

Highlands Newspaper

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Thurs., June 29, 2017

Eclipse Planning Committee prepares for onslaught

The Eclipse Planning Committee has been meeting for several weeks now trying to plan for the unpredictable – how many people will head for Highlands on Monday, August 21 to view the

total solar eclipse AND will Highlands be ready?

America will be treated to its first coast-to-coast total solar eclipse in nearly 100 years. It will also be the first total eclipse ex-

clusive to the U.S. since before the nation's founding in 1776. That's why it's being called the National Eclipse.

From Oregon to South Carolina, the eclipse will trace a 67-mile-

wide path of totality across the country. Millions of Americans will witness a once-in-a-lifetime event as the moon passes between the Earth and the sun and turns

•See ECLIPSE page 7

Upscale restaurant and new homes in the works

Highlands is growing.

New businesses are opening up, hotel/motels are on the rise and now questions concerning the future of Ruka's in Wright Square have finally been answered.

Monday night, Planning Board members got a first look at the Park on Main Restaurant -- the new restaurant that will be occupying Ruka's space.

It joins RLR Investments' Park on Main hotel at Main and 2nd streets and the adjoining hotel that will soon rise in the pit behind Wright Square.

The front of the building and roof will be expanded to include the area currently occupied by the three bump outs along the front, part of the back fenced off portion which will house a walk-

•UPSCALE page 3

Town pulls out stops for July 4th!



The Tuesday, July 4th celebration begins at 9 a.m. when the The Boy Scouts shoot off water rockets at Town Ballfield at 444 Hickory Street. After that the Rec Park team will host traditional field games for "kids" of all ages! The Town of Highlands Volunteer Fire Department will have its ladder truck on hand and the MAMA Helicopter will land around noon. All the while, the Highlands Rotary Club will be selling barbecue at the ballfield as well as at K-H Founders Park starting at 11 a.m. At 8 p.m., the First Presbyterian Church will host its annual Patriotic Concert in the sanctuary on Main Street. Come as you are. It's free and will be over before the fireworks start. Once it gets dark, the town will shoot off fireworks visible from all over town. Photo above was taken from K-H Founders Park.

Photo by Kim Lewicki

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Cougar sightings on the Bowery?

Though the USFS holds fast to its stance that cougars no longer exist in Western North Carolina, with alleged cougar sightings in the area, people are wondering if the USFS knows what it's talking about.

A couple of Sundays ago a resident on Split Rail Row in the Bowery (who requested to remain anonymous) sent an email out to neighbors in the area.

"This morning out my window a little after 7 a.m., I viewed what I believe to be a North Carolina cougar. I saw the animal very clearly for about one to two minutes, slowly strolling up the stone across from our driveway, and then finally into the brush.

"I often sit at this window in the morning to view the flowers in our garden around our front

•See COUGAR page 6

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• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• MAYOR ON DUTY •

Beware of 'The Downtown Dumpster Guy'

On an afternoon last week I had to stop my truck on the hill by the Playhouse on Oak Street.

A car with its trunk open was blocking the street. The driver was throwing a number of white trash bags into the large dumpster next to the sidewalk.

What concerned me was that the dumpster was already full and more trash bags would only exacerbate the problem. We all know the problem -- an overflowing dumpster is a prime target for bears.

I pulled my truck up next to the car, rolled down my window and asked the person if that was his dumpster? I was informed that it was a city dumpster. I responded that it was a leased commercial dumpster and that residential garbage was prohibited. I pointed to the new sign on the dumpster that clearly stated the same thing. The person responded they hadn't noticed the sign.

So, let me again stress that downtown merchants lease these dumpsters from the town. They are not intended for local residents to dump their household garbage.



Highlands Mayor
Patrick Taylor

The new signs on the dumpsters also have the NC General Statute number regarding illegal dumping.

I initiated the placement of these signs on the dumpsters after meeting with local merchants several months ago. Business people who rent the dumpsters expressed frustration over residents filling these dumpsters with residential garbage to the point businesses can't fully use the dumpsters; the dumpsters they pay to use. The new signage was a small way of addressing this problem.

The mayor is going to accept a new duty, "Downtown Dumpster Guy." If I



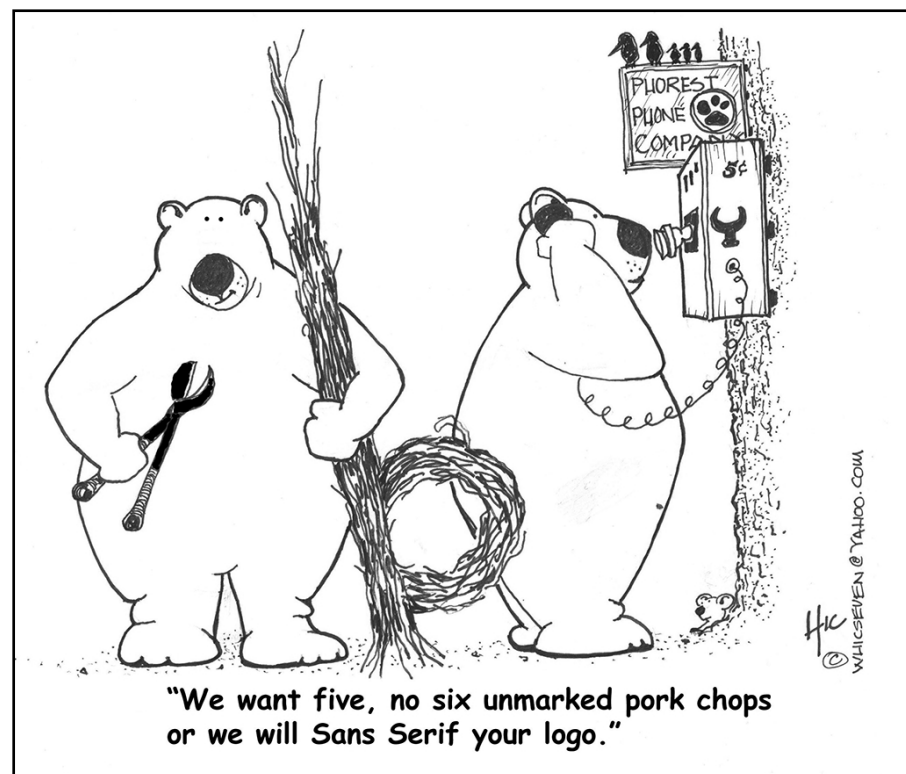
don't recognize someone throwing trash bags in a dumpster as the merchant leasing the dumpster, I'm going to ask them if it is their dumpster? If the answer is no, I will explain to the person who pays for that dumpster.

I know some folks may say this is harsh and that the town needs to allow people to deposit household garbage. There are alternatives. First, the town provides residential trash service that includes collection pickups twice a week for each customer. If a person lives in the county, J & B Disposal has franchise agreement with the county to collect household garbage for their customers.

If anyone, whether in town or in the county, misses a pickup day, the household garbage can be taken to two locations. The county recycling center on Buck Creek Road has a trash compactor to handle household waste. It is a free service. Also, household garbage can be taken to the Rich Gap trans-

•See MAYOR page 3

• HIC'S VIEW



• LETTERS •

Which 'greater' good?

Dear Editor,

I'm all a twitter! Yes, I still see packaged cheeses in the groceries.....and I still worry about the jobs of cheese shredders countrywide.....but, I feel so powerful now that I've been invited to take utensil in hand. I not only grate my own cheese, I use my grater to zest my lemons, grate my garlic, my carrots, my cabbage and more.....Thank you Donald for your promise to make America do so again. I'm doing my part; are you?

For the grater good,

Karen Hawk
Highlands

•See LETTERS page 7

• WEEKEND WEATHER •



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Highlands Newspaper

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We reserve the right to reject or edit letters-to-the-editor. No anonymous letters will be accepted. Views expressed are not necessarily those of Highlands Newspaper.

• LEGISLATIVE UPDATE •

S. J. RES. 34 JOINT RESOLUTION

Providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Federal Communications Commission relating to “Protecting the Privacy of Customers of Broadband and Other Telecommunications Services.”

That Congress disapproves the rule submitted by the Federal Communications Commission relating to “Protecting the Privacy of Customers of Broadband and Other Telecommunications Services” (81 Fed. Reg. 87274 (December 2, 2016)), and such rule shall have no force or effect.

The President signed the bill and it became law. April 3, 2017

Congressman Mark Meadows Yea

Office 202-225-6401

Email/Website: meadows.house.gov

Senior Senator Richard Burr Yea

Office: 202-224-3154

Email/Website: burr.senate.gov

Junior Senator Thom Tillis Yea

Office: 202-224-6342

Email/Website: tillis.senate.gov

The context and what the bill does

The Federal Trade Commission maintains jurisdiction over most aspects of the Internet. But after the 2016 election during the lame-duck session, another Washington agency called the Federal Communications Commission issued new regulations related specifically to Internet service providers, also known as ISPs. (You’ve probably heard of some of the country’s biggest ISPs, which include Comcast, Verizon, AT&T, Time Warner, Cox, and CenturyLink.)

