

Highlands Newspaper

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Thurs., Feb. 25, 2016

Board honing uses, regs, signage for Founders Park

For-profit versus nonprofit uses at the K-H Founders Park was the subject of the Recreation Committee's report at last week's Town Board meeting.

"There has been some discussion that the art and craft

shows over two weekends during the year is not strictly a fundraiser for a nonprofit – it's more of a commercial endeavor," said Commissioner Amy Patterson who sits on the Recreation Committee with Commissioner Brian Stiehler. "It's

primarily a park – public property – but the Town Board has allowed events in the park but we limit its use. There are to be no commercial-use events, only events that are fundraisers for nonprofits."

Patterson reiterated that the

Town Board has no problem with the event itself – the art and crafts show two weekends a year – but the fact that it's not strictly a fundraiser for a nonprofit but rather more commercial in nature is the

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The out of control vehicle crashed into and uprooted a tree, bounced off the hood of the red vehicle, and careened into the adjacent tree before coming to a stop nose first in front of John Cleveland Realty.

– Photo by Nick Bazan

Community stunned by dramatic crash on 4th Street

Around 10:40 a.m., Saturday, Feb. 20, a vehicle travelling south on 4th Street came to a dramatic stop in front of John Cleveland Realty.

A Highlands Police patrol car was travelling north on 4th Street when, according to witnesses, the driver of the black 2015 Honda

• See **CRASH** page 5

US Cellular tower gets green light

To be transparent, and at Commissioner Donnie Calloway's insistence, the town held an "information" meeting about the 80-foot US Cellular Tower which will be erected behind the ladder truck building at the fire department.

Before last week's Town Board meeting, US Cellular's representative Chuck Burton addressed about six citizens who turned out for the meeting.

The first thing he established was that the site on town property had been zoned for a tower for some time. The zoning was in response to a court ruling that said municipalities couldn't keep telecommunication companies out of their jurisdictions. To be proactive, the town zoned the property that houses the EMS building and the Fire Department as a proposed tower site so it would be in control of where a tower could be erected in the future.

• See **US CELLULAR** page 7



HF&R Assistant Chief Robbie Forrester, Fireman of the Year Lea Dallmann and HF&R Chief Ryan Gearhart.

'Firefighter of the Year' named at award banquet

At Saturday night's Annual Highlands Fire & Rescue Award Banquet held again this year at OEI's Spring House, Highlands' only female firefighter was named "Firefighter of the Year."

Lea Dallmann was chosen by her peers by secret ballot.

Chief Ryan Gearhart said that

Dallmann's hard work and dedication included 167 training hours.

All tolled in 2015, the department participated in 2,533 training hours, 2,664 man hours on scene and responded to 558 calls which is three more than in 2014.

For the 26th time, Roger Lee

• See **FIREMAN** page 5

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• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• MAYOR ON DUTY •

Where I stand about park use

Frequently, an elected official faces a cross road of conflicting options. Let me share with you the road I think the town should take in regard to the issue of art shows in the park. It is important that the town have a consistent public policy. On one hand, I can view this issue from the perspective of an artist/craftsman and art educator, and on the other as the mayor.

I am an advocate for the arts as being essential for a vibrant community. Just this week I have an article in the premier ceramic journal in the country, yet I am also ironically having to take a position concerning Village Square Art Show in K-H Founders Park. Some may view what I am about to say as being an artist that is against art! It's not the case.

I have been an exhibitor and supporter of the art show a number of years, although I have not participated since the park was completed, and since I have been mayor. I can see two viewpoints. From a firsthand perspective, I know the hard work of all the exhibiting artists and craftspeople. I, nor the town staff and commissioners, are against art shows. In fact, the Highlands Recreation Department hosts the Fall Colors Art Show that is sponsored by the Highlands Art



Highlands Mayor
Patrick Taylor

League each year.

The issue of art shows in the park has to be framed within the broader context of park policy that has evolved over the last number of years. Currently, commercial events where the lion share of profits go to an organizer, are not permitted. With the completion of the new park venue, there is even more pressure to allow commercial events in the park, such as formal weddings, music concerts, and other special ticketed or private invitational events that limit

public access.

The Town Board has adopted the policy that park events should be open to the public and that proceeds, after production costs are settled, should go to local nonprofit organizations. For instance, the Highlands Car Show last year raised \$30,000 for the Literacy Council. The Twilight 5K Road Race contributed \$20,000 to local nonprofits. The Friends of the Park 5K gave \$5,000 for building Phase II of the park. The Rotary Club Fourth of July Barbecue, now held in the park, supports numerous nonprofit groups. The summer musical concert series in the park sponsored by the Highlands Chamber and local businesses is free to the public, and organizers do not profit directly. It can be noted that all these events last no more than a few hours in a single day.

