Town considering ‘connectivity options’; passes budget

Better connectivity is on everyone’s mind in Highlands. The town has plans to expand fiber throughout town and though providing Wi-Fi in the downtown business district didn’t make the 2015-2016 budget, the board is open to expanding options for citizens and visitors.

At the Thursday, June 18 Town Board meeting, Matt Shuler, MIS/GIS director, reported that the town has retrieved the contract it signed with Verizon over a year ago which would have allowed the company to extend the Big Bear Pen tower.

The idea was to expand coverage, but turns out the “job” was more like a placeholder for Verizon who wasn’t ready to move forward with the project – and in fact never returned a signed contract to the town.

However, Thursday night commissioners learned Verizon was in the process of creating a

Sheriff Dept. adds charges to list against Conley/Jeter

Before officers with the Macon County Sheriff’s Department encountered Adam Conley and Kathryn Jeter on the grounds of South Macon Elementary School on June 4, dispatch received a call regarding shots fired in the community that was later determined to involve the couple.

Conley and Jeter were arrested earlier this month after a confrontation with deputies that resulted in the pair being tazed five times between the two of them. Charges pending against the pair include 1st degree murder and assault on a government official. Both are still in custody, Conley under a $3 million bond and Jeter under a $1 million bond.

Just before 5 a.m., about a half an hour before law enforcement encountered Conley and Jeter at South Macon School, Macon County dispatch received a call

Playhouse season opens with ‘Anything Goes’

Get your toes ready, Highlands, because they are about to be tapping! The Highlands Playhouse will present the smash hit musical, Anything Goes, June 25-July 11. The farcical romp was written in 1934 and contains classic songs by the legendary Cole Porter. The musical has had numerous successful revivals on Broadway, including a recent smash return in 2011 when it won the Tony Award for Best Revival of a Musical.

Anything Goes takes audience on a voyage aboard the SS American, a luxury cruise ship. Passengers on the boat include a

Connections remembered at Reese reunion

Go to any family reunion in Highlands and you are likely to see someone from every family tree in town.

Zoellner, Lamb, Potts, Tallent, Crunkleton, Richards ....

Such was the case this past Saturday when about 40 “family” members turned out for the Reese family reunion at the Highlands Civic Center.

The two oldest people attending the annual Reese reunion this year were Nona Reese, 97 and Doris Potts, 92.

Family reunions, have a way of erasing time, as faces lined with

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The countdown is on ...

The opening date for the pool has been a big question. My response: it will be open within days. Here is where the project stands now:

The pool cover arrived on site May 21. Dynadome, the manufacturer of the cover, sent a full cadre of engineers and workers to assemble the pool building. The plan that was developed by the town and agreed to by the contractor was to quickly assemble the structure, put the cover into the open position and start outdoor swimming for the summer. The contractor would then return to the site after Labor Day to finish the installation. The county inspectors also agreed to the plan. If all had gone as planned, by the middle of June, or a little later, the pool would have been open and the cover would be partially operational.

When the Dynadome engineers arrived on site they expressed strong concerns about the proposed plan. I confess that I was one of the originators of the plan and thought there would be no problems. But, the Dynadome engineers insisted that the pool cover should be fully operational to where it could be closed quickly in case of bad weather. Their concerns were heightened given the high winds of the plateau that could get into the open interior space and lift the entire structure off its foundation. The company always recommends that the cover be in the closed position when it is not in use. Electric motors have to be operational to close the cover.

Dynadome also stressed that if the town insisted on leaving the cover in the open position all summer, their warranty and liability provisions would no longer be in effect. The company has been very cooperative, as has been the contractor, Lupoli Construction. Both companies recommended moving ahead as fast as possible to fully install and complete the pool project. Also, both companies promised to use as many workers as possible to shorten the completion time.

The decision was made at the first of June to fully finish the pool even though it would take a few weeks longer than the original schedule for summer swimming. The good news is that when the pool does open, the contractor will be finished and off site, and the pool will be fully operational.

Dynadome and contractor have been working long days using as many workers that they can get on the site. The back recreation parking lot has been filled with trucks every day. The pool completion is within days. It looks great, and I believe the pool will be a popular year-round recreation venue.

When I get the word that the pool has passed final inspection, I will let everyone know the exact opening time.

I want to thank everyone for their understanding a patience. I especially appreciate the members of our youth swim team, the great and wonderful Hurricanes.

No joke, I have my new Hydro Skin bathing suit! See you at the pool.

---

**Letters**

Website not up to date, but Nature Center is great

Dear Editor,

We just finished a family reunion with six children ages 1 to 4. Be sure to ut the water feature in K-H Founders Park on your list of fun things for your grands to do. Everyone loved playing in the water Sunday afternoon, even the parents go in the act going through the fountain sprays with the little ones. All decided this was the “bestist, funniest thing to do! A HUGE thanks you to all who put this feature in our new park. If you haven’t toured the new bathroom, go, you do! One of the adults said it was the fanciest facility he had been in and looked like one you’d find in an upscale bar!

