

Highlands Newspaper

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Thurs., Aug. 27, 2015

Signage was a big issue at last week's Town Board meeting

Dog excrement in K-H Founders Park also noted

Last Thursday's Town Board meeting wasn't very long, but the issues discussed at length were discussed passionately.

Cynthia Strain, organizer of

the Macon Art Association's Village Square Arts & Crafts Festival spoke during the Public Comment period to request the board to revisit its sign ordinance.

"It's very strict – unnecessarily strict – particularly in regard to events in the K-H Founders Park. Not allowing signs to direct people to events is an issue," she said.

"Events aren't allowed on holiday weekends and that has cut attendance by 50%. We need a way to better direct people to events. It's

•See **SIGNAGE** page 3

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Rising kindergarteners say good-bye to preschool



Highlands Community Child Development Center pre-schoolers said good-bye to their friends who headed to kindergarten Monday, Aug. 24. Graduating from HCCDC were Brayden Baty, Rowen Carnes, Mims Henderson, Jesus Lopez, Felix Reyes, and Dale West. Not pictured is also Francisco Gooch.

Satulah Mountain is site of HCLT rare plant study

By Julie Schott
HCLT

While hiking up on Satulah Mountain, some of you who have ventured past the summit on your way to either to the cliffs or to Mushroom Rock may have noticed a small cleared area that was not there last year. Over the past nine months, Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust (HCLT) staff and volunteers have worked to create a small test area to explore how two rare species, the ground juniper (*Juniperus communis* var. *depressa*) and Hartweg's locust (*Robinia hartwegii*) respond to the clearing.

Both of these species are quite extraordinary. The juniper population on Satulah is one of the very few known populations in North Carolina and is believed to be the most southern naturally occurring population in the eastern US. Hartweg's locust is known to occur in only a few dozen sites in western North Carolina and adjacent South Carolina and Georgia, with Satulah Mountain being regarded as

one of the best populations for the species. Both species require open, exposed patches in and around rock outcrops in order to grow and reproduce.

A preliminary study a couple years ago by an HCLT intern from the Highlands Biological Station's Institute for the Environment program found that there appeared to be only a very small fraction of the junipers on Satulah that were reproducing, and that many appeared to be crowded by other, taller woody shrubs such as mountain laurel, blueberries, and rhododendrons. Furthermore, plant experts with the NC Plant Conservation Program and Natural Heritage Program suggested that creating an open area could improve the conditions for both growth and reproduction for the juniper in particular, but also the locust.

As a result, the Land Trust decided to clear a small area where there were a few junipers and locusts to see if this would improve the growth, state, and

•See **SATULAH** page 10

Sales tax legislation is a moving target

Highlands Mayor Pat Taylor weighs in

Macon County Commissioner Ronnie Beale passed the torch as the President of the North Carolina Association of

County Commissioner to Pitt County Commissioner Glen Webb on Saturday, but despite ending his tenure as the organization's leader,

Beale is keeping a watchful eye on state legislation that would not only adversely impact Macon

•See **SALES TAX** page 11

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• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• MAYOR ON DUTY •

Saturday was a full day. At noon I rode by the park and saw my dear friends, Hank and Cathy Ross, loading books in the Little Free Library. The library was Cathy's creation. It has been so popular this summer that the hinges and door fell apart. Skip Taylor, a true craftsman, had just installed a new set of doors designed for heavy use.

The Free Library is one of several new attractions in the park. Commencement of Phase 2 construction is imminent.

Later in the afternoon I visited the Webbmont Homeowners Association to give an update on the Lake Sequoyah construction project. Here are the project status highlights.

First, the recently paved right lane of US 64 going from Hickory Hill Road to the Lake Sequoyah Dam will be resurfaced within days. The original paving, which was done in conjunction with the installation of a new waterline, did not meet NC DOT standards. To the credit of the general and subcontractor, they agreed with the DOT and will resurface the lane.

The dam repair work is now complete.



Mayor Pat Taylor

The dam cold water release system will be activated in the next month or so. The lake level will be lowered about an inch below the top of the dam for a few hours to activate the system.

Construction of the well house on the far side of the dam is underway. The unit will pump water from the lake up to the town water plant on Hickory Hill Road. This construction is the

last phase of the lake project and should be completed by year's end. The project in on, or very near, the original 445-day project schedule.

A final component of this last phase will be creating a landscape that will hide the building and minimize noise. So as the masonry building goes up, keep in mind the ultimate objective is to hide it with earth and vegetation.

I ended Saturday by running in the Twilight 5K Road Race. Derek Taylor and the Highlands Rotary Club did a wonderful job in organizing this race that benefited the Highlands Hurricanes Youth Swim Team. I quickly got "psyched out" in the first mile of the race. At 67, I had been doing serious training for the race. When I saw Carolyn Morrisroe and Brad Spaulding of The Highlander, and Frank Vickery, my former younger colleague at the Bascom Pottery Barn, fly by me, well I became concerned. Quickly, I embraced the delusion that they would give out, and I would pass them around mile two. Not so.

Nevertheless, I won my age category, but failed to beat the time I posted in last year's race. At the race finish I was down and disappointed. Later on I saw Luther Turner, an 85-year old race participant. Shortly, I put things in perspective. I informed Luther I aspire to be just like him, running in the Twilight 5K at 85.

It was a winning day for Highlands and all of us.

• LETTER •

Maybe we should rename the K-H Founders Park the K-H Poop Park

Dear Editor,

I am writing to express my concern about an issue that was brought up at the Town Board meeting last week – dog poop in K-H Founders Park.

Since I am in the park frequently, I can attest to the problem of feces often being left in the grass – the same grass where children run barefoot and play, where families spread out blankets and picnics, and people gather for numerous activities.

I also witness people using the park solely as a place for their dogs to relieve themselves. It appears that our beautiful, little park has become the daily dumping ground for many.

We already have an established dog park for this purpose, not to mention national forest lands with woods and trails all over the immediate area. There is no excuse for Highlands to not have at least one park that is clean and healthy for the general public to enjoy without fear of stepping in a pile of poop or remnants thereof!

Perhaps the group that is creating the plan for the second phase of the park would consider setting an area aside solely for dogs to use. Making the main green space in the park off-limits is not asking too much. Many communities have successfully implemented such a policy. With signage along with publicity and community policing (ie., individuals overseeing and educating people), this problem could be easily resolved.

Highlands is a dog friendly town. They are allowed all over as long as they are on a leash. The town even provides poop bags. We are asking that this small area be off-limits to dogs so it can be fully enjoyed by the humans of Highlands.

**Cynthia Strain
Highlands**

• THANKS •

Thank You from a Highlands Playhouse board member

It has been my pleasure to serve on the Highlands Playhouse Board of Directors for 10 years but due to failing health I will be resigning my position.

My family and my business are now the most important things I must show attention to going forward.

There are people I would like to thank for their continuing support of the Playhouse.

