Volunteers needed for bird survey

A partnership of organizations is seeking volunteers for a breeding bird monitoring and education program that will be conducted this spring and early summer at two early successional habitat sites along the Little Tennessee River.

Through August, Southern Appalachian Raptor Research (SARR) will conduct eight monitoring samples at LTLT’s Tensasse Bottom and Preserve and the Eastern Band of the Cherokee Indians’ (EBCI) Cowee Mound property. Volunteers are needed to assist in any aspect of the survey work during any of the survey dates. No experience is necessary and volunteers will receive training and supervision from SARR field staff. Interested adults and adults with curious children are very welcome to participate!

The program is a partnership between the Land Trust for the Little Tennessee (LTLT), SARR, and the Fisheries and Wildlife Management program of the EBCI. Funding is provided by the Cherokee Preservation Foundation’s Revitalization of Traditional Cherokee Artisan Resources (RTCAR) initiative.

The monitoring work is based on the Monitoring Avian Breeding Bird Survey (MABS) protocol and involves a simple walk through a single route. Participants must accompany children.

If you are interested, please contact the LTLT at 828-526-4280 or see BIRDS page 8 for more information.

HCCMF teacher Janice Mathis with student Taylor Hays.

HCCDC incorporates newest technology in teaching curriculum

By Pamela Miller

On any given day if you were to walk around Highlands and randomly ask passersby for directions to the Highlands Community Child Development Center (HCCDC) you might have trouble getting a definitive answer. That is because not many people are aware that we actually have a child development center right here in Highlands.

See HCCDC page 10

MC school district needs more money

The Macon County School Board is bracing for the worst scenario concerning the FY 2013-14 budget and school year.

At its May meeting, Macon County Manager Jack Horton unveiled the county’s FY 2013-14 budget which includes a 3% increase over last year’s current expense allocation for the school system but this still leaves the school system $1.4 million short.

The issue isn’t closed, but Interim Superintendent Dr. Jim Duncan is prepared to cut another $914,000 from the system’s “needs” list to show the county that the Board of Education (BOE) is willing to make the hard choices necessary.

Even with those cuts which include absorbing 11 teaching positions, a county office position, a clerical position at the central office, the FHS Student Services position, local staff development, phone supplements, decreasing the bookkeeper to a 1-month contract rather than a 12-month contract, instructional materials, software, administrative supplements for directors, referees, co-curricular money, steel-toed boots, principal travel, cutting the New Century Scholars position to part-time, driver’s education fee and

See BOE page 9
Dear Editor,

This is in response to the Spiritually Speaking column of May 9, by Pastor Jim Murphy.

It is a good thing for people of faith to gather for worship; it is a good thing for them to create a space where that worship can take place. It is not a good thing for people of faith to denigrate other people of faith because they choose a different style of worship.

My involvement in the ecumenical activities of this community – Highlands – and the surrounding communities, has made it clear to me that there are many faithful people who are moved by and express their faith in worship in a multitude of ways – through hymns, prayers, affirmations, variously styled rituals of communion, the reading and hearing of scripture, and the proclamation from that scripture.

Is one better, truer than the other? Do we believe that God prefers one over the other? The most appropriate test would seem to be whether or not the worship inspires a loving heart, which reaches out with caring to all of God’s people.

In some hands, the 1928 Book of Common Prayer surely does that. It does not do that when an invitation to worship from that book includes words like “episcostench” and touts the superiority of that worship over all others. It does not do that when any other liturgy is deemed a “compromise.”

A new space for worship is certainly a cause for celebration. As you begin to gather there on a regular basis, and enter into your Bible study of Isaiah, these words are commended for your reflection:

The Lord then said:

Because this people approaches me only in words, honors me only with lip service while their hearts are far from me, and reverence for me, as far as they are concerned, is nothing but human commandment, a lesson memorized; very well, I shall have to go on astounding this people with prodigies and wonders: for the wisdom of its wise men is doomed, the understanding of any who would understand will vanish.

– Isaiah 29: 13-14

The 1928 Book of Common Prayer – ANY favored liturgy – if only a lesson mem-


Photo by Pat Taylor

Highlands had a massive parking problem on Saturday this past Memorial Day weekend. Thank goodness the art & craft show traditionally held in the Kelsey-Hutchinson Park on Pine Street was not allowed to take place! The need for parking in the park was one reason Highlands commissioners chose to deny activities in the park on holiday weekends. It's a good thing citizens and visitors trekked to Cashiers for the art, craft and music festival held on the Village Green instead! Look at the parking problem in the park area at 2 pm, Saturday. In addition, a survey of downtown parking showed only 100 open spaces available at that time! Yikes!

Letters-to-the Editor-Policy

We reserve the right to reject or edit submissions.

NO ANONYMOUS LETTERS WILL BE ACCEPTED.

Views expressed are not necessarily those of Highlands Newspaper.

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

Counties should reduce the tax rate

Dear Editor,

In 2010, the Macon County Board of Commissioners, under the leadership of County Manager Beale, voted to raise Property Taxes by 1.5 mils, or approximately $1,400,000.

In the depths of terrible economic conditions, with many folks losing their jobs, many homes in foreclosure, many filing for bankruptcy, the County Commission raised your property taxes.

