

Highlands Newspaper

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Thurs., June 4, 2015

Mayor responds to allegations against Chief Harrell

During the public comment portion of the May 28 Town Board meeting, Retired Highlands Chief of Police Jerry Cook admonished current Police Chief Bill Harrell for not providing an honor guard at the recent funeral

of retired Highlands Policeman Todd Ensley.

Cook reiterated what he wrote in a letter-to-the-editor in the May 14 newspaper editions, adding that "if an officer leaves under honorable conditions, an

honor guard should be given and a 'policy' to that regard shouldn't be necessary."

"A fallen officer should never have to beg for an honor guard. You don't need a policy, you just need to do the right thing," he said

leaving the meeting.

During the Mayor's Report, Mayor Pat Taylor, who attended the funeral along with several officers from Highlands who knew Ensley, spoke to the claim.

•See **RESPONDS** page 6

County budget includes Highlands SRO position

When County Manager Derek Roland drafted the county's \$46.6 million budget, he did not originally include funding for the Highlands School Resource Officer (SRO) position. The request, which came in at just over \$50,000, was made by Highlands officials earlier this year under the reasoning that because the county funds SROs in all other county schools, that the county should also fund the SRO at Highlands School.

During their budget work session last Tuesday, on a request led by Commissioner Jim Tate, commissioners agreed to include \$50,000 to fund the position. This year, the \$50,000 will be taken out of contingency, but next year, or up to 2020, which was a date proposed by commissioners, the \$50,000 will be added to the county's operation budget.

During the budget work session, Tate explained to commissioners that he feared the town of Highlands would not fund the position if the county decided not to pick it up. "They were at the point

where they going to eliminate the position," said Tate. "To me, if the county is going to pay for all the SROs, including the town of Franklin's, then we ought to pay for Highlands as well."

Highlands Town Manager Bob Frye presented his 2015-16 budget before the county presented theirs, and despite Tate being under the assumption the SRO position was going to be eliminated, the town's budget not only included the SRO position, but also includes a 2.5 percent longevity raise as well as a 1 percent cost of living adjustment raise for next year, bringing the total amount in the coming year budgeted by Highlands for the SRO to \$57,727.74.

During the work session, county commissioners decided that they would allocate a flat amount of \$50,000 to Highlands through 2020 for the position, and any cost above the \$50,000 can be picked up by the town of Highlands. While the county will provide the majority of the fund-

•See **SRO** page 19



Retired Captain R.L. Forrester with wife Nancy at his retirement ceremony at the Community Building, Thursday, May 28.
Photo by Kim Lewicki

Community turns out for Forrester's retirement send-off

"For people in law enforcement it's about doing their duty; they are duty people. They have a commitment to God, family, country and the community they serve. Captain R.L. Forrester has epitomized that sense of commitment of duty all of these 30 years he has served the town of Highlands."

So said Mayor Patrick Taylor when kicking off R.L. Forrester's retirement celebration Thursday night in the Community Building.

Other speakers included

Highlands Police Chief Bill Harrell, Macon County Sheriff Robert Holland, John O'Connor with The Fraternal Order of Police Lodge #81 and others as they commemorated Forrester's career with the Highlands Police Department.

"He was always on patrol, always doing his duty; you could see him in any place in Highlands because he cared about his community and the people there," said the Mayor prior to making a mayoral proclamation honoring Forrester's

•See **SEND-OFF** page 3

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Suicidal students alarm BOE

This year, five students at Highlands School have been referred to school officials after experiencing suicidal ideations, according to school officials.

During the May meeting of the Macon County Board of Education, held in Nantahala, Macon County Student Service Coordinator Marci Holland informed school board members that 31 students throughout the district have been referred since August 2014, after experiencing suicidal ideations, which includes suicidal thoughts, making a plan for suicide, or attempting suicide.

"We are currently working closely with Superintendent Dr. Chris Baldwin and other school staff as well as staff from Macon County Psychological Services on some initiatives to get additional help in place," said Holland. "We care about the safety and well-being of all our students. We are definitely trying to get some additional prevention initiatives in

•See **SUICIDAL** page 18

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• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• MAYOR ON DUTY.

The joy of the K-H Founders Park

It was last Sunday afternoon, and like many, I was basking in the afterglow of a wonderful Saturday in the life of Highlands. The Park Coalition had planned a fantastic all day and into the night opening of Kelsey Hutchinson Founders Park.

So, I got in my old truck and proceeded to ride around town just to see how things were going. I do that every day as a part of my mayoral duties. One might say I manage and learn what is happening by wandering round town. Many discoveries are made using this simple technique.

I turned on to Pine Street to test the ride on the new street pavers that comprise part of the park. I was delighted to see a small group using the park. I suspect what I was witnessing was exactly what the Park Coalition and the many donors had hoped for in their efforts to build out this space.

It was a Sunday afternoon in the park, and a young couple was having a little picnic on the freshly sodded grass. There were about three children with them, but I couldn't be sure because the



Mayor Pat Taylor

kids were all running around. One child was riding a little bicycle on the red brick walk way, while others were running on the grass playing with several toys. All the children were sopping wet. I suspect the first thing they did upon arrival at the park was to run through the interactive fountain. It is already a big hit with both kids and adults. Commissioner Amy Patterson

liked it so much that she was one of the first to run through it on Saturday

The park scene I was witnessing confirmed for me what this community park project has been all about. This place is an open area for everyone, a public gathering and play space. It is not simply a green space, as some may view it, but rather a town community space. It is a place of common ground. Folks don't have to be members, they don't have to make reservations, they don't have to pay a fee. All are welcomed to come to the park, interact with others and just enjoy the space anyway they choose to do so.

Saturday was a day of great events, starting with a 5k race, the opening ceremonies, a community lunch, afternoon games, and the wonderful evening concert on the new stage. But for me, this simple Sunday afternoon scene also underscored the need for this public gathering space, a town park. Kelsey and Hutchinson, the first town founders, would be pleased at what this community has done. The original Kelsey-Hutchinson map that laid out the town called for a park. Finally, it is a reality, and all Highlanders can be proud.

Now, I can't begin to thank all the people that played key roles in making this park a reality. Let's just support and enjoy this great public space. The park is now a legacy for years to come.

• LETTERS.

Mayor Taylor is a great communicator

Dear Editor,

I would like to commend Mayor Pat Taylor for keeping the residents of Highlands informed of the issues and happenings of Highlands.

Mayor Taylor has demonstrated excellent communication with his constituents and regularly makes himself available to the residents of Highlands. As I read his column each week, I think that it would be nice if other politicians regularly communicated the details of policy that impacts their constituents. I imagine it is not easy for Mayor Taylor to write a column each week while trying to govern the town and throw pottery, but I really appreciate what he does. Thanks Mayor Taylor and keep up the good communication because it does make a difference.

Jerry Moore
Highlands, NC

Thanks for the heartfelt send off

Dear Editor

I would like to thank the Town of Highlands and the Highlands Police Department for the great retirement reception they gave me on Thursday the 28th of May. I deeply appreciate all those who attended the reception to celebrate my retirement and the friends who spoke on my behalf. Wonderful speeches were made by mayor Pat Taylor, Chief Bill Harrell, John O'Connor with The Fraternal Order of Police Lodge #81 and Sheriff Robbie Holland.

Very special thanks to the Town Board, Mayor Pat Taylor, Town Manager Bob Frye, Police Chief Bill Harrell, all the police officers, administrative assistants and Human Resource Manager Sonjia Gibson for all your support, help and kindness as I transitioned into retirement. I could not have done this without any of you and your help. I will miss serving and protecting the Town of Highlands.

R.L. Forrester
Retired Captain, Highlands Police Department

Thanks for supporting our plant sale!