Richard Delany of Old Edwards Inn and Spa and John Lupoli of Lupoli Construction have been wonderful allies over the years but especially for their part in the winterization of the Playhouse.

Back in 2012, the dream we three had for the movies at the Playhouse has come to fruition and is enjoyed by all. Jerry Pair wanted the children and adults in Highlands to have a fun outlet and made a large donation giving us the ability to make a down payment on our movie screen and sound system.

Horst and Margaret Winkler have been our champions forever and there was never a thing I asked for they didn't make it happen. The Town of Highlands also had a large part in the winterization process and many thanks to them.

I especially want to thank all the patrons who have supported my passion and love of the Playhouse. I pick up the Playbill and see your names knowing you did it on my behalf and for this I'll always be grateful.

Lastly, I want to thank my family for their support and understanding of my time spent away from them at the Playhouse.

– Wanda H. Drake

• See THANKS page 3

Highlands Newspaper

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Letter Policy:

We reserve the right to reject or edit letters-to-the-editor. No anonymous letters will be accepted. Views expressed are not necessarily those of Highlands Newspaper.





On Monday, the pool enclosure was opened all the way and according to Rec Park Director Lester Norris it will stay open during the day and closed at night or when due to weather.

NEW POOL SCHEDULE

LAP SWIM-ADULTS ONLY – \$4:

Monday-Friday 7-10 am AND 5-6 pm (Sharing pool with water aerobics at 5:15 on Mon., Tues., and Thurs.)

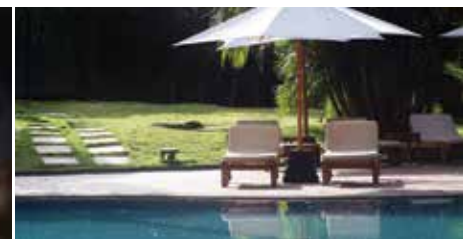
PUBLIC SWIM – \$4 Adults, \$3 Children under 12:

Monday - Thursday 3 – 5 pm & 6 – 8 pm; Sat. 11 am – 6 pm and Sunday 1 – 5 pm

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Paoletti's Hospice House fundraiser moved to Wed. Sept. 30

Paoletti's Restaurant is having two charity functions for the Hospice House Foundation of WNC on Wednesday, Sept. 30.

Cocktails and Casual Grazing - \$150/person (\$100 is tax deductible). A come-as-you-are social cocktail reception with hors d'oeuvres and select wines.

At 7:30 p.m. it's Dining for Dignity - \$250/person (\$150 is tax deductible) This will be a relaxed dining experience where patrons choose from a decadent 4-course menu especially selected for the evening.

This dining venue is limited – early reservations are strongly recommended. Please call 828-526-4906.

...THANKS continued from page 2 For the future of the Hospice House

On behalf of the Hospice House Foundation I want to thank Frank Scudder for his support. He sold over \$10 K of donated jewelry on our behalf with no commission for himself or any of the Scudder Gallery employees. He is a great man, and a strong supported of Hospice. He will always have a friend at the Hospice House, once we get it renovated and expanded.

– Evie Byrnes

...SIGNAGE continued from page 1

a problem.”

The town wants to allow banners inside the park, but as was noted later in the meeting by members of the K-H Founders Park Coalition who had their own issues about banners, “allowing banners in the park is like preaching to the choir – people are already there!”

They also said they are visually littering the park.

“We were kind of blind-sided with the

banners,” said member Skip Taylor. “Allowing six banners in the park [two each on the back wall of the stage pavilion, on the wall of the bathroom pavilion facing the fountain, and on the 5th Street side of the bathroom pavilion] distracts from the overall aesthetics of the park. It’s a lot of signage without being effective.”

Strain requested off-premise signs be allowed on Pine Street at US 64 (N. 4th

•See SIGNAGE page 9

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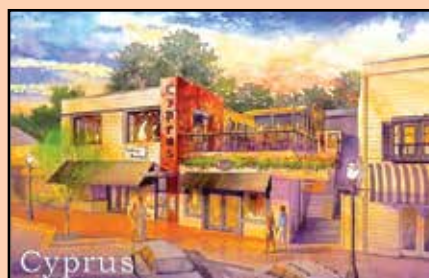
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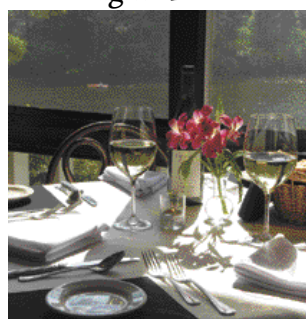
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UPCOMING EVENTS

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• **THE LYSENKO AFFAIR:** Soviet and Scientific Tragedy Thur., Sept. 3 Time: 10-12 What happens when science and politics collide? **DISASTER!** Dr. Jim Costa, Director of the Highlands Biological Station and science historian is going to look at the tragic Russian scientific battle known as the "Lysenko Affair." Costa will examine the event from different perspectives as well as its effect on politics and genetic studies in Russia.

• **DEBUTANTES AND DOWNTON:** American Heiress Do the London Season Tue., Sept. 8 Time: 2-4 Cornelia Powell, author, wedding folklorist and costume historian, entertains audiences around the country with her Downton Abbey costume talks and PowerPoint presentations and is back to discuss the glitz and glamour of Downton Abbey's fictional countess Cora Crowley.

• **BEEKEEPING AND THE STORY OF MANUKA HONEY:** Wed. Sept. 9 Time: 10-12 Mike Everly, President of Forest & Bees Native Honey is going share what the "buzz" is about regarding the importance of the honey bee and the health benefits Manuka honey is known to have.

• **TSUNAMIS, EARTHQUAKES, VOLCANOES:** The Titanic Forces of Nature Thur. Sept. 10 Time: 10-12 Natural disasters are extreme sudden events that cause damage to people and property. This lecture will look at some recent disasters and will discuss why they happened and to what extent they can be predicted. Dr. Helen Aves holds a Ph.D in Geology from Columbia.

• **IPAD SHORT COURSE:** Basic and Advanced Fri. Sept. 11/18 (2 Sessions) Time: 10:30-3:30 Cost \$125/\$140 This class taught by Nigel Sixsmith will teach you everything you need to know to get up and running with your iPad.

• **MEXICAN MISADVENTURE:** Emperor Maximilian of Mexico and the American-born Princess Who Tried to Save Him Sat. Sept. 12 Time: 10-12 Rick Hutto is back with us to share a story of romance, intrigue, and adventure! Hutto is former chairman for Georgia Council for the Arts and former White House Appointments Secretary to the Carter Family.

**The cost for all lectures is \$25 members/\$35 non-members For more about classes at The Center for Life Enrichment stop by our office in the lower level of the Peggy Crosby Center at 348 S. 5th Street, call 828-526-8811 or visit www.clehighlands.com*

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• THE FREDSTER •

There once was a man from Nantucket (Raunchy Rhymes)

Many of my regular readers ask about how my columns are created and the sometimes outrageous stuff in it. So this week's column is about the creation and editing of my column. "WHAT?" you ask, your column is actually censored and sometimes changed against your wishes? "Kind of....yeah" would be my response. It's more of an edit than a censure. But for the record, I'll tell you there are several processes that take place before it is put to print.

