

Highlands Newspaper

FREE Every Thursday

Volume 11, Number 22

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

Thurs., May 29, 2014

EVENTS

Thurs., May 29 to Sun., June 1
• HCP's Mama Won't Fly" at the Performing Arts Center on Chestnut Street in Highlands. Show times are 7:30p and 2:30p on Sunday. Call 526-8084 for tickets.

Fri., May 30

Community Coffee with Mayor Pat Taylor at the Hudson Library at 11 a.m. Refreshments provided. The subject? The budget.

• At the Highlands Nature Center, "Know Your Frogs" workshop at the Highlands Nature Center. 8:30 – 9:30 pm, ages 6 – adult. Learn about frog biology and how to identify regional species visually and by their calls. Bring a flashlight to search for frogs in the wild. Advanced registration required due to limited space. Call 526-2623 or visit www.highlandsbiological.org for more information.

Sat., May 31

• The Farmers Market, 9a-1p in K-H Park. Organic vegetables, eggs, honey, cheeses, home-made food and hand-made items.

• Audubon's weekly bird spotting trip. Carpool from the parking area behind the Highlands Town Hall, unless otherwise noted. All walks will start at 7:30 AM. Watch the web site or call Julie, at 526-1111 for specifics. All participants must register in advance with HCLT so that lunches can be properly planned.

Tues., June 3

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

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Citizens to split cost of Playhouse utilities

Just as a vote was about to be taken to give the Highlands Playhouse free utilities through the end of its 2014 fiscal year, Playhouse benefactor Horst Winkler stopped discussion among commissioners and announced he would pay the utilities.

"I think we are haggling over dollars ... I am sitting here listening to this about a piddling amount of money, quite frankly. So, I would like to bring this to a conclusion. Forget about the money ... I will pay for it," he said.

Ray McPhail, who was there with his wife Diane and other Playhouse supporters, chimed in and said he would half the bill with Winkler.

This ended a passionate plea from members of the Playhouse

• See SPLIT page 4

Mama brings four cubs for a visit



How many cubs can black bears have? The record is six in Pennsylvania. Most litters are two or three. Two is most common in western North America. Three is most common in Minnesota and eastward in North America where food tends to be more abundant than in the west. Four is not a common thing. This shot was taken by Pat Patterson from the deck of her residence on Cowee Ridge Road.

Two inmates escape from county's jail 15 hours later they are caught

By Brittany Burns

On Friday, May 23, the county was on alert for two inmates who had escaped from the Macon County Detention Center on Lakeside Drive in Franklin.

The current Macon County Detention Center was built in 1999 and though others have tried, the escape of Buster Lee Biddix and Richard Frank Sanford Jr., was the first time in the

Macon County Detention Center's 16-year history, inmates were able to actually get away.

February of 2012 was the facility's last attempted escape

• See ESCAPE page 5

• INSIDE •

Mayor on Duty	2
Letters.....	2
Dining	4
The Fredster.....	6
Events.....	11
Police & Fire.....	16
Investing at 4,118 Ft.	17

HC Hospital to close OR Sept. 1

Will expand ambulatory services to other hospitals in Mission Health system

Submitted

The Highlands-Cashiers Hospital (HCH) Board of Directors announced plans for a new direction for the facility's surgical program and an enhanced emphasis on ambulatory services.

Some background. As a result of new technologies, reimbursement rules and payment models nationally ambulatory services are growing rapidly.

Outpatient volumes rose nearly 34 percent from 2004-2011 for Medicare beneficiaries. Given these changes, health care leaders across the country are enhancing their focus on ambulatory services and redesigning current programs.

The HCH Board and management team explored how to best meet the communities' surgical needs given the rapidly

• See CLOSE page 8

Fun for the whole family!



• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• MAYOR ON DUTY •

Highlands 'opts in' for economic development

One of my duties as mayor is to represent Highlands at the Southwestern Rural Planning Commission meetings. The Southwestern Commission just completed a vision statement for the seven counties of Western Carolina that outlines regional goals and priorities for the next decades. The report is called, Opt-In: The Southwestern North Carolina Opportunity Initiative.



Opt-In identifies several broad regional objectives that were developed from a series of community workshops and surveys. Economic development was a top priority, but preserving the natural environment and uniqueness of our communities had similar support. They go hand in hand.

Former Mayor David Wilkes introduced me to the Southwest Commission and encouraged me to participate. From my involvement in planning sessions, and from Opt-In, I see three major pillars of sustainable growth. Highlands is in a strategic position in all three areas.

The first pillar is developing a vibrant tourist industry. Opt-In reveals tourism is a key component of the regional economy. For years, some area leaders tried to attract traditional manufacturing and industry to the region as the cornerstone of economic development. Those days are pretty much gone, but tourism still has great economic potential for the area. Highlands is a center of tourism in our county. Other counties are struggling with issues of attracting tourist to their beautiful areas.

All counties struggle with the second pillar of future development, transportation. Highlands enjoys relative good access. Communities, especially north of us, desperately need better transportation. Representatives from these counties were exasperated by a recent DOT report identifying a major state road. All of the roads listed in the report will soon be improved for better traffic flow and to handle increased demand. There are no roads listed in this report in the seven counties of the Southwestern Commission. At our last meeting, many elected representatives stated that without better transportation

the region will flounder. The region, including our county, needs improved roads to get to critical services. For instance, we enjoy having a hospital just miles away from downtown, but there is one county in the region that does not have a hospital. It is desperate for accessible roads just to get to distant medical facilities, it can be a matter of life and death.

The final pillar of quality growth is having good technology. Here again, Highlands with our emerging wireless and fiber optic systems, is in a relatively good position. We will need to develop our technology infrastructure

• See MAYOR ON DUTY page 3

• LETTERS •

'A Date Which Will Live in Infamy'

Dear Editor,

I was just six years old and vividly recall the day, puzzling at my parents reactions to these words as they were broadcast nationwide. I don't recall understanding the words, but days later sat between my parents in a theatre, seeing President Roosevelt say them on the "news" which was part of movie offerings then shown. There was no television, no internet, and certainly no cell-phones. We relied on radio and movie-theatre news.

The impact of that day on every American of all ages was enormous. Most Americans had no fore-knowledge. From historians we have learned that there were indications of coming conflagration, not

just in Europe but here for our homeland.

We didn't see it coming!

Since that day we've suffered so many other "dates which will live in infamy" – war, natural catastrophe, and certainly 9-11, but endless 24-7 "news" has anesthetized our "infamy quotient"? There truly are so many earth shaking events piling one atop another. We do notice, but they quickly pass from our collective consciousness due to yet another incoming "infamous" event. Nothing seems to get done for any of them, no matter how tragic their impact here or abroad.

But note, we also have the "infamy" that is seldom talked about, not publicized, not at the top of the 24-7 "talking head" news and little mentioned by our leaders. We do hear from those who blare their usual "nay-saying" of critically important issues that impacts life as we know it. Issues, not just for us, but for the planet.

Some in our nation pursue the plutocrats world view, then noisily and hypocritically fret over potential expense that "MAY" be left to those who follow. Forward thinkers, instead, fret about what "WILL" be left to those who follow. What will become of the air, water, soil and necessary life supporting components we leave the world for future generations? Money won't matter if there's nothing left to sustain life.

I can only wonder if my two little great-grandsons will say in their future desolated world, "They who came before us - Didn't they see it coming?"

Shirl Ches
Franklin

Fred's column was disappointing

Dear editor,

I was looking forward to the hospitality of Highlands. So, I was very disappointed in the Fred piece on Philistines. It made me wonder if the town was hypocritical and mean behind the beautiful scenery. I hope the thought of that piece in print in the local weekly will not forever color how I think about this place. I urge you to consider your full readership before you publish such unkind generalizations about people you have never met.

Kirstin Dow
Highlands

LETTERS-TO-THE EDITOR-POLICY

We reserve the right to reject or edit submissions.

NO ANONYMOUS LETTERS WILL BE ACCEPTED.

Views expressed are not necessarily those of Highlands Newspaper.
Please EMAIL letters by Sunday at 5 p.m. There is a 500-word limit without prior approval.

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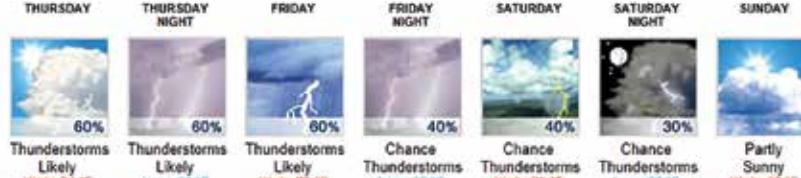
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• See LETTERS page 3

...MAYOR ON DUTY continued from page 2

in order to sustain economic and community development. On the other hand, there are towns and counties north of us with great needs. One commissioner told me his county had no access to fiber optics and had only a few, spotty areas of wireless connectivity. He went on to say this lack communication was stifling their growth and delivery of basic services. At a recent meeting of the Southwest Commission a representative of a major communications provider announced his company would be out of the copper wire business and go to a wireless and fiber optic network by 2020. Representatives of the under-served counties expressed strong concern of fall-

ing further behind in technology and communication without added support.