Each year since, the County has collected approximately an additional $1,400,000 as a result of that tax increase. The increase wasn’t needed; it hasn’t been spent. It sits in the County’s treasury, instead of your bank account or paying your bills.

County Management says a huge Fund Balance is a sign of good financial management. To the contrary, it reflects poor financial management. Good financial management would result in a Fund Balance near the target of 25% a previous Commission established, not in the mid-40s, and rising annually.

In next year’s budget, soon to be decided, the tax rate should be dropped by 4.5 mils, returning the excess money collected by the ill-conceived increase of 2010. Such a decrease would not affect County services one iota, and would result in a fund balance of approximately 38%.

In an interview on May 8th, Commissioner Beale was quoted as saying “If we could find a way to do it (tax reduction), great, but without penalizing our school systems and other things we have going for us, but if you cut taxes, something has to be cut out.”

This could not be further from the truth. The County could budget an increase in expenditures by $10,000,000 for next year, and have enough fund balance left to meet the 25% targeted reserve. The current Property Tax rate is 27.9 mils. Next year’s should be 23.4.

Don Swanson
Franklin
... TOWN BOARD continued from page 1

Della Kingsley Malpasse Lucas MacDougall

Della Kingsley Malpasse Lucas MacDougall, age 89, died on Mother’s Day, Sunday, May 12, 2013. Della was born at the Mattie Harris farm, Davisboro, Georgia, Washington County, February 5, 1924 to William Harris’ Malpasse and Pauline Winifred Jimigan Malpasse.

Della is preceded in death by her parents, her first husband John Joseph Franklin Lucas and second husband Harry Kenneth MacDougall, Jr., sister, Julia Franklin Malpasse Benitez, and grandson, Jared Kingsley Lucas.

Della and her family moved from Davisboro to Atlanta. Della attended the premier of “Gone With The Wind” 1939. Della graduated from Girls’ High School, Atlanta, Georgia, 1940.

Della worked for the United States Forest Service, as switchboard operator and secretary, Scripto Pencil & Pen in Atlanta, Home Federal Savings & Loan, and Tom Wood Equipment in Florida.

Della was Disciples of Christ faith. While living in south Florida, she was one of the founding members, Sunday school teacher, and deaconess of Faith Christian Church, Hollywood, FL. She was a member and served on the CWF at Parkway Christian Church, Ft. Lauderdale, FL. Later she was a member, Elder Emeritus at First Christian Church, Sebring, FL and member at First Presbyterian Church of Highlands, NC.

Della enjoyed the southern authors Margaret Mitchell, Flannery O’Conner, and the premier of “Gone With The Wind” 1939.

Della attended the Mattie Harris farm, Davisboro, Georgia, Washington County, February 5, 1924 to William Harris’ Malpasse and Pauline Winifred Jimigan Malpasse.

Della is survived by her children, Michael William Lucas and his wife Dawn, High Springs, FL and daughter, Heather MacDougall Mangum and her husband Joe, Highlands, NC. Della’s sister, Julia Franklin Malpasse Benitez, and grandsons, Jared Kingsley Lucas.

A memorial service for Della will be held at First Presbyterian Church of Highlands, August 31st at 11 am. Interment will be at the Harris Family Cemetery, date to be announced.

In lieu of flowers donations in memory of Della M. Lucas MacDougall may be made to Four Seasons Hospice, 571 South Allen Road, Flat Rock, NC 28731.

Online condolences may be made at www.bryantgrantfuneralhome.com. Bryant-Grant Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

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Goodbye, Part 2

T hought for the day: For every good thing there is a beginning. When I was a kid, I had a dream, and like most other kids, my dream was unrealistic. When you are a kid, you don’t really realize your athletic limitations and so I dreamed of playing ball for Duke University, or playing in the NBA and becoming the next Larry Bird. However, I also dreamed of playing for Highlands High School. In my little basement basketball world or my outdoor court, I beat Franklin and Blue Ridge and Rosman numerous times single-handedly…mostly because it was just my imagination and I at work. That probably wasn’t all that unusual at the time, but in a day and age where AAU teams and prep schools and transfers are the high school basketball themes, it seems a little out of the ordinary.

Thought for the day: Do as I say, exactly as I say, do not deviate. In 1996, I met a man who I thought was going to ruin those dreams of playing for Highlands. This man was an outsider from Louisiana, and while we were told he was a winner and was very successful, his first workouts took all the fun out of basketball. Many times I came home to my parents and wanted to quit, but they were always able to talk me out of it. I am forever thankful to have the parents I do, for numerous reasons, but I often think back to those days and the stupidity of youth. See, those of us who were part of Coach Smart’s first team here in Highlands, we were the lucky ones. Those brutal practices were out of necessity…and the first lesson Coach taught us was that we could dream all day of beating opposing schools, but it was only hard work that would allow us to accomplish those dreams. Coach was building something special and we were fortunate to be a part of it.

Thought for the day: The strength of the wolf is the pack, the strength of the pack is the wolf. Coach taught us the value of teamwork…how no man is an island. The above quote was one of his favorites, and it summed up the emphasis he placed on loyalty and teamwork. Coach was always checking on his former players, and was so proud when they accomplished something. He could rattle off names and professions at the drop of a hat when prompted, and he attended weddings, funerals, awards ceremonies and visited hospitals. Coach was able to become a beloved part of two separate communities through his ministry on and off the court, and it was those communities that rallied around him in the recent years. People may look at me funny when I tell them that a 100 lb. man was the strongest person I’ve ever known, but that just means that they never knew a man like Coach.

