

Highlands Newspaper

FREE Every Thursday

Volume 11, Number 31

Real-Time News, Weather & WebCams: HighlandsInfo.com

Thursday, Aug. 8, 2013

Thurs., Aug. 8

• Vacation Bible School invites you to visit "Animals from the Ark" in the Episcopal Church garden at 10:45 a.m.

• At The Nature Center at 7pm – Zahner Conservation Lecture.

• At Main Street Inn, live music with Norma Jean on the lawn from 5-8p.

Fri., Aug. 9

• Relay for Life at the Rec Park at 6p p.m. Auction for Date with a Fireman at 7p.

• Live music in Town Square 6-8p.

Fri.-Sat., Aug. 9-10

• At HCCMF: "Sibling Rivalry." Friday (6 PM)– Highlands PAC. Saturday (5 PM) – Cashiers Library. Ticket Information at (828) 526-9060.

• At Altitudes at Skyline Lodge, Hal Philips on the piano.

Sat. & Sun., Aug. 10-11

• At Main Street Inn, live music with Norma Jean on the lawn from 12:30-3:30p.

Sat., Aug. 10

• Live music at K-H Park on Pine Street. Bring a picnic.

• At The Bascom from 7-10p. Sweet Sounds of the 70s Disco Dance. \$10 for members; \$15 non members. Drinks and food for purchase. Call 526-4949 for tickets.

• The Highlands Police Department Open House on Saturday from 11am-2pm. Refreshments will be provided. Come tour the department.

• At Shakespeare & Co., author Chip Wilson signing "In and Out Memoirs of Running a Bed and Breakfast." 4-6 p.m.

Tues., Aug. 13

• Listen to stories on Tuesday at 7 pm, at the Ugly Dog Pub at 294 S. Fourth St. in Highlands. Registration required to read. Call 526-8322.

Wed., August 14

• At 2 p.m., the Interlude Concert. Vocalists from the Georgia State University School of Music at First Presbyterian Church.

• Lakeside Restaurant is donating a portion of their receipts to Gilliam's Promise. Call 526-9419 to make reservations.

Bond pleads guilty to wire & mail fraud

He unlawfully retransmitted satellite TV programming to over 550 customers

It's taken over a year and a half for an anonymous tip called in to Highlands Newspaper late December 2011 to be proven true in court.

The caller claimed Ninian Ulysses Bond, II, 60, of Highlands

and owner and principal operator of Highlands Cable Group, was illegally rebroadcasting DirecTV stations to his cable subscribers.

Calls to DirecTV officials substantiated the anonymous caller's

claim, but they wouldn't go on the record due to pending legal action. The U.S. Attorney's office said a case was pending but couldn't give details at that time, either.

When asked if the claim was

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Highlands Relay for Life is Friday



The 2013 Relay for Life festivities begin Friday, Aug. 9 at 6 p.m. and end early in the morning Saturday, Aug. 10 at the Highlands Rec Park. The first event is the survivor walk. Pictured here are survivors -- some of whom aren't with us anymore. Next to Paul Jones (front far right) is Danise Chapman Barry who lost her fight 2012. Come out to remember and to support the community's fight against cancer.

Photo by Kim Lewicki

Citizens cry for covered pool

With a new regulation –size pool at the Highlands Rec Park in the works, there is a groundswell forming in the community calling for a covered pool – at least during the cold months.

The reasoning: Investing in a new pool would make more sense if citizens could use it more than three months.

Parents at Highlands School have long wanted a swim team and year-round citizens would like another recreation and exercise option during the cold months especially for those who have had to give up certain sports or exercise routines to stay in shape.

The problem is money – the town doesn't want to spend any more than already committed. It's even requiring the public to foot the bill to renovate and outfit the Free Weight Room at the Rec Park for the sum of about \$20,000.

According to Recreation Director Lester Norris, the town is concerned about the cost of covering the pool and what it would cost to maintain it.

Turns out, a bubble that could be erected when the weather turns cold and taken down when it warms up again is about \$40,000. This price includes the

•See POOL page 2

Town Board removes Planning Board member

In an unprecedented move at a special called Town Board meeting last Friday, commissioners voted unanimously to remove a

Planning Board member and appoint another.

According to documentation presented by Interim Town Plan-

ner Josh Ward, Mandi Neumann, who was appointed to the board June 2012, has been absent eight

•See TOWN BOARD page 6

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• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• LETTERS •

From MC Commissioner Ron Haven

To the Citizens of Macon County,

I've had several people ask me why I voted against this or that. It's time to clear the air and let you folks know all the other stuff that goes on. First off, I do try to get along with my fellow commissioners so long as I feel it's good for the taxpayers! I have tried three years in a row to lower our property tax rate. Two years in a row I voted for the budgets. Our budgets are loaded with numbers and details which are sometimes tricky to get a handle on. However, in this year's budget here's just a few of the items I had problems with:

1). I saw in our budget one department getting more than a \$200,000 raise for their budget over and above what we already gave them throughout the year. That same department then got thousands of dollars in pay raises while most county employees only got a two percent raise.

2). The Southwestern Commission is a group who supports land use regulations. I don't. They get THOUSANDS of your tax dollars in this budget. I simply could not support that.

3). Same goes for a lobbying group in Raleigh that just recently found out where Macon County was. They get THOUSANDS of dollars of your tax money in the budget. What does Macon County get out of that?

4). There was \$150,000 in the budget to buy the land (1.76 acres) in Highlands for a soccer field. I asked how much it was going to cost total to complete project but never got an answer. I also asked; what will it cost to take care of that underground spring? Again, I was ignored and never got the answers so I didn't vote for it.

5). I was led to believe the Parker Meadows Ballpark would cost the county around 1 million dollars to complete. I was in favor of that and voted for it. On the day we were scheduled for a due diligence vote all of the sudden the figure ballooned to upwards of a potential 4.9 million dollars. I could not see spending that much of the tax payers money in this economy. Not to mention I think we overpaid for the land.

6). Although this school budget problem wasn't caused by the commissioners, we were the ones thrown under the bus for their past management. It resulting in Macon County taxpayers paying over a million dollars more in the budget. Don't get me wrong, I have always stood for education and teachers in our County.

7). That budget also had way over \$100,000 to fund the old Cowee School.

A couple weeks ago I read another uninformed person's Letter-to-the Editor saying we needed to keep the county pay scale up to minimum pay like other nearby counties. Actually, I would support targeted pay raises that would accomplish just that but sorry friend, that was not the problem.

That pay study was not compared to our nearby counties. It was compared to three counties near the coast. One case in point; Watauga County up near Virginia which has 239 employees and 69,000 citizens compared to Macon County who has about 418 employees, and 35,000 citizens more or less. Do the math. Watauga has twice the population & half the employees. This is no comparison. Another was

Transylvania County near Asheville. Asheville is urban which again, is not a good comparison. None of these comparisons even included the fringe benefits Macon County pays which were higher than all the others. I also asked for a comparison to Cherokee, Swain, Jackson, Clay, Rabun and Graham counties but never got it probably because that wouldn't fit the plan either.

We are going to be confronted with a \$300,000 or more proposal to widen the Macon County Airport runway. I voted last year for \$230,000.00 as part of a grant to repave it. I was told about all the money this airport makes annually. If it makes all this money, why are we asked every year to fund \$200,000 or more?

These are only a few of the reasons I vote the way I do. I am not running down my fellow commissioners for how they vote. However, I didn't pledge to the citizens to follow a big spending plan. I said, "I would be conservative and that is how I have voted."

I know some don't worry about the taxpayer. They just want us commissioners to spend. Sorry, I am not going back on my

word. It's hard sometimes to be a "true conservative" who looks out for the taxpayer's money with an economy in the ditch and when everyone else seems to be looking for ways to spend it. I wish more folks would attend meetings and get the facts before speaking. If you can't make the meetings then at least watch them on video at; thunderpigblog.blogspot.com/ That way you can at least see and hear most of what happens. I hope this helps you all see just a few of the things that go on that you don't always read about in the newspapers. Thank you.

MC Commissioner Ron Haven
Franklin

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bubble which would enclose all decking, not just the pool – a total of 9,188 sq. ft; five blowers for proper inflation and two zippered entry/exit points. See http://www.websweeper.com/php/pool_domes/do-047.php

Of course additional costs would include staffing and utilities but again, the Town Board recently OK'd giving up over \$20,000 in annual utility payments from three entities in town – annual proceeds which could pay for the extra cost of heating a "bubbled" pool in the cold months for citizens.

This past year Old Edwards Hospital-ity Group installed a bubble over its outdoor pool and according to President and Managing Director Richard Delany "It is pretty cool!"

"With our weekends being full now throughout the winter months and more members and residents staying here full time we wanted to have more fun things for them to do," he said. "We did not have the space to retrofit a permanent roof and in the spring, summer and fall it is nice to have it wide open and not be covered."