So to sum up, Highlands is in a strategic position to sustain its economic viability. Like everyone in Western Carolina, we will have to make smart decisions in the future. A big mistake would be to embrace an attitude of no growth and rest on past laurels. While our neighbors in the region face big problems, the Opt-In report reveals that they have plans to develop their tourist economy similar to what Highlands has now. The region has opted in. Highlands will need to be responsive and also work together with our neighbors.

- Mayor Patrick Taylor

...LETTERS continued from page 2

Fred is crude and offensive

Dear Editor:

Upon arrival at our home in Cashiers last Friday, I picked up all of the local newspapers to see what was happening over the weekend. As I perused the May 27th edition and came upon the article by Fred Wooldridge, I was incredulous that you would include such an article.

I am a native South Carolinian, who has resided in Coral Gables, Fl. (greater Miami) for the past 44 years and vacationed in the NC mountains all of my life. Apparently I have widened my horizons far beyond those of Mr. Wooldridge. My first instinct was to recite the normal Floridian description of the snowbirds who descend upon us in November and leave in a flock in the spring (old Buicks, pulling campers, non-tippers, scared of traffic and thunderstorms, daylight dinners, etc.)

Actually, we welcome visitors from the world over and have always benefitted from being a multicultural society as well as an international gateway. Miami is the home to Art Basel, the largest international art event in the world, the New World Symphony (internationally acclaimed), concert series by the Cleveland Orchestra plus our own Miami Symphony. Miami City Ballet under tutelage of famed Edward Villella, Arsht Performing Arts Center, Perez Art Museum Miami, restored historic buildings and venues, most acclaimed authors appearing at the annual Miami Book Fair as well as author appearances at famous Books and Books, Art Cinemas abounding, beautiful tropical landscape and brilliant weather are just a very few of the offerings for Miamians whom you describe as "disdainful of intellectual or artistic values." We actually

welcome, appreciate, and applaud the cultural offering of many nationalities. Philistines indeed!

I, and am sure my many friends from Florida and other states who have vacationed here for years, found his article to be an offensive and a pathetic attempt at humor. As a fan of many great southern humorists, I would suggest the Mr. Wooldridge study their craft to find that the great southern tradition of self-deprecation in humor is much finer prose than his crude, offensive, and even anti-Semitic article. It is neither clever, nor amusing.

Carolyn H. Reyes
Coral Gables, Fl, and Cashiers, NC

The power of Al Gore

Dear Editor:

When millionaires and billionaires can be scammed by the promises of Bernie Madoff, who offered returns that were obviously unsustainable, and the voting public can swallow the theory that you can stick 30 million additional insureds into a national medical insurance system and reduce costs and premiums at the same time, then why shouldn't Al Gore continue his loony-tunes postulations concerning man's ability to destroy the Earth's livability. It's already made him rich and powerful, enough so you'd think he'd have enough of both money and power, but such is not the case.

Al, when he wasn't inventing the internet, wrote a book, actually several. In one titled "Earth in the Balance," he advocated the elimination of the internal combustion engine in 25 years. Since the

• See LETTERS page 16



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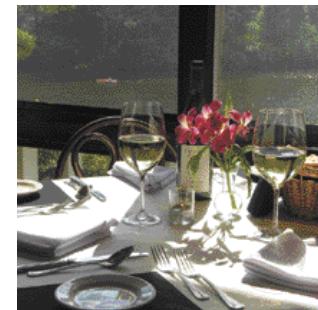


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...SPLIT continued from page 1

board, staff and citizens to continue the policy to give free utilities – at least to the Playhouse – which was voted on 3-1 at the May 2 budget 2013-'14 budget worksession. Commissioner John Dotson voted against the motion; Commissioner Amy Patterson was absent. Voting for the motion was Commissioners Gary Drake, Brian Stiehler and Eric Pierson.

In subsequent meetings, Commissioner Amy Patterson said the issue and the policy that was voted on in May should be revisited – which it has been, particularly during the November 2013 election and recently during the 2014-'15 budget worksessions.

All tolled the town's free utilities policy would cost the town \$45,000 to \$57,000 per year – it's not clear if these figures reflect the 3% electric increase set to go into effect July 1, 2014.

Figures show utility costs for the Chamber of Com-

merce to be \$6,000-\$8,000; the ABC Store, \$6,000-\$8,000; and the Playhouse, \$14,400 to \$18,000.

Hoping to turn the tide prior to the Town Board's initial adoption of the \$14,098,045 budget, members of the Playhouse asked the board to reconsider nixing the free utility policy – at least for the Playhouse.

Playhouse Treasurer Wanda Drake said the Playhouse board understands that the higher cost of utilities has been a hardship for everyone and said they also feel the hurt of the pain because they have homes and businesses. However, they were astounded to hear that though the town could technically afford to absorb the cost of providing free utilities, it planned to nix the policy.

"We counted on the Town Board's word of free utilities and we scheduled wonderful events that would be funded with the money saved. If we have to start pay-

• See SPLIT page 10

...ESCAPE continued from page 1

when Nathan Shane Humphries was charged with one felony count of attempting to escape, but was caught in the act by Macon County Sheriff Robert Holland.

Using the handle of a plastic spray bottle to avoid the razor wire at the top of the fencing, Biddix and Sanford scaled an outside fence at the detention center Friday morning shortly after 1:30 a.m. The two men were both on work detail around the jail. The jail uses trustees to conduct cleaning duties after hours.

Both men were originally being held on misdemeanor offenses. Biddix was



Richard Frank Sanford Jr.

serving a 120-day sentence for misdemeanor possession of stolen goods and driving while his license was revoked and Sanford was serving a 6-8 month sentence for attempted breaking and entering. Now the two men have been charged with felony counts of escaping a county jail and breaking and entering.

The inmates had made a phone call on Thursday to arrange for someone to pick them up at a location near the jail.

As soon as officers became aware of the escape, a man hunt was launched to search the county for the in-

mates. Shortly after officers throughout the county were made aware of the escape, a Macon County Patrol Officer spotted two men dressed in all black crossing 441 South near the Otto area. The men fled into the nearby woods.

A command center was immediately developed at the Smoky Mountain Host Welcome Center, and the use of the North Carolina Highway Patrol helicopter, as well as Mission Hospital's MAMA was used to scan the area from the skies.

The Macon County canine unit was brought out and officers walked the targeted 2-mile ra-

dius that was set up for a search perimeter. Using cell phone traffic data, Holland and his team were able to track the inmates to a residence in the nearby area, just a short distance from South Macon Elementary. Both inmates were safely back in custody shortly after 4 p.m. on Friday, 15 hours after the inmates escaped.

"We were able to determine a residence that was being used from where someone was making several phone calls. We conducted a tactical entry into that home and were able to take both inmates back into custody without incident," said Holland. "As

• See ESCAPE page 6

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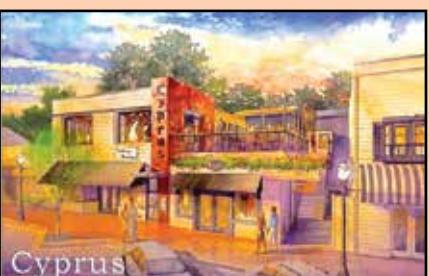
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"No, no, no....please, officer, don't write me a ticket," the young girl called out as she ran from the Main St. dress shop to her car.

The officer never looked up but kept writing the citation while standing next to her old beat-up Jeep Wrangler. In a panic, the young lady rushed up to the officer and placed her hand over his ticket book, begging him to stop. "Miss, if you don't remove your hand I'll be forced to write the remainder of this ticket on the back of your hand. Now move your hand," the officer sternly demanded. "We received a call about you working at this store while parked on Main Street. This is a serious matter the town does not take lightly."

The young girl slid her hand from his book and mumbled, "It's my day off and I came to get my paycheck."

"Likely story," the officer said. "I've been watching you and observed you with a customer, following her around the store. It's not your day off! Don't you know you should never lie to a police officer?"

"That's Cathy Ann from school I was following around," the young girl replied. "When I went in to get my check, I saw her and we started chatting while she looked at clothes. She was shopping but I was just visiting with her. She has a new boyfriend, you know. He is sooooo hot."

Handing her the citation, the officer said, "You know very well it's a violation to park on Main Street while working in that store. I know you're working because your boss gave me your schedule and it says you're working today."

Showing frustration, she pleaded with the officer, "Sir, please....watch my lips....it's....my....day....off. I went in the store to pick up my paycheck!"

"Don't get sassy with me, young lady. I'll call your Ma and have her come over here and straighten out your smart mouth tongue, young lady," the officer responded, losing his patience with her. "Besides, I have your work schedule in my car and you are working today, miss smarty pants." The officer handed her the citation.

