The final version of the proposed budget was adopted unanimously.Wed., June 23, following the required public hearing at which no one spoke, but the budget wasn’t rubber stamped and has undergone scrutiny since February.

The only issue not clarified in the budget most recently released was funding for the Capital Improvement Program (CIP), but that was hammered out at a special meeting Wednesday, June 9 and disclosed Wednesday, June 23.

Total expenditures budgeted for the CIP is $2,194,000. Paying for CIP projects was the reason commissioners agreed to keep the tax rate at 13.5 cents per $100,000 valuation, though the Finance Committee suggested cutting the rate slightly to help offset hard times.

However, after much discussion, commissioners eventually agreed that the savings to the public wouldn’t be worth the projects cut due to less tax revenue.

“The only revenue we have is from property and sales taxes and the electric fund. Since electric profits will never be what they were before due to the increase we’ve had in the last ten years, we had to cut and we had to keep the tax rates the same,” Commissioner Tonymost said Wednesday.

The only issue that will be discussed at the June 29 meeting is a possible new tax rate for annexed property. The current rate is 12.5 cents per $100,000 valuation.

The other annexed property will be paying the same rate as the rest of the town. Annexed property will either be paying new water rates since the town recently increased the water rates.

Mon., June 28
• Mirror Lake Improvement Association will meet at 6 p.m. at the Civic Center.

Tues., June 29
• Bridge at the Highlands Rec Park at 1 p.m. $10 donation goes to American Cancer Society.

Waterfalls Cashiers
Fly Fishing Glenville

Hiking

Nature’s Website
HighlandsInfo.com
A little history behind ‘The Catholic Dilemma’

Dear Editor,

I write this in response to Fred Wooldridge's June 10 column entitled “The Catholic Dilemma.”

I was pleasantly surprised to learn he is Roman Catholic. My wife and I are Cradle Catholics. We fully support his views and feelings concerning sexually abusive priests, along with those who directly or indirectly protected them.

We were born during the time when it seemed the Catholic Church would never change. The Mass was in Latin. Each parish had at least two priests, most had three, and a few parishes had as many as seven. Yes! Believe it or not seven. Of course, these higher numbers of priests were located in places where grammar or high schools were part of the parish responsibilities.

Vocations to the priesthood, and the training orders of men and of women were high. (Commonly called Religious Brothers or Sisters.)

I became friends with a pastor who once told me in a conversation that before Vatican II the seminary where he studied had so many applicants for the priesthood that many had to be put off for a year or so. Many times additionally housing had to be built to support the needs of all the seminarians. But unfortunately, after the changes of Vatican II this same seminary struggled to keep up with enrollment needed to be CLOSED in 1969! The vocations dried up! Why? Some answers below.

Having lived through the whole experience of Vatican II, I can say in all sincerity the following: Vatican II was not an evil exercise in and of itself. However, what it did do was open the door for all religious bodies to teach and believe the same things they had for so many years. A shift was done in secret and undetected by most. Many individuals in and out of the religious orders felt as I am stating.

Let me make one more observation as I end this rather lengthy narrative. I also believe abortion would never, never, have been approved had the Church been at its best in 1973. But by 1973 the radical priests and bishops, particularly in America, were too busy re-making the Roman Catholic Church into their own image and likeness to be able to prevent abortion from becoming the law of the land.

Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, said He would be with us until the end. And Saint Peter spoke so insightfully, “To whom shall we go?”

Thanks to the few strong and holy priests and sisters and brothers and many unsung heroes in the pews we were able to turn this whole sad affair around. But at what a cost!

I have written these and similar thoughts to the Vatican, the USCCB, and to various individual bishops and priests throughout America.

Joe Mathers
Otto, NC

Episcopal and Catholic faiths are similar

Dear Editor,

I love reading Fred Wooldridge and I see him as the usher at Our Lady of the Mountains in the summer season.

When I distanced myself from The Episcopal Church some years ago it was because they were overtaken by a very liberal hierarchy. But I learned much from them while I was there about the sacraments and the real presence of Christ in the Holy Eucharist. The Anglican/Roman Catholic Conference which has met for decades concludes that both religious bodies teach and believe the same about the Eucharist.

While I would not champion the entire Episcopal/Anglican mantra, I think someone should point out that the Body and Blood of Christ is also anathema to the Protestants.

Preston Stevens, Jr.
Scaly Mountain

A history lesson in time for July 4th

Dear Editor,

As the Fourth of July approaches, let us not forget the reason for the celebration of this holiday. It is a celebration of the birth of our nation. And let us not forget, as the history revisionists have, that our nation was founded as a Christian nation. This was true from the very beginning as those who came with Columbus came “for the glory of God and the advancement of the Christian faith.” (Mayflower Compact)

The New England Confederation states “we all came into these parts of New England for the same reason: for the advancement of the kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

The Constitutions of the original 13 states include several references to Christ. For example, the 1778 South Carolina Constitution said that “the Christian Protestant religion shall be deemed...the established religion of the state.” It also stated that all office holders had to believe in the existence of a Supreme Being. Maryland’s 1776 Constitution decreed “a general and equal tax for the support of the Christian religion.”

The first act of the first Congress in 1774 was to ask a minister to pray and read four chapters of the Bible before any business was undertaken. Chaplains have served in the Congress ever since.

Fifty of the 55 framers of the Constitution were members of the established Christian communions. (History revisionists look at the five others and thus claim all were deists and not Christians.)

In 1776 Congress called the nation to a day of prayer and fasting to “the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ and obtain His pardon and forgiveness on the nation.”

In 1777, Congress ordered 20,000 copies of the Bible to be imported to the various ports because there was a national shortage. Also, in that year the first U.S. Supreme Court Chief Justice stated that people had a duty to “elect and prefer Christians for their rulers.” He said this was in the interest of a Christian nation.

Ninety-eight percent of our 250 founding fathers were Christians. Thirty-four percent of some 3,154 direct quotes of our founding fathers came from the Bible. Another 60 percent were quotes from men who used the Bible to arrive at their conclusions.

Our sixth President, John Q. Adams, said, “The highest glory of the American

**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR POLICY**

We reserve the right to reject or edit submissions. NO ANONYMOUS LETTERS WILL BE ACCEPTED. Views expressed are not necessarily those of Highlands’ Newspaper. Please EMAIL letters by Monday at 5 p.m. There is a 500-word limit without prior approval.

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See LETTERS page 17
Mr. and Mrs. John Dotson are proud to announce the graduation of their daughter, Rebecca Elaine Dotson, from Elon University on May 22, 2010 at their 120th Commencement exercise.

Ms. Dotson was a class of 2006 graduate of Highlands School.

Rebecca earned her Bachelor of Arts in English with a concentration in Professional Writing and Rhetoric. She minored in Political Science. Rebecca was a contributing writer to the University newspaper “The Pendulum” and on the Student Union Board. She was also on the Deans List.

Rebecca has accepted a marketing and public relations position with Kerr Health at their corporate offices in Raleigh, North Carolina.

Elon University is consistently ranked as the nation’s top university for engaged learning, including study abroad, undergraduate research, service learning, and internships. Elon’s 5,600 students come to North Carolina from 47 states and 49 other countries, creating an academic community of global citizens and leaders motivated by concern for the common good.
Save the itsy bitsy spider ... but who gives a hoot about spotted owls?

Back in the '80s when I commanded SWAT teams for my department, we had been given permission to train at an abandoned World War II blimp base in south Dade County, Florida. It was a perfect location: empty buildings for assaults and hostage taking, a tower for rappelling and a nearby wooded area for command assemblies and decision making. And we could throw flash-bang grenades at each other and no one would be disturbed. Remember, the difference between men and boys is the selection of their toys.

Then I received a letter from the county telling me I was no longer welcome on the property because an environmentalist had observed a spotted owl burrowed in the ground nearby. “One stupid owl controls our training exercises?” I asked. I protested and lost.

