

# Highlands Newspaper

FREE every Thursday

Volume 11, Number 18

Internet PDF Version at [www.HighlandsNewspaperPDF.com](http://www.HighlandsNewspaperPDF.com)

Thursday, May 9, 2013

## Town to soon offer new broadband utility

The town's 2013-'14 budget isn't in the can yet, but it looks like the Town Board will OK \$200,000 to expand its utility network to include broadband services to residents and businesses.

Full- and part-time resi-

dents as well as business owners have long complained of inconsistent and spotty coverage when it comes to internet, phone and wireless connections. The town aims to put an end to those complaints and is considering the newest wireless technology as an ad-

dition to its utility options.

Over the past year, the town has been installing fiber to the water and wastewater treatment plants to connect the facilities to town computer network operations. That was to expand into in-

stalling a fiber backbone throughout town, physically connecting to homes and businesses which would mean better broadband services all the way around.

But at last Thursday's budget

• See BROADBAND page 4

### • Inside •

Obituaries .....	3
Coach's Corner .....	5
Investing at 4,118 Ft. ....	6
RE Snapshots .....	7
Just Hers .....	9
Shopping Pullout .....	12
Events .....	17
Classifieds .....	21
Police & Fire Reports .....	22

## County excited about Parker Meadows potential

During a six-month process, whistles were blown, bells were sounded, due diligence field tests and studies completed and finally in April with a 3-2 vote Macon County Commissioners voted to purchase the Parker Meadows 43-acre tract.

Though month after month citizens crowded the commission boardroom to urge the commission to make the \$550,000 purchase, opposing political factions questioned the wisdom of the purchase, which stalled the process.

In November, when all this started, the economic potential was paramount as was the need for fields for local youth and adult teams.

But then over the course of the deliberation, the benefit of the economic impact fell to the wayside with only the local impact stressed.

However, at the end, citizens again stressed the need for

more ballfields in the county in the short-term but with an eye on the future, stressed how two, four-field cloverleaves would put the county on the Travel-Team map which could bring \$6 million into the county annually.

Commissioners Ron Haven and Paul Higdon voted against the proposition at every turn. They thought the tract was overpriced even though in 2011 it was appraised at over \$700,000 and even though Parks and Recreation Trust Fund (PARTF) grant money would pay for half the \$550,000 purchase.

They thought the tract was not usable due to floodplain issues which were dispelled by engineers and the county's planning department.

They thought the county should develop property it already owns for youth and adult ballfields even though no usable property exists.

• See EXCITED page 10



2013 Valedictorian Hayden Bates and Salutatorian Rebecca Johnson with Highlands School Principal Brian Jetter.

Photo by Ryan Potts

## Class of 2013 Valedictorian and Salutatorian announced

It's that time of year. Students, teachers and administrators are wrapping up loose ends preparing for final exams and the end of the 2012-'13 school year.

A big part of the school year's finale is announcing the Valedictorian and Salutatorian.

This year Valedictorian is Hayden Bates. She began attending Highlands High School as a freshman. She has since served in leadership of Student Govern-

ment, the Interact Club and the Fellowship of Christian Athletes. Hayden spent her junior year abroad as a Rotary International Exchange Student in Brazil. While at Highlands School Hayden has played soccer and run cross country.

In the fall she will attend Davidson College, a liberal arts college located outside of Char-

• See CLASS of 2013 page 3

## Grant funds watershed plan for Cullasaja River

A watershed plan for the upper Cullasaja River has been approved.

Funded by a 2-year grant from the North Carolina Department of Environmental and Natural Resources, the Little Tennessee Watershed Association (LTLT), which merged with the Land Trust for the Little Tennessee LTLT in 2012, has compiled available data and feedback from stakeholders to develop a feasible approach to improving water quality.

The money received was part of a federal grant to the state of North Carolina for pollution control stemming from Section 319 of the Clean Water Act.

The LTLT, in cooperation with the Upper Cullasaja Watershed Association (UCWA) has undertaken the revision and update of the 2004 Upper Cullasaja Watershed Action and Strategy Plan to address new planning elements. By addressing these additional planning elements, it is hoped that eligibility for receipt

• See CULLASAJA page 3

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# • THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

## Gerrymandering bad for North Carolina

### By the NC Coalition for Lobbying and Government Reform

A new study shows how gerrymandering distorts elections in North Carolina while a new poll finds overwhelming public support for changing the redistricting process.

The study points out the decades long history of gerrymandering in North Carolina. Polling shows 70% of North Carolinians favor redistricting reform.

The study, substantiates what most North Carolinians already suspected, the party in power uses redistricting to disenfranchise voters who don't support them.

It makes it clear that gerrymandering has been the norm for redistricting in North Carolina assuring that the party in power will win a disproportion number of seats. It was done by Dr. Larry King and Dr. Mark Nance for the NC Coalition for Lobbying and Government Reform.

In 1992, when they were in charge of drawing the maps, the Democrats received 52% of the votes in the NC House but got 67% of the seats, and in the Senate got 55% of the votes and held 78% of the seats.

Twenty years later, with the Republicans in charge, the Republicans received 54% of the vote for the NC House and hold 64% of the seats. The vote for the NC Senate split 50-50 but the republicans hold 66% of the seats and the Democrats 34%.

The study also highlights the high number of races that are not contested as a sign of how clearly districts are drawn for partisan advantage. The lack of competitive races discourages many candidates. It also allows political parties to play to their extremes.

Seventy percent of North Carolinians believe that redistricting should be done by nonpartisan professional legislative staff in a poll released this week. This is true re-

gardless of party - 73 of Republicans, 69% of Democrats, and 69% of unaffiliated voters. The poll was conducted by SurveyUSA for the NC Center for Voter Education.

House Bill 606, Non- Partisan Redistricting, which was introduced in the NC House last month, creates a system for non-partisan redistricting with the maps drawn by professional staff. It establishes strict criteria for drawing the districts. They must be compact, contiguous, follow state and federal law.

The bill, which was written by Representatives Paul Stam (R-Wake), Chuck McGrady (R-Henderson), Rick Glazier (D-Cumberland), and Deborah Ross (D-Wake), has an additional 57 co-sponsors.

• The North Carolina Coalition for Lobbying and Government Reform has more than 50 group and individual members who are committed to open, transparent government accountable to the citizens of our state.

## Public Schools First NC applauds NC's public school educators

### Teachers excel, despite adverse circumstances

Raleigh, NC — Public Schools First NC salutes the 90,000 teachers and

2,200 teacher assistants — plus administrators and other staff — who toil a minimum of 1,025 instructional hours each school year educating nearly 1.5 million public school students. Among many educational achievements, North Carolina boasts 19,799 National Board Certified teachers, the largest number of any state in the nation.

In addition to topping the national certification chart, North Carolina educators have helped our students achieve:

- The highest four-year graduation rate in state history (80.4%)
- A career and technical education completers' graduation rate of 94%
- An early college high school graduation rate of 93.5%
- The lowest dropout rate in state history

"What is remarkable about our public

school accomplishments is that they were achieved under the most adverse circumstances," said Yevonne Brannon, Chair, Public Schools

First NC. "We are currently operating under a budget that is 11% less than what was spent in 2007-08, while student enrollment has grown by approximately 16,000 students." Brannon continued, "Since 2009, our public schools have lost 17,278 positions and laid off 6,167 people, including 35% teachers and another 33% teaching assistants. We have drastically reduced teacher development and mentoring programs, textbook funding, and we pay North Carolina teachers \$10,000 less than the national average. We are so grateful to our teachers for their passion for making a strong and lasting difference in the lives of children."

Public Schools First NC is deeply concerned that budget cuts and other proposed legislation would impact educators' ability to help our children succeed.

• Loss of 3,000 teaching assistants in grades 2-3. These professionals play an essential role in helping children learn to read by grade 3, a critical education 2 mile-stone.

• Threat to end teacher tenure. Teachers can already be dismissed if there is just cause; tenure protects teachers with four or more years of experience from arbitrary dismissal.

• Untested pay-for-performance plans set up a scheme that encourages competition, whereas teachers thrive on cooperation and teamwork.

