant will ever have to take an office job-the fact remains that there is a hierarchy in the majority of our professions and refusing to simply carry pads could reflect a greater disrespect for tradition and authority in the future.

I've read several takes on this story-with the opinion being divided into two camps. One opinion has been that Bryant is acting like a petulant child for being unwilling to show respect for his veteran counterpart by participating in an age old ritual. This opinion is based on the idea that what Williams asked Bryant to do was not disrespectful or harmful and Bryant was bucking tradition by his refusal.

The other prevailing opinion is that the entire concept of "rookie tradition" is silly and it is good that Bryant stood up for himself by refusing to do something simply because it had been done for the past 40 years. To some people the entire concept of rookie subordination is an antiquated concept that doesn't apply to today's world. For Bryant to step up and say that "winning is the only thing I'm

...on this day

July 29, 1996

The remains of the prehistoric Kennewick Man are discovered on the bank of the Columbia River. They are determined to be of Caucasian origin and over 9,400 years old. There is no very logical explanation on how this person might have traveled to the west coast of the Americas at that time.

From whence came the Kennewick Man?  
Europe, America, or Japan?  
There are clues but are they red herrings?  
Did he simply lose his Berings?  
He started from somewhere on his flight,  
this man, who, against all odds, was white.  
His journey must have been prodigious,  
cause wherever he came from, he wasn't indigenous.  
For those who study patterns genetic  
this guy drives them frenetic.  
No one knows where he called home,  
conventional wisdom can't explain this genome.

• HIS & HERS •

**Road trip II**

I know this is going to sound corny, but I'm proud to be a Virginian. Ok, folks from North Carolina. Line up in our front yard with your tomatoes (maybe a few heirloom, just for variety?), and crank up your aim. Oddly enough, I'm not a native-born Virginian. I was born in Key West, Florida, a fact which used to cause great mirth in France, since I am a dual national. Try saying "Key West, Floride, 'tats-Unis d'Amérique" fast, four times. When I was nine months old, we left for Manhattan, Kansas, where my father attended Kansas State, on the GI Bill. From there, we moved to Upstate New York, from where my Dad hails. But one glorious morning, when I was four, my whole life changed. After a tiring train ride, we pulled into Waynesboro, Virginia, in the middle of the night. My father was there, waiting for his family. A kindly train conductor in white gloves scooped me up, called me "Little Missy," and delivered me into the loving arms of my Daddy, whom I hadn't seen in quite some time. My Mary Janes touched holy ground, and I became a Virginian.

After a brief detour through Lexington, on our way up to see Maman, we thought it might be the perfect day trip for us to take my mother. Although Maman can use her walker, all of us stress out when we're going places we don't know will be particularly "wheel friendly."

Fortunately for us, we found the perfect solution – the Lexington Carriage Company. We arrived at the Visitors Center on East Washington Street, and signed up for the next carriage departing from the Carriage Company hitching post across the street. Rain had been predicted, and we glanced nervously at the sky. When we arrived at the hitching post, we were greeted by our driver and tour guide, the aptly named Angel, and two big sweet angels with hooves, brother and sister team, Jake and Jenny. These beautiful horses would be hard to describe, but their coats reminded me of French Vanilla ice cream, with nice big flecks of vanilla bean. Let me jump in here, and calm the fears of folks who, like me, have taken carriage rides in Manhattan.

I had a friend from Boston, Susan, whose one dream in life was to ride a carriage though Central Park. We took her, but the woeful state of the horses ruined the whole experience for me. Not this ride in Lexington! The horses are marvelously well taken care of. They are not taken out in extreme heat, or when slippery roads might cause them to fall and hurt themselves.



**Michelle Mead-Armor & John Armor**  
 michiemead@aol.com  
 John\_Armor@aya.yale.edu

Knowing that the horses' welfare is such a priority for the owners and drivers certainly lets an animal lover like me relax, and enjoy the ride.

The clop-clop of the hoof beats on the pavement was a wonderful accompaniment to the interesting town history, told with humor and enthusiasm by Angel. It seems that Lexington was built on a steep hill for protection,

but what was originally a positive became a negative. Local folks had great difficulty getting up and down the hill without their carts and carriages wrecking. It was finally decided that a massive community effort would be made to take dirt from the top of the hill, and use it to fill in the bottom of the hill, hoping to level off the town. Each family had to pitch in, and was required to participate in this effort. Can you imagine every citizen in Highlands being required to do a certain amount of hours of road-work? I see a lot of postponed golf games, and ruined manicures....

The ride took about an hour, during which we saw the Stonewall Jackson House, downtown Lexington, Virginia Military Institute, Washington and Lee University, and the Stonewall Jackson Memorial Cemetery, along with some of the most

• See HIS & HERS page 29

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• See H

## ...LETTERS continued from page 2

dridge's column "Laughing at Life" in the July 15 edition.

I will temper my anger the best I can. What a waste of ink and space for such garbage. If it weren't for the Floridiots you'd be starving to death over there.

You need to go door to door on Main Street and apologize to the merchants and townspeople.

Tell Wooldridge "Don't go to Florida."

He isn't welcome there. Your paper by be free, but with reporting such as this, it's not worth picking up and reading.

David R. Thibaut  
Franklin, NC

## A non-lethal way to deal with bears

Dear Editor,

Mammoth Lakes, CA has about 30 black bears that live within the city limits. Steve Searles known in Mammoth as "The Bear Man" has developed the first non-lethal system of managing bears and he works for the city as the Wildlife Management Officer.

Steve utilizes bang devices and rubber bullets delivered via revolver or shot gun as well as vocal commands and body postures to communicate with wild bears that are not exhibiting acceptable behavior. Since Steve has started his program of non-lethal management of bears, there have been no attacks by bears in Mammoth and countless bears have been saved from being shot. The bears literally owe their lives to Steve. This system benefits humans and bears since a problem bear that is shot usually has its territory taken over by another wild bear that soon becomes a problem as well. By "educating" a wild bear on what is ac-

ceptable and what isn't, humans and bears can co-exist together successfully.

More bears live in the Mammoth area than would without humans. This is because bears scavenge human food. Steve is slowly cutting off this artificial food supply, through the use of bear proof dumpsters. The decrease in food is causing bears to have a decreased birth rate, and this is bringing their numbers back to a more natural level.

This approach to handling problem bears is presented in an excellent PBS-TV program that I have seen several times. In my opinion the video covers living with bears with a practical approach that that would be considering in our "Bear Country."

David M. Bates  
dmb8s@earthlink.net

## Tea Party is dangerous

Dear Editor,

I enjoy your paper! Now we begin to understand the Swanson gimmicks! He writes for Highlands' Newspaper, lives in Franklin. He incorrectly, and blatantly lies about all the hate, racism, and hostility in the Tea Party, and then writes a Letter-to-the-editor supporting his own column and views! I am willing and have tried to try to understand the Tea Party ideas. However, the story always ends the

same.

All Tea Party activists are happy to meet you unless, UNLESS, you happen to disagree with them when they state that President Obama is a Socialist, Fascist, crook, racist, ruining the country.

All the chanting and signs, not only here in NC but at the Congress, and the Gallery, and the vulgar and violent threats against Congressional members. The whole thing just stinks; it's contrary to good order and peace. It does nothing for the greater good of everyone. The greatest good for the greatest number used to be an American ideal. Not anymore

There should be no homeless or hunger in America. Unemployment payments that are taken out of all our paychecks and are expressly used for the times when/if we are unfortunate to be unemployed. We are getting back what we have contributed. Now maybe someone gets more than they contributed, but so what! If we, ourselves, are personally fortunate enough to have most of the good things of life, how can we complain about giving comfort to those whose lives have fallen on bad times; or even those who for whatever the reason just cannot function in society.

All this talk about America's founding principles and Christian attitudes and then preach hate and harm to the suffering masses. No! No! This is not the real America, and most certainly not the America I grew up in during the early 1940s.

President Clinton, whom I disliked, left \$237 billion in the treasury. President Bush entered two wars, one that was not warranted or necessary, gave Prescription Drugs for Free without offsets in the Federal budget, and almost crushed our economy. That is why HE had to call for the Bail Out in September 2008.

The actions of the Tea Party, and signs, and internet postings speak for themselves. The Tea Party is the problem. Where ignorance is praised, danger always follows.

Stacy Johnson  
Franklin, N C

• See LETTERS page 25

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## • CONSERVATIVE POV •

### Oops... we've been snookered

On a day when our little darling should have had the nations' news media all to herself, wouldn't you know the White House, the Department of Agriculture, Fox News and Andrew Britebart conspired to deprive her of the attention she so richly deserves.

Lindsay Lohan spent her first day of her 90-day sentence (reduced to 13 due to overcrowding) in relative obscurity. What could be so important as to take the spotlight off LiLo? More tapes of the mouth of Blago, issuing expletives at an astounding rate? Well, he did get some face time, but not much.

What took center stage was an episode in the current concentration on racism. Last week, we wrote on the NAACP's resolution condemning the Tea Party movement for being racist, which is a crock. "Dr. Alveida King, niece of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., responded to the NAACP's accusations that Tea Party activists tolerate bigotry" said OneNewsNow.com. King blasts the NAACP as being the real racists by supporting Planned Parenthood, which she maintains, was founded to reduce the minority population. But I digress.

Out of the blue, Andrew Breitbart, operator of biggovernment.com, showed a clip of a lady making a speech wherein she appeared to make racist statements while giving a speech as part of her job. The lady is Shirley Sherrod, an employee of the Dept. of Agriculture. Within a very few hours, for reasons beyond my

understanding, all hell broke loose. Sherrod received several phone calls encouraging her to resign her position immediately. The caller(s) claimed the "suggestion" was made by the White House.

Sherrod, reading the writing on the wall, did so. Only then did someone bother to actually listen to the remainder of her talk. It turns out that Shirley gave the talk in March dealing with a matter 24 years ago and what she really said was a "mia culpa," admitting she was prejudiced in her dealing with a poor white farmer, regretted doing so, and ultimately became his friend. Talk about taking things out of context. Not having done their homework, the NAACP came out against Sherrod and supported her resignation.

Upon learning that they had made a knee-jerk reaction to the partial tape without any investigation whatsoever, the White House said it didn't come from them. Dept. of Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack, being a good soldier, fell on his sword

and claimed the White House was not involved in the "firing" decision. The NAACP blames Breitbart and Fox News for their premature judgment, saying they were "snookered."



**Don Swanson**  
Feedback is encouraged. Email [swansonson@dnet.net](mailto:swansonson@dnet.net)

Many are in disbelief that the WH wasn't involved and Tom Harkin, Dem. Sen. from Iowa, where Vilsack previously served as governor, said that the Tom Vilsack he knows would never do such a thing, all but putting the blame on the Administration. NBC condemned Fox News for editing out the essence of Sherrod's talk in their coverage. The problem with that is that Fox hadn't mentioned a word about the whole mess until several hours after her forced

resignation. One has to wonder why such a relatively insignificant issue caused such a firestorm in the media.

Shirley, who originally seemed the victim worth our sympathy, has played it to the hilt. Appearing on several daytime network shows, she let it be known that Obama owed her a face-to-face so she could bring him up to date on the current status of racial issues. She made no secret that she felt he was out of touch. He responded with a brief telephone call. He's still out of touch. Somehow, I've got to believe Rahm Emanuel, and his "no good crisis should go to waste" philosophy, is involved.

I thought I was slipping because I just couldn't get my arms around the fallout, but the following indicates that everybody has a different take on the matter.

• See SWANSON page 12

# Ib

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### Negotiating to YES

**W**hen clients ask me why I like real estate so much, I often answer this way: real estate, to me, is a giant puzzle to be solved – an opportunity to serve my clients by putting all the pieces together in such a way that they are thrilled beyond measure with the outcome.

A significant part of that puzzle is respectful, productive, and successful negotiating. While many of my clients are initially a bit anxious over the process, most of the time they soon fall right into the rhythm and find the discussions as enjoyable as I. After all, the process is not unlike a challenging strategic game — we are engaged in a thoughtful discourse, thinking three moves ahead, and anticipating the other players' desires and needs.

So where does negotiating anxiety come from? Why do so many enter into negotiating an offer with so much negative baggage?

Of course, if either party is in a situation where they *must* buy or sell, they are

going to feel a crunch of urgency that clouds their thinking and adds a significant layer of emotion to the process. In these negotiations, folks just want in or out – get it over with already! And when the pace of negotiations slows or stalls, imaginations start to race, filling in the void with all sorts of assumptions as to what is truly going on. Trust wanes and blood pressures rise.

Even in situations such as this, skilled agents can get the lines of communication reopened and back on track by remaining calm and curious (rather than coming from a place of blame and fear). By asking gentle, probing questions as to what the other party wants to have happen and where their fear and concerns may be rooted, one can quickly identify the once-hidden (and true) obstacles to moving forward. Reason reenters the picture, and all



**Susie Schiffli**  
**Harry Norman**  
**Realtors**

parties continue to work toward an agreement.

But what about those negotiating scenarios where there isn't such urgency? Why does any negotiating scenario seem to cause us discomfort and stress?

Some have been taught that for a negotiation to be considered successful, one must clobber the "opponent" – the party or parties on the other side of the table. To those folks, negotiation is a matter of getting your way, having all your terms met, and forcing the other party to make all the concessions. In their view, a negotiation is not a matter of give and take with everyone winning; rather, it is a zero sum game. Coming from this perspective, then, no wonder some feel anxious during the negotiating process (either they are out for a "kill," or they feel they are the ones being hunted).

I find negotiating success by learning early on what is most important to all the parties involved. Whether it is price, the closing timeframe, lack of complicating contingencies, or other terms, generally speaking, we can always find some common ground if we know what the other party wants to have happen.

Even a small toehold of mutual desire to find a workable solution can be enough from which to work. In fact, many times, that is just how we manage to scale the rock face of negotiations and get to closing – inch by inch.

• Susie deVille Schiffli, ME, ABR, SFR, is a Broker with Harry Norman, Realtors. Her areas of expertise include real estate investments, niche marketing, social media, and strategic property positioning. An expert in entrepreneurship and anthropology, Susie applies her acumen in human behavior toward negotiating and advocating on behalf of her clients. You may visit her [blog](http://www.HighlandsNCREalEstateInvestor.com) at [www.HighlandsNCREalEstateInvestor.com](http://www.HighlandsNCREalEstateInvestor.com), or contact her by calling (828) 371-2079.



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## • NATURE'S NOOK •

### What is Biodiversity?

By Mark Mackey

Have you ever heard of the word "biodiversity?" Maybe you've heard it mentioned in the ceaseless coverage of the BP oil spill disaster. Maybe you've heard that the United Nations proclaimed 2010 as the International Year of Biodiversity. Maybe you've heard that the Highlands area is renowned for its biodiversity or seen the local biological station's sign that reads "biodiversity studies in the southern Appalachians." But what is biodiversity?

