

Highlands Newspaper

FREE Every Thursday

Volume 11, Number 34

Real-Time News, Weather & WebCams: HighlandsInfo.com

Thurs., Aug. 21, 2014

On going

- At Highlands Playhouse, The Paris Dancers Aug. 21-24. The movie, "100 Ft. Journey" Mon-Sat., 1 & 4p, Sun., 6 & 8 p. Call 526-2695.
- Thurs.-Sun., Aug. 21-31**
- HCP presents "The Last of the Red Hot Lovers" at PAC. For tickets, call 828-526-8084.

Fri., Aug. 22

- Friday Night Live music in Town Square from 6-8. Featuring Macon Grass Band.

Sat. & Sun., Aug. 23 & 24

- Village Square Art & Craft Show. at K-H Park in Highlands (5th and Pine St). 10 - 5. FREE!

Sat., Aug. 23

- The Scaly Mountain Women's Club Pancake Breakfast at the Community Center on the corner of NC 106 and Buck Knob Road from 7:30 -10:30 a.m. Adults \$5.50, Children \$3.50.

- Groundbreaking of K-H Park on Pine Street at 10 a.m.

- Twilight 5K at 6 p.m. at the K-H Park on Pine Street. Bring a cooler and blanket. Music by Copious Jones 6-10p.

- At The Bascom, opening reception for photo exhibition, "Faces and Places" from 5-7 p.m. The history of Highlands and Cashiers through photographs.

Mon. Aug. 25

- "Natural History Photography: Revealing the Unseen World Around Us" with photographer Clay Bolt at the Hudson Library at 7 p.m.

Wed., Aug. 27

- Interlude Concert at the Episcopal Church at 2 p.m. featuring Summit Piano Trio.

- Get your dog or cat fixed. For appointments call 828-743-5752.

- Dine Out for Literacy at Lakeside Restaurant. Tell the staff you are dining for Literacy.

Macon County schools start Monday

Messages from HS Principal Jetter, Superintendent Baldwin and more on budget woes

Teachers across Macon County started back to school, Tuesday, Aug. 19 and students will join them Monday, Aug. 25.

At Highlands School there

are several new faces – mostly in the elementary school – but also the new Student Resource Officer, Josh Greenley.

I'm really excited about this

school year. We have a great group of returning teachers who have had success in helping our students make real academic

• See **SCHOOL** page 8

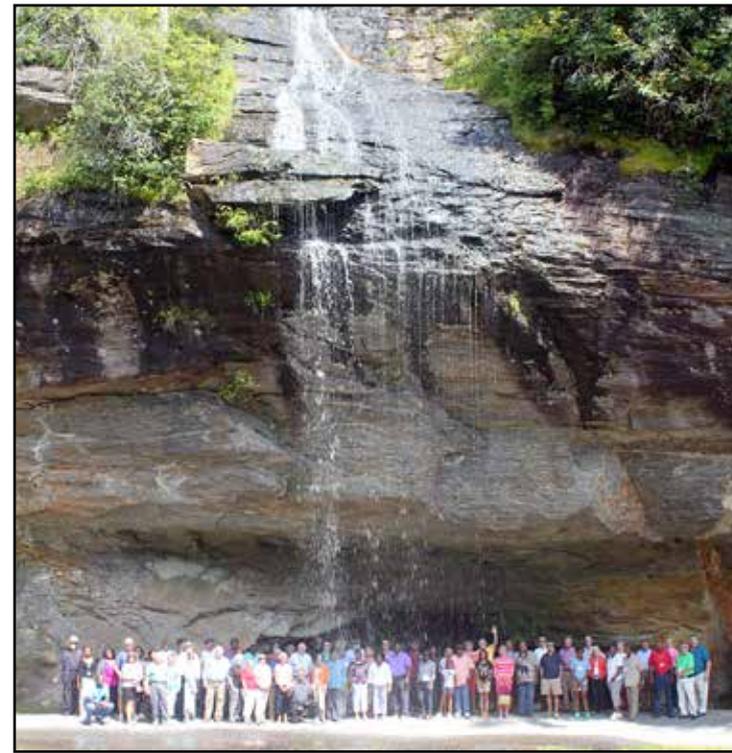
K-H Park ground breaking is Saturday

By Skip Taylor

Although actual construction won't begin for another two months, community leaders and local government officials will formally break ground this Saturday for half a million dollars in improvements at Kelsey-Hutchinson Park.

The ceremony, which will feature officials from the town, congressional district, and the park's major benefactor, will begin at 10 a.m. on Pine Street, in front of the amphitheater in front of Macon Bank. In addition to the brief remarks from a half dozen speakers, officials will ceremonially place an engraved stepping stone that will eventually become the center of the Kelsey "X" – a series of stones located in the center of the main park area signifying the legend of the founding of Highlands in 1875.

• See **K-H PARK** page 10



Members of the NCACC at Bridal Veil Falls last week.

Photo by Brittany Burns

Commissioners from across the state pile into Highlands

By Brittany Burns

Last Thursday two charter buses filled to capacity with com-

missioners from all across the state and their families were es-

• See **COMMISSIONERS** page 14

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Strangulation ruled as cause of death in Burningtown blaze

By Brittany Burns

Two weeks after a fire engulfed a home on Middle Burningtown, on Sat., Aug. 2, the cause of death for a body found amongst the rubble has been released.

The body, which was later identified as the 71-year-old homeowner Day Williamson, was found in the upstairs back bedroom of the home.

"An autopsy report revealed that the cause of death was an apparent strangulation," Macon County Sheriff Robbie Holland reported on Tuesday. "At this point we are continuing a thorough investigation. Charles Cochran remains a prime suspect in both the fire and the death of Williamson and is cooperating with authorities."

• See **DEATH** page 19

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• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• MAYOR ON DUTY •

At tonight's Town Board meeting ...



to refurbish the ball park.

Matt Shuler, head of our MIS/GIS Department, will present a proposal by Verizon Wireless to rent space on the existing town tower. Verizon proposes to add a 20 foot section to the existing structure. Their engineers have determined this new antenna system will provide significantly better coverage for the Highlands area.

Finally, in a related matter, the board will consider whether to join several other communities in petitioning the FCC to restore municipalities' authority to create their own internet utility systems. High-

• See MAYOR page 6

If you like long meetings, the Highlands Town Board meeting tonight may just be what you are looking for. We have a lengthy agenda. Many of the items deal with infrastructure projects that are about to get underway.

At the top of the agenda will be the public hearing on the proposed amendments to the commercial tree ordinance. The changes address removal of dead trees, tree replacement requirements and violation fines.

I will present to the board a draft of a letter to the NC Mining and Energy Commission. The commission will draft the state fracking regulations by January. My letter requests that they create regulations guaranteeing the safety of municipal water sources. The letter also requests regulations that recognize established municipal zoning ordinances that would limit or not allow fracking operations. For instance, Highlands zoning areas are either residential or business. The town has no industrial zones that might accommodate drilling operations.

The board will also consider a donation of a fire station to be located on US 64 near Wildcat Cliffs and the Cullasaja Country Clubs. The proposal calls for members of these clubs and surrounding neighborhoods to build the station and the Highlands Fire Department to equip and staff it. The new station will lower fire insurance premiums for these residents who live five miles beyond the station located downtown. Homeowners beyond this five-mile radius pay significantly higher fire insurance premiums.