Erecting a temporary bubble over the Highlands Rec pool would satisfy old federal Land & Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) stipulations concerning Highlands' outdoor pool. As per the original agreement, funding was for an outdoor pool which couldn't be retrofitted. However, a temporary "bubble" due to climactic changes is OK.

According to Delany, the bubble is a very simple and cost effective solution that basically uses fans to inflate the structure over the pool, which he said is very much

• See POOL page 3

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• OBITUARIES •

Raynor L. Duncombe

Dr. Raynor L. Duncombe died recently at his residence in Austin, TX at the age of 96. Born in Bronxville, N.Y. in 1917, he was educated at Wesleyan University, with an M.A. from the University of Iowa in English literature and a PhD from Yale University in Astronomy. Dr. Duncombe worked as an astronomer at the U.S. Naval Observatory in Washington, D.C. and was Director of the Nautical Almanac Office; until recently, he served as a professor of aerospace science at the University of Texas at Austin and was recently made professor emeritus.

Dr. Duncombe was predeceased by his first wife, Avis Bailey Duncombe and by his second wife, Julena Steinheider Duncombe. Dr. Duncombe is survived by one son, Raynor Bailey Duncombe (Janice) of Middleburgh, NY, two grandchildren, Christina L. Duncombe of Chesapeake, VA and Raynor L. Duncombe (Heidi) of Mooresville, NC and their two children, his great grandchildren, Ava and Zack. Dr.

Duncombe was a member of the NASA space science steering committee having worked on the Vanguard, Mercury, Gemini and Apollo projects and was instrumental in determining the orbit of Sputnik when launched by the Russians. He was a member of the Hubble Space Telescope Astrometry team and was past executive editor of Celestial Mechanics. He was a fellow of various astronomy associations and received numerous awards. Dr. Duncombe was a true renaissance man. He was as comfortable reciting poetry as he was discussing the universe. He learned to fly a plane, had perfect pitch and played several musical instruments, and was skilled at plumbing, carpentry and electrical work. Most of all he had a contagious sense of humor and

a well grounded sense of self that was never boastful. He loved encouraging and aiding students in pursuit of their education. He enriched so many lives and will be sorely missed by those who knew him.

A service, followed by a visitation was held on Saturday, August 3, 2013 at noon at Bryant-Grant Funeral Home located at Highway 64 E., Highlands, NC. Highlands was Dr. Duncombe's summer home. Burial will be at a later date in Newtown, Connecticut.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the University of Texas, Department of Aerospace Engineering, 301 E. Dean Keeton C2100, Austin, Texas 78712-0287 with checks payable to UT Austin. Please include in the memo line: In Memory of Ray Duncombe. Bryant-Grant Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Margaret West Bailey

Margaret West Bailey, 98, of Highlands, NC passed away Tuesday, July 30, 2013. Born in Philadelphia, PA, she was the daughter of the late Mitchell Wellington and Alretta Sneft West. She was preceded in death by her husband of 58 years, William J. Bailey, Jr.

Mrs. Bailey was a graduate of Maury High School, Norfolk, VA and attended the Norfolk Division of the College of William and Mary. She was a member of Highlands United Methodist Church and a member of Highlands Garden Club.

She is survived by a niece, Joice Ira of Jacksonville, FL and a nephew, C. Edgar Hill, Jr., of Jackson, MS and their families. In addition to her parents and husband, she was preceded in death by a sister Virginia West Cornick who died in June of 2012.

A memorial service and burial will be held at a later date at the family plot on the Eastern Shore of Virginia.

The family wishes to thank the wonderful caregivers that have attended to her in recent years.

Memorial donations may be made to Highlands United Methodist Church, 315 Main Street, Highlands, NC 28741 or Cashiers-Highlands Humane Society, PO Box 638, Cashiers, NC 28717.

Bryant-Grant Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Online condolences may be made at www.bryantgrantfuneralhome.com.



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... POOL from page 2

like event tent material.

Though he doesn't have utility statistics, he said the heated pool heats the space pretty effectively. "Our guests and members loved it and used it consistently through the cold months," he said.

Delany said like numerous citizens, OEI would be very supportive of an indoor pool facility in Highlands for a swim team and also for the residents and guests of the town.

"I understand there would be costs to consider for propane, chemicals and life guards but I definitely think it would get good use. More and more people, including me 4-5 times a week, understand the huge benefits of swimming as part of a healthy lifestyle especially as our doctors tell us to give up basketball and soccer if we want our knees and ankles to survive," he said.

He also said OEI's water aerobics class is one of its most popular fitness classes.

According to NC Parks and Recreation Trust Fund Manager John Poole, Highlands' pool could be bubbled to allow for year-round use by following LWCF cold climate criteria guidelines.

Though Highlands received PARTF money to construct the Rec Park, the contract for the pool comes under the LWCF.

According to LWCF documentation, for swimming pools and ice skating rinks located in areas which meet the cold climatic criteria, shelters of permanent construction may partially or completely enclose these facilities to protect them against cold weather conditions and thereby significantly increase the recreation opportunities provided.

In addition, there are allowances through the National Parks Service (NPS) – regardless of weather conditions – for

• See POOL page 14

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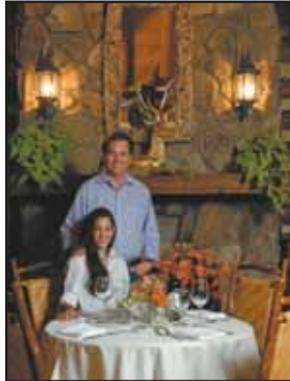
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... TOWN BOARD continued from 1

times – the last time was Monday, July 29, 2013.

Though over the past year, most of her absences were excused due to health-related issues, commissioners agreed that a person who could attend meetings regularly was needed on the Planning Board.

"It's come to our attention that we have a board member on the Planning Board who has failed to meet the rules of procedure having to do with attendance; having missed six meetings in the first year (2012) and two in this year for a total of eight meetings. It's incumbent upon this board – with everything we have going on in the planning process – that we have members who attend the meetings," said Mayor David Wilkes. "My recommendation would be to remove that person and replace her with someone else."

Commissioner Brian Stiehler made the motion to remove Mandi Neumann from the Planning Board effective immediately. The motion was seconded by Gary Drake and unanimously approved.

Commissioner John Dotson suggested moving Steve Abryani from the Appearance Commission to the Planning Board. The board voted unanimously to replace Neumann with Abryani.

Like Neumann, Abryani doesn't live in the town limits but only three of the six Planning Board members have to live in town.

Up until June of this year, absences were OK as long as the excuses were accepted by the Planning Director or Chairman of the board. However, that changed in June when it was decided that regardless of excuses, an absence was an absence.

The number of absences allowed hasn't changed, however. After three consecutive absences or four in one year, a member will be removed from the board.

"It is incumbent upon this board to make sure we have boards in place that are doing their job," said Wilkes. "My view is there are excused and unexcused absences but there comes a point when a person can no longer carry out the job."

On Monday, July 29, Neumann sent an email to two board members and Ward explaining that she wouldn't be attending the meeting due to health issues.

She was also absent June 25, 2012, Aug. 7, 2012, Aug. 27, 2012, Sept. 13, 2012, Sept. 24, 2012, Oct. 22, 2012, and April 8, 2013.

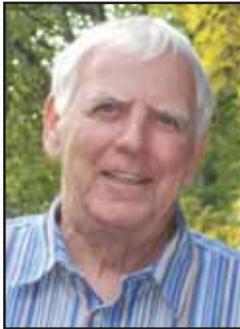
The next Planning Board meeting is Monday, Aug., 29 at 5:30 p.m. in the Community Building.

– Kim Lewicki

• THE FREDSTER •

Is Highlands a cosmopolitan international chic Mayberry?

Well, we don't have an airport....but we could use one 'cause people are pouring in here from all parts of the world. We're getting a reputation and are becoming known worldwide. For starters, let me point out a few things that may have whizzed by you while you were speeding down Main St. chasing after a parking spot you thought was open only to find a motorcycle was tucked in there.



Feedback is encouraged
highlandseditor@aol.com

scarf worn by the women. And everyone is familiar with the burqa where only the eyes show. You'll see none of that in Highlands. They dump their garb at the airport because who can walk up Whiteside Mountain wearing a burqa or dish-dash?

Feel free to thank me for the influx of Arabs into our mountain town. It started a couple of years ago while visiting Dubai. While I have many friends there, this one particular friend, Hous bin Pharteen,

is a travel agent for the Al Kaboom Travel Agency in downtown Dubai. After telling him about the wonders of Highlands, he started sending tourists here. He found they are most fascinated with the happiness of the local mountain folks who were born here. Hey, what's not to be happy about? Oh, and frightened wealthy Arabs are buying Highlands' homes in preparation of the big war. Have you bought your ammo yet? Ha, there isn't any.

Of course, there are the usual mix of Cubans, Guatemalans, Haitians, Colombians, etc. who drift into Highlands from Miami looking for work. TA DA! Highlands is cosmopolitan. But don't panic 'cause in many ways we're still Mayberry. At 11 PM I can still call the mayor at home about a barking dog and he'll do something about it. The only difference is that in Dubai, the police swing by and shoot the dog.