Biodiversity refers to the variation of life forms within a given area. This includes the variation at the level of genes, species, and ecosystems. Should you find yourself without this article on hand (though I recommend always carrying a laminated copy on your person), simply break the word biodiversity down to remember its meaning. Biodiversity is a contracted version of "biological diversity," biological meaning pertaining to living organisms, and diversity meaning variety. So why does biodiversity matter? Why does it get its own year by the UN?

The importance of biodiversity to earth is analogous to the way that diversity in an investment portfolio causes it to be less volatile. Because species, like corporations, differ from each other, they tend to respond independently to environmental variability. Environmental variability can be variation in temperature, moisture, light, etc. The more species that such variability is averaged across, the less variable is their total and thus the more stable. This becomes particularly important when natural or human caused disasters occur. Are you familiar with the great potato famine of Ireland? Ireland had all of its eggs in one basket with the potato, which resulted in thousands of acres consisting of just potato plants. A lack of genetic diversity within the potato plant resulted in an increased vulnerability to the potato blight, the subsequent wiping out of the country's crop, and a resulting million human deaths and another million migrations from Ireland.

You may be rolling your eyes right now and telling your spouse how some guy in the paper is predicting the 2<sup>nd</sup> potato famine. Although I know a lot of people who have become fairly dependent on fast food French fries and would find this notion of grave importance, maybe money speaks better to you.

It has been estimated that 40 percent of the world's economy and 80% of the needs of the poor are derived from biological diversity. To use one example, the American Institute of Biological Sciences reports that native insect pollination saves the United States agricultural economy nearly an estimated \$3.1 billion annually through natu-

ral crop production, and pollination produces some \$40 billion worth of products annually in the United States.

Anybody use pharmaceuticals? In 2006, half of the products in the \$640 billion pharmaceutical market were derived from biological genetic resources. Something to keep in mind next time you pop some Advil for lower back pains.

The relatively recent discovery of the importance of biodiversity brings to light an important concept. Although society is dependent on natural and managed ecosystems for goods and services that are essential for human survival, we know all too little about how ecosystems work.

Unfortunately, some of our greatest understanding of ecosystem functioning have occurred as a result of ways we have altered them. The reason there have been increased attempts at spreading appreciation and understanding of biodiversity is not only because we know more about its importance, but also because we have been losing biodiversity worldwide at an alarming rate. The main threats to biodiversity worldwide are population growth and resource consumption, habitat conversion and urbanization, climate change, invasive alien species, over-exploitation of natural resources and environmental degradation.

I don't think it should come as a surprise to anybody that the ever increasing global human population and constant spread of development and land use is having adverse impacts on biodiversity. Not only is the loss of a species permanent, but the excessive reduction of individuals of a species and resulting reduction in genetic variation can have near permanent consequences.

As I look through my pantry of nicely packaged foods and closet of finely made clothing all made and prepared by other people, I realize just how easy it is for us to live our daily lives without thinking about our dependency and impact on the natural world.

Also, in the endless sea of and jargon catchwords, biodiversity may seem like just another word. I think a good first step towards the appreciation of biodiversity is simply to become more familiar with this potentially foreign term and what it represents. Google it!

• Mark Mackey is a graduate student at the Highlands Biological Station. He is working on his Ph.D in biology, with a focus in ecology and conservation biology, from the University of Missouri. This is his third summer conducting research in Highlands. If anybody wants to send comments or questions, they are welcome to email him at markjmackey@gmail.com.

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  7. Downtown Business District Parking Ordinance Revision
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  9. Preliminary & Final Plat—Highlands Storage Village, LLC
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### ... SWANSON continued from page 9

Jonathan Chait of The New Republic sees the issue as more evidence that race is the one issue that rattles the White House. Walter Shapiro of Politics Daily sees the Sherrod episode as less about race and more about bureaucratic bungling. Rich Lowry of National Review finds the Sherrod tale, in the end, a story of how the South has advanced. And finally, William Saletan on Slate thinks, on

the other hand, the tale is a sad commentary on the political process. Now, of these plugged-in pundits can't agree on what's going on, small wonder I'm confused. I still say it was a conspiracy to bury Lindsay's moment of shame, oh, and the passage of the financial reform bill, that is another in a series of power grab monstrosities. Nobody knows how bad it really is.

## Fast food in Highlands?

You bet ... the Deli at Bryson's Food Store has  
Delicious Fried Chicken  
BBQ Ribs

Roasted Chicken, Pork Tenderloin & Hams  
Add fresh made garden salads, coleslaw, potato salad  
Deviled eggs, fresh baked breads, pies and cookies  
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Fresh, delicious, fast food at ...

# Bryson's Food Store

103 Highlands Plaza  
Open Mon.-Sat. 7:30 - 7:30 Sun. 8-6  
(828) 526-3775



# Ongoing and Upcoming Events

## Ongoing

• At Scaly Outdoor Center, Summer Dry Tubing. Call 526-3737.

• At Scaly Outdoor Center, Trout Fishing. Call 526-3737.

• Hospital Tours: "Grand Rounds" at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital will be providing small group tours to interested area residents. Tours will be held periodically each month, through October. Tours begin at 7:30 a.m. and will include breakfast with HCH's doc-

tors and a meet and greet with the new CEO, Craig James. Call the Foundation Office at 526-1435 as space is limited. Or RVSP by email at [info@hchospital.org](mailto:info@hchospital.org).

• Join us for lunch at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital, where from May through October, you can enjoy an hour long *Lunch and Learn* educational seminar, on a variety of health topics, followed by a question and answer session. Lunch will be provided and seating is limited, so please call (828) 526-1313 or (828)

526-1250 today to make your reservation.

• At Health Tracks at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital, various exercise classes all week long. Call 828-526-1FIT.

• Nantahala Tennis Club meets everyday at 9 a.m. at Highlands Recreation Park. \$2 per person; all visitors welcome. Call 526-3556.

• YOGA – at Moonrise Yoga Studio, 464 Carolina Way. Mon., 10 a.m. & 5 p.m.; Wed., 8 a.m. & 10 a.m.; Sat., 9:30 a.m. All Levels. Mats provided. 526-8880. More info at [www.yogahighlands.com](http://www.yogahighlands.com) (8/5)

## Sundays

• Aftershock Youth meets every Sunday Night at 6:30 p.m. downstairs at Cullasaja Assembly of God at 6201 Highlands Road, Franklin, NC. Contact youth ministers Seth & Sarha Henegar at 828 369-7540 ext 203.

• Old Fashioned Hymn-Sing at the Little Church of the Wildwood in Horse Cove. 7-9 p.m. Sundays through Labor Day. Kay Ward – 743-5009

## Mon. & Wed.

• Pilates Classes at the Jane Woodruff Clinic, 1st floor, at H-C Hospital taught by Sandie Trevathan at 4 p.m. A mat class for all levels. For info call 526-5852. (7/29)

## Mon., Wed., & Thurs.

• On the Mat Yoga at the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation on Main Street. Enter through single door facing Mountain Fresh. Upper Level Jones Hall. Monday & Wednesday at 7:30 a.m. and Thursday at 10:4. Bring your mat. 828-482-2128. \$10/hour. (7/30)

## Mon., Wed., Fri.

• Heart Healthy Exercise Class at the Rec Park. 8:30-9:30 a.m. \$20/month.

• Step Aerobics with Tina Rogers at the Rec Park, 8-9 a.m. \$10 per class or \$50 a month.

## First Mondays

• Participate in your hospital by joining the Auxiliary of the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. Auxiliary meetings are held the first Monday of each month at 10 a.m. at the hospital.

## Mondays

• Closed AA meeting, 5:30 p.m. at the Episcopal Church at Fifth and Main streets.

• At the Bascom, 10 a.m.-noon: "Outdoor Drawing," Knight Martorell. Learn to draw and sketch while enjoying a Highlands outing. Pre-registration is required. To register, call (828) 526-4949 or visit [www.thebascom.org](http://www.thebascom.org).

• At the Bascom, 5-7 p.m.: "Life Drawing," Phyllis Jarvinen. Classes will cover contour, the gesture, negative/positive space, chiaroscuro and form. Pre-registration is required. To register, call (828) 526-4949 or visit [www.thebascom.org](http://www.thebascom.org).

## Tuesdays

• Highlands Rotary Club meets at noon at the Highlands Conference Center at noon.

• Closed AA Women's meeting, 5:30 p.m. at the Episcopal Church at Fifth and Main streets.

## Tuesdays & Thursdays

• Kettlebell Class at the Rec Park with Ginger Baldwin at 5:15 p.m. Fast moving free weight kinetic chain movement for 30-40 minutes. \$8 per class. Call 526-3556 or 526-4959 to reserve a spot.

## Wednesdays

• \$2 off bar drinks at El Azteca. 70 Highlands Plaza across from Bryson's Food Store.

• The Highlands Mountaintop Rotary meets at

Passionate Hearts  
for All,  
Because of Jesus'  
Passion for Us!

Christ  
Anglican Church

Every Sunday at 9 a.m.

Communion Service

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The Reverend Jim Muphy, Rector  
(252) 671-4011 or (828) 743-1701  
[www.christanglicanchurch.com](http://www.christanglicanchurch.com)

## Live music at Paoletti's Restaurant



"Not Even Brothers" is Guy Workman and Pat Phillips featuring driving acoustic guitars, tight harmonies and unusual mix of original and obscure classics. They are at Paoletti's Restaurant on Main Street at 9:15 p.m. Fri. and Sat., July 30 & 31, Aug., 6 & 7 and 13 & 14.

## CLE offering exciting presentations through October

### By Jean Ludlow

The Center for Life Enrichment (C.L.E.), a continuing education program in Highlands, presents a variety of events through the first of October.

Upcoming programs include: "The U.S. Relationship with Korea since World War II" on Tuesday, Aug. 3; A Musical Evening at the Brevard Music Center on Thursday, Aug. 5 and "A Tour of the Universe" on Friday, Aug. 6.

The program on Korea will be presented by Dr. William Stueck. Distinguished Professor of History at the University of Georgia who is writing a book on the relationship between the two countries. The focal point of his talk will cover the U.S. occupation of Korea following WWII, America's engagement in the Korean War and the possible future relationships between the countries. The talk will be held at the Martin-Lipscomb Performing Arts Center (downstairs) between 10 a.m. and 12 p.m. on Tues., Aug. 3. Cost is \$20 for members and \$30 for non-members.

CLE has planned a bus trip and boxed supper to Brevard Music Center's presentation of "The Marriage of Figaro" on Thursday, Aug. 5. Participants will meet at Bryson's lower parking lot at 4:15 p.m. to leave for the concert. Cost is \$80 for members and \$90 for non-members. Space is limited. Make reservations immediately by calling (828) 526-8811.

"A Tour of the Universe: The Ultimate Mega Transect" will be presented by Dr. Robert McMahan, dean of the College of Engineering and Technology at Western Carolina University, at the Martin-Lipscomb Performing Arts Center (downstairs) from 2-4 p.m. on Friday, Aug. 6. Cost is \$20 for members and \$30 for non-members.

To make reservations or to receive additional information, call the CLE office at (828) 526-8811 or by e-mail at [clehighlands@yahoo.com](mailto:clehighlands@yahoo.com). The office is located at the Peggy Crosby Center, 348 S. Fifth St., Suite 202.

## Ruby Cinema

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July 30-Aug. 5

**CATS & DOGS:  
THE REVENGE OF KITTY**

**GALORE**

in 3D

rated PG

Daily: 2:05, 4:15, 7:05, 9:15

**GROWN UPS**

rated PG-13

Daily: 2:10, 4:20, 7:10, 9:20

**SALT**

rated PG-13

Daily: 2, 4:30, 7, 9:30

**INCEPTION**

rated PG-13

Daily: 9

**DESPICABLE ME**

rated PG

Daily: 2:10, 4:10, 7:10



# Ongoing and Upcoming Events

## HCP to present 'Dearly Departed' at PAC



### Sometimes you get real lucky

By Virginia Talbot

The casting was complete for *Dearly Departed*, HCP's August production after auditions in June. Some of the actors in the cast of 15 were reprising their roles from our earlier production in 2005. Among the returnees was Lee Lyons of the inimitable Southern drawl, fresh from her unforgettable performance in our winter play "The Dixie Swim Club." But shortly after rehearsals started, Lee had to leave the cast due to the illness of a family member who needed her support.

It so happened that weeks earlier, before this casting crisis, I had been thumbing through the clothing racks at Fibber's Closet, looking for likely costumes, and was recognized by the gentleman (Walter McMillan), who was minding the desk that morning. "Aren't you Mrs. Danvers," he asked, referring to my role in our spring play "Rebecca." I admitted to that identity, received a compliment on my performance, then Walter uttered these portentous words, "You know my wife is an actress. I've been telling her that she ought to be in one of your plays." My interest was piqued at once, as the Players are always looking for new talent. "Would you like to meet her?" Walter asked. "She's here, sorting clothes." Of course! I would like to meet her!

In the back room of Fibber's, I met Paige McMillan, an attractive, lively red head with a pleasant Southern accent. I learned that Paige, a former resident of Vidalia, Georgia, had played lead roles in dramas and musicals there, such as Marian, the librarian in *Music Man*, and the movie star in *The Man Who Came to Dinner*. She had even done some directing—*Gentlemen Prefer Blondes*

and high school plays for state competitions. Quite impressed, I urged Paige to consider acting with our group and she said she might consider something in the future. And we left it vaguely at that.

Later, when I learned that Lee could not continue in the major role of Lucille, I was scrambling about in my mind, trying to think who might be an appropriate replacement. Suddenly, I thought of Paige. She sure seemed promising—just from my one encounter with her. And she had that Southern accent, a must for a role in *Dearly Departed*. Perhaps, I thought, my dilemma might be the lure that would get her back on stage. I called her, took her the script to her home, listened to her read, gave her my best pep talk—I had a strong feeling that Lucille was the part for her!

She tentatively accepted, came to a rehearsal, read a scene with her stage husband, Derek Taylor, who plays Ray-Bud. She was perfect!

