

Highlands Newspaper

Happy Birthday! We are 10 years old!

Volume 11, Number 28

Internet PDF Version at www.HighlandsNewspaperPDF.com

Thursday, July 18, 2013

Thurs., July 18

• Live music on the lawn with Norma Jean at Main Street in from 5-8p.

• At The Bascom, a reception/talk from 5 to 7 pm on the biodiversity of the southern Appalachians by Robert Balentine at 6 pm.

• At the Nature Center at 7 p.m., discussion: "The Demise of a Single Floral Genus as an Indicator of Environmental Devastation."

Fri.-Sat., July 19-20

• Art League's Summer Colors Show at the Rec Park. Friday, noon to 6p and Saturday, 10a to 5p.

Friday, July 19

• Live music in Town Square 6-8 p.m.
• At the Historical Museum, "The Mystery of George Masa Solved" in a audio-video presentation at 7 p.m.

Fri.-Sun., July 19-21

• At Altitudes at Skyline Lodge, Hal Phillips on the piano.

Sat. & Sun., July 20-21

• Live music on the lawn with Norma Jean at the Main Street Inn 12:30-3:30p.

Sat., July 20

• At Cliffside Lake, Live Birds of Prey. 11 a.m., at the patio. No pets allowed.

• Tour the gardens the Fisher estate gardens. 10a, 11a, noon and 1 p.m. Tickets are \$30. Call 828-526-2968.

• Highlands Farmer's Market in Highlands Plaza 9a to noon.

• At Mountain Fresh Grocery, free wine tastings from 2-4 p.m.

• Live, free concert in K-H Park on Pine Street from 6-8p.

• A Relay for Life event. Bet on your Fireman at the ballfield on Hickory and US 64 east at 2 p.m. or challenge.

Monday, July 22

• Audubon program Highlands Civic Center at 7p.

Wed., July 24

• Free Interlude Concert at the Episcopal Church at 2 p.m.

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Macon County burglary ring busted

Sheriff urges residents to be 'vigilant'

By Davin Eldridge

At least nine Macon County individuals were recently charged with numerous counts of larceny stemming from an alleged West-

ern North Carolina "Breaking and Entering Ring."

According to Macon County Sheriff Robert Holland, investigators are still looking into leads re-

garding the theft ring. So far, the case spans Georgia, Tennessee and South Carolina, as well Jackson and Macon counties. The ring, ac-

• See BURGLARY page 7

Four line up for Highlands TB seats

Filing period ends Friday, July 19 at noon

Contenders are quickly lining up for Highlands municipal race that will culminate on Election Day, Tuesday, November 5.

The mayor seat is open as well as two commissioner seats.

So far only Brian Stiehler has signed up for mayor, though there are rumors that others will join him.

The two seats open on the board are currently held by Commissioners Gary Drake and Amy Patterson, both of whom are running for re-election.

So far only Donnie Calloway who operates Finishing Touches and who is a past commissioner, has signed up. Harry Bears who owns Xtreme Threads had signed up but withdrew Tuesday.

According to the Macon County Board of Elections, if Stiehler is elected mayor obviously a vacancy will occur on the board since his seat is not open. That seat will then be filled by appointment of a majority vote of the Highlands Town Board. The person chosen by the board for the seat can be

• See SEATS page 7



Sydney Figel puts Highlands on the map with top Girl Scout cookie sales. Photo by Kim Lewicki

Girl empowered wins big

The race to selling the most Girl Scout cookies took on new dimensions this year when a rising Highlands School third-grader went nose-to-nose with other scouts in North Carolina to win 9th in the state in cookie sales.

If the numbers are any indication, Sydney Figel, a tenacious seven-year-old, whose parents

own and operate ... on the Verandah Restaurant, may be on the road to a stellar sales career.

In a matter of weeks this past winter, this first-year Brownie in Troop 30219, sold 1,150, \$4 boxes to Highlands' cookie lovers whose favorite cookie was Thin Mints, she said.

• See GIRL page 3

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Hudson Library ready for Winkler challenge

The Horst and Margaret Winkler family has offered \$35,000 to the Hudson Library if the trustees and staff can collect matching funds. The Winkler Challenge campaign has begun to do just that.

This gift would enable Mary Lou Worley, the head librarian, and her staff to bring back well-attended youth programs that were cut due to lack of funding. AWE (Advanced Work Stations in Education) netbooks that are pre-loaded with educational software computers for youth can be purchased for the growing demands of technology for students as well as two additional desktop children's computers. New magazine and newspaper shelves can be purchased replacing the outdated ones, as well as the purchase of a needed color copier. During the library renovation a state of the art meeting room was added, but there are several needed amenities: a water fountain cooler and more folding tables.

"All who enjoy our library

• See LIBRARY page 3

• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• LETTERS •

It's sad property owners don't want to share Satulah access

Dear Editor,

After reading the headlines " Satulah Mountain Trail Wars Brewing " in your July 11th edition I was saddened to think how much Highlands has changed over the past sixty years. What gives a few people at the top of Satulah the right to keep the public from enjoying one of the most treasured places in Highlands?

I view this situation from a unique point of view. In 1914 my paternal grandmother Caroline Elise Ravenel Duane and my great aunts and uncle, Clare, Marguerite and Prioleau Ravenel gave the town of Highlands Sunset and Sunrise Rocks for the enjoyment of the public. As a little girl and now as an adult I have always been proud of how my family shared what they had with others even though our family home was almost in sight of the rocks and the park which is now called Ravenel Park. At the same time I have been fortunate to own and enjoy my maternal grandmother's home on Worley Road on Satulah Mountain. I have observed many hikers coming up from town going by our house on the way to the top. Always breathless, always cheery, always deserving of their ultimate goal these hikers made me happy to see the joy in their trek. I have always been grateful to be a descendant of those who were part of a group, who in 1909, purchased the top of Satulah for the enjoyment of the public and became what is now the Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust.

I'm sorry that there are home owners at the top of Satulah who would rather not share with others but this is not a choice for them. The public has a legal right-of-way across both access roads on Satulah that lead to the trailheads to the top.

On the other hand, I thank the Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust for its continued stewardship in protecting and preserving these two sacred spots so they can continue to be enjoyed by ALL.

Marguerite Clare Duane Ellis
Cashiers

• PHOTO OF THE WEEK •

Kissing Clouds



By Linda Barden

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Beware of formidable mama bears

Dear Editor,

On a recent Monday evening at around 7 p.m., a very able mama bear and two cubs descended into the neighborhood and wreaked havoc on Chestnut Street. This bear has talent and determination.