Dear Editor,

For nearly 10 years my family and I have come to Highlands in the summer, and one of our favorite places to visit has always been the Nature Center. As a retired professor of biology and museum curator, I have always been very impressed with the educational content of their displays and their public programs.

However, during our recent visit I was, for the first time ever, extremely disappointed. In the past the Nature Center has been a wonderful example of a small science museum, but now it felt like a messy kindergarten classroom. The displays seemed arbitrarily arranged and cluttered, and the live animal cages were filthy and neglected. Children’s backpacks were also strewn across the floor.

Oddly however, the museum felt barren as many displays were either removed, or the front of the building have been removed and replaced with uninteresting shrubs and grasses for some strange reason.

We attended the animal feeding program, our usual favorite, but were saddened by the quality of the information as compared to the excellence that came before. Visitors to museums should come away educated, not merely entertained. On this trip my grandchildren were able to recall what they saw, but during previous visits they were also able to recall what they learned.

We have since learned that the Nature Center is now under the management of the Highlands Biological Foundation, and that the former director has been placed in charge of outreach programs during the school year only. I do not know what prompted this decision, but it was definitely a mistake. Their leadership would be wise to remember the adage, “If it ain’t broke, don’t fix it.”

Donald M. Murray, PhD.
Tallahassee, FL

What happened to the Nature Center?

Car show rule was frivolous

Dear Editor,

At 68 years of age, I have attended my fair share of car shows. What has never happened is I was asked by a staff member to remove my “for sale” sign from the right side window and place it either on the seat or the dash area. What’s the difference where the sign is placed is beyond me. At registration, there was no mention regarding the placement of signs such as mine. I noticed no less than 25 or so signs on various vehicles. I am of the mind car shows are obviously
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**LETTERS continued from page 2**

... held to raise money for whatever charity or such. Car shows bring enthusiasts together to discuss, learn about, and yes, buy and sell cars. This is what we do. Probably a sizeable percentage of people at these events are there solely for the purpose of buying a car. I just think restricting the placement of signs is not a good idea to attract potential participants, who are the backbone of said events. Hopefully, next year this frivolous rule will not come into play as it is annoying and makes no sense.

Duke De Luca

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**Clarification**

Regarding the article “Local Quilter Goes National” in last week’s edition, the winning quilt made by Liz View was not her creation, but a pattern in “Freedom Isn’t Free by Rita’s Best Designs.”

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**Obituary**

**Sammie Laverne Gunter**

Sammie Laverne Gunter, born October 10, 1950; died on June 16, 2015 from depression and a broken heart. He was predeceased by his father Elvin Gunter and the loves of his life Dave and Katie.

Sam left behind his family: mother, Ruth Gunter; Partner, Kevin Pickett; Brother Don Gunter (Mary Jim); sisters, Carol Hall (Frank), Joyce McLean (Cecil), Mary Ann Gunter (Mark), as well as many nieces and nephews who lovingly called him “Boompa.”

He will be greatly missed by all of his friends in Atlanta and Highlands.

A funeral service was held Saturday, June 20, 2015 at the Highlands United Methodist Church with Rev. Paul Christy and Jennifer Forrester officiating. Burial will follow in Highlands Memorial Park. The family will greet friends following the graveside service.

Memorial donations may be made to Cashiers-Highlands Humane Society, PO Box 638, Cashiers, NC 28717.

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

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life dissolve into smiles and eyes brighten at memories shared.

Nona Poindexter married Bob Reese, son of Walter and Anna Cabe.

Doris is the daughter of Gene and Alice Reese Potts, of the William Thomas and Martha Ammons Potts line.

The Reese family are descendants of Johann Thomas Reis (the name was later changed to Reese) who came to America from Schrecksbach, Germany. He was one of many Hessians hired by the British to fight against the American patriots in the Revolutionary War.

He and his two brothers, who legend says were captured by George Washington in Pennsylvania, remained in America after the war. They initially stayed in Pennsylvania but eventually moved farther south to Virginia and later North Carolina.

Along the way one brother and his descendant, Robert Walter, Sr., ended up in Franklin.

It was his descendant, Robert W. Reese, Alice Reese’s father, who was hired by the Ravenel family from Charleston, SC, to paint the First Presbyterian Church on Main Street in Highlands.

He decided he liked Highlands better than Franklin and so moved his family here which is where Alice, the youngest of seven children, was born. She died in 1997, three weeks shy of her 99th birthday.

Doris Potts is the daughter of Samuel Eugene Potts and Alice Reese. They had nine children – Doris was the third born. Unmarried, and need of kidney dialysis, she now lives with her sister Betty in Lawrenceville, GA. Betty is number six in the line of nine.

Though much has changed in Highlands over the decades, Doris said not all change is bad and no matter what, Highlands is still home and always will be.

The reunion is always held the Saturday before Father’s Day in June of each year.

