

Highlands Newspaper

FREE every Thursday

Volume 10, Number 28

Internet PDF Version at www.HighlandsNewspaperPDF.com

Thursday, July 12, 2012

Thurs.-Sun., July 12-22

• "Walter Cronkite is Dead" a political comedy at the Highlands Playhouse. Featuring veterans stars from TV and stage. Tickets are \$25. Call 526-2695.

Thurs., Fri, Sat., July 12-14

• Live music at Altitudes at Skyline Lodge off Flat Mtn. Road. Call 526-2121.

Thursday, July 12

• At the Nature Center at 7 p.m. Lecture "The WNC Mounds and Towns Project" Free. Open to the public.

Fri.-Sun., July 13-15

• The Bascom's Mountains in Bloom Garden Festival. Eight garden tours, lunch on the Bascom terrace, flower show, private tours and a candlelight dinner. For specifics and tickets call 787-2866.

• The 5th annual Highlands Motoring Festival at the Kelsey-Hutchinson Park on Pine Street 10a-4p. 125 automobiles will be on display.

Friday, July 13

• HCCMF performance at PAC, Highlands. 6 PM. \$30, students \$15. 526-9060.

Saturday, July 14

• Scaly Mountain Women's Club Auction at 6 p.m. at the new Scaly Mountain Fire Department @169 Hale Ridge Road. Preview items at 6 p.m.; auction at 7 p.m. sharp. For questions, call Pat Leaptrout 526-9387.

Sun., July 15

• HCCMF Program: "A Family Affair" PAC, Highlands. 5 PM. \$30, students \$15. 828-526-9060.

Mon.- Fri., July 16-22

• The Playhouse's Musical Theatre Camp from 9a-noon for ages 6-11 and from 1-4p for ages 12 and up. Cost is \$195 per student. Call (828)526-2695.

Monday, July 16

• At Fressers, Jamming with James at 6 p.m.

Wed., July 18

• A free Interlude concert at 2 pm at the Episcopal Church. Mary Price, piano..

• HCH Physician Forum Series - Gastroenterologist, Dr. Richard Carter, "Well Being at Any Age" 12 noon to 1pm. Reservations are please. Call 828-526-1313.

2-member meetings allowed by law

Over the past few years, citizens have routinely asked Highlands Newspaper if daily meetings between two elected officials in Town Hall is legal.

We have informed them of the Open Meetings Law but still

the public's perception is that business is being conducted or at least discussed, set up, initiated, etc., behind the scene, which suggests business in Highlands is not conducted in an open fashion.

Town Attorney Bill Coward

has always maintained that as per the Open Meetings Law, it is legal for under three elected officials to meet without posting the meeting or disclosing the content of the meeting to the public.

• See MEETINGS page 9

NC DOT to close US 64 'narrows' for paving July 23

The N.C. Department of Transportation will begin daytime closures of the 1.2-mile-long section of U.S. 64 between Franklin and Highlands (The Gorge Road) known as "the narrows" starting the morning of Monday, July 23. The closures will take place on weekdays from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. for a period of 1-2 weeks. All work must be completed by Aug. 3.

During the closure, motorists will detour to Buck Creek Road from U.S. 64 at Gneiss (about one mile west of Cullasaja Falls) to U.S. 64 east of Highlands. The detour route is 11 miles and takes about 20 minutes to travel.

The closure is part of a \$3.6 million project to pave 10.6 miles of U.S. 64 between Franklin and Highlands. A contract was awarded

• See PAVING page 10

Co-existing in Highlands proper



Bears romping the streets and yards of Highlands are commonplace these days, but new on the scene are deer who have been routinely browsing in back yards on Oak Street.

Photo by Jim Lewicki

BOE race to be quiet one

Three incumbents and one newcomer have filed for the Macon County School Board election and will be on the November ballot.

Incumbent Stephanie McCall, District I - Highlands' and Incumbent Jim Breedlove, District IV are running unopposed. Incumbent Tommy Baldwin, District III, is being challenged by Melissa Bateman Evans.

• Inside •

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Meadows & Patterson face off - Part 5 -

This is the final installment of the Q&A between 11th District GOP run-off candidates Mark Meadows and Vance Patterson. The candidate who wins the July 17 election will run against Democrat Hayden Rogers in November. To read part 4, see the July 4 edition.

Question 9: Can you explain what happens to good men who go to Washington and then lose their way? What would you do to keep this from happening to you?

Mark Meadows:

My wife, Debbie Meadows. Our representatives have great intentions but it hasn't worked and that's a great concern. I have set up an accountability group of five people in each county in the 11th District. That's 85 people who will talk about pending legislation, who will be going back to the district and getting together with the people of like-minds. We need freedom from private sector regulations and we need to stand together. Just 25 more people can change the rules.

Vance Patterson:

This is why we need the Tea Party - freedom. We are experiencing the economic and cultural demise of our country. Our politicians

• See DEBATE page 14

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• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• LETTERS •

Board was defensive & hostile

Dear Editor,

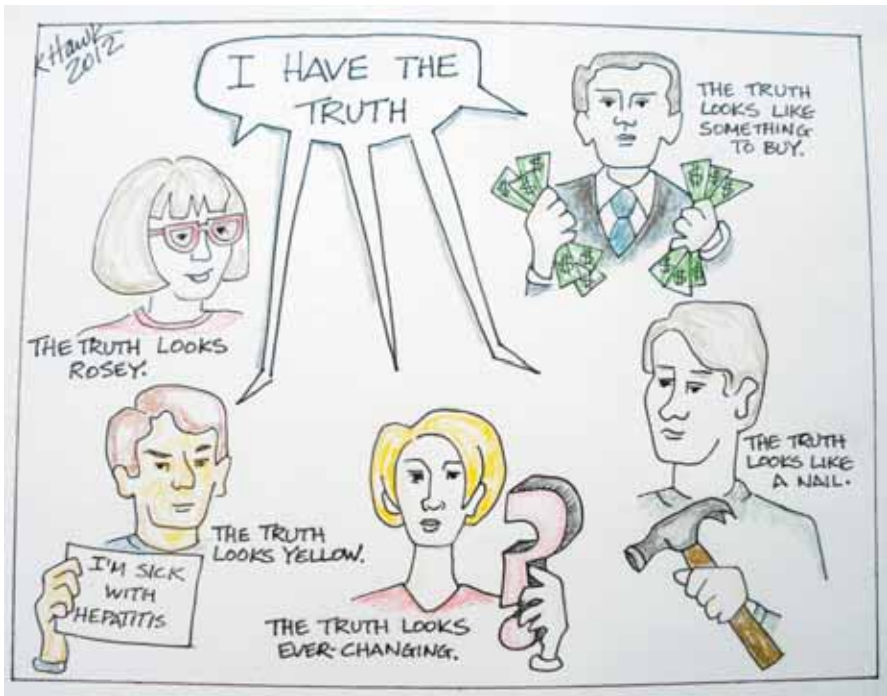
After I attended my first Highlands Town Board meeting on Thursday, June 21, I left aghast. My primary reason for attending the meeting was to read a letter criticizing the town for making Spring Street between 4th and 5th one-way without adequate opportunity or regard for public input. The defensive and hostile response of the commissioners and Town Manager was telling: although I had not accused the town of any “back-room” dealings with Old Edwards Inn (OEI), or anything else illegal, they answered my criticism by saying that they were in “full compliance with Sunshine laws” in the State of North Carolina, and they were meeting all their legal obligations to allow public input by holding their twice-monthly (now only once-monthly) meetings. (Never mind that the Mayor literally turned his back on all the town’s citizens at one point later in the meeting, ignoring at least three people who had their hands up for over 20 minutes who wanted to speak on the issues of Cynthia Strain’s craft festival and the state of Kelsey-Hutchinson Park, thereby stymying any opportunity whatsoever for public input!)

When I reminded the Commissioners, Mayor and Manager that I was not suggesting that their actions were “illegal—but rather inadequate,” I was dealt a condescending and irrelevant lecture from the Town Manager that “our political system is a republic, not a democracy, and we elect our officials to make decisions, and if we don’t like the decisions they make, we don’t reelect them.” What a joke.

While our Federal government may indeed be a Republic, even the State of North Carolina has some elements of direct democracy: for example, the citizenry may vote directly on amendments to the State Constitution. And local government, above all, is where direct public involvement in policy making is both possible and highly desirable—our local government should be an extension of the voting, taxpaying public, not an entity separate from and with dominion over it. We do not live in the Republic of Highlands!

The behavior of our Mayor and Town Manager (and, to a lesser extent, some of the Commissioners) at that meeting, together

• HAWK'S EYE VIEW •



er with their petty and short-sighted decision to disallow Cynthia Strain’s well-loved Village Square Craft Fair while completely ignoring the objections of numerous meeting attendees, made them look like the worst stereotype of politicians: hungry for what little power they can grab, more concerned with legal technicalities than with the impacts or effects of their decisions, and indifferent to citizens’ concerns.

I am glad I decided to open my art gallery in Cashiers this season instead of in Highlands, so I don’t have to deal too much with a mayor and manager who show zero concern for local artists, cultural resources, small business owners or taxpayers. I guess they are too preoccupied with projects like moving Spring Street over several feet—a project necessitated by OEI’s expansion, and paid for with taxpayers’ dollars—to pay attention to anything else.

Margaret Browne
Highlands

A community of kindness?

Dear Editor,

What has happened to Highlands? It seems that what has drawn all these people including shoppers and day-trippers up here was the affection shown by the townspeople and the shop owners.

Now there is a line drawn in the pavement. Those who believe that “business should dictate town policy” and those who believe “taxpayers and residents should dictate town policy.” I thought we all worked together for the good of Highlands NC.

If those who use the town for all needs are happy then the businesses should be happy. There is presently a vacant lot at Fifth and Pine. This space was created by our old post office. For a couple of years people in our town donated money to purchase the land and turn it back into a community space for the enjoyment of everyone. Now use of this green space is limited to “approved venues” and the approval process discourages gatherings which a large portion of our visitors would enjoy. I bet there was a lot of business generated at restaurants and shops from those who visited those arts and craft shows.

If those who drive up the hill beside the Mountain Fresh grocery are met with two, not one, but TWO one way streets spilling in to 5th street then they may never realize there are some nice shops on the other side of those streets.

• See LETTERS page 14

Highlands Newspaper

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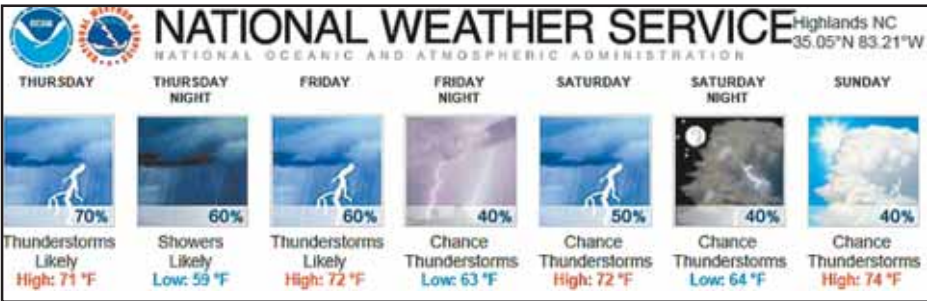
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• MILESTONES •

Clark excelling in gymnastics



Lydia is the daughter of Steve and Stacey Clark.

