

# Highlands Newspaper

FREE every Thursday

Volume 10, Number 25

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Thursday, June 21, 2012

Through - Sun., July 8

• At The Highlands Playhouse, The Spitfire Grill. Call 828-526-2695 for ticket information.

Thursday, June 21

• Live music at Altitudes at Skyline Lodge. Norma Jean. 6:30-9p. Call 526-2121.

• At the Nature Center Ancient Cherokee Trail hike from 10a-2p. Call 526-2221.

Friday & Saturdays

• Live music at Altitudes at Skyline Lodge, 7p until. Hal Phillips. Call 526-2121.

Fri.-Sun., June 22, 23, 24

• History Live at the Historical Village on N. 4th Street from 6-7:15 p.m. Sunday at PAC on Chestnut Street at 4 p.m. Tickets are \$10 for adults and students are free.

Friday, June 22

• Friday Night Live from 6-8p in Town Square on Main Street. Johnny Webb.

Saturday, June 23

• Farmer's Market at Highlands School 9-noon.

• The Highlanders basketball team fundraiser at the Farmers Market at Highlands School. Washing cars and dogs.

• Pancake Breakfast from 7:30 to 10:30 a.m. at the Old Scaly School House on the corner of Highway NC 106 and Buckknob Road. \$5.50 for adults / \$3.50 for children.

• Live music at Altitudes at Skyline Lodge, 470 Skyline Lodge Road off Flat Mountain Road, with Jacob Deaton, jazz, blues, soul, 2:30-4p. 526-2121.

Sun.-Thurs., June 24-28

• Vacation Bible School at Highlands United Methodist Church. "Operation Overboard: Dare to Go Deep with God. 5-8 p.m. each night. Dinner is served from 5-5:30p.

Sunday, June 24

• Honduran "baleada" luncheon fundraiser at 12pm in the Methodist Church on Sunday. Contact Alex at 828 200-2360.

• Mission Fair at noon at the First Presbyterian Church. Call 526-3175.

Monday June 25

• Little Highlander Basketball Camp begins at the Highlands Recreation Department. Registration forms are available at the Civic Center.

## County 'sweepstake' regs pending GA

Macon County Commissioners have decided to take a "wait and see" attitude concerning sweepstake regulations in the county.

At the May meeting, the board asked County Attorney Chester Jones to investigate how

other counties are dealing with the issue – mainly Henderson County which has allegedly found a way around the stop gaps in place that allow the businesses to sprout outside the boundaries of municipalities on county land.

But at last week's June meet-

ing Jones instead discussed House Bill 1180 which has been introduced in the General Assembly. Rather than outlawing sweepstake establishments it proposes regulating and taxing them.

• See SWEEPSTAKE page 3

## 'Quiet generosity' epitomizes Woodruff



On Friday, June 8, the new Post Office at NC 106 and US 64 was dedicated with a ribbon cutting attended by state and local dignitaries, the architect, contractor, builder, the Jane Woodruff family, the Highlands Boy Scouts, numerous citizens and U.S. Postal Service representatives, who said Highlands' new Post Office is likely the best in Western North Carolina. In her invocation, Rev. Lee Bowman of First Presbyterian Church said the new Post Office represents another example of Woodruff's quiet generosity whose hand can be seen all over Highlands. Photo by Kim Lewicki

## Macon County opposing 'virtual school'

The Macon County School Board has adopted a resolution to join 45 other school boards across North Carolina in seeking

to join a lawsuit opposing a virtual charter school named NC Learns that could begin offering classes this fall.

"Forty-five boards have adopted the resolution to intervene in the litigation, and another 35 will

• See VIRTUAL page 18

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## Meadows & Patterson face off - Part 2 -

This week we begin to feature answers to questions posed Republican candidates Mark Meadows and Vance Patterson at the June 9 FreedomWorks debate.

The winner of the July 17 run-off will run against Democrat Hayden Rogers in November. For part 1 of the Debate Series see the June 14 edition.

The questions posed were involved and some referred to policies conservatives, both mid-stream and far-right, consider key to their positions. To understand the answers, policies will be explained as those questions come up.

When answering questions, Meadows and Patterson were asked to explain how their positions on issues differ.

**Question 1:** Do you see the threat of Sharia law in America as a major threat, minor threat, or no threat?

**Mark Meadows:** Major threat. We have judicial officials in America using Sharia Law as precedent in America. They are putting our Constitution on the shelf and looking at foreign law and Saria Law for justice.

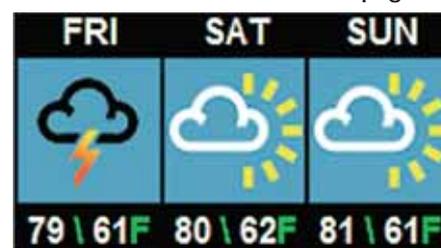
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• See DEBATE page 10

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# • THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

## • LETTERS •

### Some respect, please

Dear editor,

We have a beautiful green field at the intersection of the Bowery Road and the Horse Cove Road. It has remained pristine and unchanged since my grandfather bought it more than 80 years ago, and my husband and I have worked hard to keep it that way. It is an oasis on a heavily traveled road.

Because of the paving work being done on the Horse Cove Road below us, the N.C. D.O.T. is parking its large, heavy dump trucks along the edge of our field, between the Bowery Road and the field itself. It's not that we mind the use of that space per se, but what we do mind is the insensitivity to the landscape. We mind that they back their truck(s) up onto the roots and the base of the old oak tree at our gate. We mind that they force the beds of their trucks into the lower branches of this tree. We mind the muddy ruts they are creating. And when the trucks leave, we mind the trash and garbage they leave behind – the eggshells, the soggy paper towels, the aluminum cans.

On the one hand, we could tolerate and endure this insensitive abuse to our landscape for the duration of the work because we know (we assume) that it will not last forever. On the other hand, the damage to the old oak tree may well last forever.

Compressing the roots, compacting the soil and damaging the branches will have lasting, perhaps fatal, consequences. And what makes it worse is that it's not necessary. They don't need to park on top of the tree. There is plenty of room away from it. They will no doubt say that they park there so they won't block our gate into the field, but, as it is, they block our gate anyway. And I would much rather they block our gate than kill the tree. The Bowery Road was denuded of its large, old trees several years ago when it was widened and paved. Those that were spared the bulldozer's indifference are now more valued than ever and do not deserve further abuse and disrespect.

I ask the D.O.T. to get off of this tree. I wouldn't mind if they stopped throwing

out their trash, either, but than I don't want to be unreasonable, after all.

Alice Nelson  
Highlands

### Thank you, Jane

Dear Editor,

I don't usually write letters to the editor, but I do read them. I read with curiosity about the negative remarks about the new post office. Now that it is open, it is clear that this building is an improvement in almost every respect. It replaced an eyesore that was destined to get worse after Furniture South left. It now has ample parking, and as for that tree that was cut down, please count all the new trees and rhododendrons that have been planted. Instead of complaints, perhaps thanks would be a more appropriate response. Jane Woodruff has been unselfishly generous with her donations without any aspect of self interest. All the donations have been for the improvement of Highlands from the recreation park building to all the improvements at the hospital. I say, Thank you Jane Woodruff." Every town should be so lucky to have such a patron like her.

John F. Baumrucker, MD  
Highlands

### Art & craft fairs good for all

Dear Editor,

I had yet another wonderful visit to Highlands over Memorial Day weekend. I attended the arts & crafts show, excellent as always; spent \$300+ in the shops on Main Street; ate a fine meal or two in Main Street establishments; purchased gasoline; and paid for three nights' lodging on Main Street. A typical day for me in Highlands, always leaving some green in your community.

Oh yes -- I was a vendor at the arts & crafts show, having driven there from 90 miles away. I'm a disabled senior citizen who tries to make a little money to supplement my Social Security. The money I spent in Highlands was largely earned at the arts & crafts show.

And I saw lots of people at the show carrying bags with the names of various Main Street shops.

So what's the big fuss about? Maybe next time, I'll make my base in Cashiers if Highlands doesn't want my money.

Nancy C. Taylor  
Greenville, SC

### All "days" are good!

Dear Editor,

I would like to respond to the letters from Suzy Foley Jackson and Elizabeth Reese Wilson concerning "The Town of Highlands Changing." I can certainly understand. There are many of us that remember our towns and cities back in the '40s, '50s and early '60s. We can talk to our friends from Atlanta, Savannah (my home town), Macon, Memphis and on and on and on. They talk about the way it used to be. These places are no longer the same.

I spent every summer back in the middle '40s and early '50s with my grandparents on their farm in Swainsboro, Ga. Swainsboro had a beautiful courthouse and very nice Mom & Pop stores on the square. It was easy to find about anything that was needed. There were also two wonderful pharmacies with soda fountains. We went almost everyday for milkshakes. Today, all of it is gone, including the courthouse. However, Swainsboro does have one big Wal-Mart.

"The American Soda Fountains" started way back around 1850. At one time there were thousands and thousands of local owned pharmacies with soda fountains. Stop in every day after school, have a milkshake or sundae with your friends; special, special days. The soda fountains in America had a complete collapse by 1970.

I remember the 5 & 10 cent stores with fond memories. F.W. Woolworth opened their first store in 1879 in Lancaster, PA. They grew to over 800 stores. They went out of business in 1997. S.H. Kress 5 & 10 cent stores opened their first store in 1896 in Nanticoke, PA. They grew to 264 stores. They went out of business 1981.

I also miss Morrison's Cafeterias. Their first store opened in 1929 in Mobile, AL. At one time they had 151 locations in 13 states. They finally went out of business in 1996 after a long hard struggle to survive.

Change is inevitable. Most places we remember have not changed for the better. However, I feel Highlands, NC has been moving forward in a very positive way. Otherwise, we would be moving toward Gatlinburg, TN.

Gatlinburg has a serious crime problem. Everyday their police report looks like

## LETTERS-TO-THE EDITOR-POLICY

We reserve the right to reject or edit submissions.

**NO ANONYMOUS LETTERS WILL BE ACCEPTED.**

Views expressed are not necessarily those of Highlands' Newspaper.

Please EMAIL letters by Sunday at 5 p.m. There is a 500-word limit without prior approval.

