

Highlands Newspaper

FREE Every Thursday

Volume 11, Number 32

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Thurs., Aug. 7, 2014

OnGoing

• At Highlands Playhouse, "9 to 5". Call 526-2695 for tickets. Movies Mon-Sat 1 & 4p and Sun. 6 & 8p Tuesdays

Thurs., Aug. 7

• The free Zahner lecture is "Swamp Monsters and Bone-Eating Snot Flowers: Poetry and the Non-human World" with Dr. Catherine Carter's lecture at 7 p.m. in the Highlands Nature Center.

Fri.-Sun., Aug. 8-10

• Hal Phillips on the piano at Skyline Lodge during dinner and Sunday brunch.

Fri.-Sat., Aug. 8-9

• Relay for Life at the Rec Park, 6p to 6a.

Fri., Aug. 8

• Friday Night Live music in Town Square from 6-8. Featuring Fred Kopp.

Sat., Aug. 9

• The Farmers Market, 9a-1p in K-H Park.

• Live music in Pine Street Park from 6-8 p.m. Featuring Hi 5.

Sun., Aug. 10

• Most Reverend Doctor Foley T. Beach at Christ Anglican Church in Cashiers at 10:30a. Everyone is invited

Mon., Aug. 11

• A Bolivian mission auction at Wildcat Cliffs Country Club. \$123 per person which includes the sales and dinner. Call 526-3605.

Tues., Aug. 12

• Community Table Dinner at the Community Building at 6 p.m. It's free.

Wed., Aug. 13

• Interlude Concert at the Episcopal Church at 2 p.m. featuring Sam Skelton, Saxophone; Tyrone Jackson, Piano.

'Infrastructure' projects set to begin

During the coming months citizens will be maneuvering around numerous capital projects – some that have been on the books for years.

The longest standing project,

the one mapped out, applied for, denied, reapplied for and finally approved by federal and state agencies is the Mill Creek culvert replacement project.

At the July 28 Planning Board

meeting, Public Service Administrator Lamar Nix was on hand to explain the state of the town in regards to capital projects. The Planning Board has been tasked

• See **PROJECTS** page 18

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Highlands Relay for Life: 'Fight to the Finish' Aug 8-9



Above, survivors take the first lap at last year's Relay for Life celebration at the Highlands Rec Park. This year, the format will be the same with food, music and comraderie beginning Friday, Aug. 8 at 6 p.m. and culminating Saturday at 6 a.m. To see ways you can get involved, go to page 14.

WNC reps vote to sue Obama

By James Harrison
Carolina Public Press

Three U.S. House members from Western North Carolina, all whom having cast dozens of votes to repeal the Affordable Care Act in recent years, approved a Republican measure last week to sue President Barack Obama for circumventing Congress in last year's decision to delay one of the law's key provisions.

Reps. Patrick McHenry, Mark Meadows and Virginia Foxx all voted in favor of a bill authorizing their party to take Obama to court over a 2013 White House order to delay the so-called "employer mandate," which would have been implemented this year. The lawsuit, which comes less than 100 days before November's mid-term elections, is seen as a reaction to the president's repeated use of

• See **OBAMA** page 6

Franklin-area crime spree keeps the law busy

By Brittany Burns

Law enforcement agencies across the county were busy last weekend, with an escaped inmate, house fire and suspicious death,

a rape, and a shooting in the city limits.

It all started the night of Wed., July 30 when Macon County Detention Center inmate

Charles Andrew Cochran escaped from custody while taking out the trash. Cochran, who was being held by Macon County on tres-

• See **CRIME** page 10

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• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• MAYOR ON DUTY •

To be or not to be ... the answer is simple



In serving as your mayor I can be found most days in my office at Town Hall, usually from early to mid-morning. On the other hand, I may be seen in my red truck driving around town, or walking around the downtown area to see what is going on. There is always something to do, someone to meet and something to discover in Highlands.

Last Wednesday I decided to take a hike around Highlands to see what was going on. One of my high school friends and I set out from my house for a long walking tour of Highlands.

We began by strolling down Hickory Street by the ball field. I took a photo of the crumbling ball field facilities. The town will need to upgrade them this coming year.

At 5th Street we turned left and walked to the Greenway which at that point is part of the old Kelsey Trail. We met a young woman on the trail who was from out of town. She asked for directions to town. After giving her the directions, she commented on how wonderful it was to have a beautiful walking trail as a part of our town.

My buddy and I walked to Upper Lake Road and then to the Greenway Trail on Big Bear Pen. There are great views on this part of the trail. We came back down to Upper Lake and followed Big Bear Pen down to the part of the Greenway that goes to the Highlands Biological Station. There are trail signs everywhere to help walkers negotiate the trail.

We stopped by the Nature Center and saw a class of children being allowed by their instructor to touch a corn snake. My friend observed that this little class may just spark the imaginations and dreams of future scientists and folks dedicated to preserving the natural environment. To take it a step further, I told him about all the summer classes and camps for children in Highlands. Kids can experience art, science, history, music and theater right here in our little community. I also let him know that our swim team, the Highlands Hurricanes, was off to a great start.

After leaving the Nature Center, we walked to Sunset Rock and then to downtown for lunch. Main Street was full of people and looking great. After lunch we walked to The Bascom to see their current

exhibitions. The Greenway is also on The Bascom property.

We continued on the trail back to the Mill Creek Bridge located just below the Recreation Park. We followed the trail to the Historical Society. My friend was very interested in the cottage there that had been a part of the old TB treatment facility located on Bug Hill – the current Rec Park prop-

erty.

We returned to my house after walking about five miles around and through Highlands. It is quite a unique experience to be able to move seamlessly from the beautiful, wild, natural areas, to important venues and to enjoy the thriving downtown area.

Some old writer once posed the question of whether "to be or not to be." After all is said and done, I had rather "be" in Highlands.

By the way, if you see me around town in the bushes with a bucket in my hand, I will "be" picking blackberries. We have a good crop this year.

Relay for Life week proclaimed!



Mayor Pat Taylor with Director of this year's Relay for Life Mike Murphy upon the signing of a Mayoral Proclamation proclaiming the week of Aug. 2, 2014, as "Relay for Life" week.

Highlands Newspaper^{LLC}

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• LETTERS •

Why Fred isn't really a racist

Dear Editor,

Fred Woolridge's hand grenade title for his column in the July 31st Highlands Newspaper, "Why I'm a racist and proud of it ... period," fails at the outset because he either ignores or doesn't understand what really constitutes racism.

He lets us know he was a police officer and Christian living and working in Jim Crow America. He says he wouldn't want to live next door to Little Richard, a black, gay musician, not because of either his blackness or his gayness or because he's a musician, but because of "all that racket and piano banging." Would he be OK living next door to Jerry Lee Lewis or Elvis?

Frankly, I'm not sure Fred really understands what racism is. Racism has two components. First, there's a belief system that claims some level of superiority by one race over another.

Second, and more significant, is the

• See LETTER page 3

• MILESTONE •

A record hole-in-one not once, but twice!



Ace golfer, MC Commissioner Jim Tate with friend Davis Picklesimer and exuberant son Ethan after Jim made his second hole-in-one.

Last week, MC Commissioner Jim Tate's good friend, Davis Picklesimer, was in town visiting and so they played golf at the Old Edwards Club with Town Board Commissioner Eric Pierson and Tate's son Ethan.

Tate scored a hole-in-one on hole number four.

What's interesting about this story, is that he now has had two holes-in-one in his life.

The first was 28 years ago in the same

month of August ... and, it was witnessed by the same friend – Davis Picklesimer.

“Davis witnessed my first one when we were both 14 years old at Highlands Country Club on hole number 2. I hit a 9 iron from 123 yards for the ace, and now my second came with a 9 iron from 138 yards for an ace.”

