Macon County burglary ring busted

By Davin Eldridge

At least nine Macon County individuals were recently charged with numerous counts of larceny stemming from an alleged Western North Carolina “Breaking and Entering Ring.”

According to Macon County Sheriff Robert Holland, investigators are still looking into leads regarding the theft ring. So far, the cases span Georgia, Tennessee, and South Carolina, as well as Jackson and Macon counties.

Sheriff urges residents to be ‘vigilant’

The race to selling the most Girl Scout cookies took on new dimensions this year when a rising Highlands School third-grader went nose-to-nose with other scouts in North Carolina to win the top sales honor.

If the numbers are any indication, Sydney Figel, a tenacious seven-year-old, whose parents own and operate...on the Veranda Restaurant, may be on the road to a stellar sales career.

The Horst and Margaret Winkler family has offered $35,000 to the Hudson Library if the trustees and staff can collect matching funds. The Winkler Challenge campaign has begun to do just that.

This gift would enable Mary Lou Worley, the head librarian, and her staff to bring back well-attended youth programs that were cut due to lack of funding. AWE (Advanced Work Stations in Education) netbooks that are preloaded with educational software for youth can be purchased for the growing demands of technology for students as well as two additional desktop children’s computers. New magazine and newspaper shelves can be purchased replacing the outdated ones, as well as the purchase of a needed color copier. During the library renovation, a state of the art meeting room was added, but there are several needed amenities: a water fountain cooler and more folding tables.

“The library is the heart of the community. We need to give back,” said Worley.

That is why the Winkler family stepped up to begin the Winkler Challenge. The gift would enable the library to purchase items needed in the community, but the Winklers want the community to help.

According to the Macon County Board of Elections, if Stiehler is elected mayor obviously a vacancy will occur on the board since her seat is not open. That seat will then be filled by appointment of a majority vote of the Highlands Town Board. The person chosen by the board for the seat can be....
**Letters**

It's sad property owners don't want to share Satulah access

Dear Editor,

After reading the headlines "Satulah Mountain Trail Wars Brewing" in your July 11th edition I was saddened to think how much Highlands has changed over the past sixty years. What gives a few people at the top of Satulah the right to keep the public from enjoying one of the most treasured places in Highlands?

I view this situation from a unique point of view. In 1914 my paternal grandmother Caroline Elise Ravenel Duane and my great aunts and uncle, Clare, Marguerite and Prioleau Ravenel gave the town of Highlands Sunset and Sunrise Rocks for the enjoyment of the public. As a little girl and now as an adult I have always been proud of how my family shared what they had with others even though our family home was almost in sight of the rocks and the park which is now called Ravenel Park.

At the same time I have been fortunate to own and enjoy my maternal grandmother's home on Worley Road on Satulah Mountain. I have observed many hikers coming up from town going by our house on the way to the top. Always breathless, always cheery, always deserving of their ultimate goal these hikers made me happy to see the joy in their trek. I have always been grateful to be a descendant of those who in 1909 purchased the top of Satulah for the enjoyment of the public and became what is now the Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust.

I'm sorry that there are home owners at the top of Satulah who would rather not share with others but this is not a choice for them. The public has a legal right-of-way across both access roads on Satulah that lead to the trailheads to the top.

On the other hand, I thank the Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust for its continued stewardship in protecting and preserving these two sacred spots so they can continue to be enjoyed by ALL.

Marguerite Clare Duane Ellis
Cashiers

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**Letters**

Beware of formidable mama bears

Dear Editor,

On a recent Monday evening at around 7 p.m., a very able mama bear and two cubs descended into the neighborhood and wreaked havoc on Chestnut Street. This bear has talent and determination.

First, she broke a car window and entered a parked vehicle. Then she opened the doors on two other cars, as if she'd done it a thousand times, and pillaged the contents of both cars and breaking the latch on one's console. Then, with a sizable neighborhood spectators gallery and with her cubs up a tree, she commenced to turning over a "bear resistant" trash bin weighing around 300 pounds to pillage the contents leaving destruction and mess in her trail.

Finally, as a parting gesture, she opened the door on a fourth vehicle and completely entered the car, tearing some of the trim around the door as she exited.

If you don't already, it may be advisable to leave your car doors locked! On the other hand, it may be better to leave the doors open, because if there is something like lip gloss or chewing gum in the car, she'll break in to get it.

Charlie Dasher
Highlands

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**Letters**

Fred's view brings smiles

Dear Fred,

Thanks for coming back for another season in print. I have truly enjoyed your column for years.

I am however disappointed because you said that your column is not true! It is like learning about Santa Claus.

And this year I am really disappointed because you said that your column is not true! It is like learning about Santa Claus.

But keep up the good work Fred. We all definitely need your levity.

Bryan Phegley
Highlands

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**Letters**

Thank you to all who helped or contributed for the benefit held for Arlene Speed.

Your love, generosity and prayers are appreciated. Continue to pray God's will be done in Arlene's battle with lung and liver cancer.

God bless all of you.

Margaret Speed
Highlands

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**Letters**

Kissing Clouds

By Linda Barden

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**Letters**

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Margaret Speed
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Southern Lights
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A chance meeting at a painting workshop led to long-term friendships for a group of four women artists: Charlotte Foust, Martica Griffin, Krista Harris and Audrey Phillips. Expressed through the use of color, line, shape and form, each painter has her own colorful perspective on Southern culture.

Support provided by Britton Foundation, Gail and Tim Hughes, Ginger Kennedy and Kevin Naylor, The Koeki Family Foundation, Cecil and Phil McCaul, and Alma Lee and H.N. Saurage, Jr. Fund

GIRL continued from page 1

To hit the mark, she braved snow, ice and cold outside Bryson’s Food Store, Macon Bank and the streets of Highlands. She even set up shop at Highlands School basketball games – all during the time of year when Highlands’ population thins to a minimum.