"My schedule was changed, officer. Now I'm working a split shift on Wednesday and Fridays and from noon to six on all days but Saturday. Then I work from 10 till the



Fred Wooldridge

store closes except when my boss has an asthma attack and then I have to fill in for her. Do you have that schedule?"

Ignoring her question, the officer climbed into his car. "Don't ignore that parking ticket. It'll cost your Ma big bucks if you do."

Special Note: Has our Town Board ever considered that prohibiting a U.S. citizen from parking in specified public parking area simply because of where they are employed might be unconstitutional?

...ESCAPE from page 5

our deputies approached the residence, we had a helicopter hover over to keep eyes out in case the inmates tried to make a run for it."

With the search radius for the inmates being so close to South Macon Elementary, Holland worked with Macon County Schools Superintendent Dr. Chris Baldwin to place certain schools in the district on lockdown as a precautionary measure.

Beginning at 7:30 a.m. South Macon, East Franklin, and Union Academy schools were all on lockdown. Throughout the day, after new information surfaced regarding the inmates, three additional schools, Mountain View Intermediate, Macon Middle School and Franklin High School, were also placed on lockdown. After the school system was certain no additional schools were going to be placed on lockdown, parents were notified.

"We were faced with a unique situation on Friday," said Baldwin. "We have no "Escaped Inmates" plan in our Emergency Plan. While our school system and individual schools handled the circumstances well, we will take a hard look at how things were done and incorporate needed changes into the Macon County Schools Safety plan."

Additional arrests were made Tuesday afternoon of individuals who assisted in the escape of the inmates.

Karen Sanford was arrested Tuesday and charged with resisting a public officer

• See ESCAPE page 9



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GRILLED WITH OUR TUSCAN HERB
INFUSED OLIVE OIL, SERVED ON A
BED OF GREENS WITH STUFFED
BRIE, SPICED PECANS, OUR EXTRA
VIRGIN OLIVE OIL AND BALSAMIC
VINEGAR ON THE SIDE WITH TWO
CUPS OF HOMEMADE GAZPACHO
AND A BAGUETTE FROM OUR
BAKERY. \$23.95 SERVES TWO

WEDNESDAY: PRIME RIB WITH
BAKED POTATOES AND SALAD
PREMIUM ANGUS STANDING RIB
ROAST, COOKED MEDIUM RARE
WITH RED WINE AU JUS, TWO
BAKED POTATOES AND A LARGE
CAESAR SALAD. \$32.95 SERVES TWO

THURSDAY: TWO RACKS OF BABY
BACK RIBS - COOKED UNTIL
FALL-OFF-THE-BONE-TENDER.
SERVED WITH HOUSE MADE
BACON/APPLE BAKED BEANS AND
POTATO SALAD. \$24.95 SERVES TWO

FRIDAY: WILD CAUGHT SHRIMP;
FRIED OR STEAMED
WILD CAUGHT NORTH CAROLINA
SHRIMP EITHER LIGHTLY BREADED
IN OUR SEASONED CORN FLOUR
MIXTURE, AND THEN PROPERLY
FRIED IN PEANUT OIL AND SERVED

WITH HUSH PUPPIES; OR
STEAMED TO ORDER IN OUR LOW
COUNTRY SEASONING. BOTH
COME WITH COLESLAW AND
ROSEMARY SEA SALT BROILED
RED POTATOES, TARTAR AND
COCKTAIL SAUCE.
\$25.95 SERVES TWO

SATURDAY: IN-HOUSE SMOKED BBQ
HAND RUBBED PORK BUTT,
PIT-SMOKED OVERNIGHT AND
HAND PULLED TO ORDER. COMES
WITH COLESLAW, APPLE AND
BACON BAKED BEANS, AND
YEAST ROLLS \$22.95 SERVES TWO

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...CLOSE continued from page 1

changing healthcare landscape. The HCH board concluded to focus on enhancing access to outstanding specialists and ambulatory diagnostic procedures while transitioning other surgical services to nearby Mission-affiliated facilities.

"Highlands-Cashiers Hospital has provided an exceedingly high quality surgical services program for more than 20 years," said Charlie Sheehan, Chairman, Highlands-Cashiers Hospital Board of Directors. "We are committed to improving the health and well-being of our community and providing the most appropri-

ate care at the right time, at the right place in the safest and most effective manner. This is the primary objective of our approach. Our decision to enhance our focus on ambulatory care involved many factors including the local demand for services, a review of the highest quality, safest way to provide care and the many opportunities to leverage the remarkable, coordinated care network across Mission Health."

Sheehan continued: "We have access to superb surgical capabilities available at neighboring Mission member hospitals – Angel Medical Center in Franklin, NC and

Transylvania Regional Hospital in Brevard, NC as well as the much more extensive services available at Mission Hospital in Asheville, NC for more critically ill or complex patients. Mission has been recognized as one of the nation's Top 15 Health systems for an unprecedented third consecutive year based on providing the highest quality, safest, patient-centered, cost effective care. Leveraging our health system's high quality, coordinated care network is an incredible benefit for our community."

Included in this review has been Ted Copeland, MD, a member of the HCH Board of Directors and former Chairman of the Department of Surgery at the University of Florida for 21 years. Dr. Copeland is currently an Emeritus Distinguished Professor at the University of Florida and is also past President of the American College of Surgeons.

"Since I joined the HCH Board of Directors in 2010, I have been very impressed with the very high quality of care, including the surgical care provided at

HCH," said Dr. Copeland. "In view of the accelerating pace of change locally, regionally and across the nation, I believe that our ambulatory-focused approach to meeting our community's surgical needs is the most patient-centered and effective way to provide the best possible care. Maintaining and growing access to specialty services such as gynecology, orthopedics and other specialty services is very important to that approach. In addition, we will also be investigating and evaluating enhanced specialty services through innovative telemedicine and other clinical programs. At the same time, the inpatient 'surgical safety net,' a very small portion of what we do today, remains firmly in place through our excellent Emergency Department, with rapid triage and close coordination with other Mission Health facilities available when necessary."

President of Highlands-Cashiers Hospital Craig James said the hospital's recent affiliation with Mission Health is a game-changer.

"This affiliation is offering HCH the ability to effectively collaborate and capitalize on our relationships with other Mission Health facilities to provide the highest level of care to our community," he said. "The transition of a very small number of specific surgical procedures from HCH to other nearby Mission Health facilities allows us to focus our efforts and resources into developing the ambulatory programs most needed by the patients we serve, thereby providing them the best quality care with optimal outcomes."

During this transition, outpatient procedures and the surgery department will continue normal operations and specialists currently providing patient care on the HCH campus will continue. "When we transition surgical services in the fall, the impact of the change in program on Highlands-Cashiers surgical nursing staff will be minimized through cross-training and transfer opportunities within Mission Health," said James. "Our specialty physicians will maintain their existing offices at HCH and continue to see patients for consultation and follow-up".

According to Jill Hoggard-Green, PhD, RN, Chief Operating Officer, Mission Health ,with the fundamental changes in health care due to market forces and the Affordable Care Act, redesigning and formulating new innovative models of specialty care is critical to providing more effective, sustainable, quality health care Mission Health for its patients and communities

"We can assure Highlands-Cashiers

• See CLOSE page 9

**mama
won't
fly**

a jones hope wooten comedy

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Assistant Director
Kevin Murphy

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...CLOSE continued from page 8

area residents that there will be an increase in local access to medical specialists through the development of our clinical network."

About Highlands-Cashiers Hospital

Highlands-Cashiers Hos-

pital (HCH) is a not-for-profit community hospital serving Highlands, Cashiers and the surrounding North Carolina mountain communities. Located on Highway 64 between the two towns, HCH offers diagnostic, surgical and acute patient care

through onsite professional services or provides a referral to other regional health care systems. Emergency care is physician-staffed 24/7. HCH has 24 beds for acute care services and 80 beds in the Eckerd Living

Center, a skilled nursing facility. There are four hospital-owned physician clinics in Highlands and Cashiers. HCH is a member of Mission Health, which has been recognized as one of the nation's Top 15 Health Systems 2012-2014 by Truven Health Analytics, formerly Thomson Reuters. Mission

Health is the only medium-sized health system to receive this recognition three years in a row, and the only health system in North Carolina to achieve that distinction. For more information, please visit [www.highlandscashiershospital.org](http://highlandscashiershospital.org).

...ESCAPE continued from page 6

and harboring/aiding a fugitive. According to Karen's warrant for arrest, she provided false information relating to the escape of two local inmates. The warrant also says that Karen allegedly provided a phone and clothing to the fugitives.

Richard Frank Sanford was also arrested for resisting a public officer and he also provided false information to officers regarding the escape of Sanford Jr. and Biddix.

Richard Frank Sanford, Jr., was charged with breaking and entering, larceny after breaking and entering and possession of stolen goods/property.

Sanford Jr.'s arrest warrant states that he broke into a building used for rental property on

Chodl Lane owned by James and Ruby Souter. Sanford Jr. allegedly stole flour and sugar from the home. He was also charged with misdemeanor larceny and possession of stolen goods for stealing an inmate's brown jail uniform.