Thought for the day: If I accept you how you are, I’ll make you worse; however, if I treat you as though you are what you are capable of becoming, I can help you become that.

Coach said a lot of things over his career, and while there are plenty of personal accomplishments that are a sign of his success, I think the above quote from Coach is the one that stands the test of time. The most important legacy he left behind is the example that he set for those who knew him. The concepts of love, loyalty, teamwork, and man-to-man defense…these are all concepts that have become almost cliché when talking about a Coach…but to those of us who were lucky to have known him they were the things that mattered the most in his life, and the things he wanted us to take from our time with him. He challenged his players to reach their potential, not just in basketball, but as men.

Thought for the day: A dream you dream alone is only a dream; a dream you dream together is reality.

What more can you say about a man who helped you fulfill your dreams? If the measure of a man is the void that he leaves behind, then Butch Smart was a mountain of a man for a lot of people. It is hard for me to imagine walking into the gym for a game in Highlands knowing he is not there…and in a melancholy sort of way, I’m glad I won’t have to. Coach Smart may be gone from this Earth, but a part of him lives on in those who felt his loyalty, his commitment, his passion for the game of basketball, and most importantly…his love.

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... TOWN BOARD continued from page 3

The second issue that involved long discussion was Old Edward's Hospitality Group's (OEI) off-premise directional sign to The Farm at NC 106 and Arnold Road.

Town Manager Bob Frye said complaints have brought the sign to the town's attention. "The issue of directional signage will be discussed at the June Planning Board meeting (June 24) due to a complaint about this. We have told them it is an illegal sign. So we need to either have them take it down or issue a moratorium on it."

He said directional signage has been abused in the past. "There has been all kinds of off-site advertising that we don't allow. If you are going to allow it, the ordinance will have to change and be very tight and very specific. We will need time for this."

Commissioner Stiehler brought the issue to the floor saying it's important for OEI's sign to be there because the intersection is so dangerous. However, he said with the sign, drivers slowing down and stopping on NC 106 causes "near misses" frequently.

"I know we don't allow off-premise directional signs, however in this instance it's an extremely dangerous intersection. Maybe we should ask the Planning Board to consider incorporating directional signs in the wayfinding program because this is a safety issue," he said. Until that's done, he said he would hate to make a dangerous intersection worse. "I'd like to leave the sign there."

Commissioner Amy Patterson said the wayfinding project is for nonprofit signage and OEI isn't a nonprofit. Furthermore, she said "if the corner is that dangerous, it's obvious the sign isn't doing the job." "I don't think the sign is taking care of the problem, so we need to look at something more... even a traffic ahead sign at such and such... next right."

Commissioner Dotson said it's an off-premise sign that isn't allowed per the town's ordinance. "It's been there two years longer than it should be. This is no different than the Half Mile Farm having a sign at corner of US 64 west and Mirror Lake Road. I think that's more dangerous than Arnold Road."

But Mayor Wilkes said there is no way near the amount of traffic there.

"I don't care if it's OEI or the Highland Hiker, if there is an entity in this town generating that much traffic we need to consider how we deal with that traffic. There are 100 weddings a year, three weddings a weekend and there are 100-500 people at events on one night. Whether you like it or not, there is a huge amount of traffic that happens at events going in and out of there. We have to pay attention to the traffic there. There are specific times when that is a dangerous place. Because of the nature of the facility that is there and the number of people who come in and out of that venue we need to do something to make it a more recognizable turn to get people off that highway."

Commissioner Drake said a larger street sign might be the answer – but that would be a county or 911 call. He also said as the town grows it's necessary to make changes while staying with the concept of what the town is all about.

Due to the safety issues, Attorney Bill Coward said it would be OK for the town to vote to let the sign stand until the Planning Board comes back to the Town Board at its July meeting to address the problem. If the board does recommend to amend the ordinance concerning off-premise directional signs, then a public hearing would be necessary.

Commissioner Eric Pierson said it's been two years so another month won't hurt. "If the Planning Board can come up with a way to make this work then OK, if not, then it comes down," he said.

In the end the board agreed to allow the sign to stay until the July Town Board meeting.

In other Town Board news, the board approved the transferring of 5th and Church Street corner to the First Presbyterian Church for its memorial garden, approved amending the UDO to include the changes for Micro Breweries and OK'd a vote to request a moratorium on ammonium nitrate.

In addition the board approved the FY 2013-14 budget as presented. A public hearing on the budget is set for the June 20 Town Board meeting at 7 p.m. in the Community Building.

Kim Lewicki
Sapphire native in 2013 Miss NC competition

This past November, Tori Hunter was crowned the 7th Miss Blue Ridge Valley. Tori is a graduate of Rosman High School and the daughter of Wade and Tracy Hunter of Sapphire.

A wolfpack cheerleader at North Carolina State University, Tori is a Junior majoring in Human Biology. After graduating from NC State University, she plans to further her education at UNC Chapel Hill School of Dentistry to pursue a career as an orthodontist.

Tori's platform is Mentoring Youth and Setting Positive Goals for the Future. "The future of our nation is determined by our youth today," she said.

By spending time with children, she wants to help them set positive goals for their future and let them know that anything is possible with determination and a positive mindset.