– Kim Lewicki

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Free patriotic concert at 1st Pres on July 4

First Presbyterian Church will present its annual patriotic concert at 8 pm on Saturday, July 4. The free concert will last approximately 50 minutes, ensuring plenty of time to watch the town’s firework display. Featured will be the Highlands Male Chorus under the direction of Joe Powell, with Carol Guise as accompanist; Larry Black, trumpet; and Angie Jenkins, pipe organ. The concert will take place rain or shine!
...CHARGES continued from page 1

from a residence on Union School Road, near South Macon Elementary School.

Jean Dreml, who placed the initial call to dispatch, reported that two subjects were in her driveway shooting at one another. Deputies Audrey Parrish, Sgt. Mike Langley, Corporal Jonathan Philips, Deputy Tony Hopkins, and Deputy Blake Buchanan responded to the call. Sgt. Langley spoke with Dreml while the other deputies searched the premises in attempt to locate the subjects. The deputies were unable to locate the individuals, but as a precautionary measure, Deputy Parrish remained in the area to watch for the subjects and listen for additional gunfire.

Because Deputy Parrish elected to stay in the area to further investigate the call from Dreml, when the 911 call was placed at 5:18 by the Macon County Bus Garage reporting to suspects on campus with weapons, Parrish was able to respond within one minute.

The gunshots that initiated the first 911 call at 4:40 a.m. from the residence on Union Road were not the only shots heard by residents in the community leading up to the incident at South Macon.

According to police reports, after talking with residents of the Dreml residence, they first heard gun shots around 11 p.m. on June 3. They reported that the gun shots sounded as if they were coming from the woods near the home. They said they continued to hear sporadic gun shots until 2 a.m.

During the investigation into the gunshots, Detective A.J. Corbin also interviewed Adam Conley’s parents, who live in near the Union Road residence. They, too, reported hearing gun shots the same times as the Dremels. The Conleys reported that they gunshots they heard sounded like they were coming from their son’s residence located beside them on Carl Henson Road.

The gunshots that were heard in the community prior to the incident at South Macon Elementary allowed law enforcement officers to gain access to Conley’s residence and vehicle, where an arsenal of knives and guns were seized. The weapons confiscated during a search of Conley’s property were added to the five guns, two knives and ammunition that were found in the possession of Conley and Jeter at South Macon Elementary.

Jeter has appeared in court before a judge, and in doing so, she waived her right to counsel and stated that she wanted to represent herself. Conley was given a court appointed attorney. A judge ordered both Conley and Jeter to receive a psychiatric evaluation. The couple is expected to make their next court appearance in Macon County on August 13.
You already know I might be just a few clicks off center when it comes to my thinking. Years ago, I had a police captain say to me, “Fred, I’m sure glad you’re on our side.” I think he recognized I’m potentially dangerous…and more than a little different. To prove my point, I’m now ready to inform the world that I recycle bread ties. Call me at 1-800-got-ties if you do the same. And keep reading ’cause I’m about to scare the heebie-jeebies out of you. (I just love to do stuff like this.)

Not only do I recycle my bread ties, I catalog and categorize them into groups. Metal ties over here in this little baggie and plastic ties over there. And a special place for those stupid little square dinghies (not the boat) that don’t work most of the time and break after opening the third time. I wanted to categorize my collection by color but the lil missus put her foot down.

And I hate to bring this up but you know I must. Remember way back in September of 1982 when an unknown lunatic started poisoning our food? Suddenly the world realized the vulnerability of unsealed food sitting on the shelves in grocery stores. The country panicked. And do you remember the crazy person that poisoned TYLENOL capsules laced with potassium cyanide killing seven people. He or she was never caught.

The potential for killing innocent people was so overwhelming that almost overnight, food was pulled from grocery shelves for rescaling. Now almost everything is sealed. I still can’t get the friggin’ peanut butter seal off the top of the jar. While virtually every single product on grocery store shelves is protected with a seal, bread products are not. How can that be? How did the bread industry escape being forced to seal their products?

The murderer who laced the Tylenol capsules with potassium cyanide is still out there and can walk into any grocery in America, untie a loaf or loaves of bread and poison it, then place it back on the shelf. The thought is over-the-top scary. What amazes me is that all it would take is a simple plastic heat sealer by bread manufacturers to make bread safe. Why not heat seal the plastic then secure it with a bread tie? TA DA….logic reigns!

And taking this idea one step further, a bread manufacturer could, at little cost, seal their product, patent it and get a heads up on the industry. Does someone have to die to get this done? Finally, here’s my political logic for this week. To the chagrin of many Democrats, President Bill Clinton wants to know the very minute that Bruce Jenner is officially declared a woman.
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The Queen of Bluegrass, Rhonda Vincent, to perform June 28 at PAC

The Queen of Bluegrass, Rhonda Vincent will play in concert at the Highlands Performing Arts Center on Sunday, June 28, 7pm.