It's still hard to believe that I was so lucky to get Paige at our time of need. She fits right in with the outstanding cast of *Dearly Departed*, which opens Thursday, August 19, at the Performing Arts Center in Highlands to run through Sunday, the 22nd; then Friday, August 27, through Sunday, August 29, with two performances on that Sunday. I'm sure you'll enjoy, not only Paige, but all the actors playing the colorful characters who populate this very funny Southern comedy. VT

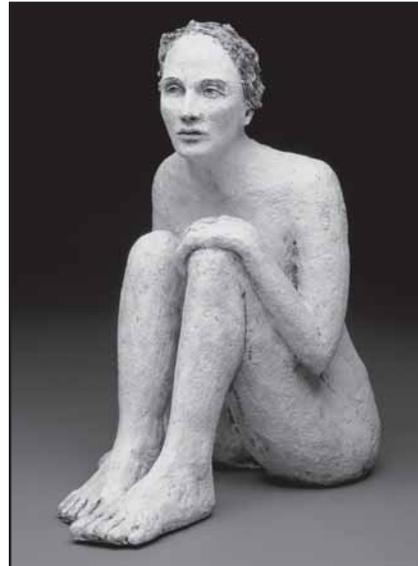
HCP's box office at PAC, 828-526-8084, opens for season subscribers on Thursday, August 12, and for others on Saturday, August 14.

7:30 a.m. The new meeting place is in the dining room at the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. Enter the hospital in the main or emergency entrance and follow the signs downstairs. Visitors are welcome. Meetings end at 8:30 a.m.

- Men's interdenominational Bible Study at 8:30 a.m. at First Baptist Church.
- The Homegrown Buds, a homeschool 4-H

club, meets at noon at the Macon County Library on Siler Road in Franklin at 1 p.m.

- At the Bascom, 10 a.m.-noon: "Interactive Art Appreciation Part 1," Rosemary Stiefel. An understanding of art, one medium at a time, while experiencing each with a hands-on activity. Pre-registration is required. To register, call (828) 526-4949 or visit [www.thebascom.org](http://www.thebascom.org).



## Kick-Start! American Motorcycle Design exhibition kicks off August at The Bascom

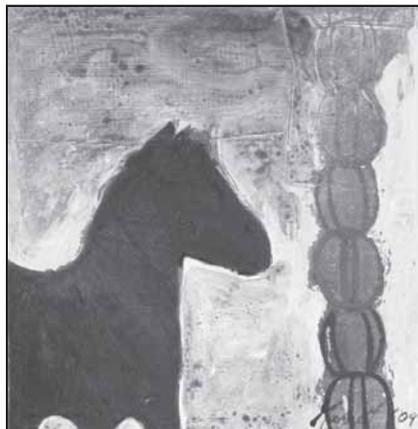
The *Kick-Start! American Motorcycle Design* exhibition opens in the Main Gallery on August 7 with a reception and gallery talk from 5-7 pm. This highly original exhibition features vintage and antique bikes on loan from Wheels Through Time, a Maggie Valley, NC-based private collection. The Bascom's exhibition will trace the progression of 20th century design styles as evidenced through the motorcycle. The earliest objects will date from the early 1900s. From 1900-1928, motorcycles evolved from a motor powered bicycle to a form of reliable sport and transportation. This exhibition is sponsored by Helen and Fred Cooper and Old Edwards Club members Barbara and Doug DeMaire, Judith and Robert Moore, Angela and Art Williams and Patsy and Bill Wolff.

Other exhibitions now at The Bascom: Heroes of Horticulture; Recent Works: Sid Luck; Patrick Dougherty's Do Tell environmental sculpture; the Treasures of Private Collections and On View: Artists in Residence and Toe River Potters.

Don't miss the opportunity to meet and mingle with many of The Bascom's artists-in-residence. Meet Matt Little on August 3, Lewis Knauss on August 10, Mira Lehr on August 24, Tom Turner on August 27 and Phillip Garrett on August 30. Enjoy demonstrations and learn what motivates and inspires these artists.

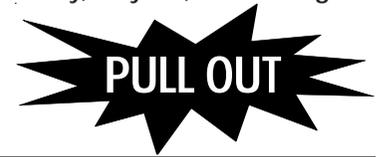
All artist talks, which are free to the public, begin at 5 pm and are preceded by a public reception at 4:30 pm.

Exhibitions are free and open to the public Tuesdays through Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sundays from noon to 5 p.m. For more information, visit [www.thebascom.org](http://www.thebascom.org) or call (828) 526-4949.



The *Kick-start, American Motorcycle Design* exhibition will be on view at The Bascom from August 7-September 26. The exhibition is generously supported by Helen and Fred Cooper and Old Edwards Club members Barbara and Doug DeMaire, Judith and Robert Moore, Angela and Art Williams and Patsy and Bill Wolff.

# Ongoing and Upcoming Events



• At the Bascom, 2-4 p.m.: "Painting: Oil or Acrylic," Diane McPhail. Beginning and advanced students will gain skills in the craft of painting in a friendly, community setting. Pre-registration is required. To register, call (828) 526-4949 or visit [www.thebascom.org](http://www.thebascom.org).

• At the Bascom, 2-5 p.m.: "Creative Journaling," Betty Holt. Learn 16 different writing techniques to organize your thoughts and build self-confidence. Pre-registration is required. To register, call (828) 526-4949 or visit [www.thebascom.org](http://www.thebascom.org).

### Wednesdays & Fridays

• Open AA meeting at noon at the Episcopal Church at Fifth and Main streets.

### Every 3rd Wednesday

• Study sessions at the Universal Unitarian Fellowship Hall in Franklin. A \$5 soup-supper will be served at 5:30 p.m. Study sessions will begin at 6:30 p.m. For more information call 828-524-6777 or 706-746-9964.

### Thursdays

• Al-Anon meeting, noon at the Episcopal Church on Main and Fifth streets.

• Zahner Conservation Lecture Series every Thursday at 7 pm at the Highlands Nature Center May 13 through Aug. 5 It's free.

• At the Bascom, 10 a.m.-noon: "Watercolor Basics: Shapes," Robin Swaby. Discover the importance of negative and positive shapes. Pre-registration is required. To register, call (828) 526-4949 or visit [www.thebascom.org](http://www.thebascom.org).

• At the Bascom 1-3 p.m.: "Pastels: Skies, Clouds, Water, Mist," Robin Swaby. Learn to handle the soft edges of various clouds and soft atmospheric effects. Pre-registration is required. To register, call (828) 526-4949 or visit [www.thebascom.org](http://www.thebascom.org).

### 1st & 3rd Thursdays

• If you are suffering from a mental illness or

have a relative with a diagnosis such as schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, depression, anxiety, PTSD, etc, you are not alone. NAMI Appalachian South (National Alliance on Mental Illness) support group meets on the 526-9769

### Fridays through Aug. 15

• A prix fixe dinner at Wolfgang's for \$60 per person with a percentage of proceeds benefiting the Highlands-Cashiers Chamber Music Festival. For reservations for the concert and dinner call the HCCMF's office at (828) 526-9060.

### Fridays

• Free Mountain Music Concert series with dance demonstrations and instruction from 6:45 to 7:30 p.m. The band performs from 7:30-9 at Highlands School's old gym, on Person Drive.

### Friday & Saturdays

• Live Music at The Downhill Grill at Scaly Mountain Outdoor Center 7-9 p.m.. BYOB.

### Every Third Saturday

• The Highlands Memorial Post #370 of the American Legion meets at the Shortoff Baptist Church. Breakfast is at 9 am. Meeting is at 10 a.m. All veterans are invited to attend.

### Every Fourth Saturday

• Friends of Panthertown work days, are the fourth Saturday of each month. (Time and location varies). Volunteers needed to maintain trails. For more information, contact Nina Elliott at 828-526-9938 (ext 258).

• The Scaly Mountain Women's Club monthly Pancake Breakfast. Breakfast is served in the remodeled historical school house from 7:30-10:30 pm. \$5.50 for adults and \$3.50 for children. Call Susan Bankston 526-9952 or email [sfbankston@gmail.com](mailto:sfbankston@gmail.com)

### Saturdays

• At Paoletti's Restaurant, intimate Wine Tasting at the bar at 1 pm. Great values in wines from around the

world, available for retail sales daily. A variety of wines for every palate. Wines change weekly. Cheese and Crackers are served. Cost: \$20 per person.

• Saturday Art School for grades K-8 is held weekly at The Bascom in Highlands. To register call (828) 526-4949 ext. 100.

• At Cyprus International Restaurant, live music beginning at 9 p.m. No cover.

• At Highlands Wine & Cheese, Falls on Main, Wine Flights from 4-6:30 p.m. Five wines, artisan cheeses and specialty foods. \$19 per person.

• Highlands Knitting & Needlepoint Guild meets to knit, crochet and needlepoint on the terrace at the Bascom. Questions? 526-1741.

• At the Bascom, 2-4 p.m.: "Botanical Watercolor," Fayne Ansley. Gain the skills, knowledge and creative inspiration to produce paintings based on exploring our beautiful local flora and fauna. Pre-registration is required. To register, call (828) 526-4949 or visit [www.thebascom.org](http://www.thebascom.org).

### Through Sun., Aug. 8

• At the Bascom, the recent works of North Carolina treasure Sid Luck, will be on display in the Balcony Gallery. The fifth generation of the Luck pottery tradition, Sid continues the ancient art of wheel-thrown pottery near Seagrove, the "Pottery Capitol" of North Carolina. Exhibitions are free and open to the public Tuesdays through Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information call (828) 526-4949.

• At Highlands Playhouse, "The Andrews Brothers," a USO show in the South Pacific full of mistaken identities and madcap adventures. For tickets call 828-526-2695 or go to [www.highlandspkayhouse.org](http://www.highlandspkayhouse.org).

### Thursday, July 29

• At the Highlands Biological Center, the Zahner Conservation Lecture Series continues at the High-

• See EVENTS page 16

## Outdoor Activities



**DILLSBORO RIVER COMPANY, LLC**

**Mom Approved Rafting!**

4-years-old or 40 lbs.

Rental & Guided Trips.

Across from downtown Dillsboro



**Kids tube free on Tuesdays**

Highway 441 Dillsboro, NC

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## Family Float Trip Adventures

**KID'S GO FOR \$10**

Great Smoky Mt. River Fun  
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# Made to Order

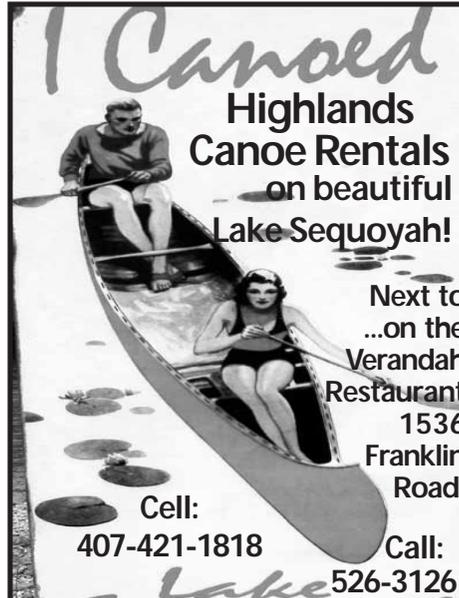
Our grill serves fresh angus burgers made to order with hand cut french fries, grilled chicken and slow roasted wood smoked bbq. Grill open from 11 am until 3 pm every day.



Corner of 5th & Main, Highlands NC 526-2400

## I Canoeed

Highlands Canoe Rentals on beautiful Lake Sequoyah!



Next to ...on the Verandah Restaurant  
1536 Franklin Road.  
Cell: 407-421-1818 Call: 526-3126  
*Lake Sequoyah*



# Ongoing and Upcoming Events

## Fire truck rides Aug. 7!



The Highlands Fire & Rescue Department is celebrating 57 years of service with an open house on Saturday, Aug. 7 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Hot dogs and drinks will be served free (donations accepted) and fire truck rides for all ages is included.

lands Nature Center with Dr. Andrew Methven's talk "The Good, the Bad and the Ugly: Mushrooms of the Southern Appalachians." 7 p.m. Free.

### Friday, July 30

• The High Mountain Squares will dance this Friday night at the Macon County Community Building on route 441 South from 6:30 to 9:00 PM. Willis Cook from Carnsville, GA will be the square dance caller. We dance Western Style Square Dancing, main stream and plus levels. Mike McDonald from Clayton, GA will start calling Round Dancing at 6:30. Everyone is welcome. For more information call 828-349-0905, 828-369-8344, 706-782-0943, or [www.highmountainsquare.org](http://www.highmountainsquare.org)

### Fri. & Sat., July 30-31

• At Paoletti's Restaurant, "Not Even Brothers" at 9:15 p.m. Guy Workman and Pat Phillips featuring driving acoustic guitars, tight harmonies and unusual mix of original and obscure classics.

### Saturday, July 31

• Highlands MountainTop Rotary's Annual Quickdraw at the Executive Conference Center at the Old Edwards Inn & Spa. To purchase tickets call David Bee at 828-421-6607. Tickets are \$45 prior to the event or \$55 at the door.

### Mon.-Sun., Aug. 2-6

• The Episcopal Church of the Incarnation will hold Vacation Bible School the first week of August (2-6). At Hero Headquarters, kids will meet unlikely Bible heroes who are often overlooked. In fact, we don't know a single one of their names! They were not

famous leaders or called by God to perform amazing miracles — yet their small acts were used by God to do wonderful things! We will help kids discover that if they're willing to be used by God in any situation, no matter how big or small, they can make a difference. With God's power at work, they can be heroes right where they are! To register please contact Andrea Chalker at 526-2968 x 206 or go online [www.vacationbibleschool.com/incarnation](http://www.vacationbibleschool.com/incarnation)

### Beginning Aug. 2

• At the Bascom, The Art Academy, classes for non-artist, beginners and continuing students, begins Summer Session III on August 2. Grow your interest in art and join an amazing talent pool of highly qualified, local, professional instructors as they guide you through courses in Outdoor Drawing, Life Drawing, Interactive Art Appreciation, Painting: Oil or Acrylic, Watercolor Basics: Design, Pastels: Studies in the Landscape and/or Botanical Watercolor.. The cost per course (four classes per course) is \$120 Bascom members/ \$125 non-members.

### Tues., Aug. 3

• "NatureWorks" day camp at the Highlands Nature Center begins. August 3 - 6, 10 am - 2 pm daily. Learn about the workings of "mother nature" through nature activities and field observations. Ages 8-11. \$45 per child, advanced registration required. Call 526-2623.

• At CLE, The US Relationship with Korea since World War II. Dr. William Stueck. 10:00-12:00 at PAC, \$20 members, \$30 non-member.