First, she broke a car window and entered a parked vehicle. Then she opened the doors on two other cars, as if she'd done it a thousand times, and pillaged the contents of both cars and breaking the latch on one's console. Then, with a sizable neighborhood spectators gallery and with her cubs up a tree, she commenced to turning over a "bear resistant" trash bin weighing around 300 pounds to pillage the contents leaving destruction and mess in her trail.

Finally, as a parting gesture, she opened the door on a fourth vehicle and completely entered the car, tearing some of the trim around the door as she exited.

If you don't already, it may be advisable to leave your car doors locked! On the other hand, it may be better to leave the doors open, because if there is something like lip gloss or chewing gum in the car, she'll break in to get it.

Charlie Dasher
Highlands

Fred's view brings smiles

Dear Fred,

Thanks for coming back for another season in print. I have truly enjoyed your column for years.

I am however disappointed because you said that your column is not true! It is like learning about Santa Claus.

And this year I am really disappointed because now that you have included your updated photo in the column, I know what you look like. Shocking!

But keep up the good work Fred. We all definitely need your levity.

Bryan Phegley
Highlands

• THANKS •

Thank you to all who helped or contributed for the benefit held for Arlene Speed. Your love, generosity and prayers are appreciated. Continue to pray God's will be done in Arlene's battle with lung and liver cancer. God bless all of you.



... GIRL continued from page 1



Sydney Figel standing 3rd from the left at the awards ceremony at the Wet n' Wild park on June 22.

... LIBRARY continued from page 1

have been given the opportunity to show their appreciation," said June Hogue. "We can even challenge the community's children to do their part. Let's show the community and the Winklers how much we appreciate the library and their generosity."

Donations can be made at the library where you can see the progress of this challenge on a display in the lobby. The Hudson Library praises the support of the community and looks forward to their continual generosity so this challenge can be met.

To hit the mark, she braved snow, ice and cold outside Bryson's Food Store, Macon Bank and the streets of Highlands. She even set up shop at Highlands School basketball games – all during the time of year when Highlands' population thins to a minimum.

Gatlinburg, TN where the girls slept with the penguins.

"That was a great reward!" said Sydney.

– Kim Lewicki

For selling more than 500 boxes of cookies, scouts were awarded a GEO pin, which stands for Girls Empowering Opportunity.

Then on June 22, the Top 10 state-wide sellers attended an awards ceremony at Wet n' Wild Emerald Point Park in Greensboro where they each received a medal and tickets to the park for the day.

Sydney said not everyone she queried said yes to a box of cookies, but she didn't let that faze her.

"I learned to never give up, to always keep trying and when people didn't want a box it was either because they were on a diet, or they just didn't want any," she said matter-of-factly.

To top off the celebration, troop leader Robin Armstrong Neil, of Highlands Whole Life and Nectar Juice Bar, gave her troop of 13 girls a complimentary trip to

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Southern Lights

June 22 to September 1

A chance meeting at a painting workshop led to long-term friendships for a group of four women artists: Charlotte Foust, Martica Griffin, Krista Harris and Audrey Phillips. Expressed through the use of color, line, shape and form, each painter has her own colorful perspective on Southern culture.

Support provided by Britton Foundation, Gail and Tim Hughes, Ginger Kennedy and Kevin Naylor, The Koski Family Foundation, Cecile and Phil McCaul, and Alma Lee and H.N. Saurage, Jr. Fund

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• THE FREDSTER •

Do all Highlands' bridge players wear 'Depends'?



Feedback is encouraged
highlandseditor@aol.com

Sometime when you're just hangin' out with nothing to do, go to the Bridge room at the Rec. Park and stare at the Bridge players. It's OK to stare 'cause they're all staring at their cards and won't notice you staring at them. (WARNING: Do not even think about touching the candy!) Now count the folks you think might be under the age of 30. Oops, never mind...I meant 40. Wait...never mind again, I meant 50. Ha, did you count them on one hand?

While you're staring at them not staring at you, mentally picture each player with no undergarments. TA DA! We're all wearing diapers! Since there are few-to-no potty breaks at Bridge, what else can we do? I say 'we' because I'm usually in that room somewhere.

Ya think I'm kidding? Just think about it. As we grow older, everything shrinks. Yes, gentlemen, I said everything. Your bladder is no exception. Surely there's someone in your family who can't wait three and one half hours without heading for the outhouse?

But Bridge players are different....or are we? These special card nuts (including li'l ole me) sit down and aren't allowed to move for more than three hours. How is this possible, you ask? You guessed it. We're wearing diapers.

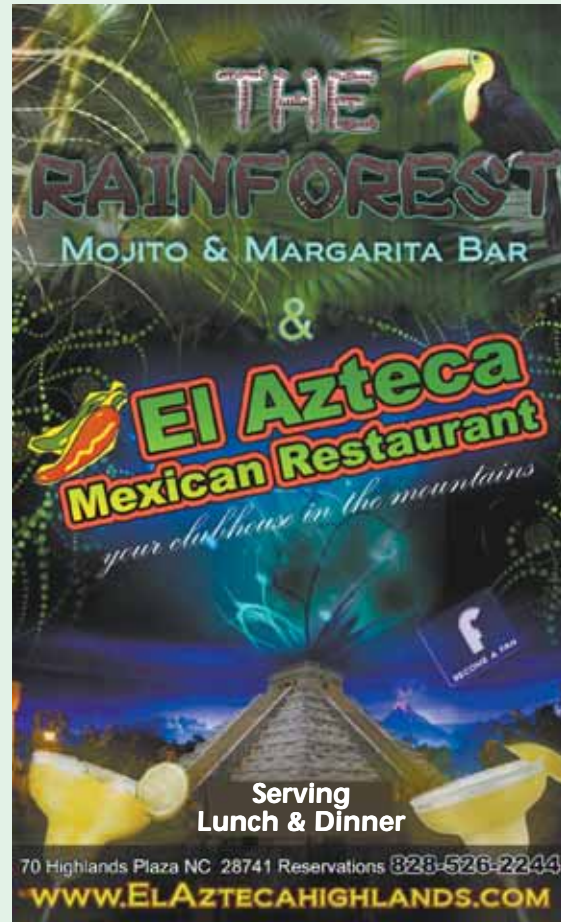
If you'll continue to scan the room, eventually you'll see a Bridge player look up momentarily from his or her cards and grin, looking at nothing in particular. They could be emptying their bladders. Wait; sometimes you'll spot a Bridge player grin and stare into space when they're not emptying their bladders. In this case, they have gas but it's hard to tell the difference. Are you writing this down?

I think it would be fun for the town to install a video camera in the Bridge room to record the action. If they put the whole thing on a large flat screen and make it a game, paying viewers could sit and gamble on which player will grin first. This would give the town extra income to buy more dog poop bags. How great would that be? Highlands needs more dog poop bags.