Long after the spotted owl packed up her stuff and left, we were still not permitted back on the property because another spotted owl might want to move in and start a family. I thought it was a stupid decision then and I still think it was a stupid decision. How could one environmentalist have such power, I wondered? I had read that long after the spotted owl packed up her stuff and left, we were still not permitted back on the property because another spotted owl might want to move in and start a family. I thought it was a stupid decision then and I still think it was a stupid decision. How could one environmentalist have such power, I wondered? I had read on.

I bring this up now because, 30 years later, I’m watching in dismay as a foreign oil company destroys our country’s ecology, probably for the next 20 years, along the Gulf of Mexico. How insignificant that tiny spotted owl seems in light of the massive ecological destruction and demise of wildlife taking place. I guess it’s easier to run off a SWAT team than big oil money. It’s never about ecology anyway; it’s always about power and money but don’t tell the ecologists.

Then a few years ago some conehead noticed there were fewer itsy bitsy water spiders in Mill Creek. Panic set in.

"Highlands shall not endure a decrease in itsy bitsy water spiders," was the decree that went out over the land. Did you miss it? We were in itsy bitsy spider crisis mode.

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A costly study determined drastically rain water runoff was the cause of the itsy bitsy water spiders moving. Write this down! Itsy bitsy water spiders are primitive creatures that have survived for at least a million years. Not to worry, they’ll move on to more friendly environs. This discovery happened around the time the old post office building was being demolished. By the way, are you aware several house mice, raising their babies, were displaced while tearing down that building?

Where were the environmentalists to save those poor baby mice? Then the Town Board, in an act of absolute brilliance, decided to turn the post office vacant lot into a park. Huh? Plans were drawn and all traffic would cease on Pine Street. I was in a panic. Hey, where will the Catholics park? I asked. The answer was, “Who cares?” I raced around looking for a spotted owl. I could convince to live on the vacant lot. I failed.

Just when I thought things couldn’t get crazier, the stupid itsy bitsy spider tragedy was created and the town partnered with the federal government to spend over one million dollars of free money to bring itsy bitsy spiders back to Mill Creek. A little circus music, please! Hey, a million bucks is a pittance compared to the money currently being wasted by our government.

With no concern that a spotted owl might be burrowed on the vacant lot and raising a family, the digging began and the architects went back to their drawing boards. Itsy bitsy spiders watched with delight. Then, as fate would have it, an ancient terracotta pipe, even older than Lamar, was discovered on the site. The pipe was in poor condition and needed replacing. Of course, the logical thing to do would be to replace the pipe since the hole was dug and the pipe was exposed. Wrong. Turkey-breath! Please, turn up the circus music. This is a federal project and replacing the pipe is not part of saving itsy bitsy spiders.

Soooo, the park and save the itsy bitsy spider project will be completed as planned and I will be good for itsy bitsy spiders. Then, with absolutely no concern for the safety and welfare of itsy bitsy spiders or spotted owls raising their little children, a contractor will come in with bull dozers and dig up the street again to replace the pipe.

Oh, and those pesky Catholics? Unless there’s an itsy bitsy spider on their property, they can eat cake!
Pets are as vulnerable as we

Marley was bitten by a snake this weekend. Several people asked what kind of snake. It was the kind that makes a dog’s face swell to the size of a small beach ball, either a copperhead or a rattlesnake. Bull heard some rattling so I guess it was a rattler.

Marley reminded me of old ladies I saw as a kid who had mass thyroid goiters. It was in the days before iodine was added to table salt and if you grew up very far from the coast, you saw them too. Removing Marley’s collar was difficult for me and painful for him, but seemed imperative in view of early massive swelling. It happened Friday night.

Bull, Marley, and I were walking in the neighborhood, enjoying fireflies. There was a bit of commotion. At the time I assumed another squirrel had escaped Marley’s exuberant, but ineffective hunting style. It wasn’t until half an hour later, when we neared homethe I noticed that Marley’s tail was down. Husky that he is, he always carries it high and proud. I assumed injury rather than illness, although I don’t know why. It wasn’t until we got in the house that we saw punctures on his increasingly doughy muzzle.

A quick call to the vet and a drive to Rabun Animal Hospital Mountain City followed. Dr. Betsy Hartridge met us at the facility and following our apology from us and assurances from her, she examined. She confirmed our suspicion that Marley had indeed been bitten by a viper. She administered steroids and an analgesic intravenously. She injected a dose of penicillin and filled four pill bottles.

Marley’s heart was racing at 160 beats per minute and the swelling had increased noticeably during our visit. Marley’s face was assuming the shape of a Chow, on its way to resembling a large cantaloupe. Dr. Hartridge advised intravenous fluids. I enthusiastically agreed, but asked if we could take him we could take him home and infuse them there. She agreed and gathered materials for the home infusion, reassured us and instructed us to return the following morning for a follow up exam. She was wonderful; professional, caring and free of the gruff manner I remember being part of the response to latenight calls.

Marley is on the mend. Swallowing was painful so I hand fed him his favorite foods; yogurt, peanut butter, and braunschweiger. By Sunday evening the swelling had started to recede. He trotted around the house and carried his tail over his back. I decided he needed a little exercise, and of course overdid it. We were headed home, after a leisurely two-mile walk, when Marley dropped his tail, began to pant heavily, and lagged behind. I was hesitant to call for a ride, because the fare was certain to include a lecture about irresponsible pet ownership. It wasn’t a pleasant thought, but preferable to my irresponsibility killing the family dog.

Marley is starting to look like a Husky again, although I’m not sure he’s ready to give up hand-feeding. I’m not sure how to prevent a recurrence. We might have carried a flash light. I don’t think it would prevent a recurrence. We might have answered the question everyone asks. “What kind of snake was it?” It may sound pointless, and even a little stupid, but keep an eye on your pets when you’re with them in the woods. I rarely stay more than a few feet from the trail, so the snakes have to come to me. Unfortunately, they sometimes do.

... from the history guy

On this day...

June 24, 1948

The Soviet Union blocks access to West Berlin.

In an effort to disrupt Teutonic communion action was taken by the Soviet Union, was a forerunner of the Wall, an effort to keep the Ossies in their thrall, the commies decided to stop all traffic to the West Berlin demographic.

The airlift came as quite a shock to the new kids on the Bloc...
The only prescription is... more soccer?

There is nothing quite like an emergency appendectomy to brighten one's spirits. Who knew that so much pain and anguish could be caused by an organ the size of a finger. (Who says God doesn’t have a sense of humor... or humor for our friends in Britain)

Anyway, when meeting my surgeon we both lamented the fact that we would be forced to miss the World Cup match between England and the US — although I think he got the better end of the deal because he at least got paid. I have been pleasantly surprised by the level of interest that the World Cup has received in the US, and with good reason. The three group stage games have featured everything that is great about soccer and have hopefully created millions of new fans here in the US.

Against England and the US was the classic underdog, and looked the part early conceding a goal within just 4 minutes. However, a goalkeeping blunder by Rob Green allowed the US back into it, and we nearly won it outright with a Jozy Altidore strike in the waning moments. All of this occurred while I was on an operating table, so my point of view isn’t first-hand, but I can say that this game proved that in some respects a tie is not a bad thing.

The second match with Slovenia featured the US as the favorite, despite trailing Slovenia in points going into the match. That role switched unbelievably quickly as Slovenia hammered home two early goals and the US was sent into half reeling. While the temptation to turn the TV off was high, I was rewarded for sticking with the US when Landon Donovan cut the lead in half just moments into the second period. Despite several frenetic attempts to equalize, the US looked down and out until Jozy Altidore found midfielder Michael Bradley who saved the US in the 82nd minute. Just moments later the US appeared to snatch victory from the jaws of defeat as Maurice Edu put the ball in the back of the net off of a free kick from Donovan.

Unfortunately, the free kick was waved off from a mystery call that sent the US media (and myself) into a frenzy. Soccer is fickle that way—basketball it’s hard to see one bad call changing a whole game, but one goal can be all the difference in the “beautiful game.”

