

Highlands Newspaper

FREE every Thursday

Volume 11, Number 25

Internet PDF Version at www.HighlandsNewspaperPDF.com

Thursday, June 27, 2013

Through Sunday, June 30

• At the Highlands Playhouse, Buddy: The Buddy Holly Story. A celebration of Holly's short but legendary life. 526-9443.

Thursday, June 27

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

Fri., Sat. Sun., June 28-29

• At Attitudes at Skyline Lodge, Hal Phillips and Micky Davis on the piano Friday and Saturday evening and Sunday brunch

Fri. & Sat. June 28-29

• At the Highlands Historical Society, 6-7:15 p.m. two Indian Cultural Heritage talks by Don Wells at the Historical Village. Admission is free.

• At HCCMF: Mozart, Brahms, Mendelssohn. Friday (6 PM) & Sunday (5 PM) – Highlands PAC, Saturday & Monday (both 5 PM) – Cashiers Library. Ticket information available at (828) 526-9060.

Friday, June 28

• Live music in Town Square from 6-8p

Sat., June 29

• At PAC, 8pm: Retro Rock with Jason D Williams as the memorable Jerry Lee Lewis. 828.526.9047.

• The Highlands Police Department will be hosting its annual Open House on Saturday from 11am-2pm. Refreshments will be provided. Other emergency departments, state and local will also be in attendance. Stop by for a tour of the department; child-seat inspections, safety material and other activities will be available.

• 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.

Sat. & Sun., June 29-30

• Sapphire Valley Arts & Crafts Festival, 10a to 4p. Route 64, 3 miles east of Cashiers. Free admission and parking. 743-1163.

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

Sun.-Mon., June 30-July 1

• At HCCMF: The Four Bs: Bach, Beethoven, Brahms. Friday (6 PM) & Sunday (5 PM) – Highlands PAC. Sat. & Mon. (both 5 PM) – Cashiers Library. Ticket information available at (828) 526-9060.

Utilities big subject at budget hearing

The town's FY 2013-'14 \$13,189,591 budget passed with little fanfare Thursday night except for a passionate discussion about free utilities initiated by the Howland family.

During the required public

hearing on the budget, Slocum and Lila Howland spoke against the board's 3-1 (Commissioner John Dotson voted nay) decision in April to gift the Chamber of Commerce, the ABC Store and the Highlands Playhouse free

utilities.

"I would like you to reconsider your vote," said Howland. "It's unreasonable that they get a special deal. The library pays, the child development center pays,

• See UTILITIES page 7

Town Board says OEI sign to come down

At the June 20 Town Board meeting, the board did an about-face concerning Old Edwards Hospitality Group's off premise sign at the corner of Arnold Road which directs patrons to OEI's The Farm.

At the May meeting, the board was split on the issue – Commissioners Brian Stiehler, Gary Drake and Mayor David Wilkes all spoke in favor of allowing the sign even though it is an illegal off-premise sign as per the town's Unified Development Ordinance (UDO).

The issue was supposed to go to the Planning Board for review but instead the Planning Department staff, Town Manager Bob Frye and Land Use Committee members Commissioners Eric Pierson and John Dotson agreed

• See SIGN page 6

18-wheeler closes Gorge Road



Last Thursday, June 20, an 18-wheeler shut down US 64 west for about three hours after it got stuck at Turtle Pond and US 64. Around 11:15 a.m., the driver was traveling from Highlands to Tennessee when he was stopped by Highway Patrol at Turtle Pond Road and told to go back up the road. When he tried to turn around and return to Highlands, he got stuck. He said construction in Highlands blocked warning signs about through-traffic for trucks on US 64 west.

Photo by Kim Lewicki

Audio log verifies police response to complaint

A letter-to-the-editor in the June 20 edition of Highlands Newspaper raised concerns about police protocol – even suggesting favoritism to the Old Edwards Hospitality Group.

In the letter entitled, "Should we change Highlands' name?" author Sharon Bowen, whose place of business and home borders OEI's Piermont Cottage property

on South Street, claims her noise complaint call made to 9-1-1 at 1:30 a.m., on June 8 was answered by OEI security and not Highlands police.

"There is screaming and hollering out here on South Street. Can you send an officer, not a security guard there? They are supposed to stop partying at 11 o'clock.

• See POLICE page 9

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Supplement could offset BOE budget shortfall

At Monday night's Macon County School Board meeting, a unanimous vote set the stage for the possibility of using teacher supplement money to offset the school system's 2013-'14 budget shortfall.

Last week, the Macon County Commission passed its budget giving the school system \$220,000 more than originally presented, but that still leaves the system \$220,000 short.

At previous county commission meetings, the board gave verbal permission for the school system to allocate the 2% teacher supplement monies of \$430,000 as it saw fit – meaning it could be used for something other than the supplement.

In the county's original proposed budget, \$7.1 million was allocated – 3% more than last

• See SUPPLEMENT page 4

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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

Highlands Newspaper^{LLC}

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THURSDAY	THURSDAY NIGHT	FRIDAY	FRIDAY NIGHT	SATURDAY	SATURDAY NIGHT	SUNDAY
 70%	 40%	 40%	 30%	 40%	 30%	 40%
Thunderstorms Likely High: 76 °F	Chance Thunderstorms Low: 63 °F	Chance Thunderstorms High: 76 °F	Chance Thunderstorms Low: 62 °F	Chance Showers High: 74 °F	Chance Showers Low: 60 °F	Chance Showers High: 74 °F

A simple tribute to a humble man ...

