

Highlands Newspaper

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Thurs., Aug. 3, 2023

Aggressive sales tactics subject at 'Coffee'

Both the town and the Highlands Police Department have gotten complaints about aggressive sales techniques used by some shop employees on Main Street.

At the "Coffee with the Mayor" at Hudson Library this past

Friday, both Mayor Pat Taylor and Highlands Police Chief Andrea Holland addressed the issue.

Mayor Taylor said despite what people think, the town hasn't been ignoring the claims people are making about aggressive sales

tactics in some stores in town, it's just that there is little the town can do.

"There are numerous communities where those in charge have tried to legally confront those

• See SALES page 10

Highlands Fire & Rescue is Celebrating 70 years of service this Saturday



The annual Highlands Fire & Rescue Open House is Sat. Aug. 5 from 11a to 3p. As usual there will be free hotdogs and fire-truck rides around town. Join firefighters at the new station on 149 Franklin Road to help celebrate this new era.

Macon County now owns Higdon property

By Brittney Lofthouse

On June 29, the Macon County Board of Commissioners officially became the owners of the Higdon Property, an 11-acre parcel located across the road from Franklin High School at 195 Wayah St.

The acquisition was made after the completion of a due diligence period. The county commission had previously designated \$1.35 million from the county's fund balance for the purchase during their April 11 meeting.

During the April 24 meeting of the Macon County School Board, there was some confusion about the county's intentions with the Higdon property.

School board members and County Commissioner Gary Shields, who serves as the school

• See HIGDON page 22

•INSIDE THIS ISSUE•

Mayor on Duty	2	Events.....	14-16
Weather	2	Then & Now	17
Investing at 4,118 Ft.....	4	Spiritually Speaking	18
Letters	7	Police and Fire.....	19
Financial Matters	10	Classifieds	21-22

Rock of Ages ROCKED!



Mountain Theatre Company's second show of the season is Rock of Ages which runs through Aug. 19.

If the opening act leaves you a bit befuddled ... like where is this going? ... just hang in there. As if reading your thoughts, the narrator explains that it's a love story and the show takes off from there. It is a love story between boys and girls, between comrades and a love story about a way of life on LA's Sunset Strip that is threatened by "progress." The 20+ songs that coincide with the plot propell the audience along until the emotional finale of "Don't Stop Believing." The \$250,000 production has taken Highlands theatre to new heights and will remind you to never stop believing in possibilities even in a small town like Highlands.

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• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• MAYOR ON DUTY •

• HIC'S VIEW •

Candidates will face a slew of issues

The period of July through August is an easy, laid-back time in Highlands. Residents and visitors are enjoying the wonderful cool summer temperatures, and the air is full of beautiful blooms blanketing the mountains. But, after Labor Day, not only will the tempo pick up as the fall colors change the landscape, the upcoming municipal elections will certainly bring their own 'airing' of the issues facing the candidates.



Highlands Mayor
Patrick Taylor

Let me outline some possible topics that I think might arise that will determine the future of the town. Voters will have the final say in how they want the town to be in the future.

One overarching issue will center around growth and development. That is, how much and what kind of growth do we want to see in Highlands? On one side, people tell me we must have an economy that enables people to make a living here on the plateau. I understand their concerns. On the other hand, some folks worry about over-development in the name of economic progress. Their fear is that rapid and expansive growth will undermine the quality of life that we all enjoy here in Highlands. The candidates for the board of commissioners will have to take a position.

Another issue will be whether to extend water and sewer services beyond the current town limits. The question is whether to transition these critical services into a regional system or not, and would that extension of services control development or promote development in areas where water and sewer are now not currently available?

I am sure downtown parking will be a topic. Does the town add more to the already existing 900 or so parking spaces? If we were to expand parking, where would that happen? The Highlands Comprehensive Plan calls for more parking from 3rd to 1st Street. A previous parking study had a plan for the project. The questions will be whether it should be done, what would be the impact on properties, and how would such a substantial project be funded.

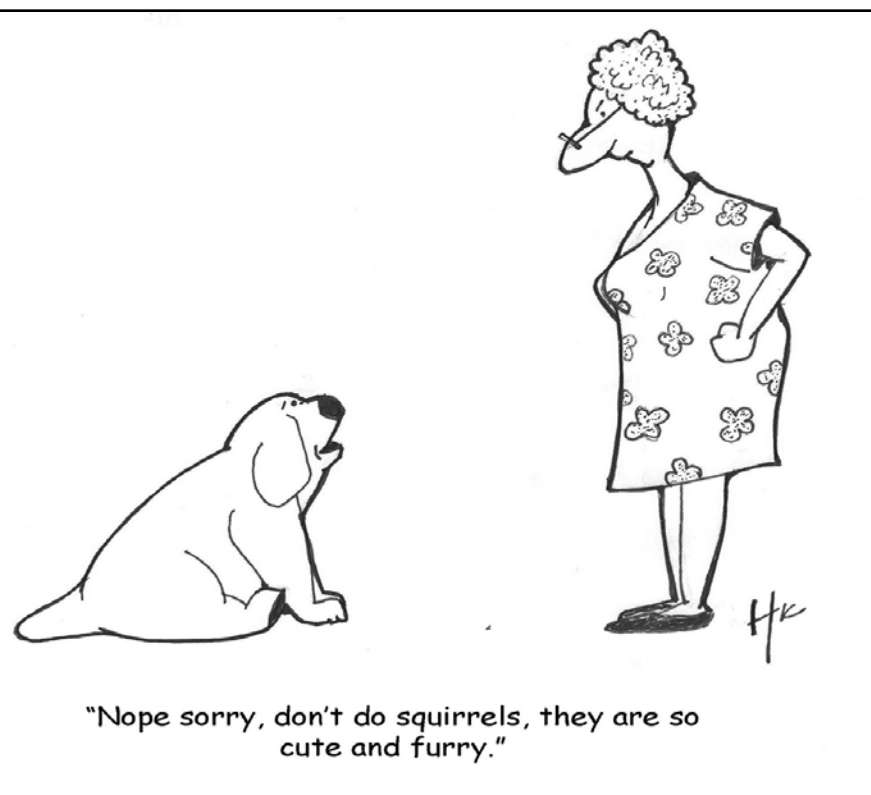
Another issue will center around the room tax and how it is allocated. The method of use of the room tax is based on the 1985 legislative formula. The state has made changes in 1997 and 2011 that permit other uses of those funds, and these statutes need to be reviewed, especially in the robust tourist economy that the community now enjoys.

Road maintenance, sanitation, recycling, and garbage rates will also be on the table. Long-term infrastructure projects will also probably be addressed.

A big issue will center around housing. Of course, the candidates' positions on STRs will be a major topic of discussion. Questions such as does the town continue with the current September 15 ordinance or do we jettison STR restrictions. Whether the town will exercise the STR amortization option for residential areas will also be on the table.

Workforce housing will be an issue. Should the town become involved in facilitating affordable housing in the town? A resident recently shared with me an article about Vail, CO. Vail just committed 50 million dollars to purchase 49 acres earmarked for affordable housing. Vail has a partnership with developers to build and redevelop about 200 units for about 165 million dollars. Should Highlands embrace such partnership projects? How much in increased property taxes would residents be willing to pay for such a program, not to mention would the town have enough land in the first place? Housing could be a very big issue this fall.