Biddix was charged with breaking and entering, larceny after breaking and entering and possession of stolen goods as well.

According to Holland, the escape is being fully investigated and additional charges may be forthcoming.

"We are actively investigating this incident and will file charges against anyone who may have assisted them during their escape," said Holland.

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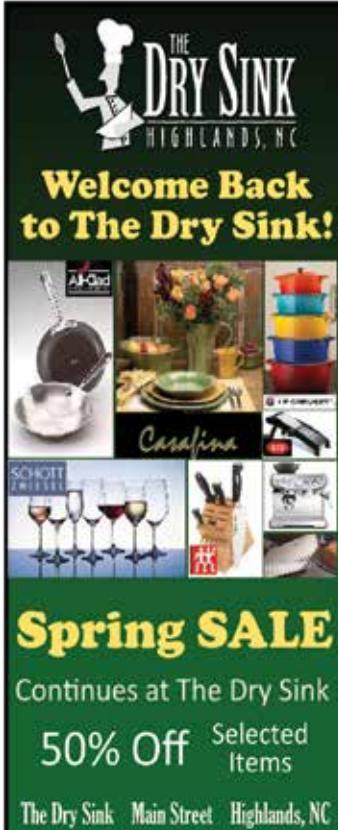
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PREMIUM ANGUS STANDING RIB ROAST,
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AU JUS, TWO BAKED POTATOES AND A
LARGE CAESAR SALAD.**

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THURS

**BABY BACK RIBS
COOKED FALL-OFF-THE-BONE-TENDER.
SERVED WITH HOUSE MADE
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POTATO SALAD.**

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FRI

**SHRIMP; FRIED OR STEAMED
WILD CAUGHT LARGE SHRIMP EITHER
LIGHTLY BREADED IN OUR SEASONED
CORN FLOUR MIXTURE, AND THEN PROPERLY
FRIED IN PEANUT OIL AND SERVED
WITH HUSH PUPPIES; OR STEAMED TO
ORDER IN OUR LOW COUNTRY SEASONING.
BOTH COME WITH COLESLAW AND
ROSEMARY SEA SALT BROILED RED
POTATOES, TARTER AND COCKTAIL
SAUCE.**

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TWO**

SAT

**IN-HOUSE SMOKED BBQ
SERVED WITH COLESLAW BACON/APPLE
BAKED BEANS AND YEAST ROLLS.**

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...SPLIT continued from page 4

ing utilities in July we will be literally cut off at the knees and programs would have to be cancelled with the real possibility of discontinuing the movies all together," she said. "Our fiscal year is Jan. 1 to Dec. 31st and if we have the town's gift of utilities cut as proposed beginning this July, we will be in a horrible financial situation."

She warned that the Town Board's integrity was in jeopardy.

"It was stated at the budget meeting by Commissioner Patterson that we should have known we were going to lose our utilities, but this is not the case at all. Had we not gone to the meetings we would not have a clue. No formal notice of any kind has ever been produced. The integrity of this Town Board is in jeopardy because a vote was taken and passed to give relief to the Playhouse last year without any time limits going forward or the possibility of it being taken away."

The Performing Arts Center, which has a binding contract in a lease that includes free utilities until 2020, and though Drake acknowledged that the Playhouse doesn't have a binding and legal contract concerning free utilities, she said they really didn't think it was necessary because it was a matter of public record and the Playhouse trusted the Town Board to stand by the policy made.

She said over the years the Playhouse has given back to the town with quality professional theater as well as repairs, upgrades and winterization which was funded by its loyal patrons – the Winklers, Williams, the Lopolis and Jerry Pare – at no cost to the town.

"These are all the things that are gifted back to the town and its residents. I ask that this Town Board learn to embrace the performing arts and give us a fighting chance to do what we want to do and what we do best – provide an outlet from our day-to-day lives and be entertained by acting and music that enriches our souls. Please give us a chance," she said.

Horst Winkler told the board that the importance of the arts should not be overlooked.

"Art is a terribly important part of the quality of life. Imagine what life would be like if we didn't have the various art venues. It would be a very dour place to live in. No one would want to make investments here. Man doesn't live by bread alone. There is more to it. What better place to have all this available in a town of this stature and quality. The arts are a very important and integral part of the quality of life in Highlands," he said.

Playhouse Managing Director Tammy Hernandez asked the board to reconsider.

"You gave us a wonderful gift. Someone said we should have seen the writing on the wall. We don't read invisible writing. We just listen to what you say and what you tell us. We were present at the meeting when you said you would give us free utilities and that is what we budgeted on and counted on. You talked about integrity at the last meeting and the importance of keeping your word [re: upholding the Performing Arts Center lease]. Do you differentiate if it is a written word or if it's just the spoken word?" she asked.

Hernandez also said the Playhouse has collected 237 signatures in just 7-10 days – 119 from in-town residents and 118 from out-of-town residents.

"The majority of the in-town residents are worried we won't be able to have the movies. We offer first-run updated movies. Everyone is so glad they don't have to go off the mountain to see a movie. With our movies and programs we also bring out-of-town people which brings revenue to the town — hotels, restaurants, retail shops, gas stations. They all benefit from us because we offer something people can go to – particularly the movies," she said.

Artistic Director Bill Patty begged the town to reconsider. He said the Playhouse is the only professional theater in North Carolina that receives no funding from its county.

He said, despite what people say, 2013 ticket sales were brisk.

"The 2013 season by all measures was a resounding success. We set a ticket sales record with our first show of the season 'Buddy Holly' and then smashed that record later on in the season with 'Annie.' The reality though is that no theatre or arts organization survives on ticket sales alone. I am disappointed that you don't understand the fiscal needs of nonprofit theater or the state of arts management."

He said the Playhouse operates on about half of what is considered an acceptable government subsidy for professional theater.

When the Town Board moved on to the next item on the agenda, namely the acceptance of the design concept for the Kelsey-Hutchinson Park and placement and funding of the public bathrooms not to exceed \$161,000, Drake asked the board to give a final answer on the free utility issue.

• See SPLIT page 19

• HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

Highlands-Cashiers Chamber Music Festival of Feasts begin June 8

The music of the Highlands-Cashiers Chamber Music Festival is sublime in itself. World-renowned musicians perform the works of civilization's greatest composers.

What could compare?

Well, the Highlands-Cashiers Chamber Music Festival folks have an answer: Sumptuous meals with fascinating people in some of the region's most spectacular homes.

"These annual feasts provide important and vital financial support to the Festival, which allows us to bring world-class chamber music to the mountains each year," says Festival Artistic Director William Ransom.

The fun starts with the Festival Kickoff Cocktail Party at Mountaintop Golf Club, set for 6 P.M. Sunday, June 8. Hosts Ginger Kennedy, Kevin Naylor Anna and Hays Mershon will be offering a charcuterie & cheese board, carving station, new potatoes with caviar and surprise treats. Cost is \$100 per person.

Festival favorites The Eroica Trio will highlight an evening at the Whiteside Mountain home of Ann Abrams, 7:15 P.M. Saturday, July 26. Cost is \$125 per person. Guests can enjoy an exquisite buffet while conversing with Trio members Sara Parkins, Erika Nickrenz and Sara Sant'Ambrogio.

Patrons can Chill with CelloMania, 7:15 P.M. Sunday July 27, at the home of Kathy and Mark Whitehead. The Whiteheads are planning a special menu with perhaps a special chef. Patrons will be able to meet the festival stars of the CelloMania concert. Cost is \$125 per person.

A Louisiana Feast at the home of Carolyn and Rhett Tanner is set for 6:00 P.M. Friday

Friday, August 22. Guests can enjoy the Tanner's rolling vineyard and the exquisite Tanner Dahlias while dining on fabulous Louisiana fare. Cost is \$125 per person.

Ed and Penny Mawyer will host The Bear Shadow Dinner: An End-of-October Event, 5:00 P.M. Thursday, October 23. They're offering a superb five-course dinner with very special wine pairings, accompanied by a viewing of "The Shadow." Cost is \$250 per person.

The feasts aren't the only way to enjoy the Highlands-Cashiers Chamber Music Festival's artists outside of the concert hall.

The festival's 33rd season is laced with

exciting installments of its popular Salon at Six series.

Kay and Frank Cohen will host the season-opener featuring harpist Valerie Von Pechy Whitcup and flutist Lea Kibler, Saturday, June 14.

Ms. Von Pechy Whitcup is a symphony harpist with over 30 seasons as principal harpist with the Florida Philharmonic. She's also served as the harp instructor at the University of Miami Frost School of Music for 30 years. Ms. Kibler is a flute professor at Clemson University's Department of Performing Arts. Prof. Kibler has performed as member of the Florida Philharmonic Orchestra and the Moscow Chamber Orchestra as principal flute.

Festival favorite The Vega String Quartet will perform Mussorgsky's "Pictures at an Exhibition" at The Bascom Tuesday, June 17.

Jazz Pianist Gary Motley will perform at the home of Lynne and Jim Browne Thursday, July 17.