Because I was born with a 20-gallon bladder, I seldom use my diaper. In fact, I've been wearing the same diaper for a solid three weeks. Is that awesome, or what?

I know, I know, I'm a tacky genius with an oversized bladder at work! And for those players who are insulted by this column, call me at 1-800-who cares.

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Work on Highlands MS courtyard recognized

Highlands School teachers have always had a great working relationship with the Mountain Garden Club so when something needed doing with the dilapidated courtyard between the Middle School building and the main school building the call went out.

Middle School Science teacher Stephanie Smathers is a huge believer in outdoor classrooms especially where science is concerned. So it just made sense to call on the Mountain Garden Club liaison Dr. Becky Schilling to help with the transformation.

Years ago, the club transformed a forgotten patch of earth in the front of the school into a flourishing butterfly garden, so Smathers knew miracles could be had.

At the July 9 Macon County Commission meeting, Smathers and Schilling were recognized for transforming the crumbling courtyard with bad drainage and dying trees into an outdoor classroom that can now be used by students in grades K-1, 6-8 and high school art students.

Besides making learning more fun when it takes place outside four concrete walls, at their presentation Tuesday night, Dr. Schilling gave statistics verifying lasting benefits of learning out-of-doors.

She said nature offers healing. "Attention spas and memory performance can improve 20% after being outside for one hour," she said. "In addition learning outdoors encourages students to use all their senses - listening, seeing, touching, tasting and smelling."

She said statistics suggest Vitamin D - the sunshine vitamin - may help prevent/control diabetes, high blood pressure and glucose intolerance.

In October 2012 transforming the courtyard into useable space began in earnest when Smathers and Schilling came up with a vision and solicited professional help from Architect Wendy Stiles and MC Commissioner Jim Tate of Tate Landscaping.

Fundraising began with "Lemonade in the Courtyard" followed by a grant from the Macon County Academic Foundation and donations from several garden clubs, churches, both rotaries, country clubs, the Highlands PTO and the Booster Club, Mountain Findings as well as individuals.

anyone; not necessarily someone who was on the ballot and lost.

Whoever is selected will serve the remainder of Stiebler's term -- in this case another two years.

If the appointed person wishes to continue to serve as commissioner, then he or she would run for office in the next election.

The filing period ends Friday, July 19 at noon. -- **KL**



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All tolled \$34,295 was raised which enabled the project to be completed on time and under budget with enough money leftover for five years of maintenance.

Demolition of the original courtyard began in Oct. 2012 and by June 2013 the project was complete with a pebble finished sidewalk, sitting wall embedded with ceramics created by the high school art class, paths and planters outlined with boulders both for sitting and beauty -- all situated around trees, shrubs and flowering plants. A learning oasis, really.

A weather station will be installed in August so that, too, can become a learning component.

MC Commission Chairman Kevin Corbin said the project represented what can be done when a community really comes together.

"This project is an excellent example of private folks doing a job to help the entire community and the school," he said.

– **Kim Lewicki**

... BURGLARY continued from page 1

According to Holland, consisted of individuals who either took part in larceny after breaking and entering, or who received the stolen property -- or who committed both offenses.

From what investigators can gather, most of the currently reported break-ins occurred throughout the Burningtown-Cowee area of Macon County, adjacent to Highway 28. According to Holland, while no thefts have been reported in Highlands, the area has not been "ruled-out" by authorities for possible break-ins. Other break-ins occurred in the neighboring Jackson County community of Cashiers. According to authorities, many storage units on Dowdle Mountain, Georgia and Highlands roads were the sites of both thefts, as well used for storage of stolen goods for the ring.

"Be very vigilant of storage units," said Holland. "These people are cutting off locks, stealing everything inside and then putting new locks back on the unit, so that the care-

• See BURGLARY page 8

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MC Commissioner Jim Tate, who Smathers and Schilling said was instrumental in bringing the courtyard project to fruition, presented them with plaques of appreciation at Tuesday night's meeting.

Photo by MaconMedia.com



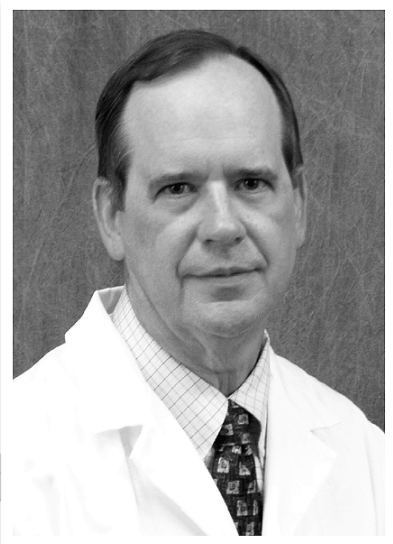
The courtyard looked like before its transformation.



The transformed courtyard looking west.



The transformed courtyard looking east.



Welcome Dr. Duncan!

Highlands-Cashiers Hospital (HCH) is delighted to welcome Board Certified Family Physician, Thomas L. Duncan, MD. Dr. Duncan's office is located on the HCH campus, Jane Woodruff Clinic, Level 3, adjacent to Danielle R. Koman, FNP-C and is now accepting appointments.

Thomas L. Duncan, MD is a graduate of Creighton University School of Medicine, Omaha, NE. He completed his Residency at Mason City Family Practice in Mason City, IA. Prior to joining the HCH Medical Staff, Dr. Duncan was in private practice focusing on a full spectrum of primary care for 25 years in rural Iowa. Dr. Duncan is a fellow of the American Board of Family Practice.

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... BURGLARY continued from page 7

takers of the storage unit businesses think nothing has been disturbed. Open your units and make sure everything is there." He also urges residents to contact authorities immediately with any information that will assist investigators with the case.

Alleged ring members stole everything, including the kitchen sink, from the locations.

"So far all of the victims are seasonal people, so some items haven't been missed yet or they think the items missing are so small - like a weed eater or chain saw - they don't bother reporting it," said Holland, who confirmed that approximately 11 people have been targeted throughout the region. "I encourage people to take stock of the items in their homes, garages and even storage units, and report anything missing to the Macon County Sheriff's Office, or the Highlands Police Department."

While the exact number of residences and storage units hit by the ring is not currently known, Holland did indicate that authorities are "not convinced" they found them all. The alleged ring has been operating for at least a year, he confirmed, or at least since the summer of 2012. The MCSO has received information from out-of-state residents, some of whom have second

homes in Macon County.

According to arrests warrants filed by Sheriff's Office investigators throughout early July, all nine suspects are facing numerous crimes of larceny, both misdemeanor and felony, via conspiracy. Collectively, the suspects allegedly stole a plethora of items - amounting to tens of thousands of dollars - throughout Macon and Jackson counties, including a tractor, jewelry, Samurai swords, assorted books, clothing, dog toys, ironing boards, kitchen items, pictures and frames, lamps, video game consoles and games, Christmas trees and decorations, home movies, stuffed animals, televisions, dolls, etc.