I'm sure other issues will come forward as the election approaches. I will closely follow the discussion.



• WEATHER •

Thu, 3-Aug	Fri, 4-Aug	Sat, 5-Aug	Sun, 6-Aug
66°F 64°F	73°F 61°F	79°F 64°F	76°F 63°F
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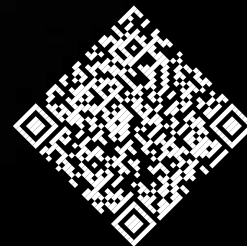
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• INVESTING AT 4,118 Ft •

Highlands, NC: A town with a rich history and fascinating facts

Highlands, NC is a charming mountain town with a lot to offer both visitors and locals. From its stunning scenery to its slew of outdoor activities and vibrant art scene, there's something for everyone in Highlands. But even if you've lived in Highlands your whole life, you might not know some of these little known facts about the town. You can thank me later for these helpful Highlands conversation starters!

Highlands was founded in 1875 by two Kansas developers, Samuel Kelsey and Clinton Hutchinson. They chose the site for its lofty elevation (over 4,000 feet) and its abundance of natural beauty. The town was originally named by Silas McDowell who named it "Sugartown Highlands" as early as 1840 and later shortened by Kelsey to Highlands.

Allegedly, Kelsey and Hutchinson drew two lines on a map: one from New York to New Orleans, and the other from Chicago to Savannah. They believed that the place where these lines crossed would

eventually become a great population center. They were right, sort of.

Highlands was a popular destination for wealthy Southerners during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. They came for the fresh air, the beautiful scenery, and the opportunities for outdoor recreation. In the 1930s, Highlands became a golfing mecca when Bobby Jones and some of his friends founded the Highlands Country Club. Today, that club is one of seven successful residential country club communities in the area.

In addition to its rich history, Highlands is also home to a number of fascinating facts. Here are a few of my favorites:

- The town is home to over 50 different species of salamanders, more than any other place in the world.



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- Highlands is one of two rainforests in North America, averaging 80 inches of rain per year

- Highlands is a popular destination for birdwatchers. The area is home to over 200 species of birds, including the bald eagle, the peregrine falcon, and the cerulean warbler.

- Highlands is also home to the world's largest lichen collection. The collection is housed at the Highlands Biological Station, and it includes over 10,000 specimens of lichen from all over the world.

- The caves of Whiteside Mountain was featured in Walker Percy's Second Coming, Percy having spent many summers in Highlands.

- Whiteside Mountain is the highest mountain in the area at 4,930 feet. It is believed to be about 390 to 460 million years

old. It is a part of the Blue Ridge Mountains, which are a range of ancient mountains that were formed during the Paleozoic era. The Blue Ridge Mountains are some of the oldest mountains in the world, and Whiteside Mountain is one of the oldest exposed granite plutons in the range.

- Highlands was a popular destination for artists and writers in the early 20th century. Some of the notable residents of Highlands during this time include Stephen Vincent Benét, Alex Haley, and Norman Rockwell.

- In the early 1900s, Highlands, NC was once home to one of the first sanitariums that treated patients with tuberculosis. Dr. Mary E. Lapham believed that the high altitude and clean air of Highlands would be beneficial for patients along with her new radical method of artificial pneumothorax. Patients stayed in one of 60 open-air wood "tents." One of the tents can be viewed at the Highlands Historic Village.

- The town is also home to a num-

• See INVESTING page 8



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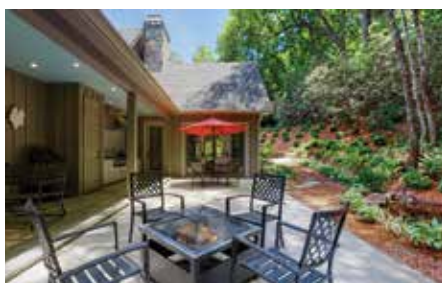


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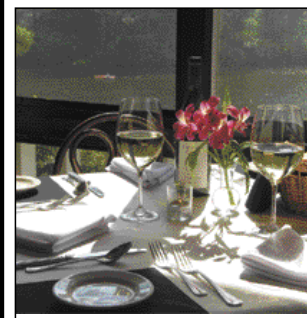
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• LETTERS •

Anna is home!

Dear Highlands Community Friends,

Late Monday night, around 11:45 p.m., we received a call from Kara Hardy who said she had Anna.

Kara was heading home when she saw Anna on the side of the road near the post office. She pulled over, got out and called her. Surprisingly, Anna went right to her.

We proceeded to town from Horse Cove and met Kara at 12:15 a.m. Tuesday, in front of Dutchman's where she is the manager. We were filled with relief, gratitude, and excitement.

When we got there, Anna was sitting in Kara's lap in her car comfortable and seemingly happy. After almost 3 1/2 weeks, upon returning home early Tuesday morning, Anna was calm, loving, and very hungry. Overall, she looks good but is very thin.

Dick and I would like to thank the Highlands Community for their outreach of concern, media help, searching, and suggestions. I knew we were blessed to call Highlands home, but the outpouring from the community was overwhelming.

With so much gratitude,

Gerri and Dick
Highlands



Why isn't our mail getting delivered?

Dear Editor,

I am writing to you out of frustration over the fact that the postal service is not working up here in Highlands. Last week we kept checking our mail box at the Post Office for Friday's mail and finally found it Sunday afternoon. We check the mail after noon on week days and Saturdays and often do not get it delivered at all. We have missed newspapers, bills, personal letters and a raft of junk mail. One day we only got the junk mail but nothing else. (and that was late in the afternoon)

In January we paid over \$300 for our postal box. I wonder if those with old fashioned mail boxes in from of their homes get mail. That is free you know, once you pay taxes and cost of pole and mail box.

I know our long-suffering and more than kind mail lady cannot do it alone. I cannot imagine how she does all she does. It is not her responsibility to do everything so what is going on? Stamps are sky high, salaries are probably good and the post office building in Highlands is very attractive and new. Who can get our mail deliveries back? Is it just Highlands?

Another question: Have the town leaders, board of commissioners, town manager or anyone in Town Hall lifted the phone to try to get this problem solved?

What is going on?

Griffin and Glenda Bell
Highlands

What is a library?

Dear Editor,

At the June 27 Macon County Board Meeting, Chairman Bill Dyar was asked by Leah Gaston and the other two new board members for the opportunity to fully introduce themselves. Chairman Dyar agreed.

I have included all of new board member Mrs. Leah Gaston's remarks below, but for purposes of this column, I want to focus on her following remark:

"...And I want to be involved with our library because my family loves and values this local library. It is important that we keep the local and our local library and our library free of distracting outside influences."

The local/not-local trope has permeated discussions about the library and its content for close to two years now and perhaps this is the moment to unpack this overlaid label.

What constitutes "local?" Is it an idea or thing that has its origins in Franklin, or Macon County, or the three-county

region of Macon, Jackson, and Swain which the Fontana Regional Library system serves?

How long must the idea, thing, and/or person have existed within the subjective boundaries before it has become assimilated, no longer "outside", and now worthy of being seen as "local?" Is it a year, the ten years such as Mrs. Gaston and her husband have been here for? Is it my almost 61 years as a Maconian, as I was born in Highlands in 1962, in a building that my sister later converted to a multi-organization nonprofit center, a place where she started the Highlands Literacy Council about 29 years ago. Or, must one have been here seven or eight generations as such families as the Silers, Corbins, Higdon, and others can attest? Or, must one be Cherokee and be able to trace back to a moment prior to the contact with English and Spanish speakers?

