

Highlands Newspaper

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Thurs., July 27, 2017

Town Board candidates stand to serve another day

The filing period for the Nov. 7 Town Board election was Friday July 7 through Friday July 21 and as it turns out the sitting board members up for election will retain their seats.

Three candidates will be on

the ballot without contenders: Mayor Pat Taylor, and commissioners Amy Patterson and Donnie Calloway.

Since there aren't any contenders this year, the candidates were asked a few simple questions.

Can each of you in your capacity say why you wanted to retain your seat?

What work does each of you in your capacity still want to accomplish?

What are the issues you feel

are facing Highlands at this time?

First up, Mayor Pat Taylor.

"I have been gratified in working with the residents of Highlands, the Town Board, and the town staff for the past four years.

•See CANDIDATES page 7

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What a difference one year makes!

Hurricanes move from last to 2nd at 2017 Mountain Swim League Conference meet

On Saturday July 22, 35 Highlands Hurricane swimmers traveled to Franklin for the Mountain Swim League (MSL) 2017 Conference meet. The past two seasons the team had swum well, but finished last.

This year was different.

The team finished 2nd, scoring

343.5 points to Cherokee County Aquatics Club's 304 and Jackson County's 194. Franklin Amateur Swim Team won with 956.5 pts.

The win was a complete team effort with 33 swimmers scoring. The Hurricanes brought

•See HURRICANES page 2



Burned out wreckage in Community Bible Church parking lot.

Arson may not be cause of vehicle fires

Just before 1:30 a.m. Saturday morning, eight fire fighters with three trucks from the Highlands Fire Department were on scene at a fire at Community Bible Church.

Macon County 911 received a call reporting the sound of a gun shot in the area, then a few minutes later neighbors called again and reported seeing a fire.

Once on scene, Highlands Fire Department Chief Ryan Gearhart said it took his team, with the help of two trucks and

five personnel from Cashiers-Glenville Fire & Rescue Department, about 11 minutes to get the fires under control.

The fire fully engulfed three vehicles – one church bus and two vans – parked in a gravel parking lot across from the church's main parking lot.

The fire department and investigators believe it started in the 2014 bus parked between the two vans – 2003 and 2008, respectively – one of which was parked slightly downhill 21 feet away from the bus

in the middle. The other van was basically next to the bus.

"Scaly Mountain Fire Department stood by at our station to respond to other calls if need be," he said. "It took us approx. 10-15 min to have the fires under control. At first, natural instinct is to suspect arson but upon further investigation and with the help of the Sheriff's department and the fire marshal, arson hasn't been ruled out but at the same time the probability has been lowered. There were no

•See VEHICLE page 16

MC Health Department braces for funding cuts

Expects an increase in OB/GYN, pediatric clients

Friday, July 15 was the last day a baby will be delivered at Angel Medical Center (AMC) in Franklin. The hospital, which is owned by Mission Health Systems, shut down its Labor and Delivery Unit (L&D) on July 14, after giving the public a two-month notice of the change.

The sudden closure sent expectant mothers and families

across the county into a panic as what to do when starting or growing their families. Not only did L&D close at AMC, Mission Health announced that the hospitals pediatricians and OB/GYN would be downsizing and relocating. More than a dozen doctors, nurses, and midwives who once served Macon County families

•See HEALTH page 14

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• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• MAYOR ON DUTY •

...on the agenda

Oh how time flies! The Town Board meeting tonight will be the 44th monthly meeting that I have had the honor to preside over as mayor. The meeting will be at the Highlands Community Building starting at 7. There is a full agenda. As always, we will begin with public comment.



Highlands Mayor
Patrick Taylor

A major item is the review of the recently passed "Sunday Brunch Law." The legislature passed this law a few weeks ago. It was immediately signed by the governor and some towns immediately approved its provision to allow the serving of alcohol at 10 am on Sunday instead of the current 12 noon. The new law enables communities to allow 10 am service if the governing body votes to approve the change. I expect folks from our hospitality businesses to be present in support of the earlier serving time.

There will be reviews of two bids concerning public works and recreation projects. The waterline replacement bid for Satulah Falls/Old Orchard has come in slightly under budget estimates. I anticipate

the board approving the bid so work can get underway as soon as possible.

The other bid to be reviewed is for the renovation of the stage and the lower level of the recreation center. That bid was slightly over the projected estimate. Given that the county partnered with the town by approving funds for recreation capital improvements, this renovation should be able to move forward. There will be ample county funds remaining in the budget to allow us to then

move toward completing the final upgrades and renovations to the facility. Given that there is an increasing demand in building and construction, I was somewhat pleased with the bids.