• Drop in household income eligibility for access to pre-K programs. Pre-K programs aid early preparedness leading to greater student success in K-12.

• The elimination of defined K-3 class size ratios, causing class size to go up just as it has in grades 4-12 since 2009. The Institute of Education Sciences, the research arm of the US Department of Education, cites "class size reduction as one of four K-12 reforms that have been proven to work through rigorous evidence."

"Teacher effectiveness is widely recognized as key element of student success," noted Adrienne Kelly Lumpkin, president of Alternate Access, a local technology business, and an active volunteer in Wake County schools. "Tenure — along with a nationally competitive salary — are components of an educational system that values its educators and regards them as true professionals. We need our legislators to

• See EDUCATORS page 3

## LETTERS-TO-THE EDITOR-POLICY

We reserve the right to reject or edit submissions.

**NO ANONYMOUS LETTERS WILL BE ACCEPTED.**

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

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Toll Free FAX: 866-212-8913 • (828) 526-3228

Email: [HighlandsEditor@aol.com](mailto:HighlandsEditor@aol.com)

Publisher/Editor - Kim Lewicki, Reporter - Davin Eldridge

Cartoonist - Karen Hawk; Digital Media - Jim Lewicki

Locally owned and operated Kim & Jim Lewicki

Adobe PDF version at [www.HighlandsInfo.com](http://www.HighlandsInfo.com)  
265 Oak St.; P.O. Box 2703, Highlands, N.C., 28741

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## NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE

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# • OBITUARY •

## Mary K. Aldrich

Mary K. Aldrich, 88, of Highlands, NC died Monday, April 29, 2013. Born in Bergen Co., NJ, she was the daughter of the late Joseph and Mabel Kowalski Koney. She was married to Henry N. Aldrich for 58 years who died in 2002.

She held an administrative position in Miami-Dade school system and was a member of Highlands United Methodist Church where she was a volunteer and was involved in numerous activities.

She was a loving wife, mother, grandmother and volunteered at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital for over 20 years. She was known for her sense of humor and her smile. Being with her granddaughters were her most cherished moments of her life.

Mrs. Aldrich is survived by two daughters, Marilyn J. Caputo of Miami, FL and Patti Moschouris of Highlands, NC; two grandchildren, Dori Moschouris and Eri-



ka Caputo; nephews, John Koney, Jr, Ronnie Koney and Joe Koney; a niece, Susan Ivanicki.

In addition to her parents and husband, she was preceded in death by a brother, John G. Koney.

Memorial services was held Wednesday, May 8 at 11 AM at Highlands United Methodist Church with Pastor Paul Christy and Rev. Beth Bowser officiating.

In lieu of flowers memorial donations may be

made to Highlands United Methodist Church, PO Box 1959, Highlands, NC 28741; Four Seasons Hospice "WNC Team", 171 Hospital Drive, Highlands, NC 28741 or Fidelity-Eckerd Living Center, c/o Emily Bowers, 190 Hospital Drive, Highlands, NC 28741.

Bryant-Grant Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements, Online condolences may be made at [www.bryantgrantfuneralhome.com](http://www.bryantgrantfuneralhome.com).

## ... CULLASAJA continued from page 1

of EPA Section 319 implementation funds for beneficial restoration and water quality improvement projects within the Upper Cullasaja Watershed will be significantly enhanced.

The grant was specifically designated for the use on impaired waters in need of improvement. Since 1988, the state has identified the Upper Cullasaja River and Mill Creek as impaired. Although small in total acreage, the watershed has different issues in several of the subwatersheds, making it difficult to generalize the watershed conditions and solutions to problems. LTLT has used the money to construct a nine-element watershed restoration plan within the Upper Cullasaja River along the Highlands plateau.

This revised plan relies on information contained in the 2004 Plan, as well as reports published by other agencies and entities and work performed by students of the University of North Carolina Institute for the Environment while in residence at the Highlands Biological Station.

The strategies outlined in the plan include new and expanded biological and chemical monitoring systems, implemen-

tation of more effective management measures, incentives for water quality improvements, and measurable criteria for project improvement. Also included are public education and awareness efforts, habitat restoration and preservation.

The goals of this plan are:

- Improvement of water quality in all impacted streams and lakes in the watershed
- Removal of the Cullasaja River and Mill Creek from the 303(d) list of impaired streams
- Protection of the streams where the water quality is still excellent.

Most importantly, this plan has been developed to provide additional support for the efforts of UCWA, LTLT, J-MCA, the Town of Highlands and other committed stakeholders by enhancing opportunities for future funding of beneficial water quality restoration and protection efforts.

A copy of the plan is available at Hudson Library. Electronic copies will be made available through the North Carolina Division of Water Quality's website (<http://portal.ncdenr.org/web/wq/ps/nps/319program/nc-watershed-plans>).

## ... CLASS of 2013 continued from page 1

lotte. Hayden will run cross country for Davidson and will major in Public Health and International Studies.

Salutatorian is Rebecca Johnson. Rebecca was born in Tampa, Florida. She, her parents Nancy and Greg Johnson and her younger brother Tucker moved to Scaly Mountain, NC when she was four years old.

She attended pre-school at the Highlands United Methodist Church and has attended Highlands School since kindergarten.

Throughout her career at Highlands School Becca has participated in volleyball, crosscountry, basketball, and soccer. Becca is a member of FCA, SGA, Interact Club

and Beta Club. She is President of Beta Club, Interact Club, and the Senior Class.

Becca will attend Brenau University, a small, private women's college in Gainesville, GA. She will major in Conflict Resolution and Legal Studies with a minor in English or Psychology. Upon graduating from Brenau, Becca plans to then attend Law School.

The last day of school is Friday, May 24. The graduation ceremony is Saturday, May 25 at 7 p.m. in the new gym.

## ... EDUCATORS continued from 2

focus on investing in competitive salaries, mentoring programs, professional development, and an effective work environment so we can attract and retain the best and brightest teachers in North Carolina."

• About Public Schools First NC:

Public Schools First NC (PSFNC) is a group of citizens, parents, teachers, businesses and organizations joining together to advocate for a first-rate public education system for all North Carolinians. To learn more or to join our organization, please visit: [publicschoolsfirstnc.org](http://publicschoolsfirstnc.org).

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... BROADBAND from page 1

meeting, MIS/GIS Director Matt Shuler suggested a shift in plans to better accommodate everyone.

"There are exciting changes that have taken place in technology which we may want to consider instead of

fiber. Whichever way you want to go, however, we can do it for \$200,000."

He suggested three scenarios which all require a control building - in Highlands' case, a second-hand concrete structure to be erected near the old jail on Maple Street for \$100,000.

The first is the "old" plan which is pulling fiber through town and physically connecting to buildings. The next two options involve the "new" technology which is wireless.

"Most groups are going wireless whether they are cellular or wireless ISP companies," he said. "With this scenario, we could cover more area and service more people."

The first "new" technology option involves a tower Verizon wants to erect on Big Bearpen. Shuler said the town could lease space on the tower from Verizon - or perhaps delay its lease for 10-15 years so the town could own the tower and possibly lease it to other cell and wireless ISP providers.

Whether it means leasing space from Verizon or building town towers on town property, going wireless would mean better bandwidth for a larger area than would be possible with fiber, he said.

• See BROADBAND page 22

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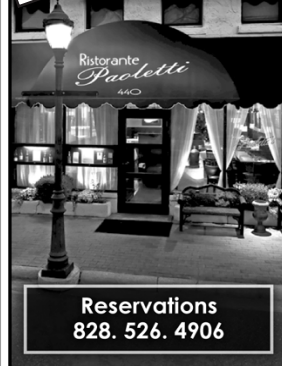


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# • COACH'S CORNER •

## The Local's Guide to Highlands

One of the things that I have learned in my 25+ years in Highlands is that folks who are new to the community can always use a little help. With that in mind, I figured that one of the things that I could do to help the newcomers to town is to provide a couple of handy dandy tips, so without further ado.



**Ryan Potts**  
tryanpotts@hotmail.com

1. Pennsylvania has the gopher who sees its shadow, but in Highlands, the only way to know that winter has truly ended is when the Dummy Cop makes his first appearance of the year.

