

# Highlands Newspaper

FREE every Thursday

Volume 10, Number 29

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Thursday, July 19, 2012

Through Sun., July 22

• "Walter Cronkite is Dead" a comedy at the Highlands Playhouse. Call 526-2695.

Thurs.-Sun.

• Live music at Altitudes at Skyline Lodge. Call for performers. 526-2121.

Thurs., July 19

• Town Board meeting at the Rec Park at 7 p.m.

Friday, July 20

• H-C Chamber Music Festival "The Best of Beethoven" at PAC. 6 PM. \$30, students \$15. 828-526-9060.

Fri. & Sat., July 20-21

• Playhouse Showhouse, Cranford residence. 10a to 4p daily. \$25 in advance, \$30 at the door. Available at the Playhouse.

• At the The Hen House on Main St., Good Earth Pottery signing, 10a - 6p.

Sat. July 21

• First of three homes on tour to benefit the Methodist Church. \$25 each or all three for \$65. Call Wiley Sloan at 200-0261.

• Tour the gardens at the Fisher's Sag-ee Manor. A benefit for the Episcopal Church. Call 526-2968. \$30.

• Jewelry Artist Gail Molzahn's trunk show at Chivaree in Cashiers. 11a-4p

• MountainTop Rotary's Quick Draw 5 at the Hudson House at HCC. 5:30p. Call 828-508-7817. \$50 per person.

• Book signing. Shakespeare & Co, Frank Forster's "Catch a Falling Knife" 5-7p.

Sunday, July 22

• H-C Chamber Music Festival's: "From Russia With Love" at PAC. 5 PM \$30, students \$15. 526-9060.

Mon.-Fri., July 23-27

• Vacation Bible School at First Baptist. 9a-noon. For pre-schoolers to 12 years old. Call 526-4153 to register.

Monday, July 23

• Birding Program: at the Civic Center at 7 p.m. "Around the World in 80 Birds."

Wed., July 25

• A free Interlude concert at 1st Presbyterian at 2 p.m. Mtn. Faith Bluegrass Group.

• H-C Chamber Music Festival's Bach at Bucks w/ the Vega String Quartet at 8PM. It's free.

## ZBA overturns administrator's ruling

The Zoning Board of Adjustment has entered a new era. Not only was the Zoning Administrator's ruling overturned Wednesday, July 11 - the third time in 10 years - but protocol and proceedings leading to that vote were handled

in a lax, almost offhanded way.

Attorney Fred Jones of Jones, Key, Melvin & Patterson in Franklin, represented his client R.L.R. Investments, LLC, of Wilmington, OH, who owns the old Highlands Pharmacy building at 225 Main

Street.

Jones was there to first appeal the Zoning Administrator's ruling and if the appeal failed planned on requesting a variance immediately thereafter.

• See ZBA page 9

## FDIC issues Macon Bank Consent Order

The FDIC took enforcement action with Macon Bank in a Consent Order issued March 26, 2012 which outlines verification of management practices required to take place within a 90-day window.

With the issuance of the Consent Order, Macon Bank has consented to regulatory precautions without admitting or denying any charges of unsafe or unsound banking practices or violations of law or regulation relating to weakness in capital, asset quality, management, earnings, liquidity and sensitivity to market risk.

The FDIC of Washington, DC and the state of NC Commissioner of Banks in Raleigh are named as issuers of the order under the supervision by the FDIC Division of Risk Management.

As of July 13, 2012, on the Unofficial Problem Bank List there are hundreds of banks - 18 of which are in North Carolina, including Macon Bank whose assets are listed at \$846,788,000..

• See MACON BANK page 15

## Pros command stage at Highlands Playhouse



Sometimes baring all to a stranger can make all the difference in the world. Los Angeles based actress Jacquelyn Riggs and TV's ER veteran Ellen Crawford star as two women of "a certain age" who though strangers, learn about themselves and the world through each other's eyes as they talk about family, politics, and life in Highlands Playhouse's sophisticated, poignant, polished production of "Walter Cronkite is Dead" which runs through July 22nd. Tickets may be purchased by calling 828-526-2695.

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## Meadows vs. Rogers in Nov.

Mark Meadows won the GOP nomination in 11th Congressional District runoff against Vance Patterson by a sweeping margin in the second primary Tuesday, July 17.

He beat Patterson with 70% to 90% of the vote in most of the district's 17 counties. He lost by close margins in Cherokee and Burke counties.

In Macon County, Meadows got 84.11% of the vote sweeping the 15 precincts in the county.

## 1.2 miles of US 64 closing for paving 7/23

NC-DOT will begin daytime closures of the 1.2-mile-long section of U.S. 64 (The Gorge Road) from the Highland Gates subdivision entrance to the Jackson Hole Gem Mine parking lot 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 to U.S. 64 east of Highlands. The detour route is 11 miles long.

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# • THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

## • LETTERS •

### Please get your facts right

Dear Editor,

It continues to amaze me as to why people feel it necessary to distort or simply misstate the facts in order to forward their agenda or bolster their grudges. I have always operated on the premise that if you really want to make a valid point or argument and gain support then make sure you know what you are talking about and always stick to the facts.

In the letter to the editor in the July 12 edition of Highlands Newspaper entitled "Board was defensive and hostile," it states "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."

This could not be further from the truth and it surprises me as this was clearly explained and discussed openly by the mayor and several commissioners at the Town Board meeting.

The shift on Spring Street mentioned in the letter occurred not because of OEI's expansion, but solely because of the town's master sidewalk plan established years ago by the town and with zero input from OEI. The master sidewalk plan is available to all residents at the Town Hall and calls for future expansion of the town sidewalk system throughout the town.

OEI was instructed by the town to add sidewalks and curb and gutter around the entire perimeter of their property including 5th and South streets totally at our expense and not at the taxpayers' expense. We even paid for the additional striping of Spring Street on the right side and also paid for several of the new signs.

The new buildings on Spring and South streets fell under strict town building ordinances that dictated they had to be built directly on top of the existing foundations from the previous buildings and could not be expanded thus requiring no need for a shift of Spring Street. Simply put, the addition of a 7 ft. sidewalk and curb and gutter dictated by the town's master sidewalk plan caused this

shift on Spring Street and not OEI's expansion.

On a separate but related note – we have so many positive things going on in Highlands, and examples of amazing people in our town working together to solve real issues and do productive and compassionate things that benefit the town and contribute to our quality of life.

Wouldn't it be great if more often we all recognized and wrote about those? As residents and visitors come to Highlands for relaxation and the inspiring mountain environment that we are all fortunate to live in, I'm sure they would love to see some of that positive energy and camaraderie reflected in our papers and townspeople.

Richard M. Delany  
President and Managing Director

### Bring back art & craft shows

Dear Editor,

It's my understanding the Village Art & Craft shows will no longer be allowed in Kelsey Hutchinson Park on Pine Street after its September event.

I can't believe the town of Highlands' board members passed such an ordinance.

As an artist and long time summer resident of Highlands I'm angry and confused. Why would any town turn down a chance to add an event that brings in people to spent money especially in these economic times?

I was in the event last year and spent \$2,000 on a rental house and eating out for a week while my home was being re-

modeled. Five businesses benefited from my spending that I can think of off the top of my head not counting construction cost which was all local spending.

The owner of Highlands Hiker, which I understand is against the events and is also the Mayor. How should I look at Highlands now?

Please look into this issue and report what you think is a truthful review. Interview lots of local businesses and see what's going on. It would be much appreciated.