The stolen items ended up in various locations throughout the immediate Southeast, as well as Macon County. The items were sold to either individuals who may or may not have known the nature of the items, pawn shops throughout Franklin, as well as out-of-state outlets. Some storage units throughout the county were reportedly used by the suspects to store their stolen wares.

As of Wednesday morning, Macon County resident Donald Dowdle, 34, is the

• See BURGLARY page 9

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... BURGLARY continued from page 8

only wanted suspect remaining to be found in the case by the MCSO. It is believed, according to authorities, that Dowdle is still within the WNC region.

Franklin residents Anthony Arnold, 33, Dana Pyatt, 35, Christian Sammons, 19, Michael Subirana, 29, Michael Green, 37, Monique Webb, 21, John McCall, 30, and Mark Anderson, 45, have all been charged with numerous felonies and misdemeanors including conspiracy, breaking and entering, larceny, possession of stolen goods and injury to property.

Jackson County residents Benjamin Wynn, 24, of Cullowhee, and Amber Gerrells, 33, of Cashiers, have also been arrested and charged.

According to authorities, the ring was discovered and subsequently investigated after one of the suspects was apprehended and brought in for questioning regarding an unrelated crime involving the theft of a gas station coin operated vacuum machine located on the Highlands Road. The suspect identified other suspects and crimes reportedly committed throughout Macon County.

Although some of the information obtained by detectives of the case has come from the public, Holland said that the majority of details are coming from some of the suspects themselves – demonstrating that there is no honor among thieves.

“They think they’re all friends and got each other’s backs,” said Holland. “But the fact of the matter is some of the suspects are rolling on their ‘friends.’ So, while some of the individuals aren’t cooperating, a lot of the suspects are providing us with information.” Holland said some of the suspects are admitting guilt of their own activities, as well as that of the other suspects.

Several of the suspects have previous charges related to illegal drug use. According to Holland, the correlation between the thefts and substance abuse is strong.

“It’s absolutely drug-related,” said Holland, stressing his

belief that the majority of such crimes are largely due to illegal drug addiction. “People don’t steal people’s things to pay their power bill, or their phone bill. They often steal because of the habits they have.”

The investigation is ongoing, and investigators are following up on the matter.

Holland said he wouldn’t be surprised if other cases are ultimately solved from the apprehension of the suspects, or that other suspects are identified as accom-

plishes in the case. He stressed that while stealing stolen goods carries highly punitive charges, individuals who receive such goods can face comparable charges, whether they knew the items were stolen or not.

“If someone offers you, say, a \$10,000 tractor for just \$1,000 – if it just seems like it is a real deal – you might want to reconsider what you’re buying,” Holland said, in reference to one of the many items stolen by the burglary ring.

... SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING continued from page 18

validity, we all lose, especially God.

Be that as it may, all is not lost. If you have seen the purple and white yard signs that begin “If my people...” you may remember that it is quoting from the biblical book of 2nd Chronicles, chapter 7.

Whereupon it says that with a unified, concerted prayer of recognition and repentance, God will

hear and heal a land and people. If we believe that nothing is impossible (Luke 1:37), that nothing is too hard (Genesis 18:14) for God, then we ought to take him at his word and pray. Pray therefore that religious vapidty will come to end, that our land would be healed, and that real hope with honest truth would be restored—and all to his glory.

SUMMER COLORS

JULY 19th & 20th

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'Cast Away' by Sharon Spigel

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Fri 12pm-6pm, Sat 10am-5pm
Highlands Rec Center

... INVESTING continued from pg 17

home more appealing to renters and/or buyers, remodeling, fresh paint, etc., you will realize the benefits.

This column started off with a phrase: ‘<3 your home’ If you are into texting or Twitter you may know that <3 is another way to say LOVE. Whether you say ‘I HEART my home’ or ‘I <3 my home’ or the

‘old school way’ ‘I LOVE my home,’ it doesn’t matter how you say it, just do it!

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Nectar Juice Bar opens with a bang



Robin Armstrong Niel of Highlands Whole Life opened her Nectar Juice Bar Friday where patrons enjoyed samplings of smoothies, munchies and more.
Photo by Jennifer Smathers



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• HIGHLANDS AREA UPCOMING EVENTS •



Monday & Thursday

• Hatha Yoga – Body n' Soul. 10:45a at the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation. R.Y.T. and YA (828) 482-2128. (8/29)

Wednesdays

• Hatha Yoga – Body n' Soul. 7:45a at First Presbyterian Church. R.Y.T. and Y.A. (828) 482-2128. (8/29)

Mon., Wed., Fri.

• Step Aerobics with Tina Rogers at the Rec Park, 8-9 a.m. \$5 per class or \$40 a month.

• Zumba at the Rec Park, 9:05a-10a. \$5 per class. First class free.

Through Oct. 15

• Join the "Winkler Challenge" for Hudson Library. Horst and Margaret Winkler are offering the library \$35,000 if it can collect a matching amount. Donations will be accepted July 15-October 15.

Through July 20

• At the Highlands Playhouse, The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee. For ticket information call 526-9443.

Thurs., July 18

• At the Highlands Nature Center, from 1-3pm, Meet Your Neighbours co-founder Clay Bolt will lead a conservation photography workshop for ages 10+ and their guardians. The cost is \$10 for members and \$15 for non-members. Call (828) 526-2221 to register!

• At The Bascom, a reception from 5 to 7 pm, including a talk on the biodiversity of the southern Appalachians by Robert Balentine at 6 pm.

• At the Highlands Nature Center at 7 p.m., Rekha Morris will discuss "The Demise of a Single Floral Genus as an Indicator of Environmental Devastation." Rekha teaches several programs for the S.C. Master Gardeners, and her special interests are shade gardening, and native plants of the southeastern U.S. and their Asian counterparts. A Zahner Conservation Lecture. Call (828) 526-2221 for more information!

• Taize at Our Lady of the Mountains Catholic Church at 5:30p.

Friday-Saturday, July 19-20

• At HCCMF: "The Magic Flute." The Vega String Quartet; Anthony Reiss, flute; Roeland Hendriks, clarinet; Valerie Von Pechy Whitcup, harp. Mozart, Arnold, Faure, Ibert, Beethoven. Friday (6 PM) & Sunday (5 PM) – Highlands PAC. Saturday & Monday (both 5 PM) – Cashiers Library. Ticket Info at 526-9060.

• Art League's Summer Colors Show at the Rec Park. Friday, noon to 6p and Saturday, 10a to 5p.