For selling more than 500 boxes of cookies, scouts were awarded a GEO pin, which stands for Girls Empowering Opportunity.

Then on June 22, the Top 10 state-wide sellers attended an awards ceremony at Wet n’ Wild Emerald Point Park in Greensboro where they each received a medal and tickets to the park for the day.

Sydney said not everyone she queried said yes to a box of cookies, but she didn’t let that faze her.

“I learned to never give up, to always keep trying and when people didn’t want a box, it was either because they were on a diet, or they just didn’t want any,” she said matter-of-factly.

To top off the celebration, troop leader Robin Armstrong Neil, of Highlands Whole Life and Nectar Juice Bar, gave her troop of 13 girls a complimentary trip to Gatlinburg, TN where the girls slept with the penguins.

“That was a great reward!” said Sydney.

- Kim Lewicki

... LIBRARY continued from page 1

Donations can be made at the library where you can see the progress of this challenge on a display in the lobby. The Hudson Library praises the support of the community and looks forward to their continual generosity so this challenge can be met.

- Kim Lewicki

... GIRL continued from page 1

Sydney Figel standing 3rd from the left at the awards ceremony at the Wet n’ Wild park on June 22.
Do all Highlands’ bridge players wear ‘Depends’?

Sometimes when you’re just hangin’ out with nothing to do, go to the Bridge room at the Rec. Park and stare at the Bridge players. It’s OK to stare ‘cause they’re all staring at their cards and won’t notice you staring at them. (WARNING: Do not even think about touching the candy!) Now count the folks you think might be under the age of 30. Oops, never mind...I meant 40. Wait...never mind again, I meant 50. Ha, did you count them on one hand?

While you’re staring at them not staring at you, mentally picture each player with no undergarments. TA DA! We’re all wearing diapers! Since there are few-to-no potty breaks at Bridge, what else can we do? I say ‘we’ because I’m usually in that room somewhere.

Ya think I’m kidding? Just think about it. As we grow older, everything shrinks. Yes, gentlemen, I said everything. Your bladder is no exception. Surely there’s someone in your family who can’t wait three and one half hours without heading for the outhouse?

But Bridge players are different….or are we? These special card nuts (including li’l ole me) sit down and aren’t allowed to move for more than three hours. How is this possible, you ask? You guessed it. We’re wearing diapers.

If you’ll continue to scan the room, eventually you’ll see a Bridge player look up momentarily from his or her cards and grin, looking at nothing in particular. They could be emptying their bladders. Wait; sometimes you’ll spot a Bridge player grin and stare into space when they’re not emptying their bladders. In this case, they have gas but it’s hard to tell the difference. Are you writing this down?

I think it would be fun for the town to install a video camera in the Bridge room to record the action. If they put the whole thing on a large flat screen and make it a game, paying viewers could sit and gamble on which player will grin first. This would give the town extra income to buy more dog poop bags. How great would that be? Highlands needs more dog poop bags.

Because I was born with a 20-gallon bladder, I seldom use my diaper. In fact, I’ve been wearing the same diaper for a solid three weeks. Is that awesome, or what?

I know, I know. I’m a tacky genius with an oversized bladder at work! And for those players who are insulted by this column, call me at 1-800-who cares.

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Highlands School teachers have always had a great working relationship with the Mountain Garden Club so when something needed doing with the dilapidated courtyard between the Middle School building and the main school building the call went out.

Middle School Science teacher Stephanie Smathers is a huge believer in outdoor classrooms especially where science is concerned. So it just made sense to call on the Mountain Garden Club liaison Dr. Becky Schilling to help with the transformation.

Years ago, the club transformed a forgotten patch of earth in the front of the school into a flourishing butterfly garden, so Smathers knew miracles could be had.

At the July 9 Macon County Commission meeting, Smathers and Schilling were recognized for transforming the crumbling courtyard with bad drainage and dying trees into an outdoor classroom that can now be used by students in grades K-1, 6-8 and high school art students.

Besides making learning more fun when it takes place outside four concrete walls, at their presentation Tuesday night, Dr. Schilling gave statistics verifying lasting benefits of learning out-of-doors.

She said nature offers healing. “Attention spas and memory performance can improve 20% after being outside for one hour,” she said. “In addition learning outdoors encourages students to use all their senses – listening, seeing, touching, tasting and smelling.”

She said statistics suggest Vitamin D – the sunshine vitamin – may help prevent/control diabetes, high blood pressure and glucose intolerance.

In October 2012 transforming the courtyard into useable space began in earnest when Smathers and Schilling came up with a vision and solicited professional help from Architect Wendy Stiles and MC Commissioner Jim Tate of Tate Landscaping.

Fundraising began with “Lemonade in the Courtyard” followed by a grant from the Macon County Academic Foundation and donations from several garden clubs, churches, both rotaries, country clubs, the Highlands PTO and the Booster Club, Mountain Findings as well as individuals.

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... COURTYARD continued from page 6

All told $34,295 was raised which enabled the project to be completed on time and under budget with enough money leftover for five years of maintenance.

Demolition of the original courtyard began in Oct. 2012 and by June 2013 the project was complete with a pebble finished sidewalk, sitting wall embedded with ceramics created by the high school art class, paths and planters outlined with boulders both for sitting and beauty – all situated around trees, shrubs and flowering plants. A learning oasis, really.

A weather station will be installed in August so that, too, can become a learning component.

MC Commission Chairman Kevin Corbin said the project represented what can be done when a community really comes together.

“This project is an excellent example of private folks doing a job to help the entire community and the school,” he said.