Lydia Clark, of Highlands, a rising 5th-grader at Highlands School, trains at New Vision Gymnastics in Franklin. She began gymnastics in the summer of 2010 and by the summer of 2011 she was invited to join the competitive traveling team which competes against other gyms in the southeast.

In a very short time she has consistently made high scores on the uneven bars, the vault, the balance beam, for floor routine and consistently ranks high overall.

Lydia is currently training to compete at Level 5 this fall and is even practicing some Level 6 skills. She works out at New Vision Gym (NVG) four times a week; four hours each time under the guidance of Head Coach April Ostojic and additional team coaches Kelsey Anderson, Katherine Lannon and Emily Storms. NVG is owned by Jeff and Martha Cohen who have been training gymnasts in the Franklin area for 17 years. This summer Lydia is attending a gymnastic camp at the University of Georgia.

Jenkins rows on



2010 Highlands School graduate, Brice Jenkins, was recognized as a 2012 Academic All-American at the American Collegiate Rowing Association (ACRA) Championship in Gainesville, GA on Saturday, May 26th. Jenkins was selected based on his commitment to the sport of rowing at UNC Chapel Hill, and high collegiate GPA. Brice competed for the UNC Varsity Men's Crew in the Grand Finals of the 2012 ACRA National Championship Regatta held on the 1996 Olympic course on Lake Lanier. He and his crew partner, Allen Layer, rowed the Men's 2X (double sculls) and placed fourth. 1303 athletes competed, representing 62 programs of mostly U. S. collegiate club teams. This regatta was the largest since ACRA's inception in 2008.



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• LAUGHING AT LIFE •

Life is taxing – In honor of the new Healthcare Tax

OK, so I've already been slammed by readers for not using the "in come" word when referring to 50% of the deadbeat Americans paying zero taxes. Picky, picky, picky! No need to write in again with all your venom and fury. Technically they're right....but so am I.

Folks who pay zero income tax because they don't make enough money or have found loopholes to avoid taxes alto-

gether are still paying big time taxes anyway. They're paying these taxes whether they're rich or poor. If you're lazy, you're not required to read the next paragraph but at least scan the list. Is this list of taxes horrible, or what?

Account receivable tax, building permit tax, capital gains tax, CDL license tax, cigarette tax (huge), corporate income tax, court fines, dog license tax, unemployment tax, fishing license tax, food license tax, fuel permit tax, gasoline tax (again, huge), hunting license tax, inherit-



with Fred Wooldridge
Feedback is encouraged!
askfredanything@aol.com

ance tax, interest expense, inventory tax, IRS interest, IRS penalties, liquor tax (huge), local income tax, luxury tax, marriage license tax, Medicare tax, property taxes, real estate tax, RV tax, road toll booth taxes, road usage tax, sales tax, school tax, septic permit tax, service charge tax, state income tax, state unemployment tax, telephone federal excise tax (huge), telephone-federal, state and local surcharge tax, telephone federal universal service fee tax, telephone-minimum usage surcharge tax, telephone recurring and non-

recurring charge tax, telephone state and local tax, telephone usage charge tax, toll bridge tax, tunnel tax, trailer registration, tax on utilities, vehicle license registration tax, vehicle sales tax, watercraft registration tax and finally, worker's compensation tax. WOW, are you dizzy? Who said the poor don't pay taxes?

The problem I have with our tax system is that on top of all the taxes listed, 50% of Americans also pay a sizable amount in income taxes, including the rich. HELLO! I'm being taxed to the point I can no longer save for a rainy day. I'm slowly slipping into the red. That's not good. The takers have finally outnum-

• See WOOLDRIDGE page 10



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• THE VIEW FROM HERE •

The positive power of networking

An inspirational event took place last week, one that warmed a lot of people. Lt. Col Roy Tisdale was shot and killed by another soldier during a safety exercise at Fort Bragg. The assailant wounded another soldier before taking his own life. Not much inspiration yet; the senseless killing of a career soldier by a comrade in arms is nothing to celebrate.

Lt. Col Tisdale was a 1993 graduate of Texas A&M and was to be buried with military honors at the Aggie Field of Honor. Military tradition runs deep in Aggieland, a school which graduated four medal of honor winners in World War II and commissioned more officers for the war than West Point. It was unlikely that current students of the university would allow any disruption or disrespect do the funeral.



Dr. Henry Salzarulo

Feedback is encouraged.

email:
hsalzarulo@aol.com

The vile, publicity hungry family cult known as the Westboro Baptist Church planned to demonstrate at the memorial. The tiny church is led by Fred Phelps and most of its members are related to Fred. They believe that God is a God of hate, and insist that he hates Jews, Muslims, homosexuals, and America. In fact, he seems to hate just about everyone except Westboro Baptist Church, which incidentally is not aligned with any Baptist Convention.

The folks at Westoboro believe that God hates America because of, among other things, our tolerance for homosexuality. This hatred has led God to allow American soldiers to die; tragedies which Westboro considers worthy

of celebration. They often show up at military funerals to disrupt the memorial services. They claim to have protested thousands of funerals in all 50 states and have a travel budget of \$250,000 per year, money raised from like-minded jack asses who visit its multiple web sites, all of which start with "God hates."

The hate group ran afoul of the Aggies, a proud and fiercely loyal family. After Westboro announced its intention to protest the funeral, an Aggie student Tweeted a request for the A&M family to convene at the church and prevent any disruption. Students responded and 650 maroon clad students linked arms and formed a human wall around the church where the funeral was being held. Westboro didn't show. There was no confrontation.

The power of social networking has once again been demonstrated. As parents, we often hate it. Our kids message far into the night. When mention of a small party is posted, hundreds may show up. Social networking is much more. In the Arab Spring, social networking was the tool that toppled dictators. It reunites old friends, and it is shrinking the world to one gigantic neighborhood.

• See SALZARULO page 7



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• BACK DAYS •

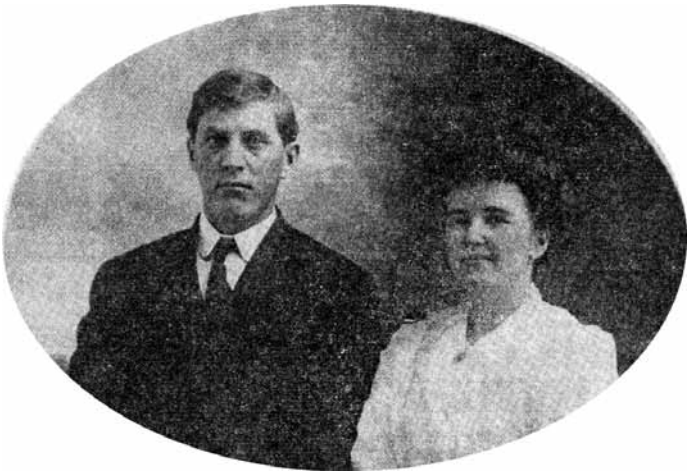
**The story of the family of Ethel Mae Potts Paul ...
descendants of WT and Mattie Potts**

By Guy Warren Paul

...Times were hard, but young folks enjoyed themselves. Frances was already married to Willie Hays and Frank was away at school in Tennessee, so it was Mary and Charlie for the most part, who entertained their friends at parties in our home. Games were played, prizes awarded, and refreshments served. And Mama was right in the middle of the fun. I can remember one party at which Mama provided large plates of mashed potatoes and the boys ate them with their hands tied behind them. It came down to a battle between Chester Steele and Otto Summer, but I can't recall the final champion. I must have been but nine and I remember how Mama had more fun than anybody else.

I believe it was Christmas 1926. We younger kids, along with Mama, had been hustled off to France's house for supper. I'll never forget the cherry pie and ice cream we had. From there we went straight to the Baptist Church for the annual Christmas program. Dad picked us up at the church after the program and brought us home. We went into the house as usual, but we were startled to hear soft music. Then as Mama turned into the living room from the dining room, there it sat. It as a Majestic console radio. If Mama ever coveted anything, it was the radio. She had wanted one all through the Hoover – Al Smith presidential campaign, but Dad had denied her until this moment. He had arranged for our new brother Willie, an electrician and appliance dealer to install the radio with aerials reaching into the tall chestnut trees while we were enjoying ourselves at Willie's house and at the church.

Summers were another



Guy and Ethel Mae Potts Paul
– Courtesy of the Highlands Historical Society

matters. With many mouths to feed, a garden was a necessity for us – a rather large one at that. Our garden of about an acre produced enough potatoes, about 50 bushels, to last all winter. For every row Charlie, Corinne and I hoed, mama must have hoed two. She was at this stage more acquainted with work than with grief. Besides doing her part of the hoeing, digging, and raking, she canned hundreds of jars of beans, peaches, berries, tomatoes, squash turnip greens, and sausage. She dried and pickled and salted and preserved. All for us. A sort of rivalry grew between Mama and Aunt Belle over who could make the best jam or jelly or berry pie or poke salad or iced tea or ice cream. The real competition, however, was bot between them but between the bragging cousins. In every case, whichever Mama won first place, the other was unanimously given honorable mention. They were both excellent cooks, housekeepers, wives and mothers.

It seems we kids were always at Aunt Belle's or her kids were at our house. But on occasions Mama would take me

and perhaps Herbert and Gene and go spend the day at Aunt Ellies' or Aunt Alice's. We always looked forward to these visits, and I always felt that gave Mama a badly -needed day off. Mama actually had but one real vacation that I know of. I believe it was about 1929 or 1930 that she and Dad went to Washington, D.C. Besides visiting Dad's sister, Aunt Clara, and some of his cousins there, the two got to see most of the sights of the nation's capital. Again, nothing could have suited Mama more, inasmuch as history, politics and government were favorite studies of hers.

Living a mile out of town on the road to Georgia and South Carolina, we had an almost constant paraded of workers, shoppers, peddler, sightseers, and plain tramps by our front gate. We often sat in a rocker on our front porch ad listened for the next car as it wound its way up the graveled road. Charlie and I got so that we knew every car by its sound a mile away.

• To be continued ...

• COACH'S CORNER •

Pilgrimage to PNC

Last week I told you about my love affair with the Pittsburgh Pirates and how it all began many years ago, culminating in my visit last week to the home of the Pirates, PNC Park. This was a great opportunity for me to see an actual home Pirates game in what most people agree is the best ballpark in all of baseball.



Ryan Potts
tryanpotts@hotmail.com

Pedro Alvarez came through with a pinch-hit single to cut deficit to 6-5 and then the magic happened in the 7th with two out. First, Cutch beat out a slow ground ball for an infield single, and then Garrett Jones hit one almost into the Allegheny to give the Bucs a 7-6 lead and bring the crowd to a frenzy.