Same club, same month, same friend ... 28 years apart.

“I think that I need to play with him more often!” said Tate

Fred claims to be a satirist consequently we should probably shrug off the column as Fred simply being Fred. And, most of the examples Fred cites don't, in fact, point to him being some malevolent racist. That two of Fred's cop pals died of AIDS, caus-

ment, housing or service, that's racism. • See LETTER page 7

...LETTERS continued from page 2

discrimination that attaches to that belief system. If someone believes that his/her race is superior to another, that's his/her prerogative. If someone acts on that belief by denying, based on color, gender, religion, nationality, etc., either employment, housing or service, that's racism.



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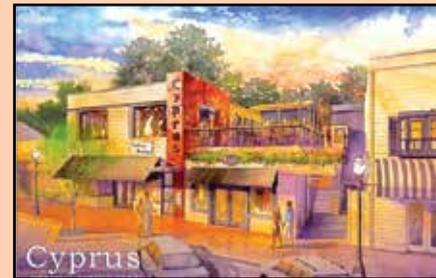
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executive power during his years in office. The vote fell largely on party lines, passing 225-201.

Meadows, McHenry and Foxx were all silent following the roll call, refraining from issuing press statements or making comments on social media regarding their sup-

port for the measure. Following last year's delay of the employer mandate, Meadows made waves on Capitol Hill when his office circulated a letter to colleagues suggesting U.S. House Speaker John Boehner defund the law through appropriations. The move, which ultimately led to a 16-day shutdown of the federal government last October, earned Meadows a headline from CNN describing him as "The architect of the government shutdown."

As passed in 2010, the health law would have required employers with more than 50 employees to provide health coverage for their workers, or pay a penalty to the government of \$2,000 per employee if coverage was not provided. Last July, the Obama administration announced plans to delay the provision until 2015, well past the date of this year's midterm. At the time, some companies had already begun cutting back on workers' hours in order to avoid the penalties.

Although Boehner dismissed Democrats' claims of a GOP plan to arrive at impeachment proceedings for Obama, the move was seen by many as a way to rile up conservative voters before the midterm without risking party credibility. Accord-

• See OBAMA page 9



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• THE FREDSTER •

Short fun stuff ya just can't make up

1. The li'l missus and I owned and operated Mountain Down Rappelling Tours for thirteen years, teaching customers to rappel the cliffs of Highlands. The most interesting customer we ever had was a lady who showed up for her first lesson, did her first rappel, soiled her pants badly, took off her harness, got in her car and we haven't seen her since.



Fred Wooldridge

shingles. She was over-the-top upset. Hey, everyone works in my family.

5. A Miami Beach city official stormed into the police chief's office unannounced and demanded, "I know you love the guy, but he needs to be put in a cage and kept there. Only let out when things are really bad." (I can't imagine to whom he was referring.)

2. During a full blown Miami hurricane, my police partner and I picked up an awesomely beautiful long haired mannequin wearing an evening dress that blew out of a storefront window. We sat her in between us in the front seat of our squad car and the fun started. Our sergeant, heading in the opposite direction, tried to chase us down after spotting the blond but by the time he turned around we had disappeared and we wouldn't answer his radio demands to meet him.

3. While writing columns for another newspaper, I had a lady tap me on the shoulder at church and whisper, "I think you've been fired." She was right and I didn't even get a courtesy phone call to tell me my key no longer fit the door. Such is the life of a big time newspaper reporter.

4. While building our li'l cabin down on Clear Creek Rd. the li'l missus walked out of our front door and freaked out to find two of our three very small children on the roof with me nailing

6. While on the SWAT team, we served a "no-knock" search warrant at a home. After chopping down the front door and pointing fully automatic M16 weapons at a young couple sleeping in their bed, we discovered it was the wrong address. I'm bettin' we took years off their lives and they still remember that scary day.

7. Early on and while writing columns for this newspaper, I sent out formal letters to each town board member asking for permission to make fun of them in print. They could either check the "yes" or "no" box and return the form. Believe it or not, I got three yeses and the rest nothing. The best response came from Buck Trott, our mayor and Santa Claus. He scribbled, "Are you kidding? You're going to make fun of me no matter which box I check." He was right and I loved to call him Buck Trout. He was my favorite politician ever.

8. Do not read Fred's book I'm Moving Back to Mars unless you're serious about making the move.

...LETTERS continued from page 3

ing him some personal distress, of course doesn't constitute racism. Why would he even ask the question? Maybe it's because he felt the need to describe them as female, black and/or gay, rather than simply as police department colleagues. But then, that was the point, wasn't it?

I choose to believe Fred's not a racist, which, despite the title, was the purpose of the column. Racism involves viewing people through a prism of race and then acting unfairly in a discriminatory or bigoted manner. Minority individuals and groups who've experienced bigotry know all about this while many Americans in the majority have no personal frame of reference. They don't see the racism in jokes, off-hand comments or questions, and don't understand the effect these things have on the person or group in the focus of such language. They don't mean to be hurtful. They just don't get it.

In America, people have the right to freely assemble with whomever they wish. That's an important part of the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. We can live, work, worship, play and commune with the people with whom we feel most comfortable. Most do it intuitively, every week at church.

People probably didn't move to Highlands because it's an ethnically diverse community. They also most likely didn't move here because they consciously wanted to live in a 97% white community. They moved here because they feel comfortable here.

So, to Fred's final query, yes, as an American, and while he doesn't have a right to act on it, he has a right to be a racist. But, he's probably really not.

He's probably just a cranky old man.

**Bruce Katz
Highlands**

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• TELL TALES •

A final sailing story

We did two more races to Bermuda but failed to trophy in. We did number shorter races and I won't even mention the time we

raced to Key West and where at dockside in Key West, our crew rigged a large slingshot to lob water balloons onto a huge motor yacht. Splat! Their captain was fu-

rious and ran down the docks looking for the guilty party. Our crew could look very innocent and quickly hid the evidence.

Almost a spiritual experience, there is something about sailing that reaches deep into one's soul. Offshore you are out of contact with life ashore (cell phones have probably changed that somewhat) and you are on your own. There is no way to describe the sense of freedom in sailing offshore but similar to the tingle pilots get flying high above the world.

You are totally free and if properly prepared, are self-sufficient. The ocean can be a dangerous place so anything less than being properly prepared can be fatal.



Bob Wilson

Survival requires attention to every detail, large or small. One must have an ability to read the water, proficient at navigation, read the weather and know your boat.

Sailing is about making the trip. Power boating is about getting there.

The recent Robert Redford movie "All is Lost" underlined that sometimes there is little you can do when you hit a floating object in the dark and punch a hole in your boat, save for having a good inflatable life raft on board and an EPIRB.

On one of the races, a story made the rounds about one of the other boats when one of the crew manning the helm at night freaked

out screaming "great white, great white." The crew, resting below, came bounding topside to see what was going on. He had looked astern and saw what he thought was a great white shark following them in the dark. As it turns out, it was merely a white sail that had slipped over the side, still tied to the boat. Imaginations can run wild at night at sea.

We were anchored off the hotel in Nassau harbor in the Bahamas. I had rigged up an awning over the boom to provide some shade while I read a book. Out of the corner of my eye, I could see another boat pulling up alongside us with two naked ladies (I guess they were ladies) on the foredeck preparing to drop anchor. Looking to see who was at the helm of the boat it turned out to be another naked lady. I tried to read my book and look casual but it didn't work.

The local constabulary paid them no attention.

• See TELL TALES page 11

Dr. Joseph H. Wilbanks, D.D.S.

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The Dry Sink Main Street Highlands, NC

...OBAMA continued from page 6

ing to a report from Washington, D.C. newspaper The Hill, several Republicans had already indicated plans to fundraise off the lawsuit.