- Kim Lewicki

... BURGLARY continued from page 1

According to Holland, consisted of individuals who either took part in larceny after breaking and entering, or who received the stolen property – or who committed both offenses.

From what investigators can gather, most of the currently reported break-ins occurred throughout the Burningtown-Cowee area of Macon County, adjacent to Highway 28. According to Holland, while no thefts have been reported in Highlands, the area has not been “ruled-out” by authorities for possible break-ins. Other break-ins occurred in the neighboring Jackson County community of Cashiers. According to authorities, many storage units on Dowdle Mountain, Georgia and Highlands roads were the sites of both thefts, as well used for storage of stolen goods for thieving.

“Be very vigilant of storage units,” said Holland. “These people are cutting off locks, stealing everything inside and then putting new locks back on the unit, so that the care-

• See BURGLARY page 8

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NEW TEACHERS AND MORE CLASSES!
... BURGLARY continued from page 7

Reporters of the storage unit businesses think nothing has been disturbed. Open your units and make sure everything is there,” he said. He also urges residents to contact authorities immediately with any information that will assist investigators with the case.

Alleged ring members stole everything including the kitchen sink, from the locations.

“So far all of the victims are seasonal people, so some items haven’t been missed yet or they think the items missing are so small – like a weed eater or chain saw – they don’t bother reporting it,” said Holland, who confirmed that approximately 11 people have been targeted throughout the region. “I encourage people to take stock of the items in their homes, garages and even storage units, and report anything missing to the Macon County Sheriff’s Office, or the Highlands Police Department.”

While the exact number of residences and storage units hit by the ring is not currently known, Holland did indicate that authorities are “not convinced” they found them all. The alleged ring has been operating for at least a year, he confirmed, or at least since the summer of 2012. The MCSO has received information from out-of-state residents, some of whom have second homes in Macon County.

According to arrest warrants filed by Sheriff’s Office investigators throughout early July, the nine suspects are facing numerous crimes of larceny, both misdemeanor and felony, via conspiracy. Collectively, the suspects allegedly stole a plethora of items – amounting to tens of thousands of dollars – throughout Macon and Jackson counties, including a tractor, jewelry, Samurai swords, assorted books, clothing, dog toys, ironing boards, kitchen items, pictures and frames, lamps, video game consoles and games, Christmas trees and decorations, home movies, stuffed animals, televisions, dolls, etc.

The stolen items ended up in various locations throughout the immediate Southeast, as well as Macon County. The items were sold to either individuals who may or may not have known the nature of the items, pawn shops throughout Franklin, as well as out-of-state outlets. Some storage units throughout the county were reportedly used by the suspects to store their stolen wares.

As of Wednesday morning, Macon County resident Donald Dowdle, 34, is the...
only wanted suspect remaining to be found in the case by the MCSO. It is believed, according to authorities, that Dowdle is still within the WNC region.

Franklin residents Anthony Arnold, 33, Dana Pyatt, 35, Christian Sammons, 19, Michael Subirana, 29, Michael Green, 37, Monique Webb, 21, John McCall, 30, and Mark Anderson, 45, have all been charged with numerous felonies and misdemeanors including conspiracy, breaking and entering, larceny, possession of stolen goods and injury to property.

Jackson County residents Benjamin Wynn, 24, of Cullowhee, and Amber Gerrells, 33, of Cashiers, have also been arrested with numerous felonies and misdemeanors including conspiracy, breaking and entering, larceny, possession of stolen goods and injury to property.

According to authorities, the ring was discovered and subsequently investigated after one of the suspects was apprehended and brought in for questioning regarding an unrelated crime involving the theft of a gas station coin operated vacuum machine located on the Highlands Road. The suspect identified other suspects and crimes reportedly committed throughout Macon County.

Although some of the information obtained by detectives of the case has come from the public, Holland said that the majority of details are coming from some of the suspects themselves – demonstrating that there is no honor among thieves. “They think they’re all friends and get each other’s backs,” said Holland. “But the fact of the matter is some of the suspects are rolling on their ‘friends’ backs,” he said. “While some of the individuals aren’t cooperating a lot of the suspects are providing us with information.” Holland said some of the suspects are admitting guilt of their own activities, as well as that of the other suspects.

Several of the suspects have previous charges related to illegal drug use. According to Holland, the correlation between the thefts and substance abuse is strong. “It’s absolutely drug-related,” said Holland, stressing his belief that the majority of such crimes are largely due to illegal drug addiction. “People don’t steal people’s things to pay their power bill, or their phone bill. They often steal because of the habits they have.”

The investigation is ongoing, and investigators are following up on the matter.

Holland said he wouldn’t be surprised if other cases are ultimately solved from the apprehension of the suspects, or that other suspects are identified as accomplices in the case. He stressed that while stealing stolen goods carries highly punitive charges, individuals who receive such goods can face comparable charges, whether they knew the items were stolen or not.

“If someone offers you, say, a $10,000 tractor for just $1,000 – if it just seems like it is a real deal – you might want to reconsider what you’re buying.” Holland said, in reference to one of the many items stolen by the burglary ring.

... INVESTING continued from pg 17

home more appealing to renters and/or buyers, remodeling, fresh paint, etc., you will realize the benefits.

This column started off with a phrase: ‘<3 your home’! If you are into texting or Twitter you may know that <3 is another way to say LOVE. Whether you say ‘I HEART my home’ or ‘I <3 my home’ or the ‘old school way’ ‘I LOVE my home’, it doesn’t matter how you say it, just do it!

Jeannie and Tucker Chambers are real estate brokers and owners of The Chambers Agency, REALTORS, and would be happy to talk with you about the benefits of loving your home. 828-526-3717, 401 N. Fifth Street, Highlands, NC
Robin Armstrong Niel of Highlands Whole Life opened her Nectar Juice Bar Friday where patrons enjoyed samplings of smoothies, munchies and more.