Gary Frey  
Highlands

### Heroes in our midst

Dear Editor

There has been much talk about heroes in the news from around the country, but right here, in this beautiful town of Highlands, we have our own heroes . They are the volunteers in the Highlands Fire & Rescue Department who are required to take 160 hours of medical training and are on call through the day and night – besides the fact that they have jobs and families.

They are your life savers, your rescuers, who arrive within minutes when they receive your call to 9-1-1 and stay in communication with the emergency room staff at the hospital from beginning to arrival at the ER.

They are a fine group of men who are dedicated to this service of helping others where and when needed.

In the six months before my husband passed last year, I called 9-1-1 four times of which two were transports. The department deserves huge commendation for its efforts. It is so easy to take things for granted and I for one, want to show my appreciation in my praise for them.

Claire Galam  
Highlands

### Make out three envelopes

Dear Editor,

To my friend, Mayor David Wilkes, the citizens are circling their wagons against you. It's time to fill out three envelopes.

Fred Wooldridge  
Highlands

NOTE: Columnist Michelle Mead-Armor's second installment of "Driving Miss Michie" will be in the July 26 edition.

### LETTERS-TO-THE EDITOR-POLICY

We reserve the right to reject or edit submissions.  
**NO ANONYMOUS LETTERS WILL BE ACCEPTED.**

Views expressed are not necessarily those of Highlands' Newspaper.  
Please EMAIL letters by Sunday at 5 p.m. There is a 500-word limit without prior approval.

## Highlands Newspaper

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# • OBITUARY •

## Robert Warren Munger

Robert Warren Munger, age 71, of Highlands, died Saturday, July 14, 2012. He was born in Macon County, the son of the late Robert Warren Munger, Sr. and Dora Lucille Lowe. He was preceded in death by a sister, Kathy Munger. He was a self employed plumber and electrician. He was a loving father, grandfather, brother and friend who liked to hunt and fish. Robert was a US Army Veteran of the Viet Nam War.

Robert is survived by one daughter, Bobby Jo Munger of Milledgeville, GA; two sons, Kelly Warren Munger and wife Brenda of Franklin, NC and Robert DeWalt Munger and wife Lisa of Young Harris, GA; four sisters, Susie McDaniel and husband Ivey of Lexington, NC; Joyce Rogers and husband Steve, Margaret Rish (husband Larry, deceased), and Michelle Rogers and husband Stacey all of Franklin, NC; and seven brothers, Tony and wife Debbie of Lexington, NC, Lawrence and wife Carol of Highlands, NC, Tim Crane and wife Tammy of Franklin, NC, Sherman Munger, Dale Munger, David Mu-

nger and wife Susan, and Christopher Munger all of Lexington, NC. Six grandchildren and two great grandchildren also survive.

Graveside services were held Wednesday, July 18, 2012 at Highlands Memorial Park with the Rev. Benny Bagwell officiating. Franklin Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter #994 conducted military graveside rites.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to Bryant-Grant Funeral Home, 105 W. Main Street, Franklin, NC 28734.



## You're invited to a Pottery Signing...

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• LAUGHING AT LIFE •

The anonymous Miss Sourpuss

This was not a good week for me. It started out great but quickly turned sour....maybe worse than sour. For those who hate my stuff....rejoice and be glad!

As usual, I woke at 5 AM and the adrenaline began to flow. I guess you already know I thrive on adrenaline. As part of my early morning ritual, I opened an on-line daily newspaper (not this one) to read the morning news. There, on the

front page staring back at me was a mug shot picture of someone I love, respect and admire. He had been nailed by the police for shoplifting. I was devastated. For now, he shall remain anonymous.

Then, several hours later, I went to mass and while quietly praying for my arrested friend, another person I also love, respect and admire, interrupted my prayer by handing me a note. He whispered, "When I saw this on a bumper sticker, I immediately thought of you." I looked up at a smirking face as he walked away. I stared



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

at the note, contemplating its meaning. The note read, "Sarcasm is the body's natural defense against stupidity." Surely this was not meant as an insult, I thought, at least, not from this particular friend. Sooooo I asked my maybe/ maybe not friend, "I'm not sure how to take this," showing him his note. "Ha," he said and walked away again. Now I know.

The next couple of days weren't much better because I received a poison-pen letter from a local Bozo concerning my mak-

ing fun of the new post office. Ah yes, the life of satire. Then the next day I had to drive all the way to Franklin (yuck) to meet with the owners of the car I just sold. I had filled out the title wrong. My bad and yuck again.

Then there is ole Miss Sourpuss I see often. Well, that's what I'll call her 'cause she never smiles....ever. She also must remain anonymous since I seem to get myself in huge trouble by naming people. So I'll just call her Miss Sourpuss. I think the last time she smiled was 1954 when her boyfriend left her for playing too much bridge.

But wait, do I know Miss Sourpuss from bridge games or from church....or

• See WOOLDRIDGE page 19

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# • THE VIEW FROM HERE •

## Livelihoods far from Highlands

Newly hired truck drivers make \$80,000. Experienced teachers would sign on for \$30,000 if they could find housing. Hookers make more than doctors and a modest motel room rents for \$180 per night.

There is an oil boom in western North Dakota, an inhospitable, arid land of frigid winters and withering summers. There is too little rainfall to support grain crops. Grass grows over rolling land punctuated by grassy buttes and rocky canyons. Scrub trees gratefully follow stream beds. Ranchers depend on melting snow from the Montana mountains and this was a dry winter. It is a sparsely populated land, with little to attract settlers. Rugged Norwegian immigrants came in the mid-19th century, start-



**Dr. Henry Salzarulo**

**Feedback is encouraged.  
email:**

**hsalzarulo@aol.com**

ed farms, and built tiny towns to support them. It's mostly cattle ranching, with a hardy strain of wheat here and there.

The oil has been here for millions of years, and it's presence known for more than half a century, but it is locked in shale, and until recently, relatively untapped. High oil prices and advanced drilling techniques have changed that.

Horizontal drilling and fracturing the shale are the secret. After a well is drilled, a million gallons of water, mixed with sand and chemicals, is forced into the well. The broken rock bleeds oil which is pumped to the surface and stored in

holding tanks, where it awaits tanker trucks which carry it to distant refineries.

• See SALZARULO page 18



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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

.. Dad was engaged in a variety of work projects during this boom-and-bust period of the '20s and '30s. My earliest recollection of these was his part in the construction of bridges, especially the Russell Bridge, connecting Georgia and South Carolina on the road to Walhalla. Then there was the hydroelectric dam that created Lake Sequoyah and the building of the Highlands Country Club and golf links. Dad had his hands in all of these, and who do you suppose kept his payrolls, assisted with all the estimating and billing and wrote all his checks? Why it was Mama, of course. She was bookkeeper extraordinaire and secretary of the exchequer all wrapped up in one, as well as an appraiser and expert estimator.

It may have been a natural reaction or aversion to the use of alcoholic beverages in her own family, or it could have been a bon a fide allegiance to the Baptist Convention to refrain from the use of or traffic in alcohol. Whatever her motivation, Mama was a teetotaler and thought that everybody else should be one, too. This stand made for some awkward moments with most of her brothers and a number of our cousins and their cousins and perhaps a majority of folks around Highlands – perhaps even in the Baptist Church. But Mama never compromised on the issue and never hesitated to let it be known.

We kids felt that Mama was indestructible. Why shouldn't we when she tolled day and night for us and then found time to read the funny papers to us? When Grandma Paul came to live with us, we never sensed any added burden on Mama -- the more the merrier. The same was true when we brought friends home for meals; relatives came on Sunday; and Dad's hired hands on Monday. Doughnuts and cookies in the pantry and clean shirts in



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

the upstairs hall cupboard were replenished automatically. None of us gave it a thought!