Community turns out for Memorial Service for Coach Butch Smart

On Friday, June 21, the community gathered in the new gym at Highlands School to remember Coach Butch Smart who lost his 12-year battle with cancer on May 22, 2013. He won't be forgotten. A basketball court has been named after him and his name will be printed and sealed on the gym floor. Friday night, the time clock stayed at 7:09 in honor of the number of his career wins. His school chair held a Relay for Life luminary to honor is battle. Flowers in school colors were donated by Cosper Flowers.



Photos by Alana Wilson



The Martin Lipscomb Performing Arts Center

Saturday, June 29 8pm
SOLD OUT
Jason D. Williams as *Jerry Lee Lewis*
Presented by Lyle & Nancy Nichols

Saturday, July 6 8pm
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Nitrograss & The Dappled Grays
Presented by Ray & Diane McPhail
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• OBITUARIES •

Jean Ward

Jean Ward was born December 23, 1941 in Louisville, KY. She grew up in Atlanta, GA and spent her teenage summers in Cashiers teaching horseback riding.

In 1975, she returned and enrolled in an EMT class at the Glenville Rescue Squad where she met Charles Ward. They were married in Oct. 1976. She was the first woman to join a rescue squad in Western North Carolina as an EMT.

In 1978, she started Home and Land Maintenance, Cashiers Carpet Cleaners, Cashiers Garage Door and Western Carolina Restoration.

In Nov. 1988, Jean was listed in The Cleaning and Restoration, the official RIA Publication International as one of six ladies of the '80's in the cleaning industry.

She loved her dogs. She operated Cashiers K9 Camp where she boarded dogs for a number of years. She worked 11 years as a tech for the Cashiers Village Vet.

Jean was preceded in death by her parents, Dr. Leonard Long and Florence Major Long; two sons, Shawn Goodwin and Todd Goodwin, and a daughter, Jeanne Caruthers.

She is survived by her husband of 36 years, Charles Ward; Charlene Ward and Jay Webster of Cashiers, Jodi Bayes and Brad Bayes of Orange Park, FL and Dawn Woodring; 10 grandchildren; two step-grandchildren, one great-grandchild, and one brother, Major Long of Cashiers.

Jean was a member of Cashiers United Methodist Church; she helped organize the Cashiers Chamber of Commerce, and along with Jackie Wynn organized the Cashiers Christmas Parade for several years.

Memorial services will be held Saturday, June 29, 2013 at 2 pm at Cashiers United Methodist Church with Rev. Randy Harry officiating. The family will receive friends Saturday from 1-2 pm, one hour prior to the service, at the church.

In lieu of flowers memorial donations may be made to Lewis Rathbun Wellness Center, 121 Sherwood Road, Asheville, NC 28803 or Four Seasons Hospice, 171 Hospital Drive, Suite 600, Highlands, NC 28741

Bryant-Grant Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. Online condolences may be made at www.bryantgrantfuneralhome.com.

Luther Gillis MacKinnon, III

Luther Gillis MacKinnon, III, 76, Glenville, NC died Sunday, June 16, 2013. Born Greenville, AL, son of Luther Gillis and Eleanor Lee Norris MacKinnon, he was an architect AIA.

He is survived by his wife Brooke Hamilton MacKinnon; children: Mary Katherine MacKinnon, Chico, CA; Virginia Lee MacKinnon, Ft. Collins, CO; Luther Gillis MacKinnon, IV, Ft. Collins, CO and William Hunter Cressall, Birmingham, AL; brother, Norris MacKinnon, Richmond, KY and five grandchildren.

The memorial service is Thursday, July

11, 2013, 2 pm, Church of the Good Shepherd, Cashiers, NC; Reverends Virginia Monroe and Toby Summerour officiating. Reception following service, Hines Hall. Donations to L. Gillis MacKinnon Memorial, Cashiers Historical Society, Cashiers 28717.

Bryant-Grant Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

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Police Station 'Open House' is this Saturday

On Saturday, June 29, the Highlands Police Department will be hosting its annual Open House on Saturday from 11am-2pm. Refreshments will be provided. Other emergency departments, state and local will also be in attendance. Stop by for a tour of the department; child-seat inspections, safety material and other activities will be available.

• THE FREDSTER •

A tale of 2 cities...probably 3...would you believe 4?

A friend recently wrote to me and said, "Highlands is like Mayberry" (Of Andy Griffith fame) meaning Highlanders enjoy a simpler life. I think my friend is right...well, kind of right. But Highlands might be a little more than a Mayberry. Let's take a hard look at our beautiful town.

Less than a 10-minute ride off the Highlands plateau, a wannabe farmer struggles to feed his wife and three children. He inherited his land from his parents who inherited it from their parents. He can't even make enough money farming to pay the taxes on the land. So he drives a truck for a national carrier who offers health insurance. He makes enough to just get by.



Feedback is encouraged
highlandseditor@aol.com

On summer nights, this wannabe farmer can sit on his front porch and see the lights coming from the palatial homes on top of Brushy Face Mountain. He's been told the reason one light stays on continuously is because the owners are out of town, touring the spring fashion shows in Paris. They'll be back next month.

And on this same evening, three Atlanta attorneys and their wives walk out of Wolfgang's Restaurant having just finished a sumptuous repast. Everyone has had too much to drink and they're bordering on being rowdy and obnoxious. So what? They're on vacation. They'll cross Main Street and enter Old Edwards Inn where they'll crash for the evening.

... SUPPLEMENT from page 1

year - but that still left the school system short. The school system had asked for \$8.4 million.