Things looked great heading into the eighth and the

ninth, as setup man Jason Grilli breezed through the eighth and gave way to all-star closer Joel Hanrahan in the ninth. My wife was thrilled because Hanrahan is the only Pirate she was looking forward to seeing, although she did develop a fondness for Garrett Jones after seeing him in person. (exact quote "he's cute, so he probably isn't very good") Hanrahan promptly blew the save, deflating the crowd but setting the stage for a memorable bottom of the ninth as Pirate right fielder Drew Sutton stepped to the plate. Sutton, who was just claimed off of waivers two weeks ago has been getting a lot of playing time and making the most of it, but no one in the stadium expected him to hit a 420 foot walk off homerun. Naturally, that is exactly what happened, and my first visit to PNC ended in outstanding fashion.

As I finish typing this, the Pirates will enter the second half of the season eleven games over .500 and in first place for the first time since 1992. If the magic continues and the Bucs keep winning, who knows, I may have to take another drive up to PNC.

... SALZARULO from 5

Lizzie has a friend named Salzarulo, a baker in a medieval Italian village. Maybe they swap recipes. I'm not sure. What is certain is that their friendship would have been impossible a few years ago. There is danger in the Internet, a rich hunting ground for sexual predators. But there is so much promise.

Last week, in College Station, TX, we were treated to an example of its influence. No longer does a lonely patriot need ride through the village streets warning of danger or issuing a call to arms. Let's hope that this powerful weapon can become a tool for peace and understanding. Unfortunately, people like Reverend Phelps will continue to use the computer to spread venom.

One of the only bad things about going to watch a Pittsburgh game is that to get to Pittsburgh from North Carolina you have to travel through West Virginia. Not to pile on West Virginia or anything, but when your "technology corridor" on I-73 doesn't even have cell phone service, it lends itself to plenty of jokes. However, once we arrived in Pittsburgh, we were greeted with a wonderful view of downtown as we emerged from the Fort Pitt tunnel. For those of you who are not familiar with the city-the downtown district is surrounded by the Monongahela, Allegheny Rivers, which combine to form the Ohio River. The Pirates former stadium was called "Three Rivers Stadium," and the current PNC Park sits at the edge of the Allegheny.

PNC Park is accessed by the Roberto Clemente Bridge, which is closed to all but foot traffic on gamedays. The Clemente Bridge is the centerpiece of the stadium, which doesn't have a bad seat in the house. Our seats were right above the Pirates dug-out, so we had a tremendous view of the Pittsburgh skyline as well as all of the on-field action. Naturally, the first thing I wanted to do when we got into the stadium was to find something to eat-which I did in the form of the famous Primanti Brothers sandwich that originated in Pittsburgh and is sold at Heinz Field and PNC Park. The sandwich is unique in that the coleslaw and the fries that would usually come as accompaniments are actually on the sandwich, and it was terrific.

The game itself started poorly for my Buccos, as they fell into a 4-0 hole early before Andrew McCutchen ignited the crowd with a two run blast. Obviously Pirates fans love Cutch, but you really can't appreciate just how good he is until you see him in person. He does everything well, has sneaky power, carries himself as a superstar but plays with the effort of a rookie (more on that in a minute). After falling behind again 6-2, things looked bleak for me in my first ever trip to PNC. However,



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• CONSERVATIVE POV

What's up, Doc?

Here I sit, mind blank, screen blank, and submission deadline screaming at me like a freight train. Nothing like a mid-week holiday to screw up my internal calendar, which is normally screwed up anyway. The only news of any interest at all was the unemployment report, which would be a bunch of figures that would bore you silly. However, in context, present some meaningful prose, as reported by The New York Times. I can't believe I'm quoting the NYT.

"Job Weakness Starts to Shape Election Tone. It is increasingly apparent what the economy will look like when President Obama faces voters in November: pretty much what it looks like today. And that picture, a report from the Labor Department made clear on Friday, is far from the booming job growth (highly exaggerated) that prevailed only a few months ago. In June, the economy added a meager 80,000 jobs, and the unemployment rate remained at 8.2 percent.



Don Swanson
Feedback is encouraged.
Email

swanson@dnet.net

Early this year, optimists buzzed that the jobless rate might touch 8% by the election, a milestone that would be a major symbolic victory for the incumbent. Then employment growth slowed in March and took a turn toward the paltry in April and May. With Friday's report, what looked like a blip has now become a streak. And, with a gridlocked Congress unlikely to pass any additional stimulus measures before the election, the president is stuck again with an economy in stall mode.

June's job growth, after a revised increase of 77,000 in May, was just about enough to keep up with population growth, but not nearly enough to reduce the backlog of 13 million unemployed workers. Economists have scaled back their expectations for the rest of the year and are now forecasting continued sluggishness." So saith The New York Times.

Even though the Times is being atypically objective about the matter, the fact is, the conversation on the rate (8.2) is taking place in a stratospheric level, way above levels we should be talking about, while the jobs created figures are in the toilet. Citing another unlikely source, CN-Money had this to say (and this story came out in May, when things weren't nearly as desperate):

"April's jobs report was, in a word, disappointing. The economy added only 115,000 jobs. More than 340,000 dropped out of the labor force. April's report, which follows lackluster numbers for March, is particularly bad news for President Obama's campaign staff in Chicago. The portion of the adult population participating in the job market is now at its lowest level since 1981.

In April 1984, the economy added 363,000 jobs. In the first four months of 1984, employment growth hit 1,564,000. This year, the first four months have brought about half that amount. And the Reagan recovery sustained its momentum through the election, averaging 300,000 new jobs a month from May to October (as compared to the 80,000 level currently). At this point in Reagan's first term, the unemployment rate was 7.8%, down from a peak of 10.8%. He ultimately was elected when unemployment was at 7.2%."

Enough of that, let's segue to one of

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... MEETINGS continued from page 1

On June 25, Highlands Newspaper requested the opinion from the UNC-Chapel Hill School of Government.

Frayda S. Bluestein, Associate Dean for Faculty Development and professor of Public Law and Government offered the following:

"Your question is about the legality of regular meetings involving the mayor and a commissioner and sometimes the manager.

"Under the open meetings law, notice and public access to meetings must be provided whenever a majority of a public body gathers together simultaneously.

"If you have a five-member board, it would take three members of that board to trigger the notice requirement. Obviously, that's not the situation you've described.

"It's also true that a committee can constitute a public body, for example, if the board established a committee consisting of the mayor, one board member, and the manager, to meet regularly or to carry out a specific task, then their meeting, or a meeting of two of the three of them, would require notice.

"It does not appear from the facts you've provided that there has been any formal designation of these people as a committee. If that's the case, their informal meetings do not violate the open meetings law, again, unless the assembled group is a majority of the board.

"If it turns out that, although not formally designated, this group actually functions as a committee and is viewed by the board as such, then perhaps there is an argument that they should comply with the notice requirements. If that's not the case, then I don't see any legal issue raised by their informal meetings.

"It may be useful to consider that the statute's emphasis on a majority reflects the notion that a majority of the board is a sufficient number to take action binding the board.

"Similarly, if this group had some sort of delegated authority (even of an advisory nature) it could take action as a committee. If it's not a majority of the board, and it's not a committee, then it's not a group whose ideas or plans could become reality since it would require a majority of the board to approve them.

"So it may raise concerns, but it may not present the risk that the open meetings law focuses on."

Also on June 25, Highlands Newspaper emailed the commissioners, the Town Manager and Attorney Coward and asked them the same question posed to the

School of Government.

No one responded except Coward who said he would have to speak to the board before answering the question.

As of July 8, there was still no response so Highlands Newspaper emailed each of them again, this time asking the three following questions:

Though as per the Open Meetings Law, it isn't illegal for two elected officials, who have not been appointed as a committee, to meet regularly, the question comes down to one of perception because often what is "legal" doesn't always appear "right" in the eyes of the public.

1. As an elected official, how do you feel about the alleged practice of the Mayor meeting with one particular commissioner on a continuous/regular basis in Town Hall?

2. Do you feel such alleged meetings send the wrong message to the citizens concerning how business is conducted in Highlands?

3. Finally, do you think the practice of the alleged meetings should stop?

Commissioners, the mayor and the Town Attorney were asked to respond by noon Tuesday and were told that if they chose not to participate or respond, that would be noted.

Attorney Bill Coward emailed:

I agree with Ms. Bluestein and have no further comment.

Commissioner John Dotson said:

I, too, agree with Ms. Bluestein, that what's legal is legal. Regrettably, sometimes perception does become reality. But if people have a perceived problem, they should address the individuals.

Commissioner Amy Patterson said:

I can have my opinion, but nothing is being done illegally, so there are no legal grounds to require anything is done differently.

Commissioner Brian Stiehler emailed:

I think the law obviously applies to prevent a majority of the board from meeting and discussing policy and or decision making behind the scenes. That said, anything less than a majority can't impact decisions. There are a lot of times I speak with the Mayor, who acts as a sounding board. As the "face" of our town, he hears a lot of criticisms and suggestions and is a logical place to turn to. There are also a lot of day-to-day questions we get as commissioners that the general public isn't aware of. This requires us to consult staff or other commissioners for answers. So, to answer your questions, I can certainly understand why some might feel the said meetings are not right, but as a commissioner, I feel and

know they are harmless because policy isn't being set. If three or more commissioners were meeting, I would certainly have a problem with that as it is illegal.

Commissioner Eric Pierson emailed:

I do not have a problem with any or all commissioners meeting with the mayor or town manager, or each other for that matter. I feel that as an elected official, it is my responsibility to take the initiative to know

what is going on in town so that I can be as informed as much as possible in order to make the decisions that have to be made and do what is right for the town.

Commissioner Gary Drake said:

I have no comment.

Mayor David Wilkes: He did not respond to the email or to a voice mail by press time.

– Kim Lewicki

Note: The July 19 Town Board meeting is at 7 p.m. at the Rec Park




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... WOOLDRIDGE continued from page 4

bered the givers and that marks the slow death of America as we know it. Once the givers are broke, where does the money come from to give to the takers? If you're a geezer as I am, not to worry 'cause we'll probably croak before the country folds. But how about the younger Americans?

This country is overtaxing its citizens, both rich and poor. High gas prices, property taxes, rising energy costs, communications taxes are hurting the poor. Have you read your telephone bill? Have you checked out the unemployment lines? Everyone in line has a cell phone or I-pad. The rich are

living in another world and could care less about the poor paying taxes

Ah ha, enter the Fred Fee. It's about eliminating all those taxes listed in this column, including healthcare and income taxes. Why not charge each citizen a small percentage fee (not a tax) for everything they purchase, both state, federal, and food included? That way everyone will surely pay fewer taxes, especially the poor. Remem-

ber, the current proposed federal sales tax plan does not eliminate the taxes I've listed above.

The best part about the Fred Fee is that all those cheating the government because of a cash only business, like prostitutes, thieves, gamblers, satire writers, congressmen and I could go on and on, are forced to pay a fee when they purchase something. If there's not enough money left to run the country, may I suggest our government do what you're probably already doing in your home; cut back and do without. Hello, Congress. Cut back and do without. Hello, Mr. President; cut back and do without. The poor do it all the time.