The first inkling we had that Mama had a problem and we did, too, was in the early '30s when she complained of severe headaches. It was really nothing for us to worry about. The pain would go away, especially with the help of an aspirin. Mama encouraged us to think so. But they became more frequent and more severe. Finally, even Mama consented to see a doctor. It may have been Dr. Thompson or Dr. Neville. Anyway, she was told that her blood pressure was high. So, that was that. Not much to be done that we knew of. Medication was skimpy in those days and I don't even remember the doctors telling her to avoid salt.

A more serious warning came on March 4, 1933. Mama and some of us kids were gathered around the radio listening to the first inauguration of Franklin Delano Roosevelt. Before it was over, Mama became very ill and was carried upstairs to her room. The doctor was called. She was diagnosed as having suffered a minor stroke. One side of her face was slightly drawn, and she spoke

with difficulty. As the afternoon passed, she recovered enough to say, "it paralyzed not only me but the whole nation." Her spunk was obviously intact, and her staunch Republicanism showed as it never had before.

Little did we realized that this stroke, ever so slight, was to be the beginning of Mama's death. She was better for a time, but the debilitating headaches continued and she finally had to take to bed.

It was a long, hot, spring and summer. Now Mama, even more than Grandma Paul, required constant attention. There was our faithful housemaid and general helper, Lou Webb, but all of us had to lend a hand where we could. Aunt Belle and Mrs. Charles Barnes, another neighbor, alternated in sending Mama trays of beautiful and nourishing food. But Mama sometimes didn't realize who had sent it and at times now had to be fed like a baby.

More doctors were called in, and finally Dr. Edgar Angel recommended an exploratory operation. Dad understood the dangers but it seemed there was no other choice.

• To be continued ...



# • COACH'S CORNER •

## The strange case of Dwight Howard

Imagine that you are a teenager who ventures out on your own, becomes extremely successful at first, but then hits a rough spot. Most teenagers would have a hard time with that, particularly if their job just happened to be as one of the best basketball players in the world. More often than not, young men who go to the NBA straight out of high school or after just one year of college are faced with extremely difficult choices once they reach a certain point. Unfortunately for many of these players, not only are they ill equipped to handle these decisions, but they also have to handle them in a completely public manner.

Dwight Howard is currently located in that uncomfortable position, and throughout his contract ordeal he has publicly shown how difficult it is to be a young man trying to make million dollar decisions. LeBron James was criticized immensely for the way that he handled "The Decision," but despite all of that accomplished his goal of winning an NBA Championship. Now, "The Decision" is likely behind LeBron and people will begin to recognize his true greatness. Howard is in much the same position that LeBron was, having already been to an NBA Finals and itching to get back. However, rather than play out the season for Orlando and making the decision to request a trade elsewhere, Howard has turned Orlando into his own personal soap opera.

The basic recap of the situation is that Howard requested a trade, then rescinded the trade request, then became injured, then refused to come back from injury and demanded that coach Stan Van Gundy be fired. Once Van Gundy was fired, then Howard demanded a trade once again, and listed Brooklyn as the only destination suitable for him. Oh, and by the way, he still has one year left on his contract, so the Magic don't HAVE to trade him anywhere. (although they will instead of letting him walk for free) Throughout this ordeal, Howard has managed to ruin his image as a friendly, fan-favorite player and become labeled as a malcontent. Now, as Brooklyn has refused to meet Orlando's asking price for Howard and moved along, Howard will most certainly end up in a destination that he did



**Ryan Potts**  
tryanpotts@hotmail.com

not prefer. However, he will certainly end up playing somewhere else this season, giving all of us a valuable lesson; pouting, being two-faced and betraying your coach will not get you anywhere....unless you are a superstar athlete.

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# • CONSERVATIVE POV

## I rest my case

The Toronto Sun provides a stunning article that warms my heart. Excuse the pun – you'll see. I wonder why so much of really meaningful information comes from news sources outside the US. I think it's a conspiracy. The headline reads, "Green 'Drivel' Exposed." "The godfather of global warming lowers the boom on climate change hysteria."

"Two months ago, James Lovelock, the godfather of global warming, gave a startling interview to msnbc.com in which he acknowledged he had been unduly 'alarmist' about climate change. The implications were extraordinary. Lovelock is a world-renowned scientist and environmentalist whose Gaia theory – that the Earth operates as a single, living organism – has had a profound impact on the development of global warming theory."

The Gaia theory, as the Sun refers to it, has taken on religious proportions and proponents have infiltrated local govern-



**Don Swanson**  
**Feedback is encouraged.**  
**Email**

**[swanson@dnet.net](mailto:swanson@dnet.net)**

mental agencies and non-governmental organizations. Curiously, I had written a piece on Gaia several years ago and suggested that this 'religion' would soon affect the policies of governments large and small.

Quoting from USA Survival News from an article in 1999, a source I know nothing about, but I do know enough on the subject matter to agree with the following: "U. S. taxpayers are being forced to subsidize a new form of state religion which holds that natural resources have to be protected for the sake of Gaia, a so-called Earth spirit (referred to as Mother Earth by some). This religious movement, which has cult-like qualities, is being promoted by leading figures and organizations such as Al Gore, Ted Turner and the United Nations.

Gore, who as a member of the U.S. Senate participated in the 1992 UN-sponsored Earth Summit, is the most prominent member of what appears to be an environmental cult built around a reverence for the Earth. Gore has written openly about the Earth having sacred qualities and he has praised primitive pagan religions and goddess worship.

Another key player is Ted Turner, who has turned his broadcasting empire into a virtual arm of the United Nations. A noted critic of Christianity and ambassador of the UN Population fund, he promotes the concept of Gaia in his television programs, such as 'Captain Planet' cartoon show, in which characters get magic powers from an Earth spirit or goddess.

At the United Nations, the U.N. Environmental Program promotes the idea of an "Environmental Sabbath," a variation on the Gaia concept. The global environmental movement has been described in terms of suggesting a religious crusade. The Earth Council, a sister organization, has produced an "Earth Charter" for the world that refers to respect for 'Mother Earth' and animal rights.

Those promoting the Gaia concept have no qualms about using the full force of government, even the international resources of the United Nations,



## ... ZBA continued from page 1

R.L.R. Investments plans to renovate both floors of the building into professional office space – real estate rentals downstairs and real estate sales upstairs. There are 2,323 sq. ft. downstairs and 2,627 sq. ft. upstairs; a total of 4,950 sq. ft. and the lot is zoned B-2 commercial.

The problem: Not enough on-site parking to be in compliance with the town's ordinance. One spot for every 200 sq. ft. is required, so 23 spaces were needed but there's only room for 13 spaces on the lot which abuts Helen's Barn Ave.

According to the Zoning Department brief, the request as presented failed on two counts under Sec. 7.4 – Nonconforming Improvements and Structures and 7.4.1 Nonconforming Buildings and Premises involving change of use and discontinuance of use.

Under the Change of Use provision, the ordinance says if the building use changes so that the requirements for the new use are more stringent than those of the previous use, such building and premises shall be made to conform to the current requirements. The previous use was never in compliance so that issue was dismissed.

Under the Discontinuance of Use provision: if the use of a building has been discontinued for 12 consecutive months (the building has been vacant for 30 months) no use shall be re-established until the building and premises are made to conform as much as possible to the current requirements of the ordinance.

It goes on to say that conformance shall not be required as it relates to building size where it's not reasonable to do so, but a variance is required from the ZBA in accordance with the Section 4.18.2.

Variances are rarely granted by the Zoning Board, but according to Zoning Board Chairman Steve Chenoweth, a variance wasn't required. The board voted

unanimously to overturn the Zoning Administrator's ruling on the grounds that under the Discontinuance of Use passage, the owner made the plan "conform as much as possible to the current requirements of the Ordinance."