After making numerous cuts in personnel, instructional supplies, etc., the system was still \$440,000 short. But with the recent addition of \$220,000 to the BOE allotment from the county, teachers who had been on the chopping block will now keep their jobs.

At Monday's BOE meeting, Interim Superintendent Dr. Jim Duncan said though the county gave verbal permission for the BOE to use the supplement money, he was asked to make a formal request in writing.

He said the vote to send the formal request did not mean that the 2% supplement money would absolutely be used to make up the shortfall, just that it could be.

The issue will likely be discussed further at the BOE continuation meeting, 6 p.m., Wednesday, July 3 at the MC Board of Education Administration Offices.

Also at that meeting the board will begin the process of hiring positions that are essential to begin the 2013-14 school year.

In other BOE news, the board OK'd a memorandum of agreement with the MC Sheriff's Office which outlines the duties of School Resource Officers (SRO). The BOE was asked to supply this by Sheriff's Office Attorney Brian Welch because the Sheriff's Office is going after a

• See SUPPLEMENT page 8

Further down Main Street a merchant closes his store for the evening and sits with his wife at a backroom table. Pouring over their receipts for the day, they wonder how they'll ever make it through winter unless business picks up.

And not too far from this struggling couple, Scudder's Auction is jumping. Visiting week-enders sit in awe and watch wealthy patrons buy artwork, rugs, paintings, etc., sometimes costing thousands of buckaroos.

Yes, my friend is right. Highlands is somewhat like Mayberry. It's also about mountain families living in poverty, the ridiculously rich and all that's in between. Highlands has so many faces, I don't know where to start. So I

won't!

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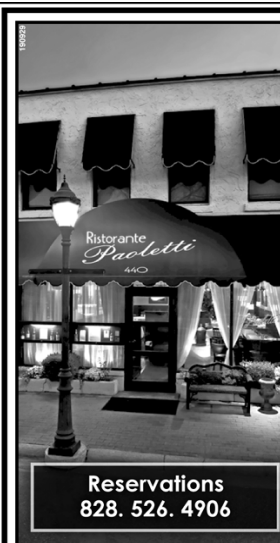
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... SIGN continued from page 1

that allowing the sign, or trying to amend the ordinance to allow the sign would be mean allowing all commercial entities to have off-premise signs – and so it wasn't sent to the Planning Board for review.

Town Manager Bob Frye said the Arnold Road/NC 106 intersection may not be safe but that's a separate issue from signage and safety issues would mean intervention from NC DOT or funding from the town.

He said the reason the sign has come up is because with the UDO in place and Interim Planning and Development Director Josh Ward taking the helm as lead in the Planning Department it's time to correct all illegal issues out there.

"We need to treat everyone the same

and be consistent in our policies and enforcement of our ordinances," he said. "The sign doesn't meet our requirements so it should come down."

Mayor David Wilkes, who spoke passionately about the town's need to allow OEI's sign due to traffic at the May meeting, said he realizes the board can't pick and choose what it allows. "We either use our ordinance or ignore it. I can't argue that it should be left up there even though it suits a purpose because we have an ordinance saying it has to come down," he said.

Commissioner Stiehler, who originally cited safety issues as the reason the

• See SIGN page 15

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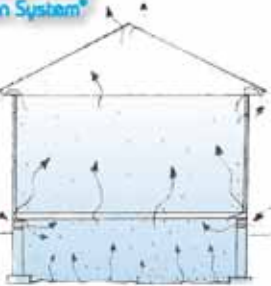
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... UTILITIES continued from page 1

The Bascom pays; how can you ask the library to pay and the liquor store not? It doesn't make sense to me. Everyone should get a bill and everyone should pay their utilities. It's favoritism and it's not fair to the community."

Each entity that was given free utilities has a spokesperson on the board – Commissioner Drake for the Playhouse for which his wife Wanda is the treasurer; Commissioner Stiehler for the Chamber since he's the president of the Chamber board and Mayor David Wilkes and Commissioner Eric Pierson who each sat on the ABC Board prior to being elected to the Town Board.

Nonprofits occupying town-owned buildings was cited as one reason for the gift, but Howland said that argument doesn't hold water because the ABC Store isn't in a town building and other entities like the Police and Fire departments, as well as Town Hall which are all in town-owned buildings, pay utilities.

Commissioners Amy Patterson said the issue should be revisited. "We are basically making citizens donate to these entities in the form of utilities which we have raised a lot recently. We should treat everyone across the board the same," she said.

Howland likened the decision to "giving grants" to specific entities.

Commissioner Dotson said he agreed with both Commissioner Patterson and Howland.

"We have essentially told citizens, 'you are going to subsidize this and we are raising your rates to do it,' he said. "It wouldn't hurt my feelings if everyone paid their own way. If they can't make it, they can't make it."

Town Manager Bob Frye said the amount the town is "giving away" is only \$16,000-\$18,000 but according to Assistant Finance Director Chuck Young it's more than that.

Not including late fees, in 2012, the ABC Store was billed \$6,574.01 for utilities; the Chamber \$5,821.33 and the Highlands Playhouse \$8,845.10 – a total of \$21,240.

But Commissioner Pierson said since the ABC Store is mandated to make a certain profit ratio, if it doesn't Highlands could lose the store and then citizens, clubs and restaurants would spend their dollars in Cashiers or Franklin.

"The town moved them out of their town-owned building so their lease costs went up by \$6,000-\$8,000 a year; that's money taken away from scholarships and law enforcement. If the town can give them a little bit of air, the money can go straight back to the town," he said.