With the tie vs. Slovenia, the US needed to beat Algeria to guarantee an advance to the knockout round. Despite dominating possession and chances, the US luck was poor as they had another goal taken away from a referee’s poor decision and seemingly tried every way possible not to score. Clint Dempsey hit the post from point blank range and Altidore missed everything from 8 feet in front of an empty net. As England took a 1-0 lead against Slovenia, the US was staring straight in the face of elimination.

However, the tension of defeat changed to exhilaration as Donovan found a rebound in front of the net in stoppage time and finally was true. Fitting that it was Donovan, the face of US soccer who provided the goal that propelled the US from going home to actually winning their group and earning an easier path in the knockout round.

Whether it was in the Rib Shack watching the match with other fans or on Facebook after the match reading the joyous posts-soccer fever has gripped the United States this summer. It’s the most popular sport in the world and the most popular youth sport in the US. Can the US make a miracle run in the knockout round—question that can only be answered this weekend by the boys in red, white and blue.

Community comes through for Tennessee flood victims

I personally want to thank each and every one who made donations to the relief efforts benefiting the flood victims of the Nashville, TN area. The donation drive was a wonderful success. Because of your donations, a 14 foot truck was filled with supplies and delivered on June 7.

Special thanks to the Rotary Club of Highlands and the Mountaintop Rotary Club of Highlands for funding the U-Haul truck and gas and to Jim and Shelia Bryson for the monetary donation towards gas.

Without each and every one of you, this extension of a helping hand to our neighbors in Tennessee, who were so devastated by historical flooding in May, would not have been possible. Thanks, too, to Highlands’ Newspaper for helping me get the word out.

On behalf of those recipients, I want to thank you.

The King will reply, “For what you did for the least of these brothers of mine, you also did for me.” Matt 25:37-40

Fran Wilson
Robert Mendelsohn, M.D. (1926-1998), author of Confessions of a Medical Heretic, taught for 12 years at Northwestern University College of Medicine, and 12 years at University of Illinois College of Medicine. At various times he was Chairman of the Medical Licensing Committee of Illinois, Director of Project Head Start's Medical Consultation Service, and president of the National Health Federation.

He wrote a newsletter and syndicated newspaper column, The People's Doctor. He said 43% of hysterectomies were medically unnecessary, and 2.4 million unnecessary surgeries happen each year, costing 12,000 lives. Dr. Mendelsohn was highly critical of his profession:

"Doctors in general should be treated with about the same degree of trust as used car salesmen."

"The greatest danger to your health is the doctor who practices Modern Medicine. I believe that Modern Medicine's treatments for disease are seldom effective, and that they're often more dangerous than the diseases they're designed to treat. . . . I believe that more than 90% of Modern Medicine could disappear from the face of the earth—doctors, hospitals, drugs, and equipment—and the effect on our health would be immediate and beneficial."

In 2000, a journal of the American Medical Association article said doctor-caused death was the third leading cause of death in the U.S., after heart disease and stroke. 106,000 hospital deaths per year were attributed to negative effects of properly administered medications, and another 7,000 from medication errors. The National Council for Patient Information and Education estimated an additional 125,000 hospital deaths annually from medications improperly prescribed. Kidney failure accounts for 45,000 deaths each year, and many kidney failures result from medication. No estimates were given for outpatient deaths, but if all deaths due to medications were known, prescription drugs would be the number one cause of death in this country. There is no reason to believe the situation has improved in ten years.

The general life expectancy has statistically increased in the past century, but not because of any drug therapy or surgical technique. Rather, the increased life expectancy is a function of hygiene (including public health regulations), nutrition, exercise, healthier lifestyle, a 40-hour work week, improvements in safety for workers, environmental safety improvements such as building codes, and so on. We might live even longer, on average, with a natural approach to healing instead of a chemical assault on the body-as-enemy. The risks of chemical medicine often outweigh the supposed benefits.

One of my patients is seeking relief for numbness and tinging in his legs, very likely caused by the statin drug he takes for cholesterol. I can't order any change in his medication, but I can tell him about studies that say a daily fish oil supplement is just as effective, without the side effects of statins. He can investigate and make his own choices.

More alarming than his tingling legs, last week he visited my clinic the fourth time, and one of his eyes was bloodshot, like tomato soup. Looking closer, I also saw the whites of both eyes were yellow like butter. I asked him about changes in medication. He said his cardiologist gave him Tracleer to help his heart. We looked up the drug information, and sure enough, yellowing of the eyes or skin, unusual bleeding, possible severe liver damage, and other nasty problems are possible. I asked him whether anyone told him to watch out for these side effects, no one had. I advised him to contact his doctor right away; I hope someone had the good sense to discontinue the drug immediately.

Natural medicine is much safer, and it works. According to the World Health Organization, acupuncture has been proven effective in the treatment of high blood pressure, and the therapeutic effect of acupuncture has also been shown for high cholesterol and triglycerides. The beauty is that with acupuncture, we don't treat either of these symptoms directly. Instead, we restore the causes of health, and let the body correct itself, using your own natural self-healing ability. Oh, by the way, in 40 years of American experience with acupuncture, there have been just six deaths from malpractice. That's an average of one death in America every 6.7 years from the negative effects of acupuncture.

• Kim Bonsteel, L.Ac., board-certified Diplomate in Acupuncture, operates Center for Acupuncture & Healing Arts in Highlands.

• Health Matters column copyright 2010 Kim Bonsteel and Highlands' Newspaper
Is ANYBODY paying attention?

Chairman of the Trades Union Council, said he had been shocked by the severity of the warning from Mr. Barroso, who is a former prime minister of Portugal. Mr. Monks said: "I had a discussion with Barroso last Friday about what can be done for Greece, Spain, Portugal and the rest and his message was blunt: 'Look, if they do not carry out these austerity packages, these countries could virtually disappear in the way that we know them as democracies. They've got no choice. This is it.'" How did these once-proud nations come to this state? As we have discussed in recent columns, they overdid their welfare state, and borrowed on the future to satisfy the insatiable hunger of their political base. Their IOUs are being called in. They've got no choice. This is it. "

Don Swanson
Feedback is encouraged. Email swandonson@dnet.net

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In an extraordinary briefing to trade and union chiefs last week, Commission President José Manuel Barroso set out an apocalyptic vision in which crisis-hit countries in Southern Europe could fall victim to military coups or popular uprisings as interest rates soar and public services collapse because their governments run out of money.

The stark warning came as it emerged that EU chiefs have begun work on an emergency bailout package for Spain which is likely to run into hundreds of billions of pounds. A 650 billion pound bailout for Greece has already been agreed. John Monks, former head of the TUC (Trades Union Council), said he had been shocked by the severity of the warning from Mr. Barroso, who is a former prime minister of Portugal. Mr. Monks said: "I had a discussion with Barroso last Friday about what can be done for Greece, Spain, Portugal and the rest and his message was blunt: 'Look, if they do not carry out these austerity packages, these countries could virtually disappear in the way that we know them as democracies. They've got no choice. This is it.'"

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• INVESTING AT 4,118 FT. •

Let’s get physical

In purchasing a home, there are many steps along the way to dosing day. One of the most important steps is the home inspection. This is your chance to have the home reviewed by a certified professional who can identify the property’s strengths and weaknesses.

Should you get a home inspection? YES! It may be the best $350.00 (area average) you have ever spent. A home inspection can uncover any problems the naked, untrained eye can’t see or ease your mind if a question about the property can be dismissed. A radon test and wood destroying insect inspection should also be obtained, but we will stick with the home inspection in this article.

Now the question becomes how to find a qualified inspector. Referrals are probably the best bet. Ask your Realtor® to browse the internet, or look in the phone book. A licensed home inspector will be required to take continuing education updates, carry errors and omissions insurance in case something is missed or overlooked, will be willing to give you a written home inspection report with photos, and have a list of references for your review.

As a buyer, you should try to attend the home inspection if possible. The inspector will have a checklist of items to inspect which he/she can go over with you during the inspection and can address certain areas of specific concerns you may have along the way. The written report and photos will be helpful, but the onsite review and interaction with the inspector may be more informative. During the inspection, the home inspector may recommend an additional inspection from a more specialized inspector, such as a structural engineer or roofing contractor. The more you know about the property, the better for you in the long run.