These new rules required all Internet browsing data, as well as data regarding app usage on mobile devices, be subject to the same privacy requirements as sensitive or private personal information. This overtook the previous rule by the FTC, the agency which previously had authority over regulating ISP’s and differentiated privacy requirements based upon the sensitivity of the information, with more stringent rules for such things as health information or Social Security numbers. The methods are also more invasive to the ISP companies, since the FCC also issues pre-emptive regulations while the FTC primarily conducted investigations.

Introduced by Sen. Jeff Flake (R-AZ)—chair of the Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on Privacy, Technology and the Law—and Rep. Marsha Blackburn (R-TN7), Senate Joint Resolution 34 and House Joint Resolution 86 are companion bills that would nullify the FCC’s rule. However, they would not return jurisdiction over regulating ISP’s back to the FTC, as they were previously.

...MAYOR continued from page 2

fer station which is off NC 28 about 2 miles from town. At both locations glass, metal, plastic and paper recycling can also be done.

The small gray structures in town near many of the leased dumpsters are public cardboard recycling bins. Simply flatten

the cardboard boxes and place them in the openings above the doors.

I hope I don’t come across as a jerk, but we all have to be good stewards of this beautiful environment. Stewardship includes responsible disposal of our waste.

...UPSCALE continued from page 1

in cooler and a deck off the back for the two-bedroom apartment planned for upstairs. None of the expanded areas reach beyond the current footprint.

Designed by Architect Jeff Weller, the façade of the building will look distinctly different than the others in Wright Square with a much more formal look and color – something that concerned members somewhat but the plans were approved unani-

mously.

“It’s such a contrast to the rest of the buildings in the complex,” said member Dennis DeWolf. “But they have done a fine job in the past with whatever they produced.”

Inside, the bar area is being shifted to the far left wall which will open up the dining area to allow 95 seats in the main area

•See UPSCALE page 25



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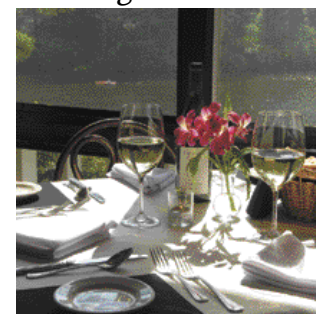


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THIS WEEK'S FEATURES

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Aubergine & Cannellini Dip

Roasted eggplant blended with white
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Carrot - Ginger Bisque

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...COUGAR continued from page 1

driveway. I spotted a large rump of an animal about five feet from my view.

"As it slowly came out of the brush, I recognized it as an animal in the cat family but much larger than a cat. It had a long stripe tail, white on the tips of the ears and was a tawny color. It was about 2 1/2 feet to 3 feet long, not

including the length of the tail.

"I went on line and viewed the image of a bobcat which truly looks like a house cat and has only a 5-inch tail. Viewing the one photo I found of a North Carolina cougar, it appears I saw a small cougar.

"The description for a male cougar says they are about 150 lbs and have a 5-ft. tail. The female cougar can weigh 60 lbs to 120 lbs and the tail is from 24 inches to 36 inches long.

"From these dimensions and the photos of the female cougar on line, I believe what I saw was a female cougar.

"I didn't take a photograph because I thought the animal would be gone by the time I ran for my camera and I wanted to study and focus on its markings and size so I could try to identify what animal it was."

According to some residents in the Bowery area, there have been cougar sightings in the Hardscrabble area but since no one has been able to document the sightings, no one knows if cougars are truly there.

Dr. Doug Homolka with the Cashiers Village Veterinary Clinic said cameras would be useful to see if large predators like mountain lions are around. "The USFS says they don't exist in the area, despite numerous people claiming to have seen them, so I like the idea of seeing if they can be caught on camera," he said.

There are cougar signs to look for: scrape marks which are left by males scraping together a pile of leaves or debris and then urinating or defecating on it to mark his territory, tracks, feces, tree scratches, and hidden food caches such as a deer carcass.

According to North Carolina Wildlife Profiles, the Eastern Cougar is known by several names: puma, panther, mountain lion, painter, and wildcat, and were thought to be extirpated throughout North Carolina by 1900. But people claim seeing both the usual tawny cat and a black version locally referred to as a black panther.

The cougar in North Carolina is considered an endangered and threatened species and are protected. Though they are officially classed as small cats, the average weight of



A female cougar.



A female Bobcat..

a male cougar is 150 pounds.

The eastern cougar requires around a 25-square mile range and will adapt to almost any terrain. They are carnivorous and prey on anything from deer to groundhogs, hunting mainly from the ground. They can live for 10 years.

With their habitat being overrun by people and their pets, it's possible—if they exist -- they have adapted, possibly needing a smaller range and hunting more domesticated prey.

— Kim Lewicki

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...LETTERS continued from page 2

Will Wells Fargo listen?

Dear Editor,

Wells Fargo recently mailed a perfunctory letter to its customers in Highlands announcing that it is closing its Highlands office in September. The same letter did, however, mention that it would keep its ATM machine in place. What terrible news for the Highlands economy and a sad day for our community and Wells Fargo both! But the blow is also to the Highlands residents who have homes and ties to Georgia, particularly, Atlantans who have invested millions of dollars in our community and depended upon Wells Fargo and its more enlightened predecessors. Wells Fargo has recently been through hard times since embarking on what might be described as an unsuccessful foray into the Southern United States. Now, with closing its ties to our community it is a short-sighted one to many, and runs counter to many years of its successful past.

Here are a few things that might be of interest regarding Wells Fargo's Highlands office and its predecessors:

Wells Fargo's Highlands branch traces its history through mergers and acquisitions over a period of many years. Its predecessor, Jackson County Bank, marks its beginnings in Sylva, NC to at least the early 1920s - almost 100 years ago.

From an article found on the internet posted on April 12, 2017, describing a promotional piece put out by the Sylva Chamber of Commerce in the 1920s describing two Sylva banks:

"Of the two banks, Tuckasegee's ad is simple, stating that 'There are banks larger, but none safer.' The Jackson County Bank, on the other hand, fits a lot of words into a small space. Its headline is 'Doing our part,' and the rest of the ad reads as follows: 'The growth, prosperity and advancement of any community, village, or city depends largely on the enterprise and cooperation of its citizens. This Bank realizes its duty in this respect and its resources

and experience are available at all times for the promotion and welfare of legitimate enterprises."

Jackson County Bank existed before 1935 because, as Ran Shaffner writes in his book, Heart of the Blue Ridge, Highlands, North Carolina:

"Clarence 'Doc' Mitchell of Westminster, SC, had come to Highlands in 1933 to work at Charlie Anderson's Drug Store but within two years had joined Jackson County Bank." (In 1956 Jackson County Bank moved across the street to the present location of Wells Fargo." (pages 402 and 409))

On page 409 Ran wrote: "In 1956 at the end of 4th Street on the hill, Jackson County Bank vacated its first home to occupy a new Roman brick building across the street. Six years later it would merge with First Union of Asheville, the bank that exists there today. Bill McCall, a South Carolina native, served as its first cashier; Miss Carolina Hall, his assistant. In the year 2001 this bank would merge with Wachovia." (page 409)

In April 2001 First Union acquired Wachovia and was, in turn, acquired by Wells Fargo in 2008.

And the end of the story is Wells Fargo will close its Highlands office this year, closing out a 100-year-old presence in our Highlands community.

Sad!

Perhaps interested members of the Highlands community will embark on a letter-writing campaign to Wells Fargo and the two Highlands newspapers.

Bill Bugg
Highlands

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...ECLIPSE continued from 1

day to night for almost three minutes.

Ted Wisniewski of The Mountain Learning & Retreat Center said the general purpose of the Eclipse meetings, "is to ensure that visitors have a positive experience so they will return to Highlands."

With hospitality in mind, the committee has arranged for parking areas; food vendors in K-H Founders Park; souvenir T-shirts and viewing glasses (a must) for sale.

But for MC EMS Director, Warren Cabe, Highlands Fire Chief Ryan Gearhart, Highlands Police Lt. Mike Jolly, Highlands Rescue Captain Eric Pierson, Highlands Town Manager Josh Ward and Highlands Mayor Pat Taylor the issue is safety and logistics - mainly due to potential traffic jams.

"I'm worried people will hike to the top of Sunset, Satulah, Whiteside and Yellow mountains and slip and fall and we won't be able to get to them," said Pierson.

On any summer day in Highlands, traffic can be a logjam. So, with something between 10,000 and 25,000 extra people expected in the area prior to and on the day of the event patience will be key - patience by residents, business

•See ECLIPSE page 8

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...ECLIPSE continued from page 7

owners, and visitors – because normal services might not be available.

President of the Highlands Chamber of Commerce Bob Kieley said merchants and business owners will have to help by possibly tending to overflowing trash cans on sidewalks outside their shops and allowing visitors

to use their bathrooms.

The chamber could only get six porta-lets which will be placed in various areas in town but the Visitor Center has four bathrooms which will be open to the public and there are public bathrooms in Town Square, K-H Founders Park and at the Rec Park.

Mayor Pat Taylor said it

may be best for people who have come in for the long weekend to stay put on Monday and enjoy the show from their porch, deck or yard. Several lodging facilities have “viewing events” planned for their patrons.

The roads in and out of town are curvy two-lane byways which leave no room for speeding or accidents so road rage will have to be checked at the bottom of the mountain whether traveling from Franklin, Dillard or Cashiers.