Only 13 parking spaces are possible on the site, but board members reasoned parking was designated where none was designated before when the building served as the Highlands Pharmacy, a barber shop and a woodworking shop.

To be in compliance without the appeal or a subsequent variance request the owner would have to decrease sq. footage use.

"He could use the first floor and part of the second floor to comply," said Code Enforcement Officer Josh Ward. "But that suggestion wasn't considered by the board."

Prior to opening the proceedings of the quasi-judicial hearing, Chenoweth announced that the variance would be heard after the appeal request, if the appeal failed.

He went on to say that it was his opinion that the owner was "conforming as much as possible to the current requirements of the ordinance," as outlined in the Discontinuance of Use portion of the ordinance, but he didn't note the remainder of the same passage which requires a variance be issued.

Once the proceedings opened, Chenoweth called witnesses to be sworn in – which is required at a Zoning Board meeting – saying, "Come on up here, and tell me if you are going to tell the truth because that's what I'm going to ask you."

During most Zoning Board of Adjustment meetings, witnesses are duly sworn in by stating their full name, address, and who they are representing if applicable, all with their hand on the Bible.

Wednesday night, hands were on the Bible, but since everyone in the room knew each other, full names and addresses

weren't given, nor did Attorney Jones say who he represented, only that he was an attorney in Franklin.

This wasn't a contentious matter, however, so protocol was lax.

While orchestrating the meeting, Chenoweth said, "With the economy the way it is, it doesn't seem right to make it harder for a business. We need to get storefronts filled."

In fact, at least two board members allege they were approached prior to the open-

ing of the meeting by the Zoning Administrator and told, "it would be OK to overturn the department's ruling," "that no one's feelings would be hurt;" "that Highlands didn't need another empty storefront," and "the owner was going to spend a lot of money."

After hearing deliberations, member Charlie Dasher recused himself from the vote because he is involved in court case where Jones is opposing counsel. "I just

• See ZBA page 14



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## Come Visit!

From Main St., take Hwy. 106 (The Dillard Road) 1.8 miles just past the Glen Falls sign, turn right on Mt. Laurel Dr., go 3 tenths of a mile turn left on Moonlight. The entrance is on the right.



# • INVESTING AT 4,118 FT. •

## Encouraging trend for Highlands real estate

Second homes sales are increasing as lower prices pull more buyers off the fence along with lifetime low interest rates. The good news for the Highlands Plateau is that several factors keep buyers closer to home when deciding where to buy a second home. The following five reasons support purchasing your vacation home locally if you are from the Southeast:

1. With travel costs rising and consumers still uncertain about the economy, many buyers are purchasing second homes closer to their principal residence. Buyers feel more comfortable being a day's drive or less to maintain and use their vacation homes. This decision allows family and friends to visit more easily and provides a comfort level that you can attend to business back home when you have to, or, conversely, you can easily check on your second home more frequently.

2. The feeder markets for Highlands and Cashiers continue to be nearby cities such as Atlanta and Greenville and Southern states with hot summers such as Florida, Texas, Louisiana, Alabama, Mississippi, Georgia and South Carolina. Competing mountain resorts such as Aspen, Jackson Hole, Park City and others are more expensive to reach, and the properties are much more expensive to buy than real estate on the Plateau. With airline travel getting more expensive and more of a hassle, it is a luxury to jump in your car and arrive in your own bed that very night. Price and proximity to one's primary residence seem to be governing

factors when choosing a vacation home.

3. A survey by the National Association of Realtors found that the median distance between a buyer's primary residence and his vacation declined 19% to 305 miles in 2011 from 2010. It is the first decline since the group began keeping data in 2006. The shift in buying habits partly reflects the changing portrait of the typical vacation-home buyer. In the recent past, the vacation-home market was led by families looking for attractions for children as well as adults. A growing number of buyers are older and seeking vacation homes that transition into retirement homes. Each year, we see a few more couples calling Highlands or Cashiers their permanent home. As you talk with friends each season, more and more aspire to have one home here on the Plateau and selling the big house in the city.

4. With professionals working longer than they anticipated, they find that it is easier to get away for long weekends instead of weeks at a time. Two recent buyers, one a doctor from Atlanta and another an architect from Greenville, acknowledged that it is difficult to take a long vacation, but a three or four day respite in Highlands is a great way to spend time with family and not unduly interrupt a demanding work schedule.

5. Lastly, but not in order of importance, an increasing number of us are attached to our furry family members. It is much more palatable to load the furry kids in a car instead of in a hot cargo holding cell. Having two "rescue boys" our-



**Jody Lovell**  
828-526-4104  
[exurbiasothebysrealty.com](http://exurbiasothebysrealty.com)

selves, we are reluctant to plan trips if we have to board them or arrange for air travel.

For all of these reasons, the Highlands/Cashiers Plateau will continue to be a desirable destination for a summer retreat. Barron's agrees as it just named Highlands One of the Top 20 Places in

the Country to Own a Second Home! Encourage your friends if they have ever considered owning a second home, now is the time to take advantage of the great selection of inventory, the historic low prices and the once-in-a-lifetime low interest rates.

• Jody and Wood Lovell own Exurbia Sotheby's International Realty. They moved full-time from Atlanta 12 years ago and are leaders in the local real estate market. They have two offices: one at the gate of Cullasaja Club and one in The Old Edwards' Inn Complex at 216 South Fourth Street "on the hill." You may reach them at 828 526 4104. Visit their website at [exurbiasothebysrealty.com](http://exurbiasothebysrealty.com)

## • REAL ESTATE SNAP-SHOTS •

Lake View, wooded 1 acre - Lake Catatoga S/D  
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Cell: 770-337-1000

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Was \$325,000 NOW \$199,000.  
New construction - 3 bedroom, 3 bath, in 2-car garage neighborhood.  
Call Becky Simmons at Cabe Realty  
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Was \$389,000 NOW \$349,000.  
Make Offer! 5 bed, 4 bath on about 2 acres with creek, pond, gazebo. R.V. barn. 4,000 sq.ft. finished, 2,000 sq.ft. basement/garage.

Sign up now for the Aug. 2 edition of  
RE Snapshots in Highlands Newspaper  
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# • REAL ESTATE SNAP-SHOTS • Properties for Sale



Have it all at Highlands Cove! Fabulous Koenig built home with long range mountain views. 5/5.5 \$1,787,000 MLS #75150. 526-1717.



One level living in total privacy at Highlands Falls Country Club. View of 11th fairway. 4/3 \$890,000 MLS #68518. Call 526-1717.



The best golf course condo at HFCC. Beautifully furnished and ready to move into. 2/2 \$267,000 MLS #72160. Call 526-1717.



Old Edwards Club at Highlands Cove, Bright and airy first floor 3/3 furnished Turning Leaf condo with fairway views \$487,000. Call 828-526-1717



Highlands Falls Country Club. Very private 3/2 and 2 half baths with magical view of 80 foot waterfall and mountains. \$1,490,000. Call 828-526-4101.



Cullasaja Club. 4/3 & 2 half baths privately located with one-of-a-kind view of 4 Golf Holes, 2 Lakes and Mountains! \$985,000. Call 828-526-4101.



Highlands-Exceptional Mountain View. 3/2, cathedral and vaulted ceilings, 2-story stone fireplace, screened porch. \$187,900. Call 828-526-4101.



Highlands-Historic farmhouse on 6.4 acres. 4/2, offers mountain views, old log barn, pond, pasture, stone cellar. \$429,000. Call 828-526-4101.