2. Familiarize yourself with the Spring Street bypass...or hope that you don't need to get anywhere in a hurry during the summer.

3. If you like a store downtown, shop there as often as possible so as to keep them open...otherwise, prepare for it to be replaced with a women's boutique.

4. If you need to go to a Walmart, go to Clayton. Only the city of Franklin could screw up Walmart as badly as they have. The Franklin Walmart has no deli, no tire/auto, no eye center, and the aisles are so small that a normal size person can block them, and a large person on a scooter creates an instant traffic situation. Add in a parking lot that was likely designed by MC Escher, and just one visit makes Clayton look much more appealing.

5. If you MUST go to Franklin, here's a quick guide to navigating the Gorge Road.

a. Avoid travel between 7-9a and 4-6p at all costs.

b. Florida tags: \$50,000 and over will pull over when tailgated. Under \$50K will pull over eventually, but will take some coaxing

c. Georgia tags: \$40K and over with Georgia Bulldog paraphernalia (otherwise known as the former fratboy classification) will speed up if you tail them, but will eventually pull over under the guise of looking at something.

d. South Carolina tags: Will not pull over...ever. Even if their vehicle suddenly burst into flames, they would continue to coast down the Gorge (gotta save money!) in defiance of your desire to travel at a normal pace.

e. Other southern tags: Will likely pull over, but may glare as you go by

f. Northern tags: Will slow to a crawl looking for ANY opportunity to pull over.

g. Be aware for cars suddenly stopping near any of the waterfalls. For some reason, rules of traffic no longer apply when a tourist wishes to look at a waterfall.

h. Look at the bright side...there's always Buck Creek Rd

6. It's pronounced Cashers, but it is spelled Cashiers. I have no idea why...but that's just how it is.

7. U-Turns are not allowed on Main St....there are even signs and everything. Be advised that tourists will completely ignore this in search of parking places.

8. If you go past Bryson's on 28 you will end up in South Carolina....eventually. That road has been known to reduce even the heartiest of drivers to tears.

I hope the above guide has been helpful and informative. Welcome to Highlands, we are glad you are here!

## Toxaway Falls Garden Club Native Plant Sale is May 16-17

The Toxaway Falls Garden Club is hosting its Fourth Native Plant Sale at Whistlin' Dixie Garden Center located on Hwy 64 in Sapphire on Thursday, Friday & Saturday, May 16th, 17th and 18th from 9 am to 5 pm.

One hundred percent of the proceeds of this sale will go towards the Garden Club's scholarship fund which awards scholarships to worthy local students for their college education. With college tuition costs increasing each year, and the economy as it is, the Club wants to give these worthy students the opportunity to attend college and provide a better future for them and our community. Over the past five years, the Club has raised and contributed over \$50,000 for scholarships to our local students for their college education.

The owners of Whistlin' Dixie, April

• See PLANT SALE page 9

## Win a Kindle! Deadline extended

Calling all middle school age students in Highlands and Cashiers! There is still time to enter the "If I Were a Book" writing contest in either the prose or poetry categories. The deadline for entries is May 13 and the entry may be up to 325 words in length.

The First Place winner in each category will not only win a Kindle, but also will be published in the Laurel Magazine and will be invited to read his or her entry at "Poetry Night" at the library in Cashiers on August 15.

Call Kathie Blozan at 743-1765 for further information and to obtain an entry form. The submission must begin with the words "If I were a book." All middle school students in Cashiers and Highlands, including home-schoolers are eligible. The contest is being sponsored by the Cashiers Writers Group and the Friends of the Albert Carlton-Cashiers Community Library and is a part of the Love Your Library celebration this summer.

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# • INVESTING AT 4,118 FT. •

## Mothers are synonymous with homes

**W**hen we think of homes we think of mothers and with Mother's Day being this Sunday I became curious about its origin and wanted to share what I found with you.

Traditionally, Mothering Sunday in England was the occasion when children who had gone to work as apprentices and domestic servants were given a day off to visit their mothers and families.

Children would give flowers, and home-made cards to their mothers as a token of thanks for their love.

At the outset, Mothering Sunday and Mother's Day were two distinct festivals with entirely different beginnings.


Mothering Sunday originated in 17th-century British culture; Mother's Day was an American innovation in 1913 and was always held on the fourth Sunday of Lent.

Mother's Day was introduced by Anna Jarvis from Philadelphia, a young woman whose mother died in May 1906. A year later, Anna told a friend that she wished the day could be set aside to pay tribute to all mothers.

The idea began to spread and gain wide support. The governor proclaimed the second Sunday in May to be Mother's Day. The festival continued to gain popularity and, in 1913, the US Senate and House of Representatives officially dedicated the day to the memory of "The best mother in the world – your mother."

Highlands and Cashiers, NC lend themselves to memories: hiking Whiteside Mountain for the first time, visiting amazing waterfalls, having Sunday lunch at High Hampton Inn, attending Highlands Old Fashion Christmas Parade, dressing up for Halloween and parading through downtown Highlands, playing family bingo at the Community Building, or simply enjoy-

• See INVESTING page 17



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Kyle Gabbard, Craig Dalton, Max Bosco, Remy Adrian, Austin Nichols, Jacob McElroy, Brent Amundrud, Head Coach, Keven Gabbard

Photo by Lisa Osteen

## Highlander Golf Team reaches Regionals

By Ryan Potts

The Highlands Highlander men's golf team will be headed to the Regionals this week after a strong performance in the Conference Championship last week. The Conference Championship consisted of two rounds of 18 holes, with the first being at Brevard and the second being held at Cherokee. Led by Captain Max Bosco, the Highlanders finished fourth out of eleven teams, and will be playing in the Re-

gional Finals in Franklin this week.

Bosco, a senior from Vero Beach, FL, finished in third place overall for individuals and led Highlands with rounds of 78 and 81 respectively. Bosco also won All-Conference honors for the Highlanders, and plans on attending Campbell University in the fall to major in Professional Golf Management. Results from regionals will be available in next week's edition of the Highlands Newspaper.

## Highlands High School Track Team



Jacob McElroy, Hayden Bates, Jackie Reyes, Evan Schmidt, Corbin Hawkins, Remy Adrian, Colin Weller, Max Bosco, Carter Potts, Kyle Gabbard, Victor Lopez, Harrison Renfro, Manager, Head Coach, Ryan Kean, Asst. Coach, Jonathan Phillips.

Not pictured is the Middle School Track Team: Jody Thorske, Wes Hedden, Haley Hawkins, Erica Barnes, Montana McElroy, Kim Fera, Trinity Dendy and Hadleigh Egler.

Photo by Lisa Osteen



## • JUST HERS •

## The Donkey Scholarship

I come from a long line of racqueteers. Before you get all shocked, check the spelling. It's racqueteering, not racketeering. There was hardly a sport involving the whacking of some small object by another larger object in which a Mead was not involved. It is not easy being the least athletic person in a family of Titans and Amazons. My French grandmother, never one to spare the feelings of her nearest and dearest, once shook her head and declared that my arrival into this world had not been so much a matter of being born as of tripping out of the womb. In the midst of a family of gazelles, I stood out as a creature of mesmerizing clumsiness.

In a situation such as mine, you have two choices. You can either be the loser, the last in line, the worst, the embarrassment, the joke – or find something you excel at and then, do it. As much as my family appreciated a good backhand, they also enjoyed a good game of verbal ping pong, words battled back and forth with verve and style. At an early age, I came out with statements that surprised and bemused. When I was two, my father's best friend at Kansas State leaned over my crib, and said "What's your Mommy making for dinner? Is she making spaghetti? Can you say spaghetti?" I assume that he was waiting for me to pronounce "spaghetti" the way many young children do at that age – "psketty". I gave him a withering look, and shook my head. "My Mommy isn't making spaghetti," I said. "She's making chicken cacciatore."

Now, don't get me wrong. My family was one of those "speak when spoken to" households. The adults clearly ruled the roost. It was assumed that with their age and experience, they had more to say than we did. Sitting at the dinner table, we learned what went along so well with the art of the table – the art

of conversation. Since we often had to wait patiently for our chances to speak, we made sure that what was said was well thought out and clearly presented. The grown-ups around us assumed we would be spending more time as adults than as

children, so the sooner we knew how to process adult vocabulary, the better. There was no dumbing down of conversation for the benefit of children. Actually, I'm sure there were many things which went over our heads. Years later, I would recall something overheard during my childhood, and think, "So that's what they meant!" In my family, no one ever spoke to a child in baby talk or in a sing song voice. When outsiders would do that to my brother and me, I would turn to Maman, and whisper "What's wrong with them?"