Donating proceeds from park events to nonprofits organizations is the operational policy that the Town Board has endorsed. Granted, the Village Square Art Show in the Park, does make a small donation to a community nonprofit, but a substantial profit goes to an individual business owner. To allow this kind of procedure to continue

• See MAYOR page 13

• LETTERS •

Move has tainted H-C Land Trust's reputation

Dear Editor,

In its continuing efforts to achieve unrestricted vehicular access to the summit of Satulah Mountain via the Satulah Vista neighborhood, the Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust has, in my opinion, endangered its standing in the community and the public trust.

Unbeknownst to many members, the Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust has gone to the original sellers of the Land Trust's Satulah Mountain property and convinced those sellers to remove from the original deed certain restrictions regarding public access and vehicular parking. The general public has always had access to hike Satulah, but vehicular access and parking was specifically limited in the original deed.

The Sledge foundation was among the major donors to support the purchase of the Satulah mountain property in order to prevent any further future development, including public parking, from encroaching on the Satulah summit. It was with this understanding that many donors, this foundation included, gave generous financial support to the Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust for the purchase, protection and preservation of that property. By its actions in changing the deed, the Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust has ostensibly violated that trust.

Prior to this action, the Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust in conjunction with the Highlands Greenway and to their credit, sought to remedy the situation by purchasing lots in Satulah Ridge to establish a public parking area nearer to the Satulah summit, but the idea of general public vehicular access was just as unpopular with the landowners of Satulah Ridge as it is with the landowners of Satulah Vista and the offer was rejected.

There are historical legal precedents for action by donors against institutions which do not use donations as their purpose was originally intended. It would certainly be a travesty for the Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust to have to use more funds to defend any such actions when all it had to do was abide by the original purpose of the deed.

On a personal note, I so firmly believe in land conservation for future generations that my personal property in Highlands is under conservation easement to the Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust. Those easements and the restrictions agreed upon therein are supposed to be "in perpetuity" meaning FOREVER. Now my faith in the Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust living up to whatever original agreements were made has been severely shaken.

Not only is this recent action by the Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust alarming, it could well have a detrimental effect on the credibility of land trusts in general. The operative word in land trust is TRUST. In the future, donors and supporters might well consider just how much they can trust the Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust.

Eleanor Sledge Burke
President, The Sledge Foundation Inc.
Walterboro, SC and Highlands

HCLT wants to set the record straight

Dear Editor,

This letter is in response to Ms. Eleanor Burke's letter to the editor raising questions about the motivations of the Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust in asking the seller of acreage purchased by the Land Trust in 1998 to remove certain restrictions contained in the original 1998 deed.

The seller was unaware of the restrictions, is elderly and no longer has any ownership interest on Satulah Mountain. Upon her death, the restrictions could continue to be enforced by her heirs. Certain of the restrictions contained in the deed are inconsistent with the continued obligations of the Land Trust to maintain and protect its properties on Satulah Mountain as a park for the benefit of the public.

Most particularly, the restriction of the

• See LETTERS page 3

Highlands Newspaper

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For real time weather and the extended forecast go to
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• OBITUARY •

Earl Eugene Nix

Earl Eugene Nix, age 77, passed away Sunday, February 21, 2016. He was born March 6, 1938 in Rabun County, GA, to the late James Clyde Nix and Gertrude Owens Nix. He worked many years in the manufacturing business and was a member of Carver's Chapel.

He is survived by his wife of 50 years, Agnes Talley Nix of the home; a son, Phillip Eugene Nix (Elizabeth) of Clayton, GA; a grandson, Aaron Max Eugene Nix of Clayton, GA; three brothers, Jimmy Nix (Virginia) of Highlands, NC, Steve Nix (Lucy) and Gary Nix (Marlene) all of Clayton, GA. He was preceded in death by a brother, Boyd Lamar Nix.

A funeral service was held Tuesday, February 23, 2016 at Macedonia Baptist Church, with Rev. Troy Nicholson, Rev. Tim McCall and Rev. Lester Ball officiating. Burial followed in the church cemetery. Pallbearers were Lamar Nix, Ronnie Leslie, Kevin Earp, Mike Wilson, Jeff Weller, Donnie Elliott, Brian Nix, Luke Nix and Jacob Nix.

Bryant-Grant Funeral Home is serving the Nix family. Online condolences may be made at bryantgrantfuneralhome.com.