EVENTS

RELAY FOR LIFE

• Friday, August 9th, 6pm to Saturday, August 10th, 6am, Highlands Rec Park. Contact: Mike Murphy @ (828) 526-1841 or epjmcm@hotmail.com

Scudders Auction

• Sunday, August 25th, 3pm – LIVE and Silent Auction! Contact: Debbie Grossman @ (828) 421-2144 or fresserseatery@aol.com

Kilwin's Ice Cream Night!

• Tuesday, September 3rd, 6pm—9pm—50% of proceeds goes to Relay! Contact: Mike Murphy @ (828) 526-1841 or epjmcm@hotmail.com



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Third Anniversary Celebration

Sunday, August 11, 2013
10:45 a.m. Worship
and 4:00 p.m. Concert

Guest Speaker ~ Soloist
Johnny Hall

Johnny Hall is best known for his gospel singing career. For 35 years Johnny has traveled North America in the ministry of music evangelism and gospel concerts. He has been a featured soloist with Billy Graham, Luis Palau, Charles Stanley and numerous others.

In addition to his music, Johnny is a gifted communicator, preacher and mission's spokesperson. He is currently President/CEO of Reach the Rest.

Macon County Public Health and Highlands-Cashiers Hospital team up on diabetes education

Most individuals with diabetes know that they need to take care of themselves; but diabetes can be difficult to understand

and opportunities for good education are not easy to find. Macon County Public Health and Highlands-Cashiers Hospital

are pleased to announce a new collaboration in the Highlands area. Diabetes Self-Management Training (DSMT) will now

be offered at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital in addition to the on-going classes in Franklin. The DSMT program is certified through the American Diabetes Association (ADA) and the curriculum is considered to be the "best practice" for educating those with diabetes.

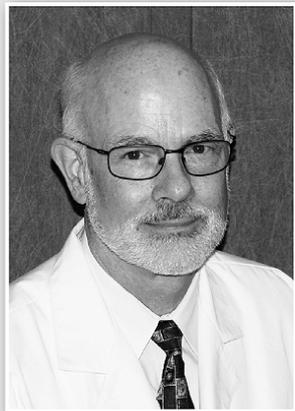
Topics covered in the program include healthy eating, cooking tips and sample recipes, physical activity, blood sugar monitoring, medications, healthy coping, reducing risk for complications and much more. Participants will receive 8-hours of fun and informative group education, as well as two 1-hour individual sessions with a registered dietitian. Participants who have completed the program have seen improvements in blood sugar levels, eating habits, foot care, body weight and blood pressure. Some participants have even been able to stop taking certain diabetes medications after completing the course.

The DSMT program welcomes all who wish to improve their diabetes control and quality of life. Many insurance carriers cover the cost of DSMT services; for those participants who do not have insurance, fees are assessed on a sliding scale.

The next DSMT program at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital is scheduled to begin on Friday, August 23rd.. To enroll in the program, you must:

1. Have a physician's diagnosis of diabetes
2. Have your physician complete a referral form, including Hemoglobin A1c test results. The necessary referral form may be accessed at <http://www.maconnc.org/images/health/diabetesManagementfill.pdf> or you may call 349-2086 to request a form by mail, email, or fax.
3. Mail, drop off, or fax the referral as instructed on the form
4. A registered dietitian will then call you to complete the registration process

For more information about the Diabetes Self-Management Training program please contact Jessi Bassett, Registered Dietitian, at 828-349-2086.



Bayard D. Miller, MD
Neurology

PRACTICE INFORMATION

Highlands-Cashiers Hospital
Jane Woodruff Clinic, Suite 203
209 Hospital Drive
Highlands, NC 28741

Office Hours

Tuesday and Wednesday: 8am to 12pm

(828) 526-5045

NOW ACCEPTING APPOINTMENTS

CERTIFICATION

- Bayard D. Miller, MD is a graduate of University of Florida Medical School, Gainesville, FL. He completed his Internship in Internal Medicine at Parkland Memorial Hospital at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical School in Dallas, Texas and was the Chief Resident in his Residency Program at the University of Florida in Gainesville, FL. Prior to joining the HCH Medical Staff, Dr. Miller practiced at the University of Florida Department of Neurology, Shands Healthcare in Gainesville, FL and has more than 35 years of clinical experience. Dr. Miller is Board Certified in Neurology and is a member of the American Academy of Neurology.

Welcome!

Bayard D. Miller, MD
Neurology

Please welcome Bayard D. Miller, MD to our community of Board Certified Physicians and Providers. Dr. Miller will join Highlands-Cashiers Hospital Physician Services practicing on the 2nd Floor of the Jane Woodruff Clinic. His practice will provide a full spectrum of general neurological issues.

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• JUST HERS •

In Praise of Summer



Michelle Mead-Armor
michiemead@aol.com

I feel that I owe summer an apology. Whenever asked to list my favorite seasons, I invariably think of the rebirth and renewal of spring, the excitement of fall colors, the bright, crisp winter days that send me scurrying to my warm fireplace and a steaming bowl of hot soup. No, summer has never been up there with my favorites, so I've never joined in those gushing tributes to the season of overcooked meats and underfed mosquitoes. Still, I don't want to seem like a Grinch stealing those precious days between Memorial Day and Labor Day, so here's to summer!

My earliest memories of that season revolved around the backyard, splashing in an inflatable wading pool, and running around laughing as Daddy squirted us with the garden hose. In those marvelous days before computers and hand-held gaming devices, children actually played outside, running, inventing games, creating imaginary kingdoms, fighting imaginary dragons. On the days it rained, we played quietly indoors at games like Monopoly, Parcheesi, and Chinese checkers, read books, or rarely – and I mean rarely – we watched the one and only channel we could get on our black and white TV. The local movie theaters put on special children's programs, where we thrilled and cried at classics like *Ole Yeller* and *The Yearling*. As we grew older, both Eric and I joined a local swim team – the Sharks – where my big brother covered himself with glory, and I mostly sat on uncomfortable plastic chairs in an ill-fitting bathing suit that smelled of chlorine.

My parents saved up and purchased a lot in the new housing development of Linden Terrace. While they scrimped for the additional money to actually build our house, we paid regular visits to our lot, in an old apple orchard. We fantasized about where our rooms would be, even though it meant that some of the trees

would invariably have to go. We picked the rock hard green apples that grew there, learning to eat around the worms that infested the fruit from our unsprayed and untreated trees. Although the apples were better served up in pies or apple sauce, we still ate too many green apples, ignoring our mother's warnings about tummy aches.

When I was eight, we moved into our new house, nobly named on the building plans "The George Washington". What our first president would have thought of our one story house with unfinished basement remains one of history's great mysteries. The new neighborhood gave us safer streets on which to ride our bicycles, tearing down the road beside the Waynesboro Country Club. Summer nights were filled with fireflies and sparklers – backyard cookouts and ghost stories. The children of the Mead/Gross/Vigour/Cockrell families blended into one large tribe of all ages – from the eldest, Tommy Vigour, to the youngest, his little sister Barbie. Even our pets formed a Noah's ark of animals – from Ringo the dog to Henry the Guinea Pig, not forgetting to mention Alley Cat and Tiger.

Our parents lived in a parallel universe of square dances, bridge games, and cocktail parties. And while our paths crossed for badminton and croquet, the adults enjoyed their free time knowing that we were safe and keeping ourselves entertained. Although we sometimes pretended to be mortified,

my brother and I were secretly proud of our athletic father, who swam, and played basketball and tennis. Blessed with young parents, Eric and I wondered at our friends whose mothers and fathers were the age of our grandparents!

We learned never to utter the phrase, "I'm bored." While the summer months were filled with their share of fun, we were still expected to chip in to the smooth running of the household. Outdoor play meant an increase in the amount of dirty laundry to be taken downstairs. I was convinced that monsters lived in the basement, so trips there were brief, and filled with dread. We had the only electric lawn mower in the neighborhood, so it was a badge of honor not just to mow the lawn, but not run over the cord. My parents each had a car, and those cars had to be washed. Any task involving a garden hose was an excuse for high spirits and a good soaking! Flowers had to be watered, too, and weeds – especially dandelions – had to be dug up with an old knife, and carefully bagged and thrown out. Oddly enough, we didn't see chores as punishment, any more than we saw my parents' jobs as such. Instead, we saw it as part of what made the family run, and while we might have complained – what child doesn't? – we soon realized that the sooner we got our chores done, the sooner we could go out and play.