In Public Works, the board will review the bids for the culvert replacement project for Laurel, Spruce and 5th Streets. Also, Mike Waresak of McGill Engineering will update the board on the new intake and dam refurbishment projects.

The board will also review the final designs for Kelsey Hutchinson Park including renderings by Paul Schmitt for the new bathrooms. Jeff Weller will present an updated rendering for the new pool cover. Another presentation by Jeff will be a preliminary design and cost estimates

• LETTERS •

Ferguson, MO ... Miami, FL

Dear Editor,

Let's suppose that in Ferguson, Missouri a police officer stops a motorist for a traffic violation. And let's suppose that traffic stop ends in the death of the motorist, killed by the officer's bullet and the town is set on fire by angry citizens and more people die. Was the traffic stop and the action that ensued legal....or worth it? Yes, more than likely if you still believe in the rule of law and believe America is about obeying the law as written.

If the motorist receives his traffic citation and is given back his driver's license, he is on his way. But if the motorist refuses to present his driver's license as required by law, the situation escalates to the next higher level. The officer, under the law, can now arrest the motorist for the minor infraction of not presenting a driver's license

on demand.

If the motorist resists the arrest and a struggle ensues, the officer is required by law to execute whatever force is necessary to affect the arrest. If, during this struggle, the motorist overwhelms the officer and lunges for his firearm, the officer is allowed, by law, to escalate the threat again to the next level and, under unfortunate circumstances, could require the officer to shoot the motorist to save his own life.

In 1980, I was right in the middle of the Arthur McDuffie riots in Miami. I commanded two SWAT teams assigned to guarding fire trucks and the firefighters from sniper fire from rooftops. People died and downtown Liberty City in Miami was set on fire. The town continued to blaze for an entire week.

McDuffie had been chased by police on traffic violations. But McDuffie lost control of his motorcycle and crashed, receiving severe head wounds. Bleeding, he struggled with four officers who were later indicted for killing McDuffie during the struggle. When a jury from another city found all the officers not guilty, Miami citizens took to the streets and burned portions of the city.

I don't know what happened in Ferguson, Missouri and, more than likely neither do you. All I ask is that we not pass judgment and remember that, under the law, police officers must maintain the upper hand and meet force with greater force. If not, police officers might as well take off their uniforms and go home as chaos will soon prevail.

Fred Wooldridge
Highlands, NC

Where's the 'service' in our phone service?

Dear Editor,

Is it just me, or what? Am I the only person who would really like to have a current phone book with residential names and telephone numbers for Highlands and the surrounding area?

Here's what I have now:

1. A 2013-2014 YellowBook for Highlands, Cashiers, Glenville, Toxaway, Sapphire and Scaly that has 251 commercial yellow pages and 56 white pages with only

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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• See LETTERS page 6

• OBITUARIES •

Ahmad Saadat

Ahmad Saadat, 86, of Highlands, NC died Tuesday, August 12, 2014. Born in Tehran, Iran, he was the son of the late Asghar Saadat and Khadijen Yeganlou. He was married to Yeganeh Doknt Amirjeganeh for 55 years. He was a geological mining engineer.

In addition to his wife, Mr. Saadat is survived by two sons, Ali Saadat of Highlands and Mo Saadat of Houston, TX; three brothers, Mahmoud Saadat, Masouel Saadat and Mohammad Saadat, and one grandchild, Auran.

He was preceded in death by his parents and two sisters.

Services will be announced at a later date.

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

James Ralph Ballentine

James Ralph Ballentine, of Cashiers, NC formerly of Anderson, SC died Friday, August 15, 2014. Born in Shelby, NC, he was the son of the late James R. and Mabel Wakefield Ballentine. He retired with 30 years of service with Ralston-Purina Company. He was a 1952 graduate of Clemson University, and he was a Veteran of the US Army during the Korean Conflict. He was an avid motorcycle rider, Ham radio operator, and loved to hunt. He was a member of the First Presbyterian Church of Highlands where he served as a former Elder. Mr. Ballentine was a loving husband, father, and grandfather.



A. Ballentine and his wife, Evelyn of Wake Forest, NC; four grandchildren, Allie, Lauren, Joshua and JJ, Ballentine. He was preceded in death by two sisters, Carolyn Stokley and Jackie Stribling.

Memorial services were held Monday, August 18, 2014 at 11 AM at the First Presbyterian Church of Highlands with Rev. Curtis Fussell and Rev. Emily Welmarth officiating.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the First Presbyterian Church of Highlands, PO Box 548, Highlands, NC 28741 or to the Charity of one's choice.

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

He is survived by his wife of 59 years, Sandra Dickson Ballentine; son, Stephen

• ENGAGEMENT •

Oliver to wed Adcock



Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Oliver announce the engagement of their daughter, Hannah Elizabeth, to Jeremy Adcock, son of Rodney Adcock of Carmel, Indiana. Hannah and Jeremy, both graduates of Toccoa Falls College, will be living and working in Highlands, North Carolina. The wedding is set for November 9, 2014. They will be married at Indian Springs State Park in Flovilla, Georgia.

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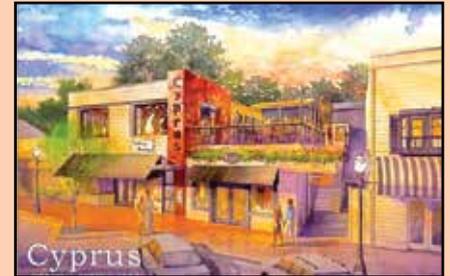
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...LETTERS continued from page 2

business listings; no residential.

2. A 2014 Frontier book consisting of 263 commercial yellow pages covering Highlands, Cashiers, Bryson City, Cherokee, Cullowhee, Dillsboro, Franklin and Sylva and

24 white pages of business listings dedicated exclusively to the Sylva area – not even Highlands

3. An finally, a sadly outdated 2003-2004 Yellow Book for Highlands, Cashiers, Glenville, Toxaway Sapphire

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and Scaly containing 278 commercial yellow pages and 261 white pages with residential listings for Highlands, Cashiers, Brevard, Franklin and Sylva – only six years old, going on seven.

As our local landline carrier, shouldn't Frontier provide us with a telephone book containing the telephone numbers of the area's residents? Aren't we paying for this? In fact, aren't we paying through the nose for this?

I know – many people reading this are probably saying to themselves or to anyone within earshot, get a life – Google it! Not everyone has a computer. Or, call 411 for information and pay extra for the privilege. No, Thank You. We already pay a bewildering and increasing number of extra monthly fees to the phone company.

In this present-day society of entitlement, am I unentitled to a once common, normal, everyday, basic, ordinary, standard, traditional, regular, plain and simple unpretentious telephone book to go with my telephone that I pay dearly for from Frontier?

Alice Nelson
Highlands

...MAYOR continued from page 2

lands considered such a plan about six years ago. In the interim, the NC legislature passed a law making it illegal for a government body to compete with private enterprise by creating an Internet utility.

The dilemma for Highlands, as well as other small towns, has been that private companies have been unwill-

• See MAYOR page 7



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• THE FREDSTER •

The ice cream man cometh

Born in Louisville, Ky. during the mid-thirties, I know cold....and I know snow....and I know whiteouts. Oops, is the word "whiteout" a racial slur? Anyway, don't give me any guff about being a thin blooded Floridian. NOT!