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## Spring St. Commercial/Res.



Zoned B-3, this charming, stream-front cottage is perfect for retail or professional use. Great visibility Spring Street. May be converted to a walk-to-Main Street rental home. Offered at \$389,000. MLS #73743.

## Waterfront Enclave



These 3 creekfront lots feature gentle building sites & lush vegetation. Easy access from Walkingstick Road. Shared community water. Lot 1: .84 +/- Acres, \$99,000, MLS #73728. Lot 2: 1.15 +/- Acres, \$249,000, MLS #73729. Lot 3: .92 +/- Acres, \$199,000. MLS #73735.

Please contact Susie deVille at (828) 371-2079 or Sheryl Wilson at (828) 337-0706 for more information.



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## Zoned B-3 Comm. with 1/1 Apt.



Commercial space on the main level w/office area, storage space, and full bathroom. Upper level is a one bedroom, one bath apartment. Easy access and parking. Great visibility just one block from Main Street. \$525,000. MLS #69631



**Highlands-Bank Owned!** 1604 S. 4th St, 1.2 mi. from Main. Mixed use w/ beautiful rock garden. Tax Value \$462,000. Priced at \$245,000! Level topo, great visibility, parking and signage. Tammy Mobley, BIC/CCIM Highlands NC Realty 770-337-1000.



**AN ARTIST'S RETREAT** - 100 Dog Mountain Road. \$447,000. 3 bedrooms; 3 baths; master suites on each level, single-car garage, workshop and more. Call Barbara Newton with Keller Williams to see the NEW LOOK of this Artist Retreat. Cell: 828-421-2552 MLS #75008.



**THE AUSTIN ESTATE** - 715 Dog Mountain Road. Main and Guest Houses. \$695,000. 5 Bedrooms; 3 1/2 baths close to Main Street. Lovely wooded setting on 1.87 acres. Call Barbara Newton with Keller Williams for a tour of both houses. Cell: 828-421-2552. MLS



**PULL OUT**

# Highlands Area Upcoming Events

## Through Sun., July 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 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.
- Town Board meeting at the Rec Park at 7 p.m.
- Zahner Lecture at the Nature Center at 7 p.m. "Sensory Appeal of Native Plants."

Free.

## Friday, July 20

• The High Mountain Squares will dance this Friday night at the Macon County Community Building from 6:30 to 9 PM. Marty Northrup from Columbus, NC will be the caller. We dance Western Style Square Dancing, main/stream and plus levels. There will be a Plus Workshop from 6:30 to 7. Every-

one is welcome. For information call 828-349-0905, 828-524-4930, 828-524-2280.

• 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](http://www.h-cmusicfestival.org)

• Bird Walk in Cashiers: Join us for a morning bird walk on the Village Green's board-

walk and environs in Cashiers. This walk is Highlands Plateau Audubon led, in conjunction with Mountain Wildlife Days. Meet in the Cashiers Post Office parking area at 8 am. Binoculars will be provided if needed.

## 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 - 6p each day.

## Sat. & Sun, July 21-22

• Open House -- 292 Upper Brushy Face Road. Luxury Home Sale. 12-4p. Offers may be made in person or by email to [northcarolina@lhgn.com](mailto:northcarolina@lhgn.com). [www.buyhighlandshomenc.com](http://www.buyhighlandshomenc.com). 10% of profits to go to Highlands-Cashiers Hospital.

## 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](mailto: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 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.

• Jewelry Artist Gail Molzahn's trunk show at Chivaree, Southern Art & Design on Hwy 107 N. in Cashiers just past Zoller's Hardware. 11a-4p

• 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](http://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.

## HUMC Tour of 3 Homes

1 each week July 21st, 28th & August 4th  
\$25 per house or 3 for \$65!



## Saturday, July 21st

A Joe Webb Log cabin located at the Highlands Country Club; has been featured in several national publications

## Saturday, July 28th

Home sits atop Brush Face overlooking Highlands Country Club and sports its own planetarium; decorated by Atlanta designers

## Saturday, August 4th

An exquisite home featuring an expanse of windows which look out onto immaculate gardens and the forest at the foot of Big Bear Pen

Tickets at HUMC, 315 Main Street, Highlands  
Shuttles will run each half hour beginning at 10 a.m. from the church. Final shuttle 3:30 p.m.

Win a golf-foursome at Wildcat Country Club or a 5 night vacation at Amelia Island or at Lake Keowee. Get your tickets for these events at the Shuttle pickup point or at the Church. \$10 per ticket. 526-3376.

For more information call Wiley Sloan at 828-200-0361 or email him at [wileyandsarah@nctv.com](mailto:wileyandsarah@nctv.com).

## Quick Draw is Saturday, July 21

The Highlands Mountaintop Rotary would like to invite everyone to the 5th Annual Rotary Club of Highlands-Mountaintop QuickDraw on Saturday, July 21 at the Highlands Country Club Hudson House.

Local and regional artists will complete pieces of art that will be sold at a live action at the conclusion of the evening. Each artist will also have a piece in a Silent Auction which will be held during the QuickDraw, while the artists are painting.

This is one of the main fundraisers for the Highlands Mountaintop Rotary with proceeds going back into the community. Donations are also made to other area non-profits including the Food Pantry, the Community Care Clinic, the Dental Clinic, and the Literacy Council.



Artist Nick DePaolo and he will be painting at the QuickDraw this weekend

One glass of wine or one beer is included in each ticket price and a cash bar for other bar drinks will be available at the event. A complimentary beverage station featuring tea, coffee and water is also available.

Doors open at 5:30pm and the QuickDraw begins at 6pm. Cost for this event is \$50 per person. Space is limited so reserve your spot today by calling 828-508-7817 or e-mail [QuickDraw5@carolmathews.com](mailto:QuickDraw5@carolmathews.com).

## Creations galore at The Hen House this weekend Featuring: Richie Watts of Good Earth Pottery July 20 & 21



Richie Watts of Good Earth Pottery and the Wagners at The Hen House have joined forces once again for a pottery signing Friday and Saturday, July 20 & 21 from 10a to 5p at the shop on Main Street. This time Watts is featuring his "End of Day" one-of-a-kind creations which are literally designed at the end of the day from whatever paints are leftover so no two designs are the same. He is also introducing his "Critter Pieces" featuring animals perched on the rim of assorted pieces.



# Highlands Area Upcoming Events

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

• Highlands MountainTop 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 JumpOff, 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.

• Book signing and wine & cheese reception at Shakespeare & Co, with author Frank Forster and his new novel "Catch a Falling Knife" 5-7p.

• The Highlands Plateau Greenway work trip Anyone interested in participating,

please register with Ran Shaffner by leaving a message at 828-526-5622 or emailing [highlandsgreenway@nctv.com](mailto:highlandsgreenway@nctv.com)

## 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.hcmusicfestival.org](http://www.hcmusicfestival.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" – Rachmaninoff, Tchaikovsky, Glazunov Albert Carlton Library, Cashiers. 5 PM \$30, students \$15. 828-526-9060 or [www.hcmusicfestival.org](http://www.hcmusicfestival.org)

• Birding Program: Highlands Plateau Audubon Society is presenting a program at the Civic Center on Highway 64 in Highlands at 7 pm. The speaker, Romney Bathurst, a Highlands/Cashiers International Birder, will present her talk "Around the World in 80 Birds". This informative and entertaining talk is not to be missed.

## 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 Cen-

ter 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

## Author Foster at Shakespeare & Co. on Sat.



Frank Foster will sign copies of his recently published thriller, "Catch a Falling Knife" at Shakespeare & Co. Books on Saturday, July 21, from 5-7 p.m.