Or does the label "local" transcend geographic and chronological boundaries?

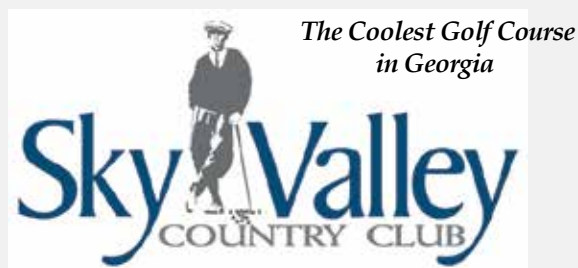
...INVESTING continued from page 4

ber of historic buildings on the National Register, including Old Edwards Inn, and the Highlands Inn. I encourage you to visit the Highlands Historic Village to see the Elizabeth Wright Prince House.

• The town of Highlands is also home to a number of ghost stories. One of the most popular stories is about the ghost of a woman who allegedly haunts Highlands Inn. *Check Stephanie Williams's Haunted Hills:*

Ghosts and Legends of Highlands and Cashiers, NC.

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Highlands Hurricanes coach Steve Hott displays team's numerous medals.

Highlands Hurricanes bring home medals from Jr. Olympics competition in Iowa

From July 27 through July 30, 12 swimmers from the Highlands Hurricanes Swim Team joined three other swimmers from the Mountain Swim League (MSL) to form Team MSL and compete in the 2023 Jr. Olympics in Des Moines, Iowa.

The other three were from the Franklin Area Swim Team (FAST).

Team MSL finished 14th in the meet against teams including Team Florida, Team New England, Team Arkansas and others.

The 12 members of the Team MSL 2023 National Team from the Highlands Hurricanes were: Jasmine Abranyi, Elizabeth Burnette, Corena Dearth, Finneaus Garner, Conner Hughes, Sofia and Lilliana Jandera-Chambless, Chase Kenter, Aniah McKim, Paolo McRae, Jack Sumner and Tate Wilson. Members from FAST were Claire Ballard, and Lana and Zoi Walker.

Team MSL was led by Lilliana Jandera-Chambless who won a gold medal in the

100 backstroke, and six silver medals and scored 70 pts.

Chase Kenter brought home a silver medal in the 400 IM, a 5th place finish in the 200 breaststroke and 70 pts.

Jack Sumner won a bronze medal in the 400 IM, finished 4th in the 200 butterfly and scored 64 pts.

Claire Ballard won a bronze medal in the 100 breaststroke, and 4th in the 50 free-style, scoring 38 pts.

Sofia Jandera-Chambless brought home a gold medal in the 200 butterfly and 20 pts. Elizabeth Burnette and Corena Dearth both scored 16 pts. Both had an 8th and a 12th place finish - Burnette in the 100 and 50 butterfly and Dearth in the 50 and 100 breaststroke.

The foursome of Finneaus Garner, Conner Hughes, Aniah McKim, and Paolo McRae combined for 48 pts, scoring in all

• See HURRICANES page 17

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• FINANCIAL MATTERS •

My family's journey with Long-Term Care

My mom has been coming to Highlands since she was 12 and spent summers here with her mom and dad building friendships with many of the longtime families in town – families with last names like Crowe, Potts, Keener, and Picklesimer.

Mom's health

In early March, my mom was diagnosed with Multiple Myeloma. MM is a cancer of the white blood cells that attacks the bones. This caused two stress fractures, one in her upper arm and one in her thigh. This resulted in three surgeries along with five weeks of hospitalization and rehab. Prior to this, she was living independently, driving, and active in church. Cognitively she's fine, but now, her mobility is the issue.

Planning for the worst, hoping for the best

There are only three ways to pay for long-term care – either you pay out of pocket, an insurance company pays, or the government pays.



Michael P Henderson,
CFP® CKA®
Founder/Wealth Advisor
Crossover Point Advisors

So, in 2000, shortly after I became an advisor, my mom purchased a Long-Term Care insurance policy through me. I initiated the conversation with her at the time partly because three of my grandparents – including her mother and father – required long-term care and were not able to afford the cost out of pocket, instead relying on Medicaid. As my mom approached 60, I wanted to make sure she had choices if the time came.

Her policy has a 90 day-waiting period before it pays dollar one (she is now 80+ days into receiving care). Through a local agency, her home care costs \$34 per hour, 7 hours per day, 7 days per week. If you do the math, that's \$21,420 out of pocket in just 3 months.

In my experience, this is the single biggest risk to most people in retirement.

Retirement generally happens in 3 phases – the “go-go” phase, the “slow-go” phase, and the “no-go” phase. The scenario I typically see is where one spouse needs care first (usually the husband who is older and has a shorter life ex-

pectancy), and if they're able, the other spouse becomes the caregiver. They do this for a time until they are simply unable, and then the spouse that needs care enters a nursing home for the remainder of their life. This is when the couple really begins to draw down their nest eggs because of the cost, partly because at the same time, the other spouse is still home and needs to continue paying the household expenses along with the nursing home expense. Then, if and when the remaining loved one needs care, there is likely to be substantially less money, so their care falls on a family member – likely a child or younger sibling.

Let's face it, nobody likes paying for insurance, especially if they never use it. But for long-term care insurance, the odds you'll need it is better than your auto and homeowners' insurance!

According to LongTermCare.gov, Statistically, if you reach 65, you have almost a 70% chance of needing some form of long-term care. Women will likely need care longer – 3.7 years vs. 2.2 years for men – and 20% of today's 65-year-olds, will need it for longer than 5 years.

Let me end with this, the pool of money my mom's policy has created over 23 years gives both of us choices we would not have otherwise had, and the peace of mind knowing she is going to be well cared for, at home, for the foreseeable future.

I always feared this day would come, but as the eldest son of someone who now requires long-term care, all I can say is that this was, without a doubt, the best insurance sale I ever made!

...SALES continued from page 1

types of practices and they have lost,” the Mayor said. “We are not ignoring this, but we have to follow the law.”

He said Chief Holland has spoken to her contacts in the District Attorney's office, at the State Bureau of Investigation and at the Federal Bureau of Investigation and there is close to nothing law

enforcement can do on the face of things.

“I won't talk about the complaints sent our way; we do look into these complaints and do everything that is within our power to deal with this, but on the face of it, there is little we can do,” she said.

• See SALES page 12

Nancy's & The Exchange

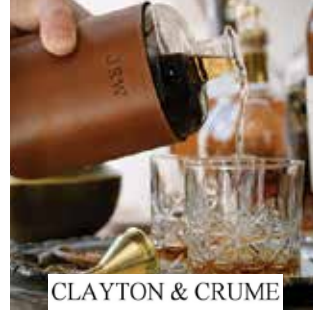
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Town Square | 343 Main St.

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The Well Drinkers

AUGUST 11
Nitrograss

AUGUST 18
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AUGUST 25
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AUGUST 5
Soulution

AUGUST 12
Full Circle



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LOUNGE

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Summer Menu

View Menu



...SALES continued from page 10

Chief Holland said, first of all typically, it's not locals who are victims of aggressive sales techniques, but visitors including friends and family members.