Highlands has a 30-member volunteer fire and rescue force – the key word being “volunteer” -- and extra emergency crews have long been reserved by other communities in Western North Carolina facing the same potential onslaught as Highlands.

The weekend prior to Monday's event there are weddings in town, a K5 Run Saturday at K-H Founders Park that has drawn more than 400 people and numerous events that are luring people to the area in advance.

According to all accounts most lodging facilities – hotels, motels, vacation rentals, AirBnB, and VRBO facilities are booked for the extended weekend.

The day of the eclipse several nonprofits will be selling food in K-H Founders Park because it is assumed area restaurants and eateries will not be able to handle the demand.

Entertainment will include three bands that will play dur-

•See ECLIPSE page 11

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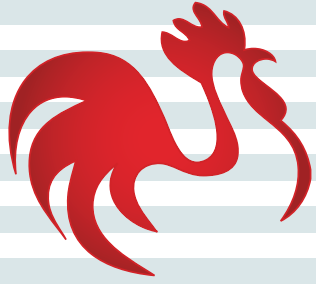
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...ECLIPSE continued from page 8

ing the day. The Chamber of Commerce Board said it wouldn't pay for the bands, and when later asked if the chamber would request a grant from the Travel and Tourism Commission (which has a surplus of occupancy tax money) to pay for the bands,

no answer was forthcoming from Kieltyka.

So, for now, the chamber is expecting businesses to foot that bill.

Restaurants are taking reservations in advance and grocery stores and eateries are

•See ECLIPSE page 14

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• HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

Ongoing

- Movies at the Highlands Playhouse: Summer Movies: Sun., 5:30 and 8p; Mon., 2, 5, 8p, Tues., 2, 5, 8p.
- Highlands Hurricanes Swim Team is open to all levels of swimmers ages 6-18. Contact Coach Steve Hott at 828-421-2121.
- The Nature Center will be open Tuesday-Saturdays from 10am-5pm and from

12pm-5pm on Sundays. The Nature Center is closed on Mondays.

• The Glenville Area Historical Society Museum is open every Thursday, Friday and Saturday 11 AM to 3 PM until October 14. The Museum that traces the history of Glenville from it's founding to present day though wall displays and items of historical value, is located at 4735 Highway 107 in Glenville. For information call 828 743-1658, email historicalsociety-glenville-area.org or go to www.glenvillecommunity.com

Mondays, July 3, and Aug. 7

• Botanical Garden Tour: 10:30 am - 11:30 am • Free. All ages. At the Highlands Botanical Garden. Learn to identify and remove non-native invasive species from your garden and the surrounding forest.

Mon., June 5, 12, 19, 26 (4 sessions)

• Thinking Bridge: Play of the Hand (intermediate), 9:30-11:30 Cost \$80/\$90 Instructor: Duane Meeter. To Register Call 526-8811 or www.clehighlands.com

First Mondays

• Shortoff Baptist Church non-denominational Men's Meeting at 7 pm

Mondays

• At the Rec Park, High Cardio Zumba Fitness with Certified Instructor Tiffany Austin at 5:25 p.m.

Mon. & Thurs.

• The Joy Program at HUMC from 11:30a to 1:30p. Includes a free lunch and a variety of programs and games. All seniors are welcome. For more info, call Tricia Smith at 828-338-8167.

Mon., Wed., Fri.

• Heart Healthy Exercise Class Monday, Wednesday and Friday 8:30-9:30am. Contact Janet Avery at 828-200-7508 for more information.

• Aerobics with Tina Rogers 8-9a.

Mon.-Fri.

• Lap Swim Monday-Friday 7am-10am 6 lanes and Monday-Thursday 5pm-6pm 1 or 2 lanes. Sharing pool with Water Aerobics @ 5:15.

• Water Aerobics Monday-Friday 10:15am-11:15am and Monday-Thursday 5:15pm-6pm (sharing pool with lap swimmers) and Saturday mornings from 11:15-noon.

Tuesdays

• FREE Community Table Dinner at the Community Bldg. at 6p.

• The Humanist Discussion Group meets every Tuesday morning from 10:30-11:30a in the Meeting Room in the back of Hudson Library.

First Tuesdays

• The monthly family support group for those with family members, friends, or loved ones living with the challenge of mental illness meets at 7 p.m. at Memorial United Methodist Church, 4668 Old Murphy Road, Franklin. For info call 369-7385.

2nd and 4th Tuesdays

• OccupyWNC meets at the 7PM in the Sneak E. Squirrel Community Room (1314 Main St., Sylva. Visit www.occupywnc.org or call 828.331.1524

Third Tuesday

• The Macon County Poultry Club meets at the NC Cooperative extension office located at 193 Thomas Heights Rd., Franklin on the third Tuesday of each month at 7pm. Meetings are open to the public. Call 828-369-3916.

Tuesday and Thursdays

• Zumba with Connie at the Rec Park 8:15 a.m. \$5.

• Pickle ball from 11:30a to 1p in the gym at the Rec Park.

• Exercise Class with Tina Rogers are held Tuesday and Thursday at 5:15p.m.

1st Wednesdays

• Family Movies at the Hudson Library at 3:30pm. Call 828-526-3031 for titles.

3rd Wednesdays

• Recently released movies at Hudson Library at 2pm. Call 828-526-3031 for titles.

Thursdays

• Storytime with Miss Deanna at Hudson Library 10:40 am. Open to the public.

• Weight Watchers support group meets every Thursday at 5 pm at Christ Church of the Valley. Call Lisa 828-506-3555.

• Indivisible Highlands, a non-partisan activist group meets weekly at the Hudson Library at 5p. For more information call 770-823-0601

• NAMI Support Group for individuals dealing with mental illness and the family members of individuals dealing with these challenges from 7 – 8:15 pm. at First United Methodist Church Out Reach Center on West Main Street beside Bryant's Funnel Home. Call Donita for more info (828) 526-9510.

2nd Thursdays

• Sapphire Valley Needlepoint Guild meets at the Highlands Rec Park at 10 a.m.

3rd Thursdays

• Kidney Smart Classes in Franklin: from 4:30-6pm, Angel Medical Center, Video Conference Room, 3rd Floor, 120 Riverview St. Contact Majestic 828-369-9474

Thurs., & Sat.

• Zumba with Mary K. Barbour at the Rec Park from 11a to noon. For more information, call 828.342.2498.

Fridays

• Live music in Town Square from 6-8 p.m.

Fridays & Saturdays

• Art's at the Lodge. Live Music 4-8 p.m.. Cocktails in Art's or on the lawn at the Lodge. On Spring Street.

Saturdays

• Farmers Marketplace in K-H Founders Park from 8a-12:30p.

• At The Bascom, Pottery Sale in the barn from 10a to 5p.

• Scrabble at Hudson Library from 1-4 p.m. Bring board if possible. All are welcome.

• The Bascom Knitters on the Terrace at The Bascom from 10 am until noon or downstairs in The Bascom Library room.

• Music in K-H Founders Park 6-8 p.m. Bring a picnic!

Thur., June 29

• ISLAM: Secularism and the Nation State in Turkey, 2:00-4:00 Cost \$25/\$35 Presenter: Eren Tasar. To Register Call 526-8811 or www.clehighlands.com

• "Fire on the Mountain" Come along for a trip to Wayah Bald in Franklin where we will witness the damage that was done from the wildfires last fall and talk a little bit about fire ecology on this easy to moderate hike. Co-hosted by Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust and The Village Green. Reservations required. \$35 donation for new friends includes the guided hike, lunch on the trail and a one year membership to Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust, \$10 for HCLT members. To reserve: info.hitrust@earthlink.net or 526-1111.

• At the Nature Center, Nocturnal Nature - 6 - Adult • 8:30 pm – 9:30 pm • \$3 Nocturnal have some pretty amazing adaptations to help them survive. Come out to Highlands Biological Station to learn about some of our nocturnal residents as we walk through the Botanical Garden. Advanced registration is required as space is limited. Please bring a flashlight. For info, call 526-2221

Fri., June 30

• Russian and the Middle East, 10a-12 Cost \$25/\$35 Presenter: Eren Tasar. To Register Call 526-8811 or www.clehighlands.com

• High Mountain Squares will host their 35rd Anniversary Dance this Friday night, June 30th. Jerry Biggerstaff from Marion NC will be the caller. This will be at the Memorial United Methodist Church, 4668 Old Murphy Rd, Franklin NC from 6:15 to 8:45 PM. We dance Western Style Square Dancing, main/stream and plus levels. You are in luck, new dancer lessons will begin August 14th 2017, join us. Everyone is welcome.

Sat., July 1

• At the Nature Center, Red, White, and Blue-tiful! - All Ages • 10:00 am – 4:00 pm • Free. Celebrate America the Beautiful by exploring the region's magnificent flora and fauna. Investigate which species sport "stars" and stripes or are red, white, and blue in color. Figure out why such marks and colors are beneficial and try your hand at creating your own flag to support wildlife! For info, call 526-2221

• The Highlands Performing Arts Center will present and evening of comedy featuring Keith Alberstadt on Saturday, July 1 at 8pm. Fun for the Whole Family. Keith was recently seen on Late Night with Stephen Colbert. Presented by Old Edwards Inn & Spa. Tickets are available online: www.highlandspac.org or by calling 828.526.9047 Highlands

Tues., July 4

• Town Fireworks at dark. View from any-

It's comedy Sat. July 1 at PAC



The Highlands Performing Arts Center will present an evening of comedy featuring Keith Alberstadt on Saturday, July 1 at 8pm. Fun for the Whole Family. Keith was recently seen on Late Night with Stephen Colbert.