Photo by Jennifer Smathers
River cane: Cultural workhorse and Ecological powerhouse

River cane, Anundinaria gigantea, may have been one of the most abundant plants in the Southeast at one time. This grass, a member of the Bamboo family, still grows along the shores of many of our rivers and streams but unfortunately it has become much scarcer. This at risk natural resource is having an impact on Cherokee artisans and their cultural traditions that date back hundreds of years. Ethnobotanist, Dr. David Cozzo, and the Revitalization of Traditional Cherokee Artisan Resources (RTCAR) are working with the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians to restore the traditional Cherokee balance between maintaining and using natural resources like river cane. On July 30th Dr. Cozzo will lead a joint Eco Tour with Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust (HCLT) and Land Trust for the Little Tennessee (LTLT) to the Tessentee Bottomland Preserve and you are invited. Cozzo will discuss how the Cherokee select river cane for baskets and restoration efforts for this important artistic resource. The tour also includes other interesting features of the property including riverbank and wetland restoration, and the Preserve’s 115

The Bascom presents Robert Balentine of the Southeast Horticultural Society

The mountains of western North Carolina have long attracted horticulturists and gardeners of all abilities. One of the most successful and influential is Robert Balentine, who describes himself as an “inveterate, dirt-under-the-fingernail gardener.” Founder of the Southern Highlands Reserve, a nationally recognized native plant arboretum and research center, Balentine loved nature from an early age. Both parents were award-winning horticulturists: his father a rosarian and mother a Garden Club of America (GCA) horticulture judge and former president of the Atlanta GCA. He also further developed his love for the flora and fauna of the Appalachian Highlands through years spent camping and hiking as an Eagle Scout.

On Thursday, July 18, The Bascom will host a reception from 5 to 7 pm, including a talk on the biodiversity of the southeastern Appalachians by Robert Balentine at 6 pm. Now chairman and CEO of Balentine, an Atlanta-based investment management firm, Balentine also holds various posts in the community, including president of the Rotary Club of Atlanta and member of the Board of Trustees at Washington & Lee University, where he graduated.

For the third consecutive year, Balentine is lead sponsor for The Bascom’s popular annual Mountains in Bloom event. On July 11, Balentine presented the Balentine Award in the Horticulture Division for most outstanding display of a native plant — single or collection — that is indigenous to the Highlands-Cashiers Plateau to Nina Cozzo.
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Full line high quality yarns, knitting needles, crochet hooks, buttons, accessories, and books for inspiration.

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**High Cotton Luxury Linens**

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The Original Handwarmer Mug... exclusively at Peak Experience

This unique mug is available in either a right hand or left hand version. More comfortable to use for those with arthritis than a traditional mug. Made in U.S.A.

The Spice & Tea Exchange
330 Main St., Highlands
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Come in and Smell the Spices!

We combine traditional and exotic gourmet spices, cooking herbs and seasonings from around the globe to make our 75+ hand-mixed signature blends and rubs. We package by the ounce so you can experiment with our vast array of spices and seasonings.

Summer Sale Continues

20% off all dresses and most sportswear collections

Britt Ryan • Eileen Fisher
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Vineyard Vines
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A Highlands tradition since 1940
Our 73rd season on Main Street

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 painters of the spices, herbs, plumes, salts, teas.

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330 Main St., Highlands
482-1609
Long-term Care Ombudsman for Region A, Southwest at the Peggy Crosby Center in Highlands. Call the Action (OFA) will present information and lead a forum to its Impact? What can we do about it?” Organizing For Action (OFA) will present information and lead a forum to discuss this very important issue Tues., July 23rd, at 6:30 pm in the large meeting room at the Macon Co. Public Library, on Siler Road. Any questions, please call Shirley Chese 524-9971, or Cindy Solesbee 524-6599 Wed., July 24
• Free Interlude Concert at the Episcopal Church at 2 p.m.
July 25-Aug. 17
• At the Highlands Playhouse, Annie. For ticket information call 526-9443.
Thursday, July 25
• Join this CLE class given by an Audubon board member entitled “Birding Beyond Our Borders,” 2-4 PM at the Peggy Crosby Center in Highlands. Call the Center for Life Enrichment to register.
• At Chestnut Hill of Highlands, Larry Reeves, Long-term Care Ombudsman for Region A, Southwest Commission on Aging will speak on “Sense and Non-sense about Memory Loss” at 6:30 p.m. in the clubhouse dining room.
• The High Mountain Squares will dance this Friday night, July 19th. Dr. Jim Duncan from Otto, NC will be doing the calling. There will be a workshop at 6:30 and the dance will start at 7PM. at the Macon County Community Building, 1288 Georgia Rd (441 South) Franklin, NC. We dance Western Style Square Dancing, MainStream and Plus levels. Everyone is welcome. For information: 828-371-4946, 828-342-1560, 828-332-0001 or www.highmountainsquares.org. Sunday, July 28
• At First Presbyterian Church, the annual Kirkin of the Tartans at the 11 a.m. service.
Friday-Saturday, July 26-27
• At HCCMF: “Ransom Solo.” William Ransom, piano. Chopin, Beethoven, Gershwin. Friday (6 PM) & Sunday (5 PM) – Highlands PAC. Saturday & Monday (both 5 PM) – Cashiers Library. Ticket Information at (828) 526-9060.
• Bill Lea presents “Understanding the Black Bear” for the B.E.A.R. Task Force at 7 p.m. at the Highlands Rec Center. Lea, a black bear expert, is a widely published nature photographer and author of several books. Free. For more info call (828) 526-9227.
Saturday, July 27
• Audubon bird walk on Turtle Pond Rd. near Highlands. This area offers several types of habitats that should yield a large variety of birds seen. Meet in the Highlands Town Hall parking lot near the public restrooms at 7:30 AM to carpool. Visit www.highlandsaudubonsociety.org or call 743-9670.
• Tour the gardens at Sagee Manor, the Fisher estate 10a, 11a, noon and 1 p.m. Tickets are $30. Call The Episcopal Church office at 828-526-2968 or go online at www.ichurchwnc.org. Proceeds benefit the church’s mission and church in Haiti.
Sunday-Monday, July 28-29
• At HCCMF: “The Joy of Sax” Leo Saguituit, classical sax; Dwight Andrews, jazz sax; Elena Cholakova, classical piano; Gary Motley, jazz piano. Ticket Information at (828) 526-9060.
July 29-Aug 2
• A FREE children’s music camp at Highlands United Methodist Church that culminates with campers performing at “Dinner at Seven” at 5:30 p.m. on Friday, Aug. 2. Camp is 9a to 3p. To register call the church office at 526-3376.
Tuesday, July 30
• HCH and AnMed Blood Center blood mobile will be at the Hospital from 8-11am and will then move to the First Citizens Bank in Highlands from 1-5pm.