Friday, July 19

• At the Highlands Historical Museum, "The Mystery of George Masa Solved"

in a audio-video presentation at 7 p.m.

Sat. July 20

• At Cliffside Lake, Live Birds of Prey with Michael Skinner with Balsam Mountain Trust. Featuring live raptors at 11 a.m., at the patio. No pets allowed. Program is free with admission to the recreation area for \$4 per vehicle. Please arrive 15 minutes early.

• In conjunction with Mountain Wildlife Days in Cashiers, Audubon will lead a bird walk along the Cashiers Board Walk and Village Green. Meet at 8 AM at the new Cashiers Community Center. For more details call 743-9670 or visit www.highlandsaudubonsociety.org.

• Tour the gardens at Sagee Manor, the Fisher estate 10a, 11a, noon and 1 p.m. Tickets are \$30. Call The Episcopal Church office at 828-526-2968 or go online at www.incarnationwnc.org. Proceeds benefit the church's mission and church in Haiti.

• A dance at the American Legion Sat. Night From 7:30 to 10PM. Music by "TOM

ELLERS." Non- members welcome. Non-smoking. For more information call 828-369-9155.

• The Glenville Area Historical Society 2013 History Tour begins at 10 a.m. It's a 2 1/2 hour self-guided via a tour brochure that includes the basic story of each site and a map and photos. For tickets call 743-1658 or 743-6744.

• A Relay for Life event. Bet on your Fireman at the ballfield on Hickory and US 64 east at 2 p.m. Fireman relays begin at 2 p.m. Then challenge a fireman. \$5 per challenge. To make a donation go to www.relayforlife.org and to make a bet, call 200-6277.

Sunday-Monday, July 21-22

• At HCCMF: The Vega String Quartet; Roeland Hendriks, clarinet; William Ransom, piano. Beethoven, Piet Swerts, Schubert. Friday (6 PM) & Sunday (5 PM) – Highlands PAC. Saturday & Monday (both 5 PM) – Cashiers Library. Ticket Info at (828) 526-9060.

The Bascom presents Robert Balentine of the Southeast Horticultural Society

The mountains of western North Carolina have long attracted horticulturists and gardeners of all abilities. One of the most successful and influential is Robert Balentine, who describes himself as "an inveterate, dirt-under-the-fingernails gardener."



Founder of the Southern Highlands Reserve, a nationally recognized native plant arboretum and research center, Balentine loved nature from an early age. Both parents were award-winning horticulturists: his father a rosarian and mother a Garden Club of America (GCA) horticulture judge and former president of the Atlanta GCA. He also further developed his love for the flora and fauna of the Appalachian highlands through years spent camping and hiking as an Eagle Scout.

On Thursday, July 18, The Bascom will host a reception

from 5 to 7 pm, including a talk on the biodiversity of the southern Appalachians by Robert Balentine at 6 pm. Now chairman and CEO of Balentine, an Atlanta-based investment management firm, Balentine also holds various posts in the community, including president of The Rotary Club of Atlanta and member of the Board of Trustees at Washington & Lee University, where he graduated.

For the third consecutive year, Balentine is lead sponsor for The Bascom's popular annual Mountains in Bloom event. On July 11, Balentine presented the Balentine Award in the Horticulture Division for most outstanding display of a native plant — single or collection — that is indigenous to the Highlands-Cashiers Plateau to Nina Sledge Burke.

Monday, July 22

• Local Audubon monthly program will feature Romney Bathurst presenting "After the Victory of the Revolution: Birding in Cuba Today." Highlands Civic Center at 7:00 PM. Call 743-9670 for additional details.

• North and South Jackson County Republicans will meet on Monday, July 22nd at 6:30 pm at Ryan's in Sylva. Come early to eat. The meeting will start promptly at 6:30

pm. The agenda includes reports on recent bills in the state legislature. For Jackson County Republican information call Ralph Slaughter, Chair at 828 743-6391, email jacksonctygp@yahoo.com or visit the website www.jacksoncountygop.com.

Tuesday, July 23

• "What is Climate Change? What is

• See EVENTS page 14

River cane: Cultural workhorse and Ecological powerhouse

River cane, *Arundinaria gigantea*, may have been one of the most abundant plants in the Southeast at one time. This grass, a member of the Bamboo family, still grows along the shores of many of our rivers and streams but unfortunately it



has become much scarcer. This at risk natural resource is having an impact on Cherokee artisans and their cultural traditions that date back hundreds of years. Ethnobotanist, Dr. David Cozzo, and The Revitalization of Traditional Cherokee Artisan Resources (RTCAR) are working with the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians to restore the traditional Cherokee balance between maintaining and using natural resources like river cane. On July 30th Dr. Cozzo will lead a joint Eco Tour with Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust (HCLT) and Land Trust for the Little Tennessee (LTLT) to the Tennesse Bottomland Preserve and you are invited. Cozzo will discuss how the Cherokee select river cane for baskets and restoration efforts for this important artisan resource. The tour also includes other interesting features of the property including riverbank and wetland restoration, and the Preserve's 115

specie bird list. Tennesse Bottomland Preserve is conserved with LTLT.

HCLT and LTLT are two of 1,700 land trust across the nation that, collectively, have conserved 37 million acres of land—a

roughly the size of all the New England states combined. Most land trusts are community based and deeply connected to local needs, so they are well-equipped to identify land that offers critical natural habitat as well as land offering recreational, agricultural and other conservation value. HCLT and LTLT are both nationally accredited under the Land Trust Accreditation Commission and belong to Blue Ridge Forever, a coalition of regional conservation organizations working together to conserve our most treasured places. To learn more about HCLT and LTLT visit their websites: www.hicashlt.org and www.ltlit.org.

Dr. Cozzo will also be the featured speaker at the Village Nature Series at 7pm on July 30 at the Village Green Commons at the Village Green in Cashiers. To learn more contact HCLT.

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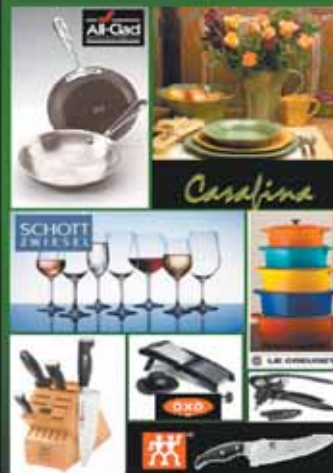
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PULL OUT

• HIGHLANDS AREA UPCOMING EVENTS •

its Impact? What can we do about it?" Organizing For Action (OFA) will present information and lead a forum to discuss this very important issue Tues., July 23rd, at 6:30 pm in the large meeting room at the Macon Co. Public Library, on Siler Road. Any questions, please call Shirley Ches 524-9991, or Cindy Solesbee 524-6599

Wed., July 24

• Free Interlude Concert at the Episcopal Church at 2 p.m.