Western Carolina University Chancellor David Belcher and his wife Susan open their home on Sunday, August 24. The Belchers will perform classical music and songs from stage and screen.

At each event, wine will be served from 5:30-6:00 P.M., followed by the performances until 6:30 P.M. Light refreshments will be offered at 6:30 P.M. Tickets are \$50 per person.

For reservations or more information about the Feasts of the Festival and the Salon at Six Series, call (828) 526-9060.



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Highlands Cashiers Players announce auditions

On Sunday, June 8, 3-5p.m., and Monday, June 9, 5:30-6:30, at the Highlands Performing Arts Center, the Highlands Cashiers Players will hold open auditions for their summer play, Neil Simon's "Lost in Yonkers, winner of the 1991 Pulitzer Prize and the Tony award for best play. The comedy-drama, with humor and insight, tells a compelling family story of the 1940's.

It offers lots of fun and in-depth acting opportunities for seven actors who will bring to life: a grandmother, her two adult daughters, two adult sons, and, most charmingly, her two grandsons, boys between the ages of eleven and fifteen.

Neil Simon's plays have been the most

produced of the 20th century and their popularity continues into the 21st. Most theater goers have seen and enjoyed one or more of his many witty comedies, such as "The Odd Couple" and "The Goodbye Girl." The Players are proud to lead off their 20th season with "Lost in Yonkers," Simon's most acclaimed work, and hope many will come to audition for this significant play.

Scripts may be read in Hudson, Cashiers, and Macon Co. libraries. Rehearsals will start the week of July 7. Performance dates are August 21-24 and 28-31. Call Director Virginia Talbot, 526-4904, for more information.

• See EVENTS page 12



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• HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

Ongoing

• Artists wanted for Oct. 4 show featuring historic sites in Macon County. The moveable show will begin in Franklin and move to Highlands and Nantahala. There is a \$35 fee. To register, contact Barbara McRae at mbarbara@frontier.com

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

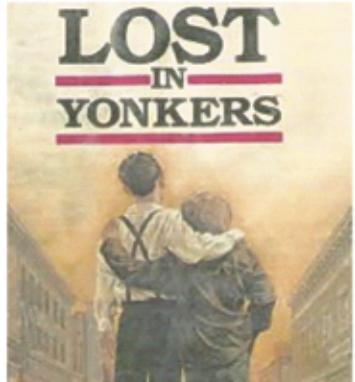
• Weight Watchers support group meets every Thursday at 6pm at the Cashiers Community Center. Questions? Call Lisa 828-506-3555 Last Fri. of each month

Saturdays

• The Land Stewards of the Highlands Plateau, the con-



AUDITIONS



By Neil Simon

Sunday, June 8, 2014 - 3 p.m.

Monday, June 9, 2014 - 5 p.m.

Highlands Performing Arts Center, Chestnut Street

**Parts for: Grandmother, 2 adult men,
2 adult women, 2 boys, ages 10-15**

Performance dates August 21-24, 28-31

Script in Hudson, Cashiers, Macon Co. libraries

Information: Director Virginia Talbot, 526-4904

servation arm of the Laurel Garden Club, have put together an exhibit in conjunction with the Historical Society at the Museum, which you might find fascinating. It covers our plateau's botanical history from the ice ages to the present. Please visit the Museum on Saturdays to see the display. You are also invited to a reception for the exhibit on June 6th from 3:00 - 5:00 PM.

• 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. Contact 828-226-9988 for info.

Thurs., May 29 to Sun., June 1

• HCP's Mama Won't Fly" at the Performing Arts Center on Chestnut Street in Highlands. Show times are 7:30p and 2:30p on Sunday. Call 526-8084 for tickets.

Fri. May 30

• Community Coffee with Mayor Pat Taylor at the Hud-

CLE presents a nonpartisan look at the question: Does ObamaCare Violate Freedom of Religion?

Center for Life Enrichment brings conversations held on the national stage to Highlands in the non-partisan lecture Does ObamaCare Violate Freedom of Religion? Speaker Fred Gedicks, from Brigham Young University School of Law in Provo, Utah, is one of the country's leading authorities on the two "Religion Clauses" of the U.S. Constitution. The Hobby Lobby case just argued before the U.S. Supreme Court arises from the objections of some employers that Obamacare violates their religious "Free Exercise" by requiring that they pay for employee insurance covering certain kinds of contraception condemned by their faith. But if these employers are exempted, would the government be preferring their religious beliefs to those of their employees? If so, that might violate the separate Constitutional requirement that government do nothing to support or "establish" a religion.

Prof. Gedicks filed a friend of the Court brief in the case. His many books and articles have been devoted to assuring that the traditional right to worship may flourish free from both undue government interference and from the government influence that often comes with government support.

Please join us in the Center for Life Enrichment Lecture Hall for this highly informative discussion. Friday, June 6, 10:00-12:00 Cost \$25/\$35

And don't miss these upcoming CLE lectures: De-Mystifying Self -Publishing , Friday, June 6, 2:00-4:00 Cost \$25/\$35, Alone in the Universe? Monday, June 9, 10:00-12:00 Cost \$25/\$35, Animal Communication: Tales of Sex & Violence in the Swamp!, Tuesday, June 10, 12:00-2:00, Cost \$25/\$35

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 Peggy Crosby Center.

son Library at 11 a.m. The Topic? The Budget. Refreshments provided.

• At the Highlands Nature Center, "Know Your Frogs" workshop at the Highlands Nature Center. 8:30 – 9:30 pm, ages 6 – adult. Learn about frog biology and how to identify regional species visually and by their calls. Bring a flashlight to search for frogs in the wild. Advanced registration required due to limited space. Call 526-2623 or visit www.highlands-biological.org for more information.

• The High Mountain Squares will host their Memorial Day Dance this Friday night, May 30th, at the Macon County Community Building, Route 441 South, Franklin NC from 6:30 to 9 PM. Stan Russell from Greer, SC will be the caller. Mike McDonald and Debbi McClain will be cueing the Round

Last weekend for 'Mama Won't Fly' at PAC



From left: Ellen Agee, Megan McLean, Faye Siegel. Photo by Cynthia Strain

While the Highlands Cashiers Players is a volunteer organization, not all the volunteers are the ones on stage. It takes many "unsung heroes" to bring a show to light.

What goes on backstage and prior to the show's opening is just as vital as what you see in the completed process. HCP's "Mama Won't Fly" - showing this weekend - is considered a prop-heavy and costume-heavy production.

It takes a set designer, wardrobe master, prop master, stage manager and their assistants to bring the play to fruition.

"Mama Won't Fly" is the story of a cross-country road trip. Road trips require vehicles and thanks to Mountain Motorwerks of Highlands, there are several.

Mountain Motorwerks is the dream of Steve Mehder and Mark Barrette who have been active in the Highlands Motoring Festival from the beginning. What began as a vintage car restoration and repair business, has grown into a full service operation for both vintage and modern cars, located on Highway 106 at the former site of Nantahala Tire and Car Care. The two men spent hours crafting replicas of the cars used in "Mama Won't Fly" and brought to life what has turned out to be key props in the play.

Today through Sunday will be your last opportunities to see the hilarious "Mama Won't Fly" at the Martin Lipscomb Performing Arts Center on Chestnut Street. For tickets to this weekend's performances please call the HCP box office at 828-526-8084.

• HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

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Sat., May 31

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate-to-strenuous 4-mile hike with elevation change of 767 ft. to the historic Wesser Fire Tower, which was restored with the club's help, for a 360 degree view of Cheoah Bald and other northern mts. Meet at BiLo parking lot in Franklin at 9 am, drive 40 miles round trip. Call leader Nancy Falkenstein, 369-9052, for reservations. Visitors welcome, but no pets please.

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate-to-strenuous 6-mile hike along a cascading stream with many wildflowers to Big East Fork in Shining Rock Wilderness with an elevation change of 1200 ft. Meet at Ingles in Waynesville at 9 am, drive 40 miles round trip. Call leader Keith Patton, 456-8895, for reservations. Visitors welcome, but no dogs please.

- Audubon's weekly bird spotting trip. Carpool from the parking area behind the Highlands Town Hall, unless otherwise noted. All walks will start at 7:30 AM. Watch the web site or call Julie, at 526-1111 for specifics. All participants must register in advance with HCLT so that lunches can be properly planned.

Sun., June 1

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take an easy-to-moderate 3-mile loop trail, elevation change 400 ft., on the Tennessee Rock Trail in Black Rock Mt. State Park, GA, with lots of spring wildflowers and super view at the top. Meet at the Smoky Mtn. Visitor Center in Otto at 2 pm, drive 36 miles round trip. Call leader Joyce Jacques, (410) 852-7510, for reservations. Share \$3 car parking fee. Visitors welcome, not pets please.

Thursday, June 5

- Taize service at Highlands United Methodist Church at 5:30 p.m.

- At the Highlands Biological Station at 9 p.m., Join the Dar Side: Studing the Fabulous Diversity of Local Moths to Understand Environmental Changes."This event is free and open to the public. For more information about this and other events, please visit www.highlandsbiological.org or call (828) 526-2221.