The standard Alternative 1 of the Offer to Purchase and Contract provided by the NC Association of Realtors® addresses the included items for review, contention and possible remediation:

…the built-in appliances, electrical system, plumbing system, heating and cooling systems, roof coverings (including flashing and gutters), doors and windows, exterior building surfaces, structural components (including foundations, retaining walls, columns, chimneys, floors, walls, ceilings and roofs), porches and decks, fireplaces and flues, crawl space and attic ventilation systems (if any), water and sewer systems (public and private), shall be performing the function for which intended and shall not be in need of immediate repair; there shall be no unusual drainage conditions or evidence of excessive moisture adversely affecting the structure(s); and there shall be no friable asbestos or existing environmental contamination.”

The inspector should not comment on “cosmetic” issues with the home. Paint colors, quality of landscaping, and siding choices are all examples of cosmetic issues which should not be noted or observed as part of the inspection and are not items which can be subject to remediation by the buyer.

On the flipside, a seller may consider getting a home inspection during the listing period so that all issues can be corrected prior to an offer being made. Being informed, prepared and proactive will only assist in the selling process.

Whether you are including a home inspection as a contingency to your contract or not, you should strongly consider getting a home inspection. Consider the home inspection a “physical” for one of the most major purchases decisions you will make.

• For real estate information, you may visit www.HighlandsCashiersRealEstate.com or contact Cathy Garren at 828-787-2121. To receive a monthly market statistics report, you can email Cathy at cathyg@c21mountainlifestyles.com.

Cathy Garren
e-Pro, SFR
Century 21 Mountain Lifestyles
Co – Broker/Owner
How old are the Appalachians?

By Grant Connette

Growing up in a small town at the foot of the Appalachian Mountains, I spent much of my childhood exploring the trails and trout streams of the Shenandoah National Park. Another major pastime of mine was flipping rocks and logs looking for critters. Fifteen years later, I am still pursuing such activities as a salamander researcher at the Highlands Biological Station. Spending so much time in these mountains led me to a certain curiosity about their origin and history. “They were once as tall as the Rockies,” I remember some locals saying, “or even the Himalayas!” As a result, I grew up under the impression that the Appalachians were among the oldest mountains on Earth and had eroded down from towering, jagged peaks into the gentle green slopes we know today. But was this really true?

The story of the Appalachians begins around one billion years ago. At this time, the continents were joined in a single super-continent which was surrounded by a single ocean. Some of the rocks that make up the Appalachians were once a part of this giant super-continent.

Around 750 million years ago (150 million years before the first animal life), this super-continent was surrounded by a single ocean. Some of the rocks that make up the Appalachians were once a part of this giant super-continent. Around 750 million years ago, this super-continent began to spread and pull apart. This caused a large saltwater basin, the Oceoe Basin, to form over much of the area where the southern Appalachian Mountains occur today. Over time, sediment settled at the bottom of this basin which eventually formed into sedimentary rock such as limestone and sandstone. While sediment was accumulating in this basin, other parts of the Appalachian region experienced intense volcanic activity.

Five hundred million years later, the first land plants had begun to appear and primitive fish were multiplying in the oceans. At this time, the ancient North American and African continents began moving back towards one another, setting the stage for an epic collision. This powerful event occurred around 270 million years ago, as the continents collided to form another supercontinent, Pangaea. The force of this collision caused the fringes of each continent to crumple like an accordion into a series of ridges and valleys, forming the Appalachian Mountains in North America and the Atlas Mountains in Africa.

During this collision, the sandstone which had formed in the Oceoe Basin was forced up into immense peaks in the area of the present-day Great Smoky Mountains. In other parts of the southern Appalachians, the friction caused by the continental collision was great enough to melt rock. As this molten rock cooled, it was transformed into deposits of hard metamorphic rock, such as granite. Over time, the softer rock around these deposits eroded away, leaving behind exposed granite deposits, such as Whiteside Mountain and Looking Glass Rock.

Around 240 million years ago, at the beginning of the age of the dinosaurs, the continents began to drift apart once more, forming the Atlantic Ocean in the process. The immense mountain range left behind was indeed as tall as the present-day Rockies.

Over the next 175 million years, the Appalachians were eroded down and much of the sediment from their erosion accumulated in the Piedmont and Coastal Plane.

Interestingly, very little sediment was being deposited beginning around the time when the dinosaurs went extinct (60 million years ago), suggesting that the Appalachians had already been worn down to an almost flat plane by that time.

Sediment began to accumulate again in the piedmont and coastal plain around 15 million years ago, indicating that erosion was at work once more in the Appalachian region.

This evidence suggests that the Appalachians we see today were actually formed by a much more recent (and much smaller) uplifting which occurred well after the extinction of the dinosaurs, around the time when modern lineages of birds and mammals were already widespread on Earth.

To sum things up, the rocks at the core of the Appalachians are indeed ancient, in many cases pre-dating animal life on Earth. The mountains that once existed in the Appalachian region were indeed enormous and were slowly weathered over time. However, the Appalachians we see today may be the result of a very recent uplifting.

I will leave you with one more interesting tidbit. To this day, the North American and African continents continue to drift apart and the Atlantic Ocean widens at a rate of nearly one inch per year. If Columbus were to set sail again today he would need to travel 35 feet farther to successfully traverse the Atlantic.
Are You Taking an Important Part of Your Life For Granted?

You know the old saying: “you don’t know what you have until it’s gone.” It’s an axiom which reminds you that certain things are important in your life and that you should pay more attention to them. You wouldn’t want to take a family member for granted, especially your spouse on the big anniversary, or your child’s important events. So why do you risk your health by not taking advantage of what our hospital has to offer?

As a major resource and asset in our local community, we play a key role in making sure our patients are well cared for and can look forward to living a healthy life. But we can’t do that if you aren’t aware of the important things we can do to help you attain and keep good health. Let’s review some of the key advantages, so that when you are in need of care, you think first of the strengths of Highlands-Cashiers Hospital, and are comfortable entrusting your care to us.

These are but a few of the services we offer right here on the Highlands-Cashiers Plateau to assure you have the best healthcare resources available. Just consider for a moment what would happen if we were not here, what would you do if you needed immediate attention? Travel while not feeling well? How far would you have to go and why would you possibly put your life in jeopardy when you can get the best of care just a short drive away?

Not only do we care for your personal well being, but we are also a factor in your financial situation when it comes to local property values, local employment and as a valued member of the community. And we are proud of this. So, come visit us in person or at www.highlandscashiershospital.org and catch up on all the reasons we should be your primary healthcare partner.

Highlands-Cashiers Hospital

The Healthcare Partner to Whom You Can Entrust Your Life.

www.highlandscashiershospital.org

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Atr most times and in some circumstances, presidential speeches carry weight far beyond the actual words spoken or written. A President’s verbal gaff can start a war, rather than prevent one. A slight mistake by a President can cause American, or even international, markets to collapse, rather than stabilize.

There is a second point of great importance. Even if a President uses the best words and concepts to address any issue or crisis, those who hear those words—Americans or foreigners, friends or foe—must take his statements seriously. To be effective, a President must be believable, at least to most of the people whom he seeks to influence with his comments.

With those points in mind, let us turn to President Obama’s speech Tuesday night from the Oval Office on the subject of the oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico.

The main purpose of President Obama in this speech was to demonstrate he is “in charge” of the situation. He spoke on the 16th of June. The Deepwater Horizon exploded, burned and sank two months before, on 20 April. Between then and now, more oil leaked into the Gulf of Mexico than from the Exxon Valdez in Prince William Sound, Alaska, in 1989.

Obama said in his speech that “just after the rig sank, [he assembled] a team of our nation’s best scientists and engineers to tackle this challenge.” Competent searchers on the Internet can easily find out that Obama did NOT assemble the best minds until much later, and when he did, he falsified their recommendations and shut down other rigs in the Gulf on his own initiative for six months.