...LETTERS continued from page 2

Land Trust's vehicular access to two times per year is not sufficient for the Land Trust to carry out its obligation to maintain the trails and protect the rare plant species in this unique environment. Knowing that conditions change, and to avoid the need to address our concerns to numerous parties having no continuing interest in the mountain, the Land Trust thought it prudent to protect itself and its mission by eliminating the right of the seller and her heirs and assigns to enforce such restrictions, since she has no continuing interest.

The Land Trust takes very seriously its obligation to conserve all its property on the mountain in perpetuity and in a manner consistent with its obligations to its donors and to the public. The restrictions in question are still enforceable by a landowner on Satulah Mountain who purchased property adjacent to the Land Trust property, and the Land Trust will continue to seek to improve its access to Satulah Mountain in order to put itself in a position to carry out these obligations.

Walter Wingfield
President, HCLT

Enough with the trash!

Dear Editor

This past Monday, President's Day, I found myself driving down the Gorge Road from Highlands to Franklin. The recent heavy rains had scoured the ditches on the West side of the road and had consolidated and exposed all kinds of litter, especially aluminum soda and beer cans.

I had no sooner commented to my wife on how much unsightly litter we were seeing, when we overtook a shiny new large black pickup truck. Almost immediately, we began seeing paper and a plastic shopping bag blowing around in the back of the truck.

It wasn't long before the paper and the plastic bag were in the road and I remembered a fairly recent letter from Highlands Mayor Pat Taylor describing a similar experience. Now at the speed we were traveling, I don't believe those aluminum soda cans we saw, blew out of any truck bed, I believe they were thrown from the passenger compartments of vehicles by uncaring trashy people.

I don't like singling out any groups of people but when there's a new home under construction in my subdivision, the amount of litter goes up sharply.

We live in one of the most beautiful places in the world but litter on all of our roads detracts greatly from that beauty. Come on neighbors and fellow travelers, let's stop this littering, please.

If I weren't 81 years old and walking with a cane, I would go out there and pick up some of that trash. I've seen prisoners in other locations put to use picking up trash, why can't we do that here in Macon County.

Charles T. Wolf Jr.
Highlands

• See LETTERS page 13



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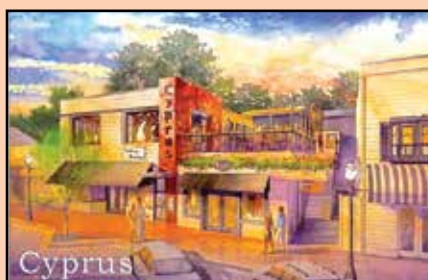
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...FIREMAN continued from 1

Wilson was awarded for his perfect attendance record. The department meets every Tuesday evening.

Thomas James, formerly of the Scaly Mountain Fire & Rescue Department, joined the Highlands department this year as its only new member.

Three more Highlands School students joined as junior firefighters: Destin Gearhart, John Murphy and Jonathan Miller.

Five-year Service Pins were awarded Rescue Lt. David Leffler, Jeremy Keener and Caleb Bowers.

Officers for 2016 are Chief Ryan Gearhart, Assistant Chief Robbie Forrester, Fire Captain Matthew Wilson, 1st Lt. Roger Lee Wilson, 2nd Lt. Hunter Leffler, Rescue Capt. Eric Pierson and Rescue Lt. David Leffler.

Mayor Pat Taylor commended the department for hard work and dedication reiterating how much the Highlands community appreciates all it does.

— Kim Lewicki



Officers from left: Treasurer Lenny Metrick, Asst. Chief Robbie Forrester, 2nd Lt. Hunter Leffler, Rescue Lt. David Leffler, Fire Captain Eric Pierson, Chief Ryan Gearhart and 1st Lt., Roger Lee Wilson.



Asst. Chief Forrester and Chief Gearhart flank 5-year Service Pin recipients from left: David Leffler and Caleb Bowers. Not pictured is Jeremy Keener.



Junior Firefighters from left: John Murphy, Destin Gearhart and Jonathan Miller.

— Photos by Kim Lewicki

...CRASH continued from page 1

crossed the middle line of 4th Street allegedly in front of the officer, careened into and uprooted a tree, bounced off Jerry Huie's 2006 Mercury which was parked in front of John Cleaveland Realty, landed in the adjacent tree and then slid down to come to rest nose first in front of the patio outside the real estate office.

According to John Cleaveland who was on the sidewalk in the vicinity of CK Swan on his way to work, the damage was minimal but the cause dramatic in nature.

"He knocked one tree with a large root ball clear out of the ground. There's a hole in the overhang above the patio. It's just lucky there wasn't anyone on the sidewalk," he said.

Jerry Huie, who works at John Cleaveland Realty, had parked his car at the office and was at a late breakfast with his wife when the incident happened.

"I came back to the chaos, police, fire and rescue and everyone else. He hit my car on his way to riding up the tree," he said.