And what would summer memories be without ice cream? This icy treat charmed our days. Whether it was bought in cartons at the supermarket, hand churned on the back porch, or handed over by the nice man in the ice cream truck, it was all frozen bliss. Early on, Eric and I developed an eye for soda bottles thrown on the side of the road. We'd collect them, bring them home, and clean them up, so we could take them to Apple Acres Grocery and collect the deposit. That money was added to our allowance money, and generally spent on penny candy and ice cream. We learned to recognize the faint sound of the

approaching music from the Dairy Queen truck. Our ears would prick up. "Mommy, Mommy! Can we? Can we?" We'd run to our rooms, and grab some change – tearing down the road in the direction of the music. Sure enough, the Dairy Queen man would be there. If we were lucky, we'd be the first kids in line, solemnly handing over our money, in exchange for a precious Dilly Bar. These items had to be eaten with great care, as one wrong bite could break the chocolate coating, sending it crashing to the ground to be eaten by ants.

Except for the years when we had saved up enough to go visit my grandparents in France, our big summer trip was to a mysterious place called Myrtle Beach. The trip of almost 400 miles took over six

hours, a long time for us all. Daddy smoked in the front seat, while the rest of us played car bingo, read Burma Shave slogans out loud, and watched out for the first signs of "South of the Border". That famous roadside attraction, located between Rowland, North Carolina, and Dillon, South Carolina, was a family institution, although we never actually stopped there, not even once. Who would have guessed that a local boy, future Fed Chairman Ben Bernanke, was a poncho-wearing waiter there, using this summer job to pay his way through Harvard? No, South of the Border meant only another hour and a half to Myrtle Beach, and a whole two weeks of pecan pie, beaches, and putt putt golf. And that's another story altogether.

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As part of Highlands-Cashiers Hospital's Physician Forum Series, the Healthy Heart Symposium held on July 18th was a huge success. Over 50 community members attended hearing various educational lectures from Board Certified Gynecologist Julie Farrow, MD, Board Certified Cardiologist Laura Verde, MD, Chief Nursing Officer Eileen Lipham MSN, Radiology Director Laura Ammons, HealthTracks Director Yvonne Smith RD and Mission Hospital's Director of Cardiac Emergencies Frank Castelblanco, DNP, RN. The two-hour forum series included a mini heart screening, lectures that focused on "Women and Heart Health", "Latest Advancements in Cardiology," "HCH's Cardiac Emergencies, Radiology, and Rehabilitation Services", and ended with a CPR crash course.



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• HIGHLANDS AREA UPCOMING EVENTS •



PULL OUT

Ongoing

Registration is now open for the 2013 summer Nature Day Camps at the Highlands Nature Center. Five different camps are being offered: "WOW! – a World of Wonder" (ages 4-6), "Amazing Animals" (ages 7-10), "NatureWorks" (ages 8-11), "Mountain Explorers" (ages 10-13), and "Junior Ecologists" (ages 11-14). Most camps are offered more than once during the summer and sessions run from Tuesday to Friday each week. For complete schedules, costs, and other information, please call 828-526-2623 or visit the summer camps webpage at www.highlandsbiological.org.

• A Gilliam's Promise fundraiser. Raffle tickets on a 2003 Mitsubishi Eclipse Spyder convertible. \$25 per ticket or 5 for

\$100. We will give the car away at our annual 5K race on September 21 and you don't need to be present to win. The car can be seen at Franklin Ford most days, or at the Highlands Farmers Market on Saturday mornings, or you can call Gilliam's Promise office at 828-526-2220 for information on how to get your tickets.

Mondays-Fridays

• At The Bascom. Adult Classes: Sculpture: Clay "Fearless Sculpture" 10am to 4pm. Photography: Digital and Photoshop "Beginner" Friday, 2 - 5pm; Saturday, 10am - 4pm

Mon., Wed., Fri.

• Heart Healthy Exercise Class at the Rec Park. 8:30-9:30 a.m. \$20/month.

Mondays

• Mountain View Group of Alcoholics

Anonymous will be held in the Faith and Fellowship Center of First Presbyterian Church. Enter via the entrance on 5th St. Take the few steps down to the library.

Monday & Thursday

• Hatha Yoga – Body n' Soul. 10:45a at the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation. R.Y.T. and YA (828) 482-2128. (8/29)

Tues.-Sat.

• The Bookworm in the Peggy Crosby Center on 5th Street is 10a-4p.

Tuesdays

• Highlands Rotary Club meets at noon at the Highlands Conference Center at noon.

• Closed AA Women's meeting, 5:30 p.m. at the Presbyterian Church at Fifth and Main streets.

Wednesdays

• Dine at Lakeside Restaurant. A portion of proceeds go to area nonprofits.

• Hatha Yoga – Body n' Soul. 7:45a at First Presbyterian Church. R.Y.T and Y.A. (828) 482-2128. (8/29)

• The Highlands Mountaintop Rotary

meets at 7:30 a.m. in the dining room at the H-C Hospital. Enter the hospital in the main or emergency entrance and follow the signs downstairs. Visitors are welcome. Meetings end at 8:30 am.

• Men's interdenominational Bible Study at 8:30 a.m. at First Baptist Church.

• The Homegrown Buds, a homeschool 4-H club, meets at noon at the Macon County Library on Siler Road in Franklin at 1 p.m.

• Mah Jong games will be held, open to the public, at the Albert Carlton Cashiers-Community Library at 1 p.m.

1st and last Wednesdays

• Kayak demos and roll clinics are held the first and last Wednesday of every month throughout the pool season from 4:30-8 p.m.

1st Wednesday

• Movies at the Hudson Library. Children/ Family movies at 3:30 p.m. Free including popcorn. Bring your own soft drinks. 828-526-3031 for movie information.

3rd Wednesday

• Movies at the Hudson Library. Recently released movies at 2 p.m. Free including popcorn. Bring your own soft drinks. 828-526-3031 for movie information.

Thursdays

• Live music with Norma Jean on the

lawn at Main Street in from 5-8p.

• Free lectures, which will be held each Thursday evening at 7pm through August 29th at the Highlands Nature Center at 930 Horse Cove Road in Highlands. Call the Highlands Biological Foundation at 828-526-2221 for information.

Fridays through August

• The Highlands Area Chamber of Commerce and Visitor Center presents Friday Night Live in Town Square. Save the dates as the season festivities will be held every Friday, from 6-8pm. Scheduled performances feature area musicians and a variety of musical styles and talents.

Fri., Sat., and Sun.

• At Attitudes at Skyline Lodge, Hal Philips on the piano Friday and Saturday evening and Sunday brunch.

Fridays

• Free, Grief Support Group, 10:30am-noon at the Jane Woodruff Clinic - Suite 201, on the H-C Hospital campus. Questions? Call 828-692-6178 or email: mlee@fourseasonsccfl.org

Saturdays

• See EVENTS page 12

HCP: Putting community in theater

Since its founding 237 members of the Highlands-Cashiers-Franklin area have acted in a Highlands Cashiers Players production and perhaps twice that number as backstage and front of house volunteers.

Some actors have appeared in one play, some in as many as 27 plays. But all have volunteered their talents to bring "Good Plays, Well Done" to the community.

In 1995 five women pooled their resources to finance the first play, "Steel Magnolias" at the Highlands Community Building by the ball park. Led by actress and former HCP president Jean Morris, the women felt there were not enough opportunities for local community members to exercise their acting skills. Over the years HCP has grown in the scope and quality of its plays producing four main stage productions each season.

For the first play of its 19th season, "Almost Maine," opening in August at the Performing Arts Center on Chestnut Street, HCP has added 9 new actors to its roster of participants.

"We are especially happy that these new talents are young people in their 20's and 30's," said Virginia Talbot, director of "Almost, Maine." "Many will bring previous acting experience and some are new to the stage."

"It is really extraordinary how much acting talent there is in this community," commented Barbara Werder, HCP president. "We are proud to be able to be the vehicle for showcasing that talent."

Of course, acting is only one part of bringing a play to the stage. Behind the scenes are dozens of other volunteers who direct, build sets, find props, secure costumes, sell tickets and usher during performances.

"We couldn't put on a play without both kinds of volunteer s," Werder said.

For a number of years audiences have known the Highlands Cashiers Players as an organization that produces "good plays, well done." With its record of area participants, HCP can also claim that it "puts the community in theater."

Season tickets for the 19th Season are now on sale. The four plays are Almost, Maine in August, followed by Murder Among Friends, Weekend Comedy and Mama Won't Fly. Season tickets are flexible and can be used one per play, all four at one play or any combination. Visit highlandscashiersplayers.org or call 828-526-8084 for complete information.

Anniversary concert at Highlands Central Baptist Church this Sunday



Johnny Hall, speaker gospel singer and president and CEO of Reach the Rest will perform at the Highlands Central Baptist Church at 670 N. 4th Street at the Sunday, Aug. 11 to celebrate its 3rd Anniversary. Worship Service is at 10:45a and Hall's concert is at 4 p.m.

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PULL OUT

• HIGHLANDS AREA UPCOMING EVENTS •

• At The Bascom, knitters meet from 10 AM to noon.

Interlude at First Presbyterian



Carolyn Balkovetz

At 2pm on Wednesday, August 14 the Interlude Concert Series sponsored by First Presbyterian Church and the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation will feature vocalists from the Georgia State University School of Music. The concert will take place at First Presbyterian Church.