July 25-Aug. 17

• At the Highlands Playhouse, Annie. For ticket information call 526-9443.

Thursday, July 25

• Join this CLE class given by an Audubon board member entitled "Birding Beyond Our Borders," 2-4 PM at the Peggy Crosby Center in Highlands. Call the Center for Life Enrichment to register.

• At Chestnut Hill of Highlands, Larry Reeves, Long-term Care Ombudsman for Region A, Southwest Commission on Aging will speak on "Sense and Non-

sense about Memory Loss" at 6:30 p.m. in the clubhouse dining room.

• The High Mountain Squares will dance this Friday night, July 19th. Dr. Jim Duncan from Otto, NC will be doing the calling. There will be a workshop at 6:30 and the dance will start at 7PM. at the Macon County Community Building, 1288 Georgia Rd (441 South) Franklin, NC. We dance Western Style Square Dancing, Main/Stream and Plus levels. Everyone is welcome. For information: 828-371-4946, 828-342-1560, 828-332-0001 or www.highmountainsquares.org. Sunday, July 28

• At First Presbyterian Church, the annual Kirkin of the Tartans at the 11 a.m. service.

Friday-Saturday, July 26-27

• At HCCMF: "Ransom Solo." William Ransom, piano. Chopin, Beethoven, Gershwin. Friday (6 PM) & Sunday (5 PM) - Highlands PAC. Saturday & Monday (both 5 PM) - Cashiers Library. Ticket Information at (828) 526-9060.

Friday, July 26

• Bill Lea presents "Understanding the Black Bear" for the B.E.A.R. Task Force at 7 p.m. at the Highlands Rec Center. Lea, a black bear expert, is a widely published nature photographer and author of several books. Free. For more info call (828) 526-9227.

Saturday, July 27

• Audubon bird walk on Turtle Pond Rd. near Highlands. This area offers several types of habitats that should yield a large variety of birds seen. Meet in the Highlands Town Hall parking lot near the public restrooms at 7:30 AM to carpool. Visit www.highlandsaudubonsociety.org or call 743-9670.

• Tour the gardens at Sagee Manor, the Fisher estate 10a, 11a, noon and 1 p.m. Tickets are \$30. Call The Episcopal Church office at 828-526-2968 or go online at www.incarnationwnc.org. Proceeds benefit the church's

mission and church in Haiti.

Sunday-Monday, July 28-29

• At HCCMF: "The Joy of Sax" Leo Saguiguit, classical sax; Dwight Andrews, jazz sax; Elena Cholokova, classical piano; Gary Motley, jazz piano. Ticket Information at (828) 526-9060.

July 29-Aug 2

• AFREE children's music cap at Highlands United Methodist Church that culminates with campers performing at "Dinner at Seven" at 5:30 p.m. on Friday, Aug. 2. Camp is 9a to 3p. To register call the church office at 526-3376.

Tuesday, July 30

• HCH and AnMed Blood Center blood mobile will be at the Hospital from 8-11am and will then move to the First Citizens Bank in Highlands from 1-5pm.



The Center for Life Enrichment

Thursday, July 18 10a-12p W. B. Yeat's Easter 1916
Policitical, Personal, and Poetic Turning Point. Dr. Christine Cozzens, Agnes Scott College, discusses Yeat's much loved poem "Easter 1916."

Thursday, July 18 2-4p Turning the Tide, Saving the Seas
Director of the Environmental Ethics Program at UGA, Dorinda Dallmeyer will explore our oceans and seas, their heritage, the problems we face and how we got there.

Friday, July 19 2-4p A Garden in Spite of the Shade EFIL DOOG'
Visit Atlanta native and plantaholic Dollie Swanson, for a tour of her gardens in the shade highlighting the huge Viburnum, Camellias, Ginseng and Franklinia Altamaha.

FULL
Saturday, July 20 10a-12p Genius Comes in Many Colors
Renowned physicist Dr. Sidney Perkowitz and the Vega Quartet together in words and music, explore the connection between science and music. *At Perf. Arts Center*

Thursday, July 25 10a-12p Mary Leiter, Lady Curzon
The Prototype for Downton Abbey. Rick Hutto, former White House Appointments Secretary, author and international lecturer reveals Julian Fellowes acknowledgement that American Mary Leiter as one of the models for Lady Grantham of Downton Abbey fame.

Thursday, July 25 2-4p Birding Beyond Borders
Presenter Highlands resident Romney Bathurst, has been birding internationally since 2000 and will share a slide show presentation to the why, what, where of how to approach international birding.

Saturday, July 27 10a-12p Jazz Meets the Classics
Dr. Dwight Andrews, Emory University Professor of Music Theory, discusses the role of the saxophone in both jazz and classical music. *At Performing Arts Center*

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Highlands, North Carolina...The Early Years Volume II goes to printer

Seventh generation Highlander Angie Jenkins has been hard at work putting together another book of early Highlands photos. The book went to the printer in Ashland, Ohio on July 10, and is scheduled for release in late

August. Jenkins' first book, Highlands, North Carolina...The Early Years, currently in its second printing, came out in 2007. The book, published by Faraway Publishing, has been a Highlands "best seller" since it hit the shelves. It continues to be very much in demand. The book is available in several area stores.

Jenkins' new book, Highlands, North Carolina, The Early Years Volume II, will feature photos from the private collections of a number of local Highlanders, none of which were featured in the first book. Most of the photos in the new book have never before been seen by the public. The book will feature another 200 pages of historic scenes in and around Highlands. Jenkins has been collecting photos and working on the book since May 2012 - a real labor of love for her. She is thrilled to also feature in her new book a large number of early Highlands photos from the Earle Young, Jr. Collection, courtesy of David Young.

Jenkins is a direct descendant of Barak and Mary Nicholson Norton, early pio-



neers of the region who settled in Whiteside Cove around 1820. The family moved to Highlands soon after the town was founded in 1875. Descendants of the family have been very instrumental in the development of Highlands through the years.

Jenkins' Highlands ancestors have served as postmaster, taught at Highlands School, owned and ran the Central House (now Madison's), Highlands House (now Highlands Inn), The Norton House (now Main Street Inn), The Hall House which was located on the block of 5th, Chestnut, 6th, and Horse Cove Road, Anderson Brothers' Café, Highlands Drug Store, Highlands Texaco, Anderson's 5 & 10 (later changing its name to Highlands Variety Store), and also the Sears Catalog Agency and Radio Shack in more recent years. The family was also instrumental in the early development of both the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation and First Presbyterian Church.