After creating a column and giving it a title, I let it sit in the computer for a couple of three days before opening it again for reading. I do that to see if I still like the material as much as I did when I wrote it. So a kind of selfie editing process takes place first. Sometimes minor changes are made. Sometimes whole paragraphs are dumped and replaced and on rare occasions I'll toss the whole thing.

The next step is to print it out on rough draft paper (but not toilet paper) and give it to li'l missus for her review. Her job is to make sure I didn't accidentally piss someone off unless I meant to do so. If I did it deliberately then that's another kettle of fish. She is also a better speller than li'l ole me, not to mention paragraph structure and ending sentences with a preposition. She is the real talent behind my columns and I'm about all the insanity.

Once the rough draft is cleaned up it's stored back in the computer to await submission to the newspaper's publisher, Kim Lewicki, for her review. This is done electronically, usually around 4AM during my first cup of coffee. I'll tell you right now the hard part is getting it past my li'l missus because Kim is a piece of cake compared.

Early this season I made fun of our mayor for showing up for a photo op wearing a prison orange T-shirt. I



Fred Wooldridge

had so much fun writing that but Kim thought it was in poor taste and would be a turn-off for our readers who love Pat. Hey, I think Pat is great but I still wanted to poke fun at him. But I took her advice and voluntarily pulled the piece.

Years ago, a powerful and influential Highlander told Kim if she didn't fire me he would pull all his ads from her paper. When I heard of this, I volunteered to quit the paper to save her from losing a fortune in revenue. "You'll do nothing of the sort," was her curt retort. "If you quit then he wins and will be running my newspaper so don't you dare quit on me." Jim had a lot to say on that, too, so I didn't and my respect for them soared.

Sooooo this week I decided to write something on raunchy rhymes. My job will be to clean them up and get them ready for my two editors. So I've written one and it's sitting in the computer. Hold your breath, here's an early preview.

"There once was a man from Nantucket, who sipped his milk from a bucket. He said with a grin as he wiped off his chin, if my pail were full of ale I would gulp it." (Good, huh?)

Oh, and you might find this kind of naughty. When I'm sure my li'l missus will read my rough draft right away, I'll stick something totally unacceptable in the middle of a paragraph and then wait in my office for the "No, no, no," shout from the living room. But lately, she's been catching on to my pranks and scribbles "no, no, no" across the page. BUMMER!

Note: Fred is wandering around Highlands with a few left over copies of his insane book titled "I'm Moving Back to Mars. Snag him and get an autographed copy.



Village Square Art & Craft Show is this Sat. and Sun.

For ten years Highlands has hosted the Village Square Art & Craft Shows in K-H Founders Park. Sponsored by the Macon County Art Assn., the show is this weekend Aug. 29 & 30. It features outstanding fine art and crafts created in the mountains—nearly 70 booths in all. Everything from hand-made knives, sundresses, Raku pottery, hats and rustic furniture. Enjoy demonstrations and food, as well as live music by Mike Cannon and Silas Kenna on Sat. and Ryan Boss on Sunday. The park is downtown at Pine and N. 5th Streets. For more information call (828) 787-2021 or visit our facebook page.

New 'Clothes Closet' is set to help clothe needy students

Macon County Schools Social Workers Annie Breedlove Wishon and Marci Holland have taken on a new project for this school year. Their goal is to start a clothing closet for all students of Macon County Schools.

Some schools already have a small clothing closet for their individual schools, however, often times more items or different sizes may be needed throughout the year.

There are many, many students in the district who are in need of various clothing items – socks, shoes, book bags, etc.

Keep in mind, Macon County Schools serves preschool through 12th grade. Therefore, all size – new or used will be accepted.

To make a donation, drop items off at any Macon County Schools campus. Annie or Marci will pick up the items and make distributions to students as necessary.

To contact Annie or Marci directly, email them at annie.wishon@macon.k12.nc.us or marci.holland@macon.k12.nc.us



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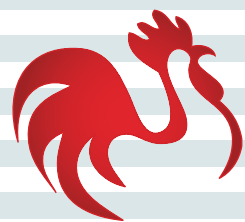
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IN OUR SEASONING. SERVED WITH
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TUESDAY - OVEN OFF NIGHT
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WITH COLESLAW AND ROSEMARY SEA
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...SIGNAGE continued from page 3

Street) to better direct people.

Taylor said Phase 2 of the park is ready to begin and two signs are planned at the entrance of the park to announce events.

Commissioner John Dotson had the most to say about the current park policies agreeing with previous comments about banners inside the park.

"Banners cheapen the look of the park and it's not like they help you 'find' it – you are already there," he said. "It's the town's responsibility to get people to the place."

Commissioner Amy Patterson agreed with the aesthetic angle, but said events in the park can't have advertising privileges that merchants can't have.

Town Manager Bob Frye also brought up the "fine line" the Highlands Market Place is walking regarding nonprofits versus commercial vendors and in addition he said he has had numerous requests to use the park for wedding events – something allowed at the Cashiers Village Green.

The board agreed to discuss signage in the park as well as the Kelsey-Hutchison Park Policies in general to both clarify uses and

clean up verbiage.

CLE Signage

As promised at the July Town Board meeting, the issue of a wayfinding sign for the Center (CLE) of Life Enrichment, located in the Peggy Crosby Center, was discussed again.

Town Manager Frye reiterated what he has said all along – the wayfinding signs are meant for "year-round, nonprofit venues bringing large numbers of people to Highlands."

"The Planning Advisory Committee has revisited this for the third time and nothing has changed to warrant a wayfinding sign," he said. "It suggested the group work with the Peggy Crosby Center on better signage."

Furthermore, he said the Peggy Crosby Center includes for-profit tenants and wayfinding signage is for nonprofits mostly in town buildings and the majority of people who attend CLE events are

members not people from out of town.

Ed Mawyer, president of the CLE board, said the CLE venue inside the Peggy Crosby Center attracts more than 3,000 people to Highlands including speakers and instructors from all over the state and the southeast.

"These people spend money in Highlands' restaurants and hotels with an annual economic impact to Highlands of \$180,000-\$200,000," he said.

Frye also said the Peggy Crosby board informed the town that if CLE got a wayfinding sign it wanted one, too.

Member of the CLE board Bill MacMillian said CLE is a key tenant of the Peggy Crosby Center occupying 1,800 sq. ft. and any signage given CLE would be good for the Peggy Crosby Center.

"The Peggy Crosby Center would get exposure – signage would direct people to the building so everyone would benefit," he

said.

Commissioner Donnie Caloway made the motion to allow a wayfinding sign for the CLE on the grounds that though it's true the Peggy Crosby Center doesn't "fit the mold" the town has been lax concerning for-profit versus nonprofits in regards to the Highlands Market Place in K-H Founders Park and so should allow the signage.