Oh, did I mention that in order to enact the Fred Fee, our government would have to bring our military home and post them along the Mexican border, then do away with all welfare programs and not give healthcare to everyone? In fact, stop giving away everything. People will go to work if we stop giving everything away.

And why not allow the Afghanistan people do what they do best? Kill each other. They've been doing it for thousands of years and they really love killing our American troops even more. I guess we could swing by occasionally with a few drones and drop some bombs should they get out of hand. There now, aren't you feeling better?

*Are you aware Fred is incognito and hiding at the Farmer's Market on Saturday mornings peddling his books, I'm Moving Back to Mars and Deceived? Swing by and give him "what for."

... PAVING continued from page 1

ed to Harrison Construction Co. of Knoxville, TN for the work, which consists of removing and patching cracked and deteriorated pavement, then resurfacing the road with a new asphalt layer. New pavement markings and raised reflectors will be installed after the asphalt work is completed. The project will make U.S. 64 a safer, smoother and more durable highway route for the traveling public.

For real-time travel information at any time, call 511, visit www.ncdot.gov/ travel or follow NCDOT on Twitter at www.ncdot.gov/travel/twitter. Another option is NCDOT Mobile, a phone-friendly version of the NCDOT website. To access it, type "m.ncdot.gov" into the browser of your smartphone and bookmark it for future reference. NCDOT Mobile is compatible with the iPhone, Android and some newer Blackberry phones.

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Perhaps genius runs in families – H-C Chamber Music Festival lineup

For proof, you need look no further than Week Two of the Highlands-Cashiers Chamber Music Festival's 31st season.

That's when a pair of concerts showcases the remarkable talents of three gifted families.

On Friday, July 13, and Saturday, July 14, the Highlands Chamber Music Festival is offering Beethoven's "Eyeglasses' Duo for Viola and Cello;" Grieg's deeply moving "Sonata in C Minor," and Kodaly's "Duo for Violin and Cello."

That will be followed by a trio of performances on Sunday, July 15, and Monday, July 16 – Boccherini's "Quintet for Strings;" Arensky's "Quartet for Violin, Viola and Two Cellos," and Dohnanyi's "Piano Quintet in C Minor."

All four concerts will be performed by sisters Laura and Julia Albers on violin and cello; cellist Benjamin Karp and his wife, violist Margaret Karp; and violinist

Kate Ransom and her brother, pianist William Ransom.

All six artists have won international acclaim for their solo performances, yet they are nearly as lionized as duos.

The compositions they'll be performing in Highlands and Cashiers are astonishing in their complexity and perhaps it requires the deep, almost telepathic understanding of a sibling or husband and wife to reveal their richness. H-C Chamber Music Festival "All in the Family" performances in previous seasons have electrified with their verve and supreme musicianship.

Throughout the Highlands-Cashiers Chamber Music Festival season, concerts will be held at 6 p.m. Fridays at the Martin-Lipscorn Performing Arts Center in Highlands and repeated at 5 p.m. Saturdays at the Albert Carlton-Cashiers Community Library in Cashiers. Sunday concerts will be

staged at 5 p.m. at the Performing Arts Center in Highlands and repeated at 5 p.m. Mondays at the Cashiers Community Library.

The 2012 Performance Schedule stretches all the way to Sunday, August 12th, culminating with a final gala concert at the Performing Arts Center in Highlands and a Dinner Party at Wildcat Cliffs Country Club. The season will feature festival favorites like The Attacca String Quartet and The Eroica Trio, plus a sprinkling of new talent.

With all that talent, the High-

lands-Cashiers Chamber Music Festival can't help but spill out into its host communities.

The Vega Quartet will offer a free show at Buck's Coffee Shop on Main Street in Highlands from 8 to 10 p.m. Wednesday, July 25th.

The Linden String Quartet will stage a free concert at Buck's Café in Cashiers (at the Crossroads) at 8 p.m. Wednesday, August 1st. Bach at Buck's is as natural a combination as, well, rich coffee and warm, mellow notes.

In addition to its nationally-recognized program of concerts,

the Highlands-Cashiers Chamber Music Festival is laced with a series of Feasts of the Festival. They're a chance to meet fascinating people and enjoy marvelous food and drink in some of the most breathtaking homes in Western North Carolina. Feasts continue through September and will feature an irresistible series of locations and menus.

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



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One of the many outstanding features that sets HCH surgical care apart from most hospitals is that every surgery is attended by a Board Certified Anesthesiologist.

With 23 years experience, Mark C. Shoptaugh, MD, Board Certified Anesthesiologist, assures the safety and comfort of HCH surgical patients. In addition, with a subspecialty certification in interventional pain management, he provides cervical, thoracic, lumbar and sacral spine injections to treat conditions such as spinal nerve pain, herniated disk disease and arthritis of the spine.



Mark C. Shoptaugh, MD

- Education:** Louisiana State University Medical School
- Residency:** University of Alabama at Birmingham
- Certification:** American Board of Anesthesiology, Subspecialty in Pain Management
- Memberships:** American Society of Anesthesiologists and the American Society of Interventional Pain Practice
- Experience:** 28 years Anesthesiology and Pain Management



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Mountains in Bloom is Here!

Chamber music cover artists at the Cashiers Library

The Bascom is pleased to announce the exhibition, Chamber Music Cover Artists, now on display at the Cashiers Public Library. The exhibition will be on view during Chamber Music concerts and is open to the public during the Library's business hours. The Bascom, in conjunction with the Friends of Cashiers Library and Highlands-Cashiers Chamber Music Festival, invite you to an opening reception on Thursday, July 19, 2012 from 3-5 pm.

Also this weekend, the highlight of this year's Mountains in Bloom Garden Festival Garden Tour, on July 13th and 14th, is an opportunity to visit the sumptuous gardens of eight homes in the Ravenel Community. These gardens are almost never opened for public viewing.

Garden tour times are filling fast! Tickets are \$80 per person and include a delicious box lunch on The Bascom Terrace. To purchase tickets or for more information, please call 828.787.2896 or stop by The Bascom.

Plus, stop by The Bascom on Friday and Saturday, July 13 and 14 from 10 am – 5 pm for the juried Flower Show that includes entries in flower arrangements, horticulture and photography.

Balentine, an independent, employee-owned investment management firm with offices in Atlanta and North Carolina, is the lead sponsor for Mountains in Bloom. Other Mountains in Bloom partners include Old Edwards Inn and Spa, The Outdoor Lights, Franklin Ford and Moss Robertson Cadillac. Delta Air Lines is the official airline of The Bascom.

The Bascom is open year-round - Monday through Saturday, 10 am to 5 pm and Sunday, 12 noon to 5 pm. Enjoy workshops, exhibitions, special events and quality programs throughout the year at The Bascom. For more information, to register for Bascom workshop offerings or for more details on all Bascom activities, visit www.TheBascom.org or call 828.526.4949.

PULL OUT

Highlands Area Upcoming Events

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 \$40 a month.
- Zumba at the Rec Park, 9:05a-10a. \$5 per calss.

First class free. Call Mary Barbour for Franklin schedule: 828-342-2498.

Mondays

- Mountain View Group of Alcoholics Anonymous will be held in the Faith and Fellowship Center of First Presbyterian Church. Enter via the entrance on 5th St. and proceed a few steps down to the library.

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 Presbyterian Church at Fifth and Main streets.

Wednesdays

- The Highlands Mountaintop Rotary meets at 7:30 a.m. in the dining room at the H-C Hospital. Enter the hospital in the main or emergency entrance and follow the signs downstairs. Visitors are welcome. Meetings end at 8:30 am.
- 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.

- Mah Jong games will be held, open to the public, at the Albert Carlton Cashiers- Community Library at 1 p.m.

Wednesdays & Fridays

- Open AA meeting at noon at the Presbyterian Church at Fifth and Main streets.

Thursdays, Fri., Sat

- Live music at Altitudes at Skyline Lodge, 470 Skyline Lodge Road off Flat Mountain Road, Norma Jean. 6:30-9p. Call 526-2121.
- Al-Anon meeting, noon at the Episcopal Church on Main and Fifth streets.
- The Highlands Writers Group meets at 1 p.m. at the Hudson Library. Call Anne Doggett at 526 8009.
- Free dinner at the Cashiers Community Center from 5-7 p.m. Mostly organic, healthy food. Donations accepted. Call 743-5706 for more information. Volunteers needed!

Friday & Saturdays

- Live music at Altitudes at Skyline Lodge, 470 Skyline Lodge Road off Flat Mountain Road 7p until. Hal Phillips. Also 2:30-4 on Saturday. Call 526-2121.

Saturdays

- Simply Homegrown is a local farmers market in Rabun County, GA. Celebrating its 11th season as the area's original sustainable farm market. Open 9 am to 2 pm at the new location 0.7 mile west of Clayton on

Highway 76 West. Look for directional signs on Routes 441 and 76 in Clayton. Our website has detailed directions www.simplyhomegrown.org.

- Live music at Altitudes at Skyline Lodge, 470 Skyline Lodge Road off Flat Mountain Road, 2-4p. Call 526-2121.
- The Highlands Farmers Market 9am-12 through October at Highlands School.
- The Art Room, 45 East Main St. in Franklin is having free Make & Take Classes from 10am to 12:30. Come make a Card...Ages 15 and up please! Call Dianne 828-349-3777 or Robin 828-421-9891.
- Bascom Community Knitters welcome all knitters, crocheters, smockers and needlepointers to join us on the Terrace at the Bascom. 10 until noon. From now until Thanksgiving! Come and knit or come and watch. mscarolray@yahoo.com

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.

Thursday -Sun., July 8

- At The Highlands Playhouse, The Spitfire Grill. Call 828-526-2695 for ticket information.

Thurs.-Sun., July 12-22

- "Walter Cronkite is Dead" a political comedy at the Highlands Playhouse. Featuring veterans stars from TV and stage. Tickets are \$25. Call 526-2695.

Thursday, July 12

- At 7 p.m. the Zahner Conservation Lecture Series will continue with Ben Steere from the Coweeta Long Term Ecological Research (LTER) Program at the University of Georgia. Ben will give a talk titled "The Western North Carolina Mounds and Towns Project: New perspectives on human settlement in the southern Appalachians." All Zahner Conservation Lectures take place at the Highlands Nature Center, 930 Horse Cove Road, and are free and open to the public. Please note that parking is very limited. For more information call (828) 526-2221.
- Movie at the Cashiers Library at 10a. Pipi Longstocking and the South Seas.