Bluegrass vocalist and fiddler Rhonda Vincent began her professional music career at the age of five, playing drums with her family's band, the Sally Mountain Show. She picked up the mandolin at eight and the fiddle at 10 performing with the family band at festivals on weekends. After appearing on TNN's nationally televised You Can Be a Star program in her mid-20s, Vincent struck out on her own, singing with the Grand Ole Opry's Jim Ed Brown, eventually leading to a deal with Rebel Records. Her work with Brown and her Rebel recordings caught the attention of Giant Nashville's president, James Stroud, who signed Vincent to record two contemporary country albums. After her time at Giant, she moved to Rounder Records, and demonstrated her passion for the traditional music she grew up with, on Back Home Again.

Rhonda Vincent and her band the Rage have gained popularity at bluegrass festivals since their formation, playing hard-driving, high-energy contemporary bluegrass music. Her album, The Storm Still Rages, was nominated for seven IBMA awards, including Female Vocalist of the Year, while fiddle player Michael Cleveland and banjo player Tom Adams earned nominations in their respective instrumental categories. A three-year unbroken string of IBMA Female Vocalist of the Year awards led to the release of One Step Ahead, other tours, and other well-deserved showering of critical praise.

Rhonda Vincent & The Rage in concert on Sunday, June 28 at 7pm. Tickets are available online: highlandspac.org or by calling 828.526.9047.
new contract to extend Big Bear Pen Tower which will be presented at the July Town Board meeting.

Shuler said the contract will include a hard “on air” date, which has been verbally set for the third quarter of 2017; and will include a two-year abatement of the lease price which has been added back into the contract.

In addition, commissioners heard a proposal from US Cellular, who some months ago requested permission to erect a tower in town near the police station in the form of flag poles.

When it looked like Verizon wasn’t going to move forward, the town offered the Big Bear Pen tower extension scenario to US Cellular – thinking an extended pole on Big Bear Pen would be better than a flag pole in town, but US Cellular wasn’t interested though commissioners want to know why not.

Instead, it is requesting permission to erect an 80-ft. monopole behind the EMS building between Oak and Maple streets.

Though the tower will definitely be seen from many vantage points in town, it would allow for the co-location of other carriers – like Verizon and AT&T – which would mean better coverage for citizens and visitors as well as rental income to the town.

It’s likely, should the town OK the US Cellular tower, it wants, like Verizon, a lease abatement in lieu of construction costs.

Chuck Burton, US Cellular representative said it does have a tower on Satulah Mountain but with everyone accessing unlimited data plans the terminal is overloaded...
When it comes to Highlands’ real estate, a little charm goes a long way. Home buyers looking for a second home in our area are looking for a space where they can get away and one where they can feel comfortable at the same time. This is where charm comes in, making a space feel comfortable, cozy and attractive all at once. If your Highlands home oozes charm you will undoubtedly attract a buyer sooner than later.

How can you add charm to your home? Molding and trim can be a great place to start. Adding molding to trim along the ceiling in a room can immediately make a home appear more finished. Whether this remains crisp or intricate should fall in line with the architecture and style of your home. Likewise, new lighting fixtures can change the feel of a room.

Hardwood floors are a top choice for buyers, as they add warmth and coziness. Homeowners have a lot of options when choosing flooring for a home. While many options, including laminate, tile, and carpet are great for certain areas, when it comes to main living areas people love hardwood floors.

If you are remodeling your home with an eye on resale value consider installing a hardwood floor. The price varies depending on the variety of wood you choose but the end result is a durable, easy to clean floor that is appealing to the eye and can be refinished over time.

There are many small changes that can add charm to a home. Take a good look around as well as online to determine ways that you can improve the look and feel of different spaces within. In looking at your options, please remember that a second homeowner in Highlands is usually looking for something that feels very different than they have in their primary home. Updated is always good, but the attention to mountain charm makes all the difference. Home improvements can help preserve real estate investments and choices matter when it comes time to sell. Taking the time to make your home stand out will pay off in the long run.

Lynn Kimball has over 41 years of real estate experience, with 30 years serving the Highlands Cashiers area. She has gained Emeritus Status with the National Association of Realtors and is currently serving as Vice President for the Highlands Cashiers Board of Realtors. 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 her 2334 Cashiers Road location across from Highlands Falls Country Club. Lynn Kimball may be reached at 828-421-8193 or by email at Lynn@MeadowsMt-nRealty.com
ed. He said being closer to town would help with connectivity.

Verizon’s main tower is on Flat Mountain and it, too, is experiencing terminal overload.

Using site plans and photos of the town’s bucket truck that extends to 76 ft., Shuler illustrated what a 80-ft. pole would look like from various vantage points in town. “An 80-ft. pole would definitely be visible,” he said.

At Thursday night’s meeting, US Cellular sought approval of the concept and if approved would return in a few months with site plans and a contract.

Commissioners OK’d the concept only and will discuss it further when US Cellular returns.

Both commissioners Brian Shiehler and Donnie Calloway have reservations about the project.

They said they would like to know why the extension on Big Bear Pen isn’t an option for US Cellular.

Following the two public hearings Thursday night, commissioners unanimously approved the 2015-’16 budget and amendments to the tree ordinance.