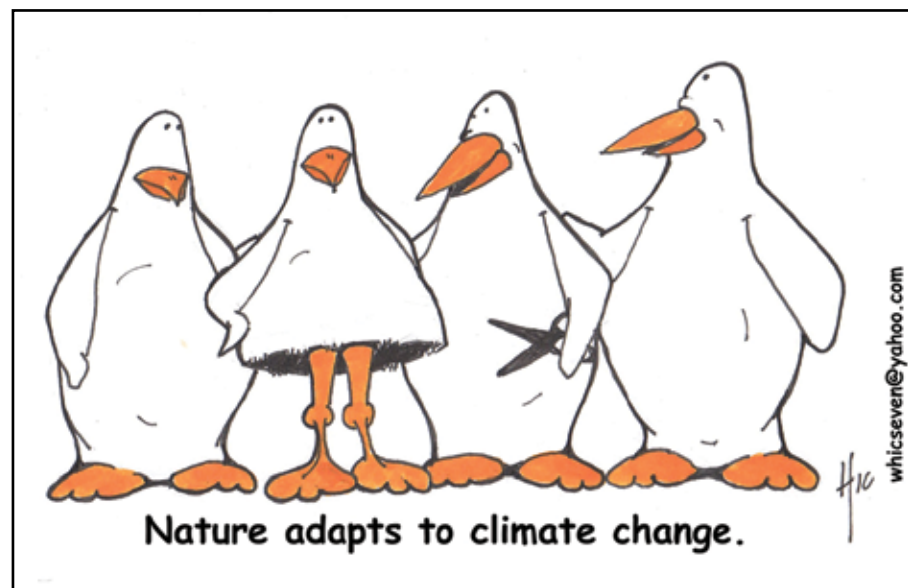
Plans for the solar eclipse will also be reviewed. With August 21st approaching fast, the board may need to make some adjustments in policy and plans in order to accommodate the anticipated large crowds. Also, at tomorrow's Community Coffee with the Mayor, at the Hudson Library at 11am, representatives from the eclipse committee will be present to update folks.

Finally, the board will get a broadband update from Matt Shuler. The town sent out a request for information (RFI) to private broadband providers several weeks ago. There have been several meetings with potential providers who are interested in the town's plan to build a fiber optic network that would serve our residents and businesses. Matt will give the board his feedback concerning where the town stands with the project. I hope the board will then give our staff a directive concerning how to proceed from this point.

On a related topic, a fiber optic network could serve as the foundation for a future smart grid utility system. With the ever-increasing interest in green community initiatives, a smart grid that allowed more efficient management of electric and water services would be a critical component.

I also anticipate in the coming weeks new information about how to improve our recycling efforts. The town manager will attend several meetings that could be productive.

• HIC'S VIEW



...HURRICANES continued from page 1

home 95 ribbons and 46 medals 19 of them gold. Thirty-one of the Hurricanes swimmers set 56 personal records (PR's) and 16 different swimmers combined for 12 team records. Twenty-three of the swimmers had a total of 46 Allstar swims.

Chase Kenter lead the team in scoring with 28 pts, five gold medals, a team record, and three Allstar swims. Finneas Garner scored 21 pts, two gold medals, two silver, and a bronze, and also set a team record and had three Allstar swims.

Conner Hughes scored 20 pts, won two gold medals, a silver and two bronzes, a team record and three Allstar swims.

Kenter, Garner and Hughes will represent the Hurricanes at the AAU Jr. Olympics this week in Detroit, MI.

Layla Babac scored 23 pts, two gold

medals, two silver medals, two team records and 3 Allstar swims. Andre Halldin scored 22 pts, a gold medal, two silvers, and three Allstar swims.

Savannah Byrd scored 20 pts, a gold medal, two silver and a bronze, two team records, and an Allstar swim. Vivi Geren scored 17.5 pts, a gold medal, a silver medal, four team records and two Allstar times.

Ben Halldin scored 16 pts, a gold medal, a bronze medal, three Allstar swims and a PR. Twin sister Dasha scored 15 pts, a gold and a silver medal, two team records and two Allstar swims.

Blake Kenter scored 14 pts, a silver medal, an Allstar swim, and three PR's. Lauch Young scored 13.5 pts, a gold medal.

• See HURRICANES page 8

Highlands Newspaper

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Letter Policy:

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

• WEEKEND WEATHER •

FRIDAY JUL 28	SATURDAY JUL 29	SUNDAY JUL 30
74°/60°	76°/50°	76°/52°

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• OBITUARY •

Lelia T. "Lyn" Smith

Lelia T. "Lyn" Smith, 73, wonderful and loving wife of R. Lee Smith, Jr; and mother of: Chris Smith (Alison); granddaughters: Madison and Kate Lee entered into rest Tuesday, July 11, 2017.

Mrs. Smith was born in Seattle, WA and was a native of Jacksonville, FL. and Savannah, GA. She graduated from Bennett College in New York where she majored in Interior Decorating. She lived in Augusta since 1969. She was a member of the Church of the Good Shepherd and a former member of the Savannah Junior League and Augusta Junior League. She was also a Sustaining member of the Augusta Junior



League. She was one of the initial volunteer decorators for the Phinizy Swamp Soirée for the Nature Park.

Mrs. Smith was a homemaker and loved spending time in Augusta, GA and Highlands, NC. She was a member of The Bascom in Highlands. She enjoyed interior decorating and gardening and was a former member of the Wood Valley

Garden Club.

A graveside service was held Monday, July 17, 2017 at Summerville Cemetery with The Rev. Robert D. Fain officiating. If inclined, memorials may be made to Alzheimer's Research Foundation, 3152 Little Road, Suite 146 Trinity, FL, 34655.

NOTE

Mission Health has set up a dedicated website where the community can stay up to date with the latest information. Go to: www.StandWithMission.com

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...CANDIDATES from page 1

I believe it is a tremendous honor and public trust to serve as mayor of Highlands. Working together with community stakeholders I believe we have all continued to move the town forward on several fronts. While being mayor has been the most challenging job in my long professional career, I enjoy serving as the mayor and want to continue in this leadership and servant position for the next four years.

"As to work left undone: the future of enhancing broadband service to the community is a critical initiative that has to be done. The town must partner with private entities to bring about a state of the art fiber optic and smart grid network. Town staff and elected officials have taken initial first steps, especially researching our options. The next step is to secure both private and public funding to build the network and service as soon as possible.