By the time the big war started, I had already reached the age where I could run the streets of Louisville, get into trouble (ha) and enjoy the pleasures sold by the roaming ice cream man. Behold, America, the ice cream man cometh!

I know, I know, you've already been told how tough it was back then with gas rationing, no butter, Hershey bars or nylons. But did you know that half of our women were on a dawn to dusk twelve hour work schedule with the other half working the other twelve hour shift. They were building airplanes, tanks and other war machines around the clock. During their minimal amount of time off they managed to sleep, do the laundry, raise and feed the kids, etc. while the guys went out and got themselves shot up. Rosie, the Riveter, was America's hot babe hero back then. She was a real cutie. Was this a major part of the Republicans "war on women" plan even back then? Of course it was.

But here's something I'm bettin' you didn't know. No matter how tough it got, even when it looked like Hitler would conquer all of Europe and Russia, the ice cream man cometh. America had its priorities. Kids needed their ice cream.

And for those who weren't even a twinkle in their dad's eye, let me tell you how it all worked. As soon as I heard the distant jingle, jingle, tinkle, tinkle music coming from the ice cream truck or bike, I dropped whatever I was doing (usually nothing) and raced home to beg my mom for a nickel. Everything on the ice cream truck was a nickel.

Do I buy a Popsicle and get two



Fred Wooldridge

sticks of pleasure or a large chocolate fudgesicle? How about a creamsicle? Decision, decisions; how to spend my nickel?

While sitting on the front stoop of my home licking away, I could care less that the Germans were slaughtering Brits by the thousands and blowing up all of London. What do kids know?

And my little dog and best friend, Frisky, would sit and rudely stare at me to the end when he knew he would get to lick the ice cream sticks shiny clean.

So if you're one of those silly Americans who currently fear for the continuous decline of our nation or that murdering Islamic ISIS terrorists are pouring across our southern borders, take leave and know that as long as the ice cream man cometh, bringing us popsicles, fudgesicles and creamsicles, all is well.

Then celebrate by swinging by one of Highlands' ice cream shops and lick away. Oh, and be aware it might cost you more than a nickel....like lots of nickels! And I'm sorry about the offensive sexist remark in calling Rosie a hot babe cutie. Bad Fred!

...MAYOR from page 6

ing to invest in creating a system for such small markets. The petition requests the FCC to overrule the state by reinstating a town's option to build high speed internet systems for its residents.

If the FCC gave the go ahead, an internet utility with high speed and bandwidth capacity would help facilitate realtime telecommuting, among other options. For residents wanting this service, an internet access fee would be a part of their monthly utility bill.

The Highlands Town Board meeting is tonight, August 21, at 7pm at the Highlands Conference Center next to the ball field. Hope to see you there.

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...SCHOOL continued from page 1

achievement," said HS Principal Brian Jetter. "This year we will be mixing in a number of new teachers to Highlands School. I believe these new teachers will bring with them a real sense of energy to the school. Melding the new teachers with our existing staff will be interesting, exciting, and an energizing mix for us all."

Changes in assignment and new teacher assignments include: Jaime Dooley who was the EC teacher in the middle school is now teaching kindergarten; and new teachers are Cynthia Henderson who is teaching 1st grade; Emilee DeForest and Tracy Obuchowski who are teaching 2nd grade, and Angela Sanchez-Colon who is teaching 5th grade.

Dr. Joseph H. Wilbanks, D.D.S.

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Melissa Shirley handles Lower EC. Melanie Rapp handles Upper EC and Abigail Rusch is the EC aide.

Valery Bates is teaching Middle School Social Studies and Gale Garrett is the new Art teacher.

Terry Dixon is a new custodian/bus driver.

At Monday night's Board of Education meeting, board member Stephanie McCall spoke in memory of the late Jack Philpot who for more than a decade was a bus driver and so much more to Highlands School and the community.

She said he oftentimes worked behind the scenes, paying for students' braces, automobiles, college expenses and much more.

"He was always giving of himself, his time, his money, and was always a presence in our school – he came early and stayed late, and he wanted no recognition for it. I could go on and on. One person really can make difference and he did," she said.

So far there are 360 students enrolled at Highlands School – the same number as last year, but final figures won't be available un-

til after school is in session for 10 days.

There are 50 Discretionary Students – those allowed to attend Highlands School from out-of-state, Jackson County or Franklin. There are 11 from Georgia, 23 from Jackson County and 16 from Franklin.

According to Jetter the class sizes are about the same as last year as are the Student/Teacher ratios: between 15 and 24 in Kindergarten through 8th.

At Monday night's BOE meeting, the board learned that numerous teachers or staff members had been transferred within the system, that numerous teachers had been hired but that not all vacancies have been filled.

Superintendent Dr. Chris Baldwin said the state handed down a budget that has left Macon County Schools with a \$473,000 budget shortfall.

"At this point I don't know how we are going to handle this," he said. "The state has said we must fund an extra \$185,000 in local teachers and \$288,000 of the Teacher Assistant allotment.

In addition, of the \$199,000

allotted the school system by the Macon County Commission for capital improvement – only \$108,650 is left after the board agreed to replace two 1985 HVAC systems at Macon Middle School and one at the Career Center at Franklin High School as well as the 1985 fire alarm system at Macon Middle School which routinely goes off at 2:15 each morning.

Baldwin suggested addressing the HVAC issues while neither AC nor heating is necessary.

Despite funding difficulties, Superintendent Baldwin is optimistic about the state of the school system.

"With students returning to school next week, this is an appropriate time to reflect on the challenges and accomplishments of the past school year while looking forward with excitement to 2014-'15. Let me say I am pleased with our district's very steady progress and our community's very steadfast support of our schools.

Recent accolades and accomplishments include:

- 2013-14 Cartoogechaye Elementary, South Macon Elementary, Highlands School,

• See **SCHOOL** page 9

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The Dry Sink Main Street Highlands, NC

...SCHOOL continued from page 8

Macon Middle School and Franklin High School students exceeded their expected academic growth expectations (<https://ncdpi.sas.com/>).

- 2013-14 Iotla Valley Elementary, East Franklin Elementary, Macon Early College, and Nantahala School students met their expected academic growth expectations (<https://ncdpi.sas.com/>).

- 2013-14 Cartoogechaye Elementary received a prestigious Title I Award.

- 2013-14 Franklin High School was recognized by US News and World Report as a Bronze Medal High School.

- 2013-14 Union Academy was recognized by US News and World Report as a Bronze Medal High School.

- 2013-14 71% of Macon County Schools students enrolled in AP courses earned a 3 or better.

- Macon County Schools Graduation Rate for the 2012-13 was 86.5% which exceeds the state average.

- 2012-13 Macon County Schools students exceeded the state average of students meeting the minimum ACT score.

- 2011-12 (Final year of this award) Cartoogechaye Elementary, South Macon Elementary, Highlands School and Franklin High School recognized as North Carolina Schools of Distinction.

This year, our district also:

- Partnered with the Macon County

Sheriff Robbie Holland and his department to receive a grant (\$78,000) to help offset the cost of two additional School Resource Officers.