I know many people who censor every piece of bad news, presenting their children with a Disney version of life, fearing that reality is just too much for them. While I'm sure we were spared many things, we were not unaware of life's vicissitudes. We learned that you don't light a firecracker while eating jam, since doing so resulted in my father's cousin losing a finger. We were taught that wars kill people, pets get run over, and not everyone who gets sick recovers. It did not traumatize us, rather, it taught us that life was short, and therefore, precious. When bad things did happen to us, and to those around us, it seemed part of the natural fabric of life, not some huge mistake which was the end of the world. If we did something stupid, there were consequences to be learned,



**Michelle Mead-Armor**  
michiemead@aol.com

but we knew we were still loved and cherished, even if it meant sitting down gingerly for a day or two.

I wish my mother had lived another 1,000 years, to hear the new set of bells ringing in celebration of the 850th anniversary of Notre Dame Cathedral

in Paris. What sadness I feel that I also never got to read to her from Caroline Kennedy's latest book, *Poems to Learn by Heart*. A trained pianist, my mother appreciated the musicality of language, and shared it with my brother and me. I still cherish the large book of poetry she bought us, remembering fondly favorites like Ogden Nash's *Tale of Custard the Dragon* and A.A. Milne's *King John's Christmas*. The later poem was also one of my husband's favorites, and he thought it should be read at Christmas instead of the overworked *A Visit from St. Nicholas*. John delighted in reading it to me every year in his beautiful, melodious voice, and late at night, I can still hear him:

King John was not a good man-

He had his little ways.

And sometimes no one spoke to him

For days and days and days.

It is discouraging that so much vocabulary seems to come from television. Unfortunately, it's probably more *Honey Boo Boo* and *The Real Wives of Wherever* than the History Channel and Downton Abbey. And don't even get me started on texting and Tweeting and other horrors beginning with "t". The question is, where do you draw the line between defending the beauty and elegance of language, and becoming tediously pedantic? My father

had a way of deflating the biggest egos with two sentences, delivered with what we came to call "The Look." "Do you know why they don't send donkeys to college?" he would say. Even when we already knew the answer, we would play along. "No, Daddy. Why don't they send donkeys to college?" My father would take a deep breath, pausing to give the punch line all the solemnity it deserved. "Because nobody likes a smart ass." It's a good lesson for all of us to remember, especially those of us with an unfortunate flair for the dramatic. Whenever I stray from the good common sense I was taught by my parents, I try to remember that I'm not applying for The Donkey Scholarship.

• Michelle A. Mead is a writer and translator who was born in Key West, and grew up in a small town in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia. She has lived in Highlands since 2006.

## ... PLANT SALE continued from 5

and Chuck Galloway, are graciously donating the use of their facilities again for this sale. Additional contributors to this sale are Bobbie Smith, from Advance Grounds Maintenance Landscaping Company and Dr. Larry Mellichamp, Director of UNC Charlotte Botanical Gardens, who has contributed native plants for this sale.

This is an opportunity to purchase those unusual and beautiful hard to find native plants not usually available from garden centers. The Garden Club encourages the use of native plants because they benefit both our environment and our pocketbooks. Native plants also provide food and shelter for our wildlife.

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... EXCITED continued from page 1

In addition, Commissioner Higdon said over and over again that spending the \$5.1 million outside designers proposed for a full-blown park with all the bells and whistles, was too much and he would never vote for it.

"I was elected to stop the spending," he said at the next to last meeting prior to the final vote. "I can't vote to encumber the citizen of Macon County with that."

After months of hearing that argument, Commission Chair Kevin Corbin showed is ire saying that was not the motion put to vote and it never was.

"The only thing we are voting on right now is to move ahead with the purchase of the property. No one has said anything about spending \$5.1 million," he said.

Now that the politics of the issue have died down, the three commissioners who voted in favor of the purchase – Corbin, Tate and Beale – are ready to express their hopes for the Parker Meadows property in regard to the children of Macon County and the county's future.

"First and foremost, developing fields at Parker Meadows will help with the tremendous scheduling problem during the week for practice fields for all our teams both youth and adult. We have 1,100 citizens who play softball or baseball in Macon County with nowhere to practice," said Corbin. "Secondly, the economic impact of these fields should not be underestimated. With 13 fields within miles of each other, Macon County could and will host several large tournaments throughout the year. Both baseball and softball tournament play is extremely popular. We will certainly have some upfront costs, but the long term economic impact will return that investment many times to the citizens of Macon County."

Commissioner Tate said he hopes the county can move ahead with the development of at least the eight ballfields within the next couple of years.

"Our current budget is very tight, but our fund balance is strong. And thus, I would personally be supportive of following through with implementing the 'gist' of our plans from our fund balance," he said. "And yes, this is more than just about the kids, we received testimony that it would cause a tremendous impact to our economy and this is a significant plus, but it also provides us the ability of having all of our fields in one location versus many. The significant points of Parker Meadows are: children, economic impact, and logistics."

Commissioner Beale said the economic impact may even be underestimated.

ed.

"After looking at what some other facilities are doing when it comes to economic development, our projections might be very low," he said. "Haywood County had a tournament three weeks ago with 60 teams from out of town who had to travel all over the county to different fields. We will be able to host the same tournament at the county recreation park and at the new fields at Parker Meadows. That could mean 2,000 or more visitors to Macon County for a long weekend."

Each commissioner agreed that the \$5.1 projected cost is not realistic or something the board would agree to.

"There was some misunderstanding about it taking \$5.1 million to develop the ballfields. To apply for the PARTF grant, you must show a "long range" plan for the property with all potential uses. We did that and the cost estimate put on that plan by an engineering firm was \$5.1 million. Developing the ballfield complex would be less than half that amount, but we will get firm numbers before we proceed," he said.

Commissioner Tate agreed said the \$5.1 estimate was "overboard in regards to a budget for construction."

"I do not see any problem with going ahead and getting new estimates, and from there we can move forward with potential development," he said.

Commissioner Beale believes the total cost will be as much as 30% to 35% less than the \$5.1 figure.

Commissioners hope at least some part of the park will be ready for business spring of 2014.

"Obviously, it will be up to the full board to decide how to proceed and we have had no discussions to this point," said Corbin. "If we could at least begin with the eight ballfields later this year, then it would be ready for local practice and play, as well as hosting tournaments by 2014."

Tate said he hopes the park will be Travel-Team ready the moment the first games are played. "Maybe our recreation department can kick-off the grand opening with a large tournament."

Commissioner Beale said if the PARTF grant comes through a lot of progress can be made quickly but everything depends on the 2013-'14 budget which is in the works now.

Tate agreed. "We have a long ways to go and numerous decisions to be made before this happens, but dreaming of the potential that is right at our fingertips is great!"

– Kim Lewicki



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To Four Seasons: No words can say how much Billy loved all of you; how much he appreciated everything you did for him. How happy he was when you knew so much about MD.

Thanks, too, to the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital for the wonderful care our brother received from the EMS and the ER doctor and staff. The nurses on the floor, the doctor in the ER kept us informed. Also thanks to Dr. Patti Wheeler. You were so good to all of us. We are grateful to all of you and for having a good hospital so close to us.

– Billy Houston's Family



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**N**on-training physical activity? Sounds like a contradicting statement doesn't it? However, many people who workout both regularly and intensely have a hard time meeting their fitness goals because they are not physically active throughout the rest of their day.

Sure, getting to the gym for a full body resistance training session, walking a brisk three miles at a high incline on the treadmill or sweating profusely on the elliptical for 30 minutes are great activities that you should be doing. But you need to be active the other 14-16 hours you are awake as well.