To the Highlands Cashiers Community:

The Mountain Garden Club thanks you for your enthusiastic support of our 33rd annual plant sale on Saturday, May 23rd. Because of your support, we are able to continue our history of sponsoring youth gardener activities at Highlands School, scholarships for college students, and garden therapy at the Eckerd Living Center, as well as support other projects in our community including the Kelsey Hutchinson Founders Park, Highlands Biological Station, and a new suit for Smoky Bear.

We were blessed with a perfect day, lots of wonderful plants, hardworking friends,

and loyal customers. This year we once again had great student volunteers from Highlands School assisting customers. It was a pleasure watching them work with the public.

Many friends in the community help make this success possible. Among those who deserve special mention are Wanda and Chuck Cooper, Steve Day, David Sims, Bud and Tina Rogers, Nin Bond, Carl Zoellner, Highlands-Cashiers Hospital, Jim Tate, Allen Haas of the Carolinas Dahlia Society, John Newsome, Jim Askew, Wayne and Jeri Crane, Don and Betty Fisher, Betty McCall, Rick Summersill, Buck Davis, Claire Harrington, The Episcopal Church of the Incarnation and Highlands Historical Society which let us rescue plants, Laurel Magazine, The Highlander, Highlands Newspaper, Lester Norris, and the whole Rec Park Crew, and Mrs. Joy Archer and Ms. Stephanie Smathers and their middle school science students. Special thanks to our many friends who opened their gardens for us to dig plants. We could not have done it without you.

Midge Rothermel
President, Mountain Garden Club

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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.

N.O.A.A. Weather Report For Highlands, NC



• OBITUARY •

Virginia Scoville Roberts

Virginia Scoville Roberts died May 21, 2015 in San Francisco, California.

Virginia was a Coca Cola "Girl" on bill boards across the US in the 1950s. She modeled in the Fashion Industry for many years before she became a wife and mother.

She grew up in St. Louis and lived in New York and then moved to San Francisco in 1964.

She is survived by her daughter, Penny Pollock-Mawyer, a local resident and her husband Ed Mawyer .

She also is survived by 3 grandchildren; Bradley, Tarah and Victoria.

A memorial service will be held in San Francisco on July 5th.

In lieu of flowers please consider a contribution to San Francisco SPCA/Pet's Unlimited, 2343 Fillmore Street, San Francisco, CA 94115.



...SEND OFF continued from page 1

dedicated service.

While reading the proclamation, Mayor Taylor ticked off highpoints of Forrester's career: Basic Law Enforcement Training and 440 hours at Southwestern Community College; became a part-time officer with the Highlands Police Department when he took the oath of office in 1985; became a full-time officer in 1987; was awarded a Gallantry Star from the Jackson County Sheriff's Dept. for apprehension of a murder suspect in 1999; was promoted to sergeant in 2005; was promoted to captain in 2006.

"And so I declare and proclaim a great appreciation for all the work, service and dedication he has given this community," concluded the mayor.

John O'Connor, with The Fraternal Order of Police Lodge #81 – which is 100 years old – presented Forrester with a Certificate of Retirement and a gift certificate to start his retirement.

"Fellow members in Macon-Jackson #81 wish you many years of happiness and long life and an enjoyable retirement," said O'Connor presenting him with a plaque.

Highlander Hazel "Broady" Potts brought everyone back down to earth while reminiscing about Forrester.

"I don't know who R.L. Forrester is because I knew him when he was "Happy" and I still call him Happy. He was my two oldest grandchildren's babysitter when they were 11- and 5-years old. His family worked for us in the Highlands Cleaners. They were dependable, honest people. I love Happy Forrester, not R.L. Goodbye Happy," she said blowing him a kiss before she left.

David Latta who is with Highlands Country Club security worked with Forrester and his partner Clifford Ammons over the years.

"He is the definition of a true man and an officer. There are a lot of adjectives that could be used to describe R.L. Forrester: patience, kindness, strength, virtue, but the greatest one is integrity. Having seen R.L. in action a few times, I saw a man of integrity and honor. The community has been blessed by his service. He has had a life well-lived and he deserves a fine retirement," he said.

Macon County Sheriff Robbie Holland said on behalf of all the men and women from the MC Sheriff's Office he wanted to congratulate Forrester on this great day.

"I know you have probably been looking forward to this for 29 ¾ years, and I want to tell you that as an administrator nobody has a clue about the sacrifices that you have made or any officer makes during a 30-year commitment. I want to tell you that we know that and we also know you couldn't have gotten it done without the support system you have at home. We appreciate you; we wish you all the best," said Holland. "Thank you to your wife for allowing you to miss those vacation dates, miss those Christmas holidays, those other important events that I know during a 30-year career you have missed plenty of. We appreciate your service to our community. Highlands should be extremely proud – and they are from this great turnout – to be able to say they had a man spend 30 years right here in this community.

•See SEND OFF page 6



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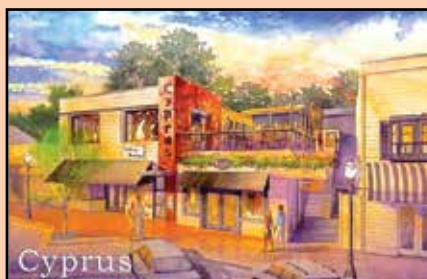
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The massive feat of enclosing the pool at the Rec Park nears completion



Each section of the pool enclosure was assembled on the parking lot behind the pool house and then lifted by crane over the pool house and set on runners. In its 40 years, this is the largest enclosure Dyna Dome has built. The pool is set to open when school gets out. After Labor Day, the pool will be closed shortly to electrify and glass-in the enclosure and then the pool will reopen for the rest of the year.

Photos by Jim and Kim Lewicki



• HIGHLANDS AREA DINING •

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...SEND-OFF from page 3

Thank you for protecting and serving your community."

Chief Bill Harrell completed the ceremony by issuing Forrester his service weapon and a shadow box of memorabilia from his career as well as heartfelt words.

"It is very clear by the amount of people here tonight, just how important R.L. is to this community and to its surrounding agencies," he said. "Pride and professional integrity are at the core of our mission statement. In our department professional integrity is revered as our most fundamental value as it is a reflection of personal integrity, professionalism, respectfulness, fairness and above all loyalty.

"In meeting R.L. you have met the embodiment of each departmental value. He has been a fair and respectful officer, an efficient leader and loyal protector of this town.

"He is one of the most humble, generous people you will ever meet. I feel confident in speaking for the depart-

ment as a whole when I say we are all honored to have been given the opportunity to serve alongside this man who has become a friend to so many.

"Diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis (MS), being the kind of person he is, he has never allowed this diagnosis to dictate his life; never given it the power to prevent him from putting on his uniform at the beginning of every shift or render him incapable of carrying out his duties as a protector of this community. And although I am sure there are many days he spent in pain, not once did he complain or falter beneath the weight of his diagnosis. He always put the need of others before his own. However it is time for him to finally focus on himself.

"So now R.L., while I can't pretend your retirement hasn't left us a little sad, I can guarantee you that we all are genuinely happy for you in the completion of this milestone and I thank you, sir, for all you have done as an officer."

— Kim Lewicki

...RESPONDS from page 1

"As the magistrate, I had the pleasure of working with Todd. I enjoyed his wit and the many stories he shared, and I was always amazed that when I was issued a charge, Todd could give me the statute numbers before I could look them up. I was impressed with his memory," said Taylor. "I know he will be missed and our prayers go out to his family."

Taylor said the town has consulted with at least 25 different law enforcement agencies in this state and the town's response to the honor guard request was appropriate.

"An Honor Guard is a challenge to put together especially in this situation with limited time. To be quite frank, the police chief isn't going to order people to participate if they decline the request. Despite the accusations made by Chief Cook about what our department did and did not do, I know the best effort was made and I regret he and others think we didn't make the appropriate response."