Fri.-Sun., July 13-15

- The Bascom's Mountains in Bloom Garden Festival. On the 14th, it's eight gardens in the Ravenel area. Tour participants will also enjoy a gourmet box lunch served on the Terrace at The Bascom between 11:30 am-2:30 pm. Tickets for the garden tours are \$80 per person. Group discounts are available. At The Bascom campus, on Friday and Saturday, July 13-14, from 9a-5p, free-admission juried Flower Show with nationally recognized judges. Then on Sunday, July 15 it's a private tour from 1-3 pm tour. Benefactors are also invited to the premier event for Mountains in Bloom, the "Flower Drum Song" Benefactor Party on Sunday. Stroll through the magical and enchanting, lushly landscaped gardens at The Farm at Old Edwards Inn. Music by Jim Gibson of Hickory Cove Music. A seated candlelight dinner with exquisite cuisine prepared by New Mountain Events will follow. For information call 787-2866.
- The 5th annual Highlands Motoring Festival at the Kelsey-Hutchinson Park on Pine Street 10a-4p. All proceeds to benefit the Cashiers-Highlands Humane Soci-

ety. Over 125 automobiles of various makes and models will be on display at this event. Participants will be vying for over 30 awards to be presented in a number of classes.

Friday, July 13

- HCCMF: Laura Albers, violin; Julie Albers, cello; Margaret Karp, viola; Benjamin Karp, cello; Kate Ransom, violin; William Ransom, piano. Program: "All in the Family" – Beethoven, Grieg, Kodaly. Performing Arts Center, Highlands. 6 PM. \$30, students \$15. 828-526-9060 or www.h-cmusicfestival.org
- Kindermusik Summer Classes begin for children newborn to 7 years and meets once a week in Cashiers at The Albert Carlton Cashiers Community Library. Activities are designed to increase your child's learning potential, and include singing, dancing, playing instruments, and fun! Call Lori Richards at The Music Village 828-293-5600.

Saturday, July 14

- Scaly Mountain Women's Club Auction on Friday night at the new Scaly Mountain Fire Department @169 Hale Ridge Road. with a preview of the items at 6 p.m. Professional Auctioneer. Bryan Snyder will begin the auction at 7 p.m. sharp. This event is a highlight of the summer. Be prepared to have an enjoyable evening and find the best bargains in Western North Carolina. For questions or donations, call Pat Leaptrot 526-9387 Leaptrot@frontier.com or go the website www.scalymountainwomensclub.com
- HCCMF: Laura Albers, violin; Julie Albers, cello; Margaret Karp, viola; Benjamin Karp, cello; Kate Ransom, violin; William Ransom, piano. Program: "All in the Family" – Beethoven, Grieg, Kodaly. Albert Carlton Library, Cashiers. 5 PM. \$30, students \$15. 828-526-9060 or www.h-cmusicfestival.org
- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate to strenuous 6 mile hike on the Appalachian Trail from Burningtown Gap to Rocky Bald, have lunch and beautiful views and return. About 800' of elevation change. Meet at Westgate Plaza in Franklin at 9 am. Bring lunch and water. Drive 52 miles round trip. Call Leader: Gail Lehman at 524-5298 for reservations.

Sun., July 15

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take an easy to moderate one mile hike on the Rufus Morgan Trail, passing a lovely falls. Elevation change 200', and small stream crossings on rocks/ bridge. Meet at Westgate Plaza in Franklin at 2 pm. Bring water. Round trip drive is 24 miles. Call Leader: Kay Coriell at 359-6820 for reservations. Visitors welcome, but no pets please.
- HCCMF: Laura Albers, violin; Julie Albers, cello; Margaret Karp, viola; Benjamin Karp, cello; Kate Ransom, violin; William Ransom, piano. Program: "A Family Affair" – Boccherini, Arensky, Dohnanyi. Performing Arts Center, Highlands. 5 PM. \$30, students \$15. 828-526-9060 or www.h-cmusicfestival.org

July 16-27

- The Playhouse's Musical Theatre Camp from 9a-noon for ages 6-11 and from 1-4p for ages 12 and up. Learn the basics of Musical Theater with a focus on Acting, Singing, and Dance Cost is \$195 per student. For more information call (828)526-2695.

Monday, July 16



Mountains in Bloom
Garden Festival

Friday and Saturday
July 13 - 14

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Highlands Area Upcoming Events

PULL OUT

• HCCMF: Laura Albers, violin; Julie Albers, cello; Margaret Karp, viola; Benjamin Karp, cello; Kate Ransom, violin; William Ransom, piano. Program: "A Family Affair" – Boccherini, Arensky, Dohnanyi. Albert Carlton Library, Cashiers. 5 PM. \$30, students \$15. 828-526-9060 or www.h-cmusicfestival.org

Wed., July 18

• A free Interlude concert presented by First Presbyterian Church and the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation, and are held at 2 pm. Dress is casual. Mary Price, piano at the Episcopal Church.

• HCH Physician Forum Series - Board Certified Gastroenterologist, Dr. Richard Carter, will present "Well Being at Any Age" 12 noon to 1pm at the Jane Woodruff Medical Clinic, level one. A complimentary box lunch will be provided. Reservations are necessary; please call 828-526-1313.

Thursday, July 19

• Live at Altitudes at Skyline Lodge, 470 Skyline Lodge Road off Flat Mountain Road, Jacob Deaton, jazz, blues, soul, 6:30p. 526-2121.

• Movie at the Cashiers Library at 10a. Swiss Family Robinson.

• Taize service at Highlands United Methodist at 5:30 p.m.

Friday, July 20

• HCCMF: Victor Asuncion, piano; Vega String Quartet. Program: "The Best of Beethoven" Performing Arts Center, Highlands. 6 PM. \$30, students \$15. 828-526-9060 or www.h-cmusicfestival.org

Fri. & Sat., July 20-21

• This year's Highlands Playhouse Showhouse is the Cranford Residence in Cullasaja Country Club 10a to 4p daily. Tickets are \$25 in advance and \$30 at the door available at the Playhouse. Parking will be at the Cullasaja Club Real Estate Office where a shuttle will be provided.

• At the The Hen House on Main Street, GOOD EARTH POTTERY SIGNING, 10a - 6:30p each day.

Saturdays, July 21, 28 & Aug. 4

• Tour of Homes fundraiser for Highlands United Methodist Church. Tour three spectacular homes of non HUMC members. One each week. \$25 per home or all three for \$65. Transportation from the church. Tickets go on sale July 10. For more information or to volunteer call Wiley Sloan at 200-0261 or email wileyandsarah@nctv.com

Sat., July 21

• Cathy and Bob Fisher are graciously opening their gardens at Sagee Manor to the public for the benefit the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation outreach programs. In past years the generosity of the Fishers has raised more than \$50,000 that has supported com-

munity human service organizations and the Church's mission church and school in Haiti. Please call the Church of the Incarnation for reservations at 828-526-2968. The cost is \$30. per person and is payable by cash or check.

• HCCMF: Victor Asuncion, piano; Vega String Quartet. Program: "The Best of Beethoven" Albert Carlton Library, Cashiers. 5 PM. \$30, students \$15. 828-526-9060 or www.h-cmusicfestival.org

• All day at the Sapphire Valley Community Center, Wilderness Wildlife Days with B.E.A.R. members and Bill Lea.

• Live at Altitudes at Skyline Lodge, 470 Skyline Lodge Road off Flat Mountain Road, Jacob Deaton, jazz, blues, soul, 2:30-4p. 526-2121.

• Highlands-Cashiers Free Health Clinic starts at 7:15 am. Appointments are required. Call the Foundation office 828-526-1435.

• Highlands Mountain Top Rotary presents Quick Draw 5 at the Hudson House at Highlands Country Club. The doors open at 5:30p. Come and see 17 wonderful artist paint for two hours and then their paintings will be auctioned off. All monies will be put into community projects.

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will hike to Charles' Bunion in the Great Smokies to the Jump Off, a strenuous 10 miles with an elevations change of 700'. Meet at Dillsboro Huddle House at 8 am for the round trip drive of 70 miles. Bring water and lunch. Call Leader: Don O'Neal at 586-5723 for reservations. Non-members, but experienced hikers, welcome, but no pets please.

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will hike to Big Sam's Knob in Pisgah National Forest, with an elevation change of 1400'. Total length of this moderate to strenuous hike is 6 miles. Will pass Wildcat Falls before ascending the mountain. Meet at Waynesville Ingles lot at 9 am, and drive 40 miles round trip. Bring water and lunch. Call Leader: Keith Patton at 456-8895 for reservations. Visitors welcome if experienced hikers, but no pets please.

Sunday, July 22

• HCCMF: Victor Asuncion, piano; Vega String Quartet; Christopher Rex, cello. Program: "From Russia With Love" – Rachmaninoff, Tchaikovsky, Glazunov Performing Arts Center, Highlands. 5 PM \$30, students \$15. 828-526-9060 or www.h-cmusicfestival.org

Mon.-Fri., July 23-27

Vacation Bible School at First Baptist. "Amazing Wonders of Aviation." 9a-noon. For pre-schoolers to 12 years old. Call 526-4153 to register.

Monday, July 23

• HCCMF: Victor Asuncion, piano; Vega String Quartet; Christopher Rex, cello. Program: "From Russia with Love" – Rach-

maninoff, Tchaikovsky, Glazunov Albert Carlton Library, Cashiers. 5 PM \$30, students \$15. 828-526-9060 or www.h-cmusicfestival.org

Tues., July 24

• At Fat Buddies in Franklin program at noon. Living in Bear Country.

• The Aging Brain, a free discussion with Marty Wuttke, founder of Neurotherapy Center for Health in Tiger, GA. 6:30-8p at the Community Building.

Wed., July 25

• A free Interlude concert presented by First Presbyterian Church and the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation, and are held at 2 pm. Dress is casual. Mountain Faith Bluegrass Group at the Presbyterian Church.

• Highlands-Cashiers Chamber Music Festival's Bach at Bucks with the Vega String Quartet on Wednesday at 8PM. It's free.

• Volunteers are needed at The Mountain to help in hospitality, kitchen, garden and guest services. Join us for orientation, tour and lunch at 11 a.m. RSVP by Monday, July 23. 526-5838 ext. 0.

Thursday, July 26

• Movie at the Cashiers Library at 10a. Treasure Island.

• Movie at the Cashiers Library at 4p. A Space Odyssey.

Thurs, July 26-Sun., Aug. 19

• At The Highlands Playhouse, Dames at Sea. Call 828-526-2695 for ticket information.

Friday, July 27

• HCCMF: The Eroica Trio Program: "The Eroica Trio – Solo" – Chopin, Brahms, Ravel, Franck. Performing Arts Center, Highlands. 6 PM. \$30, students \$15. 828-526-9060 or www.h-cmusicfestival.org

Saturday, July 28

• HCCMF: The Eroica Trio Program: "The Eroica Trio – Solo" – Chopin, Brahms, Ravel, Franck. Albert Carlton Library, Cashiers. 5 PM \$30, students \$15. 828-526-9060 or www.h-cmusicfestival.org

• Cathy and Bob Fisher are graciously opening their gardens at Sagee Manor to the public for the benefit the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation outreach programs. In past years the generosity of the Fishers has raised more than \$50,000 that has supported community human service organizations and the Church's mission church and school in Haiti. Please call the Church of the Incarnation for reservations at 828-526-2968. The cost is \$30 per person and is payable by cash or check.