In June, Tori will be representing the Western North Carolina mountain region in the 2013 Miss North Carolina held in Raleigh. To vote for Tori for the 2013 Miss North Carolina's People's Choice follow this link: [http://triangle.news14.com/content/miss_nc/2013_pageant_voting/693614/miss-blue-ridge-valley-tori-hunter](http://triangle.news14.com/content/miss_nc/2013_pageant_voting/693614/miss-blue-ridge-valley-tori-hunter)
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**... BIRDS from page 1**

Productivity and Survivorship (MAPS) protocol. MAPS is a nationwide program coordinated by the Institute for Bird Populations in Point Reyes, California. The MAPS program includes a continent-wide network of over 500 mist netting stations and is designed to monitor productivity, survivorship, and population trends of breeding birds throughout North America. Analyses of the resulting banding data provide critical information relating to the ecology, conservation, and management of North American landbird populations, and the factors responsible for changes in their populations.

For a calendar of sampling dates, please visit http://bigbaldbanding.org/calendar/. For further information, please contact bigbaldbanding@gmail.com or call (828) 736-1217.

- LTLT works in the six far-western counties of North Carolina and northern Rabun County, Georgia. Since 1999, LTLT has been a key agent for the protection of more than 21,000 acres, including riverfront lands along 35 miles of the free-flowing Little Tennessee River.
By Dr. Joseph Wilbanks

Human beings only get two sets of teeth so we need to take care of them. Alligators keep replacing teeth throughout their lives and researchers are hoping they can serve as models for tooth replacement in human adults.

Researchers from the University of Southern California studied the repeated tooth formation in American alligators. Did you know that alligators can repeat tooth formation up to 50 times throughout their lives? Alligators were chosen because they live a long time, and have well-organized teeth with many physical traits that are similar to mammals. The researchers discovered that at an early stage in the development of the alligator tooth, a small bulge is created that holds stem cells. The study authors hope that the findings can someday aid efforts to trigger tooth renewal in human beings.

Wouldn't it be wonderful to be able to regrow a tooth that had been lost to accident, decay or gum disease? Until that day arrives we do have wonderful options for tooth replacement. Years ago, the only tooth replacement available was a dental bridge. Dental bridges are still done and are fine restorations but they require adjacent teeth to be prepared in order to serve as anchors for the bridge.

Today we have a better way to replace a missing tooth – a dental implant. Dental implants are artificial tooth roots that are inserted into the jaw and the jaw bone actually joins with the implant. This serves two purposes – it provides a strong, permanent base to anchor the replacement tooth (a dental crown or bridge) and it helps preserve the health of the jaw bone itself. Our bones have a "use it or lose it" rule and when a tooth is no longer anchored in the jaw bone the body feels like it doesn't need to keep replenishing the bone that isn't being used. Dental implants help avoid the shrunken, aged look that so many people get after they have lost teeth.

Find out more about your tooth replacement options by contacting the Toccoa, GA office of Wilbanks Smile Center today at 706-886-9439. We'll be happy to schedule your visit and if you feel nervous about visiting the dentist just let us know – sedation dentistry is a wonderful option.

... SCHOOL continued from page 1

National Board renewal fees, the system still comes up about $440,000 short.

"To work within the proposed allotment, it's possible we would have to cut another 31 teacher positions in addition to the 11 already being absorbed," said Duncan. "The county is going to have to help us somewhere, if not, then on June 24 we have to decide where the $440,000 is coming from."

He said this is particularly hard for Macon County because it has never had to make drastic cuts such as these before and it will affect the system's ability to educate.

At Monday night’s meeting, held in Nantahala, Duncan didn’t have a final answer concerning the budget saying it's hard to make definitive cuts when the system doesn’t know what it's got to work with.

The county is one thing, but the state budget isn’t final and it affects the school systems. He said the state needs to step up and give school systems the ADM money that is projected and give school systems the ADM money that is projected and will affect the system’s ability to educate.

He said severe cuts are directed at personnel. "We may also have to consider increasing class sizes. All these things we don’t want to do. We are doing everything we possibly can to live with the things that have been part of our curriculum for years but when it’s classroom teachers versus software, for instance, the software has to go."

Duncan said he’s not happy with having to cut anything. “But we have to live within the money ... there is no more money.”

He said the system is also hampered because it no longer has a fund balance to fall back on.

Most entities are encouraged to keep a 3% to 8% fund balance for emergencies, for instance, one month of salaries for the district is $2 million.

“It’s just good business sense to have something to fall back on but we don’t have it,” he said.

The county is meeting with the BOE on Tuesday, June 4 at 5:30 p.m. in the boardroom at the courthouse to discuss the budget.

- Kim Lewicki
HCCDC is located on Church Street behind the First Presbyterian church. The center offers schooling and day care Monday through Friday for up to 66 children, ages 6 weeks to 5 years of age.

The center has a full time director, nutritionist, and 11 teachers on staff. Amenities include a lunchroom that serves hot meals, a library, an interactive playground, and a child’s garden where the children participate in planting, growing, and harvesting vegetables.

HCCDC is curriculum-based with the primary focus on the developmental needs of each child.

The latest project at the center has been the purchase of 4 Samsung Tablets. The tablets are used in every classroom to enhance learning opportunities. The tablets not only teach the children technological skills, they are also a fun way for the children to learn how to make words and what the word is associated with, math skills such as counting and number recognition, and how to organize time and develop patience by taking turns to use the tablets.