"Another important and ongoing effort is to upgrade and maintain critical municipal infrastructure while at the same time being good stewards of tax dollars. In the next few years there will be waterlines that need to be replaced, roads to be paved and other public enhancements. We cannot allow Highlands to fall into disrepair.

"We also need to embrace policies and practices that will enhance the community green footprint such as an expanded recycling program.

"The biggest overall issue facing Highlands is managing smart and sustainable growth. Not rapid growth, but embracing wise decisions that make our small community a desirable place to live while at the same time preserving the natural beauty that attracts so many to this town. Like in the past, it will be a balancing effort of promoting both progress and preservation.

Commissioner Amy Patterson has served as commissioner for 26 years. She was first elected in November 1989,



Mayor
Patrick Taylor



Commissioner
Amy Patterson



Commissioner
Donnie Calloway

•See CANDIDATES page 18

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- **IRAN: A Regional Superpower** Thursday, August 3 Time: 10:00-12:00
Presenter: Eren Tasar

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THE CURIOUS MIND
KNOWS NO BOUNDS

...HURRICANES continued from page 2



Team members display their ribbons and medals.

al, two bronze medals, a team record and three Allstar swims.

Aniah McKim scored 13 pts, a gold medal, a silver medal, and Allstar swim and three PR's. Elias McKim scored 12 pts, two silver medals, two team records and three Allstar swims. Justin Powell

score 11 pts, a bronze medal and two PR's.

Anni Geren scored 10 pts, a bronze medal, and an Allstar swim, and two PR's. Jelehna McKim scored eight pts, a bronze medal, two team records, an Allstar swim, and three PR's. Jordan Powell scored seven pts, a bronze medal, two Allstar swims and two PR's.

Brady Jolly scored 6.5 points, had three Allstar swims, a team record and two PR's. Diane Dallmann also score 6.5 pts, set two team records and had a PR. Peyton Kaylor, Maddy Jolly, and Aubrey Potts each scored 5.5 points. Kaylor had an Allstar swim and a PR. Jolly had two team records and Potts won a gold medal, a team record and had two PR's.

Penelope Hilson and Toby Henderson each scored five pts. Hilson had two team records and an Allstar swim and two PR's, while Henderson had an Allstar swim and a PR. Vivian Kennedy scored four pts and had a PR. Max Jestin scored three pts and had a PR. Fen Hilson and Mia Kaylor each had 2.5 pts.

Hilson had an Allstar swim and a PR, while Kaylor set a team record. Chloe Stiwinter, Landon and Sadie Green, and Asa Garner all scored two points. Stiwinter set a team record and had a PR. Landon Green had an Allstar swim and a PR while sister Sadie had two PR's and Garner set a PR. Elizabeth Hilson scored one pt and had a PR. Briella McKim had two PR's. Matt Cohen swam exhibition and had three Allstar swims and three PR's.

The Highlands Hurricanes are a Highlands Recreation Park Age Group Swim team with swimmers from age 4 to 17 that practice at the Highlands Recreation Park Pool Monday - Thursday evenings and Saturday mornings. All practices are not mandatory.

The only requirement for joining the team is to be able to swim one length of the pool (25 yards) unassisted.

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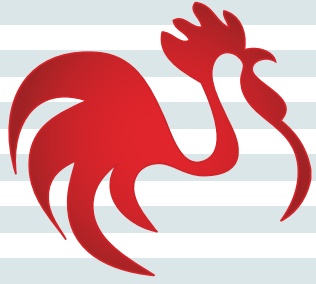
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• THE INK PENN •

A Summer Adventure

First published July 2016

My husband, who retired long before I did, has two groups of friends he connects with regularly. First is a group that I think of as the Coffee and Computer Club, a group of guys who meet monthly at a local coffee shop. While it's not officially a computer club, several of the members—though not my husband—

are fairly expert with computers, so the conversation often veers in that direction.

The second group sprung up a few years back when more and more of his high school friends were retiring. They nicknamed themselves the ROMEO club (retired old men eating out) and began meeting every few weeks or so at different places for lunch.

My husband and I both attended Clarkston High School, but, as I like to say, many years apart. That means I never knew his classmates but did know many of their younger siblings and cousins.

As I was still working until late last year, my schedule never permitted me to join the group. This year, though, when an invitation was issued for an afternoon on Lake Lanier, my newly minted retirement status allowed me to accept. One of the group members has a home on the lake complete with a pontoon boat, a kayak, and other water toys. The plan was to motor to lunch and return for some relaxation on the dock.

Given our summer thunderstorm season and a forecast for late-morning showers that day, I did wonder whether the playdate would be canceled, but I was happily not in charge and let that thought pass. I should have held on to it.

We all arrived at elevenish and set out for Holiday Marina for lunch. We had a pleasant meal watching the sun come in and out of the clouds, up until we were paying our bill. It suddenly got much darker, and our waiter mentioned in passing that there were severe thunderstorms in the area. That prompted our captain to hurry us to the boat and set off for home.

It was immediately clear that we weren't going to avoid the storm. A few brave souls had to sit up front to keep the boat balanced, while the rest of us huddled beneath



Kathy Manos Penn

the awning, and our captain soldiered on. With rain blowing sideways, lightning striking all around us, and waves splashing into the boat, it was quite the adventure. Our captain called it the perfect storm as he steered us through the whitecaps and safely back to the dock.

Though we were thoroughly soaked, we laughed it all off. My husband had to borrow a hair dryer to dry out a hearing aid, and his cell phone got so wet it changed colors. One wife threatened not to let her husband sit in her new car, and he threatened to strip in the driveway, but mostly we took it in stride. After all, it makes for a great story—a story of how you're never too old to do something stupid. We all know we were very fortunate.