Obama continues, “as a result of these efforts, we’ve directed BP to mobilize …” The Administration did no such thing. It left BP to act on its own trying to cap or stop the oil flow. The Administration did act to prevent up to a thousand oil skimmers, some from overseas, from coming to the Gulf. Obama only marginally recognizes that there are two different and independent crises demanding attention. One is plugging the leaks from the well. The other is stopping the leaked oil from destroying the fishing and tourism industries of four American states, which are also suppliers of both seafood and petroleum products to all of America.

Obama said, “We will fight this spill with everything we’ve got for as long as it takes.” Since it is a simple matter to find out that the Administration actually hampered state and industry efforts to deal with the spreading oil, this comment backfires. The logical conclusion is that Obama did not act originally and lied about it, so in the future he will offer more of the same.

Here refers to thousands of workers, thousands of troops, millions of feet of booms. If the effort were that massive and constant, there would not have been a Coast Guard shutdown, early this week, of six oil skimmers outfitted and put into service by Governor Jindal of Louisiana.

If your house is burning down, and the Fire Department is there with hoses running, whose fault is it if the Water Department shows up and shuts them down to inspect their hoses and test the water? It is not the fault of the bureaucrats at the Water Department.

I’ve worked in government at two levels, local and federal, I have no reason to think state government is much different. Governments are composed primarily of bureaucrats who do things by the book, somewhat may. When bureaucrats do exceptionally stupid things in a crisis, the fault is not theirs. The fault lies with their political leaders who have failed to change the mission and state the urgency. The fault lies with Mayors, Governors, or Presidents who have allowed the bureaucrats to grind on in the same old ways.

Obama goes on to say that BP will have to pay for all the damages. Of course it will, just like Exxon and the Valdez pollution. But then he talks about meeting with the Chairman of BP, and a special fund. The President of the US has no personal jurisdiction over any corporation, much less a foreign one. Did he in the private meetings at the White House threaten BP executives with criminal prosecution, loss of drilling and supply contracts, etc., unless they agreed to create the $20 billion fund?

When a public official threatens any person or group with harmful government actions, unless the target agrees to turn over “things of value” that is called “extortion.” I do not expect Obama to be prosecuted for extortion, certainly not while Eric Holder is in charge of the Department of (In)Justice. But anyone interested in whether the current US Administration is acting either competently or honestly might want to re-read the federal extortion statutes and some of the cases decided under those statutes.
Ongoing and Upcoming Events

Ongoing
• Looking for Maj Jong players for a weekly game. Call Cindy at 828-787-1441. (6/24)
• Hospital Tours: “Grand Rounds” at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital will be providing small group tours to interested area residents. Tours will be held periodically each month, May through October. Tours begin at 7:30 a.m. and will include breakfast with HCH’s doctors and a meet and greet with the new CEO, Craig James. Call the Foundation Office at 526-1435 as space is limited. Or RSVP by email at info@hchospital.org.

• Join us for lunch at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital, where from May through October, you can enjoy an hour long Lunch and Learn educational seminar, on a variety of health topics, followed by a question and answer session. Lunch will be provided and seating is limited, so please call (828) 526-1313 or (828) 526-1250 today to make your reservation.

• At Health Tracks at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital, various exercise classes all week long. Call 828-526-1FIT.

All Week
• YOGA – at Moonsrise Yoga Studio, 464 Carolina Way, Mon., 10 a.m. & 5 p.m.; Tues., 8 a.m.; Wed., 8 a.m. & 10 a.m.; Sat., 9:30 a.m. All Levels. Mats provided, 526-8880. More information at www.yogahighlands.com (6/24)

Through June
• Bookworm: Off sale beginning June 1. Books, CDs, DVDs and cut rate prices. Proceeds go toward Hudson Library. Bookworm is open Tuesday-Saturday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Call 526-9938 ext. 300.

Sundays in June
• Christ Anglican Church will host a special music service at its 9 am service. Christ Anglican Church meets at Whiteside Presbyterian Church, highway 64, Cashiers. For further information, call 829-743-1701.

Through Aug. 13
• Mountain Fresh Foods has Relay for Life Star Cards for sale.

Sundays
• Aftershock Youth meets every Sunday Night at 7:30 p.m. garage, 225 Siler Road in Franklin. For further information, call 828-526-3556 or 526-4959 to reserve a spot.
• Men’s interdenominational Bible Study at 8:30 a.m. at First Baptist Church.

Every 3rd Wednesday
• Kettlebell Class at the Rec Park with Ginger Kay Ward – 743-5009

Daily
• Heart Healthy Exercise Class at the Rec Park. 8:30-9:30 a.m. $20/month.
• Step Aerobics with Tina Rogers at the Rec Park. 8-9 a.m. $10 per class or $50 a month.
• The Highlands Music Festival will stage a picnic concert June 26th.

First Mondays
• Participate in your hospital by joining the Auxiliary of the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. Auxiliary meetings are held the first Monday of each month at 10 a.m. at the hospital.

• Closed AA meeting, 5:30 p.m. at the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation on Main Street.

Tuesdays
• Highlands Rotary Club meets at noon at the Highlands Conference Center at noon.
• Highlands Mountaintop Rotary meets at 7:30 a.m. The new meeting place is in the dining room at the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. Enter the hospital in the main or emergency entrance and follow the signs downstairs. Visitors are welcome. Meetings end at 9:30 am.
• Men’s interdenominational Bible Study at 8:30 a.m. at First Baptist Church.
• The Homegrown Buds, a homeschool 4-H club, meets at noon at the Macon County Library on Siler Road in Franklin at 1 p.m.

Wednesdays
• The Highlands Mountaintop Rotary meets at 7:30 a.m. The new meeting place is in the dining room at the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. Enter the hospital in the main or emergency entrance and follow the signs downstairs. Visitors are welcome. Meetings end at 9:30 am.
• Al-Anon meeting, noon at the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation on Main Street.

Every 3rd Wednesday
• Kettlebell Class at the Rec Park with Ginger Kay Ward – 743-5009

Sundays & Mondays
• Heart Healthy Exercise Class at the Rec Park. 8:30-9:30 a.m. $20/month.

Thursdays
• Al-Anon meeting, noon at the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation on Main Street.

Opening Wed., June 30
THE TWILIGHT SAGA: ECLIPSE
rated PG-13
Daily: 2, 4:30, 7, 9:30

Ruby Cinema
Hwy 441, Franklin, NC
524-2076
June 23 to July 1
KNUIGHT AND DAY
rated PG-13
Daily: 2:15, 4:25, 7:15, 9:25

TOY STORY 3
in 3D
rated G
Daily: 2:10, 4:20, 7, 9:20

THE A-TEAM
rated PG-13
Daily: 2:05, 4:30, 7, 9:30

Opening Wed., June 30
THE TWILIGHT SAGA: ECLIPSE
rated PG-13
Daily: 2, 4:30, 7, 9:30

Now open Sundays!

Dens of free art activities: exhibitions, lectures, demos, trials, more!

The Bascom
A Center for the Visual Arts
50, Box 512, Franklin Road
Highlands, NC 28741
(828) 526-1899
www.thebascom.org

Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. through December 30.
Sunday 1-5 p.m. through October 10.
Free on the first and third Sundays of each month.
During the school year free on the first Sunday of each month.

Exhibitions
• Edwards: Nature Trail, Shop and Café

Passionate Hearts for All, Because of Jesus’ Passion for Us!

Chris
Anglican Church
Every Sunday at 9 a.m.
Communion Service Using the 1928 Book of Common Prayer
Come and join us!
Worshipping at the facilities of Whiteside Presbyterian Church
621 US 64 Hwy, Cashiers
The Reverend Jim Muphy, Rector
(252) 671-4011 or (828) 743-1701
www.christanglicanchurch.com

Coming up at The Bascom

On Sunday, June 27 from 2-3 p.m., experience the “Treasures of Private Collections” exhibit through the eyes of curator Kaye Gorecki. The exhibition comprises glass by Dale Chihuly, photography by Dorothea Lange, sculpture from Indonesia, prayer carpets, handcrafted rifles and decays, and paintings by emerging contemporary artists. There is no charge and no pre-registration necessary.