Fire & Rescue cut the windshield to get the driver out who according to rescuers didn't appear to be bleeding anywhere, and was taken to H-C Hospital.

Police Chief Bill Harrell said charges are pending against Edward Madison Minus and a DWI investigation is ongoing. Estimated damages to the John Cleaveland Realty building and trees is \$2,500.

— Kim Lewicki

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...US CELLULAR continued from page 1

"We didn't find the site ourselves," said Burton. "We are just at the right place at the right time and will be able to provide a site for other carriers, too."

He said the alternative would be AT&T and Verizon requesting towers which could potentially mean three towers in town instead of just one.

MIS/GIS Director Matt Shuler explained that the tower will be strategically placed directly behind the ladder truck building because the building is about 40 feet high which means only about 40 feet of the 80-foot tower will be visible.

"The building will hide most of the pole void of branches from the front and shrubbery will hide it at the back so it won't be seen when you drive by," he said. "The limbs will start a little above the top of the building."

The State Historic Preservation Office nixed a traditional monopole for Highlands due to the many historic sites in the area so a stealth "tree" tower was the only option.

"We picked a White Pine because they are native to the area and because they often grow to be 80 feet high. The technology is much improved from the first stealth "tree" tower on Satulah Mountain and it will look more natural than older versions," said Shuler.

The tower will be erected and paid for by US Cellular who will receive a rent abatement until its costs are recouped, but the tower will be turned over to and owned by the town.

There will be room on the tower for three carriers and for town equipment – each 10 feet apart with US Cellular on the top and the town on the bottom with the antennas hidden in the branches.

Shuler said the town could have requested a tower that could hold more than three carriers, but it would have had to go to a taller pole.

"If we wanted room for five carriers, we would have had to go to a 100-foot pole which would require a stealth "tree" tower not native to Highlands. White pine is native to the area so we went with the white pine and three carriers 10 feet apart," he said.

Burton said the tower in the middle of town will be a win-win for customers.

"You have super terrain issues here. The Satulah tower tries to shoot down and catch everyone but simply doesn't. This tower will fill capacity holes. However, if you can't see the tower you wouldn't be able to benefit from its coverage but it will relieve congestion on the Satulah tower. That one tower can only feed so many people. With most of the density of usage in town, especially during season, the new tower will relieve the Satulah tower congestion so people who could not get service before may now be able to."

With the general consensus agreeing that the more opportunities for various providers the better off Highlands will be, at the subsequent Town Board meeting, commissioner unanimously approved the language of the contract which got a thorough going over by Town Attorney J.K. Coward and US Cellular's attorney. Details involving costs will be considered when Burton returns with those "blanks filled in." Commissioner Calloway was absent.

Baptist Church Conditional Zone

At the public hearing for the Baptist church's B1 conditional zoning, citizens didn't speak to the issue but the board did – mainly wondering why conditional use was being requested rather than a Special Use Permit (SUP) for new construction.

As noted in this paper's Jan. 21, 2016 edition, years ago, the town removed the requirement for churches on Main Street to provide parking onsite regardless of their zoning designation. The presumed parking requirement was why the B1 conditional

zone was being requested.

"They are exempt from onsite parking, so why are they requesting to be rezoned?" asked Commissioner Amy Patterson. "They are not changing the use – they don't need parking so they don't need a new zone."

Both the Planning and Zoning boards

have approved the plans but a SUP wasn't requested because the church was going another route.

The board unanimously agreed to send the church back to the Zoning Board for a SUP

– Kim Lewicki



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• HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

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Monday, Tuesday, Thursday

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Ongoing

• Highlands Hurricanes Swim Team is open to all levels of swimmers ages 6-18. To sign up contact Coach Steve Hott at 828-421-2121.

• Anyone interested in taking Adult, Child and Infant First Aid/CPR/AED certification class needs to contact the Highlands Recreation Department.

Last Sundays

• At The Wellness Center, donation based Sound Healing Concert. Learn how to use Music to heal your Nervous System and Reduce Your Stress Naturally at 3pm. 468 Dillard Road (828) 526 9698

Mon. Thurs., Fri., Sat., Sun.

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

Mondays

• Shortoff Baptist Church non-denominational Men's Meeting at 7 pm first Mondays.

• The Humanist Discussion Group meets every Monday morning from 9:30 to 10:30 in the Meeting Room in the back of Hudson Library.

• High Cardio Zumba Fitness with Certified Instructor Tiffany Austin at 5:25 p.m.

Mon. & Wed.

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

Mon., Wed., Fri.

• Heart Healthy Exercise Class 8:30am-9:30am at the Rec Park.