I can only imagine, though, what all these parents would have said if a teenager had done the exact same thing: "Thank goodness you're safe," followed quickly by "I can't believe you did something so dangerous" and "What were you thinking?" The final comment would have to be, "Just never you mind what I did; do as I say, not as I do."

• Find this story in Kathy's collection of columns, "The Ink Penn: Celebrating the Magic in the Everyday," available locally at The Molly Grace in Highlands and Books Unlimited in Franklin, and on Amazon. Look for her new book "Lord Banjo the Royal Pooch" due out in late August. Contact her at inkpenn119@gmail.com.



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• POLICE & FIRE REPORTS •

The Highlands Police log entries from July 14. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor or public officials have been used.

July 14

• At 6:06 p.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident on NC 106.

July 15

• At 1:17 p.m., officers were called about a verbal argument transpiring at Mountain Fresh. July 16

• At 1:30 p.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident on US 64 east.

• At 8:25 p.m., officers responded to a call of criminal damage to property when someone hit a vehicle with a hatchet at a residence on Upper Lake Road.

July 17

• At 11:19 a.m., officers responded to a report of property damage to a vehicle when a fork lift was backed into it at the 200 Main construction site.

• At 5 p.m., officers were called about a shoplifting incident at The Christmas Tree where someone took a candle without paying for it.

July 18

• At 7:25 p.m., Joshua Jeremiah Jackson, 28 of Charlotte, NC, was arrested for first degree trespassing on Pierson Drive. He was issued a \$500 secured bond. His trial date is Aug. 9.

July 23

• At 1:30 a.m., officers responded to a

• See POLICE & FIRE page 21

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• HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

Ongoing

• Movies at the Highlands Playhouse: Summer Movies: Sun., 5:30 and 8p; Mon., 2, 5, 8p; Tues., 2, 5, 8p.

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

• The Nature Center will be open Tuesday-Saturdays from 10am-5pm and from 12pm-5pm on Sundays. The Nature Center is closed on Mondays.

• The Glenville Area Historical Society Museum is open every Thursday, Friday and Saturday 11 AM to 3 PM until October 14. The Museum that traces the history of Glenville from it's founding to present day though wall displays and items of historical value, is located at 4735 Highway 107 in Glenville. For information call 828 743-1658, email historicalsocietyglenville.org or go to www.glenvillecommunity.com

Mondays, July 3, and Aug. 7

• Botanical Garden Tour. 10:30 am - 11:30 am • Free. All ages. At the Highlands Botanical Garden. Learn to identify and remove non-native invasive species from your garden and the surrounding forest.

Mon., June 5, 12, 19, 26 (4 sessions)

• Thinking Bridge: Play of the Hand (intermediate), 9:30-11:30 Cost \$80/\$90 Instructor: Duane Meeter. To Register Call 526-

8811 or www.clehighlands.com

First Mondays

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

Mondays

• At the Rec Park, High Cardio Zumba Fitness with Certified Instructor Tiffany Austin at 5:25 p.m.

Mon. & Thurs.

• The Joy Program at HUMC from 11:30a to 1:30p. Includes a free lunch and a variety of programs and games. All seniors are welcome. For more info, call Tricia Smith at 828-338-8167.

Mon., Wed., Fri.

• Heart Healthy Exercise Class Monday, Wednesday and Friday 8:30-9:30am. Contact Janet Avery at 828-200-7508 for more information.

• Aerobics with Tina Rogers 8-9a.

Mon.-Fri.

• Lap Swim Monday-Friday 7am-10am 6 lanes and Monday -Thursday 5pm-6pm 1 or 2 lanes. Sharing pool with Water Aerobics @ 5:15.

• Water Aerobics Monday-Friday 10:15am-11:15am and Monday-Thursday 5:15pm-6pm (sharing pool with lap swimmers) and Saturday mornings from 11:15-noon.

Tuesdays

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

• The Humanist Discussion Group meets every Tuesday morning from 10:30-11:30a in the Meeting Room in the back of Hudson Library,

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. For info call 369-7385.

2nd and 4th Tuesdays

• OccupyWNC meets at the 7PM in the Sneak E. Squirrel Community Room (1314 Main St., Sylva. Visit www.occupywnc.org or call 828.331.1524

Third Tuesday

• The Macon County Poultry Club meets at the NC Cooperative extension office located at 193 Thomas Heights Rd., Franklin on the third Tuesday of each month at 7pm. Meetings are open to the public. Call 828-369-3916.

Tuesday and Thursdays

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

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

• Exercise Class with Tina Rogers held Tuesday and Thursday at 5:15p.m.

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.

Wednesday-Saturday

• The Highlands Historic Village is open June-October. It's free. Visit the Highlands Historical Museum, the Prince Houe, Bug Hill Cottage, Furman Vinson's Boat, The Old Jail while taking a break in the peaceful setting that commemorates Highlands' past.

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.

• Indivisible Highlands, a non-partisan activist group meets weekly at the Hudson Library at 5p. For more information call 770-823-0601

• NAMI Support Group for individuals dealing with mental illness and the family members of individuals dealing with these challenges from 7 - 8:15 pm. at First United Methodist Church Out Reach Center on West Main Street beside Bryant's Funnel Home. 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 4:30-6pm, Angel Medical Center; Video Con-

ference Room, 3rd Floor, 120 Riverview St. Contact Majestic 828-369-9474

Thurs., & Sat.

• Zumba with Mary K. Barbour at the Rec Park from 11a to noon. For more information, call 828.342.2498.