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## ... SWEEPSTAKES continued from page 1

Labeled "An act to impose a state tax on the privilege of operating a video sweepstakes establishment in this state and use the proceeds from the state tax for local law enforcement and public education and to authorize counties and cities to impose a tax on the privilege of operating a video sweepstakes establishment." The purpose of the bill: "Taxes in this Article are imposed for the privilege of operating a video sweepstakes establishment in this State. It is unlawful to operate a video sweepstakes establishment without a license issued under this Article and without paying the tax due under this Article. The taxes imposed in this Article provide revenue for the State's education needs and for local law enforcement.

If it passes, the state would be able to charge establishments \$2,000 a year and then would place an excise tax of \$1,000 per machine and could get 4% of gross receipts.

Up to 6% of proceeds would be distributed to local law enforcement and public education.

Counties would also be allowed to levy similar fees and taxes, as municipalities are allowed to do now.

Jones said some people like this idea, but there are those who want to disallow

the businesses, period.

Chairman Kevin Corbin said when the board asked Jones to investigate how other counties are dealing with the sweepstake situation, he never intended to levy fees or taxes.

But Commissioner Ronnie Beale said if the sweepstake establishments aren't going anywhere getting some money out if it "couldn't hurt!"

Jones said the NC Sheriff's Association isn't for the bill and the board agreed

to follow the Sheriff's Association's lead for now.

"There are too many irons in the fire about this," said Vice Chairman Bobby Kupper. "There are competing bills and one case pending."

Jones said there are some who want to prohibit the bill on the grounds that it legitimizes something they would like to outlaw.

In the end the board agreed to jump into the fray once the legislature acts.

— **Kim Lewicki**

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# • LAUGHING AT LIFE •

## The house on the hill

I'm sad to report I could not make it to the new post office dedication. I had to wash my car. But a lot of my friends were there and told me it was an awesome affair. The food was great (kudos to Debbie) and Jane Woodruff was her typical elegant self. I think Highlands now holds the record for having the newest post office in America. Now that's something to be proud of, don't ya think? Personally I'm getting wet eyed thinking

about it, how 'bout you?

I'm still not sure why the post office needs a gazillion parking places but what do I know? I'm just a sarcastic satire writer. Wait, is there going to be a massive run on junk mail we don't know about yet or do they expect folks to meet there for car-pooling? Or maybe a massive increase in federal employees; who knows? Who cares?

And I hope they had the foresight to put heaters under the asphalt driveways leading to and from the building so that on



with Fred Wooldridge  
Feedback is encouraged!  
askfredanything@aol.com

those bitter cold winter days, customer's cars won't be sliding on the ice while driving down those steep hills and onto the highway. Yikes! I predict ole Popcorn will have a ton of winter business. Now that's a good thing.

Of course, sliding helplessly into another unsuspecting car on the highway is something Highlanders didn't have to cope with at the old post office but who cares about silly stuff like that? Actually, I'm such a dinosaur, I still miss the old, old post office at Dog Poop Park. May-

be another philanthropist could buy the property and build another post office building at the park site since we don't use the land for anything except a once a year art show...oh, and to poop our dogs. Then Highlands would have a summer post office and a winter post office to make this insanity complete. (I'm always thinking.)

And finally, can you believe some Highlanders became outraged at my making fun of our new post office at a time when the USPS is a crumbling failing business? They were also angry 'cause I made fun of Jane. Actually all I accused her of was drinking Pepsi's. I think the woman is great but what do I know: I'm just an

•See WOOLDRIDGE page 7

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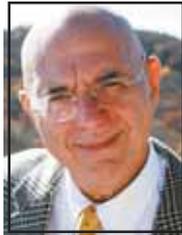
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## • THE VIEW FROM HERE •

### Social networking has replaced cars

**W**atch out! Bull has his learner's permit, and we have a chauffeur, although a somewhat inexperienced one. Bull didn't rush to the DMV the moment he was eligible. In fact, more than a year has passed since he could have applied. The licensing procedure has changed, and changed for the better, since I started driving more than 50 years ago. I went to the county court house on my 16th birthday, applied for a learner's permit, drove for a month and then took written and driving tests. At 16 years and one month, I was a fully licensed driver.

Bull was required to take a 30-hour on-line course and drive six hours with a licensed instructor before applying for a learner's permit. He completed the online course in December. He drove with an



**Dr. Henry Salzarulo**

**Feedback is encouraged.**

**email:**

**hsalzarulo@aol.com**

instructor several weeks later. He finally took, and passed the test for his level one permit last week. I thought he was a little odd. When I was a kid, the three tests of having reached manhood were getting a driver's license, getting a draft card, and smoking in front of your parents. I couldn't understand Bull's lack of interest. Were it not for considerable parental prodding, it's uncertain if would ever have bothered with driving. Little did I know he was part of a growing national trend.

The fact is that fewer young people are driving than in the past, and they are driving fewer miles. As recently as 1978, more than 75% of teens between 16 and 19 were licensed. By 2008, the number had fallen to 56%. And it is

•See SALZARULO page 17



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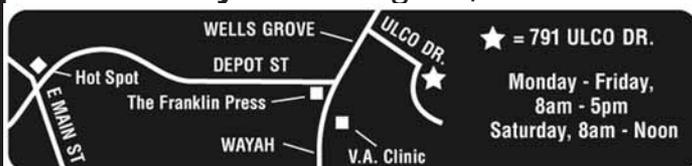
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## • BACK DAYS •

### **The story of the family of Ethel Mae Potts Paul ... descendants of WT and Mattie Potts**

**By Guy Warren Paul**

...She often found remnants there which with deft hands she turned into shirts for us boys and waists for the girls. In my case, those shirts and the knee pants made out of old hand-me-down suits from Uncle Roy comprised most of my wardrobe for years. Once to advertise a rummage sale at the Health Center, Miss Harry had Charlie carry a slopjar with a bail handle all over town, announcing the sale as he went. Needless to say, there was a large turnout, and Charlie was a celebrity for a time. Mama laughed and laughed.

My constants companions during those in-town days were neighbors Carlton and Maurice Cleaveland. When I was not at their house, one or both of them were at our house, or we were somewhere in between. Toy cars and trucks were our joy and we played with them by the day. Sometimes it was along the borders of the oriental rugs or sometimes it was on dirt piles such as those provided by construction of the town's new bank building. Mr. Will Cleaveland had provided Maurice and Carlton with a play car half as big as a real one, which sat in the front yard near a hydrangea bush. We could really simulate driving in this vehicle. Sometimes we got so carried away that I could hardly hear Mama calling me home. I can remember that she or Dad might meet me at the lane gate when I had been deaf to her calls. On more than one occasion, they plucked switches from the Northern Spy apple tree there and endeavored to teach me the penalty for disobedience. Mama spared the rod no less than Dad, but her switching was much milder and much preferred to Dad's wrath.

There were events of lasting ipOression almost everyday in Highlands. I can remember slipping into the Reno show tents



**Guy and Ethel Mae Potts Paul**

– Courtesy of the Highlands Historical Society

erected between our house and the Cleavelands; along with Joh Pierson, Jim Hines and the Cleaveland boys. I can remember Old Smokey Joe in those tent shows attended by Mama and our whole family., I can remember how Uncle Arthur Potts and others with trucks at their command would vie to see who could bring in the most people to the shows.

Never to be forgotten are those who traveled out lane to Buttermilk Level – then the outskirts of town on the road to Dillard, GA, before construction of the of Highlands Country Club and the resulting complex of homes there. It was a constant parade during the daylight hours, and on Saturday nights well after dark people made their way by flashlight or kerosene lantern.

There was Mr. Louis Zoellner, always in a buggy and usually delivering butter and eggs to his daughter Minnie Edwards, who then operated the Central House (Old Edwards Inn, today). There were Milford Russell and Gus Holt, who came all the way to town almost daily to discuss current events and politics on Loafer's Bench. There was Dillie Talley who also peddled butter and eggs

and almost always had an extra egg for me. My mother would pause from whatever she as doing and take time to converse with these commuters. I can remember Mrs. Gomery Russell talking at length from her sidesaddle. She was always careful to wear extra long skirts, or at least it seemed that way to me.

For many of the Buttermilk Level school kids, the White House lane gate was a kind of pit stop for their comings and goings. Mama always took time to talk with them, too, asking about their school day, their teachers and their subject matter. Among these young students were my cousins Betsy and Jack Potts and their McKinney cousins. Jack Potts and Dick Mck nney (his real name was Robert and I never knew why they called me Dick) were at the tongue-tied stage of speech. I'm sure they were just in the first-grade when they tarried at our gate on the way home one day. Mama asked them about their day at school. "We're reading about Baby Way," Jack explained. Turning quickly to my mother, Dick assured her, " It's not Baby Way; it's Baby Aye!"

•To be continued ...

## ... LETTERS from 2

Atlanta. Last week a 44-year-old lady was sexually assaulted and stabbed a number of times. Fortunately, she survived physically. I'm sure she will suffer mentally for a long time. Also, last week a man pleaded guilty to murdering his girlfriend's daughter. Another man was arrested for at least two home invasions. This past December 30th and 31st the police had special roadblocks checking for DUIs. There were 59 arrests.

There are at least 11 tattoo parlors in Gatlinburg and a large number of body piercing studios. Thank goodness we are not moving in the direction of Gatlinburg.

The so-called seasonal residents as well as full-time residents have made many contributions with volunteer work and their checkbooks to help support organizations like The Child Development Center, Highlands Land Trust and many others. A local physician told me that our wonderful hospital would not survive without monetary contributions. Highlands needs all of us.

Highlands is my favorite place. I am blessed that I am part of the community. We all agree that Highlands is very, very special. I'm confident that Highlands will continue to move in the right direction.

By the way, I would expect that "back in those days" there were plenty of people in their 60s, 70s and 80 were saying "What Happened To The Good Ole Days?"

Kenny Youmans,  
Highlands, NC

## Hypocrites

Dear Editor,

I'm waiting for one [1] single government employed congressman to: cut their pay, cut their pensions, pay more into their pensions, pay more into their Cadillac health plans, eliminate their cost of living increases.

Then they have the right to ask our first-responders, teachers, postal employees, police and firemen to cut their pay and pensions. If we take the road to austerity, to cut debt, than what are the top 1% giving up? What don't they understand about shared sacrifice. Austerity is not working in Europe, and America is doing much better. Republican's won't ask the very rich to give up the temporary Bush tax cuts, or to eliminate their tax loopholes [personal or corporate]. If corporations are people, than Romney is a murderer. Please take Grover Norquist's "Taxpayer Protection Pledge, and shove it where the sun don't shine.