Highlands, North Carolina...The Early Years Volume II goes to printer

Jenkins’ new book, Highlands, North Carolina...The Early Years, currently in its second printing, came out in 2007. The book, published by Faraway Publishing, has been a Highlands “best seller” since it hit the shelves. It continues to be very much in demand. The book is available in several area stores.

Jenkins’ new book, Highlands, North Carolina...The Early Years Volume II, will feature photos from the private collections of a number of local Highlanders, none of which were featured in the first book. Most of the photos in the book have never before been seen by the public. The book will feature another 200 pages of historic scenes in and around Highlands. Jenkins has been collecting photos and working on the book since May 2012 - a real labor of love for her. She is thrilled to also feature in her new book a large number of early Highlands photos from the Earle Young, Jr. Collection, courtesy of David Young.

Jenkins’ first book, Highlands, North Carolina...The Early Years, published by Faraway Publishing in the fall of 2005, received rave reviews from both readers and the community. Jenkins' book quickly became a bestseller and Jenkins was invited to speak at many events, including the Standing Room Only Kool Kutter Luncheon at the Highlands Playhouse.

Jenkins herself has served as organist at First Presbyterian Church for the past 37 years, in addition to teaching preschool music classes at several area preschools for many years. Her children and grandchildren, who all live in the Highlands area, represent the family’s 8th and 9th generations.

Jenkins has been named as one of the “Women of the Year” in the Highlands of North Carolina and was invited to address the Women of the Year Luncheon at the First Presbyterian Church. Jenkins was also honored as one of the “50 Most Influential People in the Highlands Area.”

Jenkins has been a Highlands ‘best seller’ since her first book, Highlands, North Carolina...The Early Years, hit the shelves in 2005. It continues to be very much in demand. The book is available in several area stores.

Jenkins is a direct descendant of Barbara and Mary Nicholson Norton, early pioneers of the region who settled in Whiteside Cove around 1820. The family moved to Highlands soon after the town was founded in 1875. Descendants of the family have been very instrumental in the development of Highlands through the years.
Shiraz has built its reputation for the last 28 years on high quality merchandise and service that is second to none.

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

TUES
2 FRESH GRILLED CHICKEN BREASTS WITH STUFFED BRIE, SPICY/SWEET PECANS, HOUSE MADE GAZPACHO, WITH A FRENCH BAGUETTE $22.95

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 MADE BACON/APPLE BAKED BEANS, AND POTATO SALAD $23.95

FRI
WILD CAUGHT LARGE SHRIMP, BREADED OR STEAMED. WITH COLESLAW AND ROSEMARY SEA SALT BROILED RED POTATOES $24.95

SAT
IN-HOUSE SMOKED BBQ, SERVED WITH COLESLAW BACON/APPLE BAKED BEANS AND YEAST ROLLS $21.95

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Whiteside Mtn Road home with 3br/ 3.5ba, one level living, vaulted ceilings, large open deck with GREAT mtm views! $685,000. MLS# 77361.

One level HFCC home with 4br/ 3ba, new master bath, large covered deck, 2 car garage & incredible grounds. $797,000. MLS# 68518

Satulah at the Old Edwards Inn, 3br/ 3.5 ba, no maintenance, walk to town, golf membership included, 1 car carport, outdoor fireplace! $1,500,000. MLS# 77575

Mirror Lake Cottage with 3br/ 2.5ba, new custom kitchen, screened deck, private yard, new master bath & pristine condition. $467,000. MLS# 74767

Cute 2/2 cottage with lake view and loads of mountain charm. Large fenced back yard with great deck. Across from town easement for lake access plus dock. $317,000. MLS# 77720

Beautiful well maintained 3br/ 2.5ba home in excellent shape. Beautiful landscaping and covered and open decks. Great floor plan, wood burning fireplace in the vaulted living area. $587,000. MLS# 72321

Big Bear Pen 4br/ 4ba home with vaulted wood ceilings, pine walls & stone fireplace that opens onto a sunroom. Kitchen w/wood cabinets, tile tops & breakfast bar opens to family room. $699,000. MLS# 71520

Bowery Rd custom home with master, sunroom & office on main level with open living space. Lower Level family room & 2 large gst suites, 2nd deck on lower level, private lot & circular drive. $1,300,000. MLS# 76842

IMtn Top Golf & Lake Club custom home. 5br/ 4.5ba, coffered ceilings with massive beams, incredible chef's kitchen, upper level keeping room & 4 gst suites, Old Edwards Club membership included. $2,295,000. MLS# 68782