2015-’16 Budget

As presented, the overall FY 2015-’16 budget has revenues and expenditures totaling $13,787,317.

The Ad Valorem tax rate was increased from its current .150 per $100 valuation to .164 per $100 valuation. The additional .014 will enable the town to maintain a revenue neutral tax rate in light of the 7.5% drop in property valuation resulting from the recently completed Macon County property revaluation.

It also increased the Highlands Volunteer Fire Department tax rate of .009 per $100 valuation to $.01 per $100 valuation for the same reason.

The minimum charge for electrical service remains unchanged at $20.31 per month for residential customers and $22.67 (single phase) or $32.69 (three phase) per month for commercial users.

The minimum charge for

• See OPTIONS page 18
hit nightclub singer/evangelist, a gangster disguised as a minister, a buffoonish British Lord, and a young couple – newly in love.

This comedy will have you rolling in the aisles, as you encounter a slew of larger than life characters, and talent that the town of Highlands will be buzzing about for weeks!

“We have been committed over the past few years to presenting classics of the Broadway cannon. Anything Goes is perhaps one of the most beloved musicals of the past 100 years. The audiences in Highlands are going to love it,” says Artistic Director Bill Patti.

The actors this season are a mix of familiar faces and talented newcomers. Playing Reno Sweeney is Playhouse sweetheart Heidi Spoon – who has lit up the stage as Miss Hannigan in Annie, Violet in 9 to 5, and Mona Kent in Dames at Sea. In addition to a long resume of major theatrical experience (including Broadway) and her work at the Playhouse, Spoon teaches dance at Rabun Gap-Nacoochee School and Betsy’s School of Dance in Franklin.

Patti, the Playhouse Artistic Director, will take the stage for only the second time in his six years in Highlands – this time as Moonface Martin the comical gangster.

In Highlands for the first time is Broadway veteran Mark Chmiel. Chmiel has charmed Broadway audiences in both the 1987 revival of Anything Goes, as well as the 1994 revival of Damn Yankees. His credits are numerous, and he will have the audiences in stitches with his portrayal of the goony Lord Evelyn Oakleigh.

Talented actors from across the United States make up the rest of the ensemble, and their voices will have you begging for more.

“I can’t think of a more enjoyable way to spend a summer evening than watching this experience cast of veteran theatre professionals work alongside the next generation of American theater superstars. These performers have incredible talent – you have to see it to believe it,” Patti said, “We hired many of these actors out of New York. They are coming to Highlands with major national credits, and I assure you, we hired the best of the best.”

Individual tickets are $32.50 for adults and $15 for children 12 and under. Show times are Tuesday - Saturday at 8 pm and Sunday Matinees at 2 pm. For additional information or to order tickets, call the Box Office at 828-526-2695 or email highlandsplayhouse@yahoo.com.
Thurs., June 25
• The Highlands Biological Foundation presents "A Botanical Exploration of Blue Valley" from 10 am to 3 pm. The cost is $15 for members, $35 for new members. For information call 828-526-2221.

Fri., Sat., June 26 - 28
• At TJ Bailey for Men, Bugatchi Trunk Show. The kickoff is June 26 at 5 pm. Prizes, discounts, and free appetizers and wine.

Friday, June 26
• At the Rec Park, Ron Cromer will present “Snakes Alive!” at 2:30 pm with a lecture dispelling common myths about snakes and an opportunity for attendees to hold the snakes. This program is sponsored by the Hudson Library but will take place at the Highlands Civic Center.

The Literacy Council of Highlands presents Randall Atcheson in concert at the Martin Lipscomb Performing Arts Center from 4-6 pm. General Admission is $50. Reception with the Atchesons following the concert. For tickets call 828-526-0863.

• Live music in K-H Founders Park from 6-8 pm.

Sunday, June 28
• A WCU Faculty Showcase Concert at the First Presbyterian Church in Highlands at 3 p.m. in the church sanctuary. Featured will be Mario Gaetano, marimba; Will Peebles, bassoon; Michael Lancaster, baritone; and Lyn Burkett, piano. The concert is free.

• At the Performing Arts Center Bluegrass by the Queen of Bluegrass, Rhonda Vincent and the Rage at 7 p.m. Tickets for all events are available online: highlandspac.org or by calling 828.526.9047 Highlands Performing Arts Center, 507 Chestnut Street.

Tuesday, June 30
• The Village Nature Series (VNS) is a free speaker series at The Village Green Commons in Cashiers co-hosted by H-C Land Trust and The Village Green. Join us on as Bill Lea as he leads an “open dialogue” style talk about bear habitat, behavior, history, and other interesting facts. VNS brings experts in their field of natural or cultural heritage to Cashiers one evening a month throughout the summer.

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the summer. No reservations are necessary, everyone is welcome, rain or shine. Programs begin at 5:30 PM and usually last about an hour. All programs are family friendly.