Witty. Likable. Clever. Hilarious. These have all been used to describe comedian Keith Alberstadt. For over a decade, Keith has been entertaining comedy fans all over the world -- club audiences in the U.S., expats in Asia, as well as U.S. troops throughout the Middle East. Simply put, his style of comedy is one that pulls everyone in. Whether it's his sarcastic approach, his playful attitude, or his good old-fashioned southern charm, Keith makes his comedy relatable and approachable.

His credits include: The Late Show with David Letterman, Late Night with Seth Meyers, Last Comic Standing, Saturday Night Live's Weekend Update (freelance contributor) • Late Night with Jimmy Fallon (freelance contributor), Comics Unleashed, Eight comedy tours for the troops -- Afghanistan, Iraq, Kuwait, and throughout the Middle East, and Fox News Red Eye

Presented by Old Edwards Inn & Spa. Tickets are available online: www.highlandspac.org or by calling 828.526.9047 Highlands Performing Arts Center, 507 Chestnut Street, Highlands NC

• HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

where in town.

• The Presbyterian Church presents its annual patriotic concert at 8 p.m. It ends before the fireworks begin! Come as you are. It's free.

Tues.-Fri., July 4 - 7

• Nature Play. Highlands Nature Center • 828-526-2623 Ages 4 - 6 • 9 am - 11 am daily • Cost \$75 per child. Most learning occurs outside of a formal classroom and numerous studies support play-ing and learning outdoors. Campers will have the opportunity to improve problem-solving tech-niques and enhance cognitive abilities all while using play as a learning tool. Interactive investiga-tions, live animals, and fun games make this camp a truly hands-on experience.

Thur., July 6

• Learning to Live in Space: How, When and Why?, 10:00-12:00 Cost \$25/\$35 Presenter: Charles Richard Chappell. To Register Call 526-8811 or www.clehighlands.com

• iOS Applications, 10:30-3:30 Cost \$75/\$85 Instructor: Nigel Sixsmith. To Register Call 526-8811 or www.clehighlands.com

Annual Patriotic Concert at First Presbyterian at 8p July 4



First Presbyterian Church of Highlands will present its annual patriotic concert at 8:00pm on Tuesday, July 4. The free concert will last one hour, ensuring plenty of time to watch the town fireworks display. Featured will be the Highlands Men's Chorus under the direction of Dr. Michael Lancaster. Lancaster serves as Director of Worship/Music at Highlands First Presbyterian Church and also as Conductor of the Asheville Symphony Chorus. The group will be accompanied by Marquita Someliana-Lauer. Also featured will be Larry Black, trumpeter and Angie Jenkins, organist. Come dressed as you are. In the event the fireworks display is cancelled due to rain, the concert will still take place. The church is located at the corner of Main and Fifth Streets. Handicapped accessible entrances are located on Church Street and on Fifth Street.

com

Fri., July 4

• Vegetable Gardening at Old Edwards Inn, 9:30-11:30 Cost \$30/\$40 Presenter: Ezra Gardiner. To Register Call 526-8811 or www.clehighlands.com

• The Supreme Court's Struggle with Religious Freedoms, 10:00-12:00 Cost \$25/\$35 Presenter: Todd Collins. To Register Call 526-8811 or www.clehighlands.com

Sat., July 8

• H-C Chamber Music: The Rites of Spring, 10:00-12:00 Cost \$25/35 Presenter: Marie Sumner Loft. To Register Call 526-8811 or www.clehighlands.com

• The 20th annual Sweet Corn Festival at 3 p.m. at St. Cyprian's Church, 216 Roller Mill Rd., Franklin. Free admission. Silent auction with items and gift certificates Food, live entertainment Proceeds benefit All Saints Episcopal outreach, Wesley's Playground, and CareNet.

• Coro Vocati Choral Ensemble will perform in concert at 5:30pm on Saturday at Highlands First Presbyterian Church. The concert is free to the community.

Sun. July 9

• Coro Vocati Choral Ensemble will perform in concert at 11a on Sunday at Highlands First Presbyterian Church. The concert is free to the community.

Mon., July 10

• "A Sense of Place" program in Jones Hall, Episcopal Highlands Church of the Incarnation at 9:30a with Gary Wein of the H-C Land Trust. It's a look at the geological and ecological history of the Southern Appalachian Mountains. This talk will introduce the audience to several rare plants found on Land Trust lands. The public is invited, but please RSVP to Suzy Mosely at 2017mgcl@gmail.com.

• Aery Chiropractic & Acupuncture. Free Health Lecture Series from 6-7 p.m. Upstairs - 2655 Dillard Road. This week: Dr. Sue, Plant Nutrition.

July 10-14

• First Baptist Church Highlands Vacation Bible School, Operation Arctic! 9am to 12:15 pm. Grades K - 5th. 526-4153.

Mondays, July 10, 17, 24, 31 (4 Sessions)

• Bridge Defense: The Ugly Duckling (Intermediate), 9:30-11:30 Cost \$80/\$100 (plus optional \$16 text) Instructor: Duane Meeter. To Register Call 526-8811 or www.clehighlands.com

Tues., July 11

• The H-C Chamber Music Festival to present a free Family/Children's Concert and performance entitled "Musical Animals." The concert will take place at Highlands First Presbyterian Church. The concert will be followed by an Ice Cream Social in Coleman Hall, hosted by Kilwin's of Highlands. The event is sponsored by the Cullasaja Women's Outreach.

Tue. & Thur. July 11-13

• iOS for Beginners, 10:30-3:30 Cost \$75/\$85 Instructor: Nigel Sixsmith. To Register Call 526-8811 or www.clehighlands.com

This week at HCCMF



The 36th annual Highlands-Cashiers Chamber Music Festival opens this week with a special presentation at WCU's Bardo Arts Center in Cullowhee. Sunday, June 25 the festival's Anna and Hays Mershon Artistic Director William Ransom, and George Brown, Dean of Western's College of Fine and Performing Arts, will be performing, Enoch Arden: A Melodrama.

Along with the festival's regular concert series, there are several other special programs, Feasts, and Salons scheduled throughout the season.

On June 30, the Eroica Trio will be on stage at the Highlands Performing Arts Center at 6 PM. for the first of the regular concert series. The Eroica Trio, Sara Sant'Ambrogio, Erika Nickrenz, and Sara Parkins are familiar faces to music lovers on The Plateau. This sought after trio continuously thrills audiences with their flawless technical virtuosity, boundless enthusiasm, and elegance. They will be playing selections from Bach, Schumann, and Dvorak and are joined by Kate Ransom on violin and Yinzi Kong on viola

Jazz Master pianist, Gary Motley and his Trio, are featured the same weekend and will be joined by Will Scruggs, a saxophonist, singer, and bandleader based in Atlanta. Motley is a pianist, composer, arranger, and educator and has received numerous awards throughout his career.

As in previous seasons, concerts are held Friday and Sunday in Highlands at the Performing Arts Center on Chestnut Street, then again on Saturday and Monday at the Albert Carlton Cashiers Community Library.

Tickets may be purchased for the entire season and for individual concerts as well as for Feasts, Salons, and specific special events. To learn more please visit them online at h-cmusicfestival.org or call their offices at (828) 526-9060.

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...ECLIPSE continued from page 10

preparing to stock up.

JT Fields owner of Mountain Fresh Grocery said he plans on treating the preceding weekend and Monday, Aug. 21 like a very busy July 4th weekend.

"Which for us means ordering more potatoes for fries, fresh beef for burgers, and a lot more produce. Our challenge is that since we make everything fresh, it's not like we can just walk to the freezer, so we really have to plan it out."

He said he plans to have more "to go" foods.

"Lots of prepared foods, dinners-to-go, and we plan on being very busy before and after the actual eclipse," said Fields.

Suggestions?

"If the numbers turn out to be what they are predicting, I'd plan on getting what I need at least the day before. Like any big event in a small town, if you plan ahead and have all of your essentials in advance, these kinds of large-scale events can really be a great experi-

ence. Just don't be that family who decides to wander into town an hour before and be disappointed!" he said.

Arthur Paoletti of Paoletti Restaurant said he is expecting a "busy as usual month of August."

"We are prepared for what comes our way with the typical Saturday night staffing and demand for reservations but we only accept dinner reservations a month in advance to alleviate the typical no-shows that occur for this type of holiday week events, like July 4th," he said. "We confirm reservations and will make sure we do all that is possible to keep ahead of the 'Eclipse Tourist' who might book at several restaurants and show up at only one of them."

Kitty Schultz of Dusty's said they are planning to have a heavy stock of goods to sell.

"My suggestion to anyone having company in for the event is plan ahead, order early and make dining reservations now."

Jim Bryson of Bryson's Foods said they will be preparing more pre-made foods, adding more to their inventory.