The tablets have been a great addition to the existing array of teaching tools available at the center. The teachers report that the tablets have made learning exciting for the children, and that the children will actually ask them to look something up on the tablets. The teachers also say they have been able to make a learning connection with the children that they were not able to make before having the tablets.

Since the trend in education in schools across the country is now computer-based, these youngsters are being given a great head start into our North Carolina school system.

HCCDC is a wonderful and integral part of our community, instating programs that will send our preschoolers into the world with the best possible educational foundation for their primary school years.
This June, the Highlands Cashiers Players (HCP) will bring the heartwarming romantic comedy The Last Romance to Highlands PAC. Show dates will be June 6-9 and 13-16.

The action starts when Ralph Bellini (played by David Milford) goes to a dog park to meet a woman he has seen there, Carol Reynolds (played by Becky Schilling).

Recently we overheard a conversation between Milford and Schilling at Buck's. The two were talking about how HCP came to do this particular play.

Milford: I was looking for a project—something the two of us could do. And we were reading plays. A lot of plays. So tell me again, how you came to choose this play?

Schilling: I had seen Joe DiPietro's Over The River and Through The Woods in Overland Park, Kansas years ago and loved it. DiPietro is a playwright who understands that the funniest material is everyday stuff, the interpersonal dynamics that make up all of our lives, and that's also where the deep meaning is to be found. So last year, when Paul and I were in Sarasota, and I saw the Florida Studio Theatre was doing a play by DiPietro called The Last Romance, I said, let's go! [Schilling is married to Dr. Paul Black, a retired plastic surgeon.]

So Paul and I walk into the theatre, and the preshow music is phenomenal—bigger than life. We take our seats, and then a blind woman and her husband arrive and sit next to us. I remember thinking, 'Oh dear, she's going to have trouble following what's happening!' Boy, was I wrong! The Last Romance is so rich in dialogue and has such beautiful music. It's a play you can enjoy just by listening.

Milford: So from the very beginning—the first moment you knew this was the one—this was the project.

Schilling: Absolutely. That night we left the theatre and were driving south on Tamiami, through downtown Sarasota. There's a 26-foot-tall statue there of a sailor kissing a nurse when WW II ended. As we drove past it, I said to Paul 'We can do this show in Highlands!' Milford: Where were you and what were you doing when you realized you wanted to act? How old were you?

Schilling: You're probably thinking I'll say something like I was 12, but I didn't realize I wanted to act until much later. I've always been drawn to theatre, but in high school I was too shy to try out for a part, so I made costumes instead. Then I went to college, studied biology, became a veterinarian and moved to Atlanta. I remember seeing Driving Miss Daisy at the Alliance Theatre. That would have been about 1988. The play was electrifying. Three actors, minimal set, and they created a real world. I didn't want the show to end. I wanted to see more...I wanted to see how they did that! OK, now fast forward to 1999. I'm living in Highlands, and Virginia Talbot of HCP asks me if I would audition for Myrtle Mae in Harvey. I did and Virginia cast me—and that was my first time acting. I was 41. It was life changing for me. I love acting. One of the great things about community theatre is that it can give people like me, who had never acted before, a chance to be on stage.

Milford: The Last Romance is directed by Ralph Stevens and someone named David Milford. Technical crew includes Megan Potts (Lighting Design), John Williams (Sound Design), and John Roman (Set Design and Construction).

Schilling: This is my dream team. The creative talents and dedication of this crew are fantastic.

Milford: What else would you like people to know? Schilling: Tickets go on sale May 30 to HCP season subscribers and June 1 to the general public. In the meantime, you may call the HCP box office (526-8084) and leave a request for ticket reservations. Lights go up at 7:30 p.m. Thursdays through Saturdays and 2:30 p.m. on Sundays. The box office is open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Saturday and also one hour before each performance. Get your tickets early!
Second and final week for ‘Love, Loss...’

The opening night last week of the Highlands Cashiers Players’ production of “Love, Loss, and What I Wore” was attended by a record-size audience and the enthusiastic comments heard there left no doubt that the performance was immensely enjoyed.

OVER HEARD: “I got such a chuckle from this—I’ve heard it all from the women in my life from my mother and sisters to my wife.” “The woman who played on-going character was so natural. It seemed like the things she told about really happened to her.” “I really identified with that one about the purse—I hate my purse too.” “Wasn’t that funny? the one about the sister with the boots and the bad boyfriend and her two sisters who were so glad when she finally dumped him.” “Don’t you think the young girls did a really great job?” “There were lots of funny scenes and lots that really touched my heart.” “I loved all those beautiful dresses everybody wore at the end.”

Well-written by screen and stage authors Nora and Delia Ephron, well-adapted and staged by Dr. Ronnie Spilton, and well-directed by Bonnie Earman, the humorous, insightful production includes 22 women, who remember moments of their lives and the clothing they wore—from prom and wedding dresses to bras, purses, and high heels—revealing how importantly clothing figures in the lives of women.

In a production with such a theme, the costuming was especially important and credit for that goes to HCP president Barbara Werder, who has served as costumer for many HCP plays. For this one she had an exceptionally formidable task, providing garments for some 90 costume changes for 22 women of all ages and sizes and giving advice on hair styles, shoes, jewelry, and other accessories.