Commissioner Brian Stiehler agreed saying "CLE was a venue worthy of a sign."

However, in the end, the board voted 3-2 against allowing a wayfinding sign for CLE.

Dog excrement in K-H Park

Diane Levine also spoke during the Public Comment period of the meeting stressing the need for a park policy regarding dogs in the park.

"I love dogs and Highlands is a dog-friendly town – just look around. We have a dog park, there is green space at Harris Lake and the whole town is surrounded by forest – there are other places dogs can go to defecate other than the park.

"I understand town employees are monitoring and picking up excrement, but it doesn't matter how many times they do this – there is still fecal matter left in the grass and there is the issue of why should taxpayers be paying town employees to pick up other people's dog excrement?

"Keeping dogs off of this one small green space will allow people to put blankets down for concerts, children can run barefoot through the fountain and do handstands in the grass and tod-

•See SIGNAGE page 18

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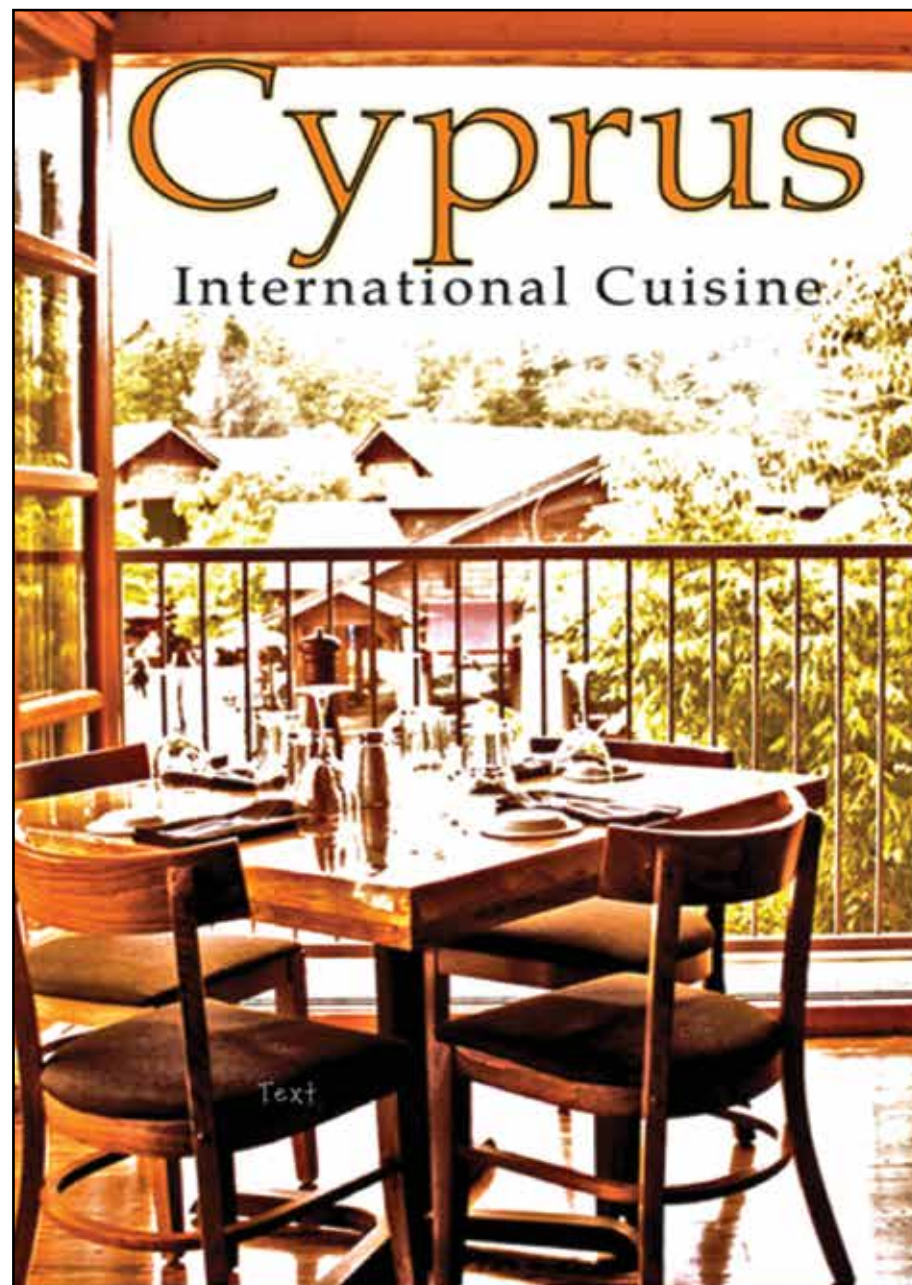
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reproduction of both species. Over a number of days, we cleared out all the trees and shrubs that were not the juniper and locust with the exception of a large pitch pine. The area was raked to remove the pine needles and leaves to expose the soil and any exposed stumps were cut. Then a fence was built using some of the trees and laurels that had been cut down to block people from walking off the trail and trampling the study area. A small sign was placed to inform folks about the study and to help keep the area undisturbed.

In 2016, HCLT hopes to have another intern look at the growth and reproduction of both species and see if there were any noticeable improvements in the cleared area as compared to elsewhere on the mountain and from the original data collected from the first study. Initial indications are both the juniper and the locust are doing great. If you have any questions or would like to learn more, feel free to contact us anytime at hitrust@earthlink.net or 828-526-1111. Together we are conserving valuable land resources for ours and future generations.



Final Zahner Lecture about Monarch butterflies

The final Zahner Conservation lecture will take place on September 3 at 6:30 in the Nature Center and will discuss Monarch Butterflies. This species, with its unique migration pattern, life cycle, diminishing populations and beauty is a symbol for the importance of conservation and awareness of all species in our environment. Please help us spread the word about this lecture and thank you again for all of your efforts to help share the mission of the Highlands Biological Station with our community.

...SALES TAX continued from page 1

County, but could have long standing implications for counties across the state.

"Although Commissioner Webb was sworn in as President on Saturday, I still remain active with the association, serving on the board as past president," said Beale. "I, along with the association, remain concerned about the impact the sales tax redistribution plan will have on my county and other areas across the state."

Earlier this year, the North Carolina House of Representatives sent the Senate an economic incentive plan for the state. After sitting on the bill for a month, the Senate amended the House's plan to include a controversial change to sales tax distribution, explained Beale. Last week, the House voted 111-2 to reject the bill and send it to a new conference committee for the two chambers to debate further.

According to Beale, the House's nay vote didn't kill the bill, and the possibility of a sales tax redistribution plan is still on the table. "The bill is not dead, we hope it is on life support, but it is not dead and could still happen," said Beale.

As it stands, the current law keeps 75 percent of sales taxes in the county of sale and sends the remaining 25 percent to be distributed to other counties, generally rural counties.