• Relay for Life, AN EVENING WITH THE JOHNNY WEBB BAND 5:30pm-8:30pm at the Highlands Rec Park. Concert, Spaghetti Dinner, Live and Silent Auction. \$10 donation requested. For more information, please contact Betty Fisher with the Just for

You team at donandbetty9126@frontier.com.

Sunday, July 29

• Second Annual R.E.A.C.H. Gala. Cocktails, live auction at the home of prominent Houston and Highlands interior designer, Tony Raffa and his partner Scott Allbee at 6 p.m. For reservations, call 828-369-5544 or go to www.reachofmaconcounty.org. The cost is \$75 per person. Limited to 150 people. Last year this was a sell-out so make your reservations early!

• HCCMF: The Eroica Trio Program: "The Eroica Trio-A La Carte" – audience choice Performing Arts Center, Highlands. 5 PM \$30, students \$15. 828-526-9060 or www.h-cmusicfestival.org

Monday, July 30

• HCCMF: The Eroica Trio Program: "The Eroica Trio-A La Carte" – audience choice Albert Carlton Library, Cashiers. 5 PM \$30, students \$15. 828-526-9060 or www.h-cmusicfestival.org

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... DEBATE continued from page 1



Mark Meadows



Vance Patterson

One-stop voting is open Mon.-Fri., 8a-5p and until 1 p.m., Sat., July 14 at the courthouse in Franklin. Polls are open Tuesday, July 17 from 6:30a to 7:30p

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live in a bubble, not in our world. I believe in term limits so I will give you six years and then come home. I am not a professional politician. I don't work for the party, I work for the people in my district which is where I am going back once my service is done. I won't compromise my principals because I will have to live with those decisions when I come back to live with you.

Question 10: What about the attack on the Second Amendment and the small arms treaty through the UN?

Vance Patterson:
We shouldn't be listening to anything the UN says. We aren't citizens of the world or the UN no matter what Hillary or this administration says. We have the right to own guns as outlined in our Second Amendment. We need a solid gun owner in Washington. Our forefathers didn't include the Second Amendment so we could hunt, they included it because of the history of tyranny. We needed guns to open the frontier and didn't want to give them up to a government. Guns are not for food but to defend our freedom against a tyrannical government.

Mark Meadows:
The government's desire to reduce that right is a real threat that we have to stand up to immediately. This is coming in through the international influence of Agenda 21. There are certain governmental threats: executive order privilege, the Supreme Court Justices who are about to retire, moves against pro-gun. They will start with guns and then take away other rights and other freedoms. Once you give up one freedom you are about to give up one somewhere else.

Closing:
Mark Meadows:
If Vance Patterson is nominated, we will work together to take back the 11th District's seat. We have a different job plan that doesn't pick winners and losers. We need to reduce regulations, reduce taxes, deal with energy, consider the possibility of keeping earnings abroad tax-free to buy jobs. We need to get government out of the way so the government can't pick winners and losers. We need to take back our country. There is no accountability in government. We are at a crossroads in the nation. Regulations and taxes are the biggest impediments to growth. The lack of regulations and taxes worked in the '20s - the Roaring '20s! Government got out of the way and anything went. The fog is lifting in Western North Carolina. There are men and women who want to fight and I will be there to do so.

Vance Patterson:
What you can expect from me is full employment in Western North Carolina in four years. I will deal on the local level. I know how to bring companies and jobs our way. Lower taxes, reduce government regulations, cut spending, but I want to put jobs here and I will go get them. I am going to do that. As a freshman congressmen I won't have a lot of power. But I am going to give back by salary of \$174,500 to nonprofits in Western North Carolina. I don't want to be a burden to a struggling Western North Carolina. This election is huge. Consider which one of us has the kind of talent to do what needs to be done in Western North Carolina and Washington to make a difference in our government. Who would you hire? Get the best so I can go to work for your family and my family.

Question 10: Ben Bernanke says at the end of the year we will be up against a fiscal cliff. What do you think of that?
Mark Meadows:

We need to preserve all the tax credits. We need to cut spending. We need to make real modifications and we need to repeal in terms of Obamacare.

Vance Patterson:
Bernanke is right. There is a crisis. There is business uncertainty because there may be problems. 3 1/2 years is a big maybe on taxes, on healthcare, and regulations. We don't have a dream maker in Washington. We don't have a leader. John Boehner is not a leader. The economy isn't the biggest problem. The same thing happened in the '20s and '30s. We are on a downhill slide.

Question 11: What do you think about the President wanting to change the ancient boundaries of Israel?

Vance Patterson:
We should look at Israel as our 51st state and it needs to be defended. We have so much history based on Judeo-Christian values and we can't let the Middle East run over them. We need a President and Congress that stands up and defends Israel. I am adamant that it keeps its sovereign state.

Mark Meadows:
We must be pro-Israel. We have been since day one. But there is a move underfoot to take away their funding. They are our best allies. They are being bombarded from a economic and military standpoint. I've read the end of the book and we know who wins and I want to be there.

Question 12: What can people do to get you elected?
Mark Meadows:
Turn out and vote on July 17 like you did on May 8. Get on the phone/email and get people to show up. I got 35,000 votes on May 8. With 10,000 more you can elect a new Congress.

Vance Patterson:
For the survivor of the run-off to get elected we have to beat Hayden Rogers who we will have no problem beating. But people have to show up to vote. Tell people what we stand for. We agree on most issues. We need your passion to beat the Democrats.

... LETTERS from page 2

If those traveling Maple Street to avoid the traffic jam at Fourth and Main are forced to turn away from town they may just rightfully say "Oh to heck with it."

It would also be nice to find shady parking spaces on these hot summer days—but many trees have been sacrificed since May. There was welcome shade at Wright Square but no longer. Beside the new "cottages" on South Street many trees have been removed. Awhile back the trees some of us helped plant on Kelsey Hutchison vacant lot were removed. Those trees were donated by Highlands Lawn and Garden and volunteers from the garden clubs planted them with the help of Highlands Falls volunteer labor. Those trees were very nice and about 15' tall.

I have always considered the craft shows, farmers market, music groups a true magnet for the town.

I do hope that we are not letting one business owner in our town corner the market. We need a town that is lively with a variety of activities and attractions. The businesses in Highlands that are truly good ones offering what people really want will prosper. We all want them to prosper.

It is a sad thing when bad will is festering in a town that was always known for its friendliness. Town Board, LISTEN to your citizens. There is much wisdom in their opinions.

**Glenda Bell
Highlands**

•See LETTERS page 18

... SWANSON continued from page 8

my favorite subjects, shall we? While much of the country is broiling, it would seem a strange time to oppose the theory of "global warming," would it not? Never let it be said that I am affected by reality – or am I? First, you have to concede that "global" means global, and that the globe does not end at our borders. Deal?

Bits and pieces from wordpress.com (all these stories occurred after June 1, 2012):

"Tasmania shivered through a cold first month of winter, with lower than usual night-time temperatures record in the South and Liawnee posting its coldest June day in almost 30 years."

"Cold snap chills summer in Lapland. Lapland has been blanketed in snow over the past couple of days, as a low pressure zone dumped sleet and snow in the north."

Here's a shocker, dated July 1st: "Record low temperatures were shattered in Orlando and Daytona Beach overnight after a cold

front moved through the area. According to the National Weather Service in Melbourne the temperature dipped to 64 degrees at Orlando International Airport, shattering the previous record of 66 set in 1920."

"Serious frosts in Argentina have led to a declaration of agricultural emergency and disaster for the region."

In South Africa: "Winter took an icy grip on the country at the weekend and the authorities cautioned against extreme weather conditions."

"Arctic cold blasts South American Regions – record cold temperatures have come to South America."

"Christchurch, New Zealand: Coldest day in 130 years of records."

"Germany: Coldest start to June in 20 years."

Next week: Green 'drivel' exposed. The godfather of global warming lowers the boom on climate change hysteria.

TV veteran Michael Genovese at Playhouse

Walter Cronkite is Dead, which opens tonight at the Highlands Playhouse, is continuing the Playhouse's standard of bringing in top national talent to the Highlands stage.

The play will star NBC's ER veteran Ellen Crawford as well as Los Angeles based Actors Equity performer Jacquelyn Riggs as the polar opposite ladies who find friendship and laughter trapped in an airport bar during a storm. The women, who just finished a critically acclaimed run of The Spitfire Grill, have become instant favorite of the Highlands Playhouse stage. "Audiences loved The Spitfire Grill and have been coming to the Box Office thrilled that two of their favorite performers are going to be performing in Walter Cronkite is Dead as well," Bill Patti, Theater Manager, said.

Another major player in the entertainment industry will be joining Crawford and Riggs for this play, Crawford's hus-

band and theater, television, and movie veteran Michael Genovese. Genovese will be directing the play, which is set up as a Conservative versus Liberal head butting contest but turns out to be so much more.

Genovese has a laundry list of credits that include recurring roles on ER and Falcon's Crest and was a series regular on the 1990s television show The Flash. A quick look at Genovese's IMDB page will show that he has appeared in 99 different movies and television shows.

"Michael Genovese brings with him a lifetime of experience in all areas of performance. The play should be incredible, and we could not be more excited to have such a talented group in town for Walter Cronkite is Dead," said Executive Director Tina Rogers.

Walter Cronkite is Dead opens on July 12th and runs through July 22nd. Tickets are only \$25 and can be purchased by calling the Box Office at 828-526-2695.

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Wednesdays: Mid-week prayer meeting – 7 p.m.

BUCK CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

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Holy Communion 1st Sunday of the month

Wednesdays: 9 a.m. Healing and Prayer w/Holy Communion

CHRIST ANGLICAN CHURCH

Rector: Jim Murphy, 252-671-4011

Worshipping at the facilities of Whiteside Presbyterian Church, Cashiers

Sun.: Holy Communion - 9 a.m.; Adult Forum - 10:45 at Buck's Coffee

Cafe, Cashiers

Mon.: Bible Study & Supper at homes - 6 p.m.

Wed.: Men's Bible Study -8:30 a.m., First Baptist Church

Thurs.: Women's Prayer Group - 10 a.m., Whiteside Presbyterian Church;

Healing Service at noon

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE CHURCH

283 Spring Street

Sunday Service: 11 a.m.

Testimony Meeting: 5 p.m. on the 3rd Wed.

CLEAR CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Jim Kinard

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

Wednesdays -- 7 p.m.

COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH

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Sun.: 9:30 am: Adult Sunday School

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Service. 12:30 pm Student Arts Group, 5 p.m. HS

Wed.: 6pm: CBC University Program

EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE INCARNATION

526-2968 • Reverend Bruce Walker

Sunday: Education for children & adults and choir rehearsal beginning at

9am. Holy Eucharist Rite I-8a; Holy Eucharist Rite II-10:30am in the Main

Nave of the Church.

Monday: 4 p.m. Women's Cursillo Group

Tuesday: 8 a.m. Men's Cursillo Group; Bible Study 10:30 a.m. Reverend

Howard L'Enfant

Thursday: 10 a.m. Holy Eucharist (Chapel)

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

Dr. Charles Harris, Pastor • 526-4153

Sun.: Worship 10:45 a.m.; School – 9:30 a.m.