Featured will be Carolyn Balkovetz, soprano; Katherine Oates, mezzo-soprano; John Tibbetts, baritone; and William Fowler, accompanist.

There is no admission charge for the Interlude concerts, which constitute a ministry in music to the community. Dress is casual – come as you are. First Presbyterian Church is located at the corner of Main and Fifth Streets. Handicap entrances are located on Church Street and on Fifth Street.

• Highlands Farmer's Market in Highlands Plaza 9a to noon. Fresh vegetables, Flowers, breads, baked goods, craft items, jewelry.

• Live, free concert in K-H Park on Pine Street from 6-8p.

Sat. & Sun.

• Live music with Norma Jean on the lawn at the Main Street Inn 12:30-3:30p.

Through Oct. 15

• Join the "Winkler Challenge" for Hudson Library. Horst and Margaret Winkler are offering the library \$35,000 if it can collect a matching amount. Donations will be accepted July 15-October 15.

Through Aug. 17

• At the Highlands Playhouse, Annie. For ticket information call 526-9443.

Thurs., Aug. 8

• The August meeting of The Western North Carolina Woodturners Club will meet on Thursday at 6 PM at the Blue Ridge School, in Glensville, N.C. Drive to the back of the school to the woodworking shop. Visitors are always welcomed.

"ANIMAL CRACKERS" Vacation Bible School invites you to visit "Animals from the Ark" in the Incarnation's garden at 10:45 a.m.

• The League of Women Voters presents "Three

Sheriffs." Macon County Sheriff Robbie Holland and former sheriffs George Moses and Homer Holbrooks will provide an interesting look at current and former law enforcement in Macon County. The program will take place at Tartan Hall in Franklin beginning at noon.

• At The Nature Center at 7pm – Zahner Conserva-

Author to sign book at Shakespeare & Co.

Who hasn't dreamed of running a bed & breakfast? Getting to know the happy, friendly, sophisticated guests over a glass of wine in the evening, or having them relish your home-made scones and Eggs Benedict the next morning? It's like that—on good days. Chip Wilson, originally from Atlanta, bought into that dream in the 1980s, opening and running the award-winning Taylor House Inn, in Valle Crucis, North Carolina (near Boone). Ms. Wilson's new book about the adventure is called "Inn and Out: Memoirs of a Southern Innkeeper" and features very funny and touching tales of guests (e.g., the lady who mistook a black snake for her missing belt), staff and critters (chickens, goats and potbellied pigs), and also includes such delicious recipes as chili puffed eggs, blue cornmeal pancakes and shrimp mousse with cucumber filling.

Chip Wilson is now a resident of Highlands and will be signing "Inn and Out" at Shakespeare and Company Books on Saturday, Aug. 10, from 4pm until 6pm. Refreshments—including those from recipes featured in the book—will be served.

This week at Center for Life Enrichment

Thursday, August 8, 10a-noon

• **Sticks and Stones** ... may break my bones but words will never hurt me. This wishful thinking serves to obscure the power of words in our lives. Words give our lives order, shape our perceptions of the world, ourselves and others. Rev. Dr. Martha Porter, an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ, and author of *The Nicene Creed: Ancient Words in the Light of Modern Faith* discusses the power of words in the personal, religious, political, economic and social aspect of our lives.

Friday, August 9, 10a-noon

• **Affirmative Action in Higher Education.** Harold S. Lewis, retired Walter F. George Professor of Law at Mercer University, will discuss Affirmative Action in light of the US Supreme Court ruling on *Fisher v. University of Texas at Austin*. What constitutes "voluntary" race preference? How is it distinguished from reverse discrimination? Does Fisher "mend" or "end" voluntary preference? How will universities be able to lawfully take race, gender and ethnicity into account after Fisher?

Thursday, August 15, 10a-noon

The United States and Africa. We will end this week on a serious note as Ambassador Gordon Streeb, former U.S. Ambassador to Zambia and Under Secretary of State for Economic Affairs and Cedric Suzman, director of programming for the World Affairs Council of Atlanta will discuss the United States and Africa. Ambassador Streeb is currently a visiting professor in the Department of Economics at Emory University where he teaches development issues in Sub-Saharan Africa. Dr. Suzman has just returned to the United States from his native South Africa where he observed the political and economic situation in this vital African country. These two individuals have impeccable credentials and are certain to give us a look into the complicated and intricate paths being followed as the United States attempts to gain and maintain a foothold in a continent that is moving toward the forefront of this world we live in.



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• HIGHLANDS AREA UPCOMING EVENTS •



PULL OUT

tion Lecture by Brent Martin, Southern Appalachian Regional Director of The Wilderness Society, on "Dividing Spring: History and Mythology of the Little Tennessee and Chattooga Headwaters."

Fri., Aug. 9

- Relay for Life at the Rec Park starting at 6 p.m.
- At Relay for Life, Auction for Date with a Fireman begins at 7 p.m.

Siblings entertain this week at H-C Chamber Music

Perhaps genius runs in families.

For proof, you need look no further than Week Six of the Highlands-Cashiers Chamber Music Festival's 2013 season.

The Highlands-Cashiers Chamber Music Festivals adds a bit of spice to the mix when it offers "Sibling Rivalry" on Friday, August 9, and Saturday, August 10. This exhilarating program will feature siblings David and Julie Coucheron on violin and piano respectively; and siblings Kate and William Ransom on violin and piano.

They'll be performing Debussy's "Petite Suite for Piano 4 Hands;" Prokofiev's "Violin Sonata in D Major;" Leclair's "Duo for 2 violins," and Franck's "Violin Sonata in A."

Originally from Oslo, Norway, David Coucheron began playing violin at the age of three. He earned his Bachelor of Music degree from The Curtis Institute of Music, his Master of Music from The Juilliard School, and his Master of Musical Performance from the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, studying with teachers including Igor Ozim, Aaron Rosand, Lewis Kaplan, and David Takeno.

Coucheron's sister Julie has established an international career, winning first prize in all the national competitions she has attended, in addition to winning prizes in Italy, Germany and in the United States.

She and her brother David have recorded "David and Julie" on the Naxos/Mudi label and "Debut" for Naxos.

Kate Ransom is violinist with the Serafin String Quartet, which recently recorded its first commercial disc with Centaur, now in international release. The Quartet regularly performs in locations throughout the United States and is Ensemble in Residence for The University of Delaware.

Friday-Saturday, August 9-10

- At HCCMF: "Sibling Rivalry." David and Julie Coucheron, violin and piano; Kate and William Ransom, violin and piano. Debussy, Prokofiev, Leclair, Franck. Friday (6 PM)– Highlands PAC. Saturday (5 PM) – Cashiers Library. Ticket Information at (828) 526-9060.
- Quilt Show at the Sapphire Valley Community Center (3 mi. East of the Cashiers Crossroads on Rt. 64).



Her brother David Ransom is the Artistic Director of the Highlands-Cashiers Chamber Music Festival. Ransom has appeared as a piano soloist with orchestras, recitalist, and chamber musician in Europe, Japan, Korea, Mexico, Canada, South America, Ireland, and throughout the United States. His performances have been broadcast on National Public Radio and Television in the US, Argentina, Poland and Japan. He has collaborated with musicians including Yo-Yo Ma, Richard Stoltzman, William Preucil, Robert McDuffie, Stephen Isserlis, and members of the Tokyo, Cleveland, American, St. Petersburg, Borromeo, and Lark String Quartets; the Empire Brass Quintet, Eroica Trio, and the percussion group Nexus among others.

The dazzling musicianship of "Sibling Rivalry" sets the stage for the Final Gala Concert and Dinner Party Sunday, August 11, at 5 P.M. at the Martin-Lipscomb Performing Arts Center. Dinner will follow at Wildcat Cliffs Country Club.

Throughout the Highlands-Cashiers Chamber Music Festival season, 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 P.M. at the Performing Arts Center in Highlands and repeated at 5 P.M. Mondays at the Cashiers Community Library.

For more information about the festival and its full lineup of performances and events, visit www.h-cmusicfestival.org or call (828) 526-9060.

The hours are 10AM to 4 PM, and admission is \$3. There will also be a display of the Quilts of Valor our guild made and which will be delivered to the Army Hospital in Hawaii in September for wounded service people serving in Afganistan. We will have quilts for sale, and a boutique featuring handmade gift items as well as vendors and a raffle quilt. All proceeds from the raffle quilt will go to local charities.

Sat., Aug. 10

- At The Bascom from 7-10p. Sweet Sounds of the 70s Disco Dance. Call 526-4949.
- The Highlands Police Department will be hosting its annual Open House on Saturday from 11am-2pm. Refreshments will be provided. Other emergency departments, state and local will also be in attendance. Please stop by for a tour of the department; child-seat inspections, safety material and more.

• At Shakespeare & Co., author Chip Wilson, In and Out Memoirs of running a bed and breakfast. 4-6 p.m. Call 526-3777.