- HCCMF free Bach at Bucks with Serafin.
- The Hudson Library’s Book Club Topic of the Month is “Parks, Wilderness, and the Public Lands” and a book discussion on Bill Bryson’s “A Walk in the Woods” at 10am.
- Village Nature Series: “The Bear Necessities” – an open dialogue about bears with Bill Lea. Bill is a nationally recognized nature photographer and author. More than 7,000 of Bill’s photos have been published. No reservations are necessary, everyone is welcome, rain or shine. Programs begin at 5:30 PM and usually last about an hour. All programs are family friendly.

**Thurs., July 2**
- First Zahner Lecture of the 2015 season at the Highlands Nature Center from 6:30-7:30p. It’s free.

**Sat., July 4**
- A 5K Run/Walk on Saturday at 8 AM at the Preserve at Rock Creek. Registration is at 7 a.m. All of the proceeds will benefit local charities and we will have refreshments and a bluegrass band after the race. Fees are $20 through June 26 and $25 on race day. For more info or to register go to www.preservetockcreekNC.com.
- Highlands Rotary BBQ is moving to K-H Founder’s Park, 11a-2p. Pulled pork & chicken sandwiches. Plates include slaw, drink, beans, chips and a cookie for $8. Family games will take place as usual at the ballfield, at 9A. MAMA helicopter will land at noon, and the Fire Truck will also be there. BBQ plates will be available. The Duck Derby starts at 1p at Mill Creek. Purchase ducks at the Visitor Center.
- First Presbyterian Church annual patriotic concert at 8pm on Saturday. The free concert will last approximately 50 minutes, ensuring plenty of time to watch the fireworks display. The Highlands Male Chorus with Joe Powell and Carol Guise as accompanist; Larry Black, trumpet; and Angie Jenkins, pipe organ. Come dressed as you are. In the event the fireworks display is cancelled due to rain, the concert will still take place.

**Sat., July 5**
- At Cliffsedge Lake, Live Birds of Prey with Michael Skinner with the Balsam Mountain Trust at 11 a.m. Program on the patio at Cliffsedge Lake. No pets allowed. Please arrive 15 minutes prior to program. Free by $4/vehicle admission to recreation area.
- HCCMF free family concert and ice cream social at Kilwin’s.

**Wed., July 8**
- Free Interlude Concert Series at the Episcopal Church at 2 p.m. with Robert Henry, piano.

**Saturday, July 11**
- Volunteer Get Free Beer! Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust Stewardship Coordinator, Kyle Pursel, will lead a volunteer work day at either Satulah Mountain Preserve or Kelsey Trail. Thanks to a partnership with Highlands’ Satulah Mountain Brewing Company, afterwards volunteers will enjoy a free beer at the brewery. For more contact Kyle at stew.hitrust@earthlink.net or 526-1111.

**Tues., July 14**
- HCCMF’s Interlude with Norman Krieger.
- Free Interlude Concert Series at the Presbyterian Church at 2 p.m. Presented jointly by Highlands Chamber Music Festival and First Presbyterian Church “The Great Romantics” with music by Chopin and Brahms.

**Wed., July 15**
- Free Interlude Concert Series at the Presbyterian Church at 2 p.m. St. Paul’s Chancel Choir, Atlanta - directed by Trey Clegg.

**Wed., August 5**
- Free Interlude Concert Series at the Episcopal Church at 2 p.m. Helen Kim, violin Robert Henry, piano.

**Tues., July 21**
- Eco Tour: “Heart of Horse Cove.” Join Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust as we explore Horse Cove. Many have traveled the hairpin picturesque drive down to the Cove but few know about the rich natural and cultural history of this charming valley. Come hear its stories. $35 new friends includes the guided hike, lunch on the trail and a year membership to Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust! HCLT members: $10. Reservations required: Julie.hitrust@earthlink.net, 526-1111.

**Wed., July 22**
- Free Interlude Concert Series at the Episcopal Church at 2 p.m. Christina Smith, flute Robert Henry, piano.

**Sat., July 25**
- At Cliffsedge Lake, Live Birds of Prey with Michael Skinner with the Balsam Mountain Trust at 11 a.m. Program on the patio at Cliffsedge Lake. No pets allowed. Please arrive 15 minutes prior to program. Free by $4/vehicle admission to recreation area.

**Tuesday, July 28**
- Village Nature Series: “Get Acquainted with the Natives” – a colorful discussion about native plants and pollinators with Susan Sunflower. Susan is a Master Gardener and member of the Native Plant Society and Western North Carolina Botany Alliance. She is the founder of a habitat stewardship outreach and educational group, Transylvania Naturally, to promote native habitats for endangered, indigenous pollinators such as certain bees and monarch butterflies. No reservations are necessary, everyone is welcome, rain or shine. Programs begin at 5:30 PM and usually last about an hour.

**Wed., July 29**
- Free Interlude Concert Series at the Presbyterian Church at 2 p.m. St. Paul’s Chamber Choir, Atlanta - directed by Trey Clegg.

**Tues., August 4**
- Free Interlude Concert Series at the Episcopal Church at 2 p.m. Helen Kim, violin Robert Henry, piano.