• 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 at 7 p.m. at Memorial United Methodist Church, 4668 Old Murphy Road, Franklin. Sponsored by the local affiliate of NAMI. For info call 828 369-7385.

Tuesdays

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

• The Beyond the Walls Book discussion group meets at 4 PM at The Ugly Dog Public House. Each week a short story discussed.

2nd and 4th Tuesdays

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

Every 3rd Tuesday

• The Macon County Poultry club in Franklin meets at 7 pm at the Cooperative extension office on Thomas Heights Road. For more information call 369-3916.

Last Tuesdays

• At the Wellness Center, donation based Belly Dancing 101 at 6:30 p.m. 468 Dillard Road (828) 526 9698.

Tuesday and Thursdays

• Zumba with Connie at the Rec Park 8:15 a.m. \$5.

• Pickle ball is played from 11:30a to 1p in the gym at the Rec Park.

Wednesdays

• At the Wellness Place at 6:30 p.m., donation based Art of Meditation. 468 Dillard Road (828) 526 9698.

1st Wednesdays

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

3rd Wednesdays

• Recently released movies at Hudson Library at 2pm. Call 828-526-3031 for titles.

Thursdays

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

• Weight Watchers support group meets every Thursday at 5 pm at Christ Church of the Valley 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.

3rd Thursdays

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

• Kidney Smart Classes in Sylva: from, 7:30am-9am, DaVita Sylva Dialysis Center, 655 Asheville Highway, Contact Sue 828-631-0430

Fridays

• 99ers Bridge at the Rec Park 9a to noon.

• At the Wellness Center, donation based Pinterest Fridays at 6:30p. : Essential Oils, Appetizers and Crafts Night. 468 Dillard Road (828) 526 9698

Every 3rd Friday

• Senior Dinners are at noon November through April.

Saturdays

• At The Wellness Place Donation based 9am Yoga For Dummies at 9 a.m. Fun, Judgment Free Zone, All Levels and All Ages! 468

Dillard Road (828) 526 9698.

• At The Bascom, Pottery Sale in the barn from 10a to 5p.

Fri., Feb. 26

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

Sun., Feb. 27

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate 6-mile hike, elevation change 520 ft., to Martin Creek Falls on the Bartram Trail from Warwoman Dell near Clayton, GA, passing a couple of waterfalls and interesting formations in the creek bed. Meet at the Smoky Mtn. Visitors Center in Otto at 9 am, drive 35 miles round trip. Call leader Mary Stone, 369-7352, for reservations.

• At PAC, National Theatre of London Live in HD at 1 p.m. Call 828-526-9047 for tickets.

Thurs., March 3

• Child care subsidy is a complex program. Learn more about a specific topic or discuss an issue concerning you. Some of the topics on the agenda include legislative changes; updates on NC FAST and the impact on providers and families in the Subsidized Child Care Program; market rate increases; and re-authorization of the Federal Child

'As You Like It' Live via Satellite at PAC Feb. 27



The Highlands Performing Arts Center will present the National Theatre of London's production of Shakespeare's As You Like It Live via Satellite (on our large theater screen) on Saturday, February 27 at 12:55pm.

Shakespeare's glorious comedy of love and change comes to the National Theatre for the first time in over 30 years, with Rosalie Craig (London Road, Macbeth at MIF) as Rosalind. With her father the Duke banished and in exile, Rosalind and her cousin Celia leave their lives in the court behind them and journey into the Forest of Arden. There, released from convention, Rosalind experiences the liberating rush of transformation. Disguising herself as a boy, she embraces a different way of living and falls spectacularly in love.

Adults: \$22 PAC Members: \$19 Students: FREE Tickets are available online: highlandspac.org, at the door or by calling 828.526.9047. Highlands Performing Arts Center 507 Chestnut Street

• HIGHLANDS EVENTS •

Care Development Block Grant. The roundtable will be held at the Jackson County Family Resource Center located at 1528 Webster Road, Webster starting at 10 AM. This project is sponsored by Region A Partnership for Children, the WNC Early Childhood Coalition and Southwestern Child Development Commission. For more information contact Sheila Hoyle at 828-586-5561 or sheilahoyle@aol.com.

Friday, March 4

- At 5:30 p.m., its the Jackson County Republican Convention and Precinct Meetings.

- All Jackson County registered GOP voters are invited to attend the Jackson County Republican Convention at the Jackson County Senior Center in Sylva. Registration opens at 5 p.m. The Meetings and Convention begin at 5:30 p.m. A buffet dinner will be served. Call Ralph Slaughter at 828 743-6491.