By law the ABC Store redistributes profits to its municipality.

It was then ABC board president David Wikes who lobbied for the store to move to Highlands Plaza – which isn't a low rent district – because he said there would be more traffic and a larger space to display more product which would lead to bigger profits.

To keep things equal, the Highlands Playhouse was given free utilities because the Performing Art Center gets free utilities.

Mayor Wilkes said he didn't have a problem with any of it. "Both are operating as nonprofits and both partially maintain their buildings which is a service to

the town," he said. "The ABC Store contributes directly back to the town."

In the end the budget passed despite the discussion but Commissioner Patterson said since the free utility issue doesn't directly affect the budget and since it's not a line item it can and should be revisited. "We can discuss this again at another time. It's not essential to passing the budget right now."

– Kim Lewicki

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... SUPPLEMENT continued from page 4

grant to get more SRO officers in the county.

The county's 2013-'14 budget only included one more SRO officer and that's for Nantahala School.

Highlands School discretionary students for the 2013-'14 school year were OK'd. There are nine new students – five

from Jackson County, three from Franklin and one from Georgia.

They join 45 returning discretionary students – 16 from Franklin, 10 from Georgia, 16 from Jackson County, two from South Carolina, and one through affidavit B & C.

– Kim Lewicki

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... POLICE continued from page 1

Make sure it is an officer not a security guard from OEI. It's 1:30 now," says the recording.

However, the audio recordings of 9-1-1 dispatch verify that both times – first at 1:30 a.m. and again at 1:58 a.m. – Highlands Police officers responded and were dispatched to the scene.

Officer Kevin Breedlove and Master Officer Cliff Ammons, who were on patrol in town when the calls came in, headed to South Street where they met on scene. They warned the parties that they were disturbing the neighbors and if they had to return they would have to take other measures to quiet them. They quieted so they left the scene. Officers Ammons went to the OEI security office to tell them to make sure the situation was kept under control because if officers had to go back it could result in an ordinance violation.

Police Chief Bill Harrell said it's standard procedure for his department to issue warnings for everyone when possible and so wasn't special treatment for OEI.

"We don't have a written policy but it is our methodology to make every effort when it is absolutely available to warn people rather than take a monetary or heavier approach of enforcement. But that doesn't always present itself," he said.

Harrell said if there was any evidence verifying that his officers did anything inappropriately, he would have handled it accordingly.

"I hate that this misinformation got out there before this was checked on. With today's cutting edge technology verifying is an opportunity we can afford a concerned citizen," said Harrell. "When Ms. Bowen called 9-1-1 our guys were dispatched and they were the responding officers. Dispatch can't dispatch OEI. They don't have that ability nor is it a procedure they can attempt to pursue."

While Officer Ammons was at OEI's security office, Bowen made the second call at 1:58 a.m.

"They are right back at it," said Bowen.

The dispatcher said, "I can have them come back out there."

Bowen said, "I think you need to send an officer and not OEI security."

The dispatcher said, "We don't deal with security it was an officer and I will send them back out there."

At the second call, both officers responded again and headed back to South Street but this time OEI security accompanied Ammons on its own accord because Ammons was with them when the call came in, said Harrell.

The party was disassembled and OEI security then offered es-

corts home for anyone who wasn't in condition to drive.

"The 9-1-1 dispatch audio logs prove and solidify that proper procedures were handled by policy and procedure. The logs can't be manipulated in any way. The dispatch log is a live recording at the time," he said.

Harrell also said he had to secure special permission to hear the logs which he did to ensure that his officers handled the calls properly.

"Once a citizen voices a concern like this I have the responsibility and a due diligence to make

sure we did do it right," he said. "After hearing the audio, there is nothing to cause me to think we did it any other way based on all the supporting evidence and documentation. Protocol was followed without question."

After business hours calls made to the Highlands Police Department roll to the communication center – MC Emergency Op-

eration Center (911/dispatch). They take the call and then they dispatch Highlands Police officers.

"I hate that Ms. Bowen understood something different, but it is not what she alleges occurred. 9-1-1 does not dispatch to OEI and neither do we," said Harrell.

– Kim Lewicki

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And The Winners Are. . .

By Kathie Blozan

The "If I Were A Book" writing contest for middle schoolers in the Cashiers and Highlands area was a resounding success. Seventy five students submitted entries, about half prose and half poetry. As part of the Love Your Library week, the awards will be presented on June 27 at 3:30p, at the Albert Carlton-Cashiers Community Library during the reception for Hedy Okolichany, retiring librarian.

The judges Ben Eller, Joyce Foster, Eva Hansen, Charlene Homolka and Deanna Klingel had a difficult time selecting winners from the numerous entries, but they did choose the following:

In the prose category: First place, Emma Carter, Summit Charter School; Second place, Raina Sharon Trent, Home school

Third place, Sally Bloom, Summit; Honorable mentions, Noah Maxwell, Blue Ridge School and Wesley Hedden, Highlands School

In the poetry category: First place, Micah Buchanan, Blue Ridge; Second place, Rylie Talmadge, Summit; Third place, Ryan Houser, Highlands; Honorable mention, Abigail Taylor Gilbert, Highlands.



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• HIGHLANDS AREA UPCOMING EVENTS •

Ongoing

• Registration is now open for the 2013 summer Nature Day Camps at the Highlands Nature Center. Five different camps are being offered: "WOW! – a World of Wonder" (ages 4-6), "Amazing Animals" (ages 7-10), "NatureWorks" (ages 8-11), "Mountain Explorers" (ages 10-13), and "Junior Ecologists" (ages 11-14). Most camps are offered more than once during the summer and sessions run from Tuesday to Friday each week. For complete schedules, costs, and other information, please call 828-526-2623 or visit the summer camps webpage at www.highlandsbiological.org.