**Thurs., August 6**
- Free Interlude Concert Series at the Presbyterian Church at 2 p.m. Norman Krieger, piano.
Are you part of a movement or a museum?

By Pastor Gary Hewins
Community Bible Church

M y wife and I and some wonderful friends had the privilege of touring the WWII museum in New Orleans this past weekend. As a museum it is extraordinary. I highly recommend you attend with as many young people as possible.

Thinking that I had a pretty good working knowledge of WWII, I was surprised by a very important point regarding young people as possible. I highly recommend you attend with as many young people as possible.

The WWII museum is a success because, as a museum, it informs us of a movement. Movements change history. Museums report it. Movements take sweat. Museums are air-conditioned. Movements cost lives. Museums cost money. People go to museums. Movements seek out people. The WWII museum is an outstanding monument to bravery, sacrifice and unity of purpose, but only because it chronicles a movement.

With this in mind, here are some questions worth pondering. Is your life at present, more like a movement or a museum? Is the church you attend more like a movement or a museum? If you do not attend church it is likely because you at one time attended a semi-spiritual museum. If someone approached you today and asked what your mission in life is, could you clearly and quickly answer the question? If so, does your mission cost you something? Are you ok with paying that price? What breaks your heart? What are you doing about it? Are you living in the past or making something happen this afternoon? Have you retired from work and from actually living? Now is the time to dream.

Jesus wouldn’t mind an occasional visit to a museum. After all the Old Testament is basically about Christ and it is much like a museum. As nice as that is, Jesus is far more fired up about movements. He moves mountains of impossibility and he moves upon a hardened human heart. Christ is all about movement, action, sacrifice, sweat, selfishness, bravery and getting off the porch.

Spiritually speaking, I encourage those without purpose to get off your backside and find your calling in life. God has placed an irrevocable calling on your life. It is crucial that we enjoy that confidence and purpose. Get involved in a biblically centered church that is moving forward and resisting the status quo. Christ has a mission for you. Seek him out and develop an intimate friendship with God. You must be “born again”.

Find a pastor or mature believer to help you into the reality of a new life in Christ. The Lord loves you and will provide for you, instruct you, fortify you and make you strong, though you may feel weak. There is evil out there, are you ready for battle? Museum or movement? Which is it?
H-C Chamber Music Festival opens with a bang starting Sunday

The Highlands-Cashiers Chamber Music Festival launches its 34th season with “Sublime Beauty: The American Landscape” a pair of performances by the Serafin String Quartet at 7:30 P.M. Tuesday, June 30, at Buck’s Coffee Café on Main Street in Highlands. This informal concert is an opportunity to enjoy these brilliant musicians while enjoying a bracing refreshment.

The Highlands-Cashiers Chamber Music Festival is hosting a free family/children’s concert at 3 P.M. Tuesday, July 14, at First Presbyterian Church in Highlands. Everyone is invited to attend the performance of “Babar the Elephant,” with solo piano music by Poulenc – narrated by Lois Reitzes, the legendary voice of classical radio in Atlanta with pianist Elena Cholakova.

After the 30-minute program at the First Presbyterian Church in Highlands, an ice cream social in Coleman Hall by Kilwins. This program is co-sponsored by the Highlands Community Child Development Center.

The festival returns to First Presbyterian Church in Highlands at 2 P.M. Wednesday, July 15, in its first collaboration with the church’s Interlude Series. World-renowned pianist Norman Krieger will perform the romantic compositions of Chopin and Brahms. The concert is free and open to the public.

“This summer we welcome back the Eroica Trio and the Gary Motley Trio, performing together for the first time; violinist William Preucil and his talented daughter Alexandra; the Vega Quartet, whom we have watched develop into such a wonderfully mature group; and David and Julie Coucheron, brother and sister violin/piano duo who have wowed us the last two seasons,” says Festival Artistic Director William Ransom. “New to us this year are the Ariel Quartet who are one of the top young Quartets in the world, -- originally from Israel; violinist Andres Cardenes, the former Concertmaster of the Pitsburg Symphony; and I am absolutely thrilled that we will present the US debut of Russian violinist Roman Kim, perhaps the most outrageously talented violinist I have ever heard -- he is being touted as “the new Paganini!” This is quite a coup for the Festival.”

Throughout the Highlands-Cashiers Chamber Music Festival’s 34th season, which stretches from July 5 to August 9, concerts will be held at 6 PM. Fridays at the Martin-Lipscomb Performing Arts Center in Highlands and repeated at 5 PM. Saturdays at the Albert Carlton-Cashiers Community Library in Cashiers. Sunday concerts will be staged at 5 PM. at the Performing Arts Center in Highlands and repeated at 5 P.M. Mondays at the Cashiers Community Library.

If you can’t attend, you can catch a free performance by the Serafin String Quartet at 7:30 P.M. Tuesday, June 30, at Buck’s Coffee Café on Main Street in Highlands. This informal concert is an opportunity to enjoy these brilliant musicians while enjoying a bracing refreshment.