In town sweet cottage perfect for weekend retreats! All on one level with 2br/ 2ba, beautiful large & outdoor decks & porches to enjoy. Seconds from Main Street. $298,000. MLS# 77499

Lovely 4br/4ba home on a private cul-de-sac in Highlands Falls Country Club. Open living floor plan and mountain view. $795,000. MLS# 76109

A Blue Valley view with a pond and waterfall in your front yard, only 7 minutes to town. 4br/2ba/2half ba. A rare gem. $897,000. MLS# 77015

Creekfront setting from this cute 2br/2ba home with a garage, single level living. 6 minutes to downtown, private. $347,000. MLS# 76838

Immaculate single level home with 3br/ 2ba, two car garage, wood floors, split bedroom plan and only 5 minutes to town. $319,000. MLS# 76926

Mountain view from this 4br/ 3ba home with separate family room and guest area. 1.32 acres in Highlands Falls CC. $495,000. MLS# 75995

Cute 3br/3.5 bath cottage in Mirrormont located on 1.07 acres of mostly level yard with mature trees. Excellent value at $295,000. MLS# 73333

13.8 beautiful acres with mountain views and a family 3br/2ba home. Land borders US Forest Service off of Buck Creek. $445,000. MLS# 74052

Walk to town from this decorator 3br/3ba single family condo in VillageWalk, covered porch with fireplace, plus patio. $849,900. MLS# 74743

View of Mirror Lake from this 1.24 acre building site with public water, sewer and roads. Walk to town location. $147,000. MLS# 76946

Excellent long and layered mountain views from this 5br/ 3.5ba home in Sky Valley. Enjoy the outdoor living areas. $597,500. MLS# 77600
You may wonder why I chose this particular proverb and what it has to do with real estate, but consider it: dissect it, and maybe you will see it has everything to do with real estate.

If you love something, set it free. As a real estate broker, I want all my clients to love their home—whether they're buying or selling. So sellers—you should LOVE your home in order to be able to ‘set it free.’ There are three things you need to do to aid you in that transition. 1) Deduct: Your home is your nest, but generally speaking ‘all birds of a feather flock together;’ but the ‘birds’ buying your home may not appreciate your decorating tastes, especially if you’re an avid collector of anything. To open your home to more people, keep it simple. Your listing broker can help you decide what should go and what can stay. Don’t go overboard though, if you take away too much, your home may risk looking sterile. Some buyers may look at ‘sterile’ as a home with no life-line. 2) Detach: You love your home and you want others to love it as well, but remember you didn’t give birth to it and it’s not ‘kin.’ (As everyone knows in the South, you can talk about anybody you want, but don’t mess with my ‘kin’). In other words, don’t be offended if someone doesn’t care for your interior decorating, or the ‘yard art, in your garden, that the yard art, in your garden, that the

In our Multiple Listing Service, those homes are usually designated at BOM (Back on Market). Looking at this phrase metaphorically could just represent that you should ‘move on.’ Whether your home sells or not, it’s a major stress in your life; a stress is a stress, no matter if it’s a ‘good’ stress or a ‘bad’ stress.

If your home doesn’t sell as fast as you thought it would, you should talk with your listing broker about a plan ‘B’ if you are serious about selling (and if you aren’t—why list it to begin with?). After you’ve discussed options, ‘move on’ with their suggestions. If your home does sell, consider that a victory! You may feel as though you’ve ‘given’ your home away if you had to leave a prized possession in order to make the sale, or you caved in to allow them to ‘steal’ your precious time in Highlands so the buyer could have a quicker closing date than you expected. Again, consider the sale a victory and move on. Believe me, I’ve cried right along with a seller or two over their anguish that allowed their homes to become such a big part of their ‘family.’ Don’t treat the sale of your home like a death. It’s not always easy to let go, but we must, and your listing broker is there to help you.

Whether you’re trying to sell your home, or offer your home as a vacation rental, you need to LOVE your home. Potential buyers and renters can tell the difference. If they wanted a cookie cutter or model home, they probably would’ve gone elsewhere.

Selling and renting your home can be quite liberating! It’s a cleansing process when you start to declutter and detach. Whether you’re downsizing, giving items to charity, getting rid of items to make your

NEW TO MARKET

Cowee Ridge Summit Estate
Unusual Find!
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FALLING WATERS
Lot prices start at $129,000. Owner financing available
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.
### SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING

**Religious Vapidity**

By Father Mike Murphy
Christ Anglican Church

In an effort to aid our common understanding, the English word “vapid” principally means: lacking or having lost life, and being without spirit. Synonyms would include: flat, tedious, empty, and dull. This is an important idea to keep in mind when we consider the spiritual estate of our country.

The intrepid individuals who fled religious and political tyranny and settled in North America, were inspired by God and largely founded our country upon a vibrant faith in Jesus Christ. The religious passion of our American forebears was decidedly lively and committed. It was anything but dull and tedious. If anyone cares to read early American church history, they would conclude that our “Christian faith” should never be thought of as vapid. However, during the course of time, in our era and in our country, faith has in large measure become religiously or spiritually vapid. Why do you think that is?

Prosperity, liberalism, and pluralism are mostly to blame for our current state of vapidity. We should have seen it (vapidity) coming. Moses rallied the Chosen People of Israel on the far side of the Jordan River before they would cross into the Promised Land. In Deuteronomy chapter 8, God through Moses repeatedly encourages his people to “remember.” Our almighty Father and Creator, the Giver of all good things, knew of the human propensity to forget, especially when times are good, that all of our blessings have their origin in God alone. So the Lord’s encouragement to “remember” was as much to say, “please don’t fool yourselves, give credit where credit is due, and act accordingly. Thereby and therefrom things will steadily improve.”