Tues., Aug. 13

• Come and listen to stories on Tuesday at 7 pm, at the Ugly Dog Pub at 294 S. Fourth St. in Highlands. If you have a 3-7 minute story to tell or read, call 526-8322. Pre-registration is required.

Wed., August 14

• At 2 p.m., the Interlude Concert Series sponsored by First Presbyterian Church and the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation will feature vocalists from the Georgia

State University School of Music. The concert will take place at First Presbyterian Church.

• Lakeside Restaurant is donating a portion of their receipts to Gilliam's Promise. Call 526-9419 to make reservations and mention Gilliam's Promise.

Thurs., Aug. 15

• Favorite Poems Night at the Cashiers Library. Readings begin at 7 p.m. followed by a reception in the library's Friendship Garden.

Sat., Aug. 17

• At Cliffs Lake, Live Birds of Prey with Michael Skinner with Balsam Mountain Trust. Featuring live raptors at 11 a.m., at the patio. No pets allowed. Program is free with admission to the recreation area for \$4 per vehicle. Please arrive 15 minutes early.

August 23-25

• HCP's "Almost, Maine" are August 23-August 25. Call 526-4904 for more information.

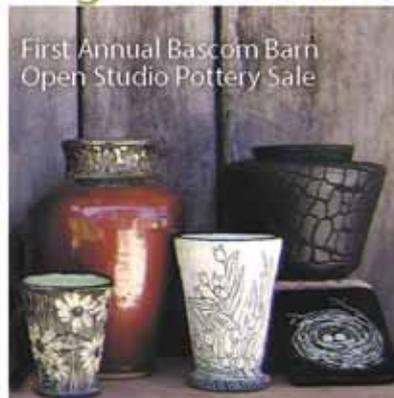
Friday, Aug. 23

• H-C Hospital and MC Public Health are sponsoring a new Diabetes Self-Management Education Program at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital beginning Friday. The program is certified by the American Diabetes Association and is facilitated by a Registered Dietitian. Topics include healthy eating, active living, checking blood sugar, taking medication, problem solving, healthy coping, and reducing risk for complications. For information on registration requirements or fees, please call 349-2086.



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The Bascom Members' Challenge: Whimsy

Opening Reception:

Saturday, August 10, 5 to 7 pm

Each year, we are honored to showcase the talents of the artists who are Bascom members. This year, our members were invited to create a work of art based upon the concept of "whimsy."

Sweet Sounds of the Seventies Disco Dance

Saturday, August 10, 7 to 10 pm

Get down and boogie at The Bascom and shake off those dog days of summer. Mountain Fresh will be serving chicken and prime rib sandwiches from their catering kitchen so bring your appetite!

\$10 for members, \$15 for non-members



FALLING WATERS

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A 52-acre community just 2.5 miles from Main Street. Secluded but not remote; peaceful, quiet and private. Mature hardwoods, giant rhodies, mountain laurel and a plethora of wild flowers. Two waterfalls and several creeks add charm and interest.

It is our goal that Falling Waters be aesthetically pleasing and well maintained, while preserving the backdrop of its natural beauty. Falling Waters is governed by the NC Planned Community Act, and excellent framework for basic structure governing practices and declarations. We have added our own well thought out covenants to protect the environment and help insure that the Falling Waters community is a sanctuary where peace, safety and happiness abound.

Perhaps most important is our desire to create and live in a caring community with a culture of good will, harmony and consideration. We believe the best rule is "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you."



Welcome...Come Visit!

From Main St., take Hwy. 106 (The Dillard Road) 1.8 miles just past the Glen Falls sign, turn right on Mt. Laurel Dr., go 3 tenths of a mile turn left on Moonlight. The entrance is on the right.

www.highlandsnchomesites.com

Contact (onsite owner) or your broker for plats, prices & a guided tour.
828-508-9952.

• INVESTING AT 4,118 FT. •

Steady is as steady goes

As everyone should know, real estate markets are very local. Despite the seemingly overnight turnaround in home sales in some markets, the Highlands/Cashiers Plateau is showing a slow, but steady recovery. Residential unit sales are up 8.5% this year over last and dollar volume is up 18.97%. However, lot unit sales are down 21% and dollar volume is slightly up due to some big tract sales. However, Buyers in both categories are still looking for an extremely good deal before they act.

The high inventory on the Plateau is keeping prices from rising. We see more prospects this year, but they are still very cautious. It is as though our generation since October 2008 has gone through a version of the Depression. Even extremely wealthy people are nervous about overpaying and overextending themselves.

The message to Sellers is that you must be very motivated in order to sell your home this year. Do not be fooled by reports from other markets or one anecdotal story about enthusiastic Buyers. They are only enthusiastic if they feel that

... POOL continued from page 3

newly constructed pools – which is the case for Highlands. "New sheltered facilities may also be constructed at the project sponsor's expense, with National Park Service (NPS) approval regardless of prevailing climatic conditions."

To be considered by NPS, a proposal to shelter or enclose a facility must provide an explanation of the recreation uses that could typically occur outdoors with recreation use clearly being the overall primary function; an explanation of how the proposal will not substantially diminish the outdoor recreation values of a site; an explanation of how the proposed sheltered facility will be compatible and significantly supportive of the outdoor recreation resources present and/or planned; an explanation how the



Jody Lovell

828-526-4104

exurbiasothebysrealty.com

they are getting a major discount. If you don't have to sell, it is a good idea to take your home off the market and wait until prices stabilize.

Everyone in real estate wants to be a cheerleader, and our company is as passionate about this area as anyone. Nevertheless, we are very honest with our Sellers and do not want to give them false expectations which is a formula for frustration for all parties. We are confident that we will have a steady stream of Buyers for this piece of heaven, but do not be fooled by reports of an overnight recovery. Steady is as steady goes in this real estate market.

• Jody and Wood Lovell own Exurbia

Sotheby's International Realty, local leaders in the real estate market for 13 years, with two locations: one in The Old Edwards Inn complex in downtown Highlands and one at the gate of Cullasaja Club of Highlands. Jody was again the Number One Agent on the entire MLS in 2012 in the sale of residential properties. Call them at (828) 526-4104 for your real estate needs.

proposal will benefit the total park's outdoor recreation use.

According to Poole, a new outdoor pool with a bubble would have been eligible for PARTF funding and possibly for a grant from the the federal government's NPS division with state approval – as would retrofitting the pool house for cold weather use.

The current pool will be demolished on Sept. 23 and the new pool is expected to be open when school gets out in June next year. The county is paying \$250,000 and the town is paying the balance, roughly \$230,000.

– **Kim Lewicki**

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• BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NEWS •



lands Falls on Tuesday, July 2 following the completion of the painting of this year's flag. As a result, BASF donated \$1,000 on behalf of Highlands Falls Country Club and all of the participating superintendents and their respective clubs. We appreciate their support of such a worthy cause!

From left Lee Howell (Helena Chemical) Fred Gehrish (Highlands Falls Country Club) Josh Cantrell (Highlands Falls Country Club) Buddy Snowden (Burlingame Country Club) Steve Mason (Sky Valley Country Club) Scott Pitts (Trillium Links) Tom Nelson (Cullasaja Club) Ryan Snowden (Burlingame Country Club) Chris Whittekind (Trillium Links), Willie Pennington, BASF (taking the picture).



It has become an annual Fourth of July tradition to paint a 100' American Flag on #17 fairway at Highlands Falls Country Club in recognition and appreciation of all who have proudly served and died for our country. This tradition began eight years ago when Fred Gehrish, Golf Course Superintendent at Highlands Falls, first got the idea and found the ideal location. Since then, visitors, Members, and staff look forward to this very special reminder of the Club's patronage which they are able to enjoy for at least a week

before Mother Nature gradually removes it until the next season.

This year, BASF, the largest chemical company in the world headquartered in Ludwigshafen, Germany, made a pledge to the Wounded Warrior Foundation. For every Golf Course Superintendent photographed in front of an American Flag, they would donate \$100 to the Wounded Warriors. Gehrish sent out a personal invitation to all of the area superintendent's to participate in the fundraiser held at High-



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WED

JAMES BEARD AWARD-WINNING CHEF, LOUIS OSTEEN'S LOW COUNTRY
LOBSTER/SHRIMP BOIL FOR TWO WITH POTATOES, CORN & SAUSAGE \$32.95

THURS

BABY BACK RIBS COOKED FALL-OFF-THE-BONE-TENDER. SERVED WITH HOUSE
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FRI

WILD CAUGHT LARGE SHRIMP, BREADED OR STEAMED. WITH COLESLAW AND
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... BOND continued from page 1

true, Bond told this newspaper, "Absolutely not." In fact, he said he was about to roll out a new technology to better serve his clients.

However, on Thursday, Aug. 1, Bond pleaded guilty before U.S. Magistrate Judge Dennis L. Howell, in Bryson City, NC federal court, to wire fraud and mail fraud charges for fraudulently acquiring and unlawfully rebroadcasting DirecTV satellite television programming to the customers of Highlands Cable Group. This was announced by Anne M. Tompkins, U.S. Attorney for the Western District of North Carolina.