The performances of “Love, Loss, and What I Wore” continue Thursday May 30 through Sunday, June 2, at the Performing Arts Center in Highlands. Evening performances begin at 7:30, the Sunday matinee, at 2:30 p.m. Call the HCP box office, 828-526-8084, or stop by the Performing Arts Center on 507 Chestnut Street in Highlands, 10 a.m. till 4 p.m., opening at 6:00 p.m. before evening performances and 1:00 p.m. before the matinee.

Feeding birds... not bears

If you are wondering how to keep our local black bears away from your birdfeeders, Audubon’s Monday, June 10 Program is for you. Join us at 7:30 PM at the Highlands Civic Center, for a presentation by Russ Regnery, Highlands Plateau Audubon Society President.

Black bears are iconic features of our mountains. Many of us also make an important connection with our local fauna through the practice of supplementing the diets of seed-eating birds and hummingbirds; i.e., “feeding the birds.” Bears have learned that bird feeders can be a significant concentrated food source, especially when natural food sources are limited and/or when hunting pressures encourage bears to move into relatively urbanized “safe havens.” Of bears that learn to associate bird seed as a routine food source, many are reported to subsequently have unfortunate human encounters that end up with the ultimate death of the bear, not to mention making it the easy target for hunters at the opening of bear season. The dichotomy that “a fed bear is a dead bear” is unfortunately an accurate truism. The problem has become sufficiently acute that, in several communities, one political reaction has been to outlaw bird feeding altogether.

As citizens with an interest in both native birds and bears, it behooves anyone feeding birds in this community to be aware of the potential negative consequences to bears, and make themselves familiar with the various methods that can be used to minimize habituation of bears to unnatural food sources, while hopefully at the same time continuing to enjoy interacting with birds at the feeder.

Russ Regnery, a local resident, and someone with an interest in black bears, will review measures to minimize bear, bird feeder, and undesirable human interactions. He will also discuss techniques for installation of bear-resistant bird feeders of varying levels of sophistication. This discussion is targeted primarily for those among us who feed birds and would like to continue to do so. The discussion will focus specifically on the issue of bird feeders and bears, and, of course, not other important bear-related topics such as garbage feeding, personal deterrents, hunting regulations, etc.

The June 10 Program will be preceded by a potluck supper, beginning at 6:00 PM. A brief business meeting for the election of directors will take place before the 7:30 PM program. All are invited. If you can join us for supper, bring a dish to share. Or come at 7:30 for Regnery’s informative hour-long program.
**Highlands Area Upcoming Events**

**Village Square Art & Craft Show**

*June 1-2 in K-H Park*

See for yourself what the fuss is all about. Mark your calendar for June 1st and 2nd for the Highlands Village Square Art & Craft Show in Kelsey-Hutchinson Park. The festival features regionally-made art & crafts, demonstrations, music, face painting and food. It's free and goes from 10 to 5 both days. Sponsored by the Macon County Art Assn. Call (828) 787-2021 for info.

**Free fishing day at Cliffside Lake**

*This Saturday*

Free Kid's Fishing Day at Cliffside Lake off US 64 west. Saturday, June 1, 8 a.m. to noon. Adults must accompany children.

**Coming up at CLE**

June begins with a six session, intermediate Spanish workshop that begins Monday, June 3. The month continues with a broad spectrum of courses including Art, Architecture, Current Events, Philosophy, Literature, and other illuminating topics.

If you want to study literature, beginning June 5th Dr. Brian Railsback, English professor at Western North Carolina University will teach a four class course on the (very) Wild West, studying the writings of Louise Erdich, Annie Proulx, Cormac McCarthy and John Steinbeck.

June 3 and 4 those interested in how religious and philosophical beliefs influence a nation will enjoy a lecture by Dr. Joyce Fluckiger. Dr. Fluckiger who grew up in India and is a specialist in Asian religions, will discuss the multiplicity of deities in Hindu tradition in her talk entitled The Polytheistic Imagination of India. Her husband, Dr. Michael Fluckiger, has practiced medicine in Indian hospitals will lecture on Medical Care & Practice in India.

June 6, those interested in Civil War history will delight in Professor John Inscow’s lecture on Western North Carolina’s Irregular Civil War-A Legacy of Guerilla War and Remembrance.

June 10, Fans of the cinema will enjoy a presentation on Alfred Hitchcock followed by his very famous movie Vertigo.

June 11, Monumentality in Contemporary Art & Architecture will be the subject of Katherine Smith, Associate Professor of Art History at Agnes Scott College, presentation.

June 13, Psychotherapist Dr. Victoria Hippard in her lecture, Once Upon A Time: The Stories We Love and What that Tells About Ourselves will help us look at some of the stories from antiquity to present that affect us as individuals, consciously as well as unconsciously.

Mid- June rounds out with Sue VerHoef, archivist at the Atlanta History Center, presentation of two topics that will give us the skills to open the doors to the lives of our ancestors: The Armchair Genealogist and A Picture is Worth a Thousand Words.

Most lectures will be held at the new CLE Lecture Hall on the lower rear level of the Peggy Crosby Center.