"I suggest people come early

to the area and to the store and call ahead for special orders. But we will be ready to go and we are looking forward to this," he said.

Richard Delany, president and managing director of OEI, said August is peak season for OEI anyway so they will be fully staffed and geared up for a huge week, regardless.

"We will probably have a high inventory of food and supplies and we are hosting viewing parties at Half Mile Inn and on The Lodge lawn strictly for hotel guests and members," he said.

Debbie Garner of Main Street Inn & Bistro said they are planning a ticketed event for Monday the 21st that will be pre-reserved and pre-paid by the guests and they will open earlier than usual.

Her main question was: "What is the town doing about parking?"

Aside from the 1,000 public spots, other parking areas are at the school, the Rec Park, Zachary Park, the community building, the Visitor Center and any other private lots or vacant land that may or may not be open for public parking.

— Kim Lewicki



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Grill - every day of the week
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Fresh cut natural meats, homemade deli
salads, specialty sandwiches, homemade
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Deli - Serving all day

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Wood Fire Pizza Oven -

Every day from 11:00 to close

Authentic Neapolitan pizza made from
scratch, fresh mozzarella, basil, crushed
tomatoes, homemade Italian sausage,
pancetta, and daily specials.

SUNDAY SOUTHERN BRUNCH BAR

Every Sunday from 11am - 3pm

Skillet fried chicken, country Angus steak,
skillet corn, biscuits & preserves, mashed
potatoes, veggies, cobbler, plus the entire
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DINNERS TO GO

*A different full dinner for two every night,
Monday-Saturday from 4:30 until we sell
out. Call ahead to reserve...*

Monday - Low Country Lobster / Shrimp

Boil - Maine lobster tails, wild caught
large shrimp, red bliss potatoes, summer
corn, house made sausage, all steeped in
our seasoning. Served with drawn butter
and cocktail sauce. **\$36.95 serves two**

Tuesday - Oven Off Night

Two natural chicken breasts 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.
\$26.95 serves two

Wednesday - Prime Rib with Baked

Potatoes & Salad - Premium Angus
standing rib roast, cooked medium rare
w/ red wine au jus. Two baked potatoes
& a large Caesar salad. **\$35.95 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.
\$27.95 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 & served w/
hush puppies; or steamed to order in our
low country seasoning. Both come with
coleslaw and rosemary sea salt broiled red
potatoes, tarter & cocktail sauce.
\$28.95 serves two

Saturday - In-House Smoked BBQ -

Hand rubbed pork butt, pit-smoked
over night and hand pulled to order.
Comes with coleslaw, apple bacon
baked beans, and yeast rolls
\$25.95 serves two

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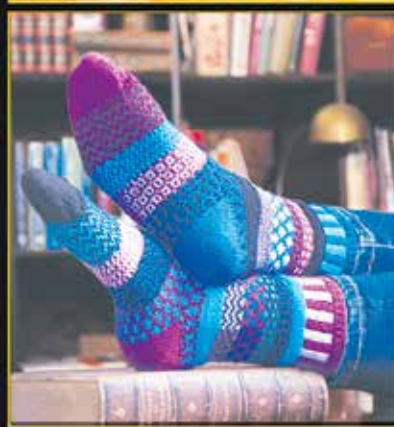
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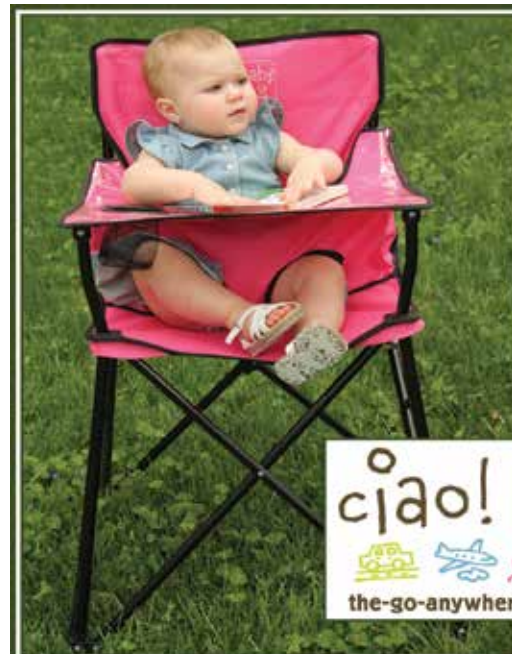


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Immaculately cared for home in Highlands Falls CC. Offered furnished and sits on a private corner lot with a great mountain view. The living room boasts high wood beamed ceilings, a stone fireplace and opens to two large covered, screened porches. Gourmet kitchen with large island and a gazebo shaped eating area. The lower level is a perfect guest retreat with large family room, two guest suites with lower deck access and a bunk room with a half bath. Above the garage is a game room and extra storage. \$1,097,000 MLS #85801

LOT LISTING

1.36 Acres, buildable, flat wooded lot. Centrally located between Highlands and Cashiers. Great buy! \$69,900 MLS #85497



Spectacular in-town living with little to no maintenance! Quaint stream runs length of property. Beautiful stone fireplace, built-in entertainment center and hardwood floors in living room. Master on main level with 2 guest rooms, full bath and sitting area on second floor. \$390,000 MLS #86329



3bd/2ba home with beautiful mountain view. Covered porch, hardwood flooring, custom blinds and in-home water filtration system are just a few of the great features. Sylva area. \$224,900 MLS #85536

LOT LISTING

1.12 Acres in beautiful Highlands Falls CC. Privately located on cul-de-sac close to the gated club entrance. Mountain view available with some trimming. \$85,000 MLS #85359



Sitting on 1.49 acres and offering an amazing waterfall as well as views of both Satulah and Little Yellow Mountain, this beautiful 4bd/5ba home is sure to be your perfect mountain retreat. \$1,400,000 MLS #83796



3bd/3.5ba private sanctuary sits on 2.36 acres of enchanting scenery with a view that stretches over 40 miles. No detail was spared, hand made stairs leading up from the main living area to the mahogany doors and custom fixtures. \$1,375,000 MLS #85697

LOT LISTING

Amazing opportunity to build your custom home in the highly sought after Mirror Lake District! 1 acre homesite located at end of a paved cul-de-sac. \$150,000 MLS #85496



2bd/2ba condo in Highlands Falls CC with sweeping views of the 13th fairway. Vaulted ceilings and stone fireplace in greatroom, spacious kitchen and sunroom to enjoy the cool summer nights. \$260,000 MLS #85855

LOT LISTING

1.95 acre lot in Highlands Falls CC. Mountain ridge line views and plenty of privacy. Stream at bottom of property. \$75,000 MLS #84745



Talk about Old Highlands Charm!! Set back on a beautifully landscaped lot with terraced gardens, this 3bd/3ba home comes with additional lot and deeded land across the street with dock directly on Lake Sequoyah. \$599,000 MLS #85655



Nearly maintenance free living in beautiful community less than 3 miles to Main Street Highlands and close to Highlands Hospital. Light and bright one level 3bd/2ba with great floorplan. \$295,000 MLS #82103



Create your family homestead 3bd/2ba home on over 13 acres. Dormitory style 2nd floor that sleeps up to 6. Mountain views, creek and 3 springs on property. The possibilities for this land are endless. \$325,000 MLS #85474



Highlands Falls CC - Light, bright and airy condo in Chestnut Cove. Features 2bd/2ba on one level. Screened side porch and open deck. \$265,000 MLS #85656



Rustic log cabin on impeccable tree filled lot. Open concept kitchen flows into the living and dining rooms. Master suite on upper level, with an entertainment room on the lower level perfect for family gatherings. \$239,000 MLS #85897



Beautiful 3bd/2ba home in Broadview Acres with great rental history. Vaulted wood ceilings, stone fireplace, open floor plan and oversized deck and sunroom. Perfect family retreat or year round residence. Newly paved drive. \$399,900 MLS #85526



You'll love this 3bd/2ba spacious unit at Highlands Mountain Club. Enjoy the pool, tennis, and clubhouse and the great mountain view from the unit itself. It comes furnished and in great condition. Renovate or leave as is. \$229,000 MLS #82270



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BIG BUCK MANOR This magnificent manor offers 35+ acres of privacy and a surrounding of National Forest. Warmth radiates from the rich Brazilian paneling and radiant chandeliers. Living room with floor to ceiling stone fireplace. Large kitchen, breakfast/sitting area, glamorous dining room.