Fridays

• Live music in Town Square from 6-8 p.m.

Fridays & Saturdays

• Art's at the Lodge. Live Music 4-8 p.m.. Cocktails in Art's or on the lawn at the Lodge. On Spring Street.

Saturdays

• Farmers Marketplace in K-H Founders Park from 8a-12:30p.

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

• Scrabble at Hudson Library from 1-4 p.m. Bring board if possible. All are welcome. 727-871-8298.

• The Bascom Knitters on the Terrace at The Bascom from 10 am until noon or downstairs in The Bascom Library room.

• Music in K-H Founders Park 6-8 p.m. Bring a picnic!

Thur., July 27

• Franklin Roosevelt and the Origins of the Modern Presidency, 10:00-12:00 Cost \$25/\$35 Presenter: William Lasser. To Register Call 526-8811 or www.clehighlands.com

• SIRI, 10:30-3:30 Cost \$75/\$85 Instructor: Nigel Sixsmith. To Register Call 526-8811 or www.clehighlands.com

Fri., July 28

• At Hudson Library, Community Coffee with Mayor Pat Taylor at 11 a.m. The subject will be the Aug. 21 eclipse.

• The Coalition for Nonnative Invasive Plant Management, CNIPM, is offering a free seminar, "Birds, Bees, and Botany: Planting Natives and Combating Invasives" on July 28th from 9:00 to 12:30 at the Community Building, next to the ball fields in Highlands. Bring a lunch and stay for afternoon field trips to outstanding private native gardens from 1-2:30p.. Also see living examples of our "Most Unwanted" plants. Packets of educational materials will be provided for those who pre-register. To preregistration: 828-787-1230 or dlandwehr7@aol.com. Walk-ins are welcome.

Sat., July 29

• At the Playhouse, Children's Theatre Finale at 10:30. Spellbound: A fractured fairytale. Parents, as well as the community, are invited to this short presentation. Free admission. Doors to the playhouse will open at 10:00a. Estimated run time 15 minutes.

• Bluegrass Bash—The Highlands Emergency Council will present its 4th Annual Bluegrass Bash featuring The J.V. Band and the Carmel Ridge Blue Grass Band on Saturday, July 29, from 1:00 to 4:30 p.m. at the Kelsey-Hutchinson Founders Park. The day will include hotdogs, clogging, freestyle danc-



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• HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

ing and a raffle. Lunch tickets are \$5.. Come join us for an old-fashioned afternoon of fun, while supporting the Highlands Emergency Council.

- Chamber Music: Schubert's Greatest Chamber Work and Other Musical Masterpieces, 10:00-12:00 Presenter: Stephen Crist. To Register Call 526-8811 or www.clehighlands.com

- The Bascom Member's Challenge: Inspirations from Black Mountain College: The Bascom at the Opening Reception from 4-6pm on July 29, 2017. Free and open to the public. For more information contact The Bascom at

828-526-4949 or visit us www.the-bascom.org

Mon-Thurs. July 31 – Aug. 3

- Students age 5 to 12 are invited to come to a FREE camp at The Literacy Council from July 31 to August 3 from 1 to 4 pm. Activities include a reader's theater play, art projects, costume design, live frogs, science projects, and so much more! Parents and family are invited to attend the Bugs and Critters Play on August 3 at 3 pm. To register, please contact Tonya Anderson at 828-526-0863 or by emailing tanderson@highlandsliteracy.com.

Mon., July 31–Fr., Aug. 4

- The free annual music camp

HCCMF features The Ariel Quartet this week



Highlighting Week 5 of the Highlands-Cashiers Chamber Music Festival are, The Ariel Quartet, Laura Ardan, and Benjamin Karp. Concert dates are July 28 through July 31.

The Ariel Quartet was formed in Israel sixteen years ago when its members were young students and they have been playing together ever since. Recently awarded the prestigious Cleveland Quartet Award, the Quartet serves as the Faculty Quartet-in-Residence at the University of Cincinnati's College-Conservatory of Music, where they direct the chamber music program and perform their own annual series of concerts.

Friday and Saturday, the Quartet will feature works by Mozart, Widmann, and Brahms. They will be joined by Laura Ardan on clarinet and Benjamin Karp on cello for concerts on Sunday and Monday.

Principal Clarinet Laura Ardan has been with the Atlanta Sym-

phony Orchestra since 1982 and holds the endowed Robert Shaw Chair. She has been a featured soloist with the Orchestra in works by Mozart, Weber, Debussy, Copland, Bernstein, Finzi, Rossini, Shaw, and Michael Gandolfi, and has also performed with the Cleveland Quartet.

Cellist Benjamin Karp has performed concerti, chamber music, and orchestral repertoire on four continents, and became a faculty member at the University of Kentucky in 1991. During the summer months Mr. Karp teaches, performs, and serves as Head of Strings at the Brevard Music Center.

Concerts are held Fridays and Sundays at the Highlands Performing Arts Center. The Albert Carlton Cashiers Community Library hosts concerts on Saturdays and Mondays. For tickets and more information contact hcmusicfestival.org or call the Highlands-Cashiers Chamber Music Festival office at 828-526-9060

of the Highlands United Methodist Church will be Monday through Friday. The program is from 9 until 3:30 each day with final performance of the camp musical on Friday at 5:30. Open to all children from rising first graders to completed sixth grade. Children should bring a lunch. To register call 828-526-3376.