To find out more about Center for Life Enrichment, our 2013 course catalogue and how to register for courses or join CLE, visit our website at www.celhighlands.com or email us at clehighlands@yahoo.com You may also call us at 828 526-8811.
The North Georgia Children’s Chorus under the direction of Ruth Purcell will visit Highlands United Methodist Church on Sunday, June 2nd. They will be singing twice that day. The first performance will be with the HUMC Choir at the morning service (10:15 a.m.) plus they will present a public concert at HUMC at 3:30 p.m. The concert is free.

Free concert at First Presbyterian

A free faculty showcase concert at 5 p.m. on Sunday, June 2. Featured will be the Smoky Mountain Brass Quintet and Will Peebles, bassoon. The concert will take place in the sanctuary of the First Presbyterian Church at 5th and Main streets.

Highlands Motoring Festival set for June 6-9

The Highlands Motoring Festival featuring the 50th anniversary of the Porsche Model 911. Events begin Thursday night at 6:30 p.m. at the Ugly Dog with a bluegrass band. No cover. Donations will go to the Literacy Council. Friday a Charity Cruise begins at 7 a.m. at SweeTreats for driving instructions. Drive begins at 8:30 a.m. Evening reception party at 6:30 p.m. at SweeTreats on N. 4th St. On Saturday, Sixth annual car show at the Highlands Civic Center from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. At 6:30 p.m., Motoring Festival Gala. Sunday, June 9, Road Rally with brunch at the Orchard in Cashiers culminating at the Ugly Dog for trophies and tales. For information, call 828-482-0326.

Award-winning artist Wesley Wofford teaches at The Bascom

From film to sculpture, artist Wesley Wofford is an acknowledged master of the visual arts. Now a resident of Cashiers, NC, the artist is applying his experience in the motion picture industry to realistic fine art sculpture. He will be teaching an intensive two-week workshop, The Nude Figure from Clay to Bonded Bronze at the Dave Drake Studio Barn, located on The Bascom’s beautiful six-acre campus.

Figurative forms have been a tradition in sculpture for centuries and inspired some of our finest masterpieces. Workshop enrollees will learn the nuances of the nude figure from this master of realistic form. Capturing the essence of the model in clay, students will then mold, cast and finish their individual sculptures in bronze.

Check out other current exhibitions, classes and workshops at our updated website, www.thebascom.org or through the 2013 catalogue, available free at The Bascom. The Bascom is open year-round, Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday, noon to 5 p.m. Enjoy workshops, exhibitions, special events, quality programs and unique shopping throughout the year at The Shop at The Bascom. For more information, to register for workshop offerings or for more details on all Bascom activities, visit www.thebascom.org or call (828) 526-4949.
Worship: Loving God or loving a good service?

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH**
Dr. Mark Ford, Pastor

Worship” comes from the Old English weorthscepe or “worth ship.” It is giving God due worth in praise. Worship refers to offering up the service of praise, adoration, thanksgiving and prayers through actions and attitudes. As of late, there is a growing concern regarding our focus in worship. To quote John Piper, “we should beware loving loving God rather than just loving God.” While many believe they are discovering the joy of meeting with God in extended times of emotionally charged singing and audio/visual overload, there is a growing danger that we are slipping from loving God preeminently to “loving loving God.” More directly, we are no longer savoring the glory of God for God’s sake, but have focused on an atmosphere that is more akin to entertainment and excitement of the senses. One might say that we get more “worth” out of the worship than the Lord who is to be worshipped. We love a good worship service more than we love God in our worship.

What is it that guides our choices and preference in worship? Is it a “good service” that meets my emotional and sensory tastes, or a worship environment where I am led to love God with all my heart, soul and mind (Matthew 22:37-38)? The Biblical idea of the heart would certainly include our emotional and passion-filled desires toward God. But the soul is the seat of our will and being - the decision making facet of our life. Is our worship also causing us to make intentional and sacrificial choices to better serve the Lord and live for the Kingdom of God? Is our worship engaging and improving our minds so that we might grow in our knowledge of the Lord? If all we can say at the end of the service is “I loved the worship service today,” then we have potentially loved the wrong thing. We want to love the Lord, praise our God, and grow in knowledge and discipleship.

A critical aspect of worship that is worthy of God is what it ultimately produces in our lives. The ethical, relational and practical accompaniments of worship that go beyond the service itself are the real tests of the authenticity of worship. A genuine love of God in worship should give birth to a love of others, manifested in works of kindness and justice as we esteem others better than ourselves (Matthew 22:39). Simply, we likewise see “worth” in others as those created in the image of God. Love for God is a gift and offering of our hearts to the Lord who is worthy, and not a by-product of sensory manipulation. Worship is about giving, not getting. We worship God by giving love and praise. We honor God by giving of ourselves to others. When you go to church this Sunday, will you be looking for a “good service” or a place where you can love God and be empowered to love others?
Men’s League Basketball Tournament winners

Champion Warriors. From left, Jeb Brewer, Koty Drake, Zac Dezack, Andy Miller and Jared Crawford.

2nd place Billingsley Farm. From left, Robbie Vanderbilt, John Miniat, Ken McKim, Michael Baty, Coach Lamar Billingsley, Andrew Billingsley, Taylor Osteen and Brad Bergman.

3rd place OEL. From left, Chris Wright, Aaron Williams, Adam Smith, Jerry West, Josh Dela Cruz and Jordan Kenter.