Despite the buzz, court proceedings for the lawsuit will likely take months, if not years — potentially past the conclusion of Obama's second term. Estimates for how much the legal action would cost were unclear.

According to a report in The Washington Post, Obama appeared unfazed.

"They're going to sue me for taking executive actions to help people. So they're mad I'm doing my job," Obama said in an economics speech in Kansas City, Mo., according to the Post. "And by the way, I've told them I'd be happy to do it with you. The only reason I'm doing it on my own is because you're not doing anything," he said of Congress.

House votes to reform VA

In another vote last week, Meadows, McHenry and Foxx joined the majority of their fellow House members to support a \$17 billion bill aimed at reforming the U.S. Department of Veteran's Affairs.

Outrage over the problematic de-

partment, which became mired in scandal this year over the repeated coverup of inadequate care for U.S. veterans, led to the resignation of Veterans Affairs Sec. Eric Shinseki two months ago.

Along with providing \$10 billion to increase access to VA care, the bill requires the agency to authorize eligible veterans to receive care from non-VA providers who are participants in Medicare. In order to be eligible, a veteran must either live 40 miles from the nearest VA medical facility, or have been unable to secure an appointment at a VA facility within a 30-day time period.

The measure also provides \$5 billion for the hiring of additional physicians and VA staff, a move geared at reducing unreasonable wait times reported at facilities across the nation, which ultimately led to the deaths of up to 40 veterans waiting for care at a Phoenix facility.

In a news release, Meadows praised the bill's passage.

"Today, I was proud to join my colleagues in the House in voting for a bipartisan Veterans Affairs reform bill that will address the many issues plaguing the VA,"

• See **OBAMA** page 17



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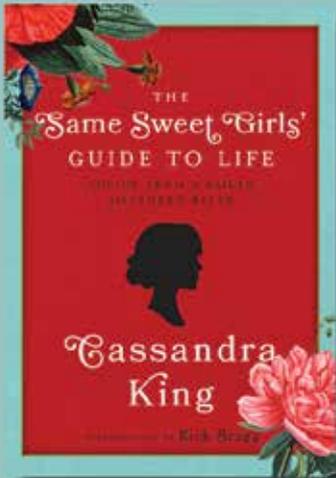
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Full bar, grub and fun, y'all!

...CRIME continued from page 1

passing charges in Colorado, had been in custody for two weeks and was a part of the detention center's trustee program.

Trustees, who are inmates being held for minor offenses, are tasked with jobs both within the jail and around the community.

Cochran, who was being held on a minor offense and was facing the possibility of being released pending the outcome of an extradition hearing in Colorado that has already been scheduled, had taken part in the trustee program and had completed all the tasks he had been assigned until he evaded officers Wednesday night around 9 p.m.

Although Cochran was currently being held on a minor offense, he has an extensive criminal record, both in Macon County and in Larimer County, Colorado.

In North Carolina, Cochran has been

convicted of crimes such as failure to appear in court, and larceny of a fire arm, and was arrested and charged with manufacturing a scheduled VI substance this past May.

In Colorado, Cochran was on parole, with permission to be in North Carolina on criminal vandalism charges.

After the escape, Sheriff Holland said though Cochran was a trustee, he was a fugitive and people should be cautious of the behavior of a desperate man. "An escapee is a desperate man," he said.

Cochran remained on the run and out of sight until Saturday, Aug. 2, where he was spotted shortly before 11 p.m. at a residence near Louisa Chapel. Cochran showed up at the residence because he used to live there with his ex-girlfriend. The home was his ex-girlfriend's.

After being denied clothes and supplies, Cochran fled the scene and was no-

where to be found when law enforcement arrived.

Late Monday night, Aug. 4, the Macon County S.W.A.T team was able to take Cochran back into custody after a brief struggle that resulted in no injuries.

Cochran was found on Green Street in possession of a gun and witnesses who were interviewed told officers that Cochran had another gun stashed in a duffel bag near the Gazebo residence.

After searching the area, Sheriff Robert Holland reported that a duffel bag was found and contained a semi-automatic handgun and three fully loaded clips, as well as other evidence.

Holland also said his department is



Charles Andrew Cochran

conducting interviews with everyone believed to have been involved or to have helped Cochran and charges are pending.

House Fire/Death

In addition to the escaped inmate, MCSO deputies were called about a suspicious fire in the Burningtown community Saturday afternoon.

Authorities were alerted to a fire on Middle Burningtown at the home of Day Williamson, short-

ly after 3 p.m. on Saturday.

A family member and neighbor of Williamson's called in the fire after seeing smoke. Originally, it was reported that no one was in the residence but the same

• See CRIME page 14

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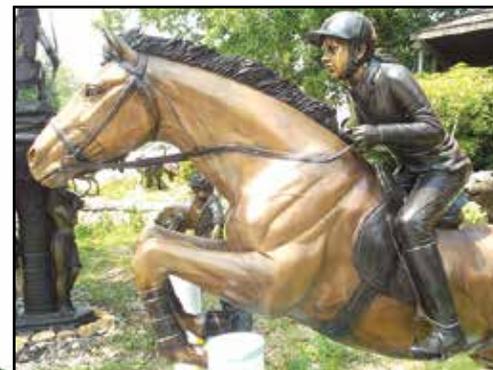
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...TELL TALES continued from page 8

The average depth of water on the Bahamas banks is about 12 feet or so. On a moonlit night, one can clearly see the sandy bottom and the occasional conch. At one time, there were many more crawfish (variously called spiny lobster or Florida lobster) which could be found under most any rocky coral shelf. Tragically, the small Bahamas Coast Guard is unable to protect their resources and the Cubans plunder freely.

Then there was the small island everyone stopped at to pick up a freshly baked loaf of bread from a local island lady living in a small wood building.

Anchored at Staniel Cay off Joe Hocker's self-serve bar one morning we awoke to the sound of excited voices. Staniel Cay is where the natives used to dig a hole in the coral with one stalk of corn growing out of it and pigs were kept

in a cage. This was circa 1975 and a lot has probably changed since then.

Anyway, seems that a yacht had made a wrong turn into the harbor and run smack into some coral, ripping out the bottom of the boat. Walking past a little building that served as a temporary jail, some dude at a window offered us money if we would get him out. Turns out the yacht was loaded with marijuana, with the locals out in small boats picking up the floating bundles. I suspect not all the marijuana bundles were turned in to the authorities.

Sleeping at anchor in the Bahamas with a gentle roll and the sound of water lapping against the hull, sleep comes quickly. It's the same feeling of peace I experience sitting in our pasture just before sunset watching the barn swallows flit about. It's a wonderful world we have.



Present

The Last of The Red Hot Lovers



A Comedy by Neil Simon
Directed by Virginia Talbot

August 21-24, August 28 -31, 2014

Highlands Performing Arts Center, 507 Chestnut Street

Tickets: 828-526-8084

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• HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

First Mondays

• Shortoff Baptist Church hosts a non-denominational Men's Meeting the first Monday night of each month at 7 pm and all men are invited to attend.

Tuesdays

• Community Table Dinner at the Community Building at 6 p.m. It's free.

Tues. & Thurs.

• Aerobics at the Rec Park with Tina Rogers 5:15. \$5.

Mon., Wed., Fri.

• Aerobics with Tina Rogers 8-9a.

• Zumba at the Rec Park at 9:05a. \$5.

Thursdays

• Highlands Writer's Group meets every Thursday from 1-3:30 pm at Hudson Library. Writers of all

genres welcome. For info call 526-8009 or 526-2295.

• Weight Watchers support group meets every Thursday at 6pm at the Cashiers Community Center. Questions? Call Lisa 828-506-3555 Last Fri. of each month

Fri.-Sun.

• Hal Phillips on the piano at Skyline Lodge during dinner and Sunday brunch.

Fri. & Sat.

• The Historical Society Mu-

seum is open.