Mark Herstik  
Highlands, NC

## ... WOOLDRIDGE

## from 4

insulting satire writer type Floridiot with an overactive brain. (Warning: I'm no longer taking my Lithium!)

PS - Another friend told me they spotted the tree hugger that went to jail hiding over in the corner of the crowd holding a small doll with needles stuck in it. Hmmmm.

\*Each Saturday morning between nine and noon ole Fred is hangin' out at the school's Farmer's Market peddling his books. Drop by and maybe he'll insult you.

## ... SWANSON from 8

and will end up letting jobs go to the current illegal immigrants.

"How can the Administration justify allowing illegal immigrants to work in the U.S. when millions of Americans are unemployed?" asked Rep. Smith. "President Obama and his administration once again have put partisan politics and illegal immigrants ahead of the rule of law and the American people."



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# MOUNTAIN FRESH GROCERY DINNERS-TO-GO SUMMER MENU 2012

MON

**JAMES BEARD AWARD-WINNING CHEF,  
LOUIS OSTEEN'S LOW COUNTRY  
LOBSTER/SHRIMP BOIL FOR TWO** **\$31.95**  
LOBSTER TAILS, WILD CAUGHT LARGE  
SHRIMP, RED BLISS POTATOES, SUMMER  
CORN, HOUSE MADE SAUSAGE, ALL  
STEEPED IN LOUIS'S PROPRIETARY SEA-  
SONING. SERVED WITH DRAWN BUTTER  
AND COCKTAIL SAUCE. SERVES TWO.

TUES

**OVEN OFF NIGHT** **\$21.95**  
2 FRESH CHICKEN BREASTS, GRILLED  
WITH ROSEMARY INFUSED OLIVE OIL.  
SERVED ON A BED OF MIXED GREENS,  
WITH STUFFED BRIE, SPICY/SWEET  
PECANS. BALSAMIC VINAIGRETTE ON THE  
SIDE, AND TWO CUPS OF HOUSE MADE  
GAZPACHO, WITH A FRENCH BAGUETTE.  
SERVES TWO.

WED

**JAMES BEARD AWARD-WINNING CHEF,  
LOUIS OSTEEN'S LOW COUNTRY  
LOBSTER/SHRIMP BOIL FOR TWO** **\$31.95**  
LOBSTER TAILS, WILD CAUGHT LARGE  
SHRIMP, RED BLISS POTATOES, SUMMER  
CORN, HOUSE MADE SAUSAGE, ALL  
STEEPED IN LOUIS' PROPRIETARY SEA-  
SONING. SERVED WITH DRAWN BUTTER  
AND COCKTAIL SAUCE. SERVES TWO.

THURS

**BABY BACK RIBS** **\$21.95**  
COOKED FALL-OFF-THE-BONE-TENDER.  
SERVED WITH HOUSE MADE  
BACON/APPLE BAKED BEANS, AND  
POTATO SALAD. SERVES TWO.

FRI

**SHRIMP; FRIED OR STEAMED** **\$22.95**  
WILD CAUGHT LARGE SHRIMP EITHER  
LIGHTLY BREADED IN OUR SEASONED  
CORN FLOUR MIXTURE, AND THEN PROP-  
ERLY FRIED IN PEANUT OIL AND SERVED  
WITH HUSH PUPPIES; OR STEAMED TO  
ORDER IN OUR LOW COUNTRY SEASON-  
ING. BOTH COME WITH COLESLAW AND  
ROSEMARY SEA SALT BROILED RED  
POTATOES, TARTER AND COCKTAIL  
SAUCE. SERVES TWO.

SAT

**IN-HOUSE SMOKED BBQ** **\$20.95**  
SERVED WITH COLESLAW BACON/APPLE  
BAKED BEANS AND YEAST ROLLS.  
SERVES TWO.

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## • CONSERVATIVE POV

### Hey, let's go to the movies

Now, I'm no expert, but I did spend a part of my productive lifetime in corporate finance, so I have an idea of what Bain Capital did/does, and I saw this one coming.

Assume your mate came down with a virulent infection in their foot and it was rapidly eating its way up their leg. The doctor advises that amputation is the only answer. The leg is gone, but the patient survives. Because you are a nutcase ingrate, you chastise the doctor for his lack of humanity in removing the infected member. The surviving one-legged man adjusts well and goes on to have a fruitful and prosperous career.

So the "experts" tell the Obama Campaign Machine that attacking Romney on his leadership of Bain will win him big points with the voting populous. From Breitbart.com: "if you were looking for advice on how to tell a story that would impact millions of people, would you go to a director whose last four films were "War Horse," "The Adventures of Tintin," "Indiana Jones 4" and "Munich?"

Nope. But Team Obama did and what they got in return was a continuation of the ongoing Spielberg flop-streak. At DreamWorks Studios, Steven Spielberg spent three hours explaining how to capture an audience's attention and offered a number of ideas that will be rolled out before Election Day.

An early example of Spielberg's influence is a horror story by their reckoning of Romney's career at Bain Capital.

Afterward, Spielberg insisted that Obama campaign advisor Jim Messina sit down with the DreamWorks marketing team. Hollywood movie studios are expert, as presidential campaigns must be, at spending huge sums over a few weeks to reach and motivate millions of Americans. Messina took the meeting and is adamant the Bain attacks worked, but then I'd like to know why the Bain attacks have stopped cold. If something works, you keep doing it, correct?"

Perhaps ex-President Bill Clinton had something to do with it. In a recent interview from The Hill: "There's no question that in terms of getting up and going to the office and basically performing the essential functions of the office, a man who has been governor and had a sterling business



**Don Swanson**  
Feedback is encouraged.  
Email

[swanson@dnetnet](mailto:swanson@dnetnet)

career crosses the qualifications threshold."

Or was it Massachusetts' Democrat Governor Deval Patrick called Bain Capital "not a bad company" and that he respects the role of private equity companies in the market. Or maybe it was Democrat Newark Mayor Cory Bookers calling President Obama's attacks on Bain Capital "nauseating" on "Meet the Press."

Or maybe it was former Tennessee Rep. Harold Ford (D) who said "I agree with the core

of it (Booker's comments). Private equity's not a bad thing. As a matter of fact, private equity is a good thing in many, many instances." Or maybe it was Ed Rendell, former Democrat Governor of Pennsylvania, who is quoted as saying "I think they are very disappointing," referring to the ads attacking Bain. As for Booker, "I admire him," Rendell said. I suppose some of the polyphobes out there will claim "racism" in the attacks on the attack. Which would be interesting if it weren't for the fact that, of the five quotes mentioned above, three are black, one was the first "black president" (irrespective of his skin color) and one who is outright white, (I think).

In his latest action taken as President, The Hill reports: "The Obama administration said Friday it will stop deporting most illegal immigrant students and young adults in a campaign-year move that escalates the immigration debate to the fore. For years the administration said it didn't have the authority to make such a move, saying it couldn't decide to stop deporting wide categories of people on its own without approval from Congress.

But on Friday President Obama says the administration now interprets the law to give it the discretion. Isn't it amazing how a desperate campaign trips over its own policies to gain political advantage?

"The decision is an effort to go around Congress, which has repeatedly failed to pass a bill granting legal status to this category of illegal immigrants. That type of legislation is usually called the Dream Act, though details vary depending on the version. House Judiciary Committee Chairman Lamar Smith, (TX-R) said the new amnesty will become "a magnet for fraud"

• See SWANSON page 7

# • INVESTING AT 4,118 FT. •

## Say Cheese! Is your home ready for a sales picture?

**W**e often use that phrase when we're about to snap a shot with the camera, but did you know every time we take a prospective buyer to your home, we're essentially saying the same thing as we unlock the front door? First impressions start as we approach the home, but the 'big reveal' is upon entering your home and take that first glance – and that glance is usually left to right according to eye tracking studies.



**Jeannie Chambers**  
The Chambers Agency  
REALTORS  
jsc@chambersagency.net

der for the buyer to be able to 'see' their own color on the walls. Neutral doesn't mean white or eggshell anymore, it can be in light shades of greens, grays, or browns. It's OK to paint just one wall of a room for accent in a bold color, and it's OK to paint darker colors in areas you want to designate (like a dining area, or a bedroom), but also remember if your space is small to try and keep

a continuity so you don't have a chopped up feeling as you are going from room to room.

6) Display artwork by using varying heights and sizes. Blank walls make a statement just as much as a filled wall; just figure out what statement you want to make. Artwork doesn't have to be expensive framed oil paintings.

7) Repair items that need it NOW. If you have signs of an old roof leak, cracks in

the walkway leading to your house, frayed or stained carpeting, nicked walls/corners, leaking plumbing, single replaced/unstained decking boards, unfinished painting, etc., have these things fixed before you list/show if possible. When buyers see these things, they immediately start wondering 'what else is wrong?' The repair cost is worth

•See INVESTING page 22

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2) Move furniture away from the walls. As Realtors, we go into many homes weekly, either by showing for sale or broker open house tours. For the most part, this rule is already in place, but some people just can't help lining their rooms with furniture. Create conversation groups and/or reading nooks, and TV viewing areas if you want a TV in your gathering room.

3) Don't overcrowd the room with too big/out-of-scale furniture -- but don't go to the extreme where the room looks barren. I've seen some professionally decorated homes with huge furniture and lots of it. If you have to turn sideways to enter or exit it's a little too much.

4) Lighting can make a big difference. In Highlands, some of our homes tend to be located in lush forested areas and/or have dark wood interiors. You need to have at least 100 watts per 50 square feet, and you should have at least three different types of lighting: ambient (wall sconces that can give your walls a wash of light), task (for reading, cooking, etc.), accent (table lamps), aesthetic (art gallery type/dropped lighting), and of course natural light (skylights/clerestory windows).

5) Wall colors are a statement of the homeowner and should be neutral in or-

... DEBATE continued from page 1

ia Law is influencing their parliaments in a real way. All their financial institutions are Shari Law compliant. The very top of financial institutions practice Sharia Law. We need to watch this.  
**Vance Patterson:** Sharia Law is a ma-

ior threat to the world. We are a Christian-Judea country and no other force can stand up to Sharia Law. It is evil. I have traveled the world. I have seen it in black and white there. They have cut their resources in half by putting their women down.

ernment out of the way and make sure we preserve the American Dream. My friends and neighbors have lost their homes and jobs. I am committed to the 11th District – that's 17 counties.