Sat., March 5

- At PAC, Master Class for area High School Dance Students with Paul Taylor's American Modern Dance company at 9:30 a.m., It's free by registration is required. Call 828-526-9047

- Democratic Party & Precinct Meeting and more at the Hudson Library meeting room in the back,

from 5-9 p.m. Wine & hors d'oeuvres at 5p, Precinct meeting at 5:30p, dinner at 6:30p and caucus at 7:30p. Bring a salad, appetizer or wine to share. Main Dishes and dessert will be provided. For more information, call 828-526-4594.

- At PAC, Paul Taylor's American Modern Dance Company at 7:30 p.m. Adults \$15, all students are free. For tickets call 828-526-9047.

Thur., March 10

- The March meeting of the Western North Carolina Woodturners Club, Inc. will be on Thursday at 6 PM at the Blue Ridge School in Glensville, NC. The School is located at 95 Bobcat Drive, Cashers NC. Drive to the back of the school to the woodworking shop. Visitors are always welcome. The club meets in Glensville the second Thursday of every month March through November.

Fri.-Sun., March 11-13

- At PAC, Highlands Community Players presents a Dinner Theatre with four one-act plays. Fridays and Saturdays at 6:15 p.m. and Sunday Matinees at 1:15 p.m. at the Performing Arts Center on Chestnut Street. For tickets call 828-526-8084.

Sat., March 16

- At PAC, The Met Live in HD at 12:45 p.m. Call 828-526-9047 for tickets.

HCP's March Medley features 4 one-act plays and dinner!



Lance Trudel offers Mary Adair Leslie the "bargain of a lifetime" while rehearsing "Funeral Arrangements." Directed by Chris Hess, this is one of the four one act plays to be performed at March Medley, Highlands Cashiers Players dinner theater. Opening March 11 and performed the 11, 12, 13 and 18, 19, and 20 at the Performing Arts Center. Dinner theater goers should call 828-526-8084 for reservations.

...FOUNDERS continued from page 1

problem.

Cynthia Strain, the promoter and organizer of the event for years now, offered the committee her financials for 2015. After going over them the Recreation Committee realized they didn't meet the standards the Town Board wants to meet for events in the park.

According to the 2015 financials, Patterson said 85% of the proceeds went to the promoter and 15% went to the nonprofit – the Macon County Art Association under whose umbrella the show operated.

"We want more than 15% to go to the nonprofit," said Patterson. "The park isn't for commercial ventures – we want a substantial amount to go to the nonprofit. If most of us give to Save the Whales, or Feed the Homeless or Cure Cancer we would like more than 15% of what we give to go to what we were giving the money to."

The board didn't say how much should be given, just that it doesn't want the park being used as a commercial venture for an organizer or promoter who doesn't give what it considers to be a substantial amount to the nonprofit.

According to Town Manager Bob Frye, the figures supplied to them by Strain showed that her two shows generated \$21,348 in revenue. She paid herself \$10,500 to run the shows and there were about \$7,700 worth of expenses with approximately \$3,000 in profit after the expenses and what Strain earned. She paid the Macon County Art Association \$615 for the use of its non-profit status. The cost to rent the park for a weekend is \$200 and according to crafters and artists they spent about \$140 for booth space for each two-day event.

"We met with Cynthia and told her that we felt that if the Macon County Art Association was the nonprofit sponsor, then they should receive the majority of the profits," said Frye. "We also reiterated to her that the town policy for use of the park had always not been for for-profit uses and we advised her that due to her own budget figures this was a for-profit show."

Frye said the town was willing to contract with her to run the show on the town's behalf however a specific price wasn't mentioned, only that it would not be as high as what she currently paid herself.

"She then informed us that she could not afford to run the show for any less as she would then be forced to close her gallery and that this show would not take place without her," said Frye.

Strain said she is only compensated for her time plus a percentage of her utilities and travel

expenses. She said she would not take less for the job.

"As the sole organizer it is a huge job, no one can appreciate how big a job it is unless they have done it," she said.

Frye said they all agreed – the Recreation Committee and Strain – that perhaps it would be best if she found another venue that would allow her to keep all the revenue generated.

Currently, Strain is seeking private property in town. She must meet the commercial park-

• See FOUNDERS page 13



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Evening Performance
Adults \$15
ALL Students: FREE**

**Highlands Performing Arts Center
507 Chestnut Street
Tickets available online: highlandspac.org
or by calling 828.526.9047**

• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

Jesus' Journey to Jerusalem

By Father Jim Murphy
Christ Anglican Church, Cashiers

In many Christian traditions, the Season of Lent is immediately preceded by Jesus' visit to the Mount of Transfiguration. It was a pivotal moment, both figuratively and physically for Jesus. After a display of his glory, a vision of Moses and Elijah with him and the cloud-presence of God overshadowing them, the Almighty spoke. In effect, the Father said, listen to Jesus my Son, with him I am very pleased, pay attention to what he says and what he does. Then the Lord began his journey to Jerusalem.