Many of you work very hard at during your bouts of exercise, unfortunately the amount of calories we think we burn is much higher than what we actually expend during a workout. Often times after finishing a workout I feel like I have burned thousands of calories to discover I have only burned 600. Furthermore, most of us (myself included) eat more calories in a day than we should. So, when we return home from our morning workout and fulfill the rest of our day sitting at our computer, our desk, watching TV or



**R. Garrett Tandy, Jr.**

[www.garretttandyfitness.com](http://www.garretttandyfitness.com)

various other sedentary activities, we still end up at a calorie surplus. Also, when we sit for long periods of times throughout the day, we totally turn off our muscles in our core and legs negating that tough weight lifting session or abs class.

Our body is not meant to do physical activity for 30 minutes or an hour, four to five days a week. It is meant to do some sort of physical activity for numerous hours just about every day. Sure, we are not designed to be able to lift heavy weights from dawn until dusk, but we are capable of doing 30 minutes of resistance training, taking a mid-day walk and a little after-

noon gardening.

Your body is also capable of doing some other physical activities in between these events. Granted, we all need a little rest, but we need to move more than we rest. There are numerous things we can do to boost the amount of non-training physical activity throughout the day. Work around the house is a good calorie burner and strength builder. Shopping can help boost your activity if you choose to walk from shop to shop. Golf is always a good physical activity to do throughout your day.....of course, carrying your bags and not using a cart is a better way to add to that non training physical activity!

There are plenty of opportunities to be active throughout the day and if you are really committed to meeting your health and fitness goals, you will find ways to keep moving.

• **R. Garrett Tandy Jr.**  
**M.A.Ed., CSCS, Titlest Performance Institute CGFI**  
**Personal Trainer, Highlands Country Club**  
[www.garretttandyfitness.com](http://www.garretttandyfitness.com)

• **BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NEWS** •

**Shuler earns certification**



Town Clerk Rebecca Shuler recently received her Certified Municipal Clerk Certificate (CMC). This past summer she earned her NC CMC at the clerk's annual summer academy.





# • BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NEWS •

## Rotary Bingo benefits C-H Humane Society



On Thursday, May 2, the Rotary Club of Highlands partnered with the Cashiers-Highlands Humane Society to sponsor "Cats & Dogs Bingo." All proceeds went to support our local private no-kill shelter. Pictured from left are Rotarian and Bingo caller Brian McClellan and David Stroud, Executive Director of the C-H Humane Society with winners of the final Super Bingo game Diane Elder, Elaine Carlton, and Joy Wood.

## Rotarians enjoy evening at The Bascom



Members of the Highlands, Franklin, Cashiers and Sylva Rotary Clubs enjoyed an evening at The Bascom on Wednesday, May 1. One of the highlights of the evening was a demonstration by Frank Vickery, Ceramics Program Coordinator. The guests also enjoyed a private tour of the two current exhibitions: Landscape Photography in A Changing World, organized by Jane Jackson, and A Never Ending Stream: The Art of Linda Anderson. For membership and events information about The Bascom, call 828-526-4949.

## Area Chambers enjoy evening at The Bascom



Members of the Highlands, and Cashiers Chambers of Commerce enjoyed an evening at The Bascom on Tuesday, April 30. One of the highlights of the evening was a demonstration by Frank Vickery, Ceramics Program Coordinator. The guests also enjoyed a private tour of the two current exhibitions: Landscape Photography in A Changing World, organized by Jane Jackson, and A Never Ending Stream: The Art of Linda Anderson. For membership and events information about The Bascom, call 828-526-4949.

Pictured from left: Jennifer Smathers, Visitor Center Director Highlands Chamber; Pat Turnbull, Membership Coordinator, The Bascom; Bob Kieltyka, Executive Director Highlands Chamber; Jane Jerry, Executive Director The Bascom; Stephanie Edwards, Executive Director Cashiers Area Chamber.

Look for the Red Roof and the Covered Wagon!

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• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

Christ Anglican Church  
has in new sanctuary in  
Cashiers



Pastor Jim Murphy  
Christ Anglican  
Church

Greetings in the dynamism of the Holy Spirit. Have you ever had a "dream come true" out of the blue? You know, the kind of dream that you sort of resist thinking about because it would be such a miraculous, beyond the odds type of dream, that you really shouldn't spend time thinking that it could ever come to pass. But then, lo and behold, it does and you're instantly caught up in the rapture of the moment.

That happened for us at Christ Anglican this past Sunday as we worshiped for the first time in our new facilities in Cashiers in the old Madden building on US 64 east. Still far from being complete they were more than we could have dreamed. "Awesome," said one, "More and better than expected," remarked another. The sanctuary is warm, inviting, and country-comfortable. The fellowship room is spacious and user-friendly, even if under-equipped at the moment. Restrooms, parking, Christian Education space, ramp and covered entry porch, a real sacristy, our US 64 deck and an office are all blessings to behold. And you're invited to behold them.

We had nine folks for our 8:30am Communion service, celebrated unfailingly from the 1928 BCP. The acoustics are good enough for folks to hear even when I turn my back to them. One parishoner and 28' devotee, said it was nothing short of glorious. Another couple promised to be there at the early service every week, when they're in town. Still another thanked God and me for being faithful to the promise of celebrating the traditional liturgy, ad orientum, no less.

If you have a spot in your soul that longs to be filled regularly w/ faithfulness to 28' BCP worship, look no further, you are cordially invited to partake. We welcome everyone, parishoners, past communicants, new-comers, those who cannot stomach the episcopos-

John 3:16

• PLACES TO WORSHIP •

Proverbs 3:5

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

**BUCK CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH**  
Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11

**GRACE COMMUNITY CHURCH OF CASHIERS**  
Non-Denominational-Contemporary Worship  
242 Hwy 107N, 1/4 miles from Crossroads in Cashiers  
www.gracecashiers.com • Pastor Steve Doerter: 828-743-9814  
Services: Sundays 10am - Wed. - 7pm  
Catered dinner - Wed. 6pm

**CHAPEL OF SKY VALLEY**  
Sky Valley, GA  
Church: 706-746-2999  
Sundays: 10 a.m. – Worship  
Holy Communion 1st Sunday of the month  
Wednesdays: 9 a.m. Healing and Prayer w/Holy Communion

**CHRIST ANGLICAN CHURCH**  
Rector: Jim Murphy, 252-671-4011  
Worshipping at the facilities of Whiteside Presbyterian Church, Cashiers  
Sun.: Holy Communion - 9 a.m.; Adult Forum - 10:45 at Buck's Coffee Cafe, Cashiers  
Mon.: Bible Study & Supper at homes - 6 p.m.  
Wed.: Men's Bible Study -8:30 a.m., First Baptist Church  
Thurs.: Women's Prayer Group - 10 a.m., Whiteside Presbyterian Church; Healing Service at noon

**CLEAR CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH**  
Pastor Jim Kinard  
Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11  
Wednesdays -- 7 p.m.

**COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH**  
www.cbchighlands.com • 526-4685  
3645 Cashiers Rd, Highlands, NC  
Senior Pastor Gary Hewins  
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

**EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE INCARNATION**  
Rev. Bruce Walker • 526-2968  
Sundays: Holy Eucharist Rite I (chapel), 8 am, Education and choir rehearsal, 9 am, Holy Eucharist Rite II, (sanctuary), 10:30 am  
Thursdays: Holy Eucharist, (chapel), 10 am

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH**  
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

**HIGHLANDS ASSEMBLY OF GOD**  
Randy Reed, Pastor  
828-421-9172 • 165 S. Sixth Street  
Sundays: Worship – 11

**HIGHLANDS CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH**  
Pastor Dan Robinson  
670 N. 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**  
Chaplain Margaret Howell  
2152 Dillard Road – 526-9741  
Sundays: Sunday School and Adult discussion group 9:30 a.m.; Worship/Communion – 10:30  
HEALING SERVICE on the 5th Sunday of the month.

**MACEDONIA BAPTIST CHURCH**  
8 miles south of Highlands on N.C. 28 S in Satolah  
Pastor Roy Lowe, (828) 526-8425  
Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11  
Choir – 6 p.m.  
Wed: Bible Study and Youth Mtg. – 7 p.m.