**Question 3:** What do you see as the greatest threat to our national security and why?

**Mark Meadows:** Obviously, the debt is unbelievable. We are mortgaged to China. But the greatest threat to our national security is our energy policy. We pump gas and send the money overseas and it comes back here when "they" buy our debt, our land, our natural resources.

We are the Saudi Arabia of natural gas. We need to be self-sufficient from the energy standpoint. That is the threat to our national security. Now we are cutting back our armed forces; when the attack comes we won't be prepared.

It's the energy policy that matters. I say drill and tap. We will be more secure and prosperous as a result.

**Vance Patterson:** As a father of four and a business owner, I am terrified by our national debt. The interest we are paying alone -- \$650 billion -- is the amount spent on our armed forces.

Life as we know it will change and it will be generations before it is restored. When I'm in Washington I will vote against raising the debt limit. If it causes a crisis let's deal with it now while we can still deal with it.

Our leadership needs to change and the House needs to back it and see that it goes in the right direction.

Nest week: **Question 4:** Are you a supporter of the Fair Tax. Why or why not? What other plan would you consider to reform the tax code?

– **Kim Lewicki**

**What is Sharia Law?**  
 It's basically a way of arriving at decisions on how to live life by studying religious texts to determine divine will. Sharia law is also not just a legal system it's also a moral system, a structure for living life as a devout Muslim.  
 For Muslims who are devout, living life according to the divine will is the basis for existence. Sharia law is the anchor for society for devout Muslims and it's based on several factors in a complex web of history, religious texts, interpretation, modern influence, scholars, community, custom, public interest, regionalism and the conduct of the Prophet Mohamed.

We need to protect our country from this Sharia Law. I have read the Koran two times and I liked it less the second time. We need to be educated, which I am. We need experience dealing with this, which I have. We don't want this to get a foothold in America.

**Question 2:** We are in very difficult times. What experience do you have in getting through difficult times?

**Vance Patterson:** I have lost my house, I have owed taxes, I went through the Dot.com disaster, the '08 housing bubble and I turned it all around over the years. This is the kind of attitude you need. It's not about doing more with less, just doing more. I have experience meeting payrolls and I share with my employees. Give and you get back. I always say, "Never bet against a Boomer." We have been through it. We know how it's done. As a country we have been spending too much and not earning our way.

**Mark Meadows:** I have lived the American dream. I grew up in a 900 sq. ft. concrete block house but with prayer, tenacity and perseverance I made it.

The government has not helped me along the way. The American Dream isn't really for everyone; it picks and chooses. I started in a little restaurant. I say get gov-

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## • JUST HERS •

### The Good Old Days, Part II

I used to think you had to be ancient to remember The Good Old Days. With ever increasing years behind me, however, I remember the friend who told me that the definition of an "antique" is an object over 50 years old. Hopefully, I will be spared the indignity of being hauled before an expert on Antiques Roadshow, while someone asks "What is it, what does it do, and how much is it worth?"



**Michelle Mead-Armor**  
michiemead@aol.com

In The Good Old Days, there were many things that are different from the present, among them the attitude toward bullying. It used to be thought that you showed strength and character by suffering in silence. Adults, including teachers and other faculty members, assumed that kids should be left to just "work it out among themselves." How anyone thought this was a good solution when the two students involved were a skinny, bookish 145 lb. boy, and the 220 lb. star of the high school football team, I'll never know.

Anyone who was not considered a member of the "In" crowd – the social elite – was tormented, ostracized, and victimized. There are many people who wax nostalgic about their school years – especially high school – but I am not one of them. It wasn't easy being the smart girl with glasses when Miss Popularity was a perky C- student who knew how to giggle and bat her eyelashes.

Of course, that same girl sometimes came to grief. We did not have sex education in school, because it would "give us ideas." Everyone knows that teenagers never think about sex unless you bring it to their attention.

In senior year, we had an 18-chapter book for Biology. The teacher covered the first 16 chapters in 9 months minus 1 day. On the last day of school, we were supposed to do chapters 17 and 18, Heredity and Reproduction. Personally, I found it interesting, but puzzled why anyone could find much to object to about what color the baby bunnies would be if they had a Daddy of one color, and a Mommy of another. Still, there were kids in the back of the room who snickered

and poked each other in the ribs. They obviously had more imagination than I did.

What I DID know about sex was that you were never supposed to be in a car with a boy. There was something about the smell of gasoline or motor oil that drove them wild, and led them to lose all control of themselves. So, while I took Driver's Ed during my senior year – and aced it – I was not

encouraged to get my license, just to be on the safe side. Ironically, people assumed that with a French mother, I would have been the first one to learn about the birds and the bees. Birds and the bees? I didn't even know where the nest was! My mother was extremely unforthcoming about anything of that nature, and my father, even less so. I blush to recall an incident with a freshman boy from the University of Virginia. We had met during my senior year in high school when our two fencing teams had competed against each other. He had tried to steal a kiss, and I had shoved him away in horror. Oh, no! I couldn't kiss him! After all, I didn't want to get pregnant! How could I have been that naïve?

Another thing I remember about my last years of high school was how many girls had aunts in Ohio. The school year would be going along as usual, and all of a sudden, Carol, or Becky, or Jean, would disappear from school to "go visit their aunt in Ohio." Oddly enough, these were aunts we had never heard of before. No photographs were ever shown about the three or four months they spent with these female relatives, and any questions about their sojourns in that state were met with a sullen stare. Had they been in Akron or Ashtabula? Cincinnati or Cleveland? The girls would hang their heads, and change the subject.

Senior year, a member of the cheerleading squad abruptly left to go see her aunt in Ohio. I was mystified. Why would any girl want to leave in the middle of her senior year, especially since it meant she would have to forfeit graduating with her classmates? Sure enough, she returned home in the middle of summer vacation, with nary a photo of Shaker Heights or

• See JUST HERS page 22

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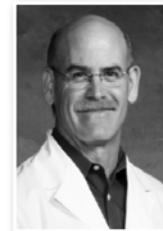
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PULL OUT

# Highlands Area Upcoming Events



## Clayton Merchants & Business Association Events

[www.downtownclaytonga.org](http://www.downtownclaytonga.org)

### FIRST FRIDAY FESTS

Through October  
6PM - 8 PM

Downtown Clayton  
Shop Clayton/Concert at Rock House Park

### FRI. JUN 22 - SUN. JUN 24

Chattooga River Festival

[WWW.CHATTOOGARIVERFESTIVAL.COM](http://WWW.CHATTOOGARIVERFESTIVAL.COM)

### SAT. JULY 21, 6PM-9PM

4th Annual Clayton Crawl

Main Street, Clayton

[WWW.CLAYTONCRAWL.ORG](http://WWW.CLAYTONCRAWL.ORG)

### SAT. OCT 6, 10AM - 5PM

Foxfire Mountaineer Festival

[WWW.FOXFIREMOUNTAINEER.ORG](http://WWW.FOXFIREMOUNTAINEER.ORG)

### SAT. OCT 27, 10AM - 1PM

Halloween Hay Day

### SAT. OCT 27, 1PM

Halloween Trick or Treat

Main Street, Clayton

### SAT. NOV. 17, 5PM-7PM

Festival of Trees Preview Party

Rabun County Civic Center

[WWW.RABUNCIVICCENTER.COM](http://WWW.RABUNCIVICCENTER.COM)

### THURS. NOV 22, 8AM

Clayton Clucker's Turkey Trot

### FRI. NOV 23, 5PM - 8PM

Christmas in Clayton

### FRI. NOV 23, 11AM-6PM &

SAT. NOV 24, 10AM-5PM

Holiday Shopping Extravaganza and

Festival of Trees

Rabun County Civic Center

[WWW.RABUNCIVICCENTER.COM](http://WWW.RABUNCIVICCENTER.COM)

### SAT. DEC 1, 5PM

Christmas Parade

Main Street, Clayton

### Through -Sun., July 8

• At The Highlands Playhouse, The Spitfire Grill. Call 828-526-2695 for ticket information.

### Thursday, June 21

• At the Nature Center, Lamar Marshall will take a group on an Ancient Cherokee Trails Hike from 10a-2p. Lamar Marshall is the Wild South Cultural Preservation Director, and is part of an initiative to find and restore the trail and road system of the Cherokee Nation in Western North Carolina. This event is free but please register in advance. Call 526-2221.

• Taize service at Our Lady of the Mountains church at 5:30 p.m.

• At CLE, Sue Sigmon Williams a member of the Atlanta Symphony for 17 years and recipient of a Master of Music in Vocal Performance from Georgia State University will discuss the impact of lullabies, prayers, hymns and laments and marches. Songs express love, praise nature and evoke patriotism through national anthems. 10a-noon, at PAC. \$20 members. \$30 non-members.

### Fri.-Sun., June 22, 23, 24

• History Live sponsored by the Highlands Historical Society. The theme this year is "Our Mountains and the People Who Named Them." Friday and Saturday's production is at the Historical Village on N. 4th Street from 6-7:15 p.m. Sunday's production is at PAC on Chestnut Street at 4 p.m. Tickets are \$10 for adults and students are free.

### Friday, June 22

• Friday Night Live from 6-8p in Town Square on Main Street. Johnny Webb.

### Sat. and Sun., June 23-24

• Sapphire Valley Master Association Arts and Crafts Festival will be held on Saturday and Sunday at the Sapphire Valley Recreation Field on US 64 three miles east of the Cashiers Crossroads. Show hours are 10am - 4pm. For further information, call (828)743-1163.

### Saturday, June 23

• Pancake Breakfast from 7:30 to 10:30 a.m. at the Old Scaly School House on the corner of Highway #106 and Buckknob Road. The cost of the breakfast is \$5.50 for adults and \$3.50 for children. You can also order "take out" if you choose.

• Village Nature Series at the Village Green in Cashiers presentation, "Winged Hunters - Birds of Prey," beginning at 7 pm at the Village Green in Cashiers. Michael Skinner of Balsam Mountain Trust will bring a few of his feathered friends and teach us a thing or two about these magnificent creatures. Participants can expect to see a variety of raptors including a kestrel, great horned, barred and screech owl, Harris and red-tailed hawk and a bald eagle. You may even get a chance to fly one!