Foster, a summer resident of Highlands, will speak about his novel and his writing, and refreshments will be served.

If you're a fan of Stuart Kaminsky, Carl Hiaasen or Randy Wayne Wright, then "Catch a Falling Knife" is for you: It combines Hiaasen's dark humor and White's evocative appreciation of Florida's lush setting and colorful personalities.

Shakespeare & Co. is located in Highlands Village Square, at the corner of 5th and Oak Streets, and just across from the rear of Wolfgang's restaurant. For more information please call 526-3777.

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

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

• Zahner Lecture at the Nature Center at 7 p.m. Addressing the woolly adelgid and dead hemlocks. Free

## Thurs, July 26-Sun., Aug. 19

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

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## Tour Playhouse Showhouse this weekend, July 20-21



Tour the Cranford Home, on spectacular Bearshadow Ridge in Highlands, to support the Highlands Playhouse. Friday & Saturday, July 20-21. This annual fundraiser will be held Friday, July 20th and Saturday, July 21st from 10AM-4PM. Tickets are \$25 in advance and \$30 at the door. Call 828-526-2695 for tickets or for more information.



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## ... ZBA continued from page 9

don't feel comfortable and I don't feel I can be objective," he said. Zoning Administrator David Clabo said that was a legitimate reason for recusal.

Other members, Steve Chenoweth, John Underwood, Jack Peay, and Michael Rogers voted unanimously to overturn the Zoning Administrator's decision subject to the current site plan and 13 parking spaces being marked. Alternate Sonny Parrish was absent. Only four votes were needed to over-

turn the Zoning Administrator's ruling. "They are willing to do what they can do on the land available to them which is better than the previous owner and businesses," said Underwood. "I doubt they will have as much traffic as the previous businesses, anyway."

Before renovations can begin, R.L.R. Investments will have return to the Zoning Board for a Special Use Permit.

— Kim Lewicki

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# ... MACON BANK continued from page 1

"Failure of the bank is not the issue," said Dr. Harry M. Davis, the NC Bankers Assoc. economist who is also the dean of the NC School of Banking, and professor of finance, banking and insurance at Appalachian State University's Walker College of Business. "The FDIC is pinpointing issues it wants the bank to address and it's laying out the plan for that to occur."

Davis said a number of banks in North Carolina have been issued these orders in which the FDIC is simply setting up things it wants the banks to give more attention to.

According to the Unofficial Problem Bank List, Macon Bank was issued the Consent Order concerning its Commercial Real Estate Lending practices (CRE Lending) – which represents the majority of lending in Western North Carolina.

"The Consent Order lays out expectations the FDIC wants the bank to comply with," said Davis.

Safeguards specifically deal with internal structure and management criteria and Macon Bank had 90 days from March 26, 2012 to comply with all stipulations..

As stated in the Consent Order the bank was to verify employment of a chief executive officer with proven ability in managing a bank of comparable size and in effectively implementing lending, investment and operating policies in accordance with safe and sound banking practices; a senior lending officer with a significant amount of appropriate lending, collection, and loan supervision experience, and experience in upgrading a low quality loan portfolio; and; a chief financial officer with a significant amount of appropriate experience in managing the operations of a bank of similar size and complexity in accordance with sound banking practices.

Roger Plemens, president of Macon Bank, said there have been no staff changes at Macon Bank and none were required.

"Basically the Consent Order requires that we verify that we have the right management team in place to move forward and we have done that," he said.

Within 60 days Macon Bank was required to develop and approve a written analysis and assessment of the bank's management and staffing needs dubbed a Management Plan. It included at a minimum: identification of both the type and number of officer positions needed to properly manage and supervise the affairs of the bank; identification and establishment of bank committees to provide guidance and oversight to active management; written evaluations of all senior executive officers to determine whether individuals possess the ability, experience and other qualifications required to perform present and anticipat-

ed duties, to ensure the maintenance of the bank in a safe and sound condition

Also, within 60 days a written capital plan was required. Specifically, in developing the capital plan, the bank was to consider the volume of the bank's adversely classified assets; the nature and level of the bank's asset concentrations; the adequacy of the bank's ALLL; the anticipated level of retained earnings; anticipated and contingent liquidity needs; and the source and timing of additional funds to fulfill future capital needs.

"We have presented both plans to get us to those goals, particularly increased capital ratios and they have been accepted," said Plemens.

Davis said issuing Consent Orders is the FDIC's way of being overly cautious.

"We are seeing things getting much better as a bank and in the economy in general, said Plemens. "We've seen profits in the first two quarters of this year, we are seeing more loan demand, our capital ratios have increased over the first two quarters and our non-performing assets and delinquencies have decreased."

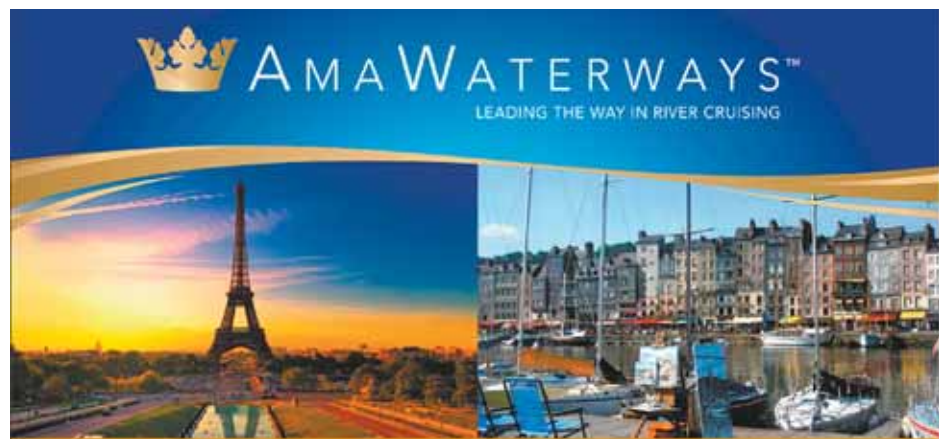
A PDF of the complete Consent Order FDIC-12-058b can be found on [www.HighlandsNewspaperPDF.com](http://www.HighlandsNewspaperPDF.com)

– Kim Lewicki



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

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Wed.: 6pm: CBC University Program

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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)

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Dr. Charles Harris, Pastor • 526-4153

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

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Dr. Don Mullen, Parish Associate 526-3175

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School – 9:30

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

Wednesdays – Choir – 7

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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

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Wed: Bible Study and Youth Mtg. – 7 p.m.

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Weds: Bible Study 6:30 p.m.; Youth Group 6 p.m.

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**SCALY MOUNTAIN BAPTIST CHURCH**

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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**

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

Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study – 7

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• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

**God's work is never done**

By Pastor Dr. Lee Bowman

**First Presbyterian Church**

In an interview in Newsweek magazine several years ago evangelist Billy Graham was asked if he thought heaven was “closed to good Jews, Muslims, Buddhists, Hindus or secular people.” Graham responded this way: “Those are decisions only the Lord will make. It would be foolish for me to speculate on who will be there and who won't... I believe the love of God is absolute. [God] said he gave his son for the whole world, and I think [God] loves everybody regardless of what label they have.”

God bless Billy Graham! That incomparable evangelist of the Christian faith believes the love of God reaches to all people. He knows that God's love is expansive. What an important voice in a culture and time when it's often a challenge for us to think beyond the limits of our own lives and interest groups. Preacher Fred Craddock had an experience of that when he went back to the community where he was born and reared in West Tennessee. He went with a friend to his church, and noticed the beautiful stained glass windows there. Craddock began to read the plaques under the windows, but he didn't recognize any of the names. That seemed strange because he had been reared there, and it was a small place. So he asked his friend, “Are these new people who have come in? I don't understand this; I don't recognize any of these strange names.”