The recent works of North Carolina treasure Sid Luck will be on display in The Bascom’s Balcony Gallery from June 26 – Aug. 8. The fifth generation of the Luck pottery tradition, Sid continues the ancient art of wheel thrown pottery near Seagrove, the “Pottery Capitol” of North Carolina. Exhibitions are free and open to the public. Tuesdays through Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information, visit www.thebascom.org or call (828) 526-4949.

Free picnic/concert
at Zachary-Tolbert House Saturday
The Highlands-Cashiers Chamber Music Festival will stage a picnic concert at the Zachary-Tolbert House in Cashiers, at 5 p.m. Saturday, June 26th.
Festival favorites The Smoky Mountain Brass Quintet will perform in an outdoor event that’s as irresistible as, well, a languid Cashiers afternoon. The quintet has performed throughout the US in venues like Carnegie Hall and across the globe in Great Britain, Russia and China, yet its roots remain just down the road at Western Carolina University. That makes for a performance that can run the gamut from Early Renaissance to Pop, seasoned with gentle good humor and an infectious enthusiasm. It’s the recipe for an unforgettable evening.
Everyone’s invited to bring a picnic and blanket. Cost is free, but donations are cheerfully accepted. For information about the concert or the Festival’s exciting 29th season, call (828) 526-9060.

Highlands Newspaper - Thursday, June 24, 2010 - Page 13
Ongoing and Upcoming Events

2010 Green Living Fair
Friday, June 25 in Cashiers
Saturday, June 26 in Highlands
Adult tickets $5
(Youth under 15 free)

Friday, June 25 - 4-7 p.m.
At the Village Green in Cashiers and will include food, music, and
hikes on the town trails. The Zahners will do a program on
gardening with native plants. The highlight of the day will be an
ecology show featuring “green” and vintage fashions by local businesses.
Following that will be a presentation by the Cashiers Village Council and “Groovin’ on the Green.”

Saturday, June 26 - 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Speakers, arts & crafts, greenway hike, tour of green homes and
gardens 11-2 and food by Cyprus International Restaurant and
Fressers Eatery

Speakers at Highlands Rec Park
10:30  Room A
ARRA Energy Funding in NC
Reid Conway: State Energy
Office/ Western Division

Room B
An Update on Recent Landslides and Landslide
Hazard Mapping In Western North Carolina
Rick Wooten: North Carolina
Geological Survey
11:30  Room A

Water Heating - Is Solar
Thermal Right for You?
James Pader: Winter Sun
Construction, LLC

Room B
“A Good Egg is Hard to Find”
Chad Garner & Rick Havron
Three Forks Farm
12:30  Room A

Diets and Food Preparation
Ashby Underwood Garner: Rolf
Practitioner, creator of Body
and Land Journal
1:30  Room A
Purifying Energy Efficiency
Retrout Choices
Charlie Headrick: Building
Technology Services
Room B
Growing and Cooking with
Herbs
Kathy Evans
2:30  Room A

Thinking Outside the Box
Building a Straw Bale House
Kurt Fisher
Room B

Get the 70th anniversary show
Smokey Joe’s Cafe at the Playhouse through July 3
By Joseph Litsch
For two weeks Ricardo Apon-
tepo, choreographer for “Smokey
Joe’s Cafe,” currently on stage at
the Highlands Playhouse through July 3, worked with cast members
in the.of confines of an apartment
complex downtown, trying hard to
eniove the finished product.

As it turned out, Apon-tepo and
director Sam Dunaway were pretty
much on target. “We had to ad-
just to the stage, and we changed
some things,” said Aponte. “But
not much.”

The big concern was the sec-
tond act opener, “Baby That’s Rock
’n’ Roll,” a rousing number with
nine cast members singing and
dancing and moving all over the
stage. It works. And, it is the per-
fected number to follow an opening act that has the audience clapping
and cheering. Pick right up where
Act I ended, without missing a beat.

“Ricardo was the first person
I called after the Playhouse asked
me to come back and direct,” said
Dunaway, now marking his sixth
summer at Highlands. “He is so
good and we work together so well
that I won’t do a show without him.” Aponte also teamed with
Dunaway for last season’s “The
Taffetas” and the Highlands Play-
dental environment to share concerns, gain insight, understanding and hope. Next
meeting: May 20. Call Ann Nandra 369-
7385 or Carole Light 526-9769.

Friday, July 9-Aug. 15
• A prix fixe dinner at Wolfgangs for
$60 per person with a percentage of
proceeds benefiting the Highlands-
Cashiers Chamber Music Festival.
Reservations for the concert and dinner
can be made by calling the HCCMF’s office
at (828) 526-9060.

Friday & Saturdays
• Live Music at The Downhill Grill at
Scaly Mountain Outdoor Center 7-9 p.m.
BYOB.

Every Third Saturday
• The Highlands Memorial Post #370
of the American Legion meets at the short-
off Baptish Church. Breakfast is at 10 a.m.
Meeting is at 10 a.m. All veterans are invit-
ed to attend.

Every Fourth Saturday
• Friends of Pantherway work days,
are the fourth Saturday of each month.
(Time and location varies). Volunteers
needed to maintain trails. For more infor-
mation, contact Nina Elliott at 828-526-9938
(ext 258).

• The Scaly Mountain Women’s Club
monthly Pancake Breakfast. Breakfast is
served in the remodeled historical school
house from 7:30-10:30 p.m. Blueberry
pancakes, sausage, orange juice and
coffee is $5.50 for adults and $3.50 for
children. Funds raised at the Pancake
Breakfast go toward the club’s Scholarship
program and other charities in the
community. Call Susan Barkston 526-9952
or email sbarkston@gmail.com

Saturdays
• Saturday Art School for grades K-8
is held weekly at The Bascom in High-
lands. To register or for more information,
visit www.thebascom.org or call (828) 526-
4949 ext. 100.

• At Cyprus International Restaurant,
live music beginning at 9 p.m. No cover.

• At Highlands Wine & Cheese, Falls
on Main, Wine Flights from 4-6:30 p.m.
Five wines, artisan cheeses and specialty foods.
$19 per person.

• Highlands Knitting & Needlepoint
Guild meets to knit, crochet and needle-

point on the terrace at the Bascom. Questions?
526-1741.

Through Sat., July 3
• At Highlands Playhouse, “Smokey
Joe’s Cafe,” a musical, theater revue, fea-
turing 40 of the greatest songs. For tickets
call 828-526-2695 or go to www.highlandsplayhouse.org.

Thursday June 24
• At the Nature Center at 7 p.m., Dr.
Rob Biemergaard’s lecture: “Let’s Do It-The
Sordid Secrets of Avian Sex” An illustrated
lecture that will answer all those questions
you’ve always wanted to ask about bird
sex but never had an ornithologist to ask!

Fri.-Sun., June 25-27
• The Highlands Historical Society’s
annual Walk in the Park is Friday and Sat-
urday, at Highlands Memorial Park and on
Sunday at the History Building.
Every 15 minutes beginning at 4 p.m.
and running until 7:30 p.m., there will be a
shuttle leaving from the Highlands Com-
munity Building next to the ballfield.
Sunday’s performance at the Performing Arts
Center on Chestnut Street is a 4 p.m. Adult
tickets are $15 and students are free. Tick-

Green Home and Garden Tours are at 11 and 2, guided
Greenway Trail hikes are at 11 and 1. Green product/service
vendors, crafts and non-profit booths from 10 to 4.

For more info contact J-MCA at (828) 526-9938, ext. 320 or
www.j-mca.org. Your attendance helps put our community on
the map as a leader of the “Green Living” movement in N.C.
Ongoing and Upcoming Events

Friday, June 25
- **GREEN LIVING FAIR at Cashiers Village Green** with green home tours, hikes, eco-fashion show, food, music. Hosted by Jackson-Macon Conservation Alliance (828) 526-9938 ext. 320. $5 ticket is good for all Fri. and Sat. events. www.j-mca.org.
- A dance at the MC Community Center on Hwy 441 S. in Franklin, NC, (across from Whistle Stop Mall) from 6:30 to 9 pm with music by “Swing Time Band” for more information call (828) 369-9155.