• The Highlands Plateau Audubon Society weekly bird walk at Chinquapin in Cashiers. Chinquapin is a private, gated, conservation-oriented development, and the bird walk will be on the 700-acre Carlton Family Conservation Easement. Gather at the Highlands Town Hall near the public restrooms, at 7:30 am and carpool to Cashiers. Cashiers residents can meet behind Wendy's at 8 am sharp. Binoculars will be available if needed. For questions call Ann at 743-9942. Public invited.

• At CLE, Elizabeth Chew, Curator at Monticello, will explore how Jefferson's education in Enlightenment philosophy prepared him for his achievements in his public career as well as at Monticello. We will look at his house, gardens and plantation in the context of his lifelong efforts to gather and apply "useful knowledge." 10 a.m. to noon at PAC. \$20 for members, \$30 for nonmembers.

• Hospital free health screening at Blue Ridge School beginning at 7:15 a.m. Those wishing to take advantage of either screening can register by calling the Hospital at (828) 526-1435.

• Live music at Altitudes at Skyline Lodge, 470 Skyline Lodge Road off Flat Mountain Road, with Jacob Deaton, jazz, blues, soul, 2:30-4p. 526-2121.

### Sun.-Thurs., June 24-28

• Vacation Bible School at Highlands United Methodist Church. "Operation Overboard: Dare to Go Deep with God. Come dive into the waters of God's word and discover what it means to have deep faith. Deep Sea Voyage Bible stores will introduce people from the Old and New Testaments who show a deep faith. All are invited to join us for this magnificent journey. 5-8 p.m. each night. Dinner is served from 5-5:30p.

### Sunday, June 24

• Honduran "baleada" luncheon fundraiser at 12pm in the Methodist Church on Sunday. \$10 for baleadas and Honduran coffee. Alex Osteen will present the video that his townspeople made about the Health Clinic as well as show pictures of the people involved as well as of the Health Clinic itself. Everybody is invited. Take-out will be available. All proceeds from the event, plus any donations go to the construction materials for this Health Clinic project. Contact Alex at 828 200-2360.

• Mission Fair at noon at the First Presbyterian Church in our Faith and Fellowship building in Coleman Hall (upper level). The event is free. The "Mission Fair" is a reception where we have representatives from most of the major non-profit organizations supported by First Presbyterian Church. You will be able to enjoy finger food and learn more about the work of these wonderful organizations. The following 13 organizations will be represented: Blue Ridge Free Dental Clinic, Community Care Clinic of Highlands-Cashier, Food Pantry of Highlands, Highlands Community Child Care Center, Highlands Emergency Council, Honduras Medical Clinic, Hospice - Four Seasons, International Friendship Center, Literacy Council of Highlands, Living Waters for the World - Bolivian Water Mission, Medical Benevolence Foundation, REACH of Macon County, and Relay for Life - Just for You team. Please join us for a fun and educational opportunity to learn more about these organizations and thank them for the work that they do in our community and the world. For more information contact the church office at 526-3175.

### Monday, June 25

• The North Jackson County GOP monthly meeting is on Monday, June 25, 6:30 PM at the Sylva Republican Headquarters Office at 58 D Sunrise Park, a retail complex located opposite the intersection of Highway 107 and the Asheville Highway. Delegates will report on the recent NC GOP State Convention and the messages delivered there by featured speakers Donald Trump, Tim Pawlenty, Governor Rick Perry and Ralph Reed. A copy

of the July 17th Primary Run-off Election ballot will be available. The featured program is the showing of the film AGENDA, THE GRINDING DOWN OF AMERICA a documentary, not about Agenda 21, that traces Marxism and Socialism in America. This film is a must-see for all Americans. Opportunities for volunteer activities during the election cycle will be discussed and planned. For additional information call Ralph Slaughter, Jackson County GOP Chair at 828 743-6491 or visit the website [www.jacksoncountygop.com](http://www.jacksoncountygop.com)

### Mon.-Fri., June 25-29

• The Highlands Biological Station, as part of their series of field-based courses, is pleased to offer "Mountain Biodiversity for science educators" with Karen Kandl, associate director of the Station. The course is a fantastic and affordable opportunity for science educators to continue to improve as teachers. They can receive CEU's or graduate credit, and the course and housing fee is only \$150. There are no pre-requisites and the course is open to educators of all levels.

### Tuesday, June 26

• Relay for Life, JUST FOR YOU "GAME NIGHT" 7-9pm at First Presbyterian Church, Main Street Highlands. For more information contact Heather Magnum at [ghilbertp@frontier.com](mailto:ghilbertp@frontier.com).

### Thursday June 28

• The Highlands Nature Center will provide such an opportunity with its ninth annual "Salamander Meander." Listen to a short presentation on salamander biology followed by an interpretive night hike with herpetologists to search for these magnificent creatures along the Biological Station's Garden trails. Be sure to bring a flashlight! Meet at the Nature Center at 9 p.m. Ages are 7 to adult, and advanced registration is required due to limited space. To reserve your spot or for more information, please call the Nature Center at 526-2623 or visit [www.highlandsbiological.org](http://www.highlandsbiological.org).

### Friday, June 29

• Friday Night Live from 6-8p at Town Square on Main Street featuring the Foxfire Boys Band from Clayton, GA.

### Saturday, June 30

• Live at Altitudes at Skyline Lodge, 470 Skyline Lodge Road off Flat Mountain Road, Jacob Deaton, jazz, blues, soul, 2:30-4p. 526-2121.

### Saturday, June 30

• 2nd Annual Glenville History tour scheduled for Saturday, July 28th from 10AM to 2 PM. The 2012 tour, a Glenville Historical Society fundraiser, will begin at the Norton Community Center. The tour sites are centered in the Norton and Yellow Mountain Communities, areas that contribute to the history of the Glenville area's early history. The cost for the tour is \$10 and is an additional fundraiser to the Glenville decals (GNVL) being sold for \$3.50. Tour tickets and decals can be purchased by calling Marietta and Don Domkowiak at 828 743-3004. Funds raised by the group will make up the seed money needed to publish the Glenville Historical Record, the book of families, sites, life and culture from old Glenville to the present. For additional information about the Glenville Historical Society call Carol Adams, 828 743-1658 or any Society member listed above.

# Highlands Area Upcoming Events



PULL OUT

## July 2-7

• The Playhouse Acting Camp. 9a-noon for children ages 6-10 and from 1-4p for ages 11-14. Cost is \$195 per student. For more information call (828)526-2695 or go to [highlandisplayhouse.org](http://highlandisplayhouse.org).

## Wednesday, July 4

• First Presbyterian Church of Highlands will present the annual patriotic concert at 8 pm on Wednesday, July 4. The free concert will last approximately 45 minutes, ensuring plenty of time to watch the town fireworks display. Featured will be Larry Black, trumpet, Angie Jenkins, organist, and the Highlands Male Chorus under the direction of Joe Powell. Come dressed as you are. In the event the fireworks display is cancelled due to rain, the concert will still take place. The church is located at the corner of Main and Fifth Streets. Handicap entrances are located on Church Street and on Fifth Street.

• Rotary cook-out and first ever Rubber Duck Derby. The cookout begins at 11 a.m. and the derby begins on Mill Creek at the Spruce Street culvert at 1:30p. \$5 gets you a luncheon plate. Two flights back to back with cash prize of \$250 for first place. Ducks are available for purchase the day of the event. One duck is \$10, Quack Pack is \$50 for six ducks. The Super Quack Pack for \$100 gets you 13 ducks. All proceeds fund Rotary community projects. For more information, call Brian Stiehler at 787-2778.

## Thursday, July 5

• Taize service at Incarnation Episcopal Church at 5:30 p.m.

## Friday, July 6

• Preview Party & Auction – the precursor to the Follow the Star...Bazaar at Highlands United Methodist Church – 5:30-7:30 p.m. \$15 per person includes preview party and auction with heavy hors oeuvre.

## Saturday, July 7

• Follow the Star...Bazaar at Highlands United Methodist Church 8a to 4p. Breakfast will be available from 8-10a; and lunch from 11:30a-1:30p

• Live at Altitudes at Skyline Lodge, 470 Skyline Lodge Road off Flat Mountain Road, Jacob Deaton, jazz, blues, soul, 2:30-4p. 526-2121.

## Wed., July 11

• A free Interlude concert presented by First Presbyterian Church and the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation, and are held at 2 pm. Dress is casual. Trey Clegg, organ at the Presbyterian Church.

## Thurs., July 12-Sun., July 22

• At The Highlands Playhouse, Walter Cronkite is Dead. Call 828-526-2695 for ticket information.

## Craft fair at Sapphire Sat. & Sun.



Sapphire Valley Master Association Arts and Crafts Festival will be held on Saturday and Sunday, June 23rd and 24th. More than 70 high quality artisans will demonstrate and display their original arts and crafts, all at reasonable prices.

The Master association is proud to offer this opportunity to those Americans who take the time, effort, and talents to offer their work for the home and gifts. All entries are judged to ensure that the offerings are produced by the artisan, and only high-quality work is accepted.

In addition to the vendors, volunteers from the Cashiers-Highlands Humane Society will be present to offer their adorable dogs and cats for adoption and to answer questions about their animals. The Valley Garden Club will be selling home-made baked goods and plants.

Live music will be played both days from noon until 3 pm. Food and drink will be available. Admission is free and there is ample parking.

The Festival will be held at the Sapphire Valley Recreation Field located on Rt. 64 three miles east of the Cashiers Crossroads. Show hours are 10am – 4pm. For further information, call (828)743-1163.

## History Live is this weekend!



Satulah Mountain is seen in the background as viewed by Michelle Bears who will portray an early Cherokee woman in this year's "History Live!" sponsored by the Highlands Historical Society. The theme of this year's program is "Our Mountains and The People Who Named Them." The dates for this year's production are June 22, 23 and 24, with Friday and Saturday presentations taking place at the Highlands Historic Village on N. Fourth Street from 6 to 7:15 p.m., and Sunday's at the Performing Arts Center on Chestnut Street beginning at 4 p.m. Admission is \$10 for adults with students admitted free. All proceeds benefit the Highlands Historical Society.

## The Bascom's Summer Barn Dance, June 30, is fun for the whole family!



Don't miss the first Summer Barn Dance of the season at The Bascom on Saturday, June 30 from 7 – 10 pm.