Mon., Wed., Fri.

• Heart Healthy Exercise Class at the Rec Park. 8:30-9:30 a.m. \$20/month.
• Step Aerobics with Tina Rogers at the Rec Park, 8-9 a.m. \$5 per class or \$40 a month.
• Zumba at the Rec Park, 9:05a-10a. \$5 per class. First class free.

Mondays

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

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)

Tues.-Sat.

• The Bookworm in the Peggy Crosby Center on 5th Street is 10a-4p.

Tuesdays

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

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

Wednesdays

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

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

• Men's interdenominational Bible Study at 8:30 a.m. at First Baptist Church.
• The Homegrown Buds, a home-school 4-H club, meets at noon at the Macon County Library on Siler Road in Franklin at 1 p.m.

• Mah Jong games will be held, open

to the public, at the Albert Carlton Cashiers-Community Library at 1 p.m.

1st and last Wednesdays

• Kayak demo's and roll clinics are held the first and last Wednesday of every month throughout the pool season from 4:30-8 p.m.

1st Wednesday

• Movies at the Hudson Library. Children/ Family movies at 3:30 p.m. Free including popcorn. Bring your own soft drinks. 828-526-3031 for movie information.

3rd Wednesday

• Movies at the Hudson Library. Recently released movies at 2 p.m. Free including popcorn. Bring your own soft drinks. 828-526-3031 for movie information.

Thursdays

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

Fridays through August

• The Highlands Area Chamber of Commerce and Visitor Center presents Friday Night Live in Town Square. Save the dates as the season festivities will be held every Friday, from 6-8pm. Scheduled performances feature area musicians and a variety of musical styles and talents.

Fri., Sat., and Sun.

• At Attitudes at Skyline Lodge, Hal Phillips and Micky Davis on the piano Friday and Saturday evening and Sunday brunch.

Fridays

• Free, Grief Support Group, 10:30am-noon at the Jane Woodruff Clinic - Suite 201, on the H-C Hospital campus. Questions? Call 828-692-6178 or email: mlee@fourseasonscfl.org

Saturdays

• At The Bascom, knitters meet from 10 AM to noon.

• Highlands Farmer's Market in Highlands Plaza 9a to noon. Fresh vegetables, Flowers, breads, baked goods, craft items, jewelry.

• 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.

Sat. & Sun.

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

Through Saturday, June 29

• Half-price sale at the Book Worm in the basement of the Peggy Crosby Center on Fifth Street.

Through Sunday, June 30

• At the Highlands Playhouse, Buddy: The Buddy Holly Story. A celebration of Holly's short but legendary life. For ticket information call 526-9443.

Fri. & Sat. June 28-29

• At the Highlands Historical Society, 6-7:15 pm two Indian Cultural Heritage talks by Don Wells at the Historical Village. Friday

evening talk will be "Mystery of the Trees" and Saturday evening will be "In the Presence of the Elders." Admission is free.

Fri.-Sat., June 28-29

• At HCCMF: William Preucil, violin; Alexandra Preucil, violin; Jennifer Stumm, viola; Paul Murphy, viola; Charae Krueger, cello; William Ransom, piano Mozart, Brahms,

HCCMF's programs showcase world renowned talent



William Preucil, Jennifer Stumm and Alexandra Preucil.



The Highlands-Cashiers Chamber Music Festival launches its 32nd Season this weekend with a pair of breathtaking programs that showcase its deep well of world-renowned talent.

"Because of the July 4th weekend, our opening concerts will be a little earlier than usual next summer – we open on June 28th-29th with William Preucil and friends for a weekend of brilliant string playing," said Artistic Director Dr. William Ransom.

On Friday, June 28th, and Saturday, June 29th, the H-C Chamber Music Festival will offer Mozart's "G Minor Piano Quartet;" Brahms' "Viola Sonata in Eb;" and Mendelssohn's "Viola Quintet in Bb" performed by William Preucil, violin; Alexandra Preucil, violin; Jennifer Stumm, viola; Paul Murphy, viola; Charae Krueger, cello; and Dr. Ransom, piano.

The Friday and Saturday concerts will be followed by receptions.

They'll be followed by "The Four B's – Bach, Beethoven, Brahms and Bill!" on Sunday and Monday. This celebration of chamber music's triumvirate of founding fathers will feature performances by Preucil and Ransom, leavened with a lightness that's a hallmark of the festival.

"Other season highlights will include the festival debut of the dashing young Concertmaster of the Atlanta Symphony, David Coucheron, and his talented sister pianist Julie. Other newcomers include English flutist Anthony Reiss in a program entitled 'The Magic Flute' and clarinetist Roeland Hendriks from Belgium. It wouldn't be summer without The Eroica Trio, and they will be joined by special guests in 'Eroica Plus!'

"The Vega Quartet will be back, and we will have some fun with another 'Jazz Meets Classics' concert featuring, this time, the saxophone, with Dwight Andrews. The Festival Chamber Orchestra will once again close the season at our final Gala with Mozart's extraordinary 'Sinfonia Concertante.'"