Friday, June 6

- The Land Stewards of the Highlands Plateau, the conservation arm of the Laurel Garden Club, have put together an exhibit in conjunction with the Historical Society at the Museum. It covers our plateau's botanical history from the ice ages to the present. Please visit the Museum on Saturdays to see the display. You are also invited to a reception for the exhibit on June 6th from 3- 5 PM.

- At the Center for Plastic Surgery, an Open House featuring 20% off Obagi Products from 10a to 4p.

Sat., June 7

- Audubon's weekly bird spotting trip. Carpool from the parking area behind the Highlands Town Hall, unless otherwise noted. All walks will start at 7:30 AM. Call Brock Hutchins leading. If questions, call Michelle at 828-743-9670.

- Blood drive at the Otto Community Center from 8a to 12:30p. Call Phyllis at 524-9307 to make an appointment. Walk in welcome. Photo ID required.

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate 4-mile hike, elevation change 800 ft., on the Appalachian Trail from Wayah Crest to Siler Bald, an open area with tremendous

views. Meet at Westgate Plaza in Franklin at 9 am, drive 25 miles round trip. Call leader Mary Stone, 369-7352, for reservations. Visitors welcome, but no pet please.

- Celebrating 50 years of the Wilderness Act, the Nantahala Hiking Club will take Wilderness Hike #3, a moderate-to-strenuous five-mile hike with elevation change of 1400 ft. and a possible stream crossing with boots off, beginning at Deep Gap trail head, descending to the Tallulah River trail head. Meet at Westgate Plaza in Franklin at 9 am, drive 40 miles round trip. Call leaders Bill and Sharon Van Horn, 369-1983, for reservations. Visitors, older children, and dogs (on leash) are welcome.

Sun.-Thurs., June 8-12

- Vacation Bible School at Iota Baptist Church. Agency D3: Discover, Decide, Defend. Dinner at 5:30. VBS 6:15 – 8:30 pm. Classes for all kids! Everyone Welcome. 1537 Iota Church Road

Sun.-Mon., June 8-9

- HCP auditions for "Lost in Yonkers" at PAC on Chestnut Street. Parts for a grandmother, 2 adult men, 2 adult women, 2 boys ages 10-15. Performance dates are August 21-24 and 28-31. Scripts are at the Hudson, Cashiers and Franklin libraries. For information, call Director Virginia Talbot at 526-4904.

Monday, June 9

- The Battle of Sugartown Chapter of the North Carolina Society, Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), will hold its monthly luncheon meeting at the Boiler Room Restaurant at 1024 Georgia Road in Franklin. All DAR members and prospective members are welcome. For further information, please contact 369-3136 or 542-2673

Thurs., June 12

- The annual Owl Prowl in cooperation with the Highlands Nature Center starts at 7:30 pm. Donations to the Carolina Raptor Rehab Center will be appreciated but not required. Bring a flashlight and plan to stay after dark as we hunt for owls in the area. If questions, call Michelle at 828-743-9670.

Fri.-Sat., Jun 13-14

- At The Bascom, a two-day course in hammered copper by Cullowhee metalsmith William Rogers, Friday and Saturday, 1 to 5 pm. Class participants will make a copper pendant or

SOAR events begin Friday, June 20

SOAR of Western North Carolina, a 501c3 non-profit, consists of a group of volunteers who are dedicated to doing events to support the Special Operations Warrior Foundation (SOWF). Funds raised go to giving the sons and daughters of fallen warriors a college education.

Upcoming fundraising for the 12th Annual Special Operations Adventure Race (SOAR) begins with a Pasta Dinner, Friday, June 20, 5-7pm, Highlands Rec Center.

The Adventure Race - Running/Cycling/Rappelling/Canoeing, is set for Saturday, June 21 at 7am.

The Start/Elite Category – is an 8am Race Start/Sprint Category.

If you wish to register for the race, please contact Marianne Vines 828-743-2052.

The Charity SOAR/Rotary Golf Tournament is Monday, August 4 at Sky Valley Golf Club.

To donate, please send a check made out to either SOAR or SOWF to PO Box 923, Highlands, NC 28741.

badge that can be worn, using methods practiced by prehistoric Americans to form copper panels and gorgets. Contact the Bascom at 828-526-4949 to register.

Sat. & Sun. June 14 & 15

- Highlands Village Square Arts & Craft Show 10a to 5p. in Kelsey-Huethcinson Park on Pine Street. Rain or shine.

Sat., June 14

- Audubon's weekly bird spotting trip. Bring binoculars if you have them, good walking shoes, a water bottle, and wet weather gear. Back by popular demand, an outing to Lonesome Valley in Sapphire, with Romney Bathurst leading. This is a beautiful wooded canyon being sensitively developed by the Jennings family with conservation interests high on the priority list. Carpool from the parking area of the new Cashiers Rec. Center at 7:30 AM sharp. Questions, call Michelle at 828-743-9670.

- Highlands School Graduation at 7p in the new gym.

• See EVENTS page 15

Village Square Art & Craft Show

June 14/15 and Aug. 23/24
New Dates 10 to 5

Downtown Highlands, NC

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• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

**Here's to
hoping our
holidays don't lose
their
significance**



By Pastor Gary Hewins
Community Bible Church

As you know, Memorial Day has just passed us by. It felt really good to pause and think about those who died in service to our great country. Aren't you grateful?

This past Sunday, I asked a few young boys if they knew what Memorial Day was all about. I wasn't too awfully impressed with the answers. Some boys thought it was like Veterans Day. We apparently need to do a better job of solidifying the importance of "sacrifice" in every generation.

It seems strange to me that over the years, here on our soil, people were driving to work, or sitting in a movie theater, or helping their children swing on the playground while some of our fellow citizens in uniform were dying on a battlefield somewhere else in the world. Unbeknownst to millions, others were battling a fortified and ruthless enemy for our benefit.

Today we tend to use the word "sacrifice" in the context of buying a home without the exact kitchen cabinets and marble we would really like. Sometime we make a sacrifice to eat at a restaurant we may not care for but we know it's a favorite of a friend. Sacrifice as a word has been diluted.

Soldiers who charge a hill, or storm into a dangerous urban fortress understand sacrifice. Men and women willingly volunteered to leave their families behind, only to pick up a weapon and stand their post on our behalf. In a world with seemingly less and less chivalry, heroism and true sacrifice this strikes me only as "nobleness" in its purest sense.

Memorial Day is a great reminder of how blessed we are as a people. Memorial Day is also a reminder that One who loves us more than we can imagine gave up His life for us while we were yet sinners (Rom. 5:8). There is no greater love than that of someone laying down their life for a friend (John 15:13). Christ died that you and I will experience freedom from condemnation through faith in Him.

As you go about your daily routines, are you aware of this-the ultimate sacrifice? God Himself died for you not because you deserved it but because He loves you. He was punished on your behalf not because He deserved it but because He loves you. Please hear that: "God loves you." He loves you not with rhetoric or concepts or theories or opinions but with a demonstration in time and space.

Memorialize that in your heart and become a new person. Receive the love of God and no longer be oblivious to Him who died for you. Enjoy Him today. He would love to hear from you.

But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us (Romans 5:8).

Proverbs 3:5**• PLACES TO WORSHIP •****John 3:16**

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Pastor Nathan Johnson

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Bible Study 6p

Wed. Kidsquest 6p.; Worship 7p.

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Randy Reed, Pastor

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Sundays: Worship: 11

HIGHLANDS CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Dan Robinson

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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 9:09 & 10:50.; Youth 5:30 p.

Wed: Supper; 6: 7:15:children, youth, & adults

studies; 6:15:Adult choir (nursery provided)

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

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Chaplain Margaret Howell

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a.m.; Worship/Communion: 10:30

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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

Sundays: 10:30 a.m. at Big Ridge Baptist Church, 4224 Big Ridge Road (4.5 miles from NC 107)

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

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Rev. Dwight Loggins

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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

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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

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

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

•HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS•

Dazzling Dahlias Festival 2014

The fourth annual "Dazzling Dahlias" Festival dates have just been announced by the Highlands Historical Society for September 20, 2014. The event will be held at the Highlands Recreation Park.

Last year's event attracted over 300 entries from local amateur hobbyists, including some entries in the new childrens' category. The show highlights growers' favorite dahlias, which are entered and ribboned by an array of judges. Interested participants may drop off their dahlias at the rec park on Friday September 19th from 5 pm to 7 pm or on the morning of the show between 8 am and 10 am.



This year's speaker will be local grower Ann Maxwell. The time will be announced at a later date. The show will begin at the Rec Park at 1p until 5p. In addition to viewing gorgeous dahlias, bouquets are also available for purchase

All proceeds from this show benefit the Highlands Historical Society.