On Saturday, June 30, The Bascom's first Summer Barn Dance of the season takes place from 7-10 pm. Gather with friends and neighbors and enjoy the music of The Runners of the Green Laurel, caller Terry Watson, dance the night away and celebrate the nostalgia of Highlands' yesteryear. Don't miss it. Tickets are \$5 per person, cash only, and can be purchased at the door. Food and beverages will be available for purchase. The Bascom's Summer Barn Dances are sponsored by The Bascom, Highlands Historical Society, Mountain Fresh Grocery and the Ugly Dog Pub.

The Bascom is offering a great line up of exhibitions this summer including Her Impressions, celebrating the achievements of the talented women artists who helped the Impressionism movement blossom in America, opens in the Bunzl Gallery at The Bascom on Saturday, June 23rd, with a public reception from 6 – 8 pm.

Other exhibitions now at The Bascom include Alex Matisse: Ometto sponsored by Ginger Kennedy and Kevin Naylor; Tim Curtis: Suspended; Interpreting Van Gogh, Works from Members of The Art League of Highlands; and Works from Friends Around the Globe, a collaborative project with the International Friendship Center in the Eckerd Children's Gallery. The Bascom is open year-round - Monday through Saturday, 10 am to 5 pm and Sunday, 12 noon to 5 pm. Enjoy workshops, exhibitions, special events and quality programs throughout the year at The Bascom. For more information, to register for Bascom workshop offerings or for more details on all Bascom activities, visit [www.TheBascom.org](http://www.TheBascom.org) or call 828.526.4949.

# Whole Life Market

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## The Spitfire Grill at The Playhouse

By Joe Litsch

"The Spitfire Grill," which opened Highlands Playhouse 2012 season last Thursday, obviously has enjoyed better days, but one would be hard pressed to find a better cast. They are all actors/singers -- not a weak link in the chain, thanks to some careful casting and deft directing by D.V. Caitlyn.

At first glance, James Valcq and Fred Alley (composer and lyricist and both librettists) appear to have produced a simple little musical, set in an equally simple little town. But these two guys have created characters so real I had to remind myself more than once that I really do not know them. The story is beautifully layered and it unfolds with brutal truthfulness tempered by a tenderness that makes it all palpable.

First, there's Hannah (Ellen Crawford - Lydia Wright on TVs "ER"), a crusty, aging curmudgeon. widowed and still grieving the loss of her only son, Eli, listed as MIA and presumed dead by the U.S. Army. She owns the "Spitfire" but has been trying to unload it for 10 years. There are a few regulars, but this is not exactly a Starbuck's, nor Waffle House.

There's the busybody mailwoman Effy (Jacquelyn Riggs), who knows everything about everybody and what she doesn't know she....ad libs. And Joe (Nigel Huckle), the policeman who feels obligated to keep a careful, concerned eye on this newcomer. And a classically husband-dominated married couple Shelby (Sarah George) and Caleb (Seth Wallen), needing some role realignment.

Now, the catalyst in this uninspiring group is Percy (Candice Shedd-Thompson), a recently-released prisoner with a shady past and nowhere to call home. Years ago, while in prison, she saw an ad for a beautiful little town called Glead, WS, situated on the Copper River. That magazine photo, bathed in autumn colors -- very much like

Highlands in October and November -- is her new home and that thought has kept her determined to create a real life once her sentence is completed.

From the moment Percy steps off the bus in Gilead, changes begin at the Spitfire Grill, a seemingly washed-up small town cafe that time has passed. It has been for sale for 10 years, but no one seems interested. Hannah hires Percy and things begin to happen. Hannah falls and winds up in bed with Shelby filling in. The two young women concoct a plan for Hannah to sell the grill and make a profit. A raffle! Send in one hundred dollars and possibly win your own smalltown cafe.

Now the tightly wrapped, closely guarded Gilead secrets begin to be exposed. Why did Percy do prison time? Why does Hannah seem to hate the world? And, just who is the ominous stranger, apparently a homeless man, who appears nightly to get food Hannah leaves on a stump outback? Unintentionally, while trying to take Hannah's place at the grill, Percy reveals everything, with some painful plot twists and confessions.

And, all this is set to music, played by a trio of pianist Damon Goff, cellist Miro Gomez and violinist David Edward. This unusual musical combination, using refined versions of folk instrmnts, creates a haunting, at times nostalgic mood which stirs memories of "Green Mansions." Combine that with some of the best voices ever heard on the Highlands stage, and well...it needs to be seen to be really appreciated.

Ultimately, the bulk of the credit goes to the director, D.V. Caitlyn, who located the pieces and fitted them together to make the Valcq-Alley script and songs -- carefully and thoughtfully written -- a thankful escape from today's hectic pace. It's what theater should be and anyone who enjoys theater, people and life -- warts and all -- needs to see this one.



2012

### Exhibitions

**Alex Matisse: Ometto**  
 through October 21

Support provided by  
 Ginger Kennedy and Kevin Naylor.

**Green Art**  
 through July 8

Support provided by Art Alliance for Contemporary  
 Glass and Gail and Tim Hughes

**Tim Curtis: Suspended**  
 through August 26



Alex Matisse

Tim Curtis



Green Art



Monday-Saturday, 10 am - 5 pm  
 www.TheBascom.org

Sunday, 12 noon - 5 pm  
 Highlands, NC 828.526.4949

## Highlands Cashiers Music Festival opens its 2012 season with showcase event

Over the course of its 31 years, the festival has on occasion explored the surprising links between the disparate realms of classical chamber music and freeform jazz.

You're invited to a picnic concert by The Smoky Mountain Brass Quintet at 5 p.m. on June 27th on the grounds of the historic Zachary-Talbot House in Cashiers. Be sure to bring a picnic and a blanket and prepare to luxuriate under late afternoon skies with al fresco dining and a healthy dose of irresistible music. The concert is free, but donations are greatly appreciated.

Concerts will be held at 6 p.m. Fridays at the Martin-Lipscomb Performing Arts Center in Highlands and repeated at 5 p.m. Saturdays at the Albert Carlton-Cashiers Community Library in Cashiers. Sunday concerts will be staged at 5:00 p.m. at the Performing Arts Center in Highlands and repeated at 5 p.m. Mondays at the Cashiers Community Library.

The 2012 Performance Schedule stretches from Friday, July 6th, to Sunday, August 12th, culminating with a final gala concert at the Performing Arts Center in Highlands and a Dinner Party at Wildcat Cliffs Country Club. The season will feature festival favorites like The Attacca String Quartet and The Eroica Trio, plus a sprinkling of new talent.

With all that talent, the Festival can't help but spill out into its host communities. Everyone is invit-

ed to attend the free "Beer & G Strings Concert," featuring The Vega String Quartet and Charae Krueger from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Wednesday, July 11th, at The Ugly Dog Pub in Highlands.

The Vega Quartet will offer another free show at Buck's Coffee Shop on Main Street in Highlands from 8:00 to 10:00 p.m. Wednesday, July 25th.

The Linden String Quartet will stage a free concert at Buck's Café in Cashiers (at the Crossroads) at 8:00 p.m. Wednesday, August 1st. Bach at Buck's is as natural a combination as, well, rich coffee and warm, mellow notes.

Even the Center for Life Enrichment is getting into the act. Dr. Benjamin Arnold will offer "Powerful Intimacy - the Chamber Music of Ludwig van Beethoven" on Saturday, July 7th, at the Performing Arts Center in Highlands. For registration or more information, call CLE at (828) 526-8811. In addition to its nationally-recognized program of concerts, the Festival is laced with a series of Feasts of the Festival. They're a chance to meet fascinating people and enjoy marvelous food and drink in some of the most breathtaking homes in Western North Carolina. Feasts continue through September and will feature an irresistible series of locations and menus.

For more information about the festival and its full lineup of performances and events, visit [www.hcmusicfestival.org](http://www.hcmusicfestival.org) or call (828) 526-9060.



## The Center for Life Enrichment

### THIS WEEK'S LECTURES

(walk-ins welcome)

#### THE REACH OF SONG

Thursday, June 21

10:00-12:00 at PAC (\$20/\$30)

#### MONTICELLO

Saturday, June 23

10:00-12:00 at PAC (\$20/\$30)

#### JOYS OF EDIBLE ROAD TRIPPING

Wednesday, June 27

10:00-12:00 at PAC (\$20/\$30)

#### TALE OF TWO WOMEN

Friday, June 29

10:00-12:00 at PAC (\$20/\$30)

#### UPCOMING

July 6, The Art of Woody Allen

July 7, Chamber Music of Ludwig van Beethoven

July 10, Spirit of American Poetry

### AN EXCURSION TO FLAT ROCK:

Carl Sandburg Home and Flat Rock Playhouse

There is still time to make your reservation for a day trip to Flat Rock.

#### Trip includes:

\* visit to the home and grounds of Carl Sandburg \* a catered lunch \* matinee viewing of a new comedy, *The Fox on the Fairway*, at the Flat Rock Playhouse, \* wine and cheese reception to meet the actors

\* luxury bus transportation

#### Wednesday, July 11

\$125 members, \$140 non-members

Leave Highlands at 8:45a.m.

Return in the evening

For more information and complete schedule:

[www.clehighlands.com](http://www.clehighlands.com) or

call 828 526-8811

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John 3:16

# PLACES TO WORSHIP

Proverbs 3:5

**BLUE VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH**

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

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

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

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

**BUCK CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH**

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

**CHAPEL OF SKY VALLEY**

Sky Valley, GA

Church: 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

Worshipping at the facilities of Whiteside Presbyterian Church, Cashiers

Sun.: Holy Communion - 9 a.m.; Adult Forum - 10:45 at Buck's Coffee

Cafe, Cashiers

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

Wed.: Men's Bible Study - 8:30 a.m., First Baptist Church

Thurs.: Women's Prayer Group - 10 a.m., Whiteside Presbyterian Church;

Healing Service at noon

**CHRISTIAN SCIENCE CHURCH**

283 Spring Street

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

Wednesdays - 7 p.m.

**COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH**

www.cbchighlands.com • 526-4685

3645 Cashiers Rd, Highlands, NC

Senior Pastor Gary Hewins

Sun.: 9:30 am: Adult Sunday School

10:30 am: Middle School; 10:45 am: Children's Program., Worship

Service. 12:30 pm Student Arts Group, 5 p.m. HS

Wed.: 6pm: CBC University Program

**EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE INCARNATION**

526-2968 • Reverend Bruce Walker

Sunday: Education for children &amp; adults and choir rehearsal beginning at 9:00am. Holy Eucharist Rite II Service held at 10:30am in the Main Nave of the Church.