He also said that as the Mayor and the past magistrate he believes Highlands has the best trained, most profes-

•See RESPONDS page 17

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• THE FREDSTER •

My last illegal drug purchase

Note: This week, a change of pace from my norm. This is the true story of my last illegal drug purchase while working as an undercover narcotics officer for the Miami Beach Police Dept. While the events are true, some names have been changed. I hope you enjoy it.

The problem with working as an undercover narcotics officer for over four years is that I started to become complacent. Buying dope and continuously hanging out with felons became ho-hum. That's not good. This is yet another reason I should be dead. The year was 1969.

We agreed to meet in front of the Southwind Bar on Alton Rd. in South Beach. Larry, my informant, introduced me to a drug dealer named Gordon. After small chit chat Gordo and I walked into the bar and sat at a back booth.

"Larry says you're one standup SOB who can be trusted. He better be right," Gordon said. "Show me your driver's license and another piece of I.D."

I produced my fake driver's license and matching Social Security card. He stared at it for a long time before speaking. Then he surprised me by asking, "You carrying a gun?"

"Nah, Gordo, can't carry anymore" I responded. "If I'm caught I'll go back to Raiford and do the rest of five years. I got framed for two charges for B & E. Ever been there?"

"Nah, but I did three months in the county stockade for beatin' a guy within an inch of his life." (A veiled threat.) "You got money for me?" Gordon asked.

I pulled a small amount of money from my pocket and fanned out five twenty dollar bills like a bridge hand. "You got something for me?" I asked.

Gordon smiled and produced a tightly wrapped packet of wax paper. "The best Mexican scag money can buy and there's plenty more where this came from." He placed the packet on the table and asked that I place my money next to it. I complied.

"Larry says you agreed I could test this sh--. You okay with that?" I asked.

"Test away, my man. You're going to be impressed," Gordon responded.

I pulled a small glass ampoule and toothpick from my top shirt pocket and snapped off the top of the ampoule. Gordon carefully unwrapped the packet revealing a small amount of tan sticky powder. I stuck the toothpick in my mouth, wetting it, and then touched the toothpick to the powder, picking up a small amount. When I stuck the toothpick into the ampoule, it burst into a dark blue purplish color indicating the strong presence of heroin. I looked up at Gordon.

"Shazam, my man. How hot is that?" Gordon laughed, throwing both his arms into the air, attracting the attention of the bartender. It was not until then I realized Gordon might be stoned, making him even more dangerous.

"I have a guy who'll trust me with sixty big if you can get me a key, (one kilo or 2.2 pounds)" I said.

• See FREDSTER page 9



Fred Wooldridge

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UPCOMING EVENTS

• **BIRDING BEYOND THE FEEDER:** Your yard and the kinds of plants in it matter to birds! Curtis Smalling, a life-long bird watcher and current director of the Land Bird Conservation with Audubon will discuss why the Highlands Plateau is considered an "Important Bird Area" and explore ways to enjoy the birds in your own backyard. Friday, June 5, 10-12, Cost \$25/\$35

• **BRIDGE: POLISHING YOUR BASICS (INTERMEDIATE)** Mondays, June 8, 15, 22, 29, 9:30-11:30 Cost \$80/\$100 Space is still available in this class. Don't miss the chance to improve your bridge skills with expert Duane Meeter.

• **MOUNTAIN CHIC: TAKING YOUR GARDEN TO A HIGHER ELEVATION:** Tuesday, June 9, 10-12 Cost \$35/\$45 Let landscape architect Mary Palmer Dargan inspire you in your home landscape design. Mary has 40 years experience in designing landscape environments for clients coast to coast.

• **LITERARY HUMOR IN AMERICAN LITERATURE:** Tuesdays, June 9, 16, 23, 30 (4 sessions) Session 1 Time: 3-5 pm, Session 2 Time 5:30-8:30 Cost \$95/\$110 You asked for something lighter in literature and Dr. Brian Railsback of WCU delivers in this course! Examine the lighter side of the works of 4 engaging authors Edgar Allen Poe, Mark Twain, John Steinbeck and George Saunders.

• **INTERNET SECURITY AND APPLEPAY:** Tue. & Thur. June 9 and 11 (2 Sessions) 6-8 Cost \$70/\$80 Learn how to keep yourself and your personal information and data safe and much more with our computer expert Nigel Sixsmith

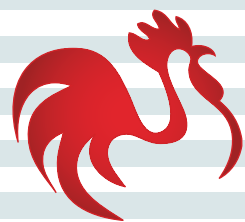
• **SIMPLE APPETIZERS FOR YOUR NEXT PARTY:** Wednesday, June 10, 2-4 Cost \$85/\$95 Mark Ellis of New Mountain Events will teach you how to impress your guests at your next dinner party with some simple delicious appetizers.

• **PRIVATE LIFE IN ANCIENT PHOENICIA:** Are you a lover of history? Don't miss the lecture given by Helen Dixon, who is a professor in the History Department at NC State where she has spent 2 years teaching ancient Near Eastern and ancient Greek civilization. Dr. Dixon will share the details of the lives of one our most influential ancient civilizations. Wednesday, June 10 10-12, Cost \$25/\$35

• **AUTHOR SERIES:** "Mastering the Art of Southern Cooking" Thur. June 11 10-12 Cost \$25/\$35 Join renowned cook book authors Nathalie Dupree and Cynthia Graubart as they inspire your cooking with their southern wit, spice and flair!

• **NEW ORLEANS COOKING WITH CHEF WOLFGANG:** Thursday, June 11, 1-3 Cost \$85/\$100 Chef Wolfgang will prepare a delicious New Orleans brunch served with wine parings. Participants enjoy the finished product.

For more information on classes or The Center for Life Enrichment please stop by our office located 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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EVERY SUNDAY FROM 11:00AM
UNTIL WE SELL OUT
FRESH ORGANIC HAND CUT, HAND
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GRAVY WITH A WARM HONEY
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ITEMS FULLY PREPARED AND READY
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POTATOES, HERB RUBBED CHICKEN,
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DELI SALADS & MUCH MORE.

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A DIFFERENT FULL DINNER FOR TWO
EVERY NIGHT, MONDAY THROUGH
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SHRIMP BOIL MAIN LOBSTER TAILS,
WILD CAUGHT LARGE SHRIMP, RED
BLISS POTATOES, SUMMER CORN,
HOUSE MADE SAUSAGE, ALL STEEPED
IN OUR SEASONING. SERVED WITH
DRAWN BUTTER AND COCKTAIL
SAUCE. \$33.95 SERVES TWO

TUESDAY - OVEN OFF NIGHT
TWO NATURAL CHICKEN BREASTS
GRILLED WITH OUR TUSCAN HERB
INFUSED OLIVE OIL, SERVED ON A
BED OF GREENS WITH STUFFED BRIE,
SPICED PECANS, OUR EXTRA VIRGIN
OLIVE OIL AND BALSAMIC VINEGAR
ON THE SIDE WITH TWO CUPS OF
HOMEMADE GAZPACHO AND A
BAGUETTE FROM OUR BAKERY.
\$23.95 SERVES TWO

WEDNESDAY - PRIME RIB WITH BAKED
POTATOES AND SALAD. PREMIUM
ANGUS STANDING RIB ROAST,
COOKED MEDIUM RARE WITH RED
WINE AU JUS. TWO BAKED POTATOES
AND A LARGE CAESAR SALAD.
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THURSDAY - TWO RACKS OF BABY
BACK RIBS - COOKED UNTIL
FALL-OFF-THE-BONE-TENDER. SERVED
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FRIDAY - WILD CAUGHT SHRIMP:
FRIED OR STEAMED. WILD CAUGHT
NORTH CAROLINA SHRIMP EITHER
LIGHTLY BREADED IN OUR SEASONED
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PROPERLY FRIED IN PEANUT OIL AND
SERVED WITH HUSH PUPPIES; OR
STEAMED TO ORDER IN OUR LOW
COUNTRY SEASONING. BOTH COME
WITH COLESLAW AND ROSEMARY SEA
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SATURDAY - IN-HOUSE SMOKED
BBQ. HAND RUBBED PORK BUTT,
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HAND PULLED TO ORDER. COMES
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BAKED BEANS, AND YEAST ROLLS
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...FREDSTER continued from page 7

Once again Gordon stared at me for a long period before speaking. He was contemplating his next move. I was being sized up for trust, at least I thought so.