"I offer this information so that residents full- or part-time and visitors have a positive experience while in Highlands," said Holland. "Please encourage your friends,

family members and visitors to carefully consider the products or merchandise they may be inclined to purchase and if at any time they feel pressured from a salesperson, simply leave the store."

Chief Holland said there is nowhere in America where anyone can legally force you to stay in a store.

"If you feel uncomfortable for any reason, you have the right to leave; so walk out," she said. "I have asked shop owners and managers to let people be if someone doesn't want to buy something - just let them be. I have been told this isn't happening, but we know it is," she said.

If it gets to the point where salespeople are verbally pounding and people still feel they can't leave, Holland said to call 9-1-1.

"I can assure you we will come over and we will escort you out of any store on Main Street. We will personally walk you out if you feel you can't leave. If you get the feeling that you don't want to be there for any reason, call 9-1-1," she said.

She also encourages people to watch for telltale signs of aggressive techniques. "Be aware," she said.

"If you go shopping with someone, and if a salesperson suggests they not come in with you but to wait outside, watch for those things. If you are asked to be separated from the people you come in with, there is something wrong with that picture," she said. "Pick up on that. Why do they want you separated?"

Enticing by touching is also an issue. Over the last few years, the town has stiffened the fines of ordinances so if an employee breeches the front door of their property to entice people to come in, the store can be fined \$250.

"We are challenged when we are told that 'someone grabbed me.' We ask, 'who?' They often say, 'not sure.' The bottom line is, if someone touches you and you don't want to be touched, we call that assault. Since we don't typically see the altercation, we ask them to go to the magistrate and explain what happened."

Chief Holland said often people don't follow through.

"But if we don't see it, it's up to the person who was violated to tell their story to the magistrate," she said.

Then there's the issue of outrageous charges on credit cards.

"Do not allow anyone to run your credit card until you know what the charges will be and if the charge is different from what you are told, don't sign the transac-

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Franklin Chamber of Commerce
Rosewood Market, Highlands
Silver Threads, Franklin

Creekside Gazebo, Franklin
AARC Thrift Store, Franklin
Christine's Home Decor, Otto

...LETTERS continued from page 7

Mrs. Gaston implies that we should be vigilant, on guard against the intrusion of “distracting outside influences.”

So, now we’re additionally stuck with puzzling out what “outside influences” are. And we are tasked with deciding what is “distracting.” And, if we are “distracted” by these “outside influences”, what are they distracting us from? In other words, what exactly are we supposed to be focused on?

I am honestly baffled by the phrase “outside influences”, whether they be distracting or not, when the phrase is deployed as to best practices in library management.

It’s a library.

And if a library is to have any merit, any value, if it is to live up to its mission of being a collection of intellectual reflection, literary output, reference work, and as repository of art, isn’t the summative value of the institution, whether it’s the Greenville County Library, the Macon County Library, the Vatican Library, and/or the Library of Congress, largely dependent on the scope and depth of “outside influences?” It would seem strange indeed to have a general public library which confined its stacks, its curations, to be highly provincial. Even stranger, would be the provincial confinement to only reflect the worldviews, the perspectives, of a select few, some sort of stunted ideological beachhead or province within a province so to speak.

The Macon County Library, indeed all of the Fontana Regional Library member libraries, have works of history, literature, science, and art from every place on the globe. Are we to take these works within the current stacks as “outside influences” to be shunned?

Since the denunciation of the Macon County Library’s and FRL holdings and/or their categorization or shelving started approximately 18 months ago, we have heard “outside”, “outsider”, and “outside influences” as epithets sneered in public fora. And within the same accusatory breath, the term “local” has been proffered as some sort of badge of legitimacy, a member of an elite or chosen.

Libraries historically are all about inclusivity. Not exclusivity. The Macon County Library and the Fontana Regional Library have made tremendous strides in the direction of inclusivity. And this expansion of the circle of who counts and what sort of media should be offered by these institutions isn’t “promotion”, rather it is indeed an update to reflect what are the various interests and outlooks of people who live

in Macon County and/or the three-county area. Indeed, that has always been the mission of public libraries.

We could argue that our libraries in Macon, Jackson, and Swain are now more local than ever and I hope the respective boards will continue to serve the broadest community possible, our community of law-abiding, peaceful citizens, of diverse interests, backgrounds, perspectives, and dreams.

John deVille

Maconian since 1962.

Checked out my first book at the

Armadillos have found their way to Highlands

Lucy the cat gets her first look at an armadillo in her yard in Clear Creek.



Photo by Rachel Lewicki

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• HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

POOL SCHEDULE

• Lap Swim: Mon.-Fri., 6.-9:45a, and Sat., 10a-11p - 6 lanes. Water Aerobics: 18 yrs plus, Mon.-Fri. 10-11am with Karen Chambers. Public Swim Mon. thru Thurs. 11a-7p; Fri. and Sat. 11a-6p and Sun. 1-6p. For info, call 828-526-1595.

ONGOING

• The "Kids Hike Highlands" trail passport program has been refreshed for the 2023 season. pick up a copy of the Kids Hike Highlands passport map at one of the four prize locations or you can download a copy at www.highland-

sbiological.org.

Mon.-Fri.

• Nantahala Tennis plays at the Highlands Rec Park 9a-1p.

Mon-Wed, Fri-Sun

• Alcoholics Anonymous: "Open Meetings" are for anyone who thinks they may have a drinking problem or for anyone interested in the A.A. program of recovery. Highlands Mountain View Group holds open meetings in Highlands at the First Presbyterian Church, 471 Main St., on Monday at 5:30 PM and Wednesday and Friday at noon. The Cashiers Valley Group holds open

meetings at the Albert Carlton Cashiers Community Library Tuesday at 7 PM, Friday and Sunday at 5 PM, and Saturday at 9 AM. A ZOOM meeting is available Wednesday at 7PM (ID# 921 817 2966, password CVG2020). For more information, please visit www.aawnc80.org or to speak with a member of AA 24/7 at 828-349-4357

Second Mondays

• The local chapter of PEO, an off-campus sorority founded in the 1800s that provides grants and loans to women with financial need who want to return to school or further their education meets at 10 a.m.

More meeting places call president Paula McDonald at 706-372-3004

1st Tuesdays

• Indivisible Highlands from 5-6:30pm at the Hudson Library.

2nd Tuesdays

• Highlands Writers Group meets on alternate Tuesday afternoons at 3pm. Writers still uncomfortable with in-person gatherings may participate via Zoom meetings. For more information contact Bud Katz at either 828-526-3190 or at budandlynn@me.com

Tuesdays

• Strength Training 8:15-9:15am. Aim for strong, lean muscles using light weights, body weight, and high repetition to shape and tone.

Wednesdays

• Hudson Library, in partnership with VAYA Health, is hosting an educational series on adult mental health topics, held on the first Wednesday of each month at 11AM. This series is aimed particularly at older adults and will focus on mental health topics of particular interest to them, but all ages are welcome to attend.

Mon-Fri

• Water Aerobics 18 years plus 10-11am. Contact the Recreation Department at 828-526-3556 for more information.

• Pickle Ball inside and outside. 10am-1pm, everyone is welcome so come out and enjoy a game of Pickle Ball.