Joining U.S. Attorney Tompkins in making the announcement was John A. Strong, Special Agent in Charge of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), Charlotte Division.

According to the criminal indictment filed in April 2013, from July 2002 to December 13, 2011, Bond devised and executed a fraudulent scheme to establish and maintain multiple DirecTV residential and commercial lodging subscriber accounts for the purpose of fraudulently acquiring DirecTV satellite TV systems. Many of these accounts were in Georgia and North Carolina.

The fraudulent scheme enabled Bond to acquire and maintain over 30 DirecTV integrated satellite receiver units and DirecTV satellite access cards required to decode DirecTV's satellite TV signals.

According to the indictment and the plea hearing, Bond used the fraudulently-acquired DirecTV equipment to unlawfully retransmit DirecTV's satellite television signals to Highlands Cable Group's 550 subscribers.

According to court documents and court proceedings, Bond paid DirecTV less than \$500 per month to maintain the fraudulent DirecTV subscriber accounts.

Court records indicate that Bond received monthly payments from Highlands Cable Group's subscribers who had been receiving DirecTV's TV programming valued at over \$45,000 per month, and enabled Bond and Highlands Cable Group to unfairly compete against other local cable TV companies.

Other cable companies, like Northland Communications, pay the commercial licensing fee to rebroadcast DirecTV stations – a cost that is ultimately passed on to the consumer. Since Bond paid "consumer" prices for the programming, he could "sell" viewing packages at a lesser rate.

"Northland Communications has no comment on the recent findings against Nin Bond related to the services provided by his company, Highlands Cable Group," said

Northland Communications Business Manager Jerry Blackburn. "Additionally, Northland Communications does not know what the implications are to the existing customers of Highlands Cable Group, as a result of this situation."

He said, meanwhile, Northland Communications remains committed to providing the highest quality video, internet, and phone services to the Highlands, Cashiers, and Sapphire areas of Macon and Jackson County.

At the plea hearing, the government stated that the loss attributable to the fraudulent scheme is estimated at \$4.5 million.

Local Real Estate Broker Lynn Kimball, one of Highlands Cable Group's investors, said she was disheartened by the recent turn of events.

"It is with sadness that I heard the reporting of Nin Bond's guilty plea. I have always been fond of Nin and he has provided us with excellent service over the years. I have been an investor with Highlands Cable Group since shortly after its inception. Although my investment has produced no income and continued to be an annual loss, I have remained positive about its future," she said. "It appears that Nin has been less than honest over the years, but in one way or another we all pay a price for our dishonest deeds. He certainly has my forgiveness, as 'who am I to judge another soul'? I am hopeful that someone who is consistently legally and morally responsible may be able to head up Highlands Cable Group and continue to give the public another option to Northland Cable. As of this time, I have not spoken to Nin nor have I been personally notified of this unfortunate situation."

Highlands Town Manager Bob Frye said Highlands Cable Group is one of several providers in town but the town is waiting to see what happens with the company before deciding what to do with its business license.

"However, at this point, we have suspended any further permitting for his attachments to town utility poles pending a resolution of the status of Highlands Cable Group," he said.

Bond has been released on bond since May 2013. The wire fraud and mail fraud charge each carry a maximum of 20 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine. A sentencing date has not been set yet.

The investigation was handled by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The prosecution was handled by Assistant U.S. Attorneys Tom O'Malley and Ben Bain-Creed of the U.S. Attorney's Office in Charlotte.

– **Kim Lewicki**



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• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •



The beauty of unity

Dr. Mark Ford
First Baptist Church
of Highlands

This past Sunday, I witnessed something beautiful. At the "Summer Sing" at First Baptist I witnessed an overflowing crowd of Roman Catholics, Lutherans, Independents, Presbyterians, Methodists, Baptists – and potentially other entities I was not aware of – worshipping together. It was a marvel to behold as these divergent children of God lifted up their voices in unison to sing hymns and spiritual songs to God and to one another. We are encouraged to "be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord" (Ephesians 5:18, 19 NAS). These divergent creeds and traditions lifted up their voices as one, singing the old hymns like Jesus Loves Me, Footsteps of Jesus, Rock of Ages and When We All Get to Heaven. Woven throughout were the various presentations from the sister churches, with everything from Latin hymns to African-American spirituals to contemporary praise and worship. We laughed, we cried, and we worshiped with clapping, raised hands, bright smiles, and "Amen's!" And at the end, we prayerfully sang God Bless America – a fitting prayer given the times of disharmony we presently experience in our nation. This was followed by a time of fellowship as we shared food and drink together. I witnessed the beauty of God's children setting aside those differences and divergent traditions of our common faith, laughing and hugging in mutual love and respect.

It was beautiful because I was privileged to witness an expression of our community's desire to do as Paul encouraged when he said that we should be "diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body, and one Spirit, just as also you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all who is over all and through all and in all" (Ephesians 4:3-6 NAS). As Christians, we came together to declare our shared creed that ultimately defines us all – "that Jesus Christ is Lord" (Philippians 2:11).

As I listened, I was filled with joy and greatly encouraged by this beautiful unity and expression of our common faith. I wanted to open the windows of the church and let the whole community hear that there are people who are more interested in sharing what binds us together than what divides us. Today, Christianity in North America is disliked and questioned regarding its authenticity and purpose. The Church has spent most of its energy in recent times trying to clarify doctrine and purify our con-

• See SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING page 18

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 & 4th Sunday at 7
Wednesdays: Mid-week prayer meeting – 7 p.m.

BUCK CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

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

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Catered dinner - Wed. 6pm

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Sundays: 10 a.m. – Worship
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Wednesdays: 9 a.m. Healing and Prayer w/Holy Communion

CHRIST ANGLICAN CHURCH

Rector: Jim Murphy, 252-671-4011
464 US Hwy 64 east, Cashiers
Sun.: Holy Communion - 8:30 a.m.; Christian Education, 9:30 a.m.
Family Worship with music and Communion, 10:30 a.m.
Mon.: Bible Study & Supper at homes - 6 p.m.

CHRIST CHURCH OF THE VALLEY, CASHIERS

Pastor Steve Kerhoulas
Sun. 10:30am, S.S 9:30am. Wed. 6pm supper and teaching.
Tue. Guys study 8am, Gals 10am

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.: 9:30am: Sunday School
10:30am: Middle & High School; 10:45am: Children's Program,
10: 45am: Worship Service

EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE INCARNATION

Rev. Bruce Walker • 526-2968
Sundays: Holy Eucharist Rite I (chapel), 8 am, Education and choir rehearsal, 9 am, Holy Eucharist Rite II, (sanctuary), 10:30 am
Thursdays: Holy Eucharist, (chapel), 10 am

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

Dr. Mark Ford, 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 • 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 & 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. 4th Street (next to the Highlands Civic Center)
Sunday: Morning Worship 10:45 a., Evening Worship, 6:30 p.
Wednesday: Prayer Service, 6:30 p.

HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Pastor Paul Christy 526-3376
Sun: School 9:45a.; Worship 8:30, 9:09 & 10:50.; Youth Group 5:30 p.
Wed: Supper: 6; 7:15 – children, youth, & 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

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

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

MOUNTAIN SYNAGOGUE

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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.

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Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study – 7

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



Welcome Dr. Duncan!

Seeing Patients Beginning August 13

Highlands-Cashiers Hospital (HCH) is delighted to welcome Board Certified Family Physician, Thomas L. Duncan, MD. Dr. Duncan's office is located on the HCH campus, Jane Woodruff Clinic, Level 3, alongside Danielle R. Koman, FNP-C. He is now accepting appointments to begin seeing patients August 13th.

Thomas L. Duncan, MD is a graduate of Creighton University School of Medicine, Omaha, NE. He completed his Residency at Mason City Family Practice in Mason City, IA. Prior to joining the HCH Medical Staff, Dr. Duncan was in private practice focusing on a full spectrum of primary care for 25 years in rural Iowa. Dr. Duncan is a fellow of the American Board of Family

Thomas L. Duncan, MD

Primary Care

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... SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING from page 17

gregations. This had good results in days when our beliefs were and are being challenged, but now in our present world where we must earn a right to even be heard, we need a new approach. As we stick to our core beliefs, we must also show the world that our beliefs are translated into actions as we seek solutions to the brokenness and pain that exists all around us. We must demonstrate to the hurting world our "good news" of the Gospel while showing them an authentic faith. And in a world filled with ugliness and disharmony, we must also show people the beauty of unity as we worship and work together for the common cause of Christ. Out of our diversity, let us

show forth our beautiful commonality of faith, hope and love.

It was Jonathan Edwards, the great Puritan preacher, who said that to know and love God is to know and love the beauty of God. And the beauty of God is in part captured by the words "unity" and "harmony" in both God's nature and the world God created. Therefore, what I saw last Sunday was the beauty of God through God's people as we gave expression to our unity in the Lord. I for one am filled with great joy to be a part of such a community. Keep up the good work churches of Highlands. You are beautiful!