- Received a grant from Lowe's (\$85,000) to fund a new science lab at Franklin High School.

- Received Digital Learning Grant (\$47,207) to purchase digital textbooks and pay for the staff development training for the use of digital textbooks.

- Began the implementation of the New State Standards (NCSCOS) by providing professional development to our teachers, purchasing more than 500 iPads for the state-mandated computer testing, and the transition toward digital textbooks at the high school level.

- Graduated 27 Macon Early College students with both a high school diploma and an Associates in Arts degree

- Reduced local expenditures by \$994,154 since 2011-12

I am proud to serve as the superintendent of the Macon County School system and grateful to our employees, our parents and guardians, our neighbors, and our community partners for making Macon County Schools such a special place for young people to learn and grow. We are a strong school system that is striving to improve," he said.

– Kim Lewicki

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Directed by Virginia Talbot

August 21-24, August 28 -31, 2014

Highlands Performing Arts Center, 507 Chestnut Street

Tickets: 828-526-8084

highlandscashiersplayers.org

... K-H PARK continued from page 1

According to that legend, Samuel Truman Kelsey and Clinton Carter Hutchinson drew lines on a map of the United State from Chicago to Savannah and from New Orleans to New York. They felt that the place where these lines met would eventually become a great trading center and commercial crossroads, and

so came to the area and laid out a town. Historical research has since called that story into question, but it continues to be an integral part of the mystique of Highlands.

Those expected to speak at the event include U.S. Rep. Mark Meadows, of

• See K-H PARK page 11

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... K-H PARK continued from page 10

Highlands, who played a major role in helping acquire the park, Highlands Mayor Patrick Taylor, Art and Angela Williams who donated the bulk of the money for the infrastructure about to be added to the park, and Nick Bazan, who will serve as master of ceremonies. Former mayor and pastor Dr. Donald C. Mullen will give the invocation.

The Founders Park Coalition, which is composed of both local Rotary Clubs, the Laurel Garden Club, the Mountain Garden Club, the Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust, the Highlands Plateau Greenway, the Highlands Plateau Audubon Society, the Highlands Historical Society, the Highlands Chamber of Commerce and the Highlands Biological Station, launched a major effort last fall to finally complete the park. After receiving permission from the town to conduct a fund drive last winter, the coalition began updating previous plans for developing the park and trying to raise approximately \$550,000. That effort received a major boost this past spring thanks to a \$390,000 gift from Art and Angela Williams, owners of the Old Edwards Inn and Spa. And this summer the town agreed to chip in up to \$165,000 for construction of public restrooms that will serve not only the park, but the

entire east end of town. Money was also raised from other individual donors, from various coalition members, and through several fundraisers.

In addition to picnic tables, a chess and checkers area, walkways, benches, lighting, and landscaping, the park will also get a new and larger performance pavilion and combined entrance/restroom facilities. Those structures are being designed by local architect Paul Schmitt. The park will also include an interactive fountain for kids and a special plaza area in the southwest corner dedicated to Kelsey and Hutchinson and the history of the town. Plans also call for repaving part of Pine Street with decorative pavers that will make it level with the rest of the park, while still keeping the street open for everyday traffic and retaining existing parking.

The overall concept for developing the park has already received town approval. Architectural plans for the restrooms and pavilion are currently undergoing town review.

Anyone wishing to make a tax-deductible donation toward improving the park may do so by making a check payable to either Founders Park or Kelsey-Hutchinson Park and mailing it to P.O. Box 1703, Highlands, NC 28741.



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• HIGHLANDS EVENTS •

First Mondays

• Shortoff Baptist Church hosts a non-denominational Men's

Meeting the first Monday night of each month at 7 pm and all men are invited to attend.

Tuesdays

• Community Table Dinner at the Community Building at 6 p.m. It's free.

Tues. & Thurs.

• Aerobics at the Rec Park with Tina Rogers 5:15. \$5.

Mon., Wed., Fri.

• Aerobics with Tina Rogers 8-9a.

• Zumba at the Rec Park at 9:05a. \$5.

1st Wednesdays

• Family Movies at the Hudson Library at 3:30pm. Call 828-526-3031 for titles.

3rd Wednesdays

• General Audience Movies at

Hudson Library at 2pm. Call 828-526-3031 for titles.

Thursdays beg. Sept. 4

• Storytimes with Miss Carol at Hudson Library 10:40am. Open to the public.

Thursdays

• Highlands Writer's Group meets every Thursday from 1-3:30 pm at Hudson Library. Writers of all genres welcome. For info call 526-8009 or 526-2295.

• Weight Watchers support group meets every Thursday at 6pm at the Cashiers Community Center. Questions? Call Lisa 828-506-3555 Last Fri. of each month.

• Free wine tastings from 5-7p at Mountain Top Wine Shoppe.

2nd Thursdays

• Sapphire Valley Needlepoint Guild meets at the Highlands Rec Park at 10 a.m. Newcomers welcomed.

Fri.-Sun.

• Hal Phillips on the piano at Skyline Lodge during dinner and Sunday brunch.

Fri. & Sat.

• The Historical Society Museum is open.

Saturdays

• The Farmers Market, 9a-1p in

K-H Park. Organic vegetables, eggs, honey, cheeses. home-made food and hand-made items. For information call 482-0555 Maxine Davidoff.

• Cashiers Local Farmers tailgate market through October at the Anglican Church Parking Lot Hwy 64 E next to Macon Bank.

• Free wine tastings at Mountain Top Wine Shoppe from 1-3p.

Thurs.-Sun., Aug. 21-31

• HCP presents "The Last of the Red Hot Lovers: at the Highlands Performing Arts Center. For tickets, call 828-526-8084.

Fri., Aug. 22

• Suzuki Flute Students ages 4 to 14 from The Music Village will be performing in a recital Friday at 6:30 pm in the Community Room at the Jackson County Public Library in Sylva. Admission is free and children are welcome.

• Friday Night Live music in Town Square from 6-8. Featuring Macon Grass Band.

Sat. & Sun., Aug. 23 & 24

• Village Square Art & Craft Show. Regional fine art, folk art, crafts, music and food. Kelsey-Hutchinson Park in Highlands (5th and Pine St). Sponsored by Macon County Art Assn. 10 - 5. FREE!

Sat., Aug. 23

• The Scaly Mountain Women's Club Pancake Breakfast at the Scaly Mountain Community Center at the Corner of NC 106 and Buck Knob Road from 7:30 -10:30 a.m. Adults \$5.50, and Children \$3.50. Proceeds benefit scholarships for area students and human service's agencies.

• Kelsey-Hutchinson Park groundbreaking at 10 a.m., in front of the amphitheater in front of Macon Bank. Benefactors and officials will be there and an engraved stepping stone will be ceremoniously placed in the center of the park to signify the legend of the founding of Highlands in 1875.

• Twilight 5K. Starts at 6 p.m. at the K-H Park on Pine Street. \$25 early signup. Kids under 10 free. Bring a cooler and blanket. Music by Copious Jones 6-10p. All proceeds to benefit the Highlands School Track Team. Register at www.twilightrocknroll5K.com. Sign up form also available at the Rec Park, Highlands Decorating Center and Macon Bank.