Mon., July 31

- Aery Chiropractic & Acupuncture. Free Health Lecture Series from 6-7 p.m. Upstairs – 2655 Dillard Road. This week: Melanie Marshall, LED Light Therapy

Tue.-Fri., Aug. 1-4

- At The Bascom, Summer Camp: Session 7 - 9a-noon and 1-4p. Print Making. Posters, t-shirts, greeting cards and more will be created using your own creative ideas in the printmaking session of summer camp. To register call 526-4949.

- Nature Play. Highlands Nature Center • 828-526-2623. Ages 4 - 6 • 9 am - 11 am daily • Cost \$75 per child. Most learning occurs outside of a formal classroom and numerous studies support playing and learning outdoors. Campers will have the opportunity to improve problem-solving techniques and enhance cognitive abilities all while using play as a learning tool. Interactive investigations, live animals, and fun games make this camp a truly hands-on experience.

- Plants-a-Plenty. Highlands Nature Center. Ages 4 - 6 • 9 am - 11 am daily. Cost \$75 per child. Highlands is a perfect place to investigate plant biodiversity. Campers will be ex-posed to plant and tree basics while exploring in the Highlands Botanical Garden. 828-526-2623.

Tue., Aug. 1

- Paddle Faster: James Dickey and "Deliverance." 10:00-12:00 Cost \$25/\$35 Presenter: Hugh Ruppertsburg. To Register Call 526-8811 or www.clehighlands.com

- iOs Delving Deeper: More About the iPad and iPhone, 10:30-3:30 Cost \$75/\$85 Instructor: Nigel Sixsmith. To Register Call 526-8811 or www.clehighlands.com

Wed., Aug. 2

- A Transforming Middle East, 10:00-12:00 Cost \$25/\$35 Presenter: Akram Khater. To Register Call 526-8811 or www.clehighlands.com

Thursdays, Aug. 3, 10, 17, 24

- Bridge Mistakes to Avoid-Novice Plus and Intermediate, 9:30-11:30 Cost \$80/\$100 Instructor: Brenda Manning. To Register Call

526-8811 or www.clehighlands.com

Thur., Aug. 3

- Zahner Lecture Series at the Nature Center at 6:30 p.m. Darwin's Backyard. Free

- IRAN: A Regional Superpower, 10:00-12:00 Cost \$25/\$35 Presenter: Akram Khater. To Register Call 526-8811 or www.clehighlands.com

Fri., Aug. 4

- Who Goes to Heaven? 2:00-4:00 Cost \$25/\$35 Presenter: Jeffrey Small, Jr. To Register Call 526-8811 or www.clehighlands.com

Mon., Aug. 7

- Aery Chiropractic & Acupuncture. Free Health Lecture Series from 6-7 p.m. Upstairs – 2655 Dillard Road. This week: Dr. Sue, Injury!

- The Great Eclipse of 2017, 10:00-12:00 Cost \$25/\$35 Presenter: Steve Danford. To Register Call 526-8811 or www.clehighlands.com

- "Moonrise Wine & Cheese on Laurel Knob" Join us for wine and cheese atop one of our premiere properties in Jackson County as we watch the August "blueberry moon" rise. Learn about the fragile ecosystem we protect there that features

a vertical cataract wetland, created by a stream that flows over the rock face on this easy to moderate early evening visit. Reservations required. \$35 donation for new friends includes the guided hike, lunch on the trail and a one-year membership to Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust, \$10 for HCLT members. To reserve: info.hitrust@earthlink.net or 526-1111.

Tues. Aug. 6

- "Voiceless" at Smoky Mountain Center for the Performing Arts at 3 p.m. It's free but donations accepted for SMPCC.

- At The Bascom, the third annual 'Rise and Shine' event for the Highlands Community Fund at 6:30 p.m.. So Rise and Shine for the Highlands Community Fund and come enjoy a night of great food, entertainment. Tickets to this event are \$100 and the dress is mountain casual. For more information contact Highlands Community Fund, 'Rise and Shine' Chairpersons. Ann Klamon at AnnKlamonfaek@comcast.net, or at 1-404-432-06004, or Cindy Trevathan at cindytreathan@gmail.com, or at 828-526-2336.

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...HEALTH continued from page 1

were left jobless, and the community left not knowing what was next.

The Macon County Health Department is also left with a bundle of "what ifs" and uncertainties as to what is going to happen next.

Macon County Health Director Jim Bruckner immediately got to work after Mission Health's announcement weighing the impact the decision will have on the county health department.

With fewer resources for families in need of pediatricians and prenatal care, the health department began preparation for an influx in patients turning to the health department for prenatal care, instead.

While families can receive care at the health department, the option of delivery still remains complicated. Mission Health Systems will be transferring all deliveries to Asheville, which may not be feasible for all expectant mothers. Harris Regional Hospital in Sylva is

currently expanding its L&D Unit and can be an option for patients.

"MCPH current prenatal clients are asked their delivery location preference so that we can coordinate transfer of their clinical records," said Macon County Public Health Department Public Information Officer Kathy McGaha.

The news that Mission Health would no longer deliver babies at AMC came in the middle of budget season, so the health department wasn't able to financial plan for any change.

"We have not asked county commissioners for additional funds at this time," said McGaha. "This does not mean that we won't be asking for funds; however, until we see what the impact of the change in the outpatient OB services are, we cannot speculate what that amount may be."

Prenatal clients at the health department could double, or not change at all, but the health department isn't taking any chances in preparing for what may occur.

"It is unknown at this time (what percentage of increase we should expect)," said McGaha. "However, on a day-to-day basis we are continuing to monitor the

number of new clients establishing prenatal care at MCPH."

Not only is the health department expecting an increase in the number of prenatal clients due to Mission Health's Decision, the county's contract with their provider is set to expire.