# Loving Literacy

## A Premiere Gala

to benefit  
**The Literacy Council of Highlands**

**Wednesday, August 18th • 6:30 p.m.**

Silent auction • Champagne reception • Wine • Hors d'oeuvres

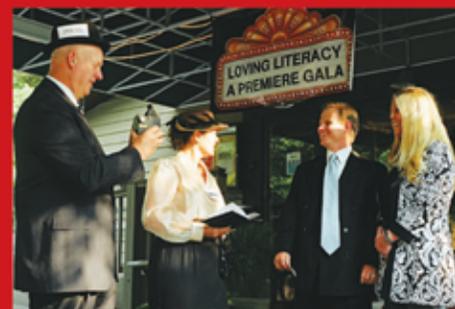
Performing Arts Center • Tickets - \$50 • 828-526-9938 ext. 240

## Dearly Departed



Written by David Beersell and Justin Jones  
Directed by Virginia Talbot

An exclusive premiere showing of the drop-dead funny play *Dearly Departed* performed by the Highlands Cashiers Players.



# Ongoing and Upcoming Events



• The Mountain High Republican Women's Club August luncheon will be held on Tuesday at the Highlands Country Club in Highlands. Registration is at 11:30 AM; the lunch with speaker and the business meeting begin at noon. The featured speaker is Senator Phil Berger who is the Republican Leader in the North Carolina Senate. The group's monthly luncheons and meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month April through September. For additional information, a membership application and luncheon reservations, please call 828 200-0437 or email [mtnrepublicanwomen@yahoo.com](mailto:mtnrepublicanwomen@yahoo.com). Inquiries may also be mailed to MHRWA, P.O. Box 126, Cashiers, NC 28717.

Wed., Aug. 4

• Interlude Concert at the First Presbyterian Church at 2 p.m. Dress is casual. Featuring Stell Huie, baritone accompanied by Angie Jenkins, piano.

Thurs., Aug. 5

• At CLE, A Musical Evening at Brevard Music Center: The Marriage of Figaro. Bus trip, Box Dinner and Dress Rehearsal Presentation. \$80 members, \$90 non-members

• See EVENTS page 18

This Saturday, July 31, is the third annual Highlands Mountaintop Rotary "Quickdraw" artists exhibition and auction at the Executive Conference Center at Old Edwards Inn.

The Quickdraw is a unique opportunity to watch as local and regional artists race the clock to complete a painting in two hours. See art in the making as the artists work swiftly, drawing on their experience, their artistic instinct and their passion for art. Watch each artist's technique as each brush stroke comes to life on the canvas right before your eyes. In this rare opportunity to meet and interact with the artists, guests will see all that goes into each thoughtfully selected piece.

Participants will be able to stroll through the artist's workstations as they create each masterpiece. In addition to a great evening of delicious food, fellowship and the opportunity to meet the artists,

## Mtn Top Rotary 'Quickdraw' July 31



Watercolor Artist Bonnie Adams.

guests have the chance to take home one of these carefully crafted pieces of art. At the end

of the Quickdraw, each piece of artwork will be auctioned off during a live auction.

The Quickdraw is an important fundraiser for the Highlands Mountaintop Rotary with all proceeds being used by the Mountaintop club for local area Rotary projects.

Advance purchase ticket price is \$45 per person. Tickets at the door will be \$55. Ticket price includes the Quickdraw artist exhibition, a live auction, a silent auction and plenty of food catered by the Old Edwards Inn

The doors open at 5:30 and the Quickdraw begins at 6. Tickets are available at Prestige Realty Group and Stanberry Insurance.

For ticket information please call 526-9999 or contact [davidkbee@aol.com](mailto:davidkbee@aol.com).

The Highlands Mountaintop Rotary meets Wednesday mornings at 7:30 in the dining room at the H-C Hospital.

## Its almost Homecoming Weekend for the Highlands Cashiers Chamber Music Festival

Concert-goers will be treated to performances by Festival veterans like violinist William Preucil, violist Yinzi Kong, flutist Lea Kibler, harpist Valerie Von Pechy Whitcup, cellist Charae Krueger, and pianist William Ransom. These internationally-recognized musicians have won a loyal following over the past seasons for their passionate musicianship and the nuance that comes only from a lifetime of dedication to their art.

The Friday, July 30th, concert at the Martin-Lipscomb Performing Arts Center will feature Beethoven's "Sonata in F Major, Op. 24, 'Spring,'" performed by Preucil and Ransom.

William Preucil was appointed concertmaster of the Cleveland Orchestra in 1994. That's a long way from the boy who began taking lessons from his mother at age five. His journey also includes concertmaster duties for the Atlanta Symphony, membership in the Lanier Trio (whose recording of the Dvorak Piano Trios was named one of Time Magazine's Top 10 CDs of 1993), and chamber music festivals around the world. "The Violin Concerto" by Stephen Paulus was dedicated to him and he recorded it with the Atlanta Symphony for Ne World Records.

In addition to serving as the festival's artistic director, Will Ransom's schedule takes him around the world to perform in such venues as Carnegie Hall and the National Gallery, yet his heart brings him back every summer to the Highlands-Cashiers Plateau. Born in Boston, he was a scholarship student of William Masselos at The Julliard School in New York.

When he's not performing or overseeing the HCCMF, Ransom is the Mary L. Emerson Professor of Piano and Director of Piano Studies at Emory University.

Following Preucil and Ransom will be Debussy's "Sonata #2 for flute, harp and viola" by Kong, Kibler and Von Pechy Whitcup.

Festival regulars know Yinzi Kong for her superlative solo work and for her appearances with the internationally-acclaimed Vega String Quartet, which she helped found. A native of Shanghai, Kong began her training at age five and gave her first public performance at seven.

Leah Kibler teaches flute in the Department of Performing Arts at Clemson University. She's served as principal flute for the Moscow Chamber Orchestra and performed at the Spoleto Festival, the Norfolk Chamber Music Festival and the American Dance Festival. Kibler was founding director/performer of the Florida Chamber Virtuosi. She's an active arranger, clinician, solo performer and teacher.

Valerie Von Pechy Whitcup is beloved by HCCMF audiences for her many sparkling performances over the years. She was the harp instructor at the University of Miami Frost School of Music for 30 years.

After intermission, Preucil and Ransom will be joined by Charae Krueger for Dvorak's "Piano Trio No. 4 in E Minor, 'Dumky.'"

Krueger is the principal cellist of the Atlanta Opera Association and the Atlanta Ballet Orchestra and frequently performs with the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra. She's also artist-in-residence at Kennesaw State University. Krueger was a founding member of the Arden String Quartet and principal cellist for

10 years with the Cape Cod Symphony Orchestra.

Dvorak's "Dumky" is based on Slavic folksongs and though it's primarily melancholic, it has some lively passages that evoke rural celebrations. Festival-goers are welcome to dance in the aisle during these segments, although they are asked to refrain from frightening the musicians.

The Sunday, Aug. 1st, concert opens with Mozart's "Duo in G Minor, K. 423" performed by Preucil and Kong.

Chopin's "Sonata in G Minor, Op. 65" introduces the Highlands-Cashiers audience to pianist Victor Asuncion.

As a recitalist and concerto soloist, Asuncion has appeared in major concert halls around the world. He's performed with artists such as Lynn Harrell, Zuill Bailey, Choliang Lin, James Dunham, Ronald Leonard, Susanne Mentzer, and the Vega and Emerson string quartets. He'll be joined on "Sonata" by Krueger.

Following intermission, Preucil, Kong, Krueger and Asuncion will perform Schumann's "Quartet in Eb Major, Op. 47."

Concerts are held at 6 p.m. Fridays at the Martin-Lipscomb Performing Arts Center in Highlands and repeated at 5 p.m. Saturdays at the Albert Carlton-Cashiers Community Library in Cashiers. Sunday concerts are staged at 5 p.m. at the Performing Arts Center in Highlands and repeated at 5 p.m. Mondays at the Cashiers Community Library.

For more information about the festival and its full lineup of performances and events, visit [www.h-cmusicfestival.org](http://www.h-cmusicfestival.org) or call (828) 526-9060.



Victor Asuncion



William Preucil



# Ongoing and Upcoming Events

**Booksigning and reading by author John Armor**  
**Thursday, Aug. 5 at 6 p.m. at The Hudson Library**

**“These Are the Times That Try Men’s Souls”**  
**“America – Then and Now in the Words of Tom Paine”**

## RELAY, What You Need To Know . . .

Dine Out for More Birthdays – enjoy a fantastic meal at local area restaurants and a percentage of the evening goes to Relay For Life of Highlands.

**August 7** - The Kitchen & Carry Away, **August 12** - Wild Thyme, **August 18** - Nick's.

Relay For Life Silent Auction being held in lobby of RBC Bank, 225 Franklin Rd., Highlands. Seven great auction items were donated by the following businesses: The Toy Store, The Hen House, Reeves Hardware, Wholesale Down Comforters, Colonel Mustard, Gold-n-Clipper & Bryant Art Glass. Bidding will end Aug. 2nd at 5:00pm when the lobby closes. Hurry & get your bids in.

Mountain Music Concert Series, Presented by the "Just For You Team" Friday Nights at Highlands School-Old Gym, Square Dancing & Clogging! Dancing Begins at 6:45, Concerts, 7:30-9 p.m. Concerts are free & open to the public. Raffle items will be available at the concerts (\$100 + value) with the drawing to be held August 13. All donations will go to Relay For Life of Highlands. Concert dates are: **July 30**. Contact Betty Fisher @ 828-226-3382.

Relay For Life Bridge Games: Come to the Recreation Park on **July 29** at 1 p.m. and play bridge for a donation of \$10 to The American Cancer Society. You and your partner can play in a sanctioned duplicate game. Call M. Meeter at 787-2174 or in a recreational party bridge game. Call G. Calloway at 526-4021. There will be prizes and refreshments. You must make a reservation if you want to play.

"Madison's Miracle Team's Benefit, All bikes welcome, Event Date: Saturday **July 31** at Highlands, N.C.- Rec. Park on HWY 64, 10 a.m.- 2 p.m. Take a scenic ride through beautiful mountains roads. \$20. We will finish the run at the Highlands Rec. Park on HWY 64 with a cookout for all participants, raffle & prizes. Contact Kristie at 526-5793.

Have you seen the Flamingos? Would you like to "Flock" someone? Call 828-526-1717. "Flock your friends" - ONLY \$15! "De-Flocking"- only \$10! The flamingos will be here through Aug. 13. All proceeds benefit Relay For Life of Highlands. Benefit Auction, **Aug. 15** at Scudders Auction House, 3:15 – 5 p.m. Exciting auction items!

Survivor Dinner, Tuesday, **Aug. 3**, Coleman Hall, First Presbyterian Church, Highlands. Catered by Joel Porter, Dinner music by Angie Jenkins, Square dancing by "Highlands Drifters," speakers, Butch Smart & Honorary Chair Paula Jones, hosted by "Just for You" team. Please contact Chrisy Kelly@ 526-8437 for reservations.

Madison's Miracle Team Chili Cook-Off, Scaly Mtn. **Aug. 7**. 11:30am-1:30pm, at the Downhill Grill Scaly Mountain Outdoor Center. \$20 entry fee (cook up a pot of red or white chili). Tasting & judging, \$8 per person (12 & older) Sample each chili, cornbread & a beverage. \$4 children, Bowl of chili, small beverage & a cookie. Prizes for winning chili & chili will be featured for a month at the Downhill Grill. Live entertainment & raffles. For information contact Cindy Pair @ 526-1663

Madison's Miracle Team Raffle at Macon Bank, Highlands. Raffle features a Boy or Girl Basket, valued at \$75 each, & filled with toys & Beanie Babies. Spa Basket, valued at \$300. Includes a \$110 gift certificate, Spa facial, Himalayan sea salts, slippers, lotions & soaps. Tickets are \$1 each or \$5 for 6. Please contact Kristie @ 526-5793 for more info. All proceeds benefit Relay for Life Of Highlands.

- At the Highlands Biological Center, the Zahner Lecture Series will conclude for the year with an evening with George and Elizabeth Ellison. Together they will present "Blue Ridge Perspectives: The Natural World Thru Words and Images." 7 p.m. Free.
- At Hudson Library, a booksigning by author John Armor. "These Are the Times That Try Men's Souls – American – Then and Now in the Words of Tom Paine. Armor will read from the text and answer questions. Light refreshments will be served.
- Taize is Thursday at 5:30 PM. Holy Family Lutheran Church. Taize is a nondenominational service of prayer, meditation, scripture and simple, beautiful music. No offerings are taken..
- Friday, Aug 6**
  - At CLE, A Tour of the Universe: The Ultimate Mega Transect. Dr. Robert McMahan. 10:00-12:00 Highlands Civic Center, \$20 members, \$30 non-members
  - Fri. & Sat., Aug. 6-7**
    - At Paoletti's Restaurant, "Not Even Brothers" at 9:15 p.m. Guy Workman and Pat Phillips featuring driving acoustic guitars, tight harmonies and unusual mix of original and obscure classics.
    - Sat., Aug.7**
      - Highlands Fire & Rescue Open House on Oak Street 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Includes rides on the firetruck and a hot dog lunch. Donations appreciated.
      - The Make-A-Wish Foundation is sponsoring a Music Festival and Car Show at Sapphire Valley walking track 11 a.m. until 5 p.m. Five local bands playing throughout the day; trophies awarded for best Pre-1971 Classic Car, Street Rod, and Sports Car, plus Post-1971 Cars of Interest and a People's Choice Award. There will be food and drink available throughout the day, as well as children's activities, a silent auction, and a raffle for a red Mazda Convertible (circa 1991, but in mint condition.).
- Aug. 10-14**
  - At The Bascom, Lewis Knauss, "Fiber and Handmade Paper into Sculpture." Combining ceramic and fiber, this workshop will guide students through 5 days of combining off-loom techniques with Eastern papermaking to create a lightweight sculpture. Tuition is \$475 Bascom members/ \$500 non-members (most materials included).
- Tues., August 10**
  - At Hudson Library, Financial Management Lecture – at 5:30-6:30 pm. Presented by Sue Gorski of RBC Bank — Surviving a Troubling Economy."
  - WOW! – a World of Wonder" day camp at the Highlands Nature Center begins. August 10-13, 10 am – noon daily. Have fun playing nature games, exploring various habitats, and searching for critters. Ages 4-6. \$35 per child, advanced registration required. Call 526-2623.

**... BOND continued from page 1**

bond valued at not less than \$5,000 some months ago to make sure erosion control is met even if a developer goes bankrupt and walks from a job.

However, since such a scenario has never happened in Highlands, Mike Bryson said he didn't think a bond was necessary. "This has never had to be addressed before and since it's the zoning department's job to enforce erosion control, it can just put a stop-work order on the job until someone like me is hired to fix it," he said. "This represents just one more hoop developers have to jump through."

Linda Clark explained that without the bond, should someone go bankrupt, the town would have to pay for fixing the site, "Actually the taxpayers would have to pay," she said.