"Tomorrow at 2 AM at the end of the South Beach pier, I'll meet you there and come alone. If there's anyone around, the deal is off. Do you understand?" Gordon demanded.

"Not good for me. Too isolated," I said. "Are you trying to rip me off? Pick another place," I insisted.

"It's the pier or no deal. And yes, I'm thinkin' the same that you might be wanting to rip me off," Gordon responded. "If this flies, then we can relax and be more comfortable with each other. Are we on or not?"

Normally I would have walked away from this situation, but I had grown careless. If we couldn't get another cop on the pier, the nearest help would be a football field away. Not good! And I would have to run this scenario by my supervisor who would not be happy with me taking 60k in flash money (money for show only) and walk out on the pier alone. Besides, Gordon was a dealer and a user and probably carrying a gun; also not good.

"We're on," I said, reaching out to shake his hand. "I'll see you at two. And no guns, okay?" Gordo smiled but didn't respond.

The following evening our entire narcotics team met in our lieutenant's office to discuss details of how the "buy/bust" would transpire, if at all. "Riley, you're on the pier fishing. If Gordon balks at that, the deal is off. Walk off the pier with the money. Are we straight on that, Mad Dog?" my lieutenant asked.

I nodded. "Okay with me, Lieutenant. This is pretty simple. Once I see the smack, I'll reach to hand Gordon the money and pull my weapon simultaneously. That will signal Riley to drop his fishing pole and draw down on Gordon. Game over. I will not turn loose of the flash. You can count on it."

At 1 AM, Sergeant Riley, wearing baggy shorts and a t-shirt inscribed "life sucks" on the front, walked onto the South Beach pier carrying a fishing box, a pole and bait. His shoulder length scraggly hair and unkempt beard made him look more like an "Old Man and the Sea" character than a cop. Soon, Riley would be fishing. There were three more narcotics officers and my lieutenant hidden at the pier parking lot a football field away. All we needed was Gordon.

At exactly 2 AM I walked out on the pier carrying a small satchel containing sixty thousand dollars, all in photographed

non-sequential twenty dollar bills. Everyone waited.

Thirty minutes past our scheduled meeting time Gordon appeared from nowhere and walked out onto the pier carrying a brown grocery bag. Everything looked good. Gordon walked straight up to Sgt. Riley and said, "Get the @&+% off my pier, old man."

"Wadaya mean? This ain't your pier. I have a right to fish here," Riley responded.

Gordon pulled a small semi-automatic handgun containing a suppressor and stuck it in Riley's chubby stomach. "Fish someplace else, ass****."

Sgt. Riley had no way of warning me that Gordon was armed as I was over 50 feet away and wasn't looking his way. When I turned and saw Riley had packed his fishing gear and was walking slowly off the pier, I became concerned....very concerned. My heart raced. I would have to get the drop on Gordon if it looked like he was going to draw a weapon. And once my Lieutenant saw Riley walking off the pier, he would call the whole thing off and arrest Gordon on the two counts of sale we already had.

Gordon walked up to me, opened his bag revealing a kilo of heroin. "Show me some money," Gordon demanded.

• See FREDSTER page 17

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Michael Noland, The Storm Seer (Oklahoma) (detail), 2010, courtesy of American Primitive Gallery, New York, NY

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From left, Founders Coalition member Nick Bazan, MC Commissioner Ronnie Beale, Ex-Mayor Don Mullen, Mayor Pat Taylor, H-C Land Trust Director Gary Wein, MC Commissioner Jim Tate and Landscape Architect Hank Ross cut the ribbon officially opening the K-H Founders Park on Pine Street, Saturday, May 30. Architect Paul Schmitt designed the buildings, Ross designed the landscape, and Tate Landscaping made the plans a reality and the county supplied funding. Ray and Diane McPhail sponsored the band – Bear Wallow whose concert from 7-9 p.m. rounded out the day.



Photos by Jim and Kim Lewicki

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• HIGHLANDS EVENTS •

• Every Monday in June: T-Ball at 6 p.m. for 3-5 year olds. Co-ed. All equipment is provided. \$10 registration. Meet at Zachary Park.

• **NOTE:** The Recreation Department is now accepting application for Lifeguards for the Summer.

Ongoing

• Church of the Incarnation and the First Presbyterian Church are collecting food items for the Highlands Emergency Council and the Food Pantry. Drop off boxes are in the Ravenel Room at First Presbyterian and in the downstairs lobby at the Church of the Incarnation. Monetary donations also accepted. Make checks out to Highlands Mountain Top Rotary.

• The Cub and Boy Scouts of America have three drop-offs for worn and tattered flags. They properly retire them. Drop-offs at Highlands Doors and Windows 2242 Dillard

Road, the Highlands Fire Station or Highlands United Methodist Church office. Contact Phil Potts for more information 828 526-3719

Thurs.-Sun.

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

Monday

• 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.

First Tuesdays

• FAMILY and Caregiver Support Group Meets: for Individuals that have a friend, family member or loved one living with mental illness. Learn how peers deal with stress and emotional overload. First Tuesday of Every Month 7-8 pm. Call Ann for more info (828) 369-7385

Tuesdays

• Growing Stronger Together- A sup-



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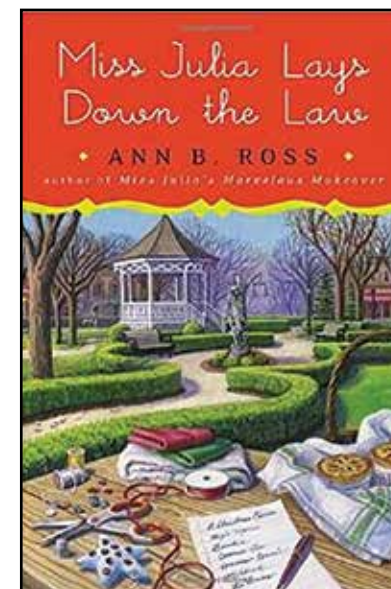
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**Author of 'Miss
Julia' series at
HUMC high tea
fundraiser
on June 27**



On Saturday, June 27 there will be a high tea at the Highlands United Methodist Church from 2-4p featuring author Ann B. Ross, author of the "Miss Julia" series. Copies of "Miss Julia Lays Down the Law" will be available for her to sign. Tickets are \$20. Last year's event was a sell-out. For more information call Gay Kattel at 828-526-2746 or email gmkattel@frontier.com.

• HIGHLANDS EVENTS •

port and learning group for women who have physical or mental difficulties including depression or high stress. \$5 per session. Meets weekly on Tuesdays beginning June 2 through August 4 at the Peggy Crosby Center, Rm. 203. Led by Bonnie Gramlich, LPC and sponsored by Highlands United Methodist Church and the Counseling and Psychotherapy Center of Highlands. Call 828.342.0546 to register or for more info.

• FREE Yoga in the Park Tuesdays starting June 23 at the Highlands K-H Park on Pine Street. Bring the whole family (along with a towel and a bottle of water) for a gentle, community stretch! Yoga in the Park is offered for free every Tuesday from 6-7 pm until October 1st, weather permitting. Certified Yoga Teachers: sign up to teach by calling #828-526-8880.