Luxurious master suite with soaring ceiling and impressive stone fireplace. 4 guest suites on upper and lower levels, media and family gathering rooms. 3BR guest home, short distance from main house.
MLS# 85174 / \$2,995,000 LIZ HARRIS: 828.342.3194 / WAYNE MONDAY: 828.508.8661



HIGHLANDS COUNTRY CLUB

- > Totally updated 3BR/3BA home provides open floor plan with fabulous living room, dining, kitchen, and separate bar area
- > Stone fireplace, hardwood floors, vaulted ceilings, covered porch

MLS# 85412 / \$995,000

SANDY BARROW: 478.737.9664

JOHN BARROW: 828.506.9356



NEW LISTING

CULLASAJA HEIGHTS

- > 3BR/3BA home on the corner of 2 lots, with room to room or expand!
- > Centerpiece open living area and inviting stone fireplace, generous main floor master suite, office, reading room, and bunk room

MLS# 86393 / \$695,000

PAT GLEESON: 828.782.0472

DEBORAH GLEESON: 404.307.1415



HIGHLANDS COVE

- > Charming, furnished 3BR/3BA unit located privately at end of road
- > High ceilings, fresh paint, new stainless kitchen appliances, stone fireplace in living room, screened porch with golf/mountain views

MLS# 85581 / \$505,000

SANDY BARROW: 478.737.9664

JOHN BARROW: 828.506.9356



RIVERLAKES

- > Quintessential 2BR/2.5BA cottage with great light and air!
- > Indoor/outdoor living areas abound. Deck and adjoining porch area, low maintenance yard, close to town, great rental property

MLS# 86100 / \$379,000

PAT GLEESON: 828.782.0472

DEBORAH GLEESON: 404.307.1415



MIRROR LAKE

- > Mostly furnished mountain cottage with 2 bedrooms, 2 baths, and open one-level floor plan all less than one mile to downtown!
- > Fireplace, breakfast bar, storage, decks, fire pit, & water feature

MLS# 85582 / \$359,900

PAT GLEESON: 828.782.0472

DEBORAH GLEESON: 404.307.1415



HIGHLANDS MOUNTAIN CLUB

- > Conveniently located 2BR/2BA unit that is PRICED TO SELL!
- > Shaded deck, looking into beautiful hardwoods and lovely pond
- > Large great room with fireplace, dining area, and nice kitchen

MLS# 84642 / \$167,000

SANDY BARROW: 478.737.9664

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• INVESTING AT 4,118 Ft. •

Red, White, and YOU

Happy Independence Day! 2017 marks the 241st year of our independence. How will you celebrate? Fireworks? Yummy smelling things charred on your grill? Time with family or friends? A long contemplative hike?



Jeannie Chambers
Chambers Realty &
Vacation Rentals

Everywhere you look, you're bound to see lots of red, white and blue, but what about red, white and YOU? Are you patriotic?

The definition of a Patriot is a person that loves, supports and defends his or her country and its interests with devotion. Devotion is a feeling of strong love or loyalty. To be devoted. To not be devoted. To be, or not to be, that IS the question, isn't it?

July 4th is a time that Americans show their support for our

country, but not the only time. July 4th is just the day we celebrate it.

We've all heard we should keep Christmas in our hearts every day, but shouldn't we also keep patriotism in our hearts as well?

There are many freedoms that we have that are taken

for granted. In the south, we are very fortunate that others have chosen our area to buy homes to vacation and retire. According to regional statistics, the south is the only region that vacation homes hold the highest market share of home sales at 47%, with primary residences holding on to second at 38%. Those homeowners were exercising their freedom to choose. Why did you choose the area in which you reside?

Did you ever stop to think of

all the things in place that make it easier to choose the home you live in, or the homes you are considering, or the second or third home?

The mission of the NC Real

Estate Commission is "To protect the public interest in real estate" The Real Estate Commission is for you, the consumer. The NCBA (NC Bar Association

for attorneys) serves the public by encouraging the highest standards of all members of their profession. Then there are bank-

•See INVESTING page 23

• RE SNAPSHOTS •



\$325,000
3 BR/3 bath
MLS #84327

This 3 BR/3 bath home sits at the top of Moon Mountain - a custom built home purposefully set to allow minimum exposure to the outside world, yet only about 10 easy minutes to Main Street- close to hiking trails and Glen Falls.

\$499,000
3BR/3 bath
MLS #79672

This 3BR/3 bath home in Cold Springs Saddle & Tennis Club has beautiful wood floors, 10' ceilings, detached 2 car garage, screened porch, handicap ramp in back (accessible from garage), plentiful storage, and more. Want privacy?

This property backs up to USFS.



\$1,276,000
6BR/2 bath
MLS #82660

Within easy walking distance to town, this beautifully maintained 6BR/2 bath home welcomes you HOME with open arms.

This home was built in a time of true craftsmanship. The interior has a classic 'Old Highlands' feel with chestnut paneling and wood floors. The fireplace stone was quarried from Satulah Mountain. All this and on over 6.5 acres.



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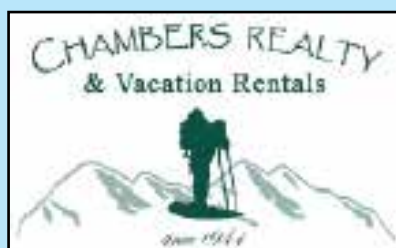
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4 bedroom 2 bath on 1.71 acres inside city limits. Lots off square footage on one level. Bonus room, sewing room, office room, project room, all with sliding glass doors. Offered at \$379,000. mls #86235



Owner/builder made everything perfect. Granite counters and custom cabinets in the kitchen, updated tiled bathrooms, large sunroom, hot tub, double garage. Offered at \$695,000 MLS # 85747



3 bedroom 3 bath ranch. Easy one level living with room for a garden, and livestock on 8 +/- acres. There is a small pond site and a barn. Adjacent 3-acre parcel also available. Offered at \$380,000. mls #86024



9+ acres, 3 bedroom 1 1/2 bath log home, barn, pond, meadow and views of Shortoff and Mountain Vistas. Also backs up to USFS lands. Barn has RV Hookup and Balcony. Offered at \$795,000. mls #85813



Close to Main Street above Mirror and Randall Lakes, these 19 +/- acres rest up on one of Highlands most coveted mountain top location.. Asking \$1,300,000. MLS #85372



Main level living with oversized 2 car garage. Living room has fireplace, and opens onto a porch overlooking back yard. Large master suite with huge bath. Guest bedroom and bath, too. Lower level family room and rec room, 1 bedroom & bath and more. Offered at \$389,000. mls #85367



Owned by the same family for over 50 years, this country farmhouse has great views from the lovely covered porch. Living room has a cut stone fireplace and wormy chestnut paneling. Hardwood floors. 3 bedrooms 3 baths plus office. Offered at \$595,000. mls #86217



A bright light-filled Log cabin built from 4 reclaimed cabins. 3 bedrooms, and 3 1/2 baths plus an additional sleeping area for guests. Soaring 2-story living room with fireplace, and a wall of windows that frames Shortoff mountain. Over 1.6 acres, one car garage. Offered at \$1,375,000. mls #85848



Mirror Lake area: Completely restored Mountain Cabin. Two bedrooms and two full baths. Detached carport. Sit on the screened front porch and enjoy the cool nights and the comfortable daytime weather. MLS # 86056. Price \$399,000.



Classic Highlands Cottage. Easy walk to Mirror Lake. Wood floors and painted pine paneling with cathedral ceilings in the living room and wood burning stone fireplace. 2 bedrooms each with updated baths Offered at \$599,000. mls #86039



2 bedroom 2 bath cabin sits right on the lake. Real knotty pine wood paneling with wood burning stone fireplace. Wood floors and updated windows. Great full length covered porch overlooks the water. Offered at \$495,000. mls #86021



15 minutes from town off Buck Creek road with paved access. Main house has cathedral living room with gas fireplace and open kitchen, a master bedroom with huge bath on the main floor. Upstairs has a loft bedroom and bath. 3-car and RV garage with guest apartment above. Offered at \$315,000. #86362



Close to Sky Valley. 3 bedroom 2 bath with many upgrades. Granite countertops, stainless appliances, stacked stone fireplace, cathedral ceilings, wood and tile floors. Terraced back yard with beautiful landscaping. Offered at \$299,000. mls #86128



Charming English cottage close to town on Upper Lake Road with water frontage on Laurel Lake. Antique brick, hardwood with lots of light and native stone. Main level living with an additional 3 guest bedrooms upstairs. Offered at \$1,275,000. mls #86018



Mount Lori Charmer: Open kitchen living area with fireplace, master bedroom and bath. Downstairs has family room with 2 bedrooms and baths. Detached guest quarters with office, bath and wood shop. Lovely grounds with small pond and stream. Offered at \$595,000. mls #85691



Easy access to clubhouse this 2 bedroom 2 bath villa has exceptional view of the 6th & 3rd Fairways, clubhouse lake and mountain. Renovated. Covered porch & open deck with room downstairs for expansion. Offered at \$269,000. mls #85535



Horse Cove. Wonderful farmhouse on almost 5 acres with view of Black Rock and Sagee mountains, Heart pine floors, masonry fireplaces, covered porches. Offered at \$1,900,000 MLS# 86223



4/5 bedrooms, 4 1/2 baths. Great kitchen with large island. Horse-shoe pit in the back yard, backs to USFS lands for additional privacy. Offered at \$1,395,000. mls #85968



This beautiful gated white two story home in Highlands Springs and falls with 3 bedrooms and 3 baths plus a large deck overlooking a babbling creek. Large two-car attached garage on over an acre of land. Offered at \$375,000. mls #85690



Spacious rooms with a partial open concept. Living room opens onto a large screen porch to enjoy the view. 2 bedrooms, each with baths on the main level plus a den and office. Upper level has a guest bedroom suite with bath. Lower level has a family room with an additional bedroom and bath. A large garage rounds out this exceptional package. Offered at \$2,750,000 mls #86141

...INVESTING continued from page 21

ers, home inspectors, title insurers, etc. and the list just goes on and on. There are many rules, regulations and laws that govern the way real estate is practiced. (Practiced? You'd think they'd have it right by now, right?) Rules and regulations are evident in the amount of paperwork required.