Underwood questioned the dollar amount, wondering if it should be 3%-5% of the cost to repair rather than not less than \$5,000, as the in county. "It might not even cost that much," he said. "This is really just another tax on developers."

In the end, the board voted to table the issue until next month so members could take another look at Macon County's surety bond verbiage as well as explore the process in other municipalities.

Attendance and meeting times were also discussed. Cooley said each member had been absent twice and could be absent two more times before being replaced.

Ricky Bryson questioned whether he had to adhere to Highlands' board regulations since he was appointed by the county to represent the ETJ. Cooley assured him as a sitting member of the Highlands Planning Board he had to adhere to the rules like everyone else. Bryson said he was going to check on that.

Cooley also suggested changing the meeting time to be more accommodating for members. Underwood liked the idea saying he had no intention of quitting Boy Scouts or the Planning Board but during the school year he would continue to leave at 6:30 even if the meeting was still in session.

Clark said 5 p.m. would be good because

• See BOND page 19

# Ongoing and Upcoming Events



## Historical Society's 'Tour of Homes' on Aug. 7 includes McPhail mill

For more than 30 years, Ray and Diane McPhail dreamed of locating and restoring an old mill. A little more than 15 years ago, that dream succumbed to reality as the McPhails bought and restored the old Highlands mill.

Over a two-year period, they meticulously planned and restored the structure, transforming it into their home on Lake Sequoyah. However, the McPhails did not stop there. All of the mill's working parts were restored, and if they so choose, the mill could once again operate today.

On the 23 acres surrounding the mill, the McPhails built a beautiful guesthouse and an artist studio for Diane. Each structure was also constructed using reclaimed materials, including the combination of an early 1800s barn with a 1830s dogtrot cab-

in for the guesthouse.

A tour of the McPhails unique property is a true highlight of this year's Tour of Homes. Sponsored by the Highlands Historical Society, this year's Aug. 7 tour will feature homes in the Highlands Country Club area on Cobb and North Cobb roads.

Along with the three structures on the McPhail's property, tour goers will also have the opportunity to visit Cason and Nancy Callaway's "Apple Hill" cottage as well as Cynthia Mitchell's "Outabouts" home on Cobb Road. Both of these homes were some of the first built on this part of Highlands Country Club's golf course.

Invite your friends to come for the weekend and revel in Highlands' past. The tour will run from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Aug. 7. Shuttles will leave from the Highlands Commu-

nity Building (next to the Ball Field) on the Cashiers Road. Tickets are \$40 each and may be purchased at The Highlander Newspaper or Cyrano's Bookshop before the event. Tickets may also be purchased when you catch the shuttle at the Community Building on the day of the event.

Funds raised by this event support the ongoing maintenance of the Historic Village, which includes the original Hudson Library and the Prince House (Highlands' oldest home within the town limits). Please come tour the Museum and the Prince House any Friday or Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. throughout the season. For more information, visit the Historical Society's Web site, [www.highlandshistory.com](http://www.highlandshistory.com) or call (828)-787-1050.



The McPhail mill is one of three homes on tour Aug. 7. Tickets are \$40 and proceeds help support the Highlands Historical Society.

## 'The Andrews Brothers' on stage at The Playhouse

By Joseph Litsch

Sometimes even the finest chefs are flabbergasted at their own creations. They know before the close the oven door that the ingredients are all there; that the seasonings are perfect; that the temperature is ideal. Still, when the finished product is presented, they, themselves, are bowled over.

Such is the case with director Sam Dunaway and his latest concoction at the Highlands Playhouse, "The Andrews Brothers," which runs through Sunday, Aug. 8. He carefully assembled the four-person cast, as well as choreographer and musical director; then, set the whole spinning. And, it hummed like a top.

Oh, it wasn't without plenty of nit-picking rehearsals, edgy nerves, short tempers, sore feet, vocal exercises, and just plain hard work. But through all this developed a cohesion that is truly admirable. So, after a successful Thursday opening and a Friday afternoon swim, it was nice for everyone to take a deep breath and reflect on the past two weeks.

"It was a real challenge for me," began Trey Butler, the last cast member chosen. "I have never done anything like this four-part harmony before, but I am really enjoying it. And we are onstage for such a long time."

Butler, a Cedartown native, is currently attending Brenau College in Gainesville, where he is in the Gainesville Theater Alliance (GTA). He actually was called to replace a performer who had to drop out.

Josh Donahue, the only married guy in the group, grew up in Snellville and went on to Shorter College in Rome where he majored in music and performance. He's also the tallest of the group and gets a lot of comedic mileage out of his lanky build – especially when he's wearing that polka-dot dress.

"You know, I've found that if you just move a little like this," he said, moving his shoulders alternately. "it



The Andrews Brothers strutt their stuff on stage at The Playhouse

makes the dress sway." And during the course of the evening, Josh does his share of "swaying."

Brett Parker is the veteran of the group, having enjoyed being the "token white boy" – that's what the other guys called me – in "Smokey Joe's Café," which opened the 2010 Highlands Playhouse season.

"But this show was harder," said Brett. "Not the music, but all the other stuff," he added obviously referring to the cross-dressing the guys do in Act II – converting Andrews Brothers to Andrews Sisters... Patrick to Patty, Lawrence to Laverne and Max to Maxene.

"The hose are the worst," said Brett. "I thought I would be able to slide my foot in, but no! You have to bunch those suckers up and pull them over your feet them up your legs. And I can't get them straight. I've already ripped mine twice in the crotch trying to pull them on. And these dresses are Velcroed together and you can't tell when they are open. I looked down and my ..... bra was showing."

"Now, you see what we go through all the time," said Erin Lorette, who plays Peggy Jones, the pretty pin-up girl.

"I think the eyelashes are the worst," said Josh. "I never can get them on right."

"Josh, your eyelashes are never in the right place," said Trey. "They're always too high."

Erin was taking it all in and smiling, enjoying seeing and hearing the boys' learning woes. For her, eyelashes are applied in a single move per eye. And, pantyhose... and well, they go on almost as easily as applying lotion to her legs. She has much fatter fish to fry.

"Erin is the glue that holds us together," said Brett. "She keeps us in line. And she's the prettiest girl. Next to Trey," he added casting an innocent glance Trey's way.

And Erin is not shy about shushing a noisy audience. Opening night the crowd was still laughing and talking about the "Six Jerks in a Jeep" number when she was ready for the show to keep going on. Alone at center stage, she announced, "If you talk, Peggy won't talk." They hushed.

"Well, the only time I have a number is so the boys can change clothes," she said, waiting for the expected reaction from the guys. For whatever reason, when Erin steps up to the microphone, it's her stage. A good voice plus a good song is a great recipe.

This show is chocked full of good songs sung by good voices, with choreographer Ricardo Aponte's dance steps adding some real kicks to the proceedings. They are having fun and it shows and that makes the audiences enjoy it even more.

"Kidding aside," said Brett, turning serious for a moment. "The real glue that holds us all together is right there," he said pointing to Sam. "That man makes it work." They all agreed.

A beat. Then, Erin – as Peggy – arose and said, "It's 5 o'clock. Time for Peggy's nap. Remember, we're there at seven." And she exited. Yes ma'm.

## ... BOND continued from page 18

that would give the group 1 ½ hours which would make it easier for Underwood. Alan Marsh agreed. But the Brysons said it wasn't necessary to change the time. If Underwood had to leave before a vote was called and if his leaving left the board without a quorum, then they said the board could just

table the vote until the next meeting.

Craig suggested moving items that required a vote to the front of the agenda – particularly those involving citizens' requests before the board.

In addition, the board voted unanimously to amend the

town's soil and erosion ordinance to make it a requirement that all land movers in Highlands be licensed Grading Contractors as required in the county.

The issue will now go to the Town Board for approval as will the subdivision applications.

• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

• PLACES TO WORSHIP •

**Hand in hand & heart to heart**

The Most Rev. Dr. John S. Erbelding  
The Chapel of Sky Valley



Now with silver hair and careful steps, the couple slowly walks the lane that leads from their home. It's time for their daily stroll. Their steps are unhurried, their eyesight dimmed, but beating in their hearts is a love and commitment that passersby can almost feel.

They walk hand in hand, as they've done since their earliest years together. Their walk used to give them time away from the kids, time to be alone. Now the kids are long since gone, but the two of them keep walking as they've always done.

Their conversation is usually simple; often, they hardly say a word. After five-and-a-half decades of marriage, they've learned something about life, about love, about two hearts that beat as one.

Few things touch us like seeing a couple in love. Whether newly married or celebrating a golden anniversary, couples who keep love alive, who endure the ups and downs of life together, deserve our admiration. These men and women will tell you that it's not luck that keeps them in love. It's choosing to stay in love, all along the way.

In my 53 years of ministry, I have had the privilege of performing thousands of wedding ceremonies, first as Priest, then as Bishop, and now continuing as Archbishop, and there is a little quiet observation I make at each wedding. No, it has nothing to do with the usual words exchanged by the couple or whether the parents of the bride choose the word "gives" or "presents" this woman to be married to this man. It is an observation I make while reading the most often selected passage of scripture in their service, St. Paul's Letter to the Corinthians, the thirteenth chapter beginning with the first verse. You know how it goes. "If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not loved..." But it is actually the fourth verse where I begin to observe the two people facing each other, at the beginning of a new life, and they listen to me say these words: "Love is patient, love is kind, it does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, keeps no record of wrongs."

You would be quite surprised to see the expressions that can change when they hear those words and they are looking into the face of their beloved. It's almost as if you had a crystal ball and could see into their future, for you note that somewhere in their relationship there has been the lack of patience or kindness or rudeness or selfishness or unexplained anger, and maybe one of them is a record-keeper of the other's wrongs. I always hope that these expressions, these glances, will change now that they are going to be married, but I am never sure, and our divorce rates in this country are still staggering, one out of two marriage failures.

A husband and wife in a good marriage understand that love is a behavior, a series of actions, and not just an elusive feeling of warm fuzzies that might someday escape them.

Shakespeare understood this well when he wrote in Sonnet 116:

Let me not to the marriage of true minds  
Admit impediments. Love is not love  
Which alters when it alteration finds,  
Or bends with the remover to remove:

- BLUE VALLEY 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.
- BUCK CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH**  
Sundays: School - 10 a.m.; Worship - 11
- CHAPEL OF SKY VALLEY**  
Sky Valley, GA  
Church: 706-746-2999  
Pastor's residence: 706-746-5770  
Sundays: 10 a.m. - Worship  
Holy Communion 1st Sunday of the month  
Wednesdays: 9 a.m. Healing and Prayer with Holy Communion each service
- CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER DAY SAINTS**  
NC 28 N. and Pine Ridge Rd., (828) 369-8329  
Rai Cammack, Branch President, (828) 369-1627
- CHRIST ANGLICAN CHURCH**  
Rector: Jim Murphy, 252-671-4011  
Worshipping at the facilities of  
Whiteside Presbyterian Church, Cashiers  
Sunday: Holy Communion - 9:00 a.m.  
Sunday: Adult Forum - 10:30, Bucks Coffee Cafe, Cashiers  
Monday: Evening Bible Study at Whiteside Presbyterian - 5 p.m.; Bible Study & Supper at members' homes - 6 p.m.  
Wednesday: Men's Bible Study - 8:30 a.m., First Baptist Church  
Thursday: Women's Prayer Group - 10 a.m., Whiteside Presbyterian Church
- CHRISTIAN SCIENCE CHURCH**  
283 Spring Street  
Sunday: Service - 11 a.m.; School - 11 a.m.  
3rd Wed. of month: Testimonial Service - 5 p.m.  
Reading Room: Wednesday - 3-5 p.m.
- CLEAR CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH**  
Pastor Everett Brewer  
Sundays: School - 10 a.m.; Worship - 11  
Prayer - 6:30 p.m.  
Evening Service - 1st & 3rd Sunday - 7 p.m.
- COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH**  
www.cbchighlands.com • 526-4685  
Pastor Gary Hewins  
3645 U.S. 64 east, Highlands  
Sun.: 9:30 am: Adult Sunday School, Prayer Group.  
10:30am: Children's Program (Pre-K - 5th Grade),  
Merge for 6th Graders. 10:45 am: Worship Service. 5  
pm Student Arts Group, The River Middle & High  
School Student Ministries.  
Tues.: 9:30 am: Women's Bible Study.  
Wed.: 5 pm: Dinner. 6pm: Children's Program
- EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE INCARNATION**  
The Rev. Brian Sullivan - Rector: 526-2968  
Sunday: Breakfast; 9 A.M. - Sunday School  
10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist (Rite II)  
Monday: 4 p.m. Women's Cursillo Group  
Tuesday: 8 a.m. Men's Cursillo Group  
4:30 P.M. Education for Ministry  
Wednesday: 6:30 P.M. Choir Practice  
Thursday: 10 a.m. Holy Eucharist (Chapel)  
10:30 a.m. Daughters of the King
- FIRST ALLIANCE CHURCH OF FRANKLIN**  
Rev. Mitch Schultz, Pastor • 828-369-7977  
Sun. Worship 8:30 & 10:45 a.m.; 6: p.m.  
Sun. school for all ages 9:45 a.m.  
Wed: dinner 5 p.m. followed by childrens  
Pioneer Club 6 p.m.; Jr & Sr Youth Group 6:30 p.m.;  
Adult Bible Study & Prayer Meeting 7 p.m.
- FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH**  
Dr. Daniel D. Robinson, 526-4153  
Sun.: Worship 10:45 a.m., 6:30 p.m.; School - 9:30  
a.m.; Youth - 6:30 p.m.; Choir - 7:15