2nd and 4th Tuesdays

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

Tuesdays

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

Tuesday and Thursdays

• Zumba with Connie at the Rec Park at 8a. \$5.

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

Mon., Wed., Fri.

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

• Aerobics with Tina Rogers 8-9a.

• Zumba at the Rec Park at 9:05a. \$5

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.

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.

Thursdays

• Storytimes with Miss Deanna at Hudson Library 10:40am. 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

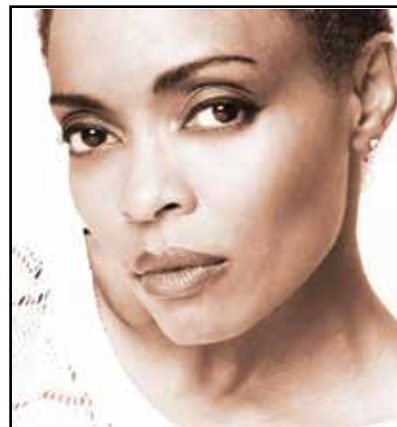
7 – 8:15 pm. Call Donita for more info (828) 526-9510.

2nd Thursdays

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

• See EVENTS page 14

Highlands Friends of Haiti Concert with Maria Howell • 6/21



East & west coast vocalist/actress, Maria Howell, returns June 21st at 6pm to perform at the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation to benefit Highlands Friends of Haiti. This global outreach mission of Incarnation focuses on nutrition and education in one of the poorest areas in Haiti.

Her music is a collective of sultry, soulful, smooth tones. She not only combines sounds such as R&B with jazzy punctuations, she evokes an international flavor into her flambé of recordings. Maria has absolute control of the stage and takes you along on an amazing musical adventure.

Maria is also a talented actress with many TV and movie credits to her name. She played Seeder (District 11 Victor), in "The Hunger Games: Catching Fire," as well as a recurring cast member on the NBC Hit TV series, "Revolution," and Lifetime's "Devious Maids." Other credits to her name are, MTV's "Finding Carter," "The Good Lie," starring Reese Witherspoon. Coming in 2015 are the USA TV series, "Complications" and feature film "Sons 2 The Grave."

Hors d'oeuvres, wine and a silent auction will precede Maria's performance. Tickets to the event are \$100 and may be purchased at the Church of the Incarnation, 520 Main Street, Highlands, NC or online at the church's website: incarnationwnc.org. For more information call 526-8016.

Highlands Motoring Festival is June 13



The Highlands Motoring Festival Committee has announced the change of venue for the Saturday Car Show on June 13. The day long event will be held at the K-H Founders Park on Pine Street.

In previous years the event has been held at the Rec Park but due to the pool construction, it is in the park this year.

Participating cars can be registered starting at 7:30 am and should enter from 5th Street. Pre-registration is encouraged by visiting the website at www.highlandsmotoringfestival.com. Based on space available, there will also be on-site registration. The gates open to the general public at 10 am. All pre-1990 automobiles are eligible in a variety of classes and will be judged by a distinguished panel of experts. This year's featured marque will be Mercedes Benz.

The Car Show is just part of the four-day motoring festival that includes a reception, a mountain drive, a banquet, a road rally and more. Donations will be accepted. Net proceeds go to the Literacy Council of Highlands.

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

tact Sue 828-631-0430

Last Fri. of each month

- Community Coffee with May- or Pat Taylor from 11a to noon at The Hudson Library.

Fridays

- Live music in Town Square from 6-8 p.m. beginning June 12..

Saturdays

- Highlands Marketplace in the vacant lot next to K-H Founders Park on Pine Street from 8a to 2p.

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

- Music in the K-H Founders Park from 6-8p. Bring a picnic.

Thurs., June 4

- TAIZE will meet this Thursday, at Holy Family Lutheran at 5:30 p.m. All are welcome.

Fri., June 5

- Give blood at the First United Methodist Church 66 Harrison Avenue, Franklin from 10 am to 2:30 pm. For more information or to schedule an appointment please call 1-800-REDCROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit redcross.org.

Sat., June 6

- Kids Fishing Day at Cliffside Park from 9a to 1p. Free for children 12 and under. Adults must accompany children. Bring your pole, though some will be provided along with bait.

- Celebrate National Trails Day on Saturday, with a guided hike into Panthertown Valley led by Jason Kimenker, Executive Director of Friends of Panthertown. Panther-town Valley is a protected 6,300 acre backcountry recreation area in Nantahala National Forest featuring 30 miles of public non-motorized trails. Everyone is welcome. Group size is limited and RSVP is encouraged. For more information or to reserve your spot call (828) 269-HIKE (4453) or e-mail friends@panther-town.org

- At The Bascom, Lands Beyond: Other Worldly Landscapes. Free re-

ception (hors d'oeuvres and spirits) and artist talk from 5-7 p.m.

Sun., June 7

• The Foxfire Boys Bluegrass Group will be participating in worship during the 11a.m. service at First Presbyterian Church on Sunday, June 7.

• High Mountain Squares 15th Annual Great Watermelon Party. Callers Ken Perkins and Tom Pustinger are waiting to welcome everyone to "Watermelon Time." Sunday from 2 til 5ish at the MC Recreation Pavilion. All the dancing, food, and watermelon y'all can handle. We dance Western Style Square Dancing, main/stream and plus levels. For information call 828-371-4946, 828-342-1560, 828-332-0001.

• The Highlands Community fund will be hosting 'Rise and Shine for the Highlands Community Fund' at the Bascom on Sunday at 6:30. Tickets to this event are \$75 and the dress is mountain casual. For more information contact the Highlands Community Fund Board member, Gayle Cummings, at 828-526-0247 or gayle.cummings@me.com.

Mon., June 8

• The Battle of Sugartown Chapter of the North Carolina Society, Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), will hold its monthly meeting at 11:30 on Monday in the Boiler Room Restaurant at 1024 Georgia Road in Franklin. All DAR members and prospective members are welcome. For further information, please contact 828-524-2673.

Tues., June 9

• The Mountain High Republican Women's Club (MHRWC) June luncheon meeting is on Tuesday at 11:30 AM at Wildcat Cliffs Country Club. The speaker is Macon County Republican Chair Carla Miller who will share her impressions of the presidential candidates who are the featured speakers at the NC GOP Convention June 5-7. To date the candidates scheduled to speak at the Convention are John Bolton, Donald Trump, Ben Carson, Ted Cruz, and Scott Walker. Please reserve for the MHRWC luncheon by June 5th. Please call 828 506-3555.

Wed., June 10

• At The Molly Grace, a book-signing of "Muffin Meals" from 2-5:30p. 10% of proceeds will go to the Hospice House Foundation of WNC.

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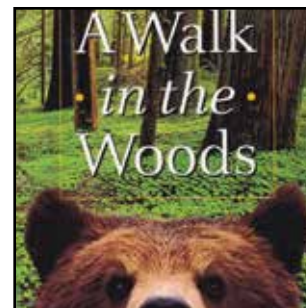
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*Tables of 8 include 2 free bottles of wine at the table

Book of the Month at Hudson Library



On Tuesday, June 30 The Hudson Library's Book Club Topic of the Month is "Parks, Wilderness, and the Public Lands" and a book discussion on Bill Bryson's "A Walk in the Woods" at 10am.

THE DRY SINK
HIGHLANDS, NC

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• HIGHLANDS EVENTS •

• Solarize WNC Forum at the Hudson Library at 7 p.m. Looking to decrease your utility bill and recode your impact on the environment? Solarize WNC has the answer. Participants in the program will find reduced pricing, reputable contractors and equipment and free information sessions to make a clear path for solar and energy efficiency adoption. It's free. For more information email info@canarycoalition.org.