Like nations before us, we didn’t get the message. American prosperity has helped to cause a spiritual amnesia which has contributed to our religious vapidity.

Liberalism, the political philosophy that values individual rights above the group, and all of it above God, contributed to the vapidity. Freedom from tradition and the Judeo-Christian values that undergirded our country’s moral fabric were derided and largely relegated to the trash bin of history. God became obsolete in liberalism and vapidity shifted into a higher gear, even in many of the Christian churches of America.

Pluralism, the step-child of liberalism, where all truths are welcome and all truths are relative, followed quickly. Of course, the whole idea of multiple “truths” is oxymoronic and we’re morons if we accept it. Nevertheless, pluralism has served to heighten our current state of spiritual vapidity. When everyone’s truth is seen as having equal

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### John 3:16

**PLACES TO WORSHIP**

**Proverbs 3:5**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Church Name</th>
<th>Address/Contact Information</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>BLUE VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH</strong></td>
<td>828-421-9172 • 165 S. Sixth Street</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rev. Oliver Rice, Pastor (706) 782-3965</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sundays: Worship – 11 a.m.</td>
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<td>Sunday night services every 2nd &amp; 4th Sunday at 7 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesdays: Mid-week prayer meeting – 7 p.m.</td>
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<td><strong>BUCK CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH</strong></td>
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<td>Sundays: Worship – 11 a.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>GRACE COMMUNITY CHURCH OF CASHERS</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Non-Denominational-Contemporary Worship</td>
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<td>242 Hwy 107N, 1/4 miles from Crossroads in Cashiers</td>
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<td><a href="http://www.gracecashiers.com">www.gracecashiers.com</a> • Pastor Steve Doeter: 828-743-9814</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>HIGHLANDS CHRISTIAN CHURCH</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Rector: Jim Murphy, 252-671-4011</td>
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<td>464 US Hwy 64 east, Cashiers</td>
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<td>Sun.: Holy Communion - 8:30 a.m. • Jesus Christian Education, 9:30 a.m.</td>
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<td>Family Worship with music and Communion, 10:30 a.m.</td>
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<td>Mon.: Bible Study &amp; Supper at homes – 6 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed.: Men’s Bible Study • 8:30 a.m., First Baptist Church</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>CHRISTIAN SCIENCE CHURCH</strong></td>
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<td>283 Spring Street</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday Service: 11 a.m.</td>
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<td>Testimony Meeting: 5 p.m. on the 3rd Wed.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>CLEAR CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Pastor Jim Knard</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sundays: Worship – 11 a.m.</td>
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<td>Wednesdays – 7 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><a href="http://www.cbchighlands.com">www.cbchighlands.com</a> • 526-4685</td>
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<tr>
<td>3645 Cashiers Rd. Highlands, NC</td>
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<td>Senior Pastor Gary Hewins</td>
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<td>Sun.: 9:30 a.m.: Sunday School</td>
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<td>10:30am: Middle &amp; High School; 10:45am: Children’s Program; 10:45am: Worship Service</td>
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<td>Wed.: 5pm Dinner ($7 adult, $2 child), 6pm CBC University</td>
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<td><strong>EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE INCARNATION</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Rev. Bruce Walker • 526-2968</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sundays: Holy Eucharist Rite I (chapel), 8 am, Education and choir rehearsal, 9 am, Holy Eucharist Rite II, (sanctuary), 10:30 am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursdays: Holy Eucharist, (chapel), 10 am</td>
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<td><strong>FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. Mark Ford, Pastor • 526-4153</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sun.: Worship 10:45 am; School – 9:30 a.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed.: Men’s Bible Study 8:30 a.m., Prayer Meeting – 6:15 p.m., Choir – 5 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH</strong></td>
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<td>Dr. Lee Bo wman, Pastor • 526-3175</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sun.: Worship – 11 a.m.; Sun. 8:30a communion service June-Labor Day; School – 9:30</td>
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<td>Mondays: 8 a.m. – Men’s Prayer Group &amp; Breakfast</td>
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<td>Wednesdays – Choir – 7</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>GOLDMINE BAPTIST CHURCH</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>(Off Franklin/Highlands Rd)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rev. Carson Gibson</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday School – 10 am, Worship Service – 11 am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bible Study – 6 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>HIGHLANDS ASSEMBLY OF GOD</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Randy Reed, Pastor</td>
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See SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING page 9
Highlands PD log entries from June 9. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor, or public officials have been used.

June 9
At 1:29 a.m., a noise ordinance violation was reported at OEF’s South Street property.
June 15
At 10 a.m., officers responded to an two-vehicle accident in Highlands Plaza.
June 18
At 2:39 p.m., Kara Lynn Birr, 34, of Oak Island, NC, was arrested for passing a fraudulent prescription at a pharmacy in town.
June 20
At 11 p.m., Dona Jeanette Borders, 35, of Highlands, was arrested for operating a vehicle without insurance and with a cancelled, revoked or suspended tag.
June 21
At 11:10 a.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident on US 64 east.
June 22
At noon, officers received a call from Highlands Emporium on S. 4th Street about receiving false credit card information over the phone.
June 23
At 1 p.m., the illegal use of a trash receptacle was reported at the Highlands Smokehouse.
June 24
At 2:28 p.m., officers received a bear complaint call from a resident on Bowery Road.
June 26
At 2 p.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident on South Street.
June 27
At 7:44 p.m., a missing juvenile was reported at the Highlands Civic Center.
June 28
At 3:18 p.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident on US 64 west.
June 30
At 12:19 p.m., officers received a bear complaint call from a resident on Biscuit Rock Road whose vehicle was damaged.
June 30
At 8 a.m., officers received a call from a person on Main Street who was receiving harassing phone calls.
July 1
At 4:30 p.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident on Main Street.
July 2
At 8:04 p.m., officers received a call for service from a resident on Choctaw Lane regarding hearing gunshots.
July 18
At 9:18 p.m., officers received a call from a resident on Satulah Road regarding possible gunshots.
At 10 a.m., a gas drive off valued at $25.07 was reported at the Farmers Market.
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Richard Betz 828-526-5213
Martha Betz 828-200-1411
Country Club Properties
betzrealtor@gmail.com