Saturdays

• The Farmers Market, 9a-1p in K-H Park. Organic vegetables, eggs, honey, cheeses. home-made food and hand-made items. For information call 482-0555 Maxine Davidoff.

• Cashiers Local Farmers tailgate market begins May 10 thru October at the Anglican Church Parking Lot Hwy 64 E next to Macon Bank.

Thurs., Aug. 7

• The free Zahner lecture is "Swamp Monsters and Bone-Eating Snot Flowers: Poetry and the Nonhuman World" with Dr. Catherine Carter's lecture on Thursday at 7 p.m. in the Highlands Nature Center. Carter will talk about the different ways in which poets represent the nonhuman world.

Fri., Aug. 8

• Friday Night Live music in Town Square from 6-8. Featuring Fred Kopp.

HCP presents "The Last of the Red Hot Lovers" starting Aug. 21



Lance Trudel and Lee Lyons rehearse a scene from the Highlands-Cashiers Players production of "The Last of the Red Hot Lovers" opening at Highlands Performing Arts Center, 507 Chestnut Street, on August 21 and continuing through August 31. Tickets are available at 828-526-8084 or on-line at highlandscashiersplayers.org

Though they can hardly believe it, the Highlands Cashiers Players are beginning their 20th season and they are beginning it with a red hot play, Neil Simon's "The Last of the Red Hot Lovers," opening at the Highlands Performing Arts Center on August 21, to run Thursdays through Sundays, ending August 31.

As many theatergoers know, Neil Simon is one of the funniest, most popular, and finest comedy writers of the 20th century. He has written 35 plays and nearly the same number of screenplays adapted from his work. He has received more Oscar and Tony nominations than any other writer, winning 15 Tonys for Best Play and the Pulitzer Prize for Drama in 1991 for "Lost in Yonkers." Critics have written that his "flair for rapid-fire jokes and wisecracks is unparalleled" and described the majority of his plays as "brilliantly funny," a description

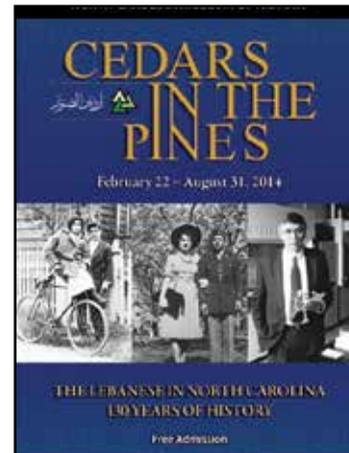
that included "The Last of the Red Hot Lovers."

The plot concerns the attempts of a middle-aged married man to conduct an affair with three different women with disastrous and hilarious results and a new appreciation for his wife of 23 years. As is the case with many Simon comedies, the characters in "Red Hot Lover," though imperfect, are at heart decent people, revealing the playwright's great compassion for his fellow human beings. Cast members include HCP veteran actors Lance Trudel, Jennifer Royce, Lee Lyons, and Adair Simon, newcomer to the Players stage but experienced actor of stage, film, and video productions.

Tickets for "The Last of the Red Hot Lovers" are available on line, www.highlandscashiersplayers.org or at the box office which opens Thursday, August 14, 828-526-8084.

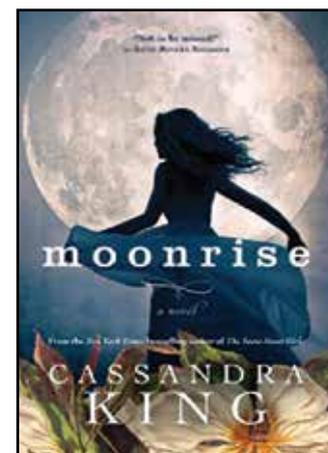
CLE will be hosting Middle East Expert Dr. Akram Khater and best-selling author Cassandra King

The Center for Life Enrichment is fortunate to have two great speakers in the upcoming week. Middle East expert, Dr. Akram Khater and best-selling author Cassandra King. Dr. Khater is an engaging and knowledgeable speaker and has spoken at CLE several times in the past. Dr. Khater is presenting 2 lectures covering issues in the Middle East Region as well as a FREE documentary presentation. The first lecture The Struggle for the Future of the Middle East: Syria will explain the impact the Syrian civil war has had on the people, government of Syria and surrounding countries. Monday, Aug 11, 6-8. Christians in the Middle East: A 2000 Year Old Story explores the role of Christians in a part of the world that is generally seen as synonymous with Islam. This course will tell the story of the Eastern Christian Communities from the 19th century to the present and will present them as vital bridges between the region and the west. Tuesday, Aug 12, 10-12. Later that afternoon Dr. Khater is offering a FREE presentation of his documentary "Cedars in the Pines: The Lebanese in North Carolina-130 Years of History" Over the past 120 years the Lebanese have created



a rich legacy in North Carolina. They have built businesses from humble beginnings and innovative ideas and grew them into thriving enterprises vital to the economy of the state. They brought their faith along with their dreams and hopes for the future. Their kitchens enthrall our senses with recipes crafted across generations, and their music and dance fill our festivals and neighborhoods with sights and sounds that convey the richness of Lebanese culture. This film narrates the stories of those who have journeyed from Lebanon to North Carolina and labored here to build new homes, raise families and enrich the state with their culture and hard work. It tells of a legacy that is as much about great accomplishments as it rests in the quiet and unassuming. FREE presentation will be Tue., Aug. 12, 2-4

The following day, Wed., Aug 13, from 2-4 author Cassandra King will discuss her novel "Moonrise". Cassandra King is the New York Times bestselling author of five novels, Making Waves, The Sunday Wife, The Same Sweet Girls, Queen of Broken Hearts, and Moonrise, as well as numerous short stories, essays, and articles. Her latest release is The



Same Sweet Girls Guide to Life: Advice from a Failed Southern Belle. A native of L. A. (Lower Alabama), Cassandra resides in Beaufort, South Carolina. Her lecture titled "WUIH - Writing Under the Influence of Highlands" will explain how several years ago, she fell in love with Highlands – the landscape, the people, the charm and beauty of this special place. That fascination resulted in a bestselling novel, Moonrise, set in Highlands on a historic estate full of mystery, shadows, and unanswered questions about the death of its former mistress. Cassandra King discusses the inspiration, research, and writing of a work described as homage not only to Highlands, but also to Daphne Du Maurer's classic, Rebecca.

Walk-ins to lectures are welcome. For more information on these classes or CLE please visit www.clehighlands.com or call 526-8811. Our office is located at 348 S. Fifth Street in the lower level of the Peggy Crosby Center. All classes are \$25 for members/\$35 for non-members and are held in the CLE lecture hall unless otherwise noted.

• HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

Sat., Aug. 9

• The Bob Jones Invitational at Highlands Country Club. Proceeds benefit the H-C Hospital Foundation. Shotgun start is at 9:30a.

• Saturdays in Pine Street Park, live music from 6-8 p.m. Featuring Hi 5.

Sun., Aug. 10

• Most Reverend Doctor Foley T. Beach will be visiting Christ Anglican Church. Everyone is invited to hear the charismatic Archbishop speak at Christ Anglican Church on that day at 10:30am. The Beaches are eminently approachable as lovers of Jesus Christ and there will be a reception in their honor immediately following the service.

Mon., Aug. 11

• A Bolivian mission auction at Wildcat Cliffs Country Club. Fixed price table, silent auction and live auction featuring beautiful wooden bowls, jewelry, paintings, Alpaca woolen items, museum-quality textiles and more. Call 526-3605 for reservations. \$123 per person which includes the sales and dinner.

• Macon County Democratic Men's Club will host a discussion on "Changes in Mental Health Services" led by Macon County Commissioner Ronnie Beale at 6 pm sharp on Monday at the Macon County Democratic Headquarters, 251 Sloan Rd, Franklin.