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

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

Free July 4 patriotic concert at First Presbyterian



First Presbyterian Church will present the annual patriotic concert at 8 pm on Thursday, July 4. The free concert will last approximately 45 minutes, ensuring plenty of time to watch the town fireworks display. Featured will be Dave Landis, bagpipes; Larry Black, trumpet; Angie Jenkins, pipe organ; and the Highlands Male Chorus under the direction of Joe Powell, with Carol Guise as accompanist. Come dressed as you are. In the event the fireworks display is cancelled due to rain, the concert will still take place. The church is located at 471 Main Street. Handicapped entrances are located on Church Street and on 5th Street.

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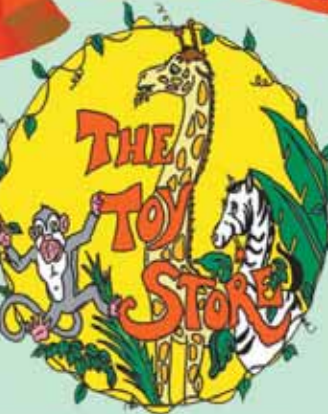


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• HIGHLANDS AREA UPCOMING EVENTS •

Indian Cultural Heritage talks at Highlands Historical Museum



Many people have been to the Highlands Historical Society's fundraiser, Walk in the Park, in past years. This year the Highlands Historical Society is presenting Indian Cultural Heritage talks. Come learn about Indian cultural heritage and help support the Highlands Historical Society at the same time. On Friday, June 28 and Saturday, June 29, Don Wells, President of the Mountain Stewards, will give two talks at the Highlands Historical Museum, 524 N. 4th Street. The Mystery of the Trees on Friday evening is about the curious bent trees many believe were used by Indians as sign posts. In the Presence of the Elders, on Saturday evening is about Native American culture, spirituality and wisdom. Tickets are \$10 for each performance (free for students accompanied by any adult). You can purchase tickets by cash or check at the performances or online at highlandshistory.com.

HUMC's Handbell Concert of Patriot Music

Thursday, July 4th at 3 p.m.



Show your love for America as you hear The Mountain Top Ringers, the handbell choir of Highlands United Methodist Church, present an afternoon concert of patriotic music on Thursday, July 4 at 3 p.m. The concert is at Highlands United Methodist Church on Main Street and is free. The group, directed by Les Scott, HUMC Minister of Music, is composed of eleven members, from both HUMC and First Presbyterian Church, ringing 4 1/2 octaves of hand bells. The concert will include all your patriotic favorites as well as a few surprises.

Mendelssohn. Friday (6 PM) & Sunday (5 PM) – Highlands PAC, Saturday & Monday (both 5 PM) – Cashiers Library. Ticket Information available at (828) 526-9060.

Sat., June 29

• At PAC, 8pm: Retro Rock with Jason D Williams as the memorable Jerry Lee Lewis. Highlands PAC, 507 Chestnut Street, Highlands 828.526.9047 www.highlandspac.org.

• Join Highlands Plateau Audubon and Franklin Bird Club as they co-lead a bird walk along the Franklin Greenway. Meet at the Highlands Town Hall parking lot near the public restrooms at 7:30 AM for car-pooling to the Macon County Public Library in Franklin. Call 743-9670.

• The Highlands Police Department will be hosting its annual Open House on Saturday from 11am-2pm. Refreshments will be provided. Other emergency departments, state and local will also be in attendance. Please stop by for a tour of the department; child-seat inspections, safety material and other activities will be available.

Sat., June 29

• DANCE at the Franklin American Legion Post 108 this Saturday from 8 to 10:30p. Music by "TOM ELLERS. For more information call PH:828-369-9155. Non-members welcome. Non-smoking.

Sat. & Sun., June 29-30

• Sapphire Valley Arts & Crafts Festival, 10a to 4p. More than 75 artists and crafters. Live music, food stand, drinks. Cashiers-Highlands Humane Society Stop'n Adopt.

Valley Garden Club Bake and Plant Sale. Route 64, 3 miles east of Cashiers. Free admission and parking. 743-1163.

Sun.-Mon., June 30-July 1

• At HCCMF: The Four Bs: Bach, Beethoven, Brahms and Bill! William Preucil, violin and William Ransom, piano Bach, Beethoven, Brahms. Friday (6 PM) & Sunday (5 PM) – Highlands PAC. Saturday & Monday (both 5 PM) – Cashiers Library. Ticket Information available at (828) 526-9060.

Tues., July 2

• The Plateau Fly Fishing Club will meet on Tuesday at the Albert Carleton Library in Cashiers. The meeting begins at 7 PM and features Eugene Shuler of Fly Fishing the Smokes, a fly fishing guide service. Everyone is welcome! Call 828-885-7130.

July 4-20

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

Thursday, July 4

• July 4th games at the ballfield and BBQ at the Community Center sponsored by Highlands Rotary. Fireworks begin from the Rec Park around nine, or as soon as it's dark. Watch from anywhere in town.

• Free Patriotic Handbell concert at the Highlands United Methodist Church on Main Street at 3 p.m.

• Free patriotic concert at 8 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church of Highlands. Will last 45 minutes right before the town's fireworks display.

Kelsey Kids FREE Day Camp

July 15-19



Making and tasting butter made from fresh cow's milk.

Kelsey Kids Day Camp is July 15-19 for ages: 8 – 11 years. The camp is free and lunch is included. It is sponsored by the Highlands Historical Society. To register contact Linda David @ 526-3374 or email: lindawd@hcgexpress.net

... INVESTING

from page 17

real estate as a portfolio play. Baby boomers are still buying luxury second homes as a reward for a lifetime of work. Such a home can serve as a magnet for bringing family together. Younger people are buying second homes for aspirational reasons; they want to grow into the person who would own a such a beautiful home.