Supporters of the change argue the new formula, which would split the sales tax 50/50, would provide more funding to rural counties in the state. While some counties would benefit from the change, counties like Macon, which rely heavily on the tourism industry, would see a significant decrease in sales tax revenue. The proposed change would be implanted in July on 2016.

But, the proposed 50/50 plan is better than originally projected. When state lawmakers began the discussion on a redistribution plan, the Senate proposed an 80/20 split, which would have meant about a \$1.5 million loss in sales tax for the county.

"It's down now to 50-50, and we'd get 50 percent back, which is a lot better than it was," Commissioner Beale said during the August commissioners meeting. "By the new estimate, it looks like the town of Franklin would see a loss of \$55,000. For us [county] it would be about \$200,000 a year," Beale said.

County Manager Derek Roland noted that despite the uncertainty, when he developed his budget earlier this year, he planned for the worst.

"North Carolina was projecting an overall increase of 13 percent in sales tax revenue for this year, but with so many uncertainties from the state, when we developed our budget, we only budgeted for a three percent increase," said Roland. "That

conservative approach has set us up to be able to handle whatever plays out next year with the sales tax redistribution. Whatever is decided, if anything, it wouldn't take effect until July of 2016 at this point, and I think our current budget is ideal for preparing for that."

The sales tax issue is high on Highlands Mayor Pat Taylor's list of priorities.

"The original sales tax bill proposed in March of this year had Highlands losing – after the three-year phase-in period – about \$630,000 in annual sales tax revenue. That loss would have been a 20% reduction in our budget," said Taylor. "The 50/50 model, which is currently on the table, is much better in that we would be losing about \$50,000 each year."

But with the NC Senate supporting the measure and the NC House voting against it, who knows what the outcome will be, he said.

"The sales tax distribution initiative has been a divisive issue this legislative session," said Taylor. "Small, rural towns and counties support it because they stand to gain needed sales tax income. Larger counties, metropolitan cites and resort areas are generally against it since they stand to lose significant revenue."

The sales tax redistribution plan is only one of several factors weighing on counties' minds.

As it stands, the state of North Carolina still doesn't have a budget and is operating on a continuing budget resolution.

The newest budget deadline is August 31, but according to county leaders, if something isn't resolved by then, there has been talk that the next deadline will be June 30, 2016.



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• HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

Mon.-Sat.

• Nantahala Tennis Club meets at 9a.m. to noon each day. All visitors welcome.

Sun. - Tues.

• Movies at the Playhouse: 2, 5 & 8 p.m. Call 526-2685 for weekly movie.

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.

Mon. & Wed.

• Zumba with Mary K. Barbour at the Rec Park from noon to 1p. For more information, call 828.342.2498.

• Donation Based Family Fitness Class at The Nature Center every Monday at noon and Wednesday at 7pm for Teens and Adults,

Mon., Wed., Fri.

• Heart Healthy Exercise Class Monday, Wednesday and Friday 8:30am-9:30am

• Aerobics with Tina Rogers 8-9a.

First Tuesdays

• The monthly family support group for those with family members, friends, or loved ones living with the challenge of mental illness meets the first Tuesday of each month, 7p.m. at Memorial United Methodist Church, 4668 Old Murphy Road, Franklin. This group is sponsored by the local affiliate of NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness). For more information: Ann 828 369-7385

Tuesdays

• Growing Stronger Together - A support and learning group for women who have physical or mental difficulties including depression or high stress. \$5 per session. Meets weekly on Tuesdays through August 4 at the Peggy Crosby Center, Rm.203. Led by Bonnie Gramlich, LPC and sponsored by HUMC and the Counseling and Psychotherapy Center of Highlands. Call 828.342.0546 to register or for more info.

• FREE Community Table Dinner at the Community Bldg. at 6p.

• FREE Yoga in the K-H Founders Park Tuesdays from 6-7 p.m. Bring the whole family (along with a towel and a bottle of water) for a gentle, community stretch!

2nd and 4th Tuesdays

• OccupyWNC meets at the Jackson County Justice Center. For more information, visit www.occupywnc.org or call 828.331.1524

Tuesday and Thursdays

• Zumba with Connie at the Rec Park will resume Tuesday, Sept. 15. at 8a. \$5.

• Pickle ball is played from 9:30-11a in the gym at the Rec Park.

1st Wednesdays

• Family Movies at the Hudson Library at 3:15pm. Call 828-526-3031 for titles.

2nd Wednesdays

• General Audience Movies at Hudson Library at 2pm. Call 828-526-3031 for titles.

Wednesdays

• Children's Book of the Month Club and Story Hour with Nonnie (Diane McPhail) at Shakespeare & Company in Village Square at 11 a.m.

• Live music at Satulah Mountain Brewing Company with Jimandi, a local duo, 7:30-10:30p.

Thursdays

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

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

• NAMI Support Group for individuals dealing with mental illness: depression, bipolar, schizophrenia, etc. and the family members of individuals dealing with these challenges from 7 - 8:15 pm. Call Donita for more info (828) 526-9510.

• Free lectures at the Highlands Nature Center, 930 Horse Cove Road in Highlands at 6:30 p.m. For more information, call (828) 526-2221.

2nd Thursdays

• Sapphire Valley Needlepoint Guild meets

at the Highlands Rec Park at 10 a.m.

3rd Thursdays

• Kidney Smart Classes in Franklin: Every 3rd Thursday of month, 4:30pm-6pm, Angel Medical Center, Video Conference Room, 3rd Floor, 120 Riverview Street, Contact Majestic 828-369-9474

• Kidney Smart Classes in Sylva: Every 3rd Thursday of month, 7:30am-9am, DaVita Sylva Dialysis Center, 655 Asheville Highway, Contact Sue 828-631-0430

Last Fri. of each month

• Community Coffee with Mayor Pat Taylor from 11a to noon at The Hudson Library.

Fridays and Saturdays:

• The Highlands Historical Museum is open every Friday and Saturday from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.. On display is a Botanical History of the Highlands Plateau, a gallery of local photographs by George Masa, and presentations of Mary Lapham's TB Sanatorium, the Moccasin War of 1885, Abraham Lincoln's alleged origins, Joe Webb's tools, and books and DVDs about Highlands history. For more information, email highlandshistory@nctv.com.

Fridays

• Live music in Town Square from 6-8p. (Through Oct. 23, weather permitting)

Saturdays

• Highlands Marketplace in K-H Founders Park on Pine Street from 9a to 2p.

• Children's Story Hour with Nonnie (Diane McPhail) at Shakespeare & Company in Village Square at 11 a.m.

• At MountainTop Wine Shoppe on Main Street, free wine tasting from 1-3 p.m.

• Music in the K-H Founders Park from 6-8p. Bring a picnic. (Next and last one is Labor Day weekend.)

Through Aug. 22

• At the Highlands Playhouse, First Date. Wed.-Sat., at 8 p.m. and Sat. & Sun. at 2 p.m. for Tickets call 828-526-2695.