The friend replied, “No, a church in St. Louis ordered these windows all the way from Italy. But when they got them, they didn't fit. So they advertised in a church paper that they would sell them because they were going to have new ones made. They were so cheap we bought them.”

Craddock scratched his head. Those windows looked anything but cheap. “Well, they sure are beautiful, but what are you going to do about the plaques?”

“Well,” the reply came, “the Board discussed that, and we decided to leave those names up there. It's good for us in our little church to realize that there are some Christian people besides us.”

In the 10th chapter of Acts we find an account of two conversions—Cornelius' and Peter's. Cornelius was a Roman centurion who was a God-fearer—a technical term in New Testament times for Gentiles who were weary of the pantheon of gods in the surrounding cultures and who came to attach themselves to the monotheistic leaning of Judaism. They didn't accept either circumcision or the Law, but they believed in one God and the ethic of the Jewish religion. And Cornelius went a step further—he came to believe in Jesus the Christ.

But a conversion for Peter? That sounds odd since he was a disciple of Jesus from the very beginning. And well before Jesus died, Peter proclaimed him to be the Christ of God. But Luke is careful to show us that Peter's conversion was not a once-for-all experience. God is accompa-



# ... SWANSON continued from page 8

to impose their beliefs on the rest of us. If they are successful in their drive for "sustainable development" to protect Gaia, they could stifle economic growth and promote a drastic decline in the American standard of living."

Back to the Toronto Sun: " 'Having observed that global temperatures since the turn of the millennium have not gone up the way computer-based climate models predicted,' Lovelock acknowledged, 'the problem is we don't know what the climate is doing. We thought we knew 20 years ago.' Now, Lovelock has given a follow-up interview to the UK's Guardian newspaper in which he delivers more bombshells sure to anger the green movement, which for years worshipped his Gaia theory and apocalyptic predictions that billions would die from man-made climate change by the end of this century.

Among his observations to the Guardian: "A long-time supporter of nuclear power as a way to lower greenhouse gas emissions, which has made him unpopular with environmentalists, Lovelock now has come out in favor of natural gas fracking (which environmentalists also oppose) as a low-polluting alternative to coal. As Lovelock ob-

serves, 'Gas is almost a give-away in the U.S. at the moment. They've gone for fracking in a big way. This is what makes me very cross with the greens for trying to knock it.'

Lovelock blasted greens for treating global warming like a religion. 'It just so happens that the green religion is now taking over from the Christian religion,' Lovelock observed. 'I don't think people have noticed that, but it's got all the sort of terms that religions use...the greens use guilt. That just shows how religious greens are. You can't win people by saying they are guilty for putting carbon dioxide into the air.'

Lovelock mocks the idea modern economies can be powered by wind turbines. As he puts it, 'so-called "sustainable development"...is meaningless drivel...We rushed into renewable energy without a thought. The schemes are largely hopelessly inefficient and unpleasant. I personally can't stand windmills at any price.'

Finally, he debunks the thought that "the science is settled on global warming."

The godfather says it; I believe it and that settles it.



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**Sunday-Monday, July 8-9 "String Theory"**

William Preucil and Domenic Salerni, violin; William Ransom, piano;  
Daniel Avshalamov and Yinzi Kong, viola; Charae Krueger, cello  
*Beethoven, Brahms, Dvorak*

**Friday-Monday, July 13-16**

*"All in the Family" and "A Family Affair"*

Laura Albers, violin; Julie Albers, cello; Margaret Karp, viola;  
Benjamin Karp, cello; Kate Ransom, violin; William Ransom, piano  
*Beethoven, Grieg, Kodaly, Boccherini, Arensky, Dohnanyi*

**Friday-Saturday, July 20-21 "All Beethoven"**

Victor Asuncion, piano; Vega String Quartet  
*Piano Sonatas and String Quartet*

**Sunday-Monday, July 22-23 "From Russia with Love"**

Victor Asuncion, piano; Vega String Quartet; Christopher Rex, cello  
*Rachmaninoff, Tchaikovsky, Glazunov*

**Friday-Monday, July 27-30**

The Eroica Trio - "Solo" - "Solo Showcase of

Erika Nickrenz, Susie Park, Sara Sant'Ambrogio" - *Ravel, Franck and more*  
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**Friday-Monday, August 3-6 "The French Connection"**

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**Friday/Saturday, August 10-11**

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**Final Gala Concert and Dinner: Sunday, August 12**  
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Eugene Izotov, oboe; Lea Kibler, flute; Joe McFadden, bass;  
Chris Pulgram, Eun-Sun Lee and Margeaux Maloney, violins  
*Bach, Saint-Saens, "Vivaldi Four Seasons"*

**Concert Info: Friday (6PM) & Sunday (5PM) - Highlands PAC  
Saturday & Monday (both 5PM) - Cashiers Library**

**Ticket Information available at (828) 526-9060**

[hccmf@frontier.com](mailto:hccmf@frontier.com) - [www.h-cmusicfestival.org](http://www.h-cmusicfestival.org)





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**... SALZARLO continued from page 5**

The roads, built for tractors and light vehicles, groan under the constant strain of heavy truck traffic they carry to the drilling rigs and oil from producing wells. New buildings spring up along the clogged roads like trees along the occasional creek. Trucks leave the interstate in Dickinson and travel north along a narrow road. They carry concrete, steel beams, pipe, crushed rock, and water for the thirsty wells.

They say that in Williston, the epicenter of the boom, workers at the Walmart Supercenter don't bother to put items on shelves. They simply leave them on pallets which are replaced daily.

There is little housing available for the flood of workers. Towns are small and widely separated. There are few hotels in a land not known for tourism. But the money is good and jobs plentiful in a country of stubbornly high unemployment. Billboards along the highway advertise jobs and vie for new arrivals.

The migrant workers have left their families behind in Idaho, Minnesota, Colorado, Arizona, and Texas. They've come for work and to escape chronic unemployment.

ment. They are willing to live in deplorable conditions. I met a Mexican welder who showed me the three miserable shacks that house him and 30 others for \$300 per month per resident. R.V. Parks are crowded, not with tourists, but with workers. I saw campers parked in a restaurant

parking lot. I can't be certain that people were living in them, but they weren't hooked up to trucks, so the owners hadn't just stopped for a burger. Oil companies have built "man camps," single-wide mobile homes strung together and converted to dormitories.

My friends came, too. Stein and Yarle Halsnes, once successful builders of multimillion homes in Steamboat Springs, Colorado, suffered several years without work before buying a bit of land in Killdeer, where they are erecting modular town houses. They live like the other workers. Stein shares a cramped camper with his son. Yarle is living in a tiny, cabin on wheels. They have a portable toilet, haul water for drinking, and walk to the local

• See SALZARULO page 19

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## ... SALZARLO continued from page 18

swimming pool, where for a dollar, they can shower. They are starting over, hoping to build along the path of prosperity, buying land before prices sky rocket, building inexpensive housing before others meet the need. They say drilling

activity will continue for close to 20 years and wells will produce for 40.

I met a retired teacher teacher, a native of the area who doesn't expect the a permanent change. He says there have been good times here in the past, until the easy to reach oil id played out. There is nothing to hold people once the drilling rigs move on. It takes few workers to service pumping wells. Some maintenance

is needed, and tankers must come to haul the crude. But there will be no need for the new roads being built, or for the housing being hastily constructed.

Hunters will still come to shoot pheasant and mule deer. Fishermen will visit to hook a wall eye pike. Descendants of Norweigan immigrants; ranchers, oil rich millionaires, will stay on the land, and still drive pickup trucks, because it is home to them. The others will move on.