Mon., Tues., Thurs.

• The Food Pantry behind the Methodist Church on Spring Street is open from 10a to 6p.

Mon. & Wed.

• New Mobility Class with Anna Norton It's all about movement. 5:30-6:30pm and Wednesday 6:45-7:45. For more info, call 267-825-0716.

Mon, Wed, Fri

• Heart Healthy Exercise Class 8:30-9:30am. \$25 a month, The class is led by Cathy Hodgson. Contact the Recreation Department at 828-526-3556 for more information.

• Aerobics w/Tina Rogers 8-9a. Contact the Recreation Department at 828-526-3556 for more info.

Tuesdays

• At Hudson Library, Nature Kids on selected Tuesday mornings. For more info call the Hudson Library at 828-526-3031

• At Wayfarers Chapel, Workshop for Writers – Tuesdays from 5-6:30 PM. Facilitated by Sam Renken, this group has a simple mission: to foster and provide consistent community for local writers thereby giving writers of all ages and genres the opportunity to write, read, revise, and present their work to the group.

• ESL classes are held at the Presbyterian Church in Highlands from 5:30-6:30pm. No registration required – just show up and participate. Questions? call 828-526 – 0863 or email info@maconncliteracy.org

Tues. & Thurs.

• Zumba class with Gay Chaplin from 4:30-5:30p. Contact the Recreation Department at 828-526-3556 for more information.

• Exercise Class with Michelle Lane at 5:30. A combination class with different types of exercise. Contact the Recreation Department at 828-526-3556 for more information

Thurs. through Aug. 10

• Highlands Biological Foundation's free Zahner lectures at the Highlands Nature Center (930 Horse Cove Road) at 6 p.m. To preview HBF's full Zahner lecture lineup, please visit www.highlands-biological.org.

Thurs-Sat.

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• HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

• Highlands Historical Society Museum at 320 N. 4th Street is open 10a to 4p through October.

Mountain Findings Thrift Store on Spruce Street is open 10a-1p through October.

Thursdays

• Kickboxing 8:15-9:15am. An exhilarating and fun mix of martial arts for a calorie-burning workout. Contact the Recreation Department at 828-526-3556 for more information.

• At Hudson Library, Family Storytime continues throughout the year on Thursday mornings at 10:40 AM.

• At Hudson Library, Kids Zone at 3:30 pm with a wide variety of STEAM, nature, and craft activities. For more information about any of these summer activities, contact Hudson Library at 828-526-3031.

• At Wayfarers Chapel, Chair Yoga – from 4-5 PM. If you are interested in greater strength and flexibility but have difficulty getting up and down from a sitting or reclining posture.

• At Wayfarers Chapel, Gentle Mat Yoga – from 5-6 PM. Looking for greater strength? Join Dana Thiele at the chapel for Gentle Mat Yoga on the Deck. With more than 20 years experience,

3rd Fridays

• At the Rec Park, Senior Lunches noon in the meeting room. For any other information call Lester Norris or Maxine Ramey at 828-526-3556.

2nd Saturdays

• The Western North Carolina Woodturners Club meets in Highlands at The Bascom at 10 a.m. March thru November.

3rd Saturdays

• The American Legion Post 370 meets at the First Methodist Church at 315 Main St. in their community room/909 chapel. We serve breakfast at 9 AM and hold our monthly meeting at 10 AM. We invite ALL veterans to attend - email ncpost370@gmail.com for more information or just join us at 9 AM on the 3rd Saturday of the month.

Sundays

• Church in the Wildwood Hymn Sing Sundays 7-8 p.m. through Sept. 3. 828-506-0125.

• At Wayfarers Chapel, Sunday Service: 10 AM Sunday Morning. Stick around for visitation and coffee hour immediately after service. (Coffee hour is replaced by potluck dinner the 1st Sunday of each month).

• Soiree for Pre-K at the Vineyard at High Holly, 5:30 p.m. until. \$250 per person. Eight per table. Includes Dinner, drinks and dancing. Featuring Steel Toe Stilletto from Greenville, SC. For tickets call 828-526-0863. Or email, info@TheLiteracyandLearningCenter.org.

Through Aug. 19

• "Rock of Ages" at Mountain Theatre Company now in residence at the Performing Arts Center on Chestnut Street For tickets go to www.mountaintheatre.com.

Thurs., Aug 3

• At CLE, from 2 to 4 p.m., Ron Suskind will discuss "Leadership Challenges in the Digital Age." For most of his career, Suskind has examined and written about leadership in both the public and private sector. He is the author of signature investigations of leadership for The Wall Street Journal and The New York Times. He is the author of four bestselling books on U.S. Presidents that shaped history. Cost is \$30/\$40 Member/Non-Member for each presentation. Register to attend online at www.clehighlands.com or by calling (828) 526-8811.

• The Highlands Biological Foundation's annual Zahner Conservation Lecture series program at 6 p.m., featuring Drs. Jane Eastman and Brett Riggs of Western Carolina University (WCU) as they present "Archaeoastronomy in Southwestern North Carolina." In ancient Cherokee perspective, the matters of this world, the Above World and the Beneath World intertwine, and Cherokee peoples constructed ritual landscapes to engage the beings and forces of these realms. Recent investigations in the Little Tennessee River Valley have found one such landscape that marks astronomical phenomena and bespeaks sophisticated systems for measuring calendrical time and the cycles central to Cherokee life.

Fri. Aug. 4

• At CLE, from 2 to 4 p.m., Suskind will return to CLE to present his family's heartwarming story "Life Animated: A Tale of Autism, Hidden Potential, and Love." Ron will describe the Suskinds' two-decade journey in connecting with their youngest son Owen, who was diagnosed at age 3 with regressive autism, lost his ability to speak, and then developed an obsessive interest in Disney movies. Cost is \$30/\$40 Member/Non-Member for each presentation. Register to attend online at www.clehighlands.com or by calling (828) 526-8811.

• See EVENTS page 16

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Upcoming Program Highlights

Life Animated: A Tale of Autism, Hidden Potential, and Love

Presenter: Ron Suskind, Friday, August 4,
2:00-4:00, \$30/\$40

Music As My Guide

Presenter: Zuill Bailey, Friday, August 4,
10:00-2:00, \$30/\$40

Cocktail Reception and Author Book Talk: "The Emancipation of Evan Walls."

Author: Jeffrey Blount, Monday, August
7, 4:00-6:00, \$70/\$80

Future of Journalism in a Polarized World

Presenter: Jeffrey Blount, Tuesday, August
8, 10:00-12:00, \$30/\$40

Plants as Medicine: Wildcrafting and Basic Herbal Medicine Making 101

Presenter: Connie Thompson, Tuesday,
August 8, 2:00-4:00, \$30/\$40

Decoupage a Platter Workshop

Presenter: Colette Clark, Wednesday, August 9,
10:00-12:00, \$60/\$70

The Men Who Lost America: British Leadership and the Revolutionary War

Presenter: Andrew O'Shaughnessy, Wednesday,
August 9, 2:00-4:00, \$30/\$40

The Illimitable Freedom of the Human Mind: Thomas Jefferson and Education

Presenter: Andrew O'Shaughnessy, Thursday, August 10,
10:00-12:00, \$30/\$40

From Polar Bears to Puffins

Presenter: James McClintock, Monday, August 14, 2:00-4:00,
\$30/\$40

Diving Below Antarctic Ice

Presenter: James McClintock, Tuesday, August 15, 10:00-12:00,
\$30/\$40

Common Invasive Landscape Plants and Native Alternatives

Presenter: Adam Bigelow, Tuesday, August 15, 2:00-4:00,
\$30/\$40

Ten Myths About America's Founding Documents

Presenter: Woody Holton, Wednesday, August 16, 2:00-4:00,
\$30/\$40

To register for these and other CLE
programs, please visit clehighlands.com

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• HIGHLANDS EVENTS •

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• At Hudson Library, best-selling author Katherine Reay on Friday at 4 PM. Katherine Reay will be at the library for a Books & Bites talk about her latest historical fiction release, A Shadow in Moscow.