Through Aug. 27

• Macon County Soccer Clubs Youth reg-

istration has been extended through August 27th for ages 5-14. Registration is available online and at the Recreation Department. Register at Macon County Soccer Club at www.maconsoccer.net

Aug. 27 - Sept. 6

• At the Highlands Playhouse, "End of the Rainbow." For tickets, call 828-526-2695.

• HCP presents Vanya & Sonia & Masha & Spike at the Performing Arts Center. For ticket information call 828-526-8084.

Sat., Aug. 29

• Jackson County Parks and Recreation and Chinquapin to host 3rd Annual Cashiers Trail Mix trail run and team adventure mud run -- a 5 mile competitive trail run over diverse terrain or a 3.1762 mile team adventure run including obstacles, mud, and much more! Sign up for one or both events and must have a team of four for the adventure run. For more information visit <http://www.cashierstrailmix.com> or call Jackson County Parks and Recreation Department at 828.631.2020.

Sat.-Sun., Aug. 29 & 30

• Highlands Village Square Art & Craft Show. Regional artisans, music, food. 10 - 5 in Kelsey-Hutchinson Park on Pine Street, downtown Highlands. Admission free. Sponsored by Macon County Art Assn. Call (828) 787-2021 for info.

Mon. Aug. 31

• The Art League of Highlands-Cashiers' August meeting will be at the Bascom Monday at 5 p.m. with social time beginning at 4:30 p.m. The guest speaker will be local artist, CynDe Copple. This free presentation is open to the public."

Thurs., Sept. 3

• The final Zahner Conservation lecture at 6:30 p.m. at the Nature Center will discuss Monarch Butterflies. This species, with its unique migration pattern, life cycle, diminishing populations and beauty is a symbol for the importance of conservation and awareness of



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• HIGHLANDS EVENTS •

all species in our environment. Please help us spread the word about this lecture and thank you again for all of your efforts to help share the mission of the Highlands Biological Station with our community. Attached and pasted below is our press release for this week. I have also attached two photographs of a Monarch butterflies.

Sat & Sun., Sept. 5-6

• Fall Arts & Crafts Show at the Village Green in Cashiers. 10am - 5pm (Rain or Shine). More than 70 exhibiting artisans and good food. Admission is free but donations will be accepted to benefit area non-profits. Sponsored by the Rotary Club of Cashiers Valley.

Sat., Sept. 6

• At Cliffside Lake, Live Birds of Prey with Michael Skinner with the Balsam Mountain Trust at 11 a.m. Program on the patio at Cliffside Lake. No pets allowed. Please arrive 15 minutes prior to program. Free by \$4/vehicle admission to recreation area.

Thursday, Sept. 10

• Dahlia Festival Patron Party. 6:30 p.m. at the Hudson House, Highlands Country Club. Mexican Fiesta with Live Mariachi Band. Tickets \$125. For more details, go to www.highlandshistory.com or call the Highlands Historical Society at (828) 787-1050. Proceeds raised by the Festival underwrite the upkeep of the Prince House, the oldest home within the town of Highlands.

Sat., Sept. 12

• Highlands' 5th Annual Dahlia Festival. 1-

5 p.m. at the Highlands Rec Park & Civic Center. All dahlia enthusiasts are urged to join in the competition. Prizes will be presented in multiple categories. It is to celebrate the beauty and enjoyment of these gorgeous flowers that grow so well in our beautiful mountains. Come and bring your blooms to share with other dahlia lovers. Public admission \$5 at the door.. Exhibitor fee \$10. Live Music (Dulcimer players 2 - 3:30 p.m.) Refreshments and Actors in Period Costumes at the Highland Historical Museum

Sun., Sept. 13

• The 23rd Annual Bel Canto Recital will again present a quartet of renowned singers from the world of opera - Jennifer Black, Audrey Babcock, mezzo-soprano, Jonathan Burton, tenor, and Mark Walters, baritone. Don't miss this year's performance! If you have any questions, please call us at 828 526 5213 or email at highlandsbelcanto@gmail.com.

Thursday, Sept. 17

• Eco Tour: "Bald Rock" Join Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust on this special access hike to the summit of "Old Bald" through Camp Merrie-Woode. Learn about a number of rare plants from your botanist guide and be rewarded with a grand view from above. \$35 new friends includes the guided hike, lunch on the trail and a year membership to Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust! HCLT members: \$10. Reservations required: Julie.hitrust@earthlink.net, 526-1111. Together we are saving mountains: www.hicashlt.org.

Scholarship Golf Tournament is Oct. 15

October 15, 2015 marks a special date in Highlands. Wildcat Cliff Country Club will once again host the annual Scholarship Golf Classic.

The Town of Highlands Scholarship fund began in 1975 through the generosity of a local businessman named Jack Taylor. His gift of \$5,000 was the initial funding for this scholarship program enabled by special legislation in the NC General Assembly making Highlands unique in the state with the ability to administer such a fund for the benefit of Highlands School graduates who are committed to higher education through college, university or vocational training.

In succeeding years Jack Brockway along with other prominent concerned citizens became increasingly involved in the development and promotion of the Town of Highlands Scholarship Endowment Fund which at the time exceeds \$780,000.

Through the ensuing years, various Clubs including Highlands Falls, Cullasaja, and now Wildcat Cliffs,

have graciously provided each of their unique golf course and clubhouse facilities for the purpose of creating an annual one day "fund drive golf tournament." The historical generosity has been essential in building and sustaining the endowment fund with the ultimate goal of providing financial and moral support to our young highland school graduates.

Event Co-Chair, Brian Stiehler said, "We are excited to continue this important tradition. Wildcat Cliffs management and staff have gone above and beyond to make this a successful event on all levels. We are grateful for the membership and staff of WCCC."

The event kicks off at 7:30am with breakfast and use of the driving range and practice green. A 9am shotgun start is followed by cocktails, lunch and awards ceremony. The cost for the event is \$150 per player. For sponsorship information or to sign up, please contact event co-chairs, Brian Stiehler (787-2778) or Rebecca Shuler (526-2118).

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6 - 10 PM
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HCP
HIGHLANDS/CASHIERS
PLAYERS

presents

A Comedy by Christopher Durang

Directed by Virginia Talbot

TONY AWARD FOR BEST PLAY—2013

VANYA and SONIA

MASHA and Spike

Thursday, August 27—Sunday, August 30, 2015
Thursday, September 3—Sunday September 6, 2015
Evenings at 7:30 p.m. Sunday Matinees at 2:30 p.m.

Highlands PAC, 507 Chestnut Street, Highlands NC

TICKETS: 828-526-8084
highlandscashiersplayers.org

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From left: Raina Trent, Lauretta Payne, Frannie Oates, Michael Lanzilotta, Chris Hess, and Adair Simon.

HCP's 'Vanya' opens tonight!