Saturday, June 26
- The Friends of Panthertown will be meeting at 9:30am at the Salt Rock trailhead, parking lot and hiking it to Panthertown Valley to work on getting the trails ready for summer visitors. Anyone interested in volunteering is welcome to attend. No previous experience is necessary. Tools will be provided. Volunteers should bring a day pack with lunch, water, rain gear (just in case), and Sat. 3 work gloves if you have them. For directions or more information, go to http://www.panthertown.org. Inclement Weather Policy: the work day will be canceled if it’s raining. Someone will be at the trailhead to inform volunteers if the work day is canceled.
- **GREEN LIVING FAIR at Highlands Rec Park.** Vendors, artisans, green home tours, classes, cooking demos, food, kids projects. Hosted by Jackson-Macon Conservation Alliance (828) 526-9938 ext. 320. $5 ticket is good for all Fri. and Sat. events. www.j-mca.org.
- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take an easy 2 mile hike on the Long Branch loop in the Standing Indian area, criss-crossing the stream several times. Meet at NHC clubhouse at 1 p.m. Drive 20 miles round trip. Call leader Chris Shaw, 371-0183, for reservations.
- The Literacy Council of Highlands’ “Family Literacy Fair” continues from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Peggy Ann Anderson Library.

June 30 - July 1 – Groovin’ on The Green at 7 p.m. at the Village Green with food and beverages, smoothies. The event will segue into Groovin’ on The Green at 7 p.m.

Friday events in Cashiers - Saturday events in Highlands

**CLE presents: Middle East expert Sandra Mackey**

**The Persian Gulf Link Between Louisiana and Iran**
Saturday, June 26
10-12 at the Performing Arts Center

From the viewpoint of a recent trip through the Persian Gulf, Sandra Mackey will discuss the crucial role the Persian Gulf plays in American energy needs which help drive the exploration for oil in U.S. waters. With Iran occupying the entire eastern coast of the Gulf, she will explore the threat of Iran’s nuclear program, the on going political unrest in Iran, and American options in containing Iranian ambitions.

To register and for ticket information, Call 526-8811

2010 Green Living Fair

Friday events in Cashiers - Saturday events in Highlands

Making our local communities more sustainable is important. Toward that end the Jackson-Macon Conservation Alliance is hosting the Green Living Fair this weekend. There will be activities in both Cashiers (Friday June 25) and Highlands (Sat. June 26).

Friday’s event in Cashiers starts at 4 p.m. at the Village Green with food and live jazz music featuring the Tyler Kittles’ band (“phenomenal” by one critic). Several vendors will be set up including the Zahners of Chattooga Gardens who will give a class on gardening with native plants at 4:30. Plan to hike the Merchant and Greens trails as well. Jim Sibley will give a short presentation on the Cashiers Village Council’s plans for the community.

At 6 p.m. there will be an eco-fashion show featuring eco-friendly clothing and accessories for men, women and children.

Highlands and Cashiers businesses featuring products and models are Bear Mountain Outfitters, Annawear, Highlands Hiker, Sugar (Caroline Brown), Fibber Magee’s Closet, Victoria’s Closet/VC for Men, and Malley’s Cottage. Melanie Restall of Burnsville will have her recalled wool jewelry in the fashion show and will be a vendor at Saturday’s event in Highlands as well.

Food for the Cashiers event will be provided by Café 107 and Barefoot Catering. The event will feature fresh fruits, homemade breads, salads, burgers, respectively.

Café 107 and Barefoot Catering will provide an array of sandwiches, salads, and desserts. In addition, there will be organic coffee, tea, and smoothies. The event will feature fresh fruits, homemade breads, and a variety of desserts.

Saturday’s event in Highlands will include activities from local non-profits involved in conservation and other organizations that help drive the exploration for oil in U.S. waters. With Iran occupying the entire eastern coast of the Gulf, the event will explore the threat of Iran’s nuclear program, the ongoing political unrest in Iran, and American options in containing Iranian ambitions.

Café 107 and Barefoot Catering will provide an array of sandwiches, salads, and desserts. In addition, there will be organic coffee, tea, and smoothies. The event will feature fresh fruits, homemade breads, and a variety of desserts.

Other Saturday events include green building and garden tours (solar panels, organic gardens, living roof, etc.), art and botany hikes on the Highlands Greenway Trail, and cooking demonstrations by Nick Figel of Cyprus. Nick is offering the first 100 fair-goers a discount voucher toward a meal at Cyprus. Fresners will also be serving lunch.

A $5 ticket gets you into all events (youth under 15 free). For a list of vendors and complete class and tour schedules visit www.mca.org or call (828) 526-9938 ext. 320.

**The Bascom offers artistic classes**

Gardens bursting with blossoms and the mountains in full bloom, what better time than July to take a Bascom workshop focused on basic artistic principals.

On July 6 - 10, Mark Tomczak will guide students in art-making using the tools of the craft. This is an easy 2 mile hike on the Long Branch loop in the Standing Indian area, criss-crossing the stream several times. Meet at NHC clubhouse at 1 p.m. Drive 20 miles round trip. Call leader Chris Shaw, 371-0183, for reservations.

On July 7 - 10, find inspiration while studying “Flowers: In and Out of the Garden” with distinguished Atlanta artist Susan Knight Smith. Gain a greater understanding of this subject much favored by artists—flowers. Smith will guide students in understanding the anatomy, shape and massing of floral forms. Tuition: $375 Bascom members/$400 non-members.

On July 13 - 17, Enjoy the beautiful surroundings of The Bascom campus while learning color printmaking techniques from artist-in-residence Jean Gumpper. “Transforming the Landscape through Reduction Woodcut” will explore connections between the subject of landscape and natural phenomena, and the physical processes of carving wood and printing layers of ink. Tuition: $375 Bascom members/$400 non-members.

On July 17 - 18, renowned photographer Greg Newington will teach “Light Writing: Using Light, Composition and Texture in Photography”. Gain an understanding of the role of natural light when composing color or black and white photographs. Students will learn how to transform the most mundane scene in their favorite subjects by increasing their awareness of light and the interpretation of texture, light and shadow. Tuition: $150 members/$175 non-members.

These are just four of the nearly 400 educational programs offered at The Bascom in 2010. Pick up a catalog of offerings around town, or download one at www.thebascom.org.

Workshop registration is going on now. Pre-registration is required. To register, call (828) 526-4949 or visit www.thebascom.org.
Outdoor Activities

DILLSBORO RIVER COMPANY, LLC
Mom Approved Rafting!
4-years-old or 40 lbs.
Rental & Guided Trips.
Across from downtown Dillsboro
Highway 441    Dillsboro, NC
(Toll Free) 1-866-586-3797
www.northcarolinarafting.com

Kids tube free on Tuesdays
Highway 441    Dillsboro, NC
(Toll Free) 1-866-586-3797
www.northcarolinarafting.com

Historical Society's Walk in the Park is this weekend!

Virginia Talbot will portray Alberta Staub at this year's "Walk in the Park which will take place June 25 and 26 at Highlands' Memorial Park and June 27 on stage at the Performing Arts Center on Chestnut Street. She is seen here at the home on Main Street, now owned by Dr. R. A. Martorell where Ms. Staub and her father lived. In addition to working as the Town's librarian and later as a realtor, Ms. Staub helped found Highlands' Historical Society with Dr. R. A. Martorell. In 1957, a group of 15 adults started the Historical Society which started with $78.00 donated by a very brief business meeting in the bandroom at Buscom August 31-September 3.

• The Jackson County GOP meets at 7 p.m. at Ryan's in Sylva. For more information, call 828-586-9995.

RELAY, What You Need To Know . . .