• At The Bascom, Opening Reception for photo exhibition, "Faces and Places" from 5-7 p.m. Experience the history of Highlands

The Bascom showcases a creative collaboration in 'Faces and Places' exhibition



Ginny Bryson at the Sloan House

Tim Barnwell is a commercial and fine art photographer based in Asheville, NC whose prints are in the permanent collections of The Metropolitan Museum of Art, The New Orleans Museum of Art, The High Museum of Atlanta, The Mint Museum in Charlotte, R. J. Reynolds Industries, The SOHO Photo Gallery in New York, The Newark Museum of Art, and The Bank of America Corporate Collection. In collaboration with The Cashiers Historical Society, The Highlands Historical Society and The Bascom, Barnwell documented selected people and places of Highlands and Cashiers through his photography with their accompanying oral histories.

In each town, a well-known native resident is paired with a well-known historical place. Featured from Highlands: Joana Baumrucker – Highlands Playhouse; Beverly Cook Quin – Highlands Inn; Lydia Sargent Macauley – The Nature Center; Joe Luke – Reeves Hardware; Anne and Lewis Doggett – Joe Webb log cabin; Mary Ann Creswell – The First Presbyterian Church of Highlands; Isabel Chambers – The Episcopal Church of the Incarnation; Virginia Bryson – The Sloan House.

Featured from Cashiers: Charlie Ward – Cashiers Community Center; Dick Jennings – Lonesome Valley; Eugenia "Jeanne" Pell Wright – Cashiers Schoolhouse; Jule Coward – The North Community Center; Marilyn Hunter Henson – Alexander Gardens; Marvin Fowler – Fowler Tree Farm; Mary B. Bryson – Zachary-Belknap-Waddell House, Crooked Corners; Sallie Orr Peterkin – Camp Merrie Woode; and Rev. Steve Hines – The Church of the Good Shepherd.

These people, joined by their common town, are featured in hauntingly beautiful photographs by Barnwell. The viewer will be rewarded by finding connections in each photograph and recognizing the local landmarks. Each work will complement the others in the exhibition when viewed as a whole.

Come view this remarkable exhibition at The Bascom, from August 23 to November 9. The public is also invited to the Opening Reception for Faces and Places on Saturday, August 23, from 5-7 pm at The Bascom. Experience Highlands and Cashiers through this beautiful assemblage of photographs.

In conjunction with this exhibition, the Center for Life Enrichment (CLE), Highlands, will host Faces and Places of Highlands, featuring Donnie Edwards, Sue Potts, and Doc Wilson; all natives of Highlands, NC. On Thursday, August 28, from 5:30 to 6:30 pm, Edwards, Potts, and Wilson will tell their interesting "old" stories of the people and places of Highlands. For more information on this talk, go to their website www.clehighlands.com or call CLE at 828-526-8811.

Audubon to present program on nature photography

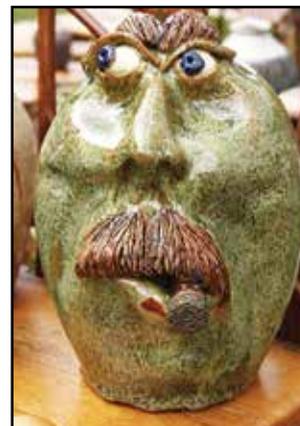


On Monday, August 25th, the Highlands Plateau Audubon Society presents its program "Natural History Photography: Revealing the Unseen World Around Us" with Natural History and Conservation Photographer Clay Bolt.

No matter where you live, one thing is for certain: just beyond the reach of your gaze is an incredible world of amazing plants and animals living intricately intertwined, beautifully complex lives. We often travel far and wide in search of exotic wildlife when all that has ever been required of us is a willingness to simply slow down and take a closer look. From wasps that turn pitcher plants into cradles for their young to treehopper herding ants, layer upon layer of biological wonder awaits our discovery.

Join us at 7 pm for refreshments and fellowship, followed by the program at 7:30 pm in the Hudson Library, 554 Main Street in Highlands.

Art and Craft show this Sat. & Sun. in K-H Park



You will find comical face jugs by Skip Staab, as well as fine art, rustic furniture, leather and other wonderful hand-made creations at the Village Square Art & Craft Show in Kelsey-Hutchinson Park on Pine St. this Sat. and Sun from 10 to 5. Music, food, Stop'n'Adopt, FUN! (828) 787-2021 for info.

• HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

and Cashiers through this beautiful assemblage of photographs.

Mon. Aug. 25

• Highlands Audubon Society presents "Natural History Photography: Revealing the Unseen World Around Us" with Natural History and Conservation Photographer Clay Bolt at the Hudson Library at 7 p.m.

• North Jackson County Republicans will meet at Ryans in Sylva at 6 p.m. to eat. Meeting at 6:30 p.m. For more info, call Ralph Slaughter at 828-743-6491.

Tues., Aug. 26

• South Jackson County Republicans will meet at the Cashiers Republican Headquarters at Laurel Terrace Suite 8 on Highway 64 East at 6:30 pm. For more info, call Ralph Slaughter at 828-743-6491.

Wed., Aug. 27

• Interlude Concert at the Episcopal Church at 2 p.m. featuring Summit Piano Trio.

• They can't read or write, but they can multiply! Get your dog or cat fixed – the Cashiers-Highlands Humane Society can help. The next low-cost spay/neuter day is Wednesday. Appointments must be made in advance. For more information, call 828-743-5752.

• Dine Out for Literacy at Lakeside Restaurant. Be sure to tell the staff you are dining for Literacy. A portion of the evening's proceeds goes to support literacy programs in our community.

Thurs.-Sun. Aug. 28-31

• HCP presents "The Last of the Red Hot Lovers" at the Highlands Performing Arts Center. For tickets, call 828-526-8084.

Thurs., Aug. 28

• At Shakespeare & Co. at 3pm an informal discussion on T.W. Reynolds and his book "High Lands: Stories of the Carolina Mountains" which was published 50 years ago this summer. The event is free and open to the public. Any donations will be given to the Highlands Historical Society.

• At the Hudson Library, author presentation of "Cherokee Little People Were Real" at 4 p.m.

Fri., Aug. 29

• Community Coffee with Mayor Pat Taylor at the Hudson Library in the Meeting Room from 11a to noon. This month Mayor Patrick Taylor and Chief Bill Harrell answering questions and discussing the Highlands Police Department. Refreshments provided

• Friday Night Live music in Town Square from 6-8. Featuring Mountain Dulcimer Group.

• Bubbles & Big Band at the Highlands Playhouse at 7 p.m. Champagne and all you can eat

Low Country Boil. Concert begins at 8 p.m. featuring Asheville Jazz Orchestra. Tickets are \$85 per person which includes dinner and a cash bar. For tickets to the H-C Hospital Foundation fundraiser call 828-526-

2695.

Sat. & Sun., Aug. 30 & 31

• Cashiers Arts & Crafts Fair on the Village Green. 10a to 5p both days. A donation of \$3-\$5 per adult is encouraged. Sponsored by the Cashier Rotary.

Sat., Aug. 30

• At Highlands Playhouse, Randall Atcheson in concert for the Highlands Literacy Council. Champagne reception, 3-4p and concert from 4-6p. General Admission \$50. Call the playhouse for tickets at 526-2695. Free shuttle service from the Rec Park.