Winner of the Tony for Best Play in 2013, the contemporary comedy, "Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike," has been described by critics as offering endless laughter at the foibles and struggles of the characters as well as some insights into the challenges of the 21st century. It will be presented at the Highlands Performing Arts Center on Chestnut Street, August 27 through September 6.

Named by their parents for characters in plays of Anton Chekhov, Vanya (played by Michael Lanzilotta) and Sonia (Lauretta Payne) share the family home and an uneventful life, when sister Masha, (Adair Simon) a successful movie actress, arrives with her much younger companion Spike

(Chris Hess) and announces plans to sell the house. Weird housemaid Cassandra (Frannie Oates) goes to extreme measures to prevent the sale, while Nina (Raina Trent), the lovely young girl next door, catches Spike's wandering eye.

All six actors of the play have had impressive theatrical experience with HCP or in theaters of their former home cities.

"Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike," directed by Virginia Talbot, runs Thursdays through Sundays, August 27 through September 6 at the Highlands Performing Arts Center.. Reservations and/or season subscriptions are available at the HCP box office, 828, 526-8084,

'Rainbow' closes Playhouse season

The Highlands Playhouse presents the award winning play with music, End of the Rainbow, August 27th-September 6th. This biographic drama premiered in 2005 and is a realistic retelling of the last days of Judy Garland's life. Featuring strong language and adult themes, the show features an authentic glimpse into the soul of one of America's most beloved superstars.

Judy Garland is staying in London, with her young new fiancé Mickey Deans and loyal friend and pianist Anthony, preparing for her five-week run of shows at The Talk of the Town. Garland hopes her act will help maintain her star profile, especially considering a recent string of bad press against her. However, she still struggles with both her drug addictions and her strained relationships with the men around her. The play will have you on the edge of your seat, as you watch a beautiful star deconstruct before your eyes, in a show featuring talent that the town of Highlands will be buzzing about for weeks!

Tickets are \$32.50 for adults and \$15 for children 12 and under. Show times are Tuesday - Saturday at 8 pm and Sunday Matinees at 2 pm. For tickets, call the Box Office at 828-526-2695 or email highland-splayhouse@yahoo.com.

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The Center for Life Enrichment presents

'The Lysenko Affair:

Soviet and Scientific Tragedy'

Thursday, September 3 Time: 10-12

Cost \$25/\$35 Location: CLE Lecture Hall

To register call 828-526-8811 or visit www.clehighlands.com

When science and politics mix the results can be deadly. Perhaps no case better illustrates this than the Lysenko Affair, a notorious episode in the history of the Soviet Union. The Soviet revolutionary experiment saw the meteoric rise in the 1930s and 1940s of Trofim Lysenko, a Ukrainian-born farmer with no formal training in the sciences. Lysenko's political views led him to formulate an ideological pseudoscience of horticulture and agronomy that garnered the support of Stalin and other Soviet leaders, despite flying in the face of established biological, genetic, and agricultural science. As ideology trumped science, the resulting purges led to the execution or imprisonment of thousands of Soviet biologists. The ensuing collapse of Soviet agriculture eventually resulted in Lysenko's fall from grace, but not before millions died of starvation. Genetics remained a taboo topic in the Soviet Union until the late 1960s, and the country never regained its former standing in genetics research.

In this talk Dr. Jim Costa, Executive Director of the Highlands Biological Station and historian of science, will explore the Lysenko Affair from multiple perspectives, beginning with an overview of Lysenko's improbable rise to power and influence under Stalin, and the catastrophic consequences for Soviet science and scientists. He'll then examine the subtext of the Lysenko Affair in the political reception of Darwin's ideas, in particular its association with revolutionary politics (reform, democracy) in the late 18th century and then laissez-faire capitalism in the 19th and early 20th centuries — and ultimately how the central role of struggle and natural selection, analogous to Adam Smith's "invisible hand," reinforced a form of determinism subversive to the Soviet ideals of collectivism and self-improvement. Dr. Costa's presentation will conclude with a consideration of the politicization of science more generally, and how in this respect the Lysenko Affair offers a cautionary tale with relevance to science denial on political grounds today (e.g., climate change science in the US).



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• BIZ/ORG NEWS •

Tom Roberson named Chief Development Officer of The Bascom

Sallie Taylor, Executive Director of the Bascom Center for Visual Arts in Highlands, NC, announces the appointment of Tom Roberson as the Chief Development Officer. Roberson, who started the full-time position on Monday, August 10, 2015, came from the Buffalo Bill Center of the West in Cody, Wyoming, where he likewise served as Chief Development Officer.



"My wife Ellen and I have had a second home here in Highlands for over 15 years," Roberson says, "and we are pleased to join the community on a full-time basis. The Bascom is an asset to the community, made possible by a special group of people. I look forward to doing my part to make sure The Bascom continues its growth as a center for art education and fun social

events." "We have been waiting to fill this position with a person of Tom's experience, personality and skill for a long time," said Taylor. "We are excited about Tom's arrival and welcome him as a key part of the team."

Roberson has over 40 years of management, fundraising, sales and consulting experience for nationally recognized museums, nonprofit organizations, associations, and Chambers of Commerce. He has also performed executive and director roles with two museums: The Buffalo Bill Center of the West and The Booth Western Art Museum of Cartersville, Georgia.

The main responsibilities of the Chief Development Officer's position are to advance the mission of The Bascom; to foster donor relationships and support; to encourage the involvement of volunteer leaders within the organization; and expand The Bascom's public image and visibility among broad and targeted audiences; as well as among targeted philanthropic constituencies.


"We welcome Tom to the team," said Mike Campbell, Chair of The Bascom Board. "He joins us at a time of incredible excitement at The Bascom."

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• POLICE & FIRE REPORTS •

The Highlands Police log entries from Aug. 11. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor or public officials have been used.

Aug. 11

• At 5:10 p.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident on Main Street.

Aug. 14

• At 1:30 p.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident on Spring Street.

• At 11:30 p.m., officers responded to the Ugly Dog where a person said a pair of shoes were stolen from the bar area.

Aug. 15

• At 1:45 a.m., Joshua Warren McDowell, 34, of Highlands, was arrested for failure to appear in Jackson County Court for a misdemeanor charge and in Macon County court for two misdemeanor charges.

Aug. 16

• A little past midnight, officers responded to a one-vehicle accident on US 64 west.

• At 3:30 p.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident on Mirror Lake Road.

The Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. log from Aug. 20.

Aug. 20

• At 9:28 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on

Panther Mountain.

• At 10:08 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Hickory Lane.

• At 10:31 a.m., the dept. provided traffic control at the site of a motor vehicle accident at NC 106 and Spotted Bear Lane.

• At 11:30 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Sagee Woods Drive.

• At 12:20 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Rolling Acres Drive.

Aug. 21

• At 9:39 a.m., the dept. responded to a call about an illegal burn at a residence on Cherrywood Drive.

Aug. 22
• At 2:01 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on S. 4th Street.