"MCPH is actively seeking opportunities to establish a contractual relationship with an OB provider. Our current provider's contract ends 8/15/17," said McGaha. "If MCPH sees an increase in the number of clients seeking prenatal services at the health department, we will have to approach the Board of Health and Board of County Commissioners for expansion of services to include the need for additional funding."

The health department's overall funding for maternal care was also cut this year due to the state's budget.

"MCPH was informed this past week of a reduction in Maternal Health funding due to realignment of federal Maternal and Child Health Block Grant Funds by the NC General Assembly as part of this year's state budget (\$10,636)," said McGaha.

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corn, house made sausage, all steeped in
our seasoning. Served with drawn butter
and cocktail sauce. **\$36.95 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.
\$26.95 serves two

Wednesday - Prime Rib with Baked

Potatoes & Salad - Premium Angus
standing rib roast, cooked medium rare
w/ red wine au jus. Two baked potatoes
& a large Caesar salad. **\$35.95 serves two**

Thursday - Two Racks of Baby Back Ribs

- cooked until fall-off-the-bone-tender.
Served with house made bacon/apple
baked beans and potato salad.
\$27.95 serves two

Friday - Wild Caught Shrimp: fried or

steamed. Wild caught North Carolina
shrimp either lightly breaded in our
seasoned corn flour mixture, and then
properly fried in peanut oil & served w/
hush puppies; or steamed to order in our
low country seasoning. Both come with
coleslaw and rosemary sea salt broiled red
potatoes, tarter & cocktail sauce.
\$28.95 serves two

Saturday - In-House Smoked BBQ -

Hand rubbed pork butt, pit-smoked
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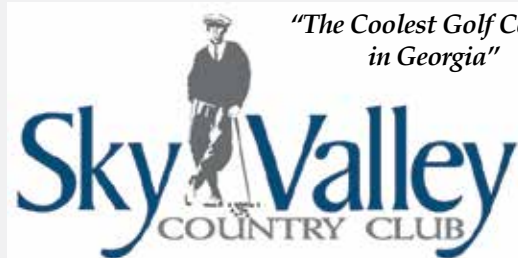
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...VEHICLES continued from page 1

'cut and dry' pieces of evidence that would lead us to believe it was in fact arson. With the amount of damage that is done to the vehicles, it is extremely hard to make a definite conclusion as to how and where in the vehicles the fire started."

According to Gearhart, this isn't the first incident of its kind to occur in Highlands. "We had a similar incident Dec 29, 2015 when Bryson's Grading had two dump trucks ignite and burn during the night," he said.

According to Macon County Fire Marshal Jimmy Teem, it appeared that the fire began near the front of the vehicle parked in the middle of the three vehicles that were lost during the fire. The last time it was driven was Thursday prior to the fire.

The three vehicles were a total loss, but Gearhart said despite rumors that were originally circulating, the church buildings were not damaged.

Macon County Sheriff Robert Holland said the suspected gunshots heard by the caller were probably the tires and windows exploding on the vehicles.

While there is no specific evidence at this point in the investigation, Sheriff Holland noted that it is still being treated as an arson investigation until proven otherwise.

"As with any investigation you must be meticulous," said Holland. "Arson investiga-

tions are incredibly difficult because evidence is typically destroyed by the fire. We are treating this investigation as worst-case scenario until we are able to rule otherwise. Treating it any less serious could jeopardize this investigation or any possible criminal prosecution in the future related to it. At this point we have no evidence that can rule out 'accidental' so therefore we will continue to treat it as an open arson investigation."

However on Tuesday, Macon County Sheriff Sgt. Don Willis said so far there is no evidence to suggest arson and after talking with Willis, Gearhart said he, too, feels confident it wasn't arson.

"There was no pour pattern to suggest someone poured gasoline on the vehicle but there is a path of gasoline that apparently leaked from the gas tank on the passenger side of the middle vehicle that traveled to the van parked slightly downhill which likely caused it to ignite," he said. "There are no marks in the gravel of another vehicle coming or going; no gravel disturbed."

Willis said he believes the fire started in the middle vehicle and spread out from the center to ignite the other two. But the insurance company will have the last word.

"Unless they can determine the exact cause this will go down as 'undetermined,'" he said.

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...CANDIDATES from page 7

took two years off, and has been re-elected ever since. She is the "collective" memory bank for the board.

"I don't think of it as wanting to retain my seat, but rather as a desire to continue to serve my community. Many people contribute to our community in many different ways. Serving on the Town Board is just another way to contribute to our community and I take that responsibility seriously.

"As to work undone: the work is never done because the situations, circumstances and needs of the community are always changing. Some circumstances evolve slowly and some change rapidly.

"The key is to balance the present or current situation with the needs and desires of the future. Sometimes you focus on the present while assessing the consequences for the future. And sometimes you focus on the future while considering the ramifications for the present."

Commissioner Donnie Calloway has also served in the past, in fact on the same board as Commissioner Patterson.

"I signed up forty minutes before the deadline. Initially, I didn't want to run this term due to a lot of personal conflicts in my life. However, with time running out and no one signing up, I felt it would be unfair to the town and my fellow commissioners and the Mayor to allow someone to go in as a write-in candidate. There is cohesiveness with this board and we can agree to disagree. I love our town and though I was reluctant, I will serve to the best of my ability.

"As to work undone: the recreation park is a big concern to me and is one reason I ran last time. We have accomplished several projects and I want to see the next phases completed. I also am learning a lot about broad band and am very anxious to see the next phase of finding a partner and seeing if it is a good decision to continue the project. There have been many road blocks to overcome as we try to bring the best possible service we can to Highlands.