Wed., Aug. 13

• Interlude Concert at the

Episcopal Church at 2 p.m. featuring Sam Skelton, Saxophone; Tyrone Jackson, Piano.

Thurs., Aug. 14

• Peggy Crosby Center Open-House is Thursday from 5-7 p.m. In addition to refreshments & social gathering, all offices will be open and most will be staffed so that visitors can speak with the non-profits about their individual organizations.

• The August meeting of The Western North Carolina Woodturners Club is at 6 p.m. at the Blue Ridge School, in Glenville, N.C. at 95 Bobcat Drive, Cashiers, N.C. Drive to the back of the school to the woodworking shop.

Fri., Aug. 15

• Friday Night Live music in Town Square from 6-8. Featuring Johnny Webb Band.

• At The Bascom, Barn Dance, 7-10 p.m. \$5 per person. Live bluegrass from Benny Queen and The Wild Hog Band. Full bar, grub and fun.

Sat., Aug. 16

• Live Birds of Prey at Cliffside Lake at 11 a.m., \$4 per vehicle. No

pets. Arrive 15 minutes prior to show. No pets.

• At Acorns Boutique on Main, a book signing with author Cassandra King "The Same Sweet Girls" Guide to Life. 2-4p.

• Saturdays in Pine Street Park, live music from 6-8 p.m. Featuring Mangas Colorado.

Wed., Aug. 20

• Interlude Concert at First Presbyterian at 2 p.m. Georgia State University Vocal Concert.

Aug. 21-Aug. 31

• HCP presents "The Last of the Red Hot Lovers: at the Highlands Performing Arts Center. For tickets, call 828-526-8084.

Fri., Aug. 22

• Friday Night Live music in Town Square from 6-8. Featuring Macon Grass Band.

Sat. & Sun., Aug. 23 & 24

• Village Square Art & Craft Show. Regional fine art, folk art, crafts, music and food. Kelsey-Hutchinson Park in Highlands (5th and Pine St). Sponsored by Macon County Art Assn. 10 - 5. FREE! (828) 787-2021 for info.

Bob Jones Invitational



The Bob Jones Invitational Golf Tournament returns to Highlands Country Club on Saturday, August 9th. Highlands has featured this competitive reunion of Walker Cup players from the United States, Great Britain and Ireland for the past 33 years. The tournament is named after the legendary Robert Tyre "Bobby" Jones - history's truly iconic golfer. The tournament is granted the use of the Bob Jones name, thanks to the generosity of the Jones family. Proceeds support the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital Foundation. Jones was an instrumental founder of the Highlands Country Club. On Saturday each Walker Cup player will be joined by a team of four golfers for a one-day competition, similar to a pro-am tournament with a shotgun start at 9:30 a.m.

Exciting performances this week at H-C Chamber Music



Highlands-Cashiers Chamber Music Festival has always been about innovation.

From its presentation of exciting new talents about to burst onto the international stage to its selection of outstanding artwork to adorn its programs and promotional materials (the paintings themselves have become highly cherished collectibles), the festival has always managed to wring surprising variations on this most formal of musical forms.

This year alone, the Highlands-Cashiers Chamber Music Festival has matched its classical artists with jazz musicians and explored the surprising connections between the two musical schools. There have been picnic concerts, world class musicians showing up for performances at Buck's in Cashiers and Highlands, classroom presentations by internationally recognized scholars and the Salons at Six series at some of the most breathtaking homes in the Southeast.

But the festival still has a pretty



fat rabbit to pull out of its hat when it unveils its Country Meets Classics benefit concert, set for 5:00 P.M. Sunday, August 10. The evening brings the hot Nashville band Blended 328 to the mountains for a performance with Emory University's artists-in-residence and festival favorites The Vega String Quartet. It'll be a unique evening of music, barbecue and beer (and wine, too).

Blended 328 has created a hybrid form of country music that is truly unique and enticing. The band puts on an exceptional live show consisting of originals, modern country -- Carrie Underwood, Miranda Lambert, Jason Aldean, and Blake Shelton; and old

school R & B -- Michael Jackson, Nelly, Justin Timberlake, Rick James, Usher, Prince, and The Temptations. In each set they also get the audience involved with games like train wreck karaoke with the band, dance contests and The Limbo Rock.

Fresh from travels to China, Russia, Portugal and other far-flung environs, this concert will be Blended 328's debut appearance in the Highlands-Cashiers area.

Tickets to this benefit are: concert only -- \$50; concert and barbeque -- \$100. Space is limited. Call (828) 526-9060 for ticket reservations.

Bolivia Mission fundraiser at Wildcat Cliffs CC



On Aug. 11 a Bolivian mission auction at Wildcat Cliffs Country Club. Fixed price table, silent auction and live auction featuring beautiful wooden bowls, jewelry, paintings, Alpaca woolen items, museum-quality textiles and more. Call 526-3605 for more information and reservations. \$123 per person which includes the sales and dinner.

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PROSCIUTTO ARUGULA: PROSCIUTTO DE PARMA, MUSHROOMS, GARLIC INFUSED EVVO, PECORINO, & FRESH ARUGULA
TOSSED WITH EVVO

OR MODERN INTERPRETATIONS:

FIG & PIG: FIGS, PANCETTA, GRANDE MOZZARELLA, CRUSHED TOMATO, GORGONZOLA, TOPPED WITH ARUGULA TOSSED IN EVVO.

BBQ CILANTRO CHICKEN: PULLED CHICKEN, BBQ SAUCE, GRANDE MOZZARELLA, RED & GREEN ONION, FRESH CILANTRO.

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CHOOSE UP TO 5 TOPPINGS:

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...CRIME continued from page 10

family member who reported the fire, said he saw Williamson's 2003 Chevy Tracker leaving the residence around 11:45 a.m. the same day.

While casing the scene, authorities discovered the burned body of a female in the upstairs, back portion of the home. The burns were too extensive to make a positive identification. According to Sheriff Holland, the autopsy is complete but positive identification still can't be verified at this time. "We were able to determine the cause of death but that won't be released to the public until we have a chance to speak with the family of whom we believe the victim to be," he said.

Williamson's vehicle was later found abandoned on the side of the road near Cartoogechaye School around 1:30 a.m.,

Sunday. Law enforcement have seized the vehicle and are evaluating it for evidence.

This is the second fire to the Williamson home in recent years; the first occurring during the winter months a few years ago.

Arson investigators ruled the first fire as being due to faulty wiring. While repairing the home from the first fire, Williamson sought the help of Charles Cochran. Williamson and Cochran had attended the same church at one point in time.

The guns found when Cochran was taken into custody, are believed to have belonged to Williamson, and Cochran was believed to have been the person driving away with Williamson's vehicle early Saturday morning.

• See CRIME page 17

Relay For Life of Highlands

Fri. & Sat., Aug. 8-9
6 p.m. - 6 a.m.



Events

Glow Balloon - Luminaria In memory or in Honor of loved ones. Light the way! Suggested Donation: Glow Balloon \$10; White Luminaria Bag \$10; Torch Of Hope \$100. Contact Martha Hunter 828-482-0289

TEAM FUNDRAISER:

Help us raise some "dough" for Relay. Fressers Courtyard & Cafe Team are pre- selling Krispy Kreme doughnuts. \$7/dozen. Pick up at Relay Friday night August 8.

RAFFLE TICKETS

Get your raffle tickets for a \$75 gift certificate to Highlands-Cashiers animal hospital and a Pandora bracelet & charm valued at \$100. Winning tickets to be announced at Relay Friday night Aug. 8. Contact Debbie Grossman 828-526-8847 or Ellen Bauman 828-787-1826.