**MOUNTAIN SYNAGOGUE**  
St. Cyprian's Episcopal Church, Franklin  
828-369-9270 or 828-293-5197

**MOUNTAIN BIBLE CHURCH**  
Pastor: Clayton Lopez • 828-743-9704  
Independent Bible Church  
Sundays:10:30 a.m. at Big Ridge Baptist Church, 4224 Big Ridge Road (4.5 miles from NC 107)  
Weds: Bible Study 6:30 p.m.; Youth Group 6 p.m.

**OUR LADY OF THE MOUNTAINS CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
Rev. Dean Cesa, pastor – Parish office: 526-2418  
Mass: – Sun: 11 a.m.; Thurs & Fri.: 9 a.

**SCALY MOUNTAIN BAPTIST CHURCH**  
Rev. Dwight Loggins  
Sundays: School –10 a.m.; Worship –11 a.m. & 7  
Wednesdays: Prayer Mtg. – 7 p.m.

**SCALY MOUNTAIN CHURCH OF GOD**  
290 Buck Knob Road; Pastor Alfred Sizemore • 526-3212  
Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 10:45 a.m.; Worship – 6 p.m.  
Wed: Adult Bible Study & Youth – 7 p.m.

**SHORTOFF BAPTIST CHURCH**  
Pastor Rev. Andy Cloer  
Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11  
Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study – 7

**UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP**  
85 Sierra Drive • 828-524-6777  
Sunday Worship - 11 a.m.  
Child Care - 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.  
Religious Education - 11 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.  
Youth 8th - 12th grades meet the 2nd Sundays 5 - 7:30 p.m.

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



## ... SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING continued from page 16

trench any longer, the simply curious, and those who have an affinity for quiet (said), contemplative worship. There's no longer any need to compromise, faithful and traditional Anglican worship is firmly entrenched in Cashiers.

At our 9:30 Christian Education (a.k.a., SS) hour, better than 20 people formed a large circle as we began to study the Book of Isaiah. Buck's coffee was carried in to warm our hearts and the Word of God did the rest. It was an excellent and engaged group of faithful folks, including a handful of new comers. You are invited to give our CE hour (really 45 minutes) a try.

We hosted nearly 30 souls

for our 10:30am worship service and that was without advertising or promotion! Chad cranked out the tunes from the 1940 Hymnal and other resources and we all made a joyful noise unto the Lord. The acoustics made it seem like the "multitude of heavenly hosts" were singing with us. Things went so well that a good number of folks were still hanging around well after the service was ended. You are invited to behold this glory too. You're welcome anytime.

It's truly a dream, or better yet, a miracle come true, check it out to see if you agree. We'll advise you of when our official service of dedication will be—certain to be a grand, grand-opening unto the Lord.

## ... INVESTING continued from page 6

ing time together in front of the fireplace with a large Scrabble board.

As a child, I always looked forward to our trip to the mountains in October to see the leaves as so many do. I never knew exactly where we were and suffered car sickness in the worst way! I was in awe of the colors and waterfalls and we would stop in a park and Mama would cook on a grill. We ate so much and now I understand that altitude makes you hungrier or perhaps it was the love felt during that time in the great outdoors.

After my mother's death I went through a box of old photographs. To my surprise I found a picture of me in a cowboy hat and shorts displaying skinny legs and knobby knees standing with my cousin beneath Bridal Veil Falls! I never knew we had come to Highlands in our many trips! I guess I was destined to be here!

A mother is the "heart" of the home. Our earliest memories are of being nurtured and feeling safe and loved in a home. It doesn't matter if it has two bedrooms and one bath or 10 bedrooms and 11 baths. It doesn't matter if there is a mountain view, flowing stream, or walk-to-

town location. It is simply the love that lingers in those walls that remains in our hearts forever.

Happy Mother's Day to all!

## • 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](http://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. \$10 per class or \$40 a month.

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

### Monday & Wednesday

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

### Monday & Thursday

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

### Mondays

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

### Tuesdays

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

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

### Wednesdays

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

### Wednesdays & Fridays

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

### Thursdays

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

• The Highlands Writers Group

• See EVENTS page 18

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# • HIGHLANDS AREA UPCOMING EVENTS •

## HCP Box Office opens for 'Love, Loss and What I wore' at PAC in Highlands

Virginia Talbot rehearses her monologue "I Hate My Purse," for HCP's production of "Love, Loss, and What I Wore."



Reservations for the Highlands Cashiers Players' production of "Love, Loss, and What I Wore" are now being accepted for season subscribers on May 16 and 17 and for general tickets beginning Saturday, May 18, through the run of the play on June 2. This enjoyable, insightful play features 24 women of the Highlands Cashiers area, ranging in age from teenagers to middle-agers to seniors, some new to the stage, some well-known experienced HCP veterans.

"Love, Loss, and What I Wore," by sisters Nora and Delia Ephron, well-known screenwriters, playwrights, and novelists, was a recent Off-Broadway hit. The play is not exactly a comedy, but a humorous, perceptive drama of monologues and ensemble pieces in which contemporary women remember moments of their lives and the clothing they wore—from prom and wedding dresses to bras, purses, and high heels—revealing how importantly clothing figures in the lives of women, evoking powerful memories of the past.

The original production in New York featured five actresses, dressed in black, sitting on stage and telling their stories, but the HCP production, adapted and staged by Dr. Ronnie Spilton and directed by Spilton, Jenny King, and Lance Trudel is far from a static production. The actors are in and out of the

set to do their bit, with accessories, varying hair colors and styles, and some 90 costume changes.

Women, of course, are bound to identify with many of the experiences the actresses describe, but men will certainly enjoy the colorful presentation and find themselves laughing and nodding with recognition as the women poke fun at their own foibles and pre-occupation with clothing and accessories. And most audience members are likely to know at least one or two of the ladies on stage!

"Live, Loss, and What I Wore" opens Thursday night, May 23, with a catered reception after the performance, and runs through Sunday, May 26; Thursday May 30 through Sunday, June 2. Evening performances begin at 7:30, Sunday matinees, at 2:30 p.m. Call the HCP box office, 828-526-8084, or stop by the Performing Arts Center on 507 Chestnut Street in Highlands, 10 a.m. till 4 p.m., opening at 6 p.m. before evening performances and 1 p.m. before matinees.

meets at 1 p.m. at the Hudson Library. Call Anne Doggett at 526 8009.

- Free dinner at the Cashiers Community Center from 5-7 p.m. Mostly organic, healthy food. Donations accepted. Call 743-5706 for more information. Volunteers needed!

### Second Thursdays

- The regular meeting of Highlands Chapter #284, Order of The Eastern Star is held at 7:30 p.m.

### Saturdays

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

- The Art Room, 45 East Main St. in Franklin is having free Make & Take Classes from 10am to 12:30. Come make a Card...Ages 15 and up please! Call Dianne 828-349-3777 or Robin 828-421-9891.

### Every Third Saturday

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

### Thursday, May 9

- Keller Williams Realty Blood Drive (1573 Highlands Road; Franklin, NC) 1-5:30 pm Please contact Connie Coker at (828) 524-0100 or log onto [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org) to schedule an appointment.

- The May meeting of The Western North Carolina Woodturners Club will meet on Thursday at 6 PM at the Blue Ridge School, in Greenville, N.C. Drive to the back of the school to the woodworking shop. Visitors are always welcomed. The club meets every second Thursday at 6 P.M., March through November.

- The Macon County Cancer Support Group will meet Thursday, at 7 p.m. in the cafeteria of Angel Medical Center. The upcoming Relay for Life of Franklin to be held on June 8th will be discussed. Photos from last year's Relay will be shown. Registrations will be taken for the upcoming Survivor's Dinner to be held on May 23rd. There will be free Relay gifts. Light refreshments will be served. Everyone is welcome. For more information, call 828-369-9221.

### Saturday, May 11

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a 6-mile moderate hike with an elevation change of 300 ft. along Panther Creek to Panther Creek Falls near Tallulah Falls, GA. Meet at Westgate Plaza in Franklin at 9 am. Drive 65 miles round trip. Bring water and lunch. Call leader

Gail Lehman, 524-5298, for reservations. Visitors welcome but no pets please.