• At 7:52 a.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on the Walhalla Road.

Aug. 23

• At 9:02 a.m., the dept. was

first-responders to a residence on Sassafras Gap Road.

• At 11:46 a.m., the dept. provided mutual aid to the Cashiers-Glenville Fire Department.

• At 7:47 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Mountain Shadows Road.

• BIZ/ORG NEWS •

Mission Health's Heart Center earns National award for Cardiac Care

Mission Heart continues to receive national recognition for the outstanding cardiac care provided by its physicians and caregivers.

The healthcare organization has earned the American College of Cardiology's NCDR ACTION Registry-GWTG Platinum Performance Achievement Award for 2015. Mission Hospital is among just 319 hospitals nationwide to receive the honor.

The award recognizes Mission Heart's commitment and success in implementing a higher standard of

care for heart attack patients and signifies that Mission Heart has achieved or surpassed rigorous standards for treating these patients to standard levels of care as outlined by the American College of Cardiology/American Heart Association clinical guidelines and recommendations.

To receive the ACTION Registry-GWTG Platinum Performance Achievement Award, Mission Heart consistently followed the treatment guidelines in the ACTION Registry-GWTG Premier for eight consecutive quarters and met a performance

standard of 90 percent for specific performance measures. Full participation in the registry engages hospitals in a robust quality improvement process using data to drive improvements in adherence to guideline recommendations and overall quality of care provided to heart attack patients.



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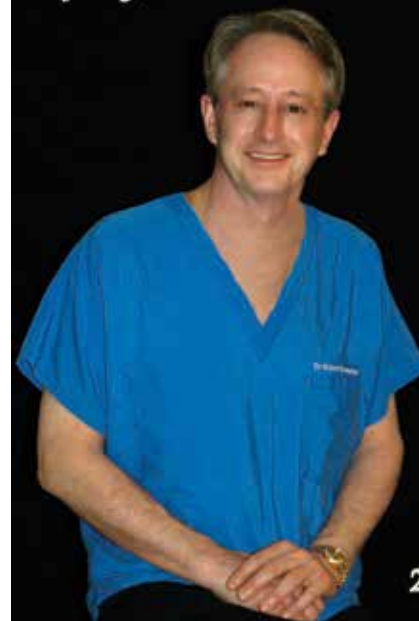
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• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

A faithful heart

By Chaplain Margaret Howell
Holy Family Lutheran Church

Don't we all know someone who we can depend on, no matter what? They are available for whatever you need, just when you are at your wits end?

If you are very lucky, you have one or more folks in your life like that.

I am VERY lucky in that regard.

In our youth, friends can be fleeting, though some stay with us for a life time.

In adulthood, we gather such friends and family like precious flowers, the sight of them delights the eye and soothes the senses.

I've been in Highlands for more than eight years now. My, how time flies.

I have come to love the village; the people who have become flowers in my garden.

The beauty of the mountains in every season – so different from the big city where my husband and my house live – is like a cool drink of pure water.

I could name all the wonderful flowers in my life – the lady who has a green thumb and has one of the most joyful hearts I have ever met. The neighbor who devotes her life to caring for others in their infirmities. The gentleman up the lane who keeps me in firewood all winter long. My brothers and sisters in Christ at our places of worship here in this place. The list goes on and on.

There has been a great deal of sorrow in my life and that of my family in the past eight years. Friends and family lost, some with great suffering. It has been my garden of friends and family that have helped comfort me and get me through.

But perhaps the most beautiful blossom has been the deepening of my relationship with the Jesus. Through all of the rough places in life, more and more I feel the presence of the One who never lets us walk alone.

The Celts have a prayer, which in part reads, "God before me, God behind me, God with me." How, may you ask, is this accomplished?

God is in us, around us and through us. Christ is the most beautiful, the most precious flower of our garden. Yet, he is not a solitary blossom. All those who love us, are part of our landscaping, just as Christ is not only the precious rose, but the gardener as well; the faithful heart that sends us who and what we need so that we too, may flourish and bloom.

"Let not your hearts be troubled, nor let them be afraid. I am with you always."

...SIGNAGE continued from page 9

dlers can crawl around without getting into feces.

"On any given day shop owners bring their dogs into the park and you can view cars pulling in, putting their pet(s) on a lease walking them through the park to defecate. It has become the daily dumping ground since the ball field has been closed off to dogs.

"Some think this would be hard to enforce. But just like the leash law and the no smoking on town property law, you inform the public. You post small signs that say 'no dogs in park.' Offenders will read the signs, and others will inform them of the law.

"It is a very open small park," she said. And dogs + grass = mess."

The board didn't respond to her comments.

Proverbs 3:5

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Sundays: School: 10 a.m., Worship: 11

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464 US Hwy 64 east, Cashiers

Sun.: 8:30a Traditional (Quiet) 1928 Prayer Book Service;

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Mon.: Bible Study & Supper at homes - 6 p.m.

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Sun. 10:45am, S.S 9:30am. Wed. 6pm supper and teaching.

Tues. Guys study 8am, Gals 10am.

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Wednesdays – Supper at 6 p.m.

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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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Thursdays: Holy Eucharist, (chapel), 10 am

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

Wednesdays: Choir: 5:30p

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• PLACES TO WORSHIP •

John 3:16

Pastor Nathan Johnson

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Wed. Kidsquest 6p.; Worship 7p.

HIGHLANDS ASSEMBLY OF GOD

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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 9:09, 10:50.; Youth 5:30 p.

Wed: Supper: 5:15; youth, & adults activities: 6; Handbell

rehearsal, 6:15; Choir Rehearsal 7. (nursery provided);

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Worship/Communion: 10:30

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

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Wednesdays: Prayer Mtg.: 7 p.m.

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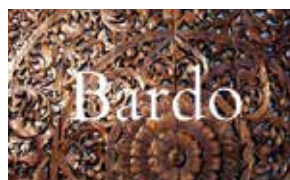
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828-421-3934. Must be dependable and have
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with any questions. (st. 8/20)

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(st. 8/20)

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Degree being a plus; currently certified or has the ability to obtain certification
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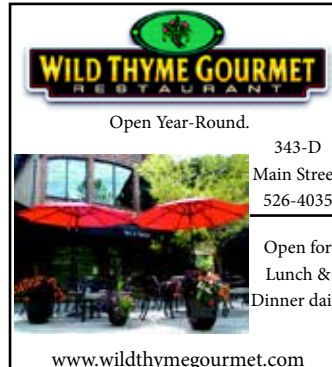
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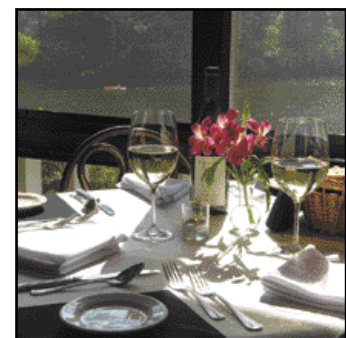
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