- Wednesdays: Dinner - 5:30 p.m.; Team Kids - 6 p.m.;  
Prayer - 6:15 p.m., Choir - 7:30 p.m.
- FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
Dr. Lee Bowman, Pastor  
Dr. Don Mullen, Parish Associate 526-3175  
Sun.: Worship - 8:30 a.m., 11 a.m.; Sun. School -  
9:30 & 9:45.  
Mondays: 8 a.m. - Men's Bible Discussion & Breakfast  
Tuesdays: Bible Study - 5 p.m.; Dinner 6:30 p.m.  
Wednesdays - Choir - 7
- HIGHLANDS ASSEMBLY OF GOD**  
Sixth Street  
Sundays: School - 10 a.m.; Worship - 11  
Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study - 7
- HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
Pastor Paul Christy 526-3376  
Sun.: school 9:45 a.m.; Worship 8:30 & 11 a.m.; 5  
p.m. Youth  
Wed: Supper; 6; 7:15 - children, youth, & adults  
studies; 6:15 - Adult choir  
(nursery provided for Wed. p.m. activities)  
Thurs: 12:30 - Women's Bible Study (nursery)
- HOLY FAMILY LUTHERAN CHURCH - ELCA**  
Chaplain Margaret Howell  
2152 Dillard Road - 526-9741  
Sundays: Sunday School and Adult discussion group  
9:30 a.m.; Worship/Communion - 10:30  
HEALING SERVICE on the 5th Sunday of the month.
- LITTLE CHURCH OF THE WILDWOOD**  
Kay Ward - 743-5009  
Sundays: 7-8 p.m. Memorial Day - Labor Day  
Old Fashioned Hymn-Sing
- MACEDONIA BAPTIST CHURCH**  
8 miles south of Highlands on N.C. 28 S in Satolah  
Pastor Matt Shuler, (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**  
St. Cyprian's Episcopal Church, Franklin  
828-369-9270 or 828-293-5197
- MOUNTAIN BIBLE CHURCH**  
Pastor: Clayton Lopez • 828-743-9704  
Independent Bible Church  
Sundays: 10:30 a.m. at Blue Ridge School  
Weds: Bible Study 6:30 p.m.; Youth Group 6 p.m.
- OUR LADY OF THE MOUNTAINS CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
Rev. Dean Cesa, pastor  
Parish office: 526-2418  
Mass: - 9 a.m.; Sun., Thurs. & Fri  
Saturday Mass - Mem Day through Oct. at 4 p.m.
- SCALY MOUNTAIN BAPTIST CHURCH**  
Rev. Clifford Willis  
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 Alfred Sizemore  
Sundays: School - 10 a.m.; Worship - 10:45 a.m.;  
Evening Worship - 6 p.m.  
Wed: Adult Bible Study & Youth - 7 p.m.  
For more information call 526-3212.
- SHORTOFF BAPTIST CHURCH**  
Pastor Rev. Andy Cloer.  
Sundays: School - 10 a.m.; Worship - 11  
Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study - 7
- UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP**  
85 Sierra Drive • 828-524-6777  
Sunday Worship - 11 a.m.  
Child Care - 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.  
Religious Education - 11 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.  
Youth from 8th - 12th grades meet the second Sunday  
of each month from 5 - 7:30 p.m.
- WHITESIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
Cashiers, Rev. Sam Forrester, 743-2122  
Sundays: School - 10 a.m.; Worship - 11

... RANDALL DAM continued from page 1



On Sept. 20, 2009, 6 1/2 inches of rain in an 18-hour period sent torrents of water and silt over Randall Dam. The hurricane-like weather caused flooding in numerous areas around Highlands.

Photo by Jim Lewicki

would give the longest relief from all silt problems."

The upper Big Creek intake is Highlands' primary intake because of the higher water quality.

For years town officials have worked on getting funding to dredge Big Creek and most recently requested funding from the Corps of Engineers for the project. Town Manager Jim Fatland said the Corps has agreed to do it, but has no funding right now. "When the funding comes in, the town has agreed to provide matching funds of \$500,000," he said.

Earlier this year, the town requested easement releases from property owners along

Big Creek so that if funding became available the project could move ahead. "The project is not dead," said Wilkes. He said the town is doing other projects until the Corps funding comes through and all required easements are in hand.

But even if the Corps of Engineers funds the project to dredge Big Creek, once completed, the threat of silt coming from Randall Lake remains.

"The cost estimates to resolve the Randall Lake silt situation are just guesses at this point, but any resolution would very expensive. To date, there have been no discussions

• See RANDALL DAM page 27



# Dearly Departed



Written by David Brottrell and Jessie Jones

Directed by Virginia Talbot

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Thursday, Aug. 11 thru Sunday, Aug. 22

Friday, Aug. 7 thru Sunday, Aug. 29

Evenings 7:30 p.m. Sunday Matinees 2:30 p.m.

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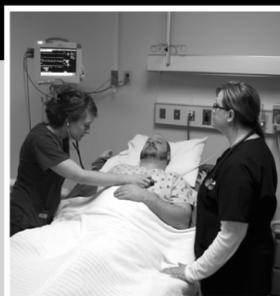
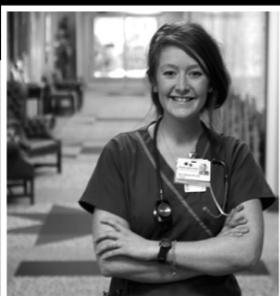
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**At Highlands-Cashiers Hospital**, no one demands more of us than we do of ourselves. From our nursing professionals to our maintenance staff, from our board certified physicians to our support service teams, we strive to perform at the highest level. Many of you have written to thank us for what you called the highest caliber of service, like Mr. & Mrs. Omar Adams who wrote:

*"We were so impressed with every facet of the hospital staff and operations. We gratefully thank all of the nurses, therapists and Doctors Moore, Matthews and Plauche'. We are full time residents in our seventies. What a relief to have such a wonderful facility so close to us."*

No matter where you come from, we take the same caring approach to your health. David Mottley from Louisville wrote:

*"I recently was a guest at Mountain Top and became ill with a kidney stone. A friend who I was vacationing with suggested that I go to Highlands-Cashiers Hospital for treatment. While there, I received exemplary care from your staff in the Emergency Room. Everyone went above and beyond to make me comfortable and was very gracious to my family."*

It is our fondest hope that as we continue to install the latest in diagnostic equipment, add to our staff of Board Certified Physicians and assure that our nursing care continues to be highly rated, that you will make us your first choice in healthcare providers. We look forward to greeting you and demonstrating why these patients took the time to write us. So visit our web site at [www.highlandscashiershospital.org](http://www.highlandscashiershospital.org) to learn more, or just come by and see us.



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[www.highlandscashiershospital.org](http://www.highlandscashiershospital.org)

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• HEALTH MATTERS •

**A new approach to Glaucoma treatment without the side effects or the cost of glaucoma drops.**

**G**laucoma refers to a group of eye diseases, which if left undetected, can lead to a significant decrease in sight or even blindness. This is due to the improper drainage of continuously produced fluid in the eye (aqueous humor) which leads to increased pressure within the eye, resulting in optic nerve damage.

The underlying cause of glaucoma is unknown, and anyone can be at risk regardless of age. Regular eye exams can lead to early detection and treatment which often prevents loss of sight. Glaucoma symptoms vary depending on the type of glaucoma a patient is experiencing and it is possible to have no symptoms at all. According to the *Glaucoma Research Foundation*, it is estimated that over 4 million Americans have Glaucoma but only half of them know it.

Glaucoma remains the leading cause of blindness in adults in spite of readily available painless treatment. High on the list of causes is a remarkably high level of inadequate medication usage. The problem is easily understood by anyone who is required to use medications on a daily basis. This problem becomes even



**Dr. Richard Blue**

more difficult due to the high cost of medications, especially if they are not covered by insurance or Medicare and the patient is on a relatively fixed income.

A laser developed especially for glaucoma, the SLT, received FDA approval following years of clinical testing. The significant advantage of the SLT over previous lasers is its' method of action. The efficacy and safety

levels are so high that the treatment may now be recommended as the 1<sup>st</sup> line of treatment in glaucoma patients before considering glaucoma eye drops. In our practice the treatment is so effective, that for the great majority of our glaucoma patients the SLT may be the only treatment needed. The treatment is covered by insurance companies, Medicare and Medicaid. The procedure is performed in the examination room and takes less than a minute. Patients can return to normal activity immediately following treatment.

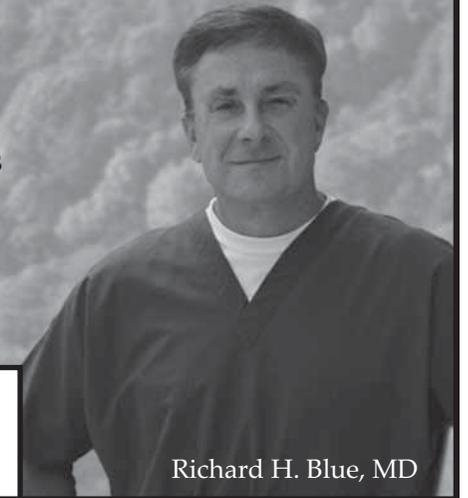
Dr. Blue introduced the SLT laser treatment for glaucoma to Northeast Georgia and now provides this remarkable laser treatment in Highlands and Franklin as well.

• AREA HEALTH SPECIALISTS •

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Dr. Richard Blue brings over 25 years of experience and truly remarkable technology to his Highlands practice to provide innovative solutions to his patients' eye care needs.

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Richard H. Blue, MD

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At Highlands-Cashiers Hospital we have Board Certified physicians, highly skilled nurse caregivers, and teams of professional support staff whose collaborative and individual efforts provide exceptional patient care. Add state-of-the-art equipment, usually found in larger facilities, and you have a first-rate community hospital.

However, today's consumers are knowledgeable and have high expectations when selecting their healthcare provider. So at HCH we take a step beyond first-rate, by taking extra time with each patient, and getting to know them, with attentiveness and sincerity. This we believe, is the first and most important step towards patient relationship-building, and from the outset, our patients feel heard, understood and respected.

We understand that being admitted to a hospital, for any reason, can be very stressful and challenging. At HCH we always work extra hard to make the patient's stay with us, short term or long term, a positive experience. From letters we receive and comments we hear, we know that we have been successful in surpassing 'first rate'. Our patients have told us that our relationship-building and skilled care has not only earned their trust, but has also resulted in better healthcare outcomes. And that, after all, is our mission at HCH.



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• HOSPITAL NEWS •

### Artist-in-Residence Workshops

Interact and learn from nationally and internationally recognized artists — masters in their fields.

- Nick Joerling, Ceramics, July 22–24
- Hongian Zhang, Oil Painting, July 27–30
- Holly Hanessian & Matt Liddle, Book Arts, Aug. 3–7
- Lewis Knauss, Fiber Arts, Aug. 10–14
- Mira Lehr, Paint & Mixed Media, Aug. 24–28
- Tom Turner, Ceramics, Aug. 27–28
- Phillip Garrett, Acrylic Painting, Aug. 31–Sept. 3
- Harriet Shorr, Oil Painting, Sept. 21–24
- Matt Kelleher and Shoko Teruyama, Ceramics, Sept. 21–25

Or come to their free-to-the-public presentations, demonstrations or lectures. All artist talks begin at 5 pm with a reception at 4:30 pm.



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Nick Joerling

## Hospital Foundation MasterKey Club provides critical help to hospital

For nearly two decades, Highlands-Cashiers Hospital Foundation's MasterKey Club members have provided vital support to assure that quality healthcare is always available to our surrounding communities.

"Our MasterKey members are the core support for hospital and physicians services," said Robin Taylor, Executive Director of the Foundation. "This giving program was developed by Foundation leadership and board members back in 1991 and is one of the most effective I've ever seen. Our MasterKey members become a part of our hospital family. Member benefits include a MasterKey membership card, physician-supervised health screenings, flu shots, and discounts at HealthTracks, Healing Touch Massage and the hospital cafeteria. But we feel these are small tokens for their wonderful generosity in supporting our hospital on a continuing basis. The best part is that we get to know our MasterKey members."

The MasterKey Club is a generous group of donors committed to continuing quality healthcare both now and for the future. MasterKey members pledge a minimum of \$5,000 payable over a period of one to five years. Jolene Niblack is one of the Charter members of the MasterKey Club. "As a long time supporter of HCH, I know the true value of healthcare in our community. I believe that growing the MasterKey program is vital to assuring the future of the hospital," said Niblack. The hospital is essential and it gives

me great fulfillment to give back to my friends and neighbors by supporting this treasure," she added.

"The Hospital's mission is to continue to be a benchmark hospital for healthcare in small communities. That takes exceptional board certified physicians, a highly trained staff, and state-of-the-art equipment," said Craig James. "Thanks to the generosity of area residents we've been able to make substantial progress in keeping pace with the health care needs of our communities. However, that will require the continued support of everyone."

Mr. James explains that two of the biggest challenges driving the need for charitable support of our hospital relate to the seasonality of our population and the increasing costs of sustaining our state-of-the-art equipment and facilities. Together, hospital management, board leadership and the Foundation are focusing on solutions. The Foundation is in the early stages of its "Campaign for Community HealthCare Excellence" to raise \$20 million over five years for three priority areas of need: 1) Physician & Hospital Services Support - \$1 million per year 2) Capital Improvements and Medical Technology - \$1 million per year 3) The Heritage for Health Endowment to provide a secure financial future - \$10 million over five years.

"Growing our MasterKey membership is a key initiative of the Foundation's five year 'Campaign for Community Healthcare Excellence' to sustain our hospital's future. Every donation received by the Foundation is greatly appreciated and means that HCH can serve our community in ways that truly affect quality of life," said Taylor.

For information on the MasterKey Club or to make a gift, please contact the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital Foundation at 828-526-1435.

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A basket packed with our slow-roasted, wood-smoked BBQ is a perfect way to enjoy the outdoors. Our picnic includes homemade cole slaw, apple bacon baked beans, yeast rolls, vanilla pound cake and fresh brewed iced tea. Great wines from our wine department will pair perfectly with BBQ.

Serves 3-4 people specially priced at \$34.99.



Corner of 5th & Main, Highlands NC 526-2400

• HOSPITAL NEWS •

**'Nip, Tuck, & Fill' Physician Forum at HCH**

Board Certified Plastic Surgeon, Dr. Robert T. Buchanan, will present "Nip, Tuck and Fill" Monday, Aug. 9 at 12 noon in the Jane Woodruff Clinic at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital.

Monday's lecture, Dr. Buchanan will discuss a full range of cosmetic, facial, body and breast procedures, skin and facial rejuvenation, and wellness management. He will also cover key improvements in methods and techniques that provide superior results, minimal scarring and faster recovery.

"We encourage community residents to take part in this wonderful opportunity to hear from such a renowned surgeon and educator in his field," said Craig James, President and CEO. "HCH's Physician Forums are a wonderful way to meet members of our highly skilled medical staff and learn critical information on popular health care topics."

The hour long lecture includes a light boxed lunch and ends with a question and answer session. To RSVP, call 526-1313 or email [info@hchospital.org](mailto:info@hchospital.org).

... LETTERS continued from page 8

**Wooldridge represents the worst in us**

Dear Editor,

I found that I almost enjoyed Fred Wooldridge's recent column "Go Back to Florida" because, for once, he was skewering people with whom I didn't identify. And then I realized that, even tongue-in-cheek, he was doing what he does best — categorizing people and name-calling with 'humor' in ways that border on cruelty and bigotry.

Fred and other columnists and commentators of his ilk thrive on the process of pointing out those groups who are ruining America by what they regard as their misguided values and attitudes. In so doing, they bring out the worst in us and they foster division, fear and paranoia. They lead us to think and act out of anger and revenge

for real and imagined injuries at the hands of some one else.