Jenkins herself has served as organist at First Presbyterian Church for the past 37 years, in addition to teaching preschool music classes at several area preschools for many years. Her children and grandchildren, who all live in the Highlands area, represent the family's 8th and 9th generations.



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• REAL ESTATE SHAPOTS •



Whiteside Mtn Road home with 3br/ 3.5ba, one level living, vaulted ceilings, large open deck with GREAT mtn views! \$685,000. MLS# 77361.



One level HFCC home with 4br/ 3ba, new master bath, large covered deck, 2 car garage & incredible grounds. \$797,000. MLS# 68518



Satulah at the Old Edwards Inn, 3br/ 3.5 ba, no maintenance, walk to town, golf membership included, 1 car carport, outdoor fireplace! \$1,500,000. MLS# 77575



Mirror Lake Cottage with 3br/ 2.5ba, new custom kitchen, screened deck, private yard, new master bath & pristine condition. \$467,000. MLS# 74767



Cute 2/2 cottage with lake view and loads of mountain charm. Large fenced back yard with great deck. Across from town easement for lake access plus dock. \$317,000. MLS# 77720



Beautiful well maintained 3br/ 2.5ba home in excellent shape. Beautiful landscaping and covered and open decks. Great floor plan, wood burning fireplace in the vaulted living area. \$587,000. MLS# 72321



Big Bear Pen 4br/ 4ba home with vaulted wood ceilings, pine walls & stone fireplace that opens onto a sunroom. Kitchen w/ wood cabinets, tile tops & breakfast bar opens to family room. \$699,000. MLS# 71520



Bowery Rd custom home with master, sunroom & office on main level with open living space. Lower Level family room & 2 large gst suites, 2nd deck on lower level, private lot & circular drive. \$1,300,000. MLS# 76842



Mtn Top Golf & Lake Club custom home. 5br/ 4.5ba, coffered ceilings with massive beams, incredible chef's kitchen, upper level keeping room & 4 gst suites, Old Edwards Club membership included. \$2,295,000. MLS# 68782



In town sweet cottage perfect for weekend retreats! All on one level with 2br/ 2ba, beautiful large & outdoor decks & porches to enjoy. Seconds from Main Street. \$298,000. MLS# 77499



Lovely 4br/4ba home on a private cul-de-sac in Highlands Falls Country Club. Open living floor plan and mountain view. \$795,000. MLS# 76109



A Blue Valley view with a pond and waterfall in your front yard, only 7 minutes to town. 4br/2ba/2half ba. A rare gem. \$897,000. MLS# 77015



Creekfront setting from this cute 2br/2ba home with a garage, single level living, 6 minutes to downtown, private. \$347,000. MLS# 76838



Immaculate single level home with 3br/2ba, two-car garage, wood floors, split bedroom plan and only 5 minutes to town. \$319,000. MLS# 76926



Mountain view from this 4br/ 3ba home with separate family room and guest area. 1.32 acres in Highlands Falls CC. \$495,000. MLS# 75995



Cute 3br/3.5 bath cottage in Mirrormont located on 1.07 acres of mostly level yard with mature trees. Excellent value at \$295,000. MLS# 73333



13.8 beautiful acres with mountain views and a family 3br/2ba home. Land borders US Forest Service off of Buck Creek. \$445,000. MLS# 74052



Walk to town from this decorator 3br/3ba single family condo in VillageWalk, covered porch with fireplace, plus patio. \$849,900. MLS# 74743



View of Mirror Lake from this 1.24 acre building site with public water, sewer and roads. Walk to town location. \$147,000. MLS# 76946



Exceptional long and layered mountain views from this 5br/ 3.5ba home in Sky Valley. Enjoy the outdoor living areas. \$597,500. MLS# 77600

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1) Declutter: Your home is your nest, but generally speaking 'all birds of a feather flock together,' but the 'birds' buying your home may not appreciate your decorating tastes, especially if you're an avid collector of anything. To open your home to more people, keep it simple. Your listing broker can help you decide what should go and what can stay. Don't go overboard though, if you take away too much, your home may risk looking sterile. Some buyers may look at 'sterile' as a home with no life-line. 2) Detach: You love your home and you want others to love it as well, but remember you didn't give birth to it and it's not 'kin.' (As everyone knows in the South, you can talk about anybody you want, but don't mess with my 'kin') In other words, don't be offended if someone doesn't care for your interior decorating, or the 'yard art, in your garden, that the

or not, it's a major stress in your life; a stress is a stress, no matter if it's a 'good' stress or a 'bad' stress.

3) Expect the unexpected: You will have 'no-shows' or last minute appointments. Someone may track dirt inside. Some brokers might report that the list price is too high or the house too shabby. You could get lowball offers. Inspectors might suggest repairs of "quirks" you think anyone should be able to live with. While a little more unusual, timing glitches may cause you to 'live' in a hotel room for a few days - or owning two houses for a few days.

If it comes back to you, it's yours, if it doesn't, it wasn't meant to be. Now obviously, I hope this never happens to one of my sellers -- LITERALLY, because that would mean a sale didn't go through and they're stuck, uh, I mean, they get to hang on to their home for a while. In our Multiple Listing Service, those homes are usually designated at BOM (Back on Market). Looking at this phrase metaphorically could just represent that you should 'move on.' Whether your home sells

Whether you're trying to sell your home, or offer your home as a vacation rental, you need to LOVE your home. Potential buyers and renters can tell the difference. If they wanted a cookie cutter or model home, they probably would've gone elsewhere.

Selling and renting your home can be quite liberating! It's a cleansing process when you start to declutter and detach. Whether you're downsizing, giving items to charity, getting rid of items to make your

• See INVESTING page 9



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• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

Religious vapidity



By Father Mike Murphy
Christ Anglican Church

In an effort to aid our common understanding, the English word "vapid" principally means: lacking or having lost life, and being without spirit. Synonyms would include: flat, tedious, empty, and dull. This is an important idea to keep in mind when we consider the spiritual estate of our country.

The intrepid individuals who fled religious and political tyranny and settled in North America, were inspired by and largely founded our country upon a vibrant faith in Jesus Christ. The religious passion of our American forbearers was decidedly lively and committed. It was anything but dull and tedious. If anyone cares to read early American church history, they would conclude that our "Christian faith" should never be thought of as vapid. However, during the course of time, in our era and in our country, faith has in large measure become religiously or spiritually vapid. Why do you think that is?

Prosperity, liberalism, and pluralism are mostly to blame for our current state of vapidty. We should have seen it (vapidty) coming. Moses rallied the Chosen People of Israel on the far side of the Jordan River before they would cross into the Promised Land. In Deuteronomy chapter 8, God through Moses repeatedly encourages his people to "remember." Our almighty Father and Creator, the Giver of all good things, knew of the human propensity to forget, especially when times are good, that all of our blessings have their origin in God alone. So the Lord's encouragement to "remember" was as much to say, "please don't fool yourselves, give credit where credit is due, and act accordingly. Thereby and therefrom things will steadily improve." Like nations before us, we didn't get the message. American prosperity has helped to cause a spiritual amnesia which has contributed to our religious vapidty.