Hopefully, they'll have something to show for their effort, their jeans full of cash, a chance for a better life after they leave, that the easy money won't all be spent in bars, man camps, and brothels.

## ... WOOLDRIDGE continued from page 4

maybe the PAC? There are so many sourpusses out there, who can keep track? Maybe they all have bad teeth and want to keep them hidden. One thing for certain, this Miss Sourpuss looks as mean as a snake and if I name her, she'll surely come to my house and poison my poppy plants. In any case, she can, like the others, ruin a happy day.

Then there's my so called friend I've named "Mr. Stick in the eye." This guy never has anything good to say about anything or anybody. Try to picture how you

would feel if someone stuck a stick in your eye and that's how this guy is all the time. Once, while parting company, I raised my hand and said, "Have a nice day." He grabbed my arm and pulled me toward him, "Don't you tell me what to do, Mr. nasty satire writer."

\* You can find mister nasty satire writer at the high school's Farmers Market each Saturday morning. He promises not to use your name if you would like to drop by and throw a few insults his way.

## ... SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING from page 16

nying Peter on a journey, and the journey itself—rather than any single point along the way—is his conversion.

For Peter momentous times on his journey always seemed to be couched in threes—three times that Peter betrayed Jesus and three times that Jesus asks him, "Do you love me?" It's no different in this vision. Three times the Lord has to tell Peter to get up, kill the animals before him and eat. Three times God has to tell Peter to do what his religion told him not to do.

As much as anything, this story illustrates the difference between what you might call our taxonomy of salvation and God's. Webster describes taxonomy as "an orderly classification of plants and animals according to their presumed natural relationships." Those of us who hang out in the church—who have, in other words, some clearly defined ideas about who's in a particular classification and who's not—would do well to re-

member Peter. The warning and the promise that we gain from Peter's story are that however secure (even smug!) we may feel about our conversion, God is not through with us yet.

Thanks be to God!



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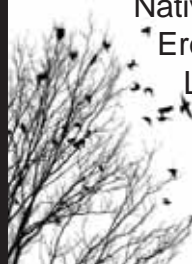


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Another program taught vegetable gardening. This has been so successful that some clients will be able to sell their produce at local farmer's markets.

How will the proceeds from this year's gala be spent? Good question. Maybe a van to pick up and deliver to the shelter or bargain store, operating expenses, educational programs in our community, or some other way that helps victims of domestic abuse to become self-sufficient, contributing individuals in our society. There are many success stories that have resulted from the life-skills program, counseling, and pursuing educational opportunities.

Events, such as this REACH gala, allow us to be part of the success stories while enjoying a wonderful evening in a fabulous setting – the home of interior designer Tony Raffa and his partner Scott Allbee. Guests may tour the home, stroll the gardens, view the Koi pond and water fall while enjoying cocktails on one of the many outdoor entertaining areas. A silent and live auction will be held.

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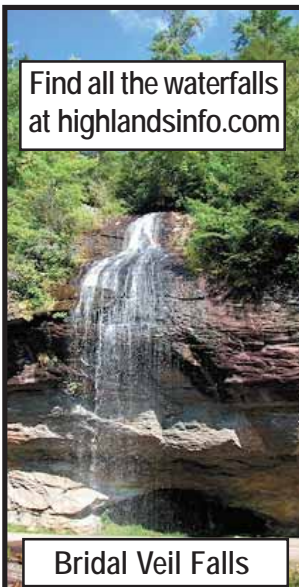
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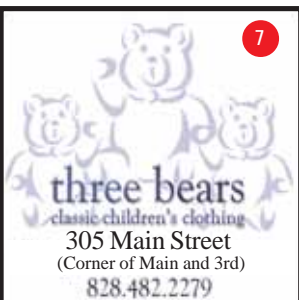
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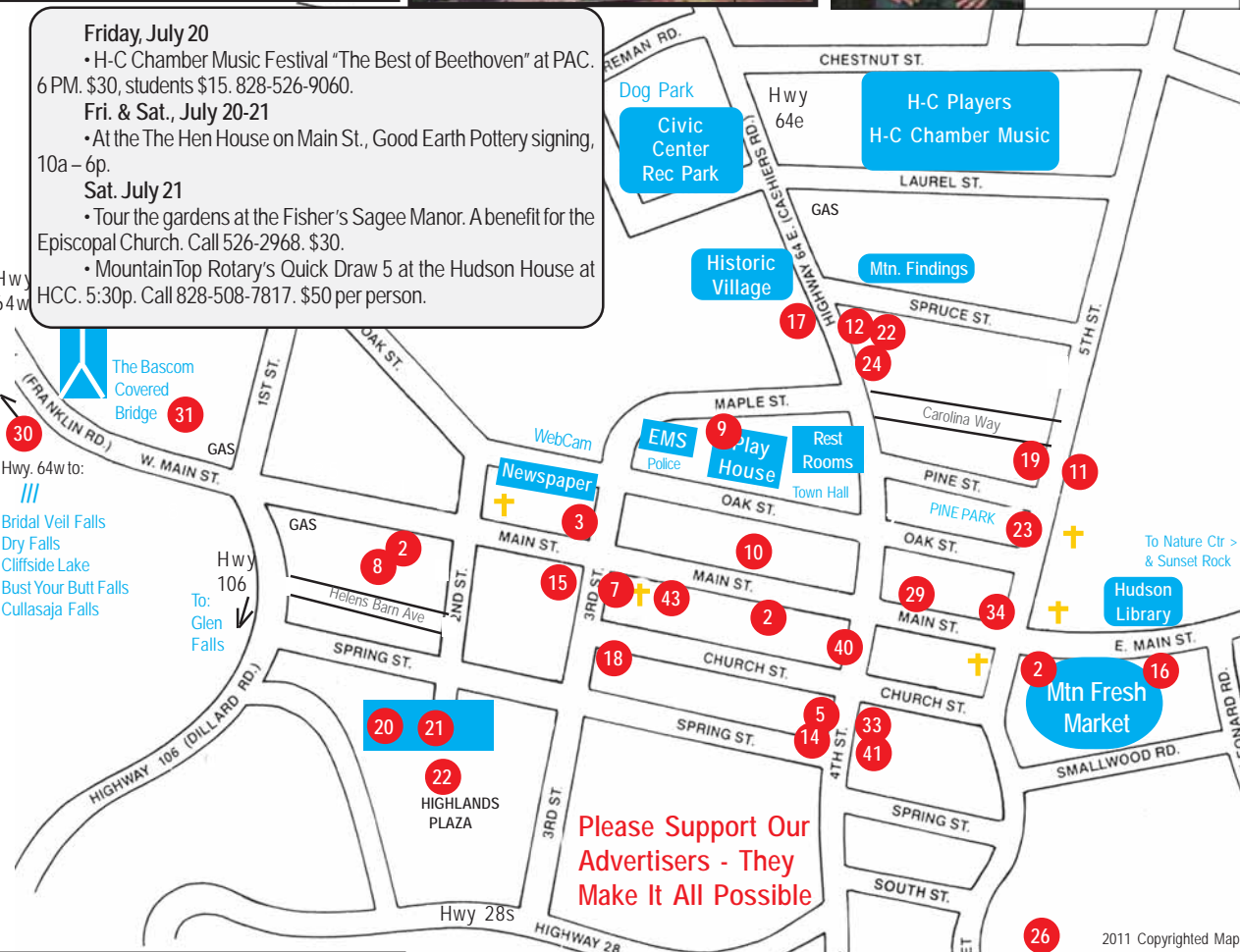
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