Wed.: Men's Bible Study 8:30 a.m., Prayer Meeting – 6:15 p.m., Choir – 5 p.m.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Dr. Lee Bowman, Pastor

Dr. Don Mullen, Parish Associate 526-3175

Sun.: Worship – 11 a.m.; Sun. 8:30a communion service June-Labor Day;

School – 9:30

Mondays: 8 a.m. – Men's Prayer Group & Breakfast

Wednesdays – Choir – 7

GOLDMINE BAPTIST CHURCH

(Off Franklin/Highlands Rd)

Rev. Carson Gibson

Sunday School – 10 am, Worship Service – 11 am

Bible Study – 6 pm

HIGHLANDS ASSEMBLY OF GOD

Randy Reed, Pastor

828-421-9172 • 165 S. Sixth Street

Sundays: Worship – 11

HIGHLANDS CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Dan Robinson

670 N. Fourth Street (next to the Highlands Civic Center)

Sunday: School 9:30 a.m.; Morning Worship 10:45 a.m., Evening

Worship, 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday: Prayer Service, 6:30 p.m.

HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Pastor Paul Christy 526-3376

Sun: School 9:45a.; Worship 8:30 & 10:50.; Youth Group 5:30 p.

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

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Worship/Communion – 10:30

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Pastor Roy Lowe, (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 Big Ridge Baptist Church, 4224 Big Ridge Road
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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: – Sun: 11 a.m.; Thurs & Fri.: 9 a.

SCALY MOUNTAIN BAPTIST CHURCH

Rev. Dwight Loggins

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 • 526-3212

Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 10:45 a.m.; Worship – 6 p.m.

Wed: Adult Bible Study & Youth – 7 p.m.

SHORTOFF BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Rev. Andy Cloer

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

Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study – 7

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Cashiers, Rev. Sam Forrester, 743-2122

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

• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

**The spirit of Molech
lives with us**

By Pastor Sam Forrester

Whiteside Presbyterian Church

“And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, Again, thou shalt say to the children of Israel, Whosoever he be of the children of Israel, or of the strangers that sojourn in Israel, that giveth any of his seed unto Molech; he shall surely be put to death; the people of the land will stone him with stones. And I will set my face against that man, and will cut him off from among my people; because he hath given of his seed unto Molech, to defile my sanctuary, and to profane my holy name. And if the people of the land do any ways hid their eyes from the man, when he giveth of his seed unto Molech, and kill him not: Then I will set my face against that man, and against his family, and will cut him off, and all that go a whoring after him, to commit whoredom with Molech, from among their people.”– Leviticus 20:1-5

Molech was the god of the Ammonites. It was their practice to sacrifice their children to him. They offered them so that they “passed through the fire.” This was done because they believed they would receive favor with their god, gaining prosperity, pleasure and power. They were willing to sacrifice their children to gain for themselves a better life.

Is the spirit of Molech alive and well in our midst? I believe he is. Abortion is the sacrificing of an unborn child for the pleasure of the mother. Most abortions result from illicit sexual relations, such as fornication or adultery. The child is a reminder of the sin. There are numerous consequences to such sin and it becomes easier to kill the child than face the consequences. Sexual pleasure is one of those things craved by the unregenerate soul and an unwanted pregnancy threatens that pleasure. Prosperity is desired by most people and children can be a drag on resources. All parents know children can be an inconvenience. I am not sure that people today believe sacrificing their children to a god will gain them a reward, as much as they believe the removal of the child will make their life freer and more pleasurable.

We are living in a day when the pleasure of the individual is more important than anything else. You can even see this in churches. Many have turned from following the Word and carefully studying the truth to show themselves to be approved of God, to simply entertaining themselves with religious sounding stories and eye pleasing celebrations. This all gives place to the god of the Ammonites. It opens the door to the satisfying of the fleshly appetites without any guilt being associated with it.

This passage from Leviticus makes it clear God is having nothing to do with such nonsense. He makes it clear the one who caused the child to pass through the fire was to be stoned to death. He also says anyone who “hid his eyes” from this terrible act should also be put to death. The judgment of God rested on everyone who was involved and on their families. What a tragedy that most

Another menu of delight from CLE

By Bettie S. Banks

Beginning Friday the 13th attendees at the CLE classes will delight in the variety of subjects available.

Financial Success in Challenging Economic Times: Friday, July 13; 10:30 to 12:30; Hudson Library (back door entrance); Members \$25.00; non-members \$35

Elizabeth Brinkman not only has the credentials but also the passion to teach those not fascinated by the study of finances to know how to make good decisions and to be confident in their choices. Her goals are to help people become more organized and equipped with a path and purpose and to feel empowered and able to flex financial muscle. This is a must-take

... SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING from 16

of our society today is hiding their eyes. Our government and many medical professionals are sacrificing our children to Molech. There are also many who call themselves "Christian" that condone this terrible practice. The Doctors that commit these atrocities are the priests who serve at the altar of this false god Molech. Yes, Molech is alive and well and he dwells in the hearts of all who would place their pleasure above the duty of service to their children.

We are celebrating the 236th birthday of our nation. The judgment of the true and living God has to be hovering over our heads because of this vile and reprehensible practice we have allowed of sacrificing our children to a false god. The only hope we have of avoiding our absolute destruction is that God, the one and only true God, send a revival. We can take hope that God has promised even in the face of such sin to give us relief and to tell us how to overcome this darkness. He declared through King Solomon in II Chronicles 7:14 "If my people who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land." America, we must turn back to God, the sovereign Almighty God, confess our sin and seek his grace, lest we all perish for hiding our eyes.

This article was derived from "Abortion: The Killing Fields" by Franklin E. (Ed) Payne, M, D.

class.

Melanoma: Danger and Hope: Saturday, July 14; 10a - 12 noon; Highlands Cashiers Hospital: Jane Woodruff Building, Free. Open to the public

Carl V. Washington, Jr., MD, an Associate Professor of Dermatology at Emory University School of Medicine, will address this virulent strain of cancer. He will talk about the dangers and the hope for treatment as important advances in research show promise in illuminating new avenues to pursue.

Michelangelo's Faith: Secrets of the Sistine Ceiling: Tuesday, July 17; 1-3p; Presbyterian Church, Coleman Hall; Members \$20; non-members \$30

"I saw the angel in the marble, and I carved until I set him free." This Platonic ideal attributed to the young Michelangelo articulated the driving force in the Italian Renaissance, becoming the convergence point of a multicultural revival that was anathema to the Church of Rome. Michelangelo was an avid student of the teachings found in Egypt, Greece and the Jewish Kabbalah. Fusion of all mystical traditions is incorporated into the Sistine Chapel fresco, right in the heart of the Vatican. Professor William Henry Price will reveal the secrets in this most famous of ceilings.

China Rising: Wednesday, July 18; 10a - 12 noon; Performing Arts Center (Auditorium) Members \$25; Non-members \$35

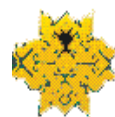
No one could be more perfect to present on all affairs China than Mary Brown Bullock, Ph.D, a frequent visitor to China and author of *The Oil Prince's Legacy: Rockefeller Philanthropy in China*, published June 2011. Dr. Bullock will explore with us the tensions that exist between the "opening up and reform" and the evidence of authoritarian repression as she discusses the current political, economic and social changes that are in process. Dr. Bullock comes with a long list of impressive credentials that give her a solid platform to stand on. We are honored to have this scholar at the podium.

Civil War: Thursday, July 19; 10a-12 noon; First Presbyterian Church, Coleman Hall; Members \$20; Non-members \$30

Author of numerous books including Robert E. Lee: an Album (2000), Emory Thomas will explore both sides of the Civil War and question essentially well known facts. He argues that the Civil War happened because nearly no one had a clue about what they were doing and most people believe the war would never happen.



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Peggy Crosby Center Board Room \$35/\$45

FINANCIAL SUCCESS, Friday, July 13, 10:30-12:30

Presenter: Elizabeth Brickman

Hudson Library, \$25/\$35

MELANOMA: Danger and Hope, Saturday, July 14, 10:00-12:00

Presenter: Dr. Carl Washington, Jr.

Jane Woodruff Bldg, Highlands Cashiers Hospital, Free

MICHELANGELO'S FAITH, Tuesday, July 17, 1:00-3:00

Presenter: William Henry Price

Presbyterian Church - Coleman Hall, \$20/\$30

CHINA RISING, Wednesday, July 18, 10:00-12:00

Presenter: Mary Brown Bullock

Performing Arts Center Auditorium, \$25/\$35

CIVIL WAR, Thursday, July 19

Presenter: Emory Thomas

Presbyterian Church - Coleman Hall, \$20/\$30

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... LETTERS continued from page 14

Commissioners, leave our town alone.

Dear Editor,

I am writing to express my concerns that our quaint, mountain town is losing the charm that has made it so special over the years. I have come to Highlands since I was 14 years old, more than 50 years, and I have loved every minute of it.

Several months ago, I had an alarm problem. I was the problem. When the female officer and her backup came, they were totally professional and such a help. They even went the extra mile and tried to fix my goldfish pond. That's what I love about our small town.

Unfortunately, recent decisions by our Town Board seem to indicate that it is thinking more like a big City Council.

We now have two on-way streets (both Church and Spring) that go east from 4th Street to 5th Street. We have only one street that goes west from 5th. They recently changed 3rd Street making it really useless. I understand that the intersection of 3rd and Main is a dangerous one, but surely there are better options than required turns. Wouldn't a caution light or a 4-way stop solve the problem?

Our downtown area is already very congested but when using 3rd Street coming from NC 28 we are forced to turn right into the quagmire of congestion. There has

to be a better option than what we have now. We are not Franklin or Atlanta. I don't like having to deal with one-way streets.

The headlines in the June 28 edition of Highlands Newspaper says it all, "Board dismisses public's concerns ... Their pleas fell on deaf ears." It's sad that the Board doesn't want to hear from the citizens.

Now the Board has sided with a small group of merchants who complain when we have art festivals and other events on Pine Street Park. These events create a welcoming, small-town atmosphere that is found in many other towns in NC. Our Board doesn't want that here. I wonder, does the fact that our Mayor and one of our Board members own small businesses, make them overly sensitive to the complaints of these few vocal merchants? I own a small business in Georgia so I know the trials of business ownership. Stopping the use of Pine Street Park for these events will not overcome the problems of small businesses.

Finally, I walk my dog in the downtown area several times each week in the early morning. I am appalled at the litter that I find on the streets. Instead of spending so much energy on one-way streets and stopping events in the park, I wish the Board would address the litter in the downtown area.

I know that nothing stays the same, but I surely would like to see the charm of our quaint little town restored.

Leave our town alone, please.

Dotty Travis
Highlands

Why vote?

Dear Editor,

As we approach this election year, I am sure many of you are as frustrated as I am about all of the rhetoric being thrown around by politicians. It would be easy to say I want no part of it and choose not to vote. Unfortunately, I think this is a mistake too many Americans have made over the last 50 years and look where we are now. Many people say there are two things you should avoid in a conversation: "religion" and "politics", but I say if you are not talking about religion or politics, then what are you talking about? I believe we will be better off as a country if we talk more about public policy, write our politicians, newspapers and attend public meetings. Getting involved is the key to making a difference and the easiest way to start is by voting.