Monday: 4 p.m. Women's Cursillo Group

Tuesday: 8 a.m. Men's Cursillo Group; Bible Study 10:30 a.m. Reverend Howard L'Enfant

Thursday: 10 a.m. Holy Eucharist (Chapel)

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH**

Dr. Charles Harris, Pastor • 526-4153

Sun.: Worship 10:45 a.m.; School - 9:30 a.m.

Wed.: Men's Bible Study 8:30 a.m., Prayer Meeting - 6:15 p.m., Choir - 5 p.m.

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

Dr. Lee Bowman, Pastor

Dr. Don Mullen, Parish Associate 526-3175

Sun.: Worship - 11 a.m.; Sun. 8:30a communion service June-Labor Day; School - 9:30

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

Wednesdays - Choir - 7

**GOLDMINE BAPTIST CHURCH**

(Off Franklin/Highlands Rd)

Rev. Carson Gibson

Sunday School - 10 am, Worship Service - 11 am

Bible Study - 6 pm

**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. Fourth Street (next to the Highlands Civic Center)

Sunday: School 9:30 a.m.; Morning Worship 10:45 a.m., Evening Worship, 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday: Prayer Service, 6:30 p.m.

**HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

Pastor Paul Christy 526-3376

Sun: School 9:45a.; Worship 8:30 &amp; 10:50.; Youth Group 5:30 p.

Wed: Supper; 6; 7:15 - children, youth, &amp; adults studies; 6:15 - Adult

choir (nursery provided for Wed. p.m. activities)

Thurs: 12:30 - Women's Bible Study (nursery)

**HOLY FAMILY LUTHERAN CHURCH - ELCA**

Chaplain Margaret Howell

2152 Dillard Road - 526-9741

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

Worship/Communion - 10:30

HEALING SERVICE on the 5th Sunday of the month.

**LITTLE CHURCH IN THE WILDWOOD**

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Sunday 7-8 p.m. Hymn-sing

Call Kay Ward at 743-5009

**MACEDONIA BAPTIST CHURCH**

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

Pastor Roy Lowe, (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**

St. Cyprian's Episcopal Church, Franklin

828-369-9270 or 828-293-5197

**MOUNTAIN BIBLE CHURCH**

Pastor: Clayton Lopez • 828-743-9704

Independent Bible Church

Sundays: 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.

**OUR LADY OF THE MOUNTAINS CATHOLIC CHURCH**

Rev. Dean Cesa, pastor - Parish office: 526-2418

Mass: - Sun: 11 a.m.; Thurs &amp; Fri.: 9 a.

**SCALY MOUNTAIN BAPTIST CHURCH**

Rev. Dwight Louggins

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

Wednesdays: Prayer Mtg. - 7 p.m.

**SCALY MOUNTAIN CHURCH OF GOD**

290 Buck Knob Road; Pastor Alfred Sizemore • 526-3212

Sundays: School - 10 a.m.; Worship - 10:45 a.m.; Worship - 6 p.m.

Wed: Adult Bible Study &amp; Youth - 7 p.m.

**SHORTOFF BAPTIST CHURCH**

Pastor Rev. Andy Cloer.

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

Wednesdays: Prayer &amp; Bible Study - 7

**UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP**

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Sunday Worship - 11 a.m.

Child Care - 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Religious Education - 11 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

Youth 8th - 12th grades meet the 2nd Sundays 5 - 7:30 p.m

**WHITESIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

Cashiers, Rev. Sam Forrester, 743-2122

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

# • SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

## Fire: Metaphoric or Real?

By Father Jim Murphy  
Christ Anglican Church

Have you ever allowed God to capture your imagination? Perhaps through something you encounter in life when it is juxtaposed with an idea from Holy Scripture or something that you have learned in your relationship with the Lord? I allowed such to happen to me recently as I read a newspaper report of yet another arsonist's attack on a church.

Fear not, the damage done to this particular church was minimal. The fire was discovered and extinguished soon after it was started. Nevertheless, my imagination was captured as I thought about fire and the church, the church and fire. More specifically, as I thought about the fire of recent day arson, juxtaposed with the fire of first century Pentecost. Then too, I thought about the church fire being put out in the church proper and the church metaphoric, the people of God.

As Acts chapter 2 describes it, part of the manifestation of God's power and presence on the day of Pentecost (50 days after the Resurrection, a.k.a., Easter) was fire. Were those "cloven tongues as of fire" that came down symbolic, metaphoric, or real? What a fascinating idea that fire has come to be part of the church's story in at least two distinctly different ways. Do you think that God can use it to capture our imaginations?

We all understand the benefits and the dangers of fire. Among other things, it can be extremely helpful as it keeps us warm or serves to create energy. And, it can be extremely dangerous as victims of destructive house (or church) fires can tell you. Fire can empower and consume, purify and burn. As long as fire is respected and used properly it is always beneficial. It's a tool created by God for our use.

How curious is it then that fire was one of the signs of the Holy Spirit's empowerment on the day of the first Pentecost? How curious is it that with the anniversary of the feast of Pentecost in our near-view, rear-view mirror that we find fire entering the church once again? Could God be trying to get our attention? Do you think that God would like to see the metaphoric but real fires of Pentecost burn in the church of our day? Do you think that the "fire" being extinguished in the above referenced building may be metaphoric in some sense for the dwindling (extinguished?) fires in the lives of present-day Christians?

Someone who is a fan of or who truly loves some idea or team is said to be "on fire" for thus and such. They might be described as having a "fire in their belly." Jeremiah had this internal fire for God (cf. Jeremiah 20). Do you think that our Lord would appreciate us showing a little more enthusiasm (belly-fire) for Him and what He's done for us? Do you think that the metaphor and the reality of fire at Pentecost was intended to empower the church throughout all of her history? Do you/we have fire or passion for our faith that lets others know that we are fans of Christ our Savior and for their welfare? Or do we instead harbor destructive fires or selfish passions?

Just a few thoughts worth asking ourselves, that's what happens when God captures your imagination and a holy fire burns within you.

## ... SALZARULO continued from page 5

not a phenomenon limited to the United States. Japan and western European countries had experienced similar declines. A license to drive once meant freedom. When I asked Bull if he longed for the liberation driving afforded, he answered, "Dad, we live in Highlands, North Carolina. Where can I go to be free?" He seems to understand it takes a village to raise a child. He fears, and I am confident, that it wouldn't take long for us to be informed if he got into mischief. I mentioned Franklin. He was unimpressed.

I still have trouble believing kids don't care about driving. It was so important to my generation. I still envy John Billingsly's chopped 1950 Mercury. My brother and I went to the junkyard to buy a gas peddle for our 1951 Ford. We found one on an old Lincoln and told our friends, "We were running Lincoln parts." There were drive in movies every weekend in the summer and endless cruising between Frisch's Big Boy and Carter's Drive In throughout the year. There were guys in leather jackets and duck tail hair cuts, as well as those in khakis and polo shirts, but all of us, even the one's with glasses and pocket protectors, had cars.

A number of explanations have been offered for the dramatic shift. Some blame

the recession and high rates of unemployment. High gas prices discourage some. Other teens link their lack of interest to an attempt to protect the environment, by producing fewer exhaust pollutants. With a resurgence of cities, more young urban people have realized a car is more trouble than it is worth, especially when public transportation, walking, or cycling are cheaper and more convenient alternatives.

Others claim, with a straight face, or at least without changing font that kids don't need cars anymore because they have the Internet and social networking. If kids have evolved that much in two generations, we've evolved well down the path to extinction. If Twitter and Facebook have replaced the Teen Center and the back seat, I'm more out of touch than I imagined. When I was 18, my Dad took my car away. I was driving a truck, working a split shift from 4 AM until 9 AM and 6 to 9 PM. My friends laughed at me for riding a bike to work, but it beat walking. Now I guess, it's cool.

Now that Bull has started driving, he is enjoying it, wants to drive everywhere, and is talking about needing a, not so environmentally friendly, Jeep Rubicon. That's my boy!

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# • POLICE & FIRE REPORTS •

Highlands PD log entries from May 22. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor, or public officials have been used.

**May 22**

• At 23:45 p.m., injury to real property was reported at Highlands School.

**May 24**

• At 3:35 p.m., there was a dog complaint from a resident on Foreman Road.

**May 28**

• At 3:25 p.m., a possible breaking and entering was reported a residence on Wingina Place.

**June 1**

• At 8:40 a.m., a person reported losing a ring in Oak Square.  
• At 1:01 p.m., a vehicle was reported blocking traffic on Gibson Street.  
• At 6:10 p.m., officers assisted a 18-wheeler turn around before going down the Gorge Road.

• At wounded bear was reported on Big Bear Pen. Wildlife said she was OK.

**June 2**

• At 6:45 p.m., a reckless driver was reported on NC 28.

**June 3**

• At 7:20 a.m., a wallet belonging to someone in Highlands was found on Walnut Creek Road.

• At 6:05 p.m., officers handled traffic control at Memorial Drive and US 64 east.

**June 4**

• A little after midnight, officers were asked to check on an overdue drive. All was OK.

• At 6:40 p.m., a wounded bear was reported on Big Bear Pen.

• During the week, police officers responded to 2 alarms and issued 11 citations.

Highlands F&R Dept. log entries from May 30.

**May 30**

• At 12:15 p.m. the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Falcon Ridge Road. It was false.

**May 31**

• At 7:36 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Mirror Lake Road. EMS transported.

• At 4:29 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at the hospital. The sprinkler system set it off after maintenance.

• At 2:19 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Cobb Road. EMS transported.

• At 3:49 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on US 64 west. EMS transported to the hospital and the person was taken to Asheville via MAMA.

**June 2**

• At 8:40 p.m. and 10:20 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at OEI's The Farm. It was false.

**June 3**

• At 6:04 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Memorial Drive. Battery was dead.

**June 4**

• At 10:59 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at the hospital. Due to malfunctioning sprinkler system.

• At 8:02 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Chestnut Hill Drive. EMS transported.

**June 6**

• At 9:01 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Gamet Rock Trail. EMS transported.

• At 10:09 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Cook Road. There was no transport.

• At 3:45 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to US 64 near Dry Falls where Macon County deputies were looking for a missing female. She was found OK.