Liberalism, the political philosophy that values individual rights ahead of the group and all of it ahead of God, contributed to the vapidty. Freedom from tradition and the Judeo-Christian values that undergirded our country's moral fabric were derided and largely relegated to the trash bin of history. God became obsolete in liberalism and vapidty shifted into a higher gear, even in many of the Christian churches of America.

Pluralism, the step-child of liberalism, where all truths are welcome and all truths are relative, followed quickly. Of course, the whole idea of multiple "truths" is oxymoronic and we're morons if we accept it. Nevertheless, pluralism has served to heighten our current state of spiritual vapidty. When everyone's truth is seen as having equal

•See SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING page 9

John 3:16

• PLACES TO WORSHIP •

Proverbs 3:5

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

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

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464 US Hwy 64 east, Cashiers
Sun.: Holy Communion - 8:30 a.m.; Christian Education, 9:30 a.m.
Family Worship with music and Communion, 10:30 a.m.
Mon.: Bible Study & Supper at homes - 6 p.m.

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

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE CHURCH

283 Spring Street
Sunday Service: 11 a.m.
Testimony Meeting: 5 p.m. on the 3rd Wed.

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Wednesdays -- 7 p.m.

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10:30am: Middle & High School; 10:45am: Children's Program,
10:45am: Worship Service

Wed.: 5pm Dinner (\$7 adult, \$2 child), 6pm CBC University

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Thursdays: Holy Eucharist, (chapel), 10 am

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Dr. Mark Ford, 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 • 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

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Randy Reed, Pastor

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Sundays: Worship - 11

HIGHLANDS CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH

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

HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Pastor Paul Christy 526-3376
Sun: School 9:45a.; Worship 8:30, 9:09 & 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

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

SHORTOFF BAPTIST CHURCH

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Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study - 7

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• POLICE REPORT •

Highlands PD log entries from June 9. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor, or public officials have been used.

June 9

At 1:29 a.m., a noise ordinance violation was reported at OEI's South Street property.

June 15

At 10 a.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident in Highlands Plaza.

June 18

At 2:39 p.m., Kara Lynn Birr, 34, of Oak Island, NC, was arrested for passing a fraudulent prescription at a pharmacy in town.

June 20

At 11 p.m., Dona Jeanette Borders, 35, of Highlands, was arrested for operating a vehicle without insurance and with a cancelled, revoked or suspended tag.

June 21

At 11:10 a.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident on US 64 east.

At noon, officers received a call from Highlands Emporium on S. 4th Street about receiving false credit card information over the phone.

June 22

At 11:22 p.m., officers received a call for service from a resident on Sassy Lane regarding a noise disturbance.

At noon, officers received a call about a wallet being stolen from a vehicle parked on Main Street. \$200 in cash was taken with the wallet.

At 1:56 a.m., officers received a call about a trespasser at a residence on Sassy Lane who refused to leave.

June 23

At 1 p.m., the illegal use of a trash receptacle was reported at the Highlands Smokehouse.

June 24

At 2:28 p.m., officers received a bear complaint call from a resident on Bowery Road.

June 26

At 2 p.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident on South Street.

June 27

At 7:44 p.m., a missing juvenile was reported at the Highlands Civic Center.

At 2:21 a.m., a trespasser was reported at a residence on Sassy Lane.

June 28

At 3:18 p.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident on US 64 west.

June 30

At 12:19 p.m., officers received a bear complaint call from a resident on Biscuit Rock Road whose vehicle was damaged.

At 8 a.m., officers received a call from a person on Main Street who was receiving harassing phone calls.

July 1

At 4:30 p.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident on Main Street.

July 2

At 8:04 p.m., officers received a call for service from a resident on Choctaw Lane regarding hearing gunshots.

At 9:18 p.m., officers received a call from a resident on Satulah Road regarding possible gunshots.

At 10 a.m., a gas drive off valued at \$25.07 was reported at the Farmers Market.

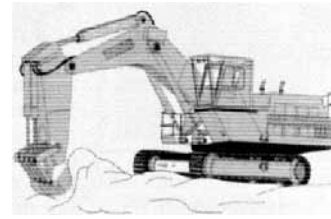
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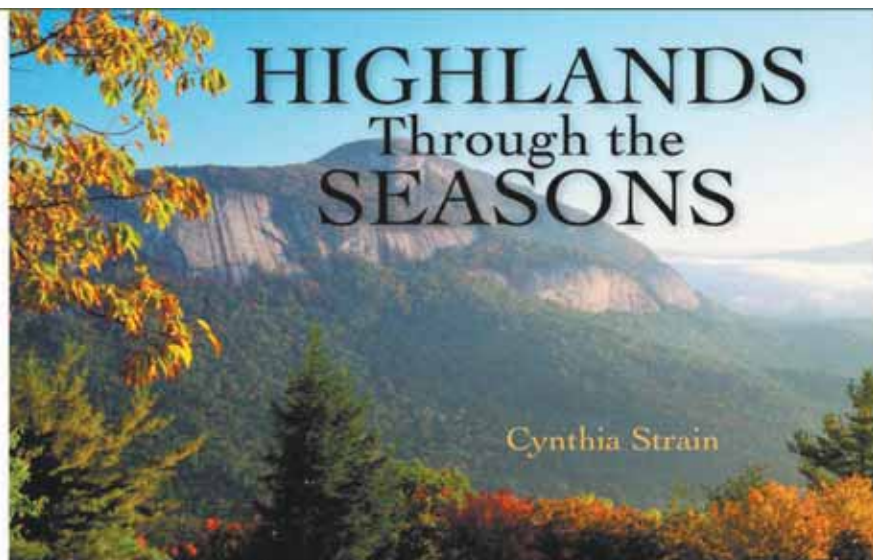
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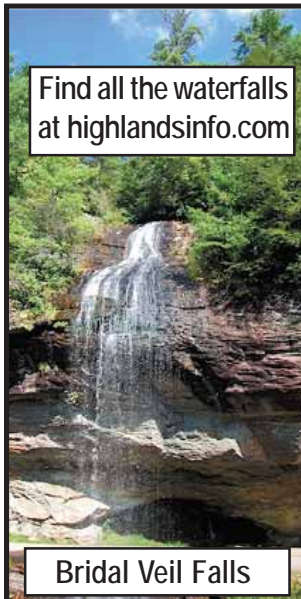
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