Thurs.-Sun., June 11-14

• Highlands Motoring Festival at K-H Founders Park. Go to www.HighlandsMotoringFestival.org for complete list of events.

Thurs., June 11

• The Highlands Biological Foundation a guided hike to the top of Siler Bald in the Nantahala National Forest near Franklin, NC with trip leaders John and Jennie Stowers. The trip offers beautiful panoramic views including Nantahala Lake to the west and Standing Indian Mountain to the south. This hike is difficult in sections and will be approximately 4 miles round trip. This trip will depart from Highlands, NC at 10 am and return to Highlands at 3pm. Cost is \$15 for members of the Highlands Biological Foundation and \$35 for new members.

• The June meeting of The Western North Carolina Woodturners, Inc. will meet on Thursday, at 6 PM at the Blue Ridge School,

in Glenville, N.C. Located at 95 Bobcat Drive, Cashiers, N.C. Drive to the back of the school to the woodworking shop.

Sat. June 13

• 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 with \$4/vehicle admission to Rec area.

Sunday, June 14

• Auditions for the Highlands Cashiers Players August play, "Vanya and Sonya and Masha and Spike" (winner of the 2013 Tony for best play) will be held Sunday at the Highlands Performing Arts Center, 507 Chestnut St. at 3 p.m. Play has parts for four women, 40-60, one late teens or 20s, one any age, and parts for two men: one 40-60, one fit-looking young man 20-30s. Rehearsals will be held in July and August, 2015. Performance dates are August 27 thru 30, September 3-6. Can't come on the date? Call director Virginia Talbot, 526-8084, who will try to arrange a time to meet with you.

Mon.-Fri., June 15-19

• Kelsey Kids Camp for kids 8 to 11 years old at the Highlands Historical Village. 9a to 3p. It's free and includes lunch. To register go to www.highlandshistory.com or email Linda David at lindawd@hcgexpress.net

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2 FRESH CHICKEN BREASTS, GRILLED WITH ROSEMARY INFUSED OLIVE OIL. SERVED ON A BED OF MIXED GREENS, WITH STUFFED BRIE, SPICY/SWEET PECANS, MOUNTAIN FRESH OIL AND VINEGAR ON THE SIDE AND TWO CUPS OF HOUSE MADE GAZPACHO, WITH A MOUNTAIN FRESH BAKERY FRENCH BAGUETTE

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**PRIME RIB WITH BAKED
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COOKED FALL-OFF-THE-BONE-TENDER. SERVED WITH HOUSE MADE BACON/APPLE BAKED BEANS, AND POTATO SALAD.

\$25.95
SERVES TWO

FRI

SHRIMP; FRIED OR STEAMED
WILD CAUGHT LARGE SHRIMP EITHER LIGHTLY BREADED IN OUR SEASONED CORN FLOUR MIXTURE, AND THEN PROPERLY FRIED IN PEANUT OIL AND SERVED WITH HUSH PUPPIES; OR STEAMED TO ORDER IN OUR LOW COUNTRY SEASONING. BOTH COME WITH COLESLAW AND ROSEMARY SEA SALT BROILED RED POTATOES, TARTER AND COCKTAIL SAUCE.

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• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

'Three In One'

By Chaplain Margaret Howell

Holy Family Lutheran Church, ELCA

Today we examine and celebrate the Triune God. God the Three in One.

This is not as simple as it may seem. That's why the intern or the associate pastor always gets stuck preaching on this day, because, well, it's a hard concept to grasp. The Holy Trinity represents and embodies the entirety of God as best we can wrap our minds around it. The nature and omnipotence of the Almighty is far beyond the grasp of human imagination. Based on the scriptures of the Old Testament and the New Testament teachings of Jesus, the personhood of God is identified with three persons, yet are one.

God the Father, Christ the Son Holy Spirit. Three, yet one....oh my....

The number three is notable in that it is an auspicious number in many cultures, pagan and Christian.

Many of the symbols we use were Celtic in origin; contained elements of three in number. Many of these were adapted by the Christian church to represent the Trinity. If you go on any website for Celtic jewelry or artwork, you will see Trinity symbols abound.

Face it, it's hard to imagine three distinct persons, yet all are joined together. One God, three different roles.

It is appropriate that we examine the multiplicity of God so close to Father's Day. All of us had an earthly father or we wouldn't be here.

Some of us had fathers like Ward Cleaver, some of us had fathers who chased us with a cleaver. Some of us never knew our fathers, whether they were deceased, or divorced or simply absent. Some of us had stepfathers, uncles or grandfathers who filled the role of father. If you were fortunate enough to have a father figure at home that was a loving and responsible one, you probably were well aware of all the different things your father had to do.

He had a job. He cut the grass. He did chores around the house. He may have been a member of a civic organization, like the Rotary, the Optimists, the Lions Club, or maybe a Boy Scout leader. He went to church or synagogue. He may have been in the military at one point. He was husband to our mothers. He was a son to his parents.

Wow! That's a lot of different roles taken on by the same person.

Maybe when you look at it like that, maybe the Trinity is a bit more understandable. God does many things and therefore, is many things:

The Father, who is the source of all life and love. The Son, who is the manifestation of God's love in human form. The Holy Spirit, who is the teacher, the encourager and who opens our hearts to the love of God. Where love is given, love grows and bears fruit that nourishes ourselves and others.

Jesus tells his disciples, I am the vine, you are the fruit.

Let's talk about how fruity we are! Are you "peachy" at reading on Sunday services, "orange" you going to sign up ?? Are you nuts about Bible study? Does the adult Sunday school "pecans" your interest!

Do you have "sour grapes" about something and need to "wine" to someone who cares? Did someone drive you bananas this week?

• See SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING page 22

Proverbs 3:5

BLUEVALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH

Rev. Oliver Rice, Pastor (706) 782-3965

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

Sunday night services every 2nd & 4th Sunday at 7

Wednesdays: Mid-week prayer meeting: 7 p.m.

BUCK CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

828-269-3546 • Rev. Jamie Passmore, Pastor

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

CHAPEL OF SKY VALLEY

Sky Valley, GA • 706-746-2999

Sundays: 10 a.m.: Worship

Holy Communion 1st Sunday of the month

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

CHRIST ANGLICAN CHURCH

Rector: Jim Murphy, 252-671-4011

464 US Hwy 64 east, Cashiers

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

9:30a Sunday School; 10:30a Family Service w/ Music

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

CHRIST CHURCH OF THE VALLEY, CASHIERS

Pastor Steve Kerhoulas • 743-5470

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

Tues. Guys study 8am, Gals 10am.

CLEAR CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Jim Kinard

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

1st & 3rd Sunday night Service: 7 p.m.

Wednesdays - Supper at 6 p.m.

COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH

www.cbchighlands.com • 526-4685

3645 Cashiers Rd, Highlands, NC

Senior Pastor Gary Hewins

Sun.: 9:30am: Sunday School

10:30am: Middle & High School; 10:45am: Child. Program,

10:45am: Worship Service

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

University

EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE INCARNATION

Rev. Bruce Walker • 526-2968

Sundays: Holy Eucharist (chapel) at 8 a.m.

Education and choir rehearsal, 9 am,

Holy Eucharist Rite II, (sanctuary), 10:30

Wednesday: 10 a.m., Morning Prayer

Thursdays: Holy Eucharist, (chapel), 10 am

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH HIGHLANDS

828-526-4153 • www.fbchighlands.org

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

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Curtis Fussell & Emily Wilmarth, pastors

526-3175 • fpchighlands.org

Sun.: Worship: 8:30a and 11 a.m.; School: 9:30

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

Wednesdays: Choir: 5:30p

GOLDMINE BAPTIST CHURCH

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Sunday School: 10 am, Worship Service: 11 am

Bible Study: 6 pm

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HAMBURG BAPTIST CHURCH

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John 3:16

• PLACES TO WORSHIP •

Pastor Nathan Johnson

Sunday: School 9:45a, Worship 11a & 7p, Bible Study 6p

Wed. Kidsquest 6p.; Worship 7p.