• At the Nature Center, prepare to be captivated by the mesmerizing beauty and profound significance of the southern Appalachian region as the Highlands Nature Center invites you to a free screening of the critically acclaimed documentary The River Runs On on Friday at 6 p.m.

Sat., Aug. 5

• The annual Highlands Fire & Rescue Open House. Free hotdogs and firetruck rides, 11a to 3p at the new station, 149 Franklin Road. Celebrating 70 years of service.

Sun. Aug. 6

• The Highlands Historical Society presents its annual fundraiser, Big Hats-Bow Ties at an estate on Kettle Rock. Brunch starts at 12:30.

Aug. 10

• At the Macon County Library on Siler Road, a Nantahala Hiking Program for All at 6 p.m. Justin McVey, NC Wildlife Biologist, is a NC expert on bear habitat and behaviors. He shares examples of how to safely live

with our wild black bears. All are welcome to join and bring a neighbor! Must be present to win the free raffle valued \$20. <https://www.ncwildlife.org/have-a-problem>

Thurs., Aug. 17

• At The Bascom, Community Barn Dance, 5:30-7:30 p.m. \$10 General Admission, 12 and under Free. Jackson Grimm and the Bull Moose Party. Cash Bar. Free Popcorn. To reserve tickets go to The Bascom.org or call 828-526-4949.

Sun., Aug. 13

• Death Cafe from 2-4 p.m. at Wayfarers Unity Chapel, 182 Wayfarer Lane, Dillard, GA. This is a group-directed discussion with no agenda, objective or themes, and no intent to lead participants to any conclusion, product or course of action. Please come enjoy tea and cake (a nod to Death Cafe's British origins) and talk openly and confidentially about all things death related. The session is facilitated by Jan Brewer, M.A., CMT. For further information please contact Jan at 510-684-5555 and/or visit www.deathcafe.com.

Sat., Aug. 19

• The Highlands Emergency

Council 31-year celebration at the Highlands Community Building from 4-7 p.m. There will be a silent auction, live music, beer, wine and appetizers as well as a raffle. For more information, call 838-526-4357.

Thurs., Aug. 24

• At OEI's The Farm, from 6-8 p.m., Nicole Witt a nationally-touring, award-winning Nashville songwriter and multi-instrumentalist known for the soaring melodies and clever turns of phrase that have brought her national acclaim in the country, bluegrass, and Christian music scenes. Tickets are \$40. <https://www.simplerix.com/e/nicole-witt-orchard-sessions-at-the-farm-tickets-124435>

Aug. 25-Sept. 2

• The annual Cashiers Designer Showhouse theme this year is "Historically Cashiers" and features a classic mountain retreat in The Club at High Hampton. For more information on the Cashiers Designer Showhouse and the Cashiers Historical Society, please visit cashierhistoricalsociety.org or call 828-743-7710.

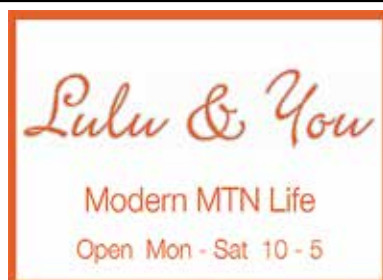
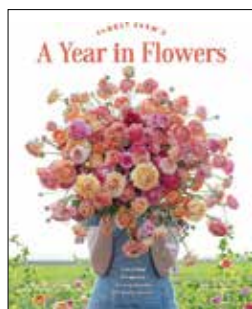
Thurs., Aug. 31

• The Highlands Chamber of Commerce/Visit Highlands, NC will host a free community shred event Thursday from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in Highlands Plaza, near Bryson's Food Store on Highway 106. To ensure a smooth process, we kindly request participants to transport their items in plastic bags or bins. Allowed: paper products with staples or paper clips, spiral notebooks. Not Allowed: 3-ring binders and cardboard. Donations on-site to support two local organizations, The Gordon Center and Highlands Child Care Development Center.

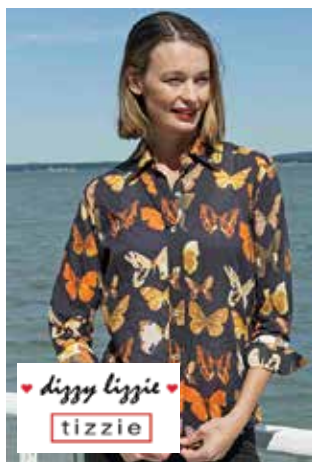
• At The Vineyard in Scaly Mountain, A Cause for the Paws Summer Fling 4-7 p.m. Gourmet food, artwork, live and silent auction, prizes and live music. Tickets are \$50. All proceeds to benefit the Appalachian Animal Rescue Center. Tickets available at Rosewood Market in Highlands and at the Franklin Chamber of Commerce, Silver Threads, Creeside Gazebo, AARC Thrift Store all in Franklin and Christie's Home Decor in Otto.

Sat., Sept. 9

• The Highlands Historical Society presents The Dahlia Festival.



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Learn how to make a Bird House, Bird Feeder or Bat House!
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Each class lasts approximately 90 minutes and provides 25 meals locally for each item made.

• THEN & NOW •

Why Republicans have won America's future

We live in a time framed by fake news, misinformation, digital tomfoolery, sanitized narratives of the past, outright lies, and bitter culture wars. Yet whether the focus is on statues of Dead White Men, Black Lives Matter protests, vaccine mandates, abortion, critical race theory, or gay rights, all represent long-smoldering resentments forever inflamed by the latest issue. It's been going on since the 1960s and, frankly, Republicans are winning.

While it might seem petty, even bewildering to many Americans, battles over banning books, DEI (Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion), adverse and reverse racism -- the idea that whites are the most persecuted and discriminated, woke-ness, and trans people in women's sports -- all serve as examples of a continuing cultural war that is nothing less than a sustained assault on what is currently called postwar modernism, the movement since World War II, and most notably during the 1960s toward a society that is more democratic, equal, inclusive, and welfare-oriented.

The backlash began as *Brown v. Board* (1954) was about to be implemented, schools integrated, and a series of voting and civil rights laws enacted in the decade from 1963 to 1973. It has only grown and metamorphosed since.

It is no coincidence that modern conservatism was born in the 1964 candidacy of Barry Goldwater and in the Southern rebellion led by the likes of Jesse Helms, Richard Russell, and, today of Mitch McConnell.

Conservatives had a plan, a long-range one, that would take decades to implement but one that would gradually allow them to "capture" and "hold hostage" accounts and narratives of America's heritage and history even as they took back not Washington, DC, but state capitols.