What did he say? Jesus said plenty. He taught his growing group of disciples the principles of peace over the next couple of weeks as he journeyed toward Jerusalem. What did he do? He ministered to many the graces of peace while he journeyed to his ultimate destination, Jerusalem.

Christians and non-Christians alike can take our cue from Jesus. He taught and ministered the means of peace while on his way to the city of God's peace, Jerusalem. It was there that he would eventually become the Prince of Peace, of whom Isaiah spoke. (Isaiah 9). The city "Jerusalem," meaning the "foundation of (God's) peace," derives its name from the Hebrew yarah "he (God) casts," and shalom, "peace." Jerusalem thus becomes the place where God's peace is found, the center of his peace, the focal point of all the people of the earth, in every generation, who long for peace.

What does that mean for us? It means that if anyone is serious about peace, be that inner peace and or peace in the world, we must focus upon Jerusalem, the foundation of the Creator's peace. We must examine why it is the City of God's Peace by taking to heart what the Prince of Peace did to bring it about. For there is no other way, please hear this (listen to my Son), to acquire peace, except through the Prince of Peace, Jesus. He is "the way, the truth, and the life, no one comes to the Father (the Author of Peace) except through me (him)." (John 14) Every other form of peace is illusory or a fraud. Any other attempt to bring about peace will ultimately fail.

According to God's prophets, all nations will eventually move toward Jerusalem. At some point in time, we are told, "every knee shall bow, and every tongue shall confess" (Isaiah 46, Romans 14), that the Prince of Peace is Lord. Some will do so as they enter into the eternal and peaceful joy of God, the rest will do so as they enter into eternal chaos and absence of peace. Which of those two groups will you be in?

During this Lenten season, as we journey toward Jerusalem with the Prince of Peace, I pray that all of the followers of Jesus would behave as he behaved. I hope that Christians will intentionally teach the principles of genuine peace to their friends, neighbors and enemies. I trust that the Body of Christ will minister the graces of peace to a world of folks who know no peace. Ultimately, I pray that we will share Jesus, the Prince of Peace, and the foundation and source of the only true and lasting peace.

Proverbs 3:5

• PLACES TO WORSHIP •

John 3:16

BLUE VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH

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

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

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

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

BUCK CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

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

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: 7p.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: Education for Adults, 9 a.m.

Holy Eucharist Rite II, (chapel), 10:30 a.m.

8 a.m., services and Healing services will resume in the spring.

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

(Off Franklin/Highlands Rd) • Rev. Carson Gibson

Sunday School: 10 am, Worship Service: 11 am

Bible Study: 6 pm

GRACE COMMUNITY CHURCH OF CASHIERS

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www.gracecashiers.com • Pastor Steve Doerter: 743-9814

Services: Sundays 10am - Wed. - 7pm; Dinner - Wed. 6pm

HAMBURG BAPTIST CHURCH

Hwy 107N. • Glenville, Nc • 743-2729

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, 6p.

Wednesday: Bible Study, 6:30p; Prayer Mtg., 7:30p.

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.

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

• POLICE & FIRE •

The Highlands Police log entries from Feb. 17 Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor or public officials have been used.

Feb. 17

• At 12:05 p.m., officers were called about a simple physical assault at a residence on Main Street.

Feb. 18

• At 9:53 a.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident on Big Bearpen Road.

Feb. 19

• At 2:20 p.m., officer responded

ed to a two-vehicle accident on Third Street.

Feb. 20

• At 11 a.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident on 4th Street. Officers began a DWI investigation concerning the accident.

The Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. log from Feb. 13

Feb. 13

• At 3:08 p.m., the dept. offered mutual assistance to Cashiers FD.

• A little after midnight, the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Cheyenne Drive.

• At 10:30 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm on Cullasaja Club Drive.

Feb. 16

• At 10:50 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm on Main Street.

Feb. 18

• At 3:22 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to S. 4th. Street.

Feb. 19

• At 1:28 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Netsi Place.

• 2016 VOTING REGS. •

ONE STOP LOCATIONS, DAYS AND TIMES

Macon County Board of Elections Office
(Macon County Courthouse)
5 W Main St, Franklin

Dates: March 3 - March 12

Monday-Friday 8AM to 6PM

Saturdays, March 5 and March 12 9AM to 1PM

Highlands Civic Center, 600 N 4th St., Highlands, NC

Dates: March 3 - March 12

Monday-Friday 9AM to 4PM

Saturdays, March 5 and March 12 9AM to 1PM

NOTE: Any registered voter in Macon County may vote at the Highlands One Stop site, you do not have to be a resident of Highlands.