HIGHLANDS ASSEMBLY OF GOD

Randy Reed, Pastor 828-421-9172 • 165 S. Sixth Street

Sundays: Worship: 11

HIGHLANDS CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Dan Robinson

670 N. 4th Street (next to the Highlands Civic Center)

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);

7pm Intercessory Prayer Ministry

HOLY FAMILY LUTHERAN CHURCH:ELCA

Chaplain Margaret Howell • 2152 Dillard Road • 526-

9741

Sun: School and Adult discussion group 9:30 a.m.;

Worship/Communion: 10:30

HEALING SERVICE on the 5th Sunday of the month.

MACEDONIA BAPTIST CHURCH

8 miles south of Highlands on N.C. 28 S in Satolah

Pastor Troy Nicholson, (828) 526-8425

Sundays: School: 10 a.m.; Worship: 11, Choir: 6 p.m.

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

MOUNTAIN SYNAGOGUE

at St. Cyprian's Episcopal Church, Franklin

828-524-9463

MOUNTAIN BIBLE CHURCH

743-2583 • Independent Bible Church

Sun: 10:30 a.m. at Big Ridge Baptist Church,

4224 Big Ridge Road (4.5 miles from NC 107)

Weds: Bible Study 6:30 p.m.; Youth Group 6 p.m.

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SCALY MOUNTAIN BAPTIST CHURCH

Rev. Marty Kilby

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

Wednesdays: Prayer Mtg.: 7 p.m.

SCALY MOUNTAIN CHURCH OF GOD

290 Buck Knob Road; Pastor Jerry David Hall • 526-3212

Sun.: School: 10 a.m.; Worship: 10:45 a.m.; Worship: 6 p.m.

SHORTOFF BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Rev. Andy Cloer

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

Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study: 7

THE CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

1448 Highway 107 South, Office: 743-2359

Rev. Douglas E. Remer

Oct-May: Sunday Services: Rite I, 8a Rite II, 10:30

June-Sept: Sunday Services: Rite I, 8a, Rite II, 9:15 & 11a

Nursery available for Rite II services

Sept 6-Oct 25- Informal Evening Eucharist: 5:30 p.m.

Thursday: Noon Healing Service with Eucharist.

LITTLE CHURCH IN THE WILDWOOD

Beginning Memorial Day weekend

Horse Cove - Kay Ward 743-5009

Old-Fashion hymn-sing Sunday 7-8p.

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP

85 Sierra Drive • 828-524-6777

Sunday Worship - 11 a.m.

WHITESIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Rev. Sam Forrester/Cashiers

Sunday School: 10 am, Worship Service: 11 am

...FREDSTER continued from page 9

I unzipped my handbag and spread the opening, revealing the 60k. Riley stared at the money and then at me and then back at the money.

"Well, do we have a deal, or what?" I demanded.

Out of my peripheral vision I could see my Lieutenant and three narcotics officers jogging toward us. Gordon's back was to the entrance of the pier and he was unaware of their approach. As I handed him the bag of money, I pulled my weapon from under my shirt and pointed it at his head. "I'm a cop and if you even twitch I'll put a round in your head. Let go of my bag and drop the scag 'cause you're under arrest, scumbag."

I could tell Gordon was stunned to learn I was a cop. He turned loose of my bag and dropped the heroin to the pier. "You're a friggin cop? I can't believe you're a friggin cop!" Gordon muttered.

Later, while being booked at the Dade County Jail, Gordon started chuckling softly, "We're

both very lucky men. You know that, don't you?"

"Well, I'm going home to my family and you're going to prison. I'm having trouble seeing your luck," I asked.

"I had you figured as a low life mule and so I was going to snuff you, steal your money, take that Rolex from your wrist and throw your dead ass off the end of the pier," Gordon responded. "It was that damn fisherman that made me hesitate. Who was that fisherman? He got a good look at me so I couldn't decide whether to kill you or not. Then you got the drop on me. Now, as fate would have it, you're not lying on a slab at the morgue and I'm not headed to the electric chair for killing a cop. As I see it, we're two very lucky dudes. And I still can't believe you're a cop."

Exactly one week from that night, I was pulled from my undercover assignment and promoted to the rank of lieutenant from a promotional list. I had made my last illegal drug purchase and was actually going to wear a tie. My li'l missus was elated.

Lamb awarded SECU scholarship



Kirstyn Lamb has been awarded the People Helping People Scholarship by the State Employees Credit Union. The SECU Foundation and State Employees' Credit Union members are committed to the Credit Union philosophy of "people helping people." Since 2004, the People Helping People Scholarship Program has provided over \$32 million in educational funding. Each traditional public high school in North Carolina will receive one (1) scholarship valued at \$10,000 (payable @ \$1,250 per semester) to attend one of the 17 constituent campuses of the UNC System. Kirstyn was nominated for the scholarship by the Highlands School Scholarship Committee and plans to attend UNC Charlotte in the fall.

Pictured with Kirstyn are Mike Williams and Joan Maki from SECU and her parents, Cheryl and Brett Lamb.

...RESPONDS continued from page 6

sional, honest, law enforcement officers with high standards of integrity the town has ever had.

"We have advanced and improved in our law enforcement and we have confidence in our police department. So I disagree with Chief Cook and I stand by what I said. We did the best we could do in that situation and there was no attempt to dishonor anyone," he said.

Town Manager Bob Frye agreed with Taylor.

"I regret the situation that Chief Cook brought up. We did the best we could. If I have learned anything it's that we have the best police department and I stand by Chief Harrell and his decisions," he said.

Food vendors in K-H Founders Park

Frye also clarified the serving of meals in K-H Founders Park.

If food vendors with catering permits from Macon County (preferably Highlands businesses) are hired by the nonprofit sponsoring an event — the Chamber of Commerce, the Macon County Art Association, the town — then they can sell food in the park.

Public Hearings

Two public hearings were scheduled for the June 18 Town

Board meeting after which the 2015-'16 budget will hopefully be accepted as will the amendment to the tree ordinance which will allow dead trees (primarily hemlocks) to be removed without replacement.

New streetscape

The board OK'd a proposed streetscape plan for the area in front of the The Dog House on the corner of Spring & South Fourth streets. The plan would consist of a stone curbing and a variety of plantings.

The majority of the proposal would be located on town right-of-way so a revocable license will be issued.

Public Service Director Lamar Nix has determined that the plan will assist in controlling the stormwater that currently flows toward the front of the Dog House building. In addition, the plan would not affect the public parking spaces along Spring Street.

— Kim Lewicki

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

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Scheduled During Open House

**Obagi. Skin Rejuvenation Open House at the
Center for Plastic Surgery**

Friday, June 12th

10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

NC authors host book signing at The Molly Grace on June 10

Portion of proceeds to benefit Hospice House Foundation of WNC

Julia Vradelis and Allison Worrell, both from Eastern North Carolina, have recently published a cookbook unlike any others. Muffin Meals, published by Tate Publishing, has been released nationwide and the co-authors have been travelling across the country on their book signing tour. One of their first stops of the summer is in Highlands, NC at The Molly Grace gift shop on June 10 from 2- 5:30pm. Where 10% of sales of the book will go to the Hospice House Foundation of WNC



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...SUICIDAL continued from page 1

place regarding suicide and other issues and situations some of our students face.”

Holland, along with School Social Worker Annie Wishon presented the information to the school board at the request of Dr. Baldwin, who was concerned about the high number of referrals, as well as the age of students being referred.

“We had several students referred for having suicidal ideations in a short period of time, and the students being referred were young, several of which attended Mountain View Intermediate.”