Masked as nostalgia, many reactionary conservatives wanted to go back to those happier days with Ritchie and "The Fonz," to a time where the grass was always greener, women knew their place, father knew best, and everyone liked Ike, to a mythic, simpler past that never really existed.

In all this, conservatives anticipated but did not seek someone like Donald Trump, a Presidential dictator who would bring a wrecking ball to Washington. MAGA existed



Milton Ready

long before Donald Trump walked down that escalator in 2015. It also will be around for decades afterward.

A key to conservative strategy lay in eroding and challenging the power of the Federal government, especially the Department of Justice, and in taking over state governments one by one. The South knew all about states' rights and an overreaching Federal government. We have entered a new era of states' rights.

The recent rash of Supreme Court decisions only solidified that reactionary march back to the future. Masked in co-opted liberal language such as "rights," "freedoms," and "liberties," SCOTUS manufactured a case against LBGQT rights, 303 Creative v. Elenis, did away with affirmative action in deciding cases against Harvard and the University of North Carolina, denied the Federal government's right to enforce environmental standards through the EPA, and basically did away with women's rights to abortion -- all decisions turning back the clock to an America before the 1960s.

Soon SCOTUS will take aim at the legitimacy of gay marriage and of any Federal government involvement in education. Guess which three Federal agencies most conservatives would like to eliminate?

In all this, liberals have yet to fashion a sympathetic if alternative narrative of our past and future. They have little defense when faced with terms like "CRT" and "woke" except to invoke outrage and resort to older but now largely ineffective charges of racism and sexism.

In the contest between the 1619 Project and Hillsdale College's 1776 Curriculum, George and Jesus win overwhelmingly, even "critically," against slavery and bigotry in our past. Still, an affirming yet critical appraisal of our heritage and history is necessary and long overdue. Don't look for one soon.

...SALES continued from page 12

tions slip. If you sign, your signature states that you agree to the charges," she said. "You have just signed a contract and if you sign that contract my hands are tied."

According to the FBI, SBI and the DA's office if people go into a store and someone runs your credit card you have just agreed to pay the bill. And a lot of credit card companies won't credit the money back.

Holland said the best way to curb aggressive sales techniques, is to not buy the product.

"As long as people make money selling something, they will keep trying to sell it. So, the way to stop this is to make sure the product isn't selling anymore," she said. "No one can force you to stay and buy. Just walk out; leave. They want to sell the product because they make a lot of money whether it be clothing, jewelry, lotions, anything."

She also said if you go into a store and don't see price tags, or if a salesperson says, 'I will give it to you for this or that,' pick up on those cues. "Most stores have price tags, if they don't, something is off. Also, if they tell you one price but when they run your card it's a different price, don't sign it. If you do, then you will have to pay whatever it is."

- Kim Lewicki



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...HURRICANES from page 8

four of their relays, finishing 9th in the 200 medley relay, and 10th in the 400 medley relay.

Jazmine Abranyi finished 13th in the 50 freestyle, 20th in both the 100 butterfly and 100 freestyle, scoring 4 pts.

Lana Walker finished 26th in the 100 butterfly, and 35th in the 50 freestyle. Zoi Walker finished 26th and 38th in the 50 and 100 freestyle.

Tate Wilson finished 26th in the 400 freestyle and 60th in the 50 freestyle.

The Highlands Hurricanes Swim Team is a Highlands Recreation Park Team that practices at the Highlands Recreation Park Pool in the evenings. The only requirement to join is that a prospective swimmer must be able to swim 25 yards (one length of the Recreation Park Pool) unassisted. For more information please call Steve Hott at 828.421.4121.

• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •



Living with blind faith?

**Sr. Pastor
Gary Hewins**
Community Bible Church

I would put Ray Charles in the category of being a musical savant. Who wouldn't agree that he is some sort of "genius of sound?" Ray Charles hears things others are oblivious to because his hearing is his main source of interpreting the world he lives in. He is an acute listener out of necessity. All musicians who are blind possess an acutely fine-tuned sense of hearing. Any blind person is likely to listen/hear better than a person who can see.

If you are reading this article, you likely have a keener sense of sight than you do hearing. You likely see far better than you hear. Those whose sight is dominate can obviously function in contexts that exclude the blind, but that doesn't mean that those who can see are not disabled or handicapped. Those who see, see things that can lead them to pre-judge others. Seeing people see ethnicity when the blind may not. Seeing people see vanity, beauty, homeliness, affluence, poverty, tattoos, deformities, scars, uniforms, smiles, and tears when the blind may not. Sight is a luxury, but it can facilitate conflict, prejudice, even racism.

Faith is defined in scripture. "Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see (Heb. 11:1)." In the gospels, blind people with varying backgrounds were healed of their blindness. Some of those healed of blindness, had never seen Jesus. Their healing took place after they had left the Christ. After their healing, and upon their return, they were asked who healed them. Some didn't know for they hadn't seen Him. They could not have picked Jesus out in a lineup, but they could likely identify His voice.

It is the voice of God that is so important. It's knowing the voice of God, and recognizing the voice of God, that builds one's faith, not visual evidence. God speaks in many ways, but the main way is through the Bible. "So, then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God" (Romans 10:17). The Bible, when listened to and truly heard, builds our faith. Many want to believe based on what they see, but that is not primarily how it is intended to work. God wants us to listen and believe.

Are you an attentive, acute listener. In this current cultural moment few are skilled listeners. Most tend to stop listening to another at about the instance they begin formulating an interruptive, return reply. We can hear things not even said, and see wrongly, and pre-judge those who are speaking. Like a blind music artist, can you hear another's heart? Can their words give you a discerning look into another's heart? Jesus said, "out of the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaks" (Matt. 12:34). Listen closely first, and you might seize a subsequent look into another's

• See SPIRITUALLY page 22

• PLACES TO WORSHIP •

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

BUCK CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

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

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

CASHIERS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Rev. Aryn Williams-Reubel. Pastor 828-743-5298

Sundays: School at 9:30 Worship 10:30

Wednesday night Dinner and Service 5:30

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464 Hwy 64E. Cashiers, NC 828-743-1701

CAC@christanglicancashiers.org & 828-743-1701

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10:30 am Holy Eucharist Worship

Wednesdays: 6 pm Bible Study, Prayer, Potluck

Thursdays: 10 am Healing Eucharist

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Pastor Brent Metcalf • 743-5470

www.cashiers.church

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Tues. Guys study 8am. Gals 10am.

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE CHURCH

283 Spring Street - Sunday Service: 10:30 a.m.

Testimony meeting: 3rd Wednesday at 5:30 p.m.

CLEAR CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Jim Kinard

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

1st & 3rd Sunday night Service: 7 p.m.

Wednesdays - Supper at 6 p.m.

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www.cbchighlands.com • 526-4685

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Sundays: Service 10:45am, Children's 10:30am

Wednesdays: Youth 5:30-7pm; Women's Bible Study: Mondays

4:30pm, Tuesdays 10am; Men's Bible Study: Wednesdays &

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am in Sanctuary, Wed: Healing Eucharist 12 pm in Chapel, Morn-

ing Prayer: Mon-Thurs 8:30 am in Chapel

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH HIGHLANDS

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Dr. Mark Ford, Pastor • 220 Main Street, Highlands

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

Wed.: Men's Bible Study 8:30 am; Women's 10:30 am

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Emily Wilmarth, pastor

828-526-3175 • fpchighlands.org

Sun.: Adult Ed.: 10 a.m.; Worship 11 a.m.