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Call 828-526-9348.
Brysongradng@gmail.com
FOR RENT

3BD/3BA, 1091 Hickory Hill Road, Mirror Lake. Long Term. $1,150/mth. Private, beautiful setting. Available Sept. 1. 678-576-8312. (st. 7/3)

CHARMING 3BR/3BA HOUSE WITH DOCK ON MIRROR LAKE in Highlands. $1,000 per month. Call 828-734-4277. (st. 6/27)

4BD/3BA BLUE VALLEY HOME FOR RENT. 828-713-6101. (st. 5/16)

FURNISHED 3-BEDROOM 3-BATH HOME WITH 3,000SF. Year round long range mountain views. Easy access off 64 and nearby shopping in Cashiers, Sapphire and Toxaway areas. 2 decks, fish pond and 2 car garage. Longterm -$2,400 a month. 561-346-6400. Sapphire and Toxaway areas. 2 decks, fish pond and 2 car garage. Longterm -$2,400 a month. 561-346-6400.

STUDIO/MAIN STREET LOCATION with plenty of parking. Great for retail or office space. For more information call 828-342-9158. (st. 7/12)

ESTATE/GARAGE/MOVING SALE

75-YEARS-OF-COLLECTING ESTATE SALE – Sat. & Sun., July 27 & 28, 10a to 4p. Massive amounts of vintage items, antiques, collectibles, china, silver, crystal, cast iron, decor, art, furniture, old tools and newer stuff, too. At Cashiers Insurance Agency. US 64 across from Subway in Cashiers.

HUGE MOVING/BASEMENT SALE, Aug. 3, 8a-noon, 950 Wilson Road, Highlands. Toys, old tools, furniture, cabinet and plumbing fixtures. Household items.

LOST

LOST DOG NAMED BUTTONS. Male neutered Chihuahua 8 year old. Brown with white chest and face. Tan feet. He is missing teeth. He has a collar with tags and he has a microchip. Last seen July 8 on Hwy 106 near Peak Experience. Please call 828-526-0229 or 828-421-2548 if you have any information.

VACATION RENTALS

2BR/1BA, SCREENED PORCH, PARTIAL VIEW. On Little Bear Pen, 718 Center Drive. Available September only. $800/wk or $1,900/mth. nonsmoker. (pets?) Call 706-372-3004. (6/13)

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

MUST SELL. Very Nice. 56ac Lot. Near High-

lands, No Restrictions $44,000 850-363-1436. (st. 6/6)

LOT FOR SALE. nice neighborhood, 1.45 acres, heavily wooded w/stream, 4-BR septic permit, Mirror-mont area, walk to town, $169,900, 770-861-4249. (7/25)

WANTED

25-YEAR-OLD ACCREDITED NANNY WITH REFERENCES available in Highlands month of August. Contact Megan Lewicki at megan.lewicki88@gmail.com.


1-2 BEDROOM APARTMENT in the Highlands or Cashiers. $600-$800 per month. Call 813-368-1117. (st. 7/18)

WILL PAY SMALL FEE FOR HELP with my new HP computer and Windows version 8. Call 828-482-0064. (st. 6/20)

HELP WANTED

DELIVERY PERSON NEEDED. Must be able to work weekends. Heavy lifting required. Email shannon@dutchmansdesigns.com. (st. 7/18)

MOUNTAIN FRESH GROCERY IN HIGHLANDS is hiring energetic reliable people full time for the Wood Fire Pizza and Deli departments. Phone 828-526-2400 or email jobs828@gmail.com. (st. 7/11)

SALES ASSOCIATE FOR HIGH END RETAIL CLOTHING STORE IN HIGHLANDS, NC. Seasonal employment, part time to full time, some weekends. Retail clothing sales experience preferred. Please call 828-200-1703 or 828-526-4407

SKYLINE LODGE SEEKING servers, dishwashers and cooks. Call 526-2121 and leave message for Chef Tom. (st. 7/11)

THE NEW SKY VALLEY COUNTRY CLUB IS NOW OPEN AND HIRING WAIT STAFF, BARTENDERS AND KITCHEN STAFF. Experienced staff preferred. If you enjoy serving nice people in any of these capacities we would like to meet you. Interested candidates should email resumes to dmspears@msn.com or stop by the clubhouse to fill out an application between 2-5pm Tuesday-Saturday. 706 746 5932. (st. 7/11)

SERVERS AND COOKS NEEDED. Email resume to info@mainstreet-inn.com or call 828-526-2590

CNA/MAID-AIDE/LPN NEEDED FOR ASSISTED LIVING. Please apply at Chestnut Hill of Highlands, 106 near Peak Experience. Call 828-526-0229 or 828-421-2548 if you have any information.

FOR SALE


KING MATTRESS/BOXSPRING. Clean, excellent condition. Highlands. $80. Call 727-967-8349. (7/18)

GE OVEN/STOVE FOR SALE. $200 or OBO. Call 706-799-4769.

PEARL RIVER UPRIGHT PIANO – Like new. $1,950 or OBO. Call Mark. 828-526-4563. (6/13)

TWO LAUREL TWIG TWIN BEDS – mattresses included. Practically new. Call 526-9894. (st. 5/2)