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Cullasaja Country Club notables

Tom Pannier, head golf professional

Cullasaja Club announces the selection of Tom Pannier as its new Head Golf Professional. He is an acknowledged teacher, marketer, player and an insightful administrator with a strong focus on, and dedication to, member and guest satisfaction. He has been a Class A Member of the PGA of America since November of 1996. "Of the nearly 80 applications we received from across the country, Tom was the most highly qualified and recommended, clearly making him the best candidate for the position," said Geoff Parker, president of Cullasaja Club.

For more information about Cullasaja Club, please visit www.cullasajadub.org.

Larry Fruchman, Clubhouse Manager

The CMAA International Wine Society awarded Cullasaja Club the International Wine Society's Award of Merit for its 2012 Wine Program.

The Club qualified for this Award of Merit by meeting several rigorous requirements as set forth by the Club Managers Association of America's International Wine Society.

Cullasaja Club was recognized at the Wine Society's Annual Business Meeting and Education Session in February in San Diego, CA. Cullasaja Club will also be acknowledged in the newsletter of the International Wine Society and their upcoming issues of Outlook and Chapter Digest.

The Bascom notables

Art League President, Mark Copple presented the Bascom's Executive Director, Jane Jerry and Youth and Outreach Coordinator, Will Bardlift, a $2,000 donation to support the Bascom's summer children's art program.

MS courtyard becomes outdoor classroom

By Madison Schandolph, rising 9th grade student

Highlands School is happy to announce that we finally met our goal! The courtyard has met its full potential with the help of our many sponsors.

The new courtyard is equipped with a beautiful two-tiered seating area with mosaics made by the Highlands School art students along with their teacher, Mrs. Faust.

The courtyard also has two new trees and a wide variety of creeping bog plants, flowers and azalea bushes.

Students are extremely happy to finally be able to use our courtyard and enjoy it!

As a student I can say everyone has really had a great time helping with everything from the fundraisers to planting. The new sidewalk has been laid and the handicap ramp was put in.

I've learned many things from the courtyard, such as the types of plants that are native to Highlands and why they grow better than other plants.

Ms. Smathers plans on using the courtyard to teach students about the processes of plants. Other teachers will use the courtyard as an outdoor classroom so students can enjoy class more. The installation of the weather station will allow hands on lessons about weather moni-
Highlands School science teacher Stephanie Smathers and the 7th and 8th grade students who recently helped plant the new outdoor classroom at Highlands School. The public is invited to come for lemonade and tour the outdoor classroom Monday, June 10, 1-2 p.m.

Ms. Smathers and her students put in a lot of effort to get the courtyard to reach its full potential and (according to the students) have greatly succeeded. We want to thank all of our sponsors for putting their money towards helping turn our courtyard into something to be proud of!
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FOOD SERVICE DIRECTOR WITH SERVE SAFE CERTIFICATE needed at Chestnut Hill. Please apply at 24 Clubhouse Trail, Highlands, NC. (828)526-5251. (st. 5/23)

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POLICE & FIRE

Highlands PD log entries from April 24 Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 mis- demeanor, or public officials have been used.

April 24
• At 11 p.m., criminal damage to property was reported at a parking lot on Main Street.
• May 11
• At 4:50 p.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident on Big Bearpen Road.
• May 14
• At 1:20 p.m., officers responded to Macon Bank concerning someone obtaining money illegally by delivering a check on an account without authorization from the account holder.
• May 15
• At 1:20 a.m., criminal damage to property was reported a Duncan Oil Company on N. 4th Street where a broken window was reported.
• May 16
• At 9:01 p.m., a bear in the trash was reported at a residence on Raoul Road.
• May 17
• At 6:01 p.m., a bear was reported standing on the side of the road at Memorial Park Road and N. 4th Street.
• At 10:33 p.m., a bear was reported at a residence on Raoul Road.
• May 18
• At 9 p.m., a resident on Paul Walden Road called police about a barking dog.
• May 19
• At 1:56 a.m., Kimberly Joan Horvath, 19, of FL, was arrested on US 64 for driving after consuming alcohol under the age of 21. Her trial date is Aug. 14, 2013.
• At 5 p.m., a wrought iron table valued at $200 was reported stolen at a residence on N. 4th Street.

May 20
• At 5:30 p.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident on Main Street.
• At 5:45 p.m., Marci Ann Rathbone, 27, of SC, was arrested on Main Street for reckless driving, hit and run and DWI. Her trial date is July 24, 2013.

The Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. log entries from May 21

May 21
• At 10:32 a.m., the dept. assisted a stranded motorist who was out of gas on S. 4th Street.
• At 1:45 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to assist EMS at a residence on Hickory Lane. EMS transported to the hospital.

May 22
• At 10:57 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Henry Road. EMS transported to the hospital.

May 23
• At 5:51 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Hudson Road. It was false.

May 24
• At 10:51 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Cherokee Drive. EMS transported to the hospital.

May 26
• At 12:27 p.m. the dept. was first-responders to Main Street for a medical call.
• At 11:16 p.m., the dept. responded to a possible structure fire at a residence on Mt. Lori Drive. It was a camp fire behind the house.

May 27
• At 4:37 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Old Logging Trail. EMS transported to the hospital.
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Parking Regulations went into affect April 15th. Employees and Business owner must park in the designated parking areas. For a map of the areas you are allowed to park please visit the Town website highlandsnc.org.

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