When I first started selling real estate in Highlands 25 years ago, the Offer to Purchase was one and a half legal sheets of paper, now it's a minimum of thirteen sheets of letter size before all the disclosures and copies of documents are added. Every sheet has its purpose- to protect the consumer, the major-

ity of which are American citizens. Home of the free.

Whatever your plans are for the 4th, please remember to take a moment to be thankful for all the freedoms we have in this country. Thank you America. Salute the flag of these United States on July

4th, and every day, even if only in your devoted heart.

• Jeannie and Tucker Chambers are owners of Chambers Realty & Vacation Rentals at 401 N. Fifth Street. Their July 4th plans are the same as every year. They'll be sitting in front on their office

with friends, some are vacation renters, others are home owners, and a few neighbors, but all enjoy the freedoms given them and of course a Moon Pie and RC cola. Bring a chair or blanket and join us for the fireworks provided by The Town of Highlands.

• RE SNAPSHOTS •



At the Highlands Playhouse: Cabaret through July 8

Despite turning 50 last year, the musical *Cabaret* remains politically relevant and vastly entertaining.

The show opened this week and according to Debbie Bock, vice president of the playhouse board, "There were record crowds for opening night and the acting was superb!"

The music by John Kander and lyricist Fred Ebb - who also teamed up to bring us *Chicago* - will not only have you tapping a toe and singing along, but will also give ample opportunity for deep thought and discussion with your friends.

The Highland Playhouse opened its production of *Cabaret* last Thursday to rave reviews.

The cast includes returning favorites Holly Ruth Gale and Jimmy Lewis, along with stand-out performances by new-comers Danny Willfred, Caroline Gorland, and Mark Bacon.

Don't miss your opportunity to catch arguably one of the best musicals of all time! Tickets are \$38 and are available online at HighlandsPlayhouse.org or in the Box Office. The show wraps on July 8th, so act TODAY!

What a Buy!



Upgraded 3 BR, 3 BA luxury condo at the Old Edwards Club. Walking distance to clubhouse, lovingly furnished, tray ceilings, large master suite & bath, great closets and a stone fireplace for cozy mornings. Add the large screened porch and nothing is lacking! Great location and views surround you in Highlands Cove. Don't miss this one!

Offered for \$420,000. MLS 86310

Spectacular & Serene in Old Edwards Club!



Perched above the clouds at the Old Edwards Club, this timber frame beauty boasts amazing vista views. Wood walls, gleaming wood floors & soaring ceilings frame a huge stone fireplace that is part of the open floor plan. An outdoor living area features two fireplaces and large hot tub. Three large bedrooms on the lower level w/private baths, wine room, bonus room w/fireplace & movie theater.

Offered for \$1,950,000. MLS 84684

Elegant and Exquisite in Old Edward Club



MAGNIFICENT in every way! Designer Chad Lucas created a masterpiece surrounded by INCREDIBLE views. Large, elegant rooms w/warm wood tones, fireplaces with custom & antique mantles & sconces, wide halls, bookcases, a grand master bedroom with spa bath, porch w/fireplace, chef's kitchen w/copper hood, study w/fireplace & glass door entrance! Upper game room & an art studio above the garage.

Offered for \$2,299,000. MLS 84953

Mountain Views & Cool Breezes!



This 3BR/3BA straight walk in unit at the Views features 10 ft ceilings and lots of windows. An open floor plan features hardwood floors and a stone fireplace. Screened porch with fireplace. Two master suites with spacious bedrooms & baths & a lower family room allow for privacy!

Offered for \$545,000. MLS 84570



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• THE INK PENN •

Heroes among us

I've had the honor of meeting quite a few veterans around Dunwoody. My husband and I bump into them at Memorial and Veterans Day celebrations, the July 4th Parade, the poppy giveaways at

the grocery, and just out and about.

Perhaps because my Greek grandfather immigrated to the US and then fought for us in WWI, I was intrigued when I heard that veteran Dominic Giovanazzo had

immigrated to the US as a child and then returned to Europe to fight in WWII. With my curiosity aroused, I sat down with Dominic to get "the rest of the story," and what a story it is.

Dominic's father came to America ahead of his wife and children, and Dominic was seven when the rest of the family left Portigliola, Italy to join his father in Ohio. There he started first grade without knowing a word of English. Skip ahead to his being drafted into the Army shortly after graduating high school, shipping off to England in 1944, and several months after D-Day, landing at Omaha Beach.

As he recounted his WWII experience, I asked, "What's your most vivid memory?" His response? "How lucky I am." Every one of his stories includes an example of that luck.

He sees the Battle of Moncourt Woods as the first instance of his good fortune. He can still see the bullets flying into the saplings around him as he dug a foxhole with a partner and dove in. His partner landed on top of him and was hit with shrapnel, but Dominic emerged unscathed.

Soon after, he fought in the Lorraine Campaign. Again, as he advanced through an open field against German tanks, shells fell behind and in front of him, but not on him. And then came the Battle of the Bulge. The last major German offensive of WWII, it was one that caught the Allied forces off guard and the one in which our American troops suffered their highest casualties of any operation in the war.

Picture Dominic on Christmas Eve, newly assigned to be a bazooka man, out in the open on a snow covered hill firing at enemy tanks—again escaping unmarked. Early Christmas morning, caught behind enemy lines, he was leading his men up another snow covered hill when a group of Germans started down the same hill. As yet more proof of his good luck, he describes hitting the ground with his men and surviving the close encounter unnoticed.

His final stroke of luck, he says, came during his days as a POW after capture in Saarlautren. Over



Kathy Manos Penn

68 days, the POWS marched close to 600 miles. Though he lost twenty pounds and was constantly cold, hungry, and in need of a shower, Dominic feels lucky that he was neither tortured nor harshly treated. On day 68, the POWS awoke to find all but one of their guards gone and the 13th

Armored Division, known as the Black Cats, there to liberate them.

Back in the states, Dominic went to Kent State and Ohio State on the GI Bill and earned a degree in Industrial Engineering. He married Ellie, the petite Greek girl he met on a blind date, and went on to raise two daughters and have a successful career with GE. After his 1982 retirement, he and Ellie moved to Dunwoody to be near their daughter Cindy.

They've been married 61 years, and I couldn't stop smiling when Ellie said her sweet husband always brings her flowers or takes her to dinner on December 10th, the day of their blind date. I'd say they're both lucky in love.

Dominic's story seems a fitting reminder as we look forward to celebrating July 4—a reminder that the Greatest Generation and so many others cherish(ed) our American way of life. Many made the ultimate sacrifice to preserve it. Many continue to defend it.

How does this 95-year-old father, grandfather, great-grandfather, and patriot wrap up his tale of service to his country and a life well lived? "I give my blessings every day that my father came to America." May his heartfelt words inspire us all to reflect on how fortunate we are to live in this great country.

• Find similar patriotic columns in Kathy's book, "The Ink Penn: Celebrating the Magic in the Everyday," available locally at The Molly Grace in Highlands and Books Unlimited in Franklin, and on Amazon. Look for her book "Lord Banjo the Royal Pooch" coming soon. Contact her at inkpenn119@gmail.com.

• RE SNAPSHOTS •

Unbelievable Value in HFCC!



Easy one-level living with open floor plan. The living room is complete with a wood-burning fireplace. The spacious kitchen features lots of counter and cabinet space. Both the large master suite and guest bedroom have deck access. .04 +/- acre. This lovely 2BR/2/BA Golf Villa is move in ready and an excellent buy!

Offered at \$250,000. MLS #83865
Contact Susie deVile at (828) 371-2079
Steal this Waterfront Home!



Enjoy the best of mountain living at this 2BD/3BA (with TWO Bonus Rooms) home with expansive and gentle access to Big Creek on a lush 1.12 +/- acre parcel. Features include hardwood flooring; skylights; a stone, wood-burning fireplace; open grilling deck; gorgeous grounds with fire pit and zip line areas; boat launch area; plenty of storage; stone patio with small water feature; and more,

Offered at \$460,000. MLS#84875
Contact Susie deVile at (828) 371-2079

Lake Living at its Best!



This rustic, yet elegant 3BR/2BA lake home and 1BR/1BA guest house offer relaxed mountain living on Lake Sequoyah. The property is situated on 1 1/4 +/- acres. A wood-burning stove in the master with lots of windows for letting the outside light in. The guest house is beyond charming and features a kitchen, stone fireplace, sleeping area and full bath.

Offered at \$649,000. MLS#84401
Contact Susie deVile at (828) 371-2079

Walk to Main Street



With a fresh and fun style, this 2BR/2.5BA (with additional bonus room) getaway is the perfect blend of rustic and contemporary. With expansive decking you can enjoy the mountain views. Features include hardwood flooring; stone, wood-burning fireplace in the living room; spacious kitchen w/plenty of room; a single garage (w/workshop); fenced yard; & paved access.

Offered at \$425,000. MLS#84467
Contact Susie deVile at (828) 371-2079



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...UPSCALE continued from page 3

and 27 in the back room.