"The town is involved in several projects including improving our water lines and water treatment plant. I enjoy being involved in these projects and find them necessary to improve our infrastructure.

"As the town continues to grow and attract more people, there are several concerns that will have to be addressed. Parking, housing for employees, traffic flow are just a few things that continue to be issues for the town. We continue to have good input from citizens on these and other issues and hopefully we will be able to come to some good resolutions.

"Thanks to all who have supported me and entrusted me with the operations of our great town. I also want to thank my awesome wife for her love and support all these years."

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Proverbs 3:5

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John 3:16

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

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

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

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School; 10:30a Worship Service

Mon. 6p Bible Study & Supper at homes

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.

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Sunday Service: 11 a.m.

Testimony Meeting: 5 p.m. on the 3rd Wed.

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

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3645 Cashiers Rd, Highlands, NC

Senior Pastor Gary Hewins

Sun.: 9:30am: Sunday School

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

10:45am: Worship Service

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

EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE INCARNATION

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Thursdays: Holy Eucharist Rite II.

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; Ch. 5p

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Curtis Fussell & Emily Wilmarth, pastors

526-3175 • fpchighlands.org

Sun.: Worship: 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

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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 Randy Lucas 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

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

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

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Rev. Marty Kilby

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Wednesdays: Prayer Mtg.: 7 p.m.

SCALY MOUNTAIN CHURCH OF GOD

290 Buck Knob Road; Pastor Donald G. Bates • 526-3212

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

SHORTOFF BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Rev. Andy Cloer

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Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study: 6 p.m.

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...POLICE & FIRE continued from page 10

call of criminal damage to property and drunk and disorderly conduct in a parking lot on Main Street where young men were standing on, sitting on and denting and scratching seven ferraris each worth \$40,000.

• At 2:48 a.m., Timothy Hill, 28, of Augusta, GA, was arrested for criminal damage to seven ferraris and for being drunk and disorderly. He was issued a \$3,000 unsecured bond. His trial date is Aug. 22.

• At 2:48 a.m., Cameron Stiles Walker, 26, of Anderson, SC, was arrested for criminal damage to seven ferraris and for being drunk and disorderly. He was issued a \$3,000 unsecured bond. His trial date is Aug. 22.

The Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. log from July 18.

July 18

• The dept. was first-responders to a residence on Keener Road.

July 19

• The dept. offered public assistance on Whiteside Cove Road.

- The dept. provided mutual aid to Cashiers FD.
- The dept. was first-responders on US 64 west.
- The dept. was first-responders on US 64 west.
- The dept. responded to a rescue call at Glen Falls.

July 20

• The dept. investigated smoke in the Little Bear Pen/ Sherwood Forest area.

July 21

• The dept. was called to investigate an odor at Cul-lasaja Club Drive.

July 22

• The dept. responded to a vehicle fire call at the CBC parking lot on US 64 east.

• The dept. was first-responders to a residence on Cul-lasaja Club Drive.

• Twice, the dept. was first-responders to a location on Main Street.

July 23

• The dept. was first-responders to a residence on Big Bear Pen Road.

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ALL AROUND OFFICE SOLUTIONS - Quickbooks set up and training Bookkeeping Services, Payroll Prep, Payroll Tax Prep, Billing services, Call Mary James at 828-421-0002 or email mjames@allaroundofficesolutions.com (st. 4/27)

HIGH COUNTRY PHOTO/KEVIN VINSON: scanning photos, slides & negatives to CD or DVD for easier viewing. Video transfer to DVD. Everything done in house. Leave message at 828-526-5208. (st. 3/16)

MOLD AND MUSTY SMELL IN YOUR HOME? Call for free inspection. 828-743-0900.

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE



FALLING WATERS. Gated community, beautiful mountain land. Just 2.4 miles from Main St. Cottage lot with small waterfall \$159K. Premium waterfall (above pix) \$439k. Other lots \$169k to \$259k. From Main St. and Hwy 106, turn west on 106. Go 1.8 miles just past Glen Falls sign...turn right on Mt. Laurel Dr., go 3/10 mile, turn left on Moonlight. Entrance is on the right. Contact onsite developer for plats and info. 828-508-9952. fallingwatersnc.com (st. 5/11)

WALK TO TOWN! Mill Creek townhome - 2 bdrs., 2 baths, 2 car garage, new kitchen appliances, stone fireplace, front porch overlooks large yard. \$419,900 - call 828-482-0326 to view. (st. 7/6)

1.21 ACRES FOR SALE BY OWNER - OTTO, NC - \$28,000. Lot 12 Quail Haven Road. Otto, NC. Price not firm...open for negotiation. Please email if interested to ddmars15@aol.com or call/text to 239-980-0531. If no answer please leave a message. (st. 7/20)

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT LUXURY HOME AVAILABLE FOR RENTAL OVER THE ECLIPSE WEEK. Call Jody Lovell at 828-226-6303. Incredible view of Whiteside Mountain and Whiteside Valley. Sits over Bear Shadow. Open view for eclipse. (st. 7/27)

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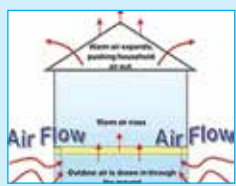
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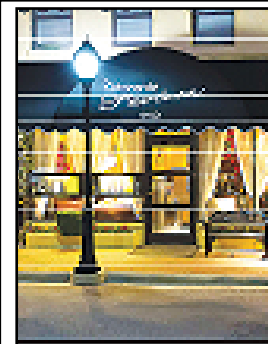
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