DON'T MISS OUT ON RELAY BINGO

Rotary Club Bingo Relay Fundraiser,
6:30 - 8:30 Thursday night August 7
Highlands Community Building. Contact: Christy Kelly
hooray4u@hotmail.com

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Highlands, NC: The Mountains Are Calling

"I went to the woods because I wished to live deliberately, to front only the essential facts of life, and see if I could not learn what it had to teach, and not, when I came to die, discover that I had not lived. I did not wish to live what was not life, living is so dear; ... I wanted to live deep and suck out all the marrow of life ..."

~ Henry David Thoreau

The woods call us. There is something about the mystical spell they cast upon our souls, weary from the pressures and crush of life spent in highly-dense cities, and the ever-busy push toward the quest for more. When we get to the woods, we exhale and inhale, deeply. We slow down. We begin to look around and take time to actually see. We can hear ourselves think – and we can begin to hear the whisperings of our inner voice.

Even if a small town is your home, often one is not immune to getting caught up in the pace of modern living; our tendency to over schedule and over commit keeps an ongoing demand on our free time. We blink, and we're turning the page on our calendars; each year seems to pass more quickly than the last.

Knowing that life is meant to be more than a blur of appointments and commitments, we look to the mountains – to the woods – for respite and healing.

What is it about these ancient, soft mountains that beckon us to take time out, visit, spend quality time here, or create one's life here?

Like Thoreau, I believe we have an intuitive understanding that there is more than solace gained from time spent in the woods. We have an inkling, something that came to us during a drive or perhaps a long soak in the tub, that space and quiet hold answers for us – solutions – to gnawing questions. If we could immerse ourselves in the serene solitude of the woods, we will be closer to some kind of ancient, shared wisdom; it is as if the old growth of the forest gathers up

all the insights, ideas, and break through thoughts from all of those who walked her woods before, and scatters them back to new travelers and seekers.

The woods tap your shoulder and invite you to lean in and listen – something we rarely afford ourselves. There, in that stretch of time that is empty except for your breathing, newly-formed creative thoughts tentatively emerge. Connections form. Understanding surfaces. Epiphanies pop up like dandelions in spring. Decisions are made. Who we truly are awakens.

Exhilaration. Courage. Clarity.

Of course, one can find this alignment in a multitude of beautiful, natural sites across the globe. Why, then, do we all seem so particularly taken with the Appalachian Mountains and her miles of woods and trails? I



Susie deVille,
Broker-in-Charge
(828) 371-2079

have hiked the Rocky Mountains, the Sierra, the Himalayas, and through woods all over the world (and have truly enjoyed each of those experiences). While beautiful to traverse, none, however, delivered the other-worldly energy found here atop the Highlands Plateau. Like a serene and deeply kind

and loving grandmother, these mountains hold you in a nurturing embrace, while giving you space to find solid ground beneath your feet. She urges you to climb, reach for the stars, live in accord with your true self, and give yourself the gift of rest.

It is here in these mountains that we may begin, at last (or try anew), the ultimate act of creation and leadership – that of creating our best life.

• Susie deVille, ME, ABR, SFR, is Owner/Broker-in-Charge

of White Oak Realty Group. Her areas of expertise include real estate investments, niche marketing, social media, and strategic property positioning. White Oak Realty Group's

sales office is located at 125 South Fourth Street in the heart of the retail district in Highlands. For more information, visit WhiteOakRG.com

Look for the Red Roof and the Covered Wagon.

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Two lots sold this winter and a year round home is being built ... New cottage section opening soon!

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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.

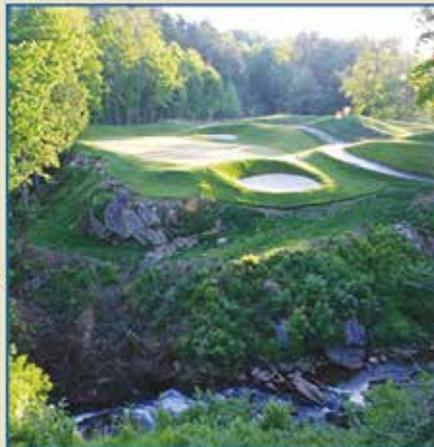
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Signs of our times

By Martha Porter

We have a friend who collects road signs. Not commercial signs, urging this or that product upon you, but those home constructed signs that people rural back roads with warnings such as, "HELL HURTS," and promises like, "JESUS SAVES."

Lately, I find myself joining him with a slightly different collection of road signs. These are the small rectangular ones affixed by state requirement to the back bumpers of our vehicles. I've always taken note of the proclamation of favorite sport teams or professions, but only lately have I noticed the use of the so-called "vanity" plates to proclaim spiritual messages.

One that caught my attention was on a gleaming white Lexus, the most recent model sedan. It read "2BE-HOLY." I wasn't sure if this was a general exhortation "2BEHOLY," or one specifically related to driving that particular make and model of Lexus.

But the two plates that have generated the most reflection for me were sighted on SUVs. Last fall as I took my regular route home and pulled to a stop at a red light, I was struck by the particularly massive SUV in front of me. Its shining blackness made it even more impressive -- it was immaculately dust free, with gleaming chrome, and shadowed glass that ensured the privacy of its driver. As I waited for the red light to change, I marveled at its bulk. My eyes finally came to rest on the license plate. The light was changing and traffic beginning to move as I read it again with disbelief. In all capital letters it proclaimed, "I TITHE."

That sighting sent me scurrying to a concordance to look up the biblical references to tithing. I knew, of course, that Jesus had warned against boasting about your tithes and other expressions of righteousness. But the roots of tithing were in the Old Testament stories -- stories first about what the people owed God as an acknowledgment that all that nourished them was a gift from God, and second about the establishment of the temple structure, with its priests who were to be sustained by the "tithes" of those who toiled on the land, raising grain and tending flocks.

As with other humanly managed structures, the temple structure soon succumbed to our tendency as well as infinite capacity to corrupt. So by the time Jesus came along the temple was more marketplace than holy place, and he made the first of many challenges to our avarice.

But this SUV plate seemed particularly incongruous with the primary intent of the concept of tithing -- acknowledging God as generous creator of all those things in the world which nurture and sustain us.

Rather than gratitude for the world, the ads for SUVs promise a world conquered and harnessed to meet not just the needs but also any possible wants of the owner/driver. Luxury. Escape. Serenity. Adventure. Power. Privilege. Security. Having it all even when you want to leave it all behind. Having it all even when some have none. Having it all even if it takes all there is.

A popular slogan in some churches of the Bible belt is, "What Would Jesus Do?" So what would Jesus do with

• See SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING page 17

BLUE VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH

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

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

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

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

BUCK CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

828-269-3546 • Rev. Jamie Passmore, Pastor

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

CHAPEL OF SKY VALLEY

Sky Valley, GA • 706-746-2999

Sundays: 10 a.m.: Worship

Holy Communion 1st Sunday of the month

Wednesdays: 9 a.m. Healing and Prayer w/Holy Communion

CHRIST ANGLICAN CHURCH

Rector: Jim Murphy, 252-671-4011

464 US Hwy 64 east, Cashiers

Sun.: 8:30a Traditional (said) 1928 Service, including

Communion; 9:30a Christian Education; 10:30a Faithful,

Family Service w/ Music & Communion.

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

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

CHRIST CHURCH OF THE VALLEY, CASHIERS

Pastor Steve Kerhoulas • 743-5470

Sun. 10:45am, S.S 9:30am. Wed. 6pm supper and teaching.

Tues. Guys study 8am, Gals 10am.

CLEAR CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Jim Kinard

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

Wednesdays - 7 p.m.

COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH

www.cbchighlands.com • 526-4685

3645 Cashiers Rd, Highlands, NC

Senior Pastor Gary Hewins

Sun.: 9:30am: Sunday School

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

10:45am: Worship Service

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

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE CHURCH

283 Spring Street

Sunday Service: 11 a.m.; Testimony Mg: 5 p.m. on 3rd Wed

EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE INCARNATION

Rev. Bruce Walker • 526-2968

Sundays: Eucharist Rite I 8a in chapel; Education and choir

rehearsal, 9 am, Holy Eucharist Rite II, (sanctuary), 10:30

Wednesday: 10 a.m., Morning Prayer

Thursdays: Holy Eucharist, (chapel), 10 am

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH HIGHLANDS

828-526-4153 • www.fbchighlands.org

Dr. Mark Ford, Pastor

220 Main Street, Highlands NC 28741

Sun.: Worship 10:45 am; Sun.: Bible Study 9:30 am

Wed.: Men's Bible Study 8:30 am; Prayer Mtg 6:15 pm;

Choir 5 pm

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Curtis Fussell & Emily Wilmarth, pastors

526-3175 • fpchighlands.org

Sun.: Worship: 8:30 & 11 a.m.; School: 9:30

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

Wednesdays: Choir: 7

GOLDMINE BAPTIST CHURCH

(Off Franklin/Highlands Rd) • Rev. Carson Gibson

Sunday School: 10 am, Worship Service: 11 am

Bible Study: 6 pm

GRACE COMMUNITY CHURCH OF CASHIERS

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www.gracecashiers.com • Pastor Steve Doerter: 743-9814

Services: Sundays 10am - Wed. - 7pm; Dinner - Wed. 6pm

HAMBURG BAPTIST CHURCH

Hwy 107N. • Glenville, Nc • 743-2729

Pastor Nathan Johnson

Sunday: School 9:45a, Worship 11a & 7p, Bible Study 6p

Wed. Kidsquest 6p.; Worship 7p.

HIGHLANDS ASSEMBLY OF GOD

Randy Reed, Pastor 828-421-9172 • 165 S. Sixth Street

Sundays: Worship: 11

HIGHLANDS CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Dan Robinson

670 N. 4th Street (next to the Highlands Civic Center)

Sun.: Morning Worship 10:45 a., Evening Worship, 6:30 p.

Wednesday: Prayer Service, 6:30 p.

HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Pastor Paul Christy 526-3376

Sun: School 9:45a.; Worship 8:30, 9:09, 10:50.; Youth 5:30 p.

Wed: Supper: 5:15; 7:15: children, youth, & adults studies;

6:15: Adult choir (nursery provided) Thurs: 12:30:

Women's Bible Study (nursery)

HOLY FAMILY LUTHERAN CHURCH: ELCA

Chaplain Margaret Howell • 2152 Dillard Road • 526-9741

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

Worship/Communion: 10:30

HEALING SERVICE on the 5th Sunday of the month.

LITTE CHURCH IN THE WILDWOOD

Horse Cove - Kay Ward 743-5009

Old-Fashion hymn-sing Sunday 7-8p.

MACEDONIA BAPTIST CHURCH

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

Pastor Troy Nicholson, (828) 526-8425

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

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

MOUNTAIN SYNAGOGUE

St. Cyprian's Episcopal Church, Franklin

828-369-9270 or 828-293-5197

MOUNTAIN BIBLE CHURCH

743-2583 • Independent Bible Church

Sun: 10:30 a.m. at Big Ridge Baptist Church,

4224 Big Ridge Road (4.5 miles from NC 107)

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

OUR LADY OF THE MOUNTAINS CATHOLIC

CHURCH

Parish office: 526-2418

Mass: Sun: 10:30 a.m.; Sat. at 6p

SCALY MOUNTAIN BAPTIST CHURCH

Rev. Dwight Loggins

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

Wednesdays: Prayer Mtg.: 7 p.m.

SCALY MOUNTAIN CHURCH OF GOD

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

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

Wed: Adult Bible Study & Youth: 7 p.m.

SHORTOFF BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Rev. Andy Cloer

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

Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study: 7

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP

85 Sierra Drive • 828-524-6777

Sunday Worship - 11 a.m. Child Care - 10:30 a.m. - 12:30

p.m.

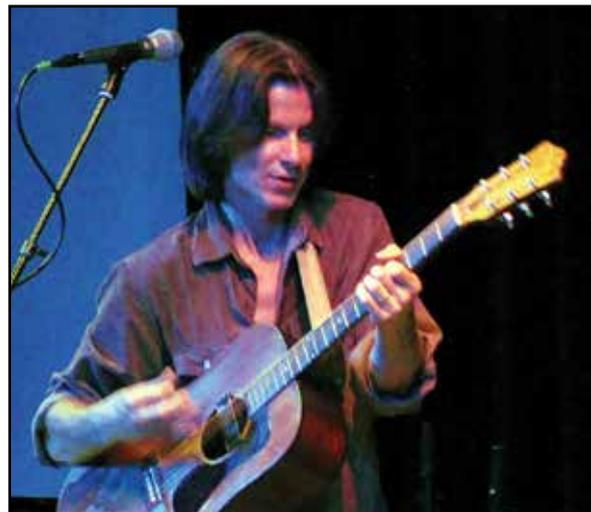
Religious Education - 11 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

Youth 8th - 12th grade meets 2nd Sundays 5 - 7:30 p.m

WHITESIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Rev. Sam Forrester/Cashiers

Sunday School: 10 am, Worship Service: 11 am

BIZ/ORG NEWS.**Local singer/songwriter releases new CD**

Zorki will release his latest CD, *Me and My Guitar and TV*, early this fall. Featuring world famous musicians like, Tony Levin, Jeff Pevar, and Jeff Sipe, it also showcases local musician, Judge Bill Coward, who plays saxophone, accordion and harmonica beautifully on several songs.

World renown producer, Kevin Killen, who has mixed hit albums for U2 and Peter Gabriel, mixed the CD last month. It sounds amazing. Mastering the CD is the next and last step of the production.

To Pre-order the CD, go to Zorki's Kickstarter page at https://www.kickstarter.com/projects/602559008/zorki-me-and-my-guitar-and-tv?ref=nav_search, or go to [Kickstarter.com](https://www.kickstarter.com) and type Zorki in search. Click on Zorki's image to get to his page. A \$20 pledge will pre-order the digital CD and \$30 will get you the digital download and a signed hard copy.

Zorki started the Kickstarter campaign to finance the CD. He has reached half the goal and has twelve days left of the campaign. Even small pledges help. Every pledge has a listed reward. Rewards range from signed CDs and Zorki logo T-shirts to home concerts. He will even write a song for your or someone special.

...OBAMA continued from page 9

Meadows said. "Ensuring that veterans and their families in Western North Carolina receive the proper care they deserve is one of my highest priorities. This bill will go a long way in reforming the deep, systemic issues within the VA and I'm grateful to my colleague, Rep. Jeff Miller (R-FL), for leading the charge on it.

In a post on Facebook, McHenry said he was "proud" to have helped approve the bipartisan legislation.

Foxx also trumpeted the measure in a news release. "It is critically important that we provide high-quality, timely care for those who have sacrificed so much in service to our country," Foxx said. "There is more that must be done to reform the Veterans Administration, but this legislation is a good start."

The bill now heads to the U.S. Senate, where it is expected to pass and be sent to Obama's desk for signature.

...CRIME continued from page 14

The guns found when apprehending Cochran were also believed to be involved in a shooting that occurred within the Franklin City limits Saturday night. According to a witness in the ongoing investigation, Cochran confessed that he was running from the police and that he may have killed a man Saturday night.

Shooting

Macon County dispatch received a call around 11 p.m. on Saturday from a resident on West Palmer Street regarding shots fired. The homeowner reported to Franklin Police Department deputies that he suspected a prowler outside of his home and heard what he believed to be shots fired. After checking the backside of his home, he spotted someone leaving the driveway of the Church of God. He shouted for the suspect to stop walking, at which point shots were fired in his direction, one of which grazed his ear.