The Serafin String Quartet has won critical acclaim for its precise technique and undiluted musicianship. New York Concert Review has lauded the Quartet’s live performances for “ensemble and intonation ... above reproach,” and described their Debussy as “a shapely, finely conceived account” and their Haydn as having “rhythmic vitality and taut ensemble...”

The Bascom concerts will be freighted with an additional layer of meaning as the quartet performs amidst the gallery’s masterpieces, including pieces from its Hudson River School collection.

The Sunday, June 28, performance will be preceded by a champagne reception, with a gourmet wine dinner at The Bascom at its conclusion. Cost is $213 per person.

The Monday, June 29, concert is book-ended by a champagne reception and art exhibition. Cost is $107 per person.

Seating at both performances is extremely limited. Call (828) 526-9020 for reservations and information.

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water and sewer service remains unchanged at $32 per month for residential customers and $42 per month for commercial users.
The minimum charge for residential trash pickup remains unchanged at $18.50 per month for residential customers.

Tree ordinance was amended to allow property owners in the commercial district and non-residential districts to remove dead trees without having to replace them. This was primarily in response the commercial property owners removing dead hemlocks.

− Kim Lewicki
The Highlands Police log entries from June 3. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor or public officials have been used.

**June 3**
- At 11 a.m., officers received a report of a worthless check August Produce when someone used a check on a closed account to make a purchase at August Produce.
- At noon, officers responded to a call about a burglary with forced entry at Wolfgang's Restaurant where the back door was kicked in. Damages are estimated at $100.

**June 5**
- At 12:15 p.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident on Talley Road.
- At 5:50 p.m., officers responded to a hit and run accident on Spring Street.
- At 9:37 p.m., Derek Michael Bryson, 29, of Highlands, was arrested for receiving and the possession of stolen property.

**June 7**
- At 3 p.m., officers responded to a non forced burglary with larceny at a resident at Highlands Country Club.
- At 8 a.m., officers received a call about someone using a worthless check for a purchase at the Farmers Market.
- At 1:10 p.m., officers responded to a breaking and centering with larceny from a motor vehicle where a wallet was removed from the door pocket.

**June 10**
- At 1:30 p.m., Shannon Kathleen McGaha, 26, of Franklin, was arrested for DWI when she was pulled over for a stop sign violation and failing to turn as directed by markers.
- At 4:25 p.m., officers received a bear complaint from a resident on Smallwood Ave.

**June 12**
- At 8 a.m., officers received a call about larceny from Highlands School where $40 computer software was taken.
- At 5:15 p.m., officers responded to a one-vehicle accident on NC 106.
- At 10:30 a.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident on Wyanoak Road.

**June 14**
- At 4:25 p.m., officers received a call about a non forced burglary with larceny at a resident at Highlands Country Club.

**June 16**
- At 8 a.m., officers received a call about a non forced burglary with larceny at a resident at Highlands Country Club.

**June 17**
- At 3 p.m., officers responded to a non forced burglary with larceny at a resident at Highlands Country Club.

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**Stranded motorist arrested for DWI, trafficking and more**

When Highlands Police officers Philips and Stamey came across a vehicle in a ditch at Horse Cove and Bowery roads noon on Saturday, June 20, they expected to find a driver in distress.

Instead they nabbed Rebekah Chrysteen Keenan, 23, of the Clemson/Greenville area, who was under the influence of alcohol and possibly drugs.

According to Highlands Police Chief Bill Harrell, Keenan said she was lost and trying to make her way back home from a “pumpkinfest” possibly somewhere in Jackson County.

Once the officers noticed she was impaired, they took her into custody and while doing an inventory search of the vehicle, saw evidence of drug residue.

They applied for a search warrant to search the remainder of the vehicle and with the help of Canine Ruby found 300 Ecstasy pills, prescription pills, marijuana and meth residue, drug paraphernalia including rolling papers, scales, and a store-bought meth test kit, as well as $600 in cash – all of which were hidden in the vehicle.

Keenan has been charged with DWI, trafficking, maintaining a vehicle for trafficking and possession of drug paraphernalia.

She is being held in the Macon County Detention Center on a $250,000 bond.

In collaboration with the search warrant, EMS was called to take a blood sample to determine if besides alcohol there were drugs in her system.

Her vehicle has been seized. The case is still under investigation.
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Janitorial Associate (Highlands) Immediate need for reliable part-time experienced cleaning associate at a local business. Please respond by email (jramsaur@stmoritzgroup.com) with full name, telephone number and a brief description of commercial janitorial experience or call 919-780-9232. (6/18)

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Skyline Lodge now hiring a line cook and a housekeeper. Call 828-526-2121 or pick up an application at the front desk. (5/21)

CNA, Med Aide, Housekeeper Needed for Chestnut Hill of Highlands Adult Care Home. Please apply at 24 Clubhouse Trail, Highlands, NC 28741. (6/18)

Volunteers Needed Food Pantry. Highlands 1-2 hours per month Sharon Giddens. 828-492-0558

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