On September 18, 2014 Dazzling Dahlias Patron Party will be held at the Hudson House at Highlands Country Club. The fare will be Mexican food, Margaritas and Mariachi music. Mark your calendars, as seating is limited to 125 persons. Tickets are \$100 each. For more information on the Patron Party, contact Judy Taylor at 526 8388



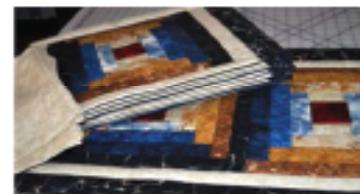
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CHOOSE YOUR SAUCE:

ITALIAN RED TOMATO, ITALIAN WHITE CREAM, PESTO BASIL, OR BARBECUE

CHOOSE UP TO 5 TOPPINGS:

PEPPERONI, ITALIAN SAUSAGE, GROUND BEEF, HAM, BACON, CHICKEN, CARAMELIZED ONION, FRESH ONION, ROASTED RED PEPPERS, GREEN PEPPERS, BANANA PEPPERS, OLIVES, MUSHROOMS, PINEAPPLE, SPINACH, EGGPLANT, ARTICHOKE, ANCHOVIES, GRANDE MOZZARELLA, GORGONZOLA, PROVOLONE, FETA, AND PARMESAN

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...LETTERS continued from page 3

book was published in 1992, if my 3rd grade math serves me, we will all be riding bicycles by 2017. This is not the scary part. From page 294: "The world is once again at a critical juncture. We are invading ourselves and attacking the ecological system of which we are a part. As a result, we now face the prospect of a kind of global civil war between those who refuse to consider the consequences of civilization's relentless advance and those who refuse to be silent partners in the destruction. The time has come to make this struggle the central organizing principle of world civilization."

Well Al, I am not a part of your "ecological system," I do not bow to the throne of "Mother Earth," which you glorify elsewhere in your book, and I, and all my friends who you think are attacking the system, beg to differ. God is perfectly capable of cleansing the Earth, and is

continuously doing so. For you to think that the world's civilization is going to organize around your cockamamie struggle to rule the world seems a little ambitious. When we have strayed too far from the hope He has for us, He'll cleanse the Earth and everything and everybody on it.

Al, my guess is that you would love to head up the control of the one-world government you espouse. Frankly, considering the education level of the US, and the apathy of its people, if you can get your fictional movie shown in the schoolrooms of the country, scaring the socks off the kids as to their future, I wouldn't be surprised if you pull it off. I'm glad I'm old.

Don Swanson
Franklin, NC

• POLICE & FIRE REPORTS •

Highlands PD log entries from May 5. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor, or public officials have been used.

May 5

• At 10:30 a.m., officers responded to a burglary-Larceny-Vandalism at Ruka's Table in Wright Square where \$110 worth of alchoholic beverages were stolen.

May 6

• At 10:46 p.m., officers responded to a complaint of either gun fire or fireworks within the town limits.

May 9

• At 1:30 p.m., officers responded to an animal complaint at a residence on Chowan Road where a bear had broken into a car.

May 8

• At 7:30 p.m., officers responded to a call about vandalism at a residence on NC 106 where trees were cut down without permission and left lying on the ground.

May 13

• At 7 a.m., officers responded to a noise complaint violation at a residence on Picklesimer Road.

The Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. log entries from May 17.

May 17

• At 5:51 p.m., the dept. responded to a call from OEl about a possible gas leak.

• At 5:53 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence at VZTop. It was false.

May 18

• At 4:02 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Flat Mountain Road.

• At 6:38 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Cobb Road. It was false.

May 19

• At 4:54 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on White Clover Lane. EMS transported to the hospital.

May 20

• At 4:24 p.m., the dept. responded to a possible fuel spill on NC 106. It was minor and contained.

• At 5:50 p.m., the dept. responded to a possible structure fire. It was just wire issues in the house on Skylake Drive.

• At 6:03 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at OEl on Church Street. It was false.

May 21

• At 2:18 p.m. the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Helen's Barn.

• At 4:10 p.m., the dept. searched for a lost hiker on the Bartram Trail near Hickory Knut Gap Road.

May 23

• At 8:58 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Dog Mountain Road.

• At 8:23 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Turtle Pond road.

• At 4:01 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Holly Tree Road.

• At 4:28 p.m., the dept. responded to a call of assistance at a residence on Lost Trail.

• At 11:45 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Galax Court.

May 24

• At 6:09 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Blue Valley Road.

• At 7:28 p.m., the dept. provided mutual aid to Cashiers Fired Dept.

May 25

• At 7:40 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Mayflower.

• At 12:46 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on NC 106.

• INVESTING AT 4,118 FT. •

Buying or selling does not have to be so stressful

When it comes to Highlands' real estate, buying does not have to be stressful. The more aware you are about the process and the local market, the easier and smoother buying can be.

If you are considering buying a home in the Highlands area, sit down with your REALTOR® and discuss the process in advance to help prepare for every step.

Buying a home is a big investment and it is only natural that some stress goes hand in hand with the process. Whether it is the search, the financing or the contract that is daunting to you, educate yourself on every step to help eliminate surprises. From securing a loan and starting your real estate search to drafting a contract and getting to the closing table there are many pieces to the buying puzzle.

The more educated and informed you are the smoother your experience will be. Let your REALTOR®'s knowledge and experience work to your advantage to help you navigate the local market and arrive at the closing table with a home that suits



Lynn Kimball
Meadows Mountain Realty

your needs and your lifestyle.

Selling your home often involves receiving a lowball offer. While you might feel insulted, it is important to remember that this is only a starting point for future negotiations. Buyers want to acquire a home at the lowest price possible while sellers prefer to set a record for the highest price per square foot. The important thing for a seller to remember is to respond to an offer, regardless of the price or terms. If you don't respond there will be no negotiations.

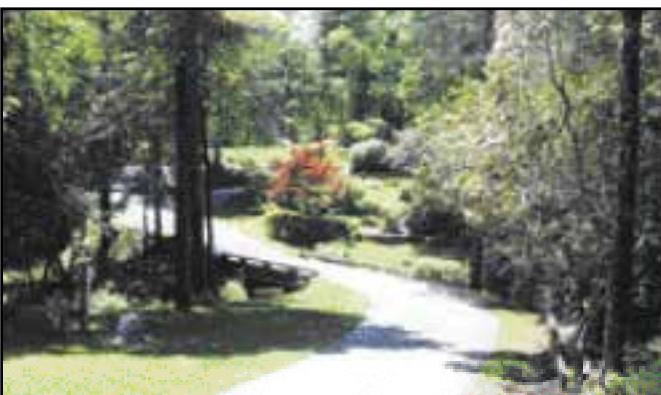
Start out by asking your REALTOR® why you received such

a low offer. Chances are your home may be priced too high to begin with. Be objective and talk to your REALTOR® about the price of your home and get a thorough understanding of what fair market value might be. This will help you determine what price to counter at.

Your REALTOR® will be instrumental in helping you counter a low-ball offer. Having knowledge and experience on your side can be an valuable asset for selling success.

Lynn Kimball has over 40 years of real estate experience, with 29 years serving the Highlands area. Whether you are interested in searching properties or comprehensive information about our area, you are invited to visit her user friendly website at www.signatureproperties-nc.com. Meadows Mountain Realty has two locations, at 41 Church Street in the Old Edwards Inn complex or visit Lynn at 2334 Cashiers Road across from Highlands Falls Country Club. Lynn Kimball can be reached at 828-421-8193 or by email at Lynn@MeadowsMtnRealty.com.

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10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Ginseng root poacher sentenced to jail time

The Public Is Reminded Gathering Ginseng on the Nantahala National Forest without a Permit Is Illegal

U.S. Magistrate Judge Dennis L. Howell sentenced Charles R. Nash, of Whittier, N.C. to serve 10 days in jail for the illegal possession or harvesting of American ginseng from the Nantahala National Forest, announced Anne M. Tompkins, U.S. Attorney for the Western District of North Carolina and Kristin Bail, Forest Supervisor of the U.S. Forest Service National Forests in North Carolina.

According to the January 30, 2014 sentencing hearing and other documents, on October 12, 2013, Nash admitted to

illegally possessing 24 American ginseng roots he had dug from the Moses Creek and Wayehutta Off-Road Vehicle areas in Jackson County. He pleaded guilty to the poaching charge. Staff of the Forest Service replanted the recovered viable roots.

American ginseng is on the list of the Convention of International Trade of Endangered Species. The U.S. Attorney's Office reminds the public that gathering ginseng on the Nantahala National Forest without a permit is illegal. U.S. Forest Service lands have been severely impacted by ginseng poachers in western North Carolina.

American ginseng was formerly abundant throughout the eastern mountains, but due to repeated poaching, populations have been reduced to a point that they can barely reproduce. The roots poached in this park are usually young, between the ages of 5 and 10 years, and have not yet reached their full reproductive capacity. In time, the plant's populations could recover if poaching ceased.

The Division of Scientific Authority, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service is the regulatory agency that evaluates the biological and management status of wild American ginseng throughout its native range. The Division issues an annual or biennial report detailing if any harvest conditions

need to be modified to ensure the sustainable harvest of wild native ginseng. Permits to collect ginseng root in National Forests are issued through the U.S. Forest Service in early September. Permits are not available in National Park lands such as the Blue Ridge Parkway and the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, where even the possession of American Ginseng is prohibited.