Art & Craft show in Cashiers Aug. 30 & 31



On Sat. & Sun., Aug. 30 & 31 the Cashiers Art & Craft Fair on the Village Green. 10a to 5p both days. A donation of \$3-\$5 per adult is encouraged. Sponsored by the Cashiers Rotary.

High Lands: Stories of the Carolina Mountains subject at Shakespeare & Co.

At 3 p.m. on Thursday, August 28, Shakespeare & Co. Bookseller will host an informal discussion on T.W. Reynolds and his book "High Lands: Stories of the Carolina Mountains," published 50 years ago this summer. This event is free and the public is invited; any donations will be given to the Highlands Historical Society.

Thurlow Weed Reynolds, a retired engineer and journalist who spent his summers near Mirror Lake, and his winters in Riviera Beach, Fla., published "High Lands" the first of his five books about the Southern Appalachians in 1964. Well into his 70s when he compiled his research, Reynolds was able to interview folks then in their 80s and 90s, who were able



to remember their lives in the nineteenth century. Unlike most local histories, which are told in chronological order, Reynolds arranged his quirky and humorous book according to his pet obsessions of cartography and etymology – maps and words. He traced the derivations of area family and geographical names and, using Highlands as his starting point, provided detailed tours stretching from Sylva to Wallhalla to north Georgia, recounting what he learned of the inhabitants, notable events and the natural surroundings. Much of this material was later incorporated into "Summertime," Nancy Turner's wonderful guidebook to the Highlands and Cashiers area.

HCP's 'Last of the Red Hot Lovers' opens tonight, Aug. 21



By Director Virginia Talbot

Six plus weeks of rehearsal are over! The actors are costumed, made-up, keyed up, and ready to go—perhaps with a few nervous butterflies fluttering about! The Highlands Cashiers Players' production of Neil Simon's comedy—"The Last of the Red Hot Lovers"—opens Thursday, August 21, at the Highlands Performing Arts Center, beginning at 7:30 p.m.

As many theatergoers know, Neil Simon is one of the funniest, most popular, and most prolific comedy writers of our times. "The Last of the Red Hot Lovers" is one of his older plays, a huge hit on Broadway in 1969, and extremely popular, especially in the 70's and 80's, produced around the country by thousands of professional and community theaters. If you haven't seen it before, please come. If you enjoyed it in the past, come and renew your acquaintance with a genuinely brilliant comedy.

Highlands' talented actor Lance Trudel, who plays the role of Barney Cashman, has the formidable task of performing in all three acts opposite each of the ladies of the play, Jennifer Royce, Adair Simon, and Lee Lyons. Barney, the inexperienced "red hot lover," arranges three liaisons with three very different women, but each of his attempts at seduction prove more frustrating and hilarious than the last. Awkward situations, clever dialogue and witty wisecracks provide plenty of laughs.

With this telling remark the playwright reveals his writing secret: "I would tell aspiring playwrights not to try to make it funny. Make it real and comedy will come." And this is exactly what happens in "Red Hot Lover." The characters are portrayed humorously with all their foibles, eccentricities, and absurdities, but are essentially decent human beings at heart.

The comedy runs Thursday, August 21--Sunday, August 24, and Thursday, August 28 --Sunday, August 31 at Highlands Performing Arts Center on Chestnut Street. Evening performances begin at 7:30, Sunday matinees at 2:30. Tickets are available at the box office, 828-526-8084 or on line, www.highlandscashiersplayers.org.

...COMMISSIONERS continued from page 1

corted by law enforcement agencies up the Cullasaja Gorge.

The reason?

To give county commis-

sioners from the eastern part of the state the opportunity to see the geographical makeup of Macon County. The North Carolina

Association of County Commissioners (NCACC) held its annual conference in Asheville last week, and as part of the week, Macon County Commission Vice Chair and incoming President of NCACC Ronnie Beale organized a day trip to Macon County.

"We had to leave about 15 people in the parking lot," said Commissioner Beale. "So many people from down east had never been here and wanted to see it. I am glad to have helped make it happen. I think it is important for them to understand the different circumstances Macon County faces compared to the rest of the state."

After touring museums on Main Street in Franklin, the group of nearly 100 people made the 15-mile climb up the gorge. Stopping off at Bridal Veil and Dry Falls, the group took time to tour the natural creations Macon County has been blessed with.

"The ride to Highlands is an interesting one for sure," said NCACC 1st President - Elect and Pitt County Commissioner Glen Webb. "I was conflicted about it because on one hand, it's hilly and curvy so you need to focus. But on the other hand the views are breathtaking. So I have decided anytime I visit Highlands to always be the passenger. It was a great ride though. The gorge, the waterfalls and then the road delivers you into what I can only describe as a Rockwell painting of a town. As much as I love Eastern



From left: Highlands Commissioner John Dotson, MC Commissioner and President NCACC Ronnie Beale, Highlands Mayor Pat Taylor, outgoing NCACC president Ray Jeffers with gift from the town, MC Commissioner Jim Tate and Highlands Commissioners Eric Pierson and Donnie Calloway.
Photo by Brittany Burns

NC, Highlands will continue to stir my soul to return."

Webb, like dozens of the other commissioners who visited the county, were seeing Macon County for the very first time. "Of course many had never been on US 64 from Franklin to Highlands," said Commissioner Beale. "They really enjoyed the beautiful scenery and the falls. I do think some of our special guests were glad to finally arrive in Highlands."

Once in Highlands, the group was met by MC Commissioner Jim Tate, Highlands Mayor Patrick Taylor and the members of the Highlands Town Board, John Dotson, Eric Pierson and Donnie Calloway.

"Highlands was honored by the visit of the members of the North Carolina Association of Commissioners," said Mayor Taylor. "It is always gratifying to share ideas and information with representatives from around the

state. I was delighted that Commissioner Beale, the president of their association, was able to designate Highlands as a stop on their very busy tour schedule."

Mayor Taylor presented Beale with a framed photograph of Highlands but Beale asked that it be given to Ray Jeffers outgoing NCACC President as he was the incoming NCACC president and was set to be sworn in on Saturday.

Commissioner Tate spoke to the group about the importance of government officials on the eastern part of the state understanding that there is life past Asheville. "Due to the geographical limitations of Highlands and the Nantahala area, it is not practical to share resources like some counties do with magistrates, school nurses," said Tate.

Tate also explained that the state provides compensation based upon average student attendance at schools, and that if Macon County schools could be consolidated, then we could save a tremendous amount of money. "However, seeing that our geography makes that impractical, this actually causes some of our classes to have much less than 25 students and thus sticks us with paying for the additional teachers due to the lack of size," said Tate

Tate also informed visiting commissioners that the Highlands area has less than 10 percent of Macon County's population, but pays over 50 percent of the county's taxes. "At times, that provides an interesting predicament for myself as the District 1 representative," Tate said.

Many of the first time visi-

• See **COMMISSIONERS** page 18

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Highlands area. Whether you are interested in searching properties or comprehensive information about our area, you are invited to visit her user friendly website at www.signatureproperties-nc.com. Meadows Mountain Realty has two locations, at 41 Church Street in the Old Edwards Inn complex or visit Lynn at 2334

Cashiers Road across from Highlands Falls Country Club. Lynn Kimball can be reached at 828-421-8193 or by email at Lynn@MeadowsMtnRealty.com.