## ... VIRTUAL from page 1

consider the resolution at upcoming board meetings," said Allison Schafer, Legal Counsel/Director of Policy with the NC School Boards Association. "A hearing will be held on Monday, June 25, at which the judge will be asked to rule both on the requests to intervene and the overarching issue in the case — whether the virtual school should be granted a charter without review by the State Board of Education."

But NC Learns hopes that its virtual charter school will serve 2,750 students from across NC beginning Aug 2012.

Although a virtual charter school has lower operating costs than a traditional charter school, the statutory funding formula requires NC Learns' virtual school to be funded under the same per pupil formula as brick and mortar charter schools — and that is one issue the opposition cites.

Macon County will be obligated to transfer a per pupil share of local funds for each student who enrolls in the virtual charter school, including students who previously have been home-schooled and who therefore are not provided for in state or local budget appropriations

For one thing, budgets to corresponding counties have already been set and they don't take into account the loss of per pupil funding that could result if NC Learns is allowed to open its "doors."

"Local education budgets are already under significant strain due to cutbacks in state and local funding during the previous four years and the elimination of significant federal funding in the upcoming fiscal year," reads part of the resolution. "Furthermore, the board of education doesn't believe that a single local board of education accountable only to the people of Cabarrus County (where NC Learns will reside) should be in the position to make a decision that impacts students and school districts across the state."

Public educators say it's not that they are opposed to virtual learning, as students throughout the state earn high school and college credits virtually. It's about how much money would leave local school systems to support students who enroll in the virtual public charter school.

NC Virtual Academy would serve students across the state, according to its application letter to the State Board of Education. The private nonprofit NC Learns would be responsible for the school, but would contract with K12 Virtual Schools, a for-profit education management organization, for educational products and services.

North Carolina law states that charter school applicants can submit their applications for preliminary approval to a local board of education, the board of trustees of the UNC or the State Board of Education. The State Board of Education has final approval.

After receiving preliminary approval, the proposed virtual school sent its application to the State Board of Education, which opted not to act on the application.

That brought about a lawsuit, NC Learns Inc. vs. State Board of Education. A few weeks ago an administrative law judge ruled in favor of NC Learns and stated that the state board lost jurisdiction over the application because it failed to take action. That means the virtual charter school could open this fall.

The state board appealed. Macon County and other school boards across the state are seeking to join in that appeal.

— Kim Lewicki

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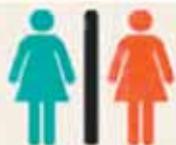
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## • BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NEWS •

### Sycamore Cabinetry & Custom Furniture opens on US 64E



Sycamore Cabinetry and Custom Furniture is open from 8:30a – 5p Mon-Sat featuring custom cabinetry, furniture and remodels. Everything is built in Highlands, NC and customers are encouraged to come visit while their project is being built. Free interior design service. Owners Paul & Cheryl Vasky are pictured with Father Dean Cesa of Our Lady of the Mountains Catholic Church, who blessed the business prior to the ribbon cutting.

Photo by Kim Lewicki

### Knit opens on Oak Street

Maxine Makover has brought her high-quality yarns to Highlands, yarns she has amassed from companies and spinsters all over the world including Italy, Thailand, England, Scotland, South America, Canada, and the United States.

She also carries a full line of knitting needles, crochet hooks, buttons, accessories, and books for inspiration. If you need advice or instruction, she and her expert knitting consultant/assistant, Curtis Noon, will be working side-by-side all summer to jump-start beginners and inspire the pros. KNIT, is located at 310-D Main Street in Highlands in the Oak Street Arcade, where the old Cashiers Cleaners used to be. Call (828) 482-1601 or visit [www.knitkeywest.com](http://www.knitkeywest.com) or e-mail Makover at [info@knitjewwest.com](mailto:info@knitjewwest.com).



### Sheryl L. Wilson joins White Oak Realty Group

Susie deVill, Owner/Broker-in-Charge, has announced that Sheryl Wilson has joined White Oak Realty Group, a Highlands, NC real estate firm.

Sheryl Wilson, Broker and Strategic Pricing Specialist, has lived in the Highlands-Cashiers area since 2009. An Asheville, NC native, she graduated from Mars Hill with a degree in Business Administration and from WCU with a Masters of Accountancy. For the past 30 years, her career has been in the real estate, customer service, and accounting industries.

"I am so excited about my affiliation with White Oak Realty Group," said Wilson. "I am eager to bring my business, real estate, and service experience to work for Highlands residents and visitors."

White Oak Realty Group's sales office is located at 125 South Fourth Street in the heart of the retail district in Highlands. For more information, visit [WhiteOakRG.com](http://WhiteOakRG.com) or call (828) 526-8118.



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• See CLASSIFIEDS page 22

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## ... JUST HERS continued from page 11

Youngstown to place in her photo album.

Another subject which caused me great consternation was the whole topic of race relations. My mother's two brothers had lived and worked in Africa for years. One of them even sent me a black doll, which I learned not to play with in public. My parents never told me that black people were different from us, so I listened carefully when other adults filled me in on all the details I didn't learn at home. They told me that the blacks went to a separate school because they would be uncomfortable if they were required to go to school with us. A local minister's son shared with me the knowledge that God had created white people in his own image, but that black people were descended from apes. That was what was called "evolution." You knew they were different because a black person bled green blood. For this reason, black people and white people couldn't marry; they weren't members of the same species.

Armed with this knowledge, I couldn't wait to go home, and see if Cora, our cleaning lady, just might cut herself by accident. I followed her around while she did her chores, and was such a pest that my mother demanded to know why I was hounding that poor woman. "I just want to see the green blood!" I confessed. Cora looked at me sadly, rolled her eyes and shook her head.

## ... INVESTING continued from page 9

it in the long run and almost always considerably LESS than the reduction of your asking price a buyer would offer because of the needed repairs.

8) Kitchen mock redo. If you don't have the funds or just don't want to spend what's necessary to completely remodel, you can still update your kitchen. Get new cabinet doors, or paint the ones you have, and then install new hardware. Be sure to take before and after shots. Buyers love to see what 'can be done.'

9) Accessorize. This is best done in 3s or in odd numbers anyway. Look at nature; things are never perfect scale or in a straight line. It's also OK to group things together not because they 'go together,' but because they share the same color.

10) Smells. If you have animals, cover the smell, if you smoke, cover the smell, but don't cover them so heavily with perfume-type diffusers that the potential buy-

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The Good Old Days were carefree - full of innocence and wonder. We played outdoors, our parents trusting that we would return in time for dinner. No one worried about being abducted, never to be seen again. Child abductions must have happened, but we were blissfully unaware that anyone would want to do us harm.

The days of the polio epidemic were not that far behind us, when swimming pools and cinemas had been closed, for fear of contagion. The occasional classmate was on crutches or had an arm in a sling, but the polio vaccine now freed us from the nightmare of hospitals and iron lungs. Our parents reminded us that we were living a charmed life, and maybe we were. After all, it was The Good Old Days!

OK, I confess that I've been pulling your legs a bit. We tend to look back on the past with rose-colored glasses. What we should not forget is that, whatever the past held for us, we are in the here and now. And who knows? Maybe the best is yet to come.

• Michelle is a writer and translator who moved to Highlands after years of living in Baltimore, Sydney, Paris and New York. She lives in town with her two very spoiled cats, Orion and Weasel. Now that Michelle has figured out that whole "boys in cars" thing, she will be taking her driver's test this week.

ers have to hurry through your home to be able to breathe.

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Much of what I've written today is advice from the HGTV website, but some is sage advice I've gotten from my mother-in-law, Isabel Chambers. She's a Realtor that's been staging homes longer than most people in Highlands have been selling real estate.

• Tucker and Jeannie Chambers are co-owners of The Chambers Agency, REALTORS in Highlands and specialize in selling investment homes and vacation rentals.

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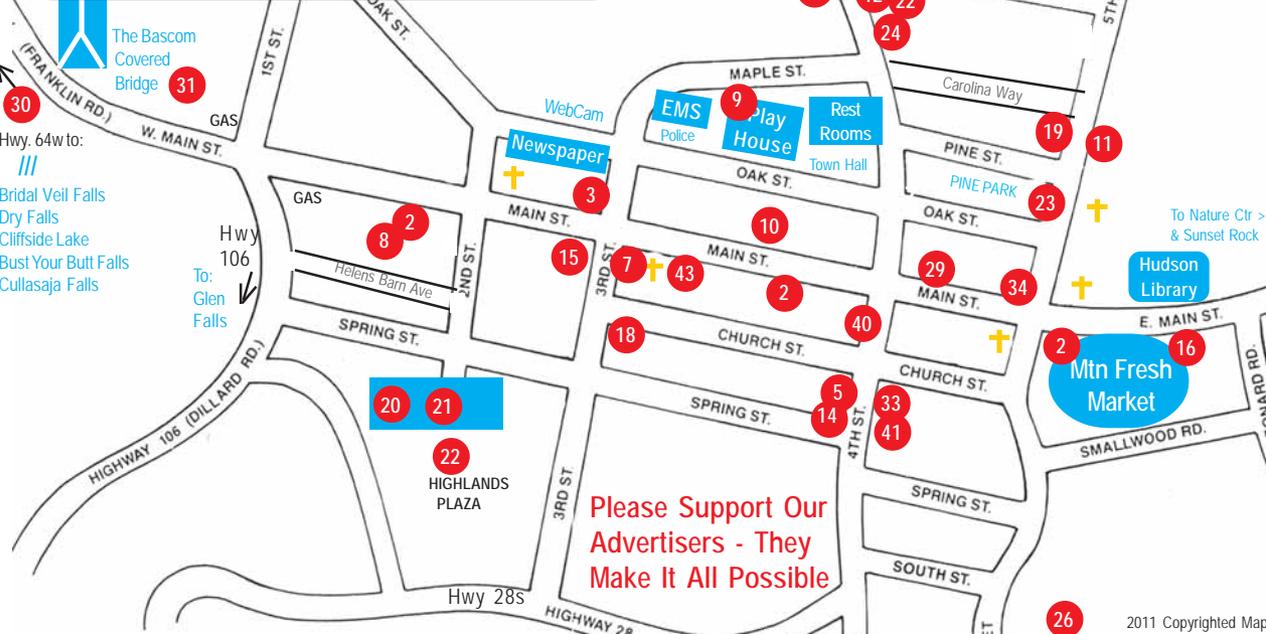
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