The Democratic Party is Throwing a PARTY!

It's a Precinct Meeting and more: Food, Fun & Caucus!

Saturday, March 5th, 5-9 p.m.

in the Hudson Library Back Room

Wine & hors d'oeuvres – 5p

Precinct Meeting – 5:30p

Dinner – 6:30p

CAUCUS – 7:30p

All are invited!

Bring a salad, appetizer or wine to share. Main dishes and dessert will be provided.

For more info, call 828-526-4594.



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Directed by Donna Cochran

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Friday—Sunday, March 18, 19, 20
Fridays & Saturdays at 6:15 p.m.
Sunday Matinees at 1:15 p.m.

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507 Chestnut Street
Highlands NC

TICKETS: 828-526-8084
highlandscashiersplayers.org

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by Henry Kimmel

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by David Fleischer

Metaphorical Shoes
by Judith Pratt

Misfortune
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...FOUNDERS continued from page 9

ing requirements which is three spaces per booth which equates to about 75 parking spaces.

Setting up a show on private property in town requires a permit but there is no charge for it, said Frye.

Proposed dates are Father's Day weekend and the weekend of Aug. 20.

As to the town sponsoring a show, Frye said it's possible but he wants to wait and see if Strain can find a new venue.

Concerning the Highlands Marketplace, which is every Satur-

day from 9a to 1p during the season, Frye said the town is working with the group.

"There are several ways it could continue and we hope to resolve the issues soon. At this time it is planned to be allowed in the park this season," he said.

Meanwhile, Commissioner Patterson said Recreation Director Lester Norris has been charged with working up guidelines and regulations concerning uses in the park.

In addition the town is taking another look at signage for events

in the park.

"We have sign ordinances that we have worked hard on over the years and we don't want to get rid of them so we are figuring out how we can have signage," said Patterson. "We agree that we need residents and visitors to know what is going on in the park but we don't want signage to be overwhelming. We want it to be conspicuous without being conspicuous."

Currently, no off-premise signage is allowed.

Patterson said the town is working on some kind of standardized signage – size, color – to advertise events that the town will put up and take down within the confines of the park.

Since the art and crafts show won't be in the park as planned, Patterson said there are two week-ends now open for events.

"If someone wants to have an event you can; you just can't take the park and profit from it," said Commissioner Brian Stiehler

– Kim Lewicki

...LETTERS continued from page 3

K-H Founders Park 'use' regulations should be revised

Dear Editor,

I read with dismay that at least two community events have been banned from using the town's lovely Founder's Park because these events are not strictly non-profit.

I am writing because I believe that to not permit these events because they are for-profit is like the tail wagging the dog. By that I mean that the greater values of increasing visitors to our town, and of bringing the community together need to be lost to compliance to a regulation.

I would like to see the town consider exceptions to the rule that are, ultimately, for the benefit of the town. Perhaps charging a different, higher fee for events that are for profit could bridge the gap. Perhaps having a policy that in the case of two competing events in the park on any given date, the non-profit event would have priority.

I believe rigid application of the current policy is not in the best interest of the people of Highlands.

Carole Light
Scaly Mountain

...MAYOR continued from page 2

would open Pandora's Box, so to speak. A number of regional art show and commercial event promoters could make the same demands for use of the park, promising to follow the exact formula for distributing proceeds. In fact, the town has received similar requests to use the park for art shows and related activities. Questions invariably arise as to why one person has the privilege to use the park for personal profit, while others cannot.

Some merchants, especially businesses on Main Street who pay retail rents comparable to Manhattan, have expressed concerns about vendors selling competitive merchandise in the town-owned public park. Furthermore,

if the park was open to an ongoing stream of vendor events, park access as a public recreation venue would be curtailed.

So as mayor, I have to support the town policy that events in the park are to be primarily for the benefit of nonprofit organizations. In the coming weeks, the Town Board will be reviewing an updated draft on park policies. The public, including nonprofit stakeholders, will have the opportunity to respond to existing and proposed policies.

PS. I will be trash talking at the Mayor's Coffee at 11 am, tomorrow at the Hudson Library. There is also an important Invasive Plant Workshop tomorrow, beginning at 9 am at the Community Building.

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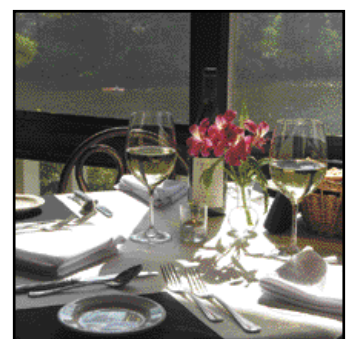
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