Buyers of Highlands NC real estate benefit tremendously from today's low rates. Rates are currently hovering between 4.1% and 4.2% for a traditional 30 year fixed rate loan. The historic average is over 8% and today's low rate covers a significant savings over the lifetime of a loan. This affordability level, combined with a healthy inventory of homes in Highlands makes it a great time to be a buyer.

Many buyers are seeking home equity lines of credit on their permanent residences as an easy way to pay cash for their vacation homes. Rates are low and closing costs for these loans are generally much less. Also, the time it takes to get the equity line of credit is usually quicker.

Housing around the nation has shown great improvement in recent months, with values on the increase and a decrease of distressed properties. Highlands' real estate is not seeing much in appreciation yet, as Highlands was about two years behind the beginning on the country's recession. However, the number of sales in Highlands has increased. As real estate recovery continues, prices will continue to increase as inventories shrink. A stronger market will have the effect of rising home values in the end and a stronger economy will have more buyers sinking their teeth into vacation homes in Highlands.

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• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

Let's All Grow Up!

By Father Jim Murphy
Christ Anglican Church, Cashiers

In Paul's great treatise on love (1 Corinthians 13:1-13), there is a lightly regarded verse (11) that most people usually breeze right past. Yet, in terms of our Christian responsibilities, it is fraught with great meaning. It says, "When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put childish ways behind me." (NIV)

The apostle Paul is talking not so much about coming of age in terms of years, physical maturity, as he is talking about coming to a full apprehension of the truth (Truth), spiritual maturity. B. C., before Christ, he was a whiny, impulsive, know-it-all, a rather arrogant member of his sect. A.D., *anno domini*, after the dominion of Christ came into his life, he grew up. He had a totally new and now mature apprehension of himself in comparison to God, not unlike John the Baptist's, "(Christ) He must become greater [increase], I must become less [decrease]." (cf. John 3)

When I reflect theologically on our modern world, I'm afraid that the world has not progressed, by and large, as Paul would have hoped or as the Baptist opined toward maturity. Observing sundry behaviors, reading the news, watching the world around us, there is entirely too much whiny, impulsive, know-it-all and altogether arrogant behavior. We behave like a bunch of spoiled children, loving ourselves at the expense of others. It's high-time we all grew up!

The point that Paul poetically makes to the church in Corinth is: Christianity represents a radically new way of talking. It is a powerful new way of thinking. It is the supreme way of reasoning. Nothing can compare with it. Christianity is life altering and life giving. It's high-time y'all grew up!

The epitome of our faith, according to Paul and our Lord Jesus, is love. Love is where we begin, it is our *modus operandi* (method of operation), and it is our goal. Paul's point in verse 11 is that we, the church, must leave the fruitless, childish ways we once lived by behind and act like the mature Love whose name we bear if we endeavor to reach for our full potential in Christ.

• See SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING page 19

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**Proverbs 3:5**

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464 US Hwy 64 east, Cashiers
Sun.: 8:30a Traditional (said) 1928 Service, including
Communion; 9:30a Christian Education; 10:30a Faithful,
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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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Tues. Guys study 8am, Gals 10am.

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Sundays: School: 10 a.m.;Worship: 11
Wednesdays -7 p.m.

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3645 Cashiers Rd, Highlands, NC
Senior Pastor Gary Hewins
Sun.: 9:30am: Sunday School
10:30am: Middle & High School; 10:45am: Child. Program,
10:45am:Worship Service
Wed.: 5pm Dinner (\$7 adult, \$2 child), 6pm CBC University

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Wednesday: 10 a.m., Morning Prayer
Thursdays: Holy Eucharist, (chapel), 10 am

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Dr. Mark Ford, Pastor
220 Main Street, Highlands NC 28741
Sun.:Worship 10:45 am; Sun.: Bible Study 9:30 am
Wed.: Men's Bible Study 8:30 am; Prayer Mtg 6:15 pm;
Choir 5 pm

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Sun.:Worship: 8:30 & 11 a.m.; School:9:30
Mondays: 8 a.m.:Men's Prayer Group & Breakfast
Wednesdays:Choir:7

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Pastor Nathan Johnson
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Wed. Kidsquest 6p.;Worship 7p.

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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)
Sun.: 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 5:30 p.
Wed: Supper: 5:15; 7:15:children, youth, & adults studies;
6:15:Adult choir (nursery provided) Thurs:12:30:
Women's Bible Study (nursery)

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

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Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study:7

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p.m.
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WHITESIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Rev. Sam Forrester/Cashiers
Sunday School: 10 am, Worship Service: 11 am

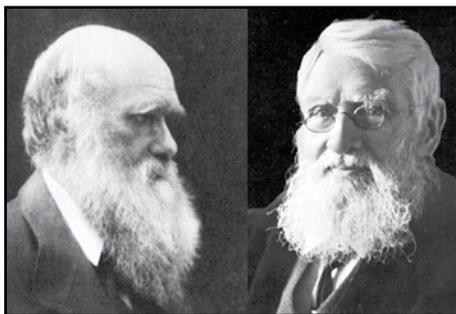
• BIZ/ORG NEWS •

The Rotary Club of Highlands held its weekly meeting on Tuesday, July 29th at noon at the Highlands Community Building. The guest speakers were Brenda Pierson, Chairwoman of the Highlands ABC Board and Kevin Vinson, newly-appointed store manager. Also speaking from the perspective of a permit holder was Rotarian Thomas Craig, owner of the Ugly Dog Pub. Vinson gave an informative historical presentation beginning with the founding of the store in 1977, and shared with Rotarians that in addition to all other charitable disbursements, proceeds from the



Highlands ABC store have generated \$95,000 for local student scholarships. For more information, please visit the Rotary Club of Highlands website at highlandsrotary.org. From left: Rotarian Thomas Craig, ABC Store Manager Kevin Vinson, ABC Board Chairwoman Brenda Pierson, and Rotary President Peter Ray.

Jim Costa presents Alfred Russel Wallace at CLE



Please join Jim Costa, Tuesday, August 26 at CLE for his presentation on Alfred Russel Wallace. Jim Costa is Director of the Highlands Biological Station, and professor of biology at WCU as well as an author of several recent books.

Alfred Russel Wallace was the last of the great Victorian naturalists, and by the end of his long life in 1913 he was also one of the most famous scientists in the world, lauded by leading learned societies, British royalty and US Presidents alike.

Against all odds — lacking wealth, formal education, social standing or connections — Wallace became the pre-eminent tropical naturalist of his day. He founded one entirely new discipline — evolutionary biogeography — and, with Darwin, co-founded another: evolutionary biology. Yet today Darwin's name is universally recognized, while Wallace is all but unknown. Jim Costa traces the independent development of Wallace's and Darwin's evolutionary insights, exploring the fascinating parallels, intersections and departures in their thinking. Drawing on Wallace's 'Species Notebook' — the most important of Wallace's field notebooks kept during his southeast Asian explorations of the 1850s, Costa puts Wallace's thinking into a new light in relation to that of his more illustrious colleague. He also

examines the ups and downs of Wallace's relationship with Darwin, and critically evaluates the misleading 'conspiracy theories' that Wallace was wronged by Darwin and his circle over credit for the discovery of natural selection.