According to U.S. Census Data, since 1996 the voter turnout for non-presidential elections has hovered around 40% compared to 60% for presidential elections. When you

consider just how difficult it was to create America and the subsequent battles to allow everyone 18 years of age and older to vote, regardless of race or gender, voter turnout is appalling. I recently had the opportunity to teach a group of homeschoolers on the Revolutionary War and World War II. Although I studied these and other wars during high school and college, I was shocked at how much I had forgotten and how much sacrifice was made to create our country and keep it. When you consider the span of the Revolutionary War, with the Boston Tea Party in 1773 and British General Cornwallis not surrendering until 1781, it is amazing we were victorious with a rag tag army against the world's most powerful army with endless resources. A short 160 years later, America was on the verge of losing this great democratic republic as we battled to save our freedom as well as the freedom of our allies in Europe and Asia. Approximately 25,000 died to create this great country and more than 416,000 died to keep it in WWII alone. We must never let our guard down as not much is permanent, certainly not governments or countries.

As we approach the presidential election in November, we should not overlook an important run-off election on July 17th in Western North Carolina to elect the Republican Nominee for U.S. Representative. A high voter turnout in this and subsequent elections is a way of showing our fallen soldiers and their families that we appreciate the freedoms they gave us with their lives. If you are a registered Republican or Independent, you can vote in the July 17th run-off election. I hope we will all enjoy an open discussion on the issues affecting the current and future condition of America and the communities where we reside.

Jerry Moore
Highlands

• THANKS •

...For the Highlands community

The Michael Barry and Dan Chapman families wish to thank their loving community of Highlands and especially the churches for the love, prayers food and flowers received this week as our beloved Danise was received in heaven.

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• POLICE & FIRE REPORTS •

Highlands PD log entries from June 20. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor, or public officials have been used.

June 20

• At 5:50 p.m. officers seized a revoked license plate/registration.

June 26

• At 1:06 p.m., officers received a call about a bear trying to get into a home on Center Drive.

• At a little after midnight, a suspicious person was reported outside a bedroom window at a residence on N. 1st Street. Officers weren't able to locate anyone.

June 27

• At noon, a resident on Helen Barn Ave. reported her wallet missing.

June 30

• At 10:15 a.m. residents on Niad Terrace called about noise.

• At 1:12 p.m., officers were called to Highlands Plaza about a dog being left in a vehicle.

July 1

• At 1:41 p.m., officers were called to Reeves Hardware regarding stolen building materials valued at \$900.

July 5

• At 10:51 a.m., officers were called to a residence on Paul Walden Way regarding a verbal dispute.

• During the week officers issued 19 citations and responded to one alarm.

Highlands F&R Dept. log entries from June 28.

June 28

• At 7:12 p.m., the dept. was first-responders on a lifeline call at the Highlands Mountain Club. It was false.

June 29

• At 2:05 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to Main Street. EMS transported.

• At 3:36 p.m., the dept. rescued an 11-year-old boy at Bust Your Butt Falls who fell approximately six feet injuring his lower back. EMS transported.

• At 5:40 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to Highlands Plaza. EMS transported.

• At 5:56 p.m., the dept. responded to a one-vehicle accident where a driver backed over an embankment. There were minor injuries. EMS transported.

June 30

• At 3:07 p.m., the dept. responded to a medical alarm at a residence on Fifth Street.

July 1

• At 1:35 p.m., the dept. assisted Glenville-Cashiers Rescue at Iron Bridge where a person was suffering from heat stroke.

July 3

• At 3:30 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm on Satolah Road. It was false.

Annual Show House benefiting The Playhouse set for July 20 & 21



The Highlands Playhouse's major fundraiser, the 2012 Show House, is right around the corner and gives visitors the opportunity to view the interior and exterior of a beautiful local home. This year's event will showcase the elegant Cranford Home and will run on Friday, July 20th and Saturday, July 21st from 10a-4p.

The Cranford Home sits on the renowned Bearshadow Ridge off Route 64 in Highlands. It is multi-million dollar home with spectacular views. Designed by Cashiers architect C. Allen Brown and overseen by Cashiers Builder Ray Ward, there is an understated beauty everywhere within this five-bedroom getaway. The design is all built around the beautiful view of Bearshadow Ridge, however, as a large panoramic view of Whiteside frames the living room, with the same view from the Morning Room just off the kitchen.

For tickets call the Playhouse at 828-526-2695 or stop by the Box Office at 339 Oak Street, Highlands. Tickets are \$25 in advance and \$30 at the door.

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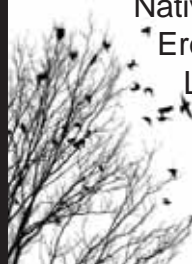


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SEE FALLING WATERS – 52-acre community just 2.5 miles from Main Street. Secluded but not remote, no road noise, no thru traffic. Peaceful, quiet and private. Offered in parcels of .75 acres to 10+ acres. Carve out your creekfront, waterfall view or multi-use estate. Owner financing. 828-508-9952. From Main St. take Hwy 106 1.8 miles just past Glen Falls sign, turn right on Mr. Laurel Dr., 3-tenths mile turn left on Moonlight. Entrance on right. www.highlandsnchomesites.com (st. 5/3)

ESTATE SALE

FRI. & SAT., JULY 13-14. Fri, 10a to 6p, Sat., 10a to noon. 214 Shelby Circle. Antiques, furniture, art, household items. To see sale items see www.truthisbinary.com

FRI. & SAT., JULY 13-14. 9a-5p. 855 Franklin Road, corner of Mirror Lake and US 64 west. Antiques, glassware, household items.

SAT. & SUN., JULY 14-15. 1896 Franklin Road. 9a-5p. Furniture, nic-naks. Must go.

ITEMS FOR SALE



CUSTOM MADE KING SIZED HICKORY LOG BED W/ NIGHTSTAND \$1500. Chippendale Dining Room Table w/8 Chairs \$3000. Solid Cherry TV Armoire \$1000. Unique Sassafras Loveseat/Bench \$400.

Bedroom Sets \$600-\$1000. Oak Rolltop Desk \$600. Antique Style Curved Glass Oak China Cabinet \$600. Carved Side Table with Matching Mirror \$500. Antique Cedar Wardrobe \$400 828-200-9176 (st. 5/24)

GAS GRILL: Brinkman Grand Gourmet 6345, heavy duty, 3-stainless steel burners, one-touch igniter, porcelain-coated warming rack. \$95. 526-8496. (st. 7/12)

CUSTOM RECLAIMED REDWOOD DINING ROOM TABLE with 6 Kodawood Chairs. \$1,600. 863-651-1678 (st. 6/28)

72 PIECES OF GOLD CASTLE CHINA. Hostess pattern. Made in occupied Japan from 1940 to 1952. These pieces are in excellent condition, no chips, cracks or fading. Several serving pieces included, platters, gravy boat, creamers and sugar bowls with lids, Vegetable bowls. Please email motherstouch.tlc@gmail.com or phone 678-777-2855 for a complete list and photos. (st. 7/4)

VEHICLES FOR SALE

2004 CHRYSLER SEBRING, touring convertible, V6 auto, 54 K miles. New tires, looks and drives like brand new. Garage kept. \$7,395. 828-369-3777. (7/5)

1949 CHEVY 5-WINDOW PICKUP. 4spd, 6 cyl. Restored. \$18,500. 828-200-0388. (7/12)

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MASSAGE IN THE HOME – Highlands-cashiers. Britt Ammons. LMT since 1983. Call 828-226-6496. (8/9)

HOME MAID CLEANING SERVICE Who doesn't want a clean house? For quality work, friendly service and free estimates, give "Home Maid" a ring... (828) 371-1702. (7/12)

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MOUNTAIN TOP LANDSCAPING – Here for all your landscaping and maintenance needs. JR Billingsley. 828-526-8670 or 706-982-2949. (8/30)

HATHA YOGA – Mon & Thurs at 10:45a, Wed., at 7:45a Call 828-482-2128. (9/27)

RN'S, LPN'S, CNA'S AND CAREGIVERS looking for independent contract work caring for the elderly in the Highlands/Cashiers area. 828-200-9000. (st. 6/7)

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CRAWLSPACE MOISTURE PROBLEMS? Musty smell in your home? Call 828-787-1673. (St. 4/28)

J&J LAWN AND LANDSCAPING SERVICES – Complete Landscaping Company, Design, Installation and Maintenance. Also featuring Plants, Trees, Hardscapes, Water Features, Rockwork, Fencing, Drainage, Erosion Control and RR-Tie work. 20 years serving Highlands area. 828-526-2251.

Methodist Church Tour of Homes

See three remarkably beautiful homes and help Highlands United Methodist Church at the same time. There will be one home each week. First home, July 21, Second, July 28 and third home, August 4. Homes are open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Transportation will be provided from Highlands United Methodist Church. No private vehicles are allowed.

Ticketholders will be able to visit three eye-catching homes here in the Highlands' area.

The first home is an historic Joe Webb cabin located at the Highlands Country Club. This home has been highlighted in at least two national publications. Don't be fooled. This is no ordinary log cabin. Exquisitely decorated in an understated style, this home is relaxed and comfortable.

Home number two has been built within the last 10 years but you might not realize it. It is decorated with enchanting antiques that make you think that it has aged gracefully like Queen Elizabeth of England. This home is perched atop one of the highest mountain tops of the area, and even includes its very own planetarium.

The third house incorporates lots of glass to frame views of the immaculately maintained gardens and the surrounding mountain trails from every room. The décor includes one-of-a-kind antiques and unique lamps that have been collected throughout the years.

The Tour is \$25 per house or all three homes for only \$65. Buy your tickets in advance by calling (828)-526-3376 or stopping by the Church office any day from 8 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. All funds raised by this Tour will go to pay off the mortgage for the recent land purchased by the Church.

There will be RAFFLE TICKETS sold during the Home Tour for the following items:

A Golf foursome at Wildcat Cliffs Country Club - 4 person play between August 8th and end of season 2012. Value \$ 600

Tickets for these vacation homes are \$10/ticket or 6 for \$ 50. Purchase tickets at the Church Office by calling 828-526-3376 or at the Transportation pickup for the Home Tours. Drawing will be held on August 8th following the final Home Tour.

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• "Walter Cronkite is Dead" a political comedy at the Highlands Playhouse. Featuring veterans stars from TV and stage. Tickets are \$25. Call 526-2695.

Thurs., Fri. Sat., July 12-14
• Live music at Altitudes at Skyline Lodge off Flat Mtn. Road. Call 526-2121.

Fri.-Sun., July 13-15
• The Bascom's Mountains in Bloom Garden Festival. For specifics and tickets call 787-2866.
• The 5th annual Highlands Motoring Festival at the Kelsey-Hutchinson Park on Pine Street 10a-4p. 125 automobiles will be on display.



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