Tues: Men's Group 10 a.m. Wed: Bell Choir 4 p.m. Choir: 6p

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Sunday School: 10 am. Worship Service: 11 am

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

Wed. Kidsquest 6p.; Worship 7p.

HIGHLANDS ASSEMBLY OF GOD

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

Wed. Bible Study: 6 p.m.; Sundays: Worship: 11

HIGHLANDS CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Dan Robinson • 11339 Buck Creek Road

The Highlands Central Baptist Church is temporarily

sharing the facilities of the Shortoff Baptist Church.

Sunday Worship is at 9a. Wednesday Worship is 6:30p

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Wednesdays: Prayer Mtg.: 7 p.m.

SCALY MOUNTAIN CHURCH OF GOD

290 Buck Knob Road; Pastor Donald G. Bates • 526-3212

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

Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study: 6 p.m.

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WHITESIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Rev. Sam Forrester/Cashiers

Sunday School: 10 am. Worship Service: 11 am

• POLICE & FIRE REPORTS •

Highlands Police entries from July 22. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a summons/citation, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor or those of public officials have been used.

July 22

• At 1:55 p.m., officers responded to a 2-vehicle accident at US 64 west and Sequoyah Point Way.

July 24

• At 2:03 p.m., officers responded to a report of a larceny at the Rec Park where a watch valued at \$800 was taken.

July 27

• At 7 a.m., officers received a report of a larceny at the Emergency Council where items were removed from the drop off spot outside the building.

• At 9:55 a.m., officers responded to a report of an assault on a female at a specialty store on Main Street.

• At 5:30 p.m., officers responded to a report of a larceny from a residence above a restaurant on Main Street where 13 items of jewelry was taken.

July 28

• At 3:40 p.m., officers responded to a 2-vehicle accident on NC 28 and Many Road.

July 30

• At 4:44 p.m., officers responded to a 2-vehicle accident in Highlands Plaza.

July 31

• At 9:25 a.m., officers responded to a report of household goods valued at \$900 taken from the donation drop off spot at Mountain Findings.

The Highlands Fire & Rescue log from July 24.

July 24

• At 4:50 p.m., the dept. provided traffic control on NC 106.

July 25

• At 2:56 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Dog Mountain road.

July 26

• At 11:36 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on the Franklin Road.

• At 12:33 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Split Rail Row.

• At 5:01 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Cheney Lane.

July 27

• At 1:47 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Shortoff Road.

July 28

• At 3:38 p.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident with no injuries on NC 28 S.

• At 1:08 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a location on Main Street.

July 29

• At 9:17 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a location on Main Street.

July 30

• At 1:01 a.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on Bonnie Drive.

• At 10:43 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Lake Villas Court.

July 31

• At 8:46 a.m., the dept. provided public assistance at a location on N. 4th Street.

• At 4:46 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on the Franklin Road.

• BIZ/ORG NEWS •



HCCDC students are firefighters for a day

The students from the Highlands Community Child Development Center were treated to a tour of the new Highlands Fire Department building on Tuesday, July 18. Chief Gearhart and his staff showed the children the new building, let each of them shoot a fire hose at a cone and check out one of the fire trucks.



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...HIGDON continued from page 1

board liaison, were uncertain about the reasons behind the purchase and whether the property would be reserved for the school system's use.

To address these concerns and clarify the purpose of the purchase, an interlocal agreement was approved during the June meeting between the Macon County Board of Commissioners and the Macon County Board of Education. The agreement outlines the terms of the arrangement and solidifies the county's commitment to allow the school board to use the entire Higdon property, including the buildings and grounds, for educational purposes.

The agreement was passed during the Tuesday, June 13 meeting, with Commissioner John Shearl casting the dissenting vote. Commissioner Shearl stated that his opposition to the agreement stems from his lack of support for constructing a new high school fa-

cility at the property's current location.

The primary goal of using the Higdon property is to support Career and Technical Education programs for the students not just of Franklin High School, but for all students in Macon County.

The county commission and the board of education will work together with LS3P, an architectural and planning firm, to determine the specific programming that can be provided on the site.

According to the document presented during the meeting, the interlocal agreement is essentially a gift of the Higdon property to Macon County Schools for educational purposes, similar to other county buildings utilized by the school system. The agreement lays out that the school system will have full access to the property and its facilities once the agreement commences.

The agreement includes cer-

tain stipulations for the parties involved. Notably, both the Macon County Board of Commissioners and Macon County Schools are obliged to work together in good faith to determine the school programming that will be provided on the Higdon property. To assist in this process, LS3P, the architect for the Franklin High School project, will be consulted.

The decision to purchase the Higdon property and use it for educational purposes aims to enhance the opportunities for students in Career and Technical Education, providing them with valuable skills and experiences that will better prepare them for future careers.

With unanimous support from both the county commission and the board of education, this agreement represents a collaborative effort to invest in the education and growth of Macon County's youth.

...SPIRITUALLY continued from page 18

heart. Think about the following illustration:

The story is told of Franklin Roosevelt, who often endured long receiving lines at the White House. He complained that no one really paid any attention to what was said. One day, during a reception, he decided to try an experiment. To each person who passed down the line and shook his hand, he murmured, "I murdered my grandmother this morning." The guests responded with phrases like, "Marvelous! Keep up the good work. We are proud of you. God bless you, sir." It was not until the end of the line, while

greeting the ambassador from Bolivia, that his words were heard. Nonplussed, the ambassador leaned over and whispered, "I'm sure she had it coming."

Some people are attempting to expose you to their hearts. They are using words to do so, and they feel incredibly vulnerable in the process. They are taking a risk. Identify such moments as having a high potential for fostering love and nearness. Look beyond their exterior, into their heart and appreciate the risk they may be taking. Be that trusting soul and

confidant who understands the power in truly listening. Be more concerned with winning an understanding, even a friend, more so than winning an argument. It is here that faith is harvested, and love endures.

Listen well to others. Listen well to the word of God and foster a nearness to He who affectionately hangs on your every word as He looks deep into your heart. Close your eyes, see not, and listen well!

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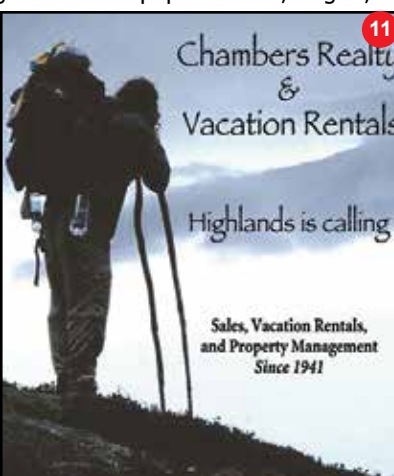
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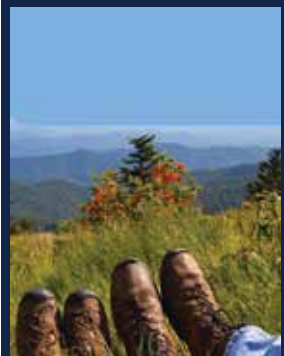
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