Tracing the arc of Wallace's reputation from meteoric rise in the 19th century to virtual eclipse in the 20th, Costa restores Wallace to his proper place in the limelight with Darwin. Tuesday, August 26 Time: 10-12

Summer maybe winding down but there's still lots going on at CLE. There are spaces available for a unique and wonderful trip to Asheville, NC, Thursday-Saturday, September 11-13, Cost \$695 per person. We have added computer classes taught by Nigel Sixsmith on the new Apple operating system "Yosemite" Thursday, October 23, 10:3a-3:30p as well as October 30, 10:30-3:30 Cost \$70/\$80 and still lots more happening!

Walk-ins to lectures are welcome. For more information on these classes or CLE please visit www.clehighlands.com or call 526-8811. Our office is located at 348 S. Fifth Street in the lower level of the Peggy Crosby Center. All classes are \$25 for members/\$35 for non-members and are held in the CLE lecture hall unless otherwise noted.

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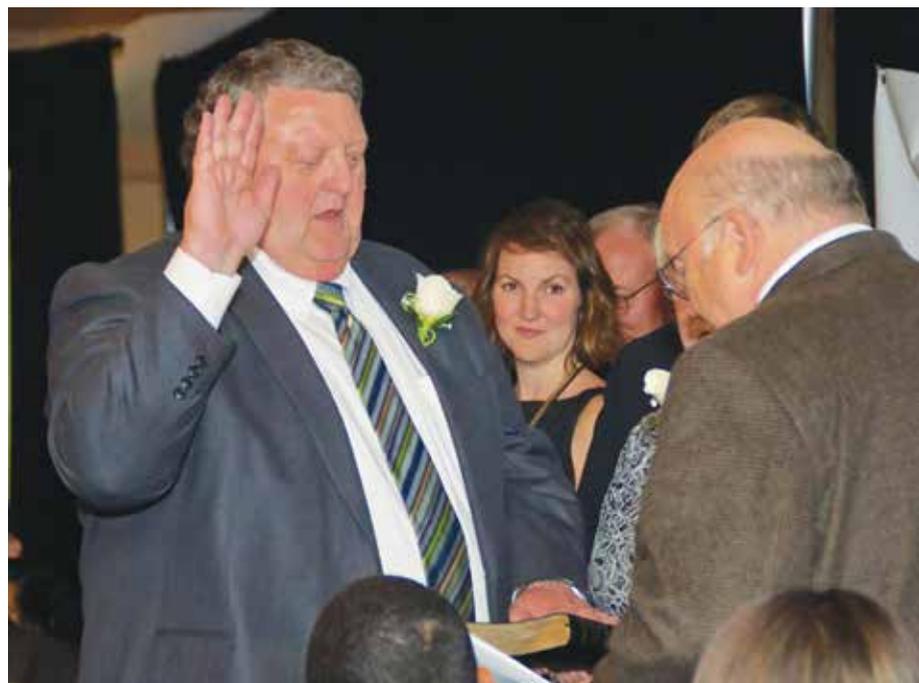
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...COMMISSIONERS continued from page 14



Retired Superior Court Judge James Downs was on hand to swear in Beale on Saturday night. Photo submitted by NCACC

tors to the area, were certain that it would not be their last visit.

"We pride ourselves on southern hospitality back home but this experience reminds me that there are loving people all over our great state," said Granville County Commissioner Tony Cozart. "I am grateful that I had this memorable experience."

After wrapping up their visit to Highlands, the group loaded back on the buses to travel back to Asheville to finish out the remaining conference schedule.

Saturday's conference highlight was centered around the swearing in of the NCACC's new president, Macon County Commissioner Ronnie Beale.

"It is my commitment to the citizens of Macon County to advocate for Macon County in every way possible knowing that without the support of Maconians I would not have this opportunity," said Beale. "I thank them very much."

Retired Superior Court Judge James Downs was on hand to swear in Beale on Saturday night.

"It is an honor and privilege to represent Macon County as President of The North Carolina Association of County Commissioners," said Beale. "It was a very special evening to be sworn in as President."

HFCC raises money for H-C Hospital Fnd.



Twilight Golf Tournament and auction at HFCC raised \$55,000 for the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital Foundation. The monies will be put into an unrestricted fund to help to sustain the hospital's emergency and patient care services as well as physician clinics. "The Highlands Falls Country Club's efforts proactively demonstrate the importance of having a fine hospital here in our community," said Robin Tindall-Taylor HCH Fnd. Ex. Dir.

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• FIRE REPORTS •

The Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. log entries from Aug. 7

Aug. 7

• At 6:55 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Kelsey Court.

Aug. 8

• At 8:53 a.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on US 64 west.
• At 9:41 a.m., the dept. responded to

a motor vehicle accident on Spring Street.

Aug. 9

• At 1:02 a.m., the dept. provided mutual aid to the Cashiers FD.

Aug. 10

• At 2:40 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Coxe Lane.

Aug. 11

• At 12:54 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Western Rhodes Road.

Aug. 12

• At 8:41 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Heatherwood Drive. EMS transported to the hospital.

Aug. 13

• At 2:43 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on N. 4th Street.

...DEATH continued from page 1

Since the cause of death is strangulation, that means Williamson was dead at the time of the fire, said Holland.

Charles Cochran escaped custody while on trash detail at the Macon County Detention Center on July 30. During his five days as a fugitive, he was spotted once and has since been tied to separate crimes.

In addition to the fire and death of Williamson, Cochran is a suspect in a Franklin Police Department investigation involving shots being fired near a West Palmer residence in Franklin.

Cochran is currently being held on the charges he was originally jailed for, trespassing charges out of Colorado. He is being held without bond.

"After we complete our investigation, we will work with the DAs [District Attorney's] office regarding what charges need to be filed," said Holland.

...SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING from 16

When I was a youngster I did not like to brush my teeth. Before bed each night I would either lazily brush them or allege to have conveniently forgotten to do so. As I gained a little childish wisdom, I would either brush them hastily or wet my toothbrush and act like I did brush them (my sister and brothers would report me). At the time, I thought that such behavior was pretty smart. Now, knowing much more about dental hygiene, I understand that my younger age behavior to have been foolish and immature. Who was I hurting? "Ouch!, those are my only teeth you're playing with doc!"

My childish behavior hurt only myself. It's the same way with our faith. As long as we act immaturely and attempt to get by with minimum input, we will suffer. As long as we're foolish and fail to love unselfishly, we will hurt ourselves and everyone else. As long as we talk, think, or reason childishly, in regards to our faith in Jesus, we injure our little old selves plus those to whom we've been sent or come in contact with.

Love, also known as maturity in Christ, is a goal and a commandment. May we with all vigor work towards it. It is guaranteed to benefit both us and many others.



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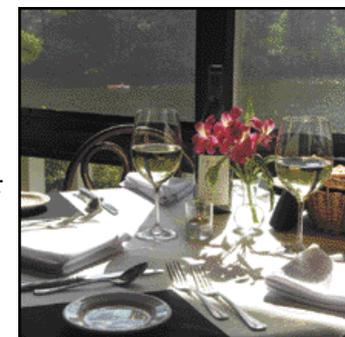
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