The National Association of Home Builders Improving Market Index (IMI) increased to 263 markets in June of this year which is the fifth consecutive month in which the IMI has designated more than 70% of the U.S. metro markets as improving. While this is a good sign that the housing recovery is on solid footing, there are still various challenges that are slowing its progress - including continuing credit difficulty for builders and buyers, as well as appraisals that aren't keeping up with the rising cost of construction.

However, not all high-end housing markets are doing so well. Some cities have seen prices fall in recent months such as Chicago, Seattle and Orlando. Here on the Plateau, the number of homes sold has increased at 13% and the dollar volume in sales has increased 44% to date. However, vacant lot sales have dropped 20% which is indicative of the large inventory of homes for sale. Prices are not trending upward yet as it takes an absorption of inventory before a seller's market can drive up actual pricing. Nevertheless, if we can keep up the current pace of sales, there are signs that the next couple of seasons will be stronger than the last few years. All of this analysis reinforces that now is the time to buy here on the Plateau.

• Jody and her husband, Wood, have been full-time residents in Highlands for the last thirteen years. They are owners of Exurbia Sotheby's International Realty and they are top producing brokers on the Plateau. They have two offices: one at the gate of Cullasaja Club of Highlands and one in The Old Edwards' Inn complex at 216 South Fourth Street. Call them today for your real estate needs at 828 526 4104.

... SIGN continued from page 6

sign should stay, said the UDO has to take precedent over his opinion.

He suggested pushing the state to make the intersection safer and Commissioner Amy Patterson suggested getting the state in on the conversation, too.

Public Service Administrator Lamar Nix said the state

already has a warning sign there but agreed that there was a sight-distance problem, particularly turning left on to NC 106 off Arnold Road.

"Further action on the state's part would mean a blinking light or a fully synchronized intersection which won't meet the warrants," said Nix.

He said improving the sight distance to the right might be a project the town and NC DOT can work on together.

The board voted unanimously to require the sign to come down and for the Planning Department to enforce the UDO.

— Kim Lewicki



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• REAL ESTATE SNAP SHOTS •



Like new, one level 3/3 home in Highlands Falls with White-side views. \$987,000. MLS #75205. Call 526-4101.



Incredible Blue Valley views plus a pond on 2 acres 4/2/2. \$897,000. MLS #77015. Call 526-4101.



Freestanding 3/3 Highlands Falls condo; 13th fairway view offered fully furnished. \$465,000. MLS #74042. Call 526-4101.



Choice of three VZ Top condos with amazing views of Blue Valley 3 bedrooms from \$217,000 to \$237,000. MLS #s 73843,74892,77067,75317.



Lovely outdoor spaces. Screened porch with fireplace overlooking a flowing stream 3/3 Highlands Falls \$679,000. MLS #68076. Call 526-4101



Old Highlands cabin with tongue & groove paneling 2/1. \$250,000. MLS # 76247 Call 526-4101



Exceptional value on 1.8 level acres with a mountain view. One level 3/2 close to town. \$297,500. MLS #77533. Call 526-4101



Spacious one level home in the Flat Mountain area. 4/3/1 on 4.4 acres \$475,000. MLS #73617. Call 526-4101



Three blocks from Main St, this 2/2 condo is fully furnished with sunroom and stone fireplace. Immaculate 3/3/1 condo in Village Walk. \$849,900. MLS #74743. Call 526-4101. \$169,000. MLS#73032.



Charming family farmhouse on 6.4 acres with barn and pond. \$397,500. MLS #74058. Call 526-4101



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



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.



HFCC cottage with 3br/ 2ba, brand new kitchen with granite & stainless appliances, stone fireplace, carport, covered decks. \$348,000. MLS# 77541.



Walk to Mirror Lake from this updated lake style cottage with 3br/ 2.5ba, lower level family room, fenced yard, expanded master & brand new bath. \$467,000. MLS# 74767.



Walk to Mirror Lake from this fully renovated Remodeled 3br/ 3ba has been redone from top to bottom, needs nothing but a happy owner! Large wooded private lot, 2 decks, fenced yard! MLS# 77437. \$569,000. & mtn detailed cottage. Open Kitchen, vaulted master suite, lower family room. 3br/ 2.5 ba, large yard & privacy. MLS# 74767 \$497,000



Nearly new Mirror Lake home with an Adirondack feel. Hardwood Floors, 3br/ 3ba, some mountain view, metal roof, turn-key furnished! \$400,000. MLS# 75048.



Mirror Lake cutie with wood walls & ceilings, newer kitchen, stone patio, beautiful private yard, 1 car garage, 3br/ 2.5ba. \$325,000. MLS# 76795.

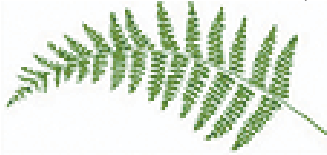


Historic home on Foreman Rd, walk to town from this 1933 Highlands home in pristine condition! New metal roof, detached 2 car garage, screened porches, amazing grounds, 3br/ 2.5ba plus an office & sunroom. \$687,000. MLS# 77485.



Completely remodeled, 2 story home, in town location, new kitchen & baths, lower level family room, wine room, 4br/ 3.5 ba, covered decks & 2 car garage. \$627,000 MLS# 75832.

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• See INVESTING page 14



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• REAL ESTATE SNAP SHOTS •

Steps from The Bascom



Walk to town from this 5 BR/3.5 BA neat-as-a-pin, quality home. 2 separate living systems give you options galore (rent both, rent one & enjoy one, or enjoy both)! Gorgeous kitchen w/breakfast bar on main level & a second complete kitchen on the lower level. Enjoy the sound of Mill Creek from the decks or screened porch. Natural yard w/native plants & shrubs. Offered at \$579,000. MLS #76792.