There is much talk about the current supposed loss of American values like patriotism, honesty and hard work. When I read Fred and others like him, I wonder about the loss of values like compassion, understanding, hope, hospitality and kindness.

Perhaps the most basic and universal theological message is "Be Not Afraid." It does seem that the message of so many today is just the opposite — "Be Very Afraid" — especially of anyone who acts, looks or thinks differently than you do. There must be a better way to live our lives than this.

Peter Ray  
Highlands

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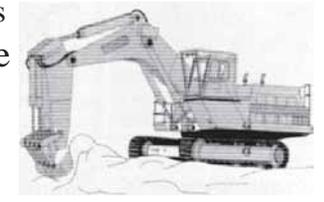
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**PROGRAMS COORDINATOR**, Literacy Council of Highlands. 32 hrs/week. Work with children and community. Must be resourceful, patient, diligent, organized. Educational experience and bilingual skills preferred. Send resume to [highlandsliteracy@live.com](mailto:highlandsliteracy@live.com). (st. 7/22)

**WAITSTAFF/BUSSERS NEEDED FOR ALL SHIFTS AT THE BISTRO AT MAIN STREET INN** - Call 526-2590, or email resume to [info@mainstreetinn.com](mailto:info@mainstreetinn.com). Experience required. (st. 7/22)

**FULL TIME OR PART TIME** retail position available. Must be available weekends. Contact Trisha 828-526-3687.

**POSITION AVAILABLE AT MOUNTAIN FRESH** in the Deli. Contact Don at 526-2400. (st. 7/8))

**FULL TIME POSITION AVAILABLE AT MOUNTAIN FRESH** in the produce Department. Contact Kevin McConnell at 526-2400. (st. 7/1)

**EL AZTECA MEXICAN RESTAURANT** needs experienced servers. Call ricky at 828-371-7200. (st. 7/1)

**LINE COOK** Opening at Wolfgang's Restaurant and Wine Bistro. Call 526-8396. (st. 6/3)

**FULL TIME OR PART TIME JOB OPPORTUNITIES AT HIGH-END CLOTHING STORE**. Retail sales experience necessary. Call 828-482-2118. (St.

6/3)

**IT MANAGER/NETWORK ADMINISTRATOR** at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. Four year degree in computer science preferred. Pre-employment substance screening. Call Human Resources, 828-526-1376 or apply online at [www.hchospital.org](http://www.hchospital.org)

**CHAPLAIN** at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. Averages 6-8 hours per week. Degree in seminary or theology required. Pre-employment substance screening. Call Human Resources, 828-526-1376 or apply online at [www.hchospital.org](http://www.hchospital.org)

**GI CENTRAL PROCESSING TECH** at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. Part time and PRN positions available. Current BCLS Certification required. Pre-employment substance screening. Call Human Resources, 828-526-1376 or apply online at [www.hchospital.org](http://www.hchospital.org)

**LAUNDRY ATTENDANT/HOUSEKEEPER** at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. Pre-employment substance screening. Call Human Resources, 828-526-1376 or apply online at [www.hchospital.org](http://www.hchospital.org)

**CNA** at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. Our wage scale is \$11.00 to \$14.40 per hour with shift and week-end differentials. Pre-employment substance screening. Call Human Resources, 828-526-1376 or apply online at [www.hchospital.org](http://www.hchospital.org)

**RN's** at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. Experienced Med-Surg and ER Nurses needed. Strong leadership skills is a must. Pre-employment screening required. Call Human Resources at 828-526-1376 or apply online at [www.hchospital.org](http://www.hchospital.org)

## LEGAL NOTICE

**THERE WILL BE A PUBLIC MEETING SET FOR WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2010** at the Highlands Conference Center at 7pm to discuss approval of a Water Shortage Response Plan. (7/29)

## YARD SALE

**INDOOR YARD SALE, SAT. & SUN., JULY 31 & AUG. 1.** 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. 415 Holt Road off NC 106. Many new items. Books, Xmas stuff, toys, linens, CDs, cassettes, new plumbing fixtures, steel windows, air compressor, portable picnic table and much more.

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**LOOKING FOR CARPENTRY WORK.** Have tools. Please call Alferdo: 524-9304 or 371-2976.

**LOOKING FOR LANDSCAPING**, yardwork. Call 828-200-1038 or 526-1025.

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**GREEN HOME FOR SALE** - Flex space rooms. Botanical Roof Garden, Green Driveway, Rain Harvest Waterfall. Brokers Protected. Rocky knob. Call (828)526-5981. [www.singleylaydesigns.com](http://www.singleylaydesigns.com). (8/5)

**CLASSIC 40'S CABIN** in Webbmont area w/ 1+ ac. 2/2.5 w/ wormy chestnut walls. Completely renovated in 2000. Below REA at \$439K furnished. By appt ONLY. 526-0974

**TWO LOTS IN BLUE VALLEY** - Dead-end Road. Water & Septic included. Subfloor and foundation on one, 70-ft. single-wide on the other. .55 acre

and .65 acre. Borders USFS and great view of Satulah Mountain. Call 828-482-2052. (St. 11/24)

**\$205,000 FOR BOTH. BY OWNER NO AC NEEDED. CLASSIC COUNTRY HOME**, 4.2 acres. Perennial landscaping. 4 bed 3 bath, garage and shed 2900 sq. ft living space. 1,523 sq. ft deck. \$338,500, 743-5788 (st. 10/15)

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**FOR LEASE LARGE 2 STORY 5 BEDROOM HOME** with decks. Available for immediate occupancy Near downtown Highlands. 914-761-8880 x 19 Sandy. (st. 4/29)

**STUNNING MOUNTAIN VIEWS SECLUDED AND ONLY MINUTES FROM THE TOWN OF HIGHLANDS.** Fully furnished, large 1 bed, 1 bath apt. with large walkin closet, porch and yard. Updated with new carpet. Available seasonal through November. All utilities included AC and Heat. \$1,200 month. Call 526-3608 (Spoiled Rotten) or evening, 526-2694, (st.4/29)

**SMALL PRIVATE ONE BR FURNISHED COTTAGE ON CHESTNUT STREET** with screen porch. Additional sleeping loft. Three blocks to Main Street. Available immediately. \$650. monthly plus utilities for six months lease. e-mail: [chestnutcottages@yahoo.com](mailto:chestnutcottages@yahoo.com) or, contact Charlie @ (828)526-8645 (st. 4/22)

**SPACIOUS MAIN ST. APT**, full kitchen, fully furnished, covered balcony, small pets OK. \$675/mo. 526-0560. (St. 3/25)

**LOCATION, LOCATION!** 2BR, 1 BA upstairs apt. Quiet area 1/2 block from Main St. (828) 787-2021 or 526-9227. (st. 2/25)

**GREAT 2/1BATH APARTMENT** - Main Street, Highlands includes 9-foot ceilings, central heat & air, balcony, large laundry room with washer/dryer. \$900 per month plus utilities. Lease and references required. Contact John Dotson - 526-5587. (st. 5/21)

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**RETAIL SPACE FOR LEASE MAIN ST HIGHLANDS NC** (former Kilwins Ice Cream) Prime Middle of the Block Location First Time Available suitable for retail, clothing, art, and others. 914-761-8880 x 19 Sandy. (st. 4/29)

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**RESTAURANT FOR LEASE ON THE CASHIERS ROAD.** - Previously occupied by High Country Cafe. 6,300 sq. ft. Call Buddy or Sherry Kremser at 706-782-6252. (St. 11/5)

## ITEMS FOR SALE

**2600 PSI HONDA PRESSURE WASHER.** Runs Great. Pump Leaks, \$105. 828-421-7497. (7/

29)

**CANOE**, 16ft. Fiberglass. Plus 2 new wicker seats. Paddles. \$300. Call 526-3048. (St. 7/1)

**VARIOUS ITEMS FOR SALE** - Longabarger baskets, old fiesta ware, electric fireplace, barca lounge, farmhouse table with 4 chairs, yakima car top, brass bird cage with stand. Call 526-9027(st. 7/22)

**PIANO** - Gorgeous Fully restored. Late 1800s upright owned by the Vanderbelts and was in the Biltmore Estates. Plays beautifully \$7,000 invested, worth way more. Must sell. Will sacrifice for \$2,800. OBO. 828-524-7233 or 828-371-2129 (st. 10/22)

**COLEMAN 5000 ER ELECTRONIC GARAGE DOOR.** \$500. Call 526-5025. (st. 8/13)

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**1990 CHEVY SUBURBAN**, diesel, 4WD, good condition. \$3,000. Call 526-5599. (729)

**2008 HONDA CIVIC**, white with tan cloth interior, one owner, automatic, A/C, 25/36 mpg, FWD, cruise, 26,900 miles, \$15,995, 704-681-0331. (st. 6/24)

**MERCEDES BENZ 1995 C220**, \$5,900. New tires, brakes, battery, hoses. Garaged. Perfect, dependable, exceptional, 32 mpg regular gas, 182,000 miles. 706/745-3993 or 404/520-0852. (st. 6/17)

**2003 NISSAN FRONTIER** - 4 Door, 60,000 miles, Excellent condition, \$9,000 OBO. 526-9180. (St. 5/20)

**CADILLAC DEVILLE 2002** - Silver, 85,300 miles. One owner, garaged. \$8,950. See at 150 Shelby Circle, Highlands. 787-2310. (St. 7/9/09)

## SERVICES

**WILL SIT FOR ELDERLY, HANDICAPPED OR CHILDREN.** Your home or mine. 13 years childcare experience. By the hour. Call 828-743-2672. References.

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## ... RANDALL DAM continued from page 21

between the owner of the Randall Lake property and the Town of Highlands," said Wilkes.

However, owner of Randall Lake, Bob Nass, said last year town representatives contacted him and asked if he would consider donating the dam to the town. "I said take the damn, dam!" he said. "I'd be glad to donate it. It makes absolute sense for the town to take over the dam so it can protect its water supply." Nass said he's not heard from the town after that conversation.

Wilkes also told the Big Creek owners that the town has never invoiced Mr. Nass or anyone else associated with Randall Lake for silt removal or pump repairs but Nass said after the dam was breeched some years ago, then Town Administrator Richard Betz invoiced him almost monthly for pump repairs. "I never paid them because a state engineer and my attorney said I wasn't liable to do so," said Nass.

Though the dam is in poor repair and leaking and is clearly a threat to the water supply, Wilkes said the town has no jurisdiction over the dam and the state doesn't consider it a high priority threat because there isn't a threat to homes downstream should it fail.

Furthermore, Wilkes said the cost for the town to buy or assume ownership of the dam and make necessary repairs or rebuild it may

be prohibitive at this time.

The only protection the town has for its water supply is an ordinance passed after the breeching of Randall Dam that requires all owners of dams up stream of Highlands to notify town officials if and when the drainage of a dam is to occur. Though not in the town's corporate limits, officials got authority from the county to enforce the ordinance outside the town limits in the county portion of the watershed. Town Planner Joe Cooley and Code Enforcement Officer Josh Ward enforce the ordinance and there are application forms for requesting draining of an impoundment at Town Hall.

To keep runoff out of Big Creek, Wilkes agreed that Azalea Circle needs to be paved and said the project is high on the town's priority list for paving and drainage control. "But releases are required because of easements. They were sent out, but we didn't receive 100% back to allow us to put this project in the 2010-2011 budget." He said the project will be funded in fiscal year 2011-2012 pending easements.

Big Creek property owners were somewhat disheartened with Wilkes' response.

From his statements, it seems like even if the funding comes available the town wouldn't clean up Big Creek because of the Randall Lake Dam instability and it isn't will-

ing to take on the responsibility, regardless, they said.

Residents said they have suggested a passive collection system for Big Creek upstream back in 2001 but never heard back from the town.

"In my opinion, the town should have preventive measures in place for securing upstream silt or an alternate clean-up plan

for the town's water supply that doesn't require huge funding," said Sarah Fenton. "We know how to accomplish this and have thrown this concept out to the town on multiple occasions over the years. Town officials have never responded to our request for prevention or a joint town-owners local clean-up plan other than to say they'd get back to us, or there is 'no alternate plan.'"

## ... TUITION continued from page 1

Georgia and work in North Carolina, they can apply for a reimbursement at tax time.

Acknowledging that economic times are tough, Superintendent Dan Brigman met with the Rabun County's superintendent to see what Rabun County charged out-of-state students, which is \$10,300 per year.

School Board member Stephanie McCall said the 14 families in Satolah work in Highlands and have always been a part of the community.

"These people are hard pressed in this hard economy to come up with this kind of money," said McCall. "If they had been given notice they might have been able to save for this."

She also said to attend school in Rabun County students would have to ride on the bus over an hour.

However, board members Tommy Cabe,

Tommy Baldwin and Bobby Bishop said many students in Macon County travel over an hour on the bus to get to school. "An hour to get to school shouldn't be an issue," they said.

The issue is a budget one - both for the families and for the school districts in Rabun and Macon counties which have seen substantial budget cuts from their respective state governments.

The board agreed to table its decision following a special called school board meeting Tuesday, Aug. 3, where it will further consider its out-of-state tuition policy; the possibility of an installment payment plan; or only charging what Macon County pays per student, which is \$1,300, rather than the entire cost, some of which the state pays, which is \$8,000.

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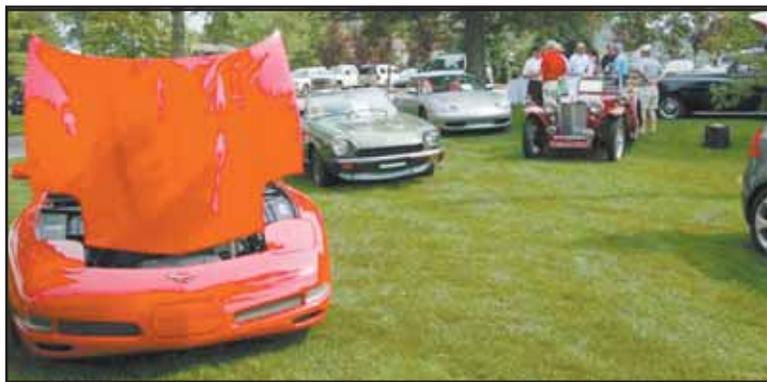
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# • BIZ/ORGANIZATION NEWS •

## HFCC members have car show



Highlands Falls Country Club held a Car Show on Friday, July 16 in conjunction with its annual Men's Member Guest Golf Tournament. Members were encouraged to get their cars out of the garage for the day and enter them in the car show. Featured among the many entries of exotic cars was a beautifully maintained 1947 MG, MGTC, and a 1965 Rolls Royce Silver Cloud III just to name a few. But the overall winner of the day was the super speedy 2001 Ferrari Spyder owned by Royal and Alice Travis (pictured). Many thanks to all of the participants for joining in the day's fun.