In addition to the age of students, Dr. Baldwin said he wanted to look at the district implementing a plan for a more proactive approach after two students were nearly successful in their suicide attempts.

Holland explained to board members, that when a student is referred for having suicidal ideations, she and Wishon, along

with staff from Macon County Psychological Services complete the required paperwork and provide resources for the students and their families.

Holland noted that a meeting is set up with the student's parents to inform them of the situation and help them connect with resources such as counseling and information on warning signs.

Although the information has not yet been compared to prior years to see if the trend in on the incline, according to Dr. Baldwin, through additional research, he found out that it was not unusual for suicidal ideations to spike in the spring time.

Highlands School had the third highest number of students reporting suicidal ideations. Franklin High School reported the most, at nine, with Mountain View Intermediate second at seven. Union Academy

•See SUICIDAL page 19

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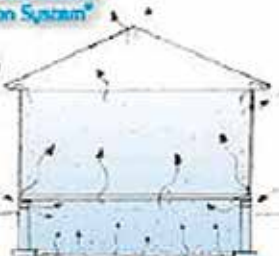
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- ✓ Radon Gas
- ✓ Rising Energy Costs



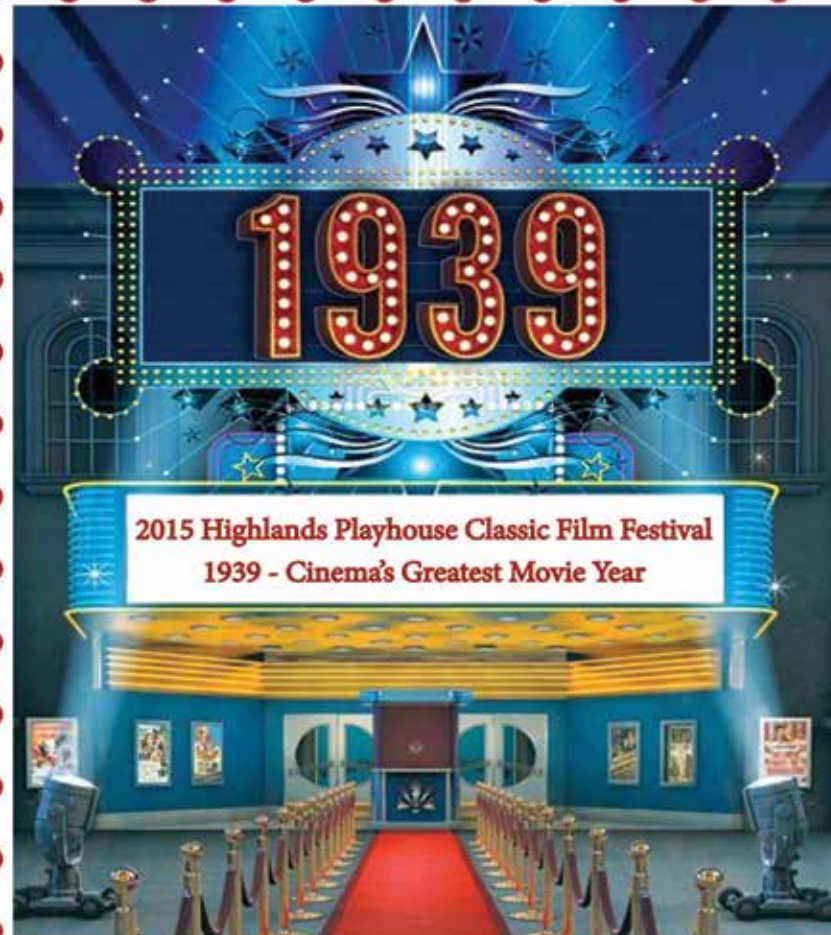
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Highlands Playhouse

2015 HIGHLANDS PLAYHOUSE FILM FESTIVAL

September 18 - 20, 2015

...SRO from page 1

ing for the position, the Highlands SRO will remain a Highlands Police Department Officer and when not serving as an SRO, will serve as a Highlands Police officer.

Funding for the Highlands SRO was one of many new budget items in the county's proposed budget, which has a \$925,000 increase over the current year's budget. Roland noted that despite the increase, the budget did not use any fund balance appropriations and continued to pay off the county's debt services.

"This increase is 100 percent supported by recurring revenues that have been generated by sales tax growth and an increase in the tax collection rates," said Roland. "We've been able to do this with no money appropriated from the fund balance. Our debt has continued to decline, and we have still painted a picture of fiscal responsibility in Macon County."

The tax rate for the county will change next year, which can be attributed to the property revaluation that was completed last year. Roland explained that due to the reassessment the county's tax base has declined from \$9.4 billion to \$7.6 billion, and the property tax rate would have to change from 27.9 to 34.5 cents per \$100 to remain revenue-neutral.

Touching on the importance of public education, Roland included an increase to the school system for next year. This year, Macon County Schools received right at \$199,000 for capital outlay needs. After the school system identified close to \$3 million in improvement needs, the county decided to increase the schools capital outlay budget by \$100,000 to \$300,000 to begin addressing

infrastructure needs within county schools.

Addressing public safety concerns, the county budget plans to add two dispatchers to the county's 911 communication officer to ensure there are enough dispatchers to handle the increasing call load. No additional positions have been added to the office since its inception in 1994. Under manned staff within the county's EMS department are also addressed in the budget. Roland included funding to ensure that the county has five ambulance drivers operating in Macon County 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Currently, on Sundays, the county operates with only four drivers.

The county's information technology budget will see significant changes in the proposed budget, but is expected to save the county significantly in annual maintenance fees. Roland noted that last year, there was more than a month where the county's voicemail system was inaccessible, making it difficult for county employees to service the public. Attributing the phone system's failure to the county outdated system, Roland proposed allocating \$120,000 in additional funds to the IT budget this year to complete upgrade the county's phone system. He explained that by next year, without having to constantly repair the system, the county stands to save more than \$80,000 a year from the upgrade.

The proposed budget also includes a two percent cost of living adjustment for all county employees and develops a task force to expand on the Springstead Consulting firms pay plan study to address salary inadequacies.

The county's budget is yet to be final. A public hearing on the proposal is schedule for June 8 at 6 p.m. at the courthouse.

...SUICIDAL continued from page 18

reported four students being referred, and Macon Middle School reported three. Iotla Elementary, Cartoogechaye Elementary, and Macon Early College have each had one student referred since January, with Nantahala, South Macon, and East Franklin all having zero.

The board plans to continue to work closely with Holland and the system's social work unit to develop a plan to better serve students in Macon County in the future.

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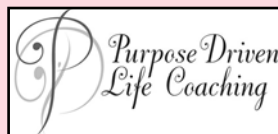
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...SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING from page 16

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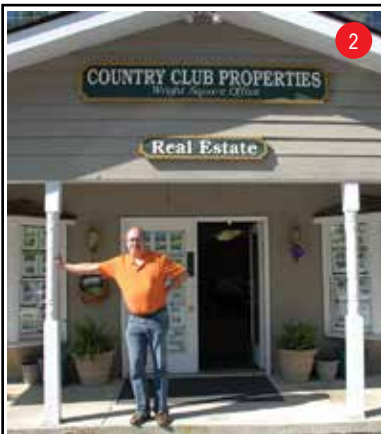
Jesus also said "I am with you always, to the end of the age."

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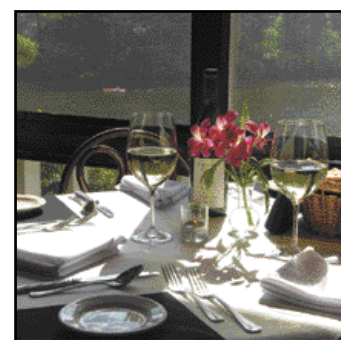


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