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a 4-mile moderate hike with an elevation change of 500 ft. to Lower White-water Falls from Bad Creek parking area for views of the falls and Lake Jocassee. Meet at Cashiers Rec. Center parking lot at 10 a.m. Drive 22 miles round trip. Call leaders Mike and Susan Kettles, 743-1079, for reservations. Visitors welcome but no pets please.

### Sunday, May 12

- At Paoletti's, Mother's Day Special. Pre-Fixe Menu for \$39, includes both a soup & salad and choices of two small plate entrees, followed by choice of dessert. Call 526-4906 for reservations.

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a 6-mile moderate-to-strenuous hike on the Bartram Trail, with elevation change of 750 ft., from Wallace Branch up a ridge for views of the Nantahala Mountains and Mill Creek Community. Meet at Westgate Plaza in Franklin at 2 p.m. Drive 6-miles round trip. Call leader Joyce Jacques, 410-852-7510, for reservations. Visitors welcome but no pets please

### Wed., May 15

- Free movie at the Hudson Library. "Sarah's Key." Rated PG-13..

### Thurs.-Sat., May 16-18

- At The Bascom, Collective Spirits, a premier spring wine and food event. For additional information regarding events and participating chefs and vintners, please visit [collectivespirits.com](http://collectivespirits.com). For ticketing information, call the ticket office at 828-787-2896. For other Collective Spirits inquiries, contact Claire Cameron, Events Manager, at 828-787-2882 or [ccameron@thebascom.org](mailto:ccameron@thebascom.org).

### Thurs., May 16

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

- "When Sugar Met Salt" - Balance the Salt you Eat & Help Steady Blood Sugar Too! Macon County Public Health will be offering this fun and easy class about how to lighten up on sodium and help manage diabetes. Join Jessi Bassett, Registered Dietitian at Macon County Public Health for a live cooking demo and yummy dinner on Thursday, May 16th from 5:30-7 pm. Learn how the salt in your foods can make a difference in your blood sugar. This event is free but registration is required. Call Macon County Public Health @ 349-2425 today to reserve your spot!

### Fri. May 17

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a 4-mile easy hike with an elevation change of 150 ft. on the Little Tennessee River Greenway from Tasssee Shelter to the Library Loop and back. Meet at the Tasssee Shelter on Ulco Dr. in Franklin at 6:30 a.m. with binoculars for bird-watching. Call leader Kathy Ratcliff, 349-3380, for reservations. Visitors welcome but no pets please.

- The High Mountain Squares will be having a special "Graduation Dance" this Friday night, at the Macon County Community Building on Route 441 South from 6:30-9pm. Jim Roper from Cornella, GA will be the caller. We dance Western Style Square Dancing, main/stream and plus levels. There will be a Plus Workshop from 6:30-7pm. Everyone is welcome. For more information call 828-349-0905.

### Sun. May 18

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a 13-mile strenuous hike to Mt. LeConte, with an elevation change of 3,500 ft., climbing from Grotto Falls on the Trillium Gap Trail and descending via Rainbow Falls Trail. Meet at Dillsboro Huddle House at 8 am. Drive 172 miles round trip. Call leader Don O'Neal, 828-586-5723, for reservations. Able visitors welcome, but no pets please.

- Military salute honoring L.C. Nix at the Highlands Memorial Park at 3 p.m. The family will gather at noon for lunch in the lower picnic pavilion at the Highlands Rec Park. Bring your favorite salad and a serving utensil.

- Highlands Plateau Audubon again this year will lead a bird walk into the private community of Lonesome Valley in Sapphire. Anyone interested should meet in the parking lot of the Highlands Town Hall near the rest rooms at 7:30 am sharp to carpool to Cashiers. For details, call Michelle Styring at 743-9670 or go to [www.highlandsaudubonsociety.org](http://www.highlandsaudubonsociety.org).

### Sunday, May 19

- The world famous Atlanta Boy Choir will present its annual concert Sunday at 4 p.m. in the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation. The performance is free. Donations are accepted. Come early for a seat.

- Martinis and Mozart at Wolfgang's Restaurant and Wine Bistro. Tickets are \$85 per person. Enjoy martinis, wine and the Bistro's speciality hors d'oeuvres. Call the HCCMF office for



# • HIGHLANDS AREA UPCOMING EVENTS •

reservations at 828-526-9060.

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a 2.5-mile easy hike on the Kimsey Creek Trail to view spring wildflowers on a mostly level woodland trail with a very short climb and small creek crossing. Meet at Westgate Plaza in Franklin at 2 pm. Drive 30 miles round trip. Call leader Kay Coriell, 369-6820, for reservations. Visitors welcome but no pets please.

## Monday, May 20

• Mountain View Intermediate School Blood Drive (161 Clarks Chapel Road; Franklin, NC) 2 – 6:30 pm Please contact Sandy Keener at (828) 349-1325 for further information or to schedule an appointment.

• Audubon will host Chris Graves of Haywood Community College at 7 pm at the Hudson Library in Highlands. Chris will discuss landscape-level research of Haywood aimed at improving habitat for birds in western NC. Visit [www.highlandsaudubonsociety.org](http://www.highlandsaudubonsociety.org)

## Tuesday, May 21

• Audubon will lead a special outing to Southern Highlands Reserve atop Mt. Toxaway. This outing is limited to 20, so reservations are a must. Call Romney Bathurst, 526-1939 to sign up. The Reserve requests a \$20 donation from each participant. Bring a bag lunch and stop to enjoy the incredible views.

## Wed., May 22

• Highlands-Cashiers Hospital free health screening for Highlands and Scaly Mountain beginning at 7:15a at the Jane Woodruff Clinic. Pre-registration required; call (828) 526-1435 or visiting the Hospital's website at [www.highlandscashiershospital.org](http://www.highlandscashiershospital.org).

## Thurs. - Sun., May 23-26

• HCP's "Live, Loss, and What I Wore" opens Thursday night, with a catered reception after the performance, and runs through Sunday, May 26; Evening performances begin at 7:30, Sunday matinees, at 2:30 p.m. Call the HCP box office, 828-526-8084, or stop by the Performing Arts Center on 507 Chestnut Street in Highlands.

• At the Highlands Playhouse, daMon on the Keys. An evening of daMon Goff showcasing Broadway standards from Gershwin to Sondheim. For ticket information call 526-9443.

## Thursday, May 23

• Franklin Community Blood Drive held at First United Methodist Church-Franklin (69 Lotla Street; Franklin, NC) 12:30-5 pm Please call (828) 369-9559; 1800RedCross or log onto [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org)

## Friday, May 24

• Junaluske Lodge #145 Blood Drive (Church Street; Franklin, NC) 10 am – 2 pm Please call Scott Montieth at (828) 421-3026 for further information or to schedule an appointment.

## Sat. & Sun., May 25-26

• The 5th annual Spring Cashiers Arts &

Crafts Fair will be held at the Cashiers Village Green. Sponsored by the Rotary Club of Cashiers Valley, the Spring Arts and Crafts Fair will run from 10am to 5pm both Saturday and Sunday; rain or shine. This Spring juried event will be showcasing some of the finest artisans of the Southeast. With more than 60 exhibitors, featured art media will include: clay, wood, fibers, metal, glass, watercolor, oils, photography; and take the form of jewelry, clothing, furniture, quilts, pottery, and home décor. One can expect to find folk art with mountain themes, from paintings and metal art, wooden bowls and ceramics, to homemade jams and relishes among other things. Artisans interested in participating in this show, should email: [artsandcrafts@cashiersrotary.org](mailto:artsandcrafts@cashiersrotary.org)

## Sat. May 25

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a 6.5-mile moderate hike with elevation change of 1200 ft. to Little Cataloochee in the Smoky Mtns. Nat'l. Park, a rarely visited section of the Park with views of historic home sites, churches, cemeteries, and possibly wildlife. Meet at Waynesville Ingles at 9 a.m. Drive 50 miles round trip. Call leader Keith Patton, 456-8895, for reservations. Visitors welcome but no pets please.

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take 2-mile moderate hike with an elevation change of 400 ft. on the Whiteside Mt. Loop trail with beautiful views of the Chattooga River valley 2100' below and perhaps a sighting of a Peregrine Falcon. Bring lunch to eat on the top at 3940'. Meet at Bi-Lo in Franklin at 10 a.m. or call leader and arrange to meet at Whiteside Mtn. parking lot if coming from Highlands or Cashiers. Drive 38 miles from Franklin round trip. Call leader Joyce Jacques, 410-852-7510, for reservations. Visitors welcome but no pets please.