• BIZ NEWS •



The Eckerd Living Center at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital hosted its First Annual Antique Car Show on Friday, July 26th. Bill Sands displayed his antique auto treasure, a Shelby Mustang. The Antique Car Show was sponsored by the Highlands Motoring Festival.

Car specs: 1967 Mustang Shelby GT, 350 Engine, 4 Speed, Britany Blue Color.

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• POLICE AND FIRE REPORTS •

Highlands PD log entries from June 21. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor, or public officials have been used.

June 21

• At 10 a.m., officers responded to a call about a burglary with forced entry at a residence on Wyanoak Road.

July 4

• At 9 a.m., officers responded to a call about a canoe stolen from a home on Foreman Road.

July 7

• At 3 p.m., officers responded to a call about two canoes stolen from a home on N. 4th Street.

July 11

• At 11 a.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident on US 64 east.

• At 11:36 a.m., officers responded to a retail establishment on Main Street where the clerk thought she had received counterfeit money.

July 13

• At 8:19 a.m., officers were called about a barking dog in the vicinity of Pierson Drive.

July 18

• At 12:50 p.m. officers were called to about a violation of a Domestic Violence Order at the Community Building.

• At 9:20 a.m., received a call about a person going on First Baptist Church property without permission.

July 19

• At 1:02 p.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident on US. 64 east.

• At 5:26 p.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident on US/64 east and N. 4th Street.

• At 1:50 p.m., officers received a call about a person approaching a 15-year-old girl at a lodging facility on Main Street.

• At 8:42 a.m., officers responded to a call regard-

ing a barking dog in the vicinity of Pierson Drive.

July 21

• At 5:49 a.m., officers were called to The Bascom about a drunk and disruptive man who was lying on the sidewalk.

July 25

• At 10:15 a.m., officers responded to a one-vehicle accident on NC 106 at Hudson Road.

• At 10:50 a.m., officers responded to a one-vehicle accident on US 64 west.

• At 1:55 a.m., officers responded to a noise complaint at a residence on Wilson Road.

July 26

• At 12:30 p.m., officers responded to a one-vehicle accident on US 64 east and N. 4th Street.

July 27

• At 9:50 a.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident on Main Street.

July 28

• At 11:38 a.m., Dana Jeanette Border, 35, of Highlands was arrested for aggravated assault.

• At 3:06 a.m., officers were called to 545 N. 4th Street concerning an argument between two people.

July 29

• At 1:25 a.m., Gonzalo Magana Zamudio, 26, of Franklin, was arrested for DWI when he was stopped for driving left of center on US 64 east.

The Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. log entries from July 29.

July 29

• At 10:38 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call at a residence on Big Bearpen Lane. EMS transported to the hospital.

July 30

• At 8:36 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call on Chestnut Hill Drive. EMS transported to the hospital.

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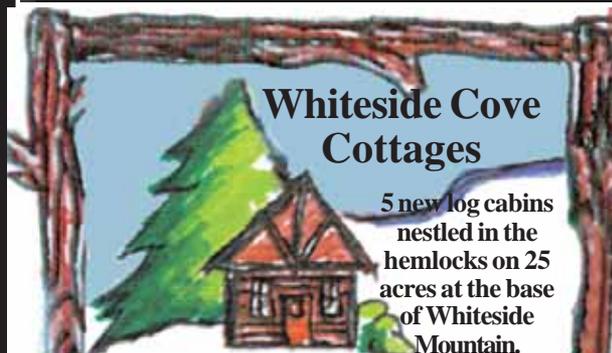
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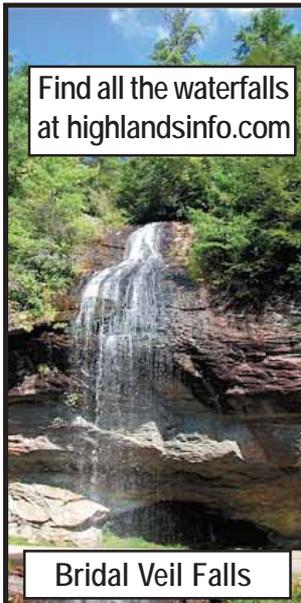


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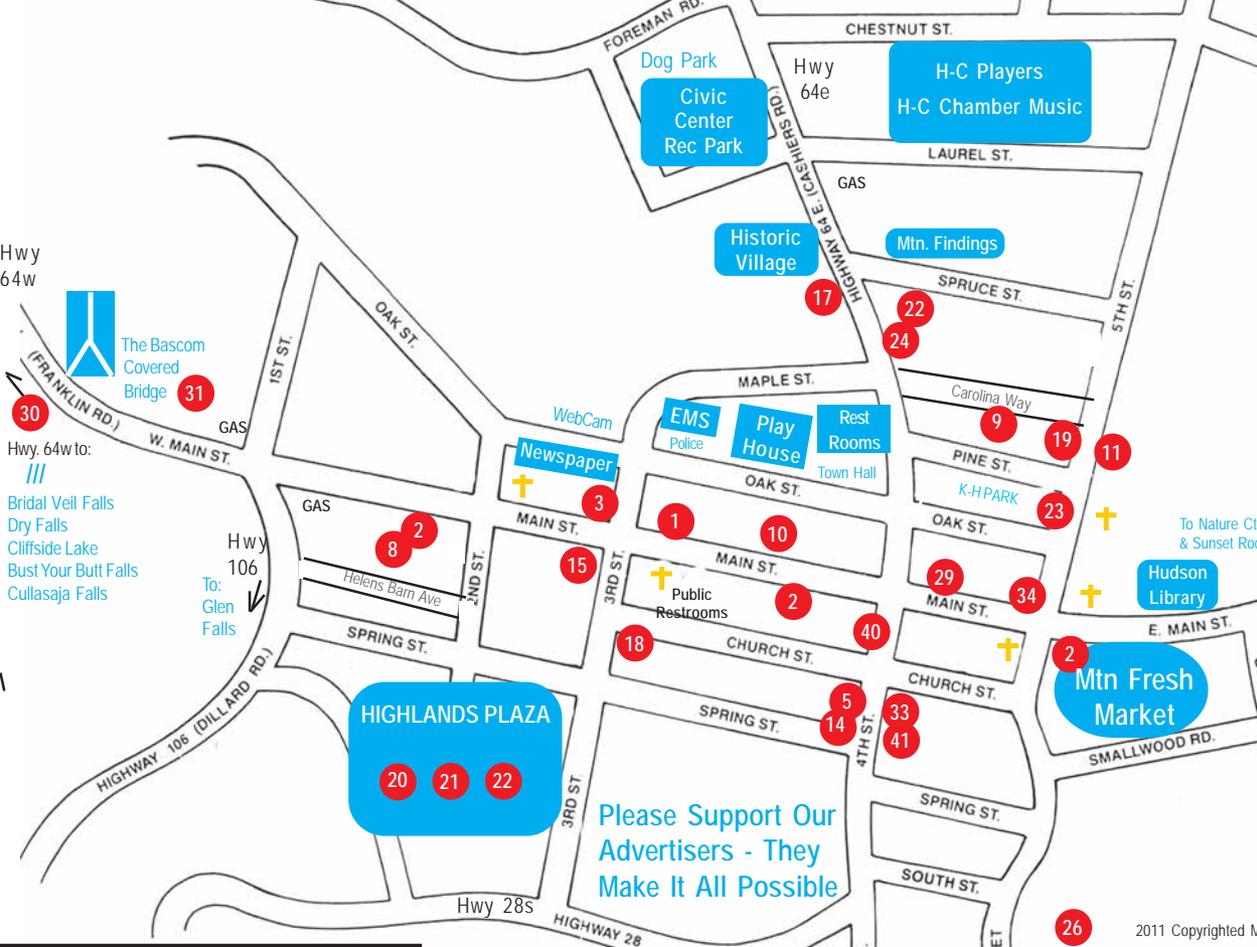
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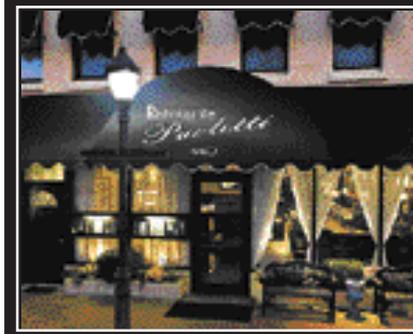
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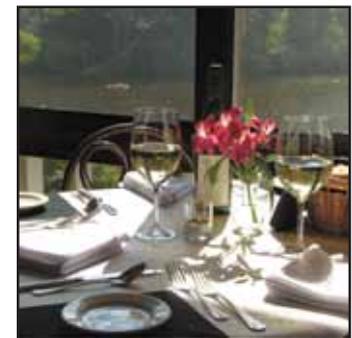
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