## Potter Watts signs pieces at The Hen House

Friday and Saturday, July 16 & 17 potter/artist Richie Watts signed his pottery for buyers. In addition, The Hen House has donated a signed Richie Del Watts "End of Day" charger to the Literacy Council of Highlands. The charger will be up for auction at the Literacy Council's Gala,

slated for Wednesday, Aug. 18, at the Martin-Lipscomb Performing Arts Center. The Hen House is located at 488 East Main Street in Highlands. For information about the Literacy Council's Gala and the important work that it supports, call 828-526-9938.

## ... SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING from page 20

O, no! It is an ever-fixed mark, That looks on tempests and is never shaken.

A happily married couple will tell you it takes two: both partners giving their all. They'll tell you it's not easy. They've chosen to forgive, more than once. They've decided to be patient, time and again. They've learned to resolve conflicts

as quickly as possible. They talk about their feelings and really try to respect the differences between them.

Such a couple holds on to the vision of who they are becoming together. When hard times come, as they surely will, they don't lose sight of their shared goals and enduring commitment. One recent couple had printed on their car license-plate holder these words: "David and Michelle. Happily Married 25 Years in 2035." That kind of positive outlook is sure to see them through some of life's challenges.

Thousands of years ago, Cicero said that the first bond of society is marriage. We are bound together as a community, as a nation, as human beings, by our willingness to make and keep sacred bonds. Such

bonds can truly liberate. In the security of a stable marriage, each partner discovers his or her true self, strengths and weaknesses alike. And in the loving embrace of the other, each becomes his or her best self.

Just as there are no perfect people, there surely are no perfect marriages. Becoming of one heart, one mind and soul, is at least a life's journey. But when we continue to choose to love, like a marathon runner choosing to stay in the race, we discover that marriage was never intended to be a sprint. Life's race is best run hand in hand with the one we love. We work at it; we hold on. We move forward with faith. And as we do, the years pass, time fades, but hand in hand and heart to heart we walk together the road of life.

## ... UPDATE continued from page 1

placed on it by the Zoning Board isn't met or there is a failure to comply with plans, documents and other assurances submitted and approved with the application.

Furthermore, a SUP may expire if a zoning certificate or certificate of compliance is not obtained by the applicant within six months of issuance; or if after work has begun under the SUP and prior to completion, work is discontinued for a period of 12 months.

For a SUP to be approved the use must meet four criteria: not materially endanger the public health or safety; meet all required conditions and specifications of the zoning ordinance; not substantially injure the value of adjoining or abutting property; and the location and character of the use will be in harmony with the area in which it is located and in general conformity with the plan of development of the town and its environs.

A new organization has formed in town — Highlands Citizens for Good Government — to

ensure Highlands' elected officials and employees take whatever steps necessary to ensure racism, sexism and other forms of bigotry are not tolerated in Highlands and residents who seek to unduly influence police matters and town administration to promote their selfish agendas should not be allowed.

This comes on the heels of the EEOC complaint filed by Police Officer Erica Olvera against the Town of Highlands. See story in the May 6 edition of Highlands' Newspaper at [www.highlandinfo.com](http://www.highlandinfo.com), "Ex-police officer files EEOC complaint."

The group hopes the "letter" published in this newspaper on page 3 to Mayor David Wilkes will entice a response from the town about the EEOC complaint.

Olvera's attorney, Ed Buckley with Buckley and Klein, LLC in Atlanta, which practices Employment Law, said his firm is "Perhaps going to mediate the matter and are trying to set a date."

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... HIS & HERS continued from page 7

gorgeous houses in the Virginia. The few sprinkles which threatened our day thankfully never amounted to an honest down-pour. It was pure enchantment! John and I had a great time, but no one enjoyed it more than Maman, who is still raving about her outing.

Often, on the way back down to North Carolina, we have seen signs for the Fossil Museum in Gray, Virginia. Since this is the summer I'm turning 60, jokes about fossils are flying high and wide in our house, mostly from my 67-year-old husband. This time, we turned off the highway.

I had imagined a modest little local exhibit, so when we pulled into the parking lot of a marvelous new building, we were already impressed. The fossil museum was born out of a happy accident. When local authorities were doing work to expand a road, they discovered fossils in the area. Work was immediately halted, and experts brought in. It turned out that the road work was being done in the exact area where a sinkhole had previously existed, and that sinkhole had perfectly preserved whole skeletons of now-extinct animals.

My parents were huge museum fans,

so I've seen my share of them, both as a child and as an adult. The Fossil Museum in Gray has to be one of the most user-friendly I've ever experienced. There is a brief film to view at the beginning of the museum – just enough to give you a sense of what you're going to be looking at, without boring small children with short attention spans. Exhibits are hands-on, with plenty of things at kid-eye level. There are puzzles to do, panels to open, even tele-phones which give travel and weather information to migratory animals, which goes something like: "If you are a small,

fuzzy animal, you might want to avoid the main roads, where you will probably be eaten." Gosh, I wish they'd put this warning up on the New Jersey Turnpike!

What's great about this museum is that it's interesting to all levels of children and adults. No one gets bored here. After viewing the free part of the museum, you can also pay to see the tusk exhibit and view the actual dig site outside. We were pushed for time, and the heat outdoors nixed the outdoor part, but we'll certainly be back when the weather is kinder. This is just a gentle

• See HIS & HERS page 30

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... HIS & HERS continued from page 29

hint, that parents don't have to "dumb down" where they take their progeny. It's not all water slides and cotton candy, after all, and your children can be entertained while actually learning something. And kids can have a good time without screaming at the top of their lungs, a phenomenon I find particularly obnoxious. When did a loud, shrieking child become a happy child, and a child quietly reading a book, or playing with a puzzle become a miserable one?

So, this is my dare – get off the beaten track to find some of America's real delights. Take the road less traveled, and avoid

the crowds. You'll see some great sites, eat marvelous regional cuisine, and hang out with interesting locals. Don't worry. You can visit Disney next year. It'll still be there.

• About the Author: Michelle A. Mead-Armor is a writer and translator who grew up in Waynesboro, Virginia, before wasting her youth and good looks in Baltimore, Sydney, Paris, and New York. She and her husband live on top of a mountain on the Continental divide near Highlands. Please wave if you see Michelle in town. She's the one hanging around with THE REAL FOS-SIL.

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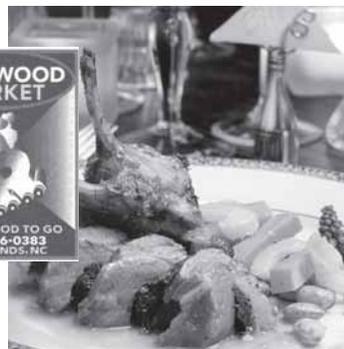
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## Police & Fire Report

The following are the Highlands Police Dept. log entries from July 19. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor, or public officials have been used.

July 19

• At 10 a.m., owners of the Highlands Smokehouse reported a breaking and entering where the cash drawer containing \$535.99 was taken as well as five signed blank checks.

July 20

• At 8 a.m., a larceny of money and miscellaneous items was reported stolen from The Log Cabin Restaurant.

July 21

• At 11:15 a.m., officers responded to a 9-1-1 hang up from the OEI apartments. All was OK.

July 23

• At 2:55 p.m., officers performed a welfare check on a resident. All was OK.

• At 7:45 p.m., officers received a noise complaint about a truck unloading cargo on Main Street.

July 24

• At 11:15 a.m., a simple assault was reported during a real estate transaction on S. 4th Street. No charges were filed.

• At 1:28 p.m., officers received a noise complaint about a party at the Hudson House at Highlands Country Club.

July 27

• At 10 a.m., a resident asked police to be present when his ex-wife comes to the residence on Aug. 1 to collect her things.

• At 2:20 p.m., a suspicious vehicle was reported on Worley Road. It was unfounded.

• At 3:30 p.m., officers on foot patrol found an open display window at a business on Main Street.

• At 11:46 p.m., officers assisted a motorist at Spring and 3rd streets.

July 28

• At 9:39 p.m., a suspicious person was reported at Manley Auto on NC 28 south.

• A little past midnight, officers responded to a call of a one-vehicle accident on NC 28 near Old Orchard Road. No one was in the area.

• During the week, police officers responded to 2 alarms and issued 9 citations.

The following are the Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. log entries from July 21:

July 21

• At 5:39 p.m., the dept. responded to a vehicle fire on Spring Street. It was extinguished.

July 23

• At 1:48 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call at a residence on Holt Road. The victim was transported to the hospital.

July 24

• At 6:25 p.m., the dept. was called to Club House Drive about a water flow alarm. The call was cancelled.

July 25

• At 10:43 a.m., the dept. responded to an alarm at a residence on Satulah Drive. It was false.

July 26

• At 1:48 a.m., the dept. responded to a carbon monoxide alarm in a house on Buckberry. The house was ventilated.

• At 5:42 p.m., the dept. responded to a one-vehicle accident on NC 28 where a pick-up truck went over the bank. Two MAMA helicopters were called for two injured people. They were airlifted to Mission Hospital in Asheville.

July 27

• The dept. provided mutual aid for the Cashiers Fire Department while it fought a structure fire on Yellow Mountain Road.

**Note:** The annual Highlands Fire & Rescue Open House is Saturday, Aug. 7 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. There will be fire truck rides and free hot dog lunches.

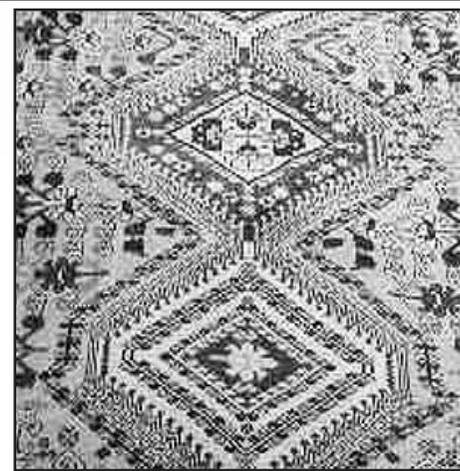
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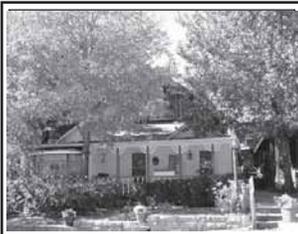
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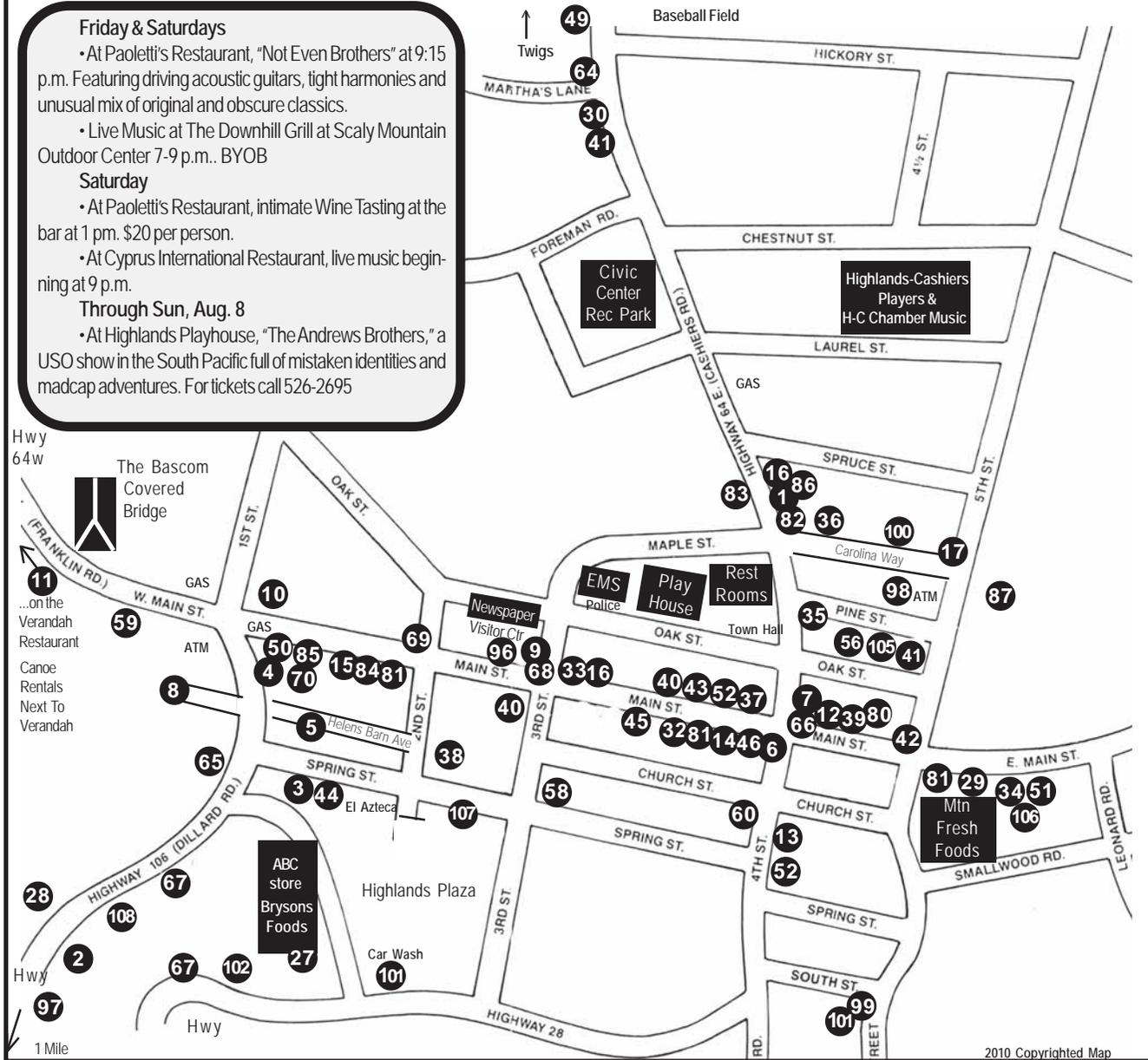
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10	Nick's	26		41	Needlepoint	57		73		89		105	All Seasons Salon
11	on the Verandah			42	Hen House	58	Corey James	74		90		106	CreativeConcepts
12	Paoletti's			43		59	Bryant Art Glass	75		91		107	Images Unlimited
13	Pescado's			44	Highlands Photo	60	Greenleaf	76		92		108	Taylor Barnes
14	Pizza Place			45	Kilwins	61		77		93		109	
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