## Saturday, May 25

• Audubon's weekly Saturday walk will visit one or more of the best birding sites in Highlands. Meet at 7:30 am in the Town Hall parking lot near the public restrooms to carpool. Visit [www.highlandsaudubonsociety.org](http://www.highlandsaudubonsociety.org)

## Thurs.-Sun., May 30-June 2

• HCP's "Live, Loss, and What I Wore" Thursday through Sunday, June 2. Evening performances begin at 7:30, Sunday matinees, at 2:30 p.m. Call the HCP box office, 828-526-8084, or stop by the Performing Arts Center on 507 Chestnut Street in Highlands.

## Sat. & Sun., June 1-2

• Village Square Art & Craft Show, 10a to 5p. Sponsored by Macon County Art Association. Regional artisans, music, food and family fun.

## Saturday, June 1

• Mountain Lakes 5K is set for Saturday at 8:30 a.m. The race starts on US 64 across from the entrance to the Highlands Recreation Park and finishes beside First Citizens Bank on Laurel Street. Race-day registration will begin at 7:30 a.m. that in the lobby at the recreation park. For more information, contact Skip Taylor at 526-4280,

## Boy Choir sings here May 19



The Atlanta Boy Choir and Alumni Men's Choir Sing at Glenn Memorial Auditorium on the Emory University Campus.

The world famous Atlanta Boy Choir will present their annual concert here on Sunday afternoon at 4 p.m. in the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation.

The 40 men and 30 boys under the direction of founding director Maestro Fletcher Wolfe will be joined by an instrumental ensemble that will include flute, oboe, violin and cello. Robert Henry will join these players on the piano.

The choir most recently toured Russia where they were heard in the Great Hall of the Philharmonic in St. Petersburg. Over-flowing crowds welcomed the singers giving them standing ovations when they applauded.

This June following this concert they will travel to Nova Scotia where they will appear in several outstanding concert venues.

The choir is very excited to hear that next summer they have been invited to Rome where they hope to perform at St. Peters with newly elected Pope Francis.

The Highlands program will include works of various well known classical composers and the Alumni Men's Choir will sing selections of Spiritual and Broadway melodies.

The choir will sing "I Never Saw Another Butterfly." This work by Charles Davidson was set to poems written by the children of Theresienstadt concentration camp during World War II. Out of the 15,000 children interned in this camp, only 150 survived.

The Boy Choir has sung this work throughout the world for many years and

performed it at the U.S. Capital in the Rotunda with President Carter and both houses of Congress in attendance.

This moving piece will have as its narrator the distinguished Jewish actress, Mira Hirsch. This beautiful actress is well known for her theatrical appearances throughout the world.

Such a delightful event is not to be missed and it is open to the public.

Some of the front row seats will be reserved for those willing to support the choir's scholarship program which helps needy young boys who are talented. The rest of the seating is free and open to the public. To get reserved seating you may call the choir at 404.378.0064 or email [info@atlantaboychoir.org](mailto:info@atlantaboychoir.org)

A special appearance by Molly McKim, well known Highlands Soprano and soloist at the Episcopal Church will be "The Pie Jesu" from the mass by Andrew Lloyd Webber. Ms. McKim joined the choir in Russia last summer to sing this work in the Great Hall of the Philharmonic.

You will also hear the delightful Vaudeville entitled "The Golden Vanity" for boys written by Benjamin Britten. This will be a staged performance with the boys dressed as sailors and pirates. A battle royal ensues at sea. The 'Vanity' is saved by a little cabin boy who dives into the sea and sinks the pirate ship. The boys appear in costume and this delightful piece will be the highlight of the concert.

Come early to ensure you get a seat as the performance always fills the Church.



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• POLICE & FIRE •

Highlands PD log entries from April 21. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor, or public officials have been used.

**April 21**

•At 4 p.m., officers received a report about a simple non-physical assault at an establishment on Main Street.

**April 25**

•At 2:14 p.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident on Upper Lake Road.

•At 9:20 p.m., officers received a report of a burglary without forced entry at a residence on Hickory Hill Road.

•At 11:15 a.m., officers received a report of a town ordinance violation concerning nuisance dogs on Wingina Place. Dogs were barking and causing a disturbance.

**April 26**

•At 4 p.m., officers received a report of vandalism at a residence on Wingina Place where household goods, collectibles and the bathroom were damaged. Estimated damages are \$650.

The Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. log entries from April 30

**April 30**

•At 2:37 p.m., resident of Fidelia Eckerd Center pull the fire alarm. It was false.

**May 1**

•At 7:59 a.m., the dept. responded to an accident on Gold Mine Road where a farm tractor was accidentally put in gear and ran over a person causing injuries to his face and chest. MAMA landed at scene and transported to Mission.

•At 9:54 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call about a possible suicide attempt at a residence on the Dillard Road.

•At 3:39 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call at a residence on Mountain Shadows Road. EMS transported.

**May 2**

•At 7:10 a.m., the dept. responded to a vehicle accident on the Cashiers Road. There were minor injuries. EMS transported to the hospital.

•At 12:57 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm pulled by a resident at the Fidelia-Eckerd home.

**May 3**

•At 7:35 a.m., the dept. responded to a call of a vehicle accident on S. 4th Street. No one was at the location.

•At 8:31 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Falls Village Court which was caused when the resident attempted to light a heater.

**May 5**

•At 7 p.m., the dept. responded to a vehicle accident on NC 28 south.

**May 6**

•At 2:21 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call at a residence on Spruce Lane. EMS transported to the hospital.

•At 9:43 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call on Main Street concerning a self-inflicted injury. EMS transported to the hospital.

... BROADBAND continued from page 4

"The industry is going wireless for mobility so maybe we should, too," he said. "We are all sitting here with cell phones, I pads, etc. it's moving more towards going mobile so a tower with wireless ISP or something to that nature, will allow that mobility for citizens."

Shuler spoke with an broadband consultant at a recent convention who has agreed to navigate the possibilities for the town.

He is currently examining a map of town-owned properties and is looking at the propagation studies from all the wireless providers in town to see what type bandwidth Highlands is supposed to have and compare it to what it could have via towers on town properties. Shuler expects to have all options on the table in a month.

He said there is a company named Vista Net that currently offers wireless options in Jackson and Haywood counties whose geographical limitations mimic Highlands.

"Wireless can reach areas that don't have access to DSL or cable providers," said Shuler. "And if we go wireless, we would be serving more than just our citizens."

He said the town has been considering only serving those within the corporate limits with fiber but with wireless the town could service people outside the town limits.

"We have people who live outside of town who spend money in town so if we put up a tower we would be serving citizens and people adjacent to the city limits. So that's another plus – we would be spending the same amount of money but serving people inside and outside town limits."

This "new" utility would be something people would have to pay for but so would access to the fiber backbone to the house or business location, he said.

Though commissioners didn't decide which avenue to take, the consensus was that the \$200,000 would likely be spent to expand broadband options in Highlands in some fashion..

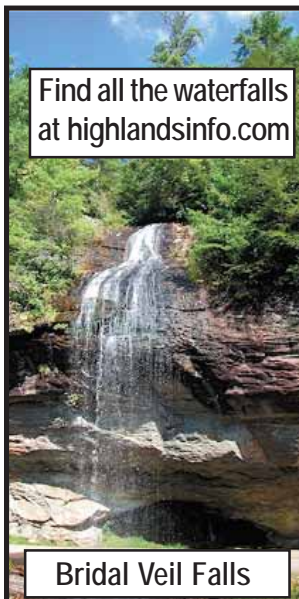
Shuler said the town would not be competing with private industry as the argument goes.

"If we do downtown fiber, we would only be providing dark fiber. We would have a co-location building that all of our current utilities could build into. We would also have space for new companies. This would make it easier for those companies to provide bandwidth."

In 2011, the General Statute was amended to allow municipalities to compete with private providers under certain conditions.

– Kim Lewicki





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40