The suspect, which was identified as male in his early 20s with a medium build, wearing a white shirt and jean pants, fled the scene and headed toward the Forest Hills Drive. The suspect was also seen carrying a duffle bag.

Franklin Police Department detectives were once again on scene Monday morning scaling the perimeter of the property where the shooting took place looking for evidence. Detectives searched for bullet casings with metal detectors.

Due to the incident, the Franklin Police Department issued a "Code Red" Saturday night around 1 a.m. The code red call – a call made to Macon County residents in case of emergencies, critical community alerts and weather events – advised residents to stay inside and lock all windows and doors.

Rape

The Sheriff's Department also made the arrest of 18-year-old Rolando Duvergal Jr. on Saturday morning for first-degree sex offense of a child. A witness walked in on Duvergal committing the crime on the minor, which was under the age of 10.

Duvergal was arrested and booked into the Macon County Detention Center on a \$50,000 bond.



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Several to choose from
Great for snuggling
When the weather turns cold or displaying on the wall
Starting at \$175
This one is Browns, tans and gray

...SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING from page 16

an SUV? Take a ride in the wilderness? Escape the crowds of sick people? Since there are some concerns about their rollover tendencies, maybe he could overturn them like the tables.

But I think I saw the answer the other day. Yes, that other "vanity" license plate that caught my eye. This one on a monster grey Ford Suburban. It read, "HE WEPT." Indeed.

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...PROJECTS continued from page 1

with updating the town's comprehensive plan which encompasses everything from population studies, the environment, infrastructure and more.

The Mill Creek Culvert project is being funded with grant money – \$666,000 at no cost to the town.

There are three “creek” crossings – one on Fifth Street between Chestnut and Laurel streets, and one each on Laurel and Spruce that need to be replaced with one huge rectangular culvert rather than the current configuration of three or four round culverts laying side by side under the bridges.

“These get clogged up with debris which causes flooding in the area during heavy rain events,” said Nix.

He said the culvert project bids are being evaluated and the Town Board will vote on them at the August 21 meeting. Other than prep work, major construction will likely take place in October.

Chowan Road

A portion of Chowan Road has been closed to through traffic for a couple of years now, due to an unstable embankment on the narrow part of the road up

the hill from US 64 west.

With the help of the NC-DOT, the embankment will be stabilized by drilling “fasteners” into it followed by metal netting, seeding and more. Due to the scope of the project, NC-DOT agreed to help the town by loaning it their equipment and giving it the extra materials it has from other jobs. Not including manhours, the cost to the town will only be \$150,000. Once the area is stabilized the road at that juncture will at least be opened to one-way traffic, though many citizens want it to be a two-way road again.

“Chowan has been prepped and I am waiting on the last of the materials to be delivered. Work will start any day on the actual repair,” said Nix. Once crews begin drilling into the embankment, it will take three to four weeks to complete. During this time, one-lane of US 64 west will likely be closed.

Lake Sequoyah

The water intake/dam repair project bid opening is set for September and engineers from McGill & Associates will present details and schedules at the August Town Board meeting.

Nix said citizens can anticipate the lake lowering to start in October and it should be filled back up by June 2015.

Thanks to the EPA, this \$2 million project is costing the town nothing.

NC 28 Waterline

The waterline project on NC 28 – which involves installing a larger line – will begin in either September or October and will take about 5-6 months. This will ensure consistent water flow for town and county citizens in the area.

Funds for this project – \$637,051 – are being transferred from the Electric Fund.

Third Street & more

The railroad tie 3rd Street wall will be replaced with a concrete/rock wall and will begin in November with a completion date of February or March. The wall will be pushed back about six feet. The current wall is in the town's right-of-way. The town has budgeted \$120,000 for the job.

Paving on Oak Street and 3rd Street will be done in April and \$115,000 has been budgeted.

Finally, various sidewalk repairs will be done during November and December and \$50,000 has been budgeted.

– Kim Lewicki

Harris wins Rotary blitz



Congratulations to Pamela Harris! She is the winner of the 2013 - 2014 Highlands MountainTop Rotary Club Membership Blitz. She welcomed the greatest number of new members into the club. The Rotary Club of Highlands Mountain-Top meets every Wednesday morning at 7:30 am at the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital lower level Dining Room.

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• POLICE & FIRE REPORTS •

Highlands Police Log entries from July 12. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor or public officials have been used.

July 12

• At 3 a.m., officers were informed of a NC liquor law violation at a Main Street restaurant where people were consuming alcoholic beverages after 2:30 a.m.

July 16

• At 10:35 a.m., officers responded to a shoplifting incident at Mountain Fresh Foods.

July 18

• At 7:55 a.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident at the entrance of the Rec Park on N. 4th. Street where one driver was exiting through the entrance to the park.

July 22

• At noon, officers responded to a two-vehicle accident in the Town Hall parking lot near the public restrooms.

July 23

• At 11 a.m., officers were called to the Highlands Biological Station concerning the behavior of an individual who was reportedly outside the building talking to himself.

July 26

• At 10:35 a.m., officers responded to a call about a person trespassing at a home on Bowery Road.

The Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. log entries from July 9.

July 13

• At 8:10 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to assist EMS at a residence on Cullasaja Drive.

• At 1:23 p.m., the dept. responded to a one-vehicle accident on US 64 west with minor injuries.

July 24

• At 6:46 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to assist EMS at a residence on Highlands Meadows.

July 27

• At 4:38 p.m., the dept. responded to a gas alarm at a residence on Old Edwards Circle.

• At 8:21 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to assist EMS at a residence on Clubhouse Trail.

July 28

• At 1:26 p.m., the dept. was called about a missing person on Whiteside Cove Road.

• At 3:57 p.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on US 64.

• At 8:42 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to assist EMS at a residence on Hicks Road.

• At 9:20 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Bowery Road.

• At 9:34 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to assist EMS at a residence on Sawmill Road.

• At 10:30 p.m., the dept. provided mutual aid to the Cashiers Fire Dept.

July 29

• At 2:22 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to assist EMS at a residence on Shortoff Road.

• At 11:33 a.m., the dept. responded to a possible structure fire at a residence on Mirror Lake Road.

• At 11:40 a.m., the dept. responded to a call of a possible gas leak in a business on Main Street.

• At 12:42 p.m., the dept. provided public assistance for a residence on Blue Valley Road.

July 31

• At 3:24 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to assist EMS at a residence on Apple Mountain Road.

• At 10:33 p.m., the dept. stood by at H-C Hospital for the MAMA helicopter.



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Aug. 1

• At 10:27 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to assist EMS at a residence on Highlands Meadows.

Aug. 2

• At 10:21 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at the Eckerd Center.

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- Loss of Storage Space
- Radon Gas
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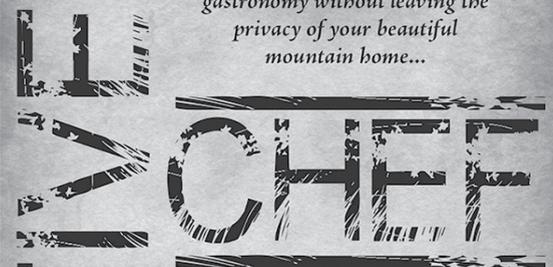
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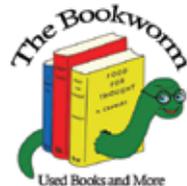
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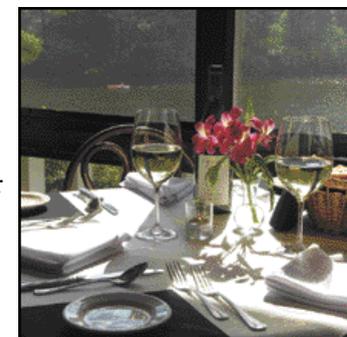
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