The investigation of the case was handled by the U.S. Forest Service. The U.S. Attorney's Office in Asheville handled the prosecution.

To report illegal harvesting activities of American ginseng, please call 828-257-4200.

Forest Service Announces Ginseng Permit Process for 2014

The U.S. Forest Service National Forests in North Carolina today announced the application period for harvesting ginseng in 2014. Between June 15 and July 15, people can submit their contact information to a Nantahala or Pisgah National Forests district office to participate in the lottery for receiving a ginseng harvest permit.

Visitors must obtain a permit to collect wild ginseng in the two national forests during the designated harvest season.

Last year, the Forest Service limited the harvesting of wild ginseng in the Nantahala and Pisgah National Forests, citing concern over reductions in wild ginseng numbers. In 2013, the Forest Service implemented the following changes to wild ginseng harvests in the Nantahala and Pisgah National Forests:

- The number of permits issued is limited to 136 annual permits, a 75 percent reduction of permits from previous years.

- Permits are issued through a lottery system (selected randomly) by each district office. Persons may submit their names at more than one district office.

- A permit allows a person to harvest 1-3 wet pounds (at \$40 per pound) of wild ginseng in the ranger district where the permit is issued.

- The permitted harvest season was reduced to 2 weeks from 4 weeks. Harvesting will be allowed Sept. 16-30 in 2014.

- Each district ranger may further limit ginseng harvests to certain areas of the

national forest to allow the plants to regenerate, or to protect designated wilderness and other natural areas. Harvest area descriptions and maps will be provided to permit holders.

Those requesting a permit must call or visit a ranger district office and submit their name and address between June 15 and July 15. Requests by email will not be accepted. Written notification will be mailed to applicants selected by lottery before Aug. 15. District offices will issue permits Aug. 20 - Sept. 1 to selected applicants. Harvest is prohibited in designated wilderness and other natural areas set aside for research purposes, such as Walker Cove and Black Mountain.

In addition to reducing the legal harvest of wild ginseng, the Forest Service plans to increase law enforcement efforts to reduce poaching. Removing a wild ginseng plant or its parts from national forests without a permit or outside of the legal harvest season is considered theft of public property. Penalties for plant poaching may include a fine up to \$5,000 or 6-month sentence in federal prison, or both. Every plant on the national forest is public property and is sustainably managed by the Forest Service to meet the needs of present and future generations.

Ginseng root has been favored as a tonic primarily in East Asia for the past two-and-a-half centuries. In North Carolina, ginseng is more common in the mountains, very infrequent in the piedmont, and very rare in the coastal plain.

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"We need to know something tonight so we don't go down a bigger hole. If we aren't going to get the free utilities, I have to make three calls tomorrow to cancel three programs. Can you please give us a vote tonight and let us know where we stand?"

At that Commissioner Dotson said he didn't want to back up from the direction the board had agreed to pursue, but since the board had just learned that the Playhouse's fiscal year ended Dec. 31 and began on Jan. 1, perhaps the board should give it free utilities through the end of December 2014.

"We discussed the importance of not pulling the rug out from under any nonprofits in the middle of a process. So, I would suggest we don't pull the rug out if they are on a different fiscal year than us. Certainly they have made plans. Let's allow them to continue in the direction they are heading this year."

Before discussion continued, Commissioner Amy Patterson explained her comments regarding them assuming the free utility policy would continue.

"The reason I made the comment that you should have seen the writing on the wall is because we had an election last November and one of the questions that all the candidates were asked was about free utilities. And it's pretty obvious that the people who were elected or reelected – their comments were, that everyone should be treated equally and we shouldn't allow free utilities to continue. It's not free ... someone has to pay, so if you get free utilities you are just asking someone else to pay for your utilities. So that's why I said you should have seen the writing on the wall. It was a huge discussion last fall, and during the election. There were written comments in the newspaper that everyone could've read. I just assumed everybody was literate enough to know this was what was going to happen," she said.

The next day, some citizens who were at the meeting and some who were not, said Patterson called members and supporters of the Playhouse "illiterate" and "imbeciles." Patterson never used those words.

However, Hernandez did respond to Patterson's "literate" comment.

"Everyone is literate but we don't read invisible writing. We had no idea this was going to happen as quickly as it happened. No idea. We were taking you at your word – the face value of what you guys passed and voted on and put into order."

Hernandez said according to statistics, it would only cost Highlands' residents 83 cents extra on their utility bill to

pay for the Playhouse utilities.

"If we had to pay for utilities ourselves, our prices would have to go up at least \$2 more a ticket for the movies. I think the consumers in town would rather pay 83 cents in their electric bill than have to pay \$2 more per ticket. I would."

Commissioner Donnie Calloway said he took offense to the Playhouse's claim that the Town Board doesn't support the arts.

"Over the past three years, the town has given over \$129,000 to the Playhouse. So we do support the arts. I am taken aback by some of these comments saying that we don't. We do. We give you free rent. And just recently we paid \$1,500 in manhours to install a chandelier for you."

Drake said the Playhouse has solicited funds from donors and has therefore matched what the town has given.

"We solicit funds from generous people and matched what you have given us in the winterization and all the additions we've made. We even put a roof on it at one time and didn't ask for money," she said. "In the scheme of things, \$14,500-\$18,000 a year is not going to break the Town of Highlands to keep the Playhouse running and to have good programs and movies for people."

At the final budget worksession on May 15, a gradual cut off of free utilities was brought up by Commissioner Eric Pierson – an idea discussed between Town Manager Bob Frye and Drake. However the idea was dismissed.

At Thursday's Town Board meeting, the Playhouse board said it would love a gradual cut off. The proposal involved paying a portion of the utilities through the end of a possible 3-year term on a sliding scale of 30% the first year, 50% the second year, 75% the third year and 100% going forward.

Discussion ended Thursday night after Dotson's motion to extend the Playhouse's free utilities through Dec. 31, 2014 was quieted by Winkler saying he would pay their utilities.

At that, Commissioner Dotson withdrew his motion.

"No. No," said Drake. "I cannot believe that. Don't make this man pay out of his pocket any more than he already has. He is such a generous man."

According to the Playhouse, Winkler and McPhail will split the cost of utilities from July 1 to Dec. 31, 2014 and will discuss the future come Jan. 1, 2015.

The final word on the town's 2014-'15 budget will be had after the required public hearing on the budget set for the Thursday, June 19 Town Board meeting.

– Kim Lewicki

Studying the diversity of local moths to understand environmental Changes

There are over 11,000 species of moth north of Mexico. This creature is easy to study. Hundreds of species may come right to your porch light any evening throughout the year. Walking along your wall, they provide a great opportunity for study, photography and reflection. How do temperature and other factors affect moths? Do moth species fly in the same order each year? Understanding the answer to these and other questions provides important insights into the way species respond to environmental variables, and the impacts of climate change on communities.



ize on a dark sky. Led by John Pickering (University of Georgia) and Nancy Lowe (Science Can Dance), both of Discover Life, the evening will begin with a presentation on moths. Refreshments will follow until the moths come out around 10pm, at which time the moth party will begin! As part of a Discover Life initiative, we will set up lights to attract moths, and photograph each species that comes along. By photographing and recording species activity at different sites, Discover Life aims to assess how species respond to important environmental variables. The moth party will end at midnight.

This event is free and open to the public. For more information about this and other events, please visit www.highlandsbiological.org or call (828) 526-2221.

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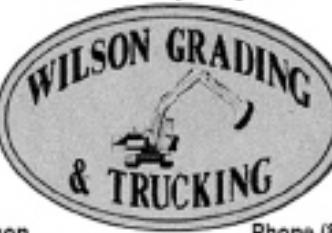


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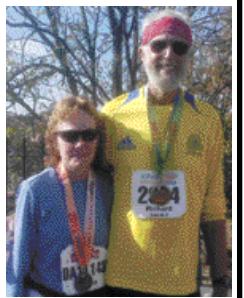
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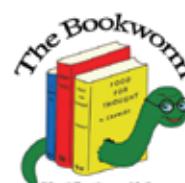
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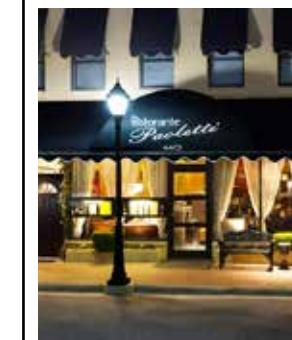
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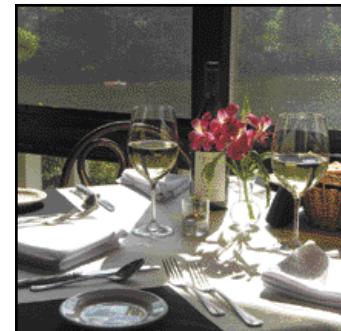


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