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Excellent opportunity to own commercial property in downtown Highlands. Zoned B-3 commercial. Commercial/retail/professional space on the main level w/office area, storage space, and full bathroom. Upper level is a charming one bedroom, one bath apt. w/ living/dining area & stacker in kitchenette. Offered at \$499,000. MLS #69631.

Please contact Susie deVille at (828) 371-2079, Sheryl Wilson at (828) 337-0706.



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Mountain View Home Adjoining USFS



Located in Queen Mountain and only 8 minutes to town on 2.28 +/- acres, adjoins National Forest, and boasts beautiful views of Blue Valley & Satulah Mountains. Lovely & spacious 3BDR, 3BA with wood floors, cathedral ceiling, brick fireplace with gas logs and screened porch with mounted Master suite has private sunroom/sitting area, walk-in shower with double shower heads and tile seat. Kitchen was remodeled in 2011 and features soft-close cabinetry & stainless steel appliances. Offered at \$475,000. MLS #75732.

Perfect Log Cabin, Perfect Price



Escape to the mountains and relax with this comfortable 3 BR/ 2.5BA log home located in Hemlock Ridge. This home has loads of charm with hardwood floors, tile, carpet and a stone fireplace. 2 large decks and screened in porch for outdoor entertaining. Large storage room on the lower level. The owner will negotiate some of the furnishings separately. Offered at \$409,900. MLS #76375.



Sheryl Wilson,
Broker
sheryl@WhiteOakRG.com



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Perhaps most important is our desire to create and live in a caring community with a culture of good will, harmony and consideration. We believe the best rule is "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you."



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Contact (onsite owner) or your broker for plats, prices & a guided tour.

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• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

Good News



Pastor Dan Robinson
Highlands Central Baptist Church

Some of you remember the days of network television....CBS, NBC and ABC. Those were our choices. There was the 6pm news and the final news at 11pm. At midnight the networks signed off with the National Anthem playing and the American Flag waving. Do you remember?

Now the difference is night and day...24/7. Cable television and internet have left essentially no gaps. Rather than only hearing the news, we in fact, watch it as it unfolds (i.e., the O. J. Simpson chase.). What strikes me as incredible in all this...yes...incredulously so....is that the Good News isn't reported in all the other news.

Did you know that Gospel means Good News? In our Lord's first sermon He said He had come to preach "the Good News" (Luke 4:18). And those who responded were changed. What an understatement. They were, in fact, transformed. Murderers to preachers, prostitutes to disciples. What sort of news is it that works this change in people? The heavenly part? The love of God through Jesus Christ. The earthly part? Repentance from sin and faith in Jesus Christ. The results? Peaceful and powerful lives now...and eternal life forever.

I am convinced (I wonder how you see it) that if more men, women and students would embrace the Good News there would be less bad news to report. A vibrant church was such a threat to the Roman Empire that killing of the Christians became state policy. Of course, Rome is now only a tourist attraction.

In contrast, the church remains and will forever. Transformed men and women transform cultures and societies. There is Good News. I pray you will respond to it if you haven't already. Then report it to others. I believe they will be relieved to finally hear some Good News.

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John 3:16

• PLACES TO WORSHIP • Proverbs 3:5

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Sunday night services every 2nd & 4th Sunday at 7
Wednesdays: Mid-week prayer meeting – 7 p.m.

BUCK CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

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Holy Communion 1st Sunday of the month
Wednesdays: 9 a.m. Healing and Prayer w/Holy Communion

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464 US Hwy 64 east, Cashiers
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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

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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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Sun.: 9:30am: Sunday School
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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rehearsal, 9 am, Holy Eucharist Rite II, (sanctuary), 10:30 am
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 Bo wman, 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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Sundays: Worship – 11

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Pastor Dan Robinson
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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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Worship/Communion – 10:30

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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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Rev. Dwight Loggins
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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.

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Cashiers, Rev. Sam Forrester, 743-2122
Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11

• POLICE & FIRE REPORTS •

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

June 3

• At 10 p.m., Gary Passmore, 26, of Highlands, was arrested for traffic violations and driving left of center on NC 28 at Cook Road.

June 11

• At 2:25 p.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident on US 64 west near Oak Street.

• At 2:25 p.m., officers responded to a one-vehicle accident on Satulah Ridge Road.

The Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. log entries from June 19.

June 19

• At 10:49 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Dog Mountain Road cause by burning food.

• At 11:27 p.m., the dept. provided mutual aid the Cashiers FD for a possible structure fire. It was cancelled en route.

June 20

• At 6:03 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to assist EMS at a residence on Maple Lane.

• At 8:07 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to assist EMS at a residence on Harris Drive.

June 21

• A little past midnight, the dept. was first-responders to a residence on US 64 west.

• At 11:07 a.m., the dept. responded to a vehicle accident on N. 4th Street. A person was transported to the hospital by EMS.

• At 9:22 p.m., the dept. provided mutual aid to Cashiers. The call was cancelled en route.

• At 12:46 p.m., the dept. responded to a Co² alarm which was set off by sweeping the floor at a residence on Sagee Woods Drive.

June 23

• At 5 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call at a residence on Old Orchard Road.

• At 5:02 p.m., the dept. responded to a call of a fire in a kitchen stove on Cullasaja Club Drive. The gas was turned off and all was OK.

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