According to Interim Planning Board Director Randy Feierabend, whose last planning board meeting was Monday night, the project meets all built-upon and parking requirements.

Andrew Bowen's first day on the job as the town's new Planning & Development Director/Code Enforcement Officer

began Monday, June 26.

Next stop is the Zoning Board of Adjustment where a Special Use Permit will be sought – necessary due to the expansion, minimal though it might be.

It's no secret that living close to town is highly desired these days and board members got a look at a new 10-parcel subdivision in the works on Big Bear Pen Road just

below Upper Lake Road.

Owned by Moss Robertson and dubbed Highlands Overlook Cottages, the subdivision will feature nine homes on lots ranging from .76 acres to .99 acres situated around a common .87 acre parcel.

Feierabend said the subdivision meets

all infrastructure, setback, impervious and lot size requirements – that of .75 acre per lot.

The planning board unanimously OK'd the plat. Next stop is the Town Board for the required subdivision approval.

– Kim Lewicki




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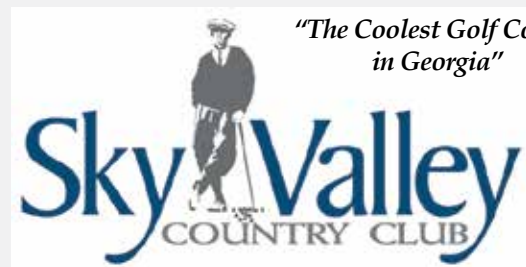


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• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

What Have We Lost?

Dr. Mark Ford
Pastor
First Baptist Church
Highlands



In these modern times, the real question is not where we are going in terms of technology, socio-religious issues, or geo-political agendas. I think the real question is, “What have we lost?” The gap between Christian claims and sought for results only widens with the influx of secularization, making our faith less credible and plausible. But we can’t just blame secular forces that want to marginalize the Christian faith – we as Christians can blame ourselves for loss of due diligence, loss of conviction and commitment. But again, what have we lost?

First, we are experiencing in our day the loss of certainty. Christian ideas no longer seem credible as the forces of modernity quickly thaw away our assurances of faith. Rather than a worldview worthy of providing guidance for life and preparation for the next, the Christian faith is no longer real – or a reality. Pluralization makes it one among many choices, and privatization makes it a private preference. Dogmatic beliefs are now dubious, giving way to more comfortable ambiguities that prefer palatable optimisms and reject anything with unwavering convictions. Words of feelings and preference rule over words of truth and knowledge, making each person their own source of truth and absolutes. Therefore, if we can be comfortable with our own designer made religion, no one can claim a corner market on truth – you know, like Jesus who said, “I am the way, the truth and the life, and no one comes to the Father but by me.”

Religious orthodoxy and Biblical truth is thawing and melting in the growing heat of human preference and choice. Because anything passes for Christian belief these days, almost anything is permitted as Christian behavior and practice. But when we all claim to be gods and the source of truth, chaos ensues. The loss of certainty leads to the certainty of loss – spiritual, cultural and political.

Second, we are losing comprehensiveness in regard to the Christian faith. By this I mean that our faith is so miniaturized and privatized, it no longer is applicable to the larger issues of life, and is sufficient only for private or partial matters. Simply, if Christianity doesn’t apply to all facets of life like family, government, the arts and social issues, then it has no meaning for the individual. The Christian faith is emasculated when it is confined to the individual and privatized. In these limited confines of the person, it has no ultimate purpose except to mollify our self in a narcissistic way. The Lordship of Christ is to cover the whole of life. Or in the words of Abraham Kuyper, he is “sovereign over all spheres” or not sovereign at all. The reach

• See SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING page 27

Proverbs 3:5

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Tues. Guys study 8am, Gals 10am.

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Testimony Meeting: 5 p.m. on the 3rd Wed.

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Wednesdays – Supper at 6 p.m.

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10:45am: Worship Service
Wed.: 5pm Dinner (\$7 adult, \$2 child), 6pm CBC U.
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Wed.: Men’s Bible Study 8:30 am; Prayer Mtg 6:15 pm; Ch. 5p

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Mondays: 8 a.m.: Men’s Prayer Group & Breakfast
Wednesdays: Choir: 5:30p

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John 3:16

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Sundays: Worship: 11

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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 Randy Lucas 526-3376
Sun: School 9:45a.; Worship 9:09, 10:50.; Youth 5:30 p.
Wed: Supper: 5:15; youth, & adults activities: 6; Handbell rehearsal, 6:15; Choir Rehearsal 7. (nursery provided); 7pm
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Wednesdays: Prayer Mtg.: 7 p.m.

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• POLICE & FIRE •

The Highlands Police log entries from June 15. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor or public officials have been used.

June 15

• At 2:10 p.m., officers investigated a larceny at a retail establishment on Main Street where \$45 in cash was taken.

• At 2 a.m., officers received a call about a missing person who hadn't returned home from work.

June 18

• At 7:55 a.m., a Highlands Police Officer reported an assault on a law enforcement officer, a resisting arrest and a fleeing to elude arrest with a motor vehicle on Log Cabin Lane in Highlands. The case is under investigation.

June 20

• At 2:20 p.m., officers were called about a larceny at Juliana's on Main Street where a gold framed picture containing patriotic postcards valued at \$495 was taken.

• At 3:17 p.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident on Big Bearpen Road.

June 21

• At midnight, officers received a call about a drunk and disorderly person at Old Edwards Inn who was refused to leave upon request from management.

The Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. log from June 14.

June 14

• The dept. responded to a fire alarm on Main Street.

June 15

• The dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Chestnut

Hill Drive.

• The dept. was first-responders to a location on Main Street.

June 16

• The dept. was first-responders to a location on Main Street.

• The dept. was first-responders to a location on Big Bear Pen.

• The dept. stood by at Zachary Field for the MAMA helicopter.

• The dept. was first-responders to a residence on Overlook Road.

• The dept. was first-responders to a location on N. 4th. Street.

June 17

• The dept. responded to a fire alarm at a location on Cullasaja Club Drive.

June 18

• The dept. was first-responders to a residence on Ranger Falls Road.

• The dept. was first-responders to a residence on Brookside Lane.

• The dept. was first-responders to a residence on Cinnamon Lane.

June 19

• The dept. was first-responders to a residence on Clubhouse Drive.

• The dept. responded to a Co alarm at a residence on Shelby Drive.

• The dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Clubhouse Trail.

• The dept. provided a rescue at a residence on Salt Rock Court.

• The dept. provided mutual aid to the Casheirs FD.

June 21

• The dept. was first-responders to a residence on Shelby Drive.

• The dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Bowery Road.

• The dept. responded to a fire alarm at H-C Hospital.

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...SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING from 26

of faith is shrinking because we have submitted to other "lords" that we prefer – the lords of consumerism, convenience, entitlement, and "me-ism". And what makes these new "lords" so great to serve is that they cater to my every whim and preference, and make no demands for submission to dogma or absolutes. Simply, I prefer to follow the gods who serve me, than to serve the One true God who demands my service and obedience.

Third, we have suffered loss of power in our faith. The church has settled for mediocrity in its pursuit of popularity and not

wanting to be offensive. We have forsaken the power that comes from preaching the "foolishness of the cross" and salvation in Christ alone. We prefer a "Hallmark card theology" that gives wings to human dreams and sentiments, than declare the inspired Word of God. In this mushy approach to the faith, we have forsaken the power that comes from the Holy Spirit, and our Lord who is the bread of life and the living water, able to change lives, change communities, and change nations. We have lost so much, but in prayer, repentance and revival, we can find it again.

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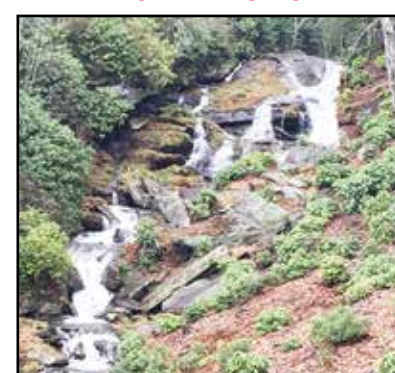
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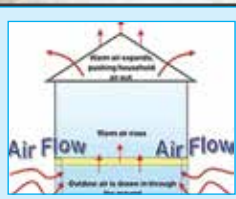
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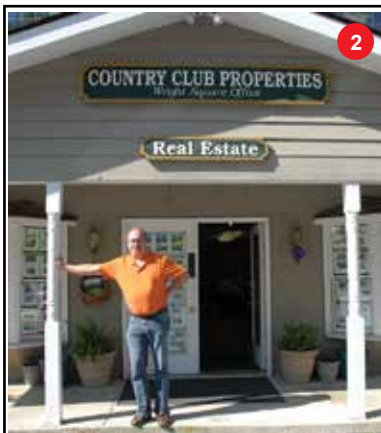


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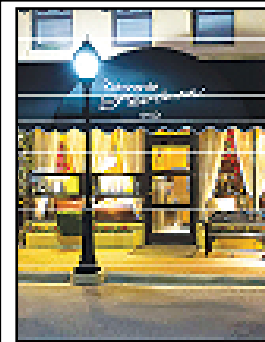
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