- You can sign up and show your support for this year's Relay For Life of Highlands, scheduled August 13 at the Highlands Rec Park. Join the fun and 'sign up' with a team, or enlist your friends and form a team to raise funds for Relay and the American Cancer Society. Go to www.relayforlife.org/Highlands to join or register a team.

- Local businesses can 'sign up' as a sponsor of Relay. Sponsorships range from $500 to $1,000 and include various forms of recognition. Sponsors have until July 23 to 'sign up' and be included in the event t-shirt. Contact Heather Mangum at glithbern@verizon.net

- Are you a cancer survivor? Then sign up for the Survivor Dinner and join other survivors as honored guests. The dinner will be held Tuesday, August 3, at 6 p.m., at the Highlands Presbyterian Church. For more information on the Survivor Dinner, visit www.relayforlife.org/Highlands. Survivors also can sign up to participate in the Survivor walk at Relay, leading the way around the path while friends and family cheer each survivor.

- Sign up for the luminaria ceremony by purchasing a luminaria for $10. Each luminaria represents the life of someone who has battled cancer. The candles that light the path honor survivors and remember loved ones lost to cancer. This year's Relay will include the Kilo Torch Program. For a donation of $1,000, a kilo torch will be lit throughout the night in honor of memory of a loved one. Everyone can take part in this tribute even if they are unable to attend Relay.

- The FLAMINGOS ARE BACK! 'Sign up' to 'Flock' someone. Call 828-526-1717. Flock Your Friends Only $15! "De-Flocking" Only $10! The Flamingos will be here through August 13. All proceeds benefit the American Cancer Society's Relay For Life.

- Beginning Friday, July 2, a free Mountain Music Concert series every Friday, with Mountain Faith of Sylva on July 2. Performance begin with dance demonstrations and instruction from 6:45 to 7:30 p.m. The Highlands Drifters will debut with a demonstration. The band performs from 7:30-9 at Highlands School's old gym, past Peggy Crosby Center (S. Fifth St.) on Pierson Drive. Parking is in front of and behind the school.

- Choose to support Relay—'sign up' today and support the American Cancer Society's mission to save lives by helping people "stay well, get well, find cures and fight back." See you at Relay!
Last Thursday night’s opening of Smokey Joe’s Café – playing through July 3 at the Highlands Playhouse-- has put the Playhouse back on the map as a venue for top-notch live theater.

This musical revue shouldn’t be compared with previous revues at the Playhouse, which tended to speak to the WWII crowd and though fun and entertaining, never quite lived up to expectations – it’s a class above.

There’s not a weak link in the crew of nine that sing and dance their way through 50s classics — which is why theater-goers age 60 and up will feel right at home clapping ‘P’ is for Playhouse; ‘P’ is for professional.

Voices are powerful and clear; character personalities are true and expressive in body and spirit; dance moves are precise and perfectly choreographed by Ricardo Aponte. He said his job was easy this time around because the cast “all knew what they were doing.” And what a difference that makes.

People will recognize Amanda Kerridge who is back for her third season at the Playhouse. When appearing in “The 70th Anniversary Revue” and “The Taffetas” she was always a delight to watch and often carried the show. But this time around she has the full support of her fellow cast members. No one has to carry anyone; the show stands on its own.

Aside from Amanda, you won’t recognize anyone, and that’s kind of nice. The cast represents new blood, fresh faces and real talent.

Director Sam Dunaway should be congratulated for finding this cast who delivers such an impeccable evening of true entertainment featuring 37 songs of Leiber and Stoller under the musical direction of daMon Goff. They can sing, they can dance, they act – they deliver.

If the Highlands Playhouse board has hired directors who have cast performers who can deliver this caliber of production throughout the summer, the Playhouse will be the place to be this season.

Don’t miss this show. For tickets call 526-2695.

— Kim Lewicki
If someone was describing you, would they say that you are a follower or a leader? That is, do you generally allow circumstances and events to shape you, or do you tend to impact and shape events? Judging by the number of books in print that deal with the topic of leadership, the conclusion can be drawn that there is a dearth of leadership today. There is a genuine lack of folks who truly lead and shape culture.

Said another way, far too many folks today are “couch potatoes” when it comes to the events and circumstances of everyday life. We are, in large measure, a society of followers—a nation of people who sit idly by and go with the flow of the culture. We might easily be characterized as a people of passivity, of followers, as opposed to a culture given to shaping the world around us. Thus we have become an aimless, hopeless people. That which is true in society-large is reflected in the Christian churches of America. Christians, by virtue of their call to servant leadership, are supposed to shape our world by leading others to a true love of God— the only God who can save us from our aimless existence. Jesus Christ.

If you keep up with the news, our aimlessness seems to be getting the better of us. Our passivity has given rise to a culture that regularly shapes us, a society which is increasingly angry, immoral, crime-ridden, and hateful. If we Christians were the leaders that our Savior calls us to be, that would not be the case. Instead, we would be a church that impacts our world for the better, that gives everyone honest-to-goodness hope and change, not the type of hope that impacts our world for the better, that gives everyone honest-to-goodness hope and change, not the type of hope that impacts our world for the better, that gives everyone honest-to-goodness hope and change, not the type of hope that impacts our world for the better, that gives everyone honest-to-goodness hope and change, not the type of hope that impacts our world for the better, that gives everyone honest-to-goodness hope and change, not the type of hope that impacts our world for the better, that gives everyone honest-to-goodness hope and change, not the type of hope that impacts our world for the better, that gives everyone honest-to-goodness hope and change, not the type of hope that impacts our world for the better, that gives everyone honest-to-goodness hope and change, not the type of hope that impacts our world for the better, that gives everyone honest-to-goodness hope and change, not the type of hope that impacts our world for the better, that gives everyone honest-to-goodness hope and change, not the type of hope that impacts our world for the better, that gives everyone honest-to-goodness hope and change, not the type of hope that impacts our world for the better, that gives everyone honest-to-goodness hope and change, not the type of hope that impacts our world for the better, that gives everyone honest-to-goodness hope and change, not the type of hope that impacts our world for the better, that gives everyone honest-to-goodness hope and change, not the type of hope that impacts our world for the better, that gives everyone honest-to-goodness hope and change, not the type of hope.

The Christian church presents the only hope that society has for real change. It is now high time for those who know Jesus Christ as both Lord and Savior to act that way. If He is Lord, lead others in the way to him. That time is ripe for his disciples to take the lead in shaping an often aimless church and thereby positively impacting the culture instead of following it.

At one time I was a priest in the Episcopal Church. As such, I watched as culture increasingly shaped the direction of the church. Instead of offering hope and change that only Jesus can bring, my former denomination became an echo chamber for society at large. There came a point that I had to ask and answer the question, “Would I be a “couch potato” or would I lead others in the way to him.” I resigned from what I thought was a call to leadership position to truly lead the way. Giving up a comfortable “living” and new multi-million dollar church facilities, I decided that God’s gift of life was far too important for me to remain passive.

How about you? Will you continue to be shaped by culture or be a Christian who shapes our culture? The Apostle Paul, writing to the Corinthians, referred them to the prophets Isaiah and Ezekiel, as he called on those Greek Christians to “come out” and be different, be leaders and shapers of the environment instead of followers (cf. 2 Corinthians 6:14-18). Let’s do it church! Let’s lead the way to love in love.
BIG CREEK continued from page 1

the corps likes the project and the idea, but it has no money left in the 2009-2010 budget and it’s waiting to see the budget for fiscal year 2010-2011.”

The federal government’s fiscal year is Oct. 1 through Sept. 30.

There have been some easement “holdouts” along the creek, which was discussed earlier this year, too. Town officials say some residents can’t be located while others want to fully understand the ramifications of handing over property easements to the town.

Meanwhile, the Town is moving one intake into Lake Sequoyah at the dam to ensure at least one intake stays free of silt. That project, as well as repairs to the dam are in the 2010-2011 capital improvement program.

To fully protect the other intake, dredging has been discussed. However Fatland said it will only become a reality if the corps comes through with the funding.

Besides money, an easement document that is agreeable to all land owners, as well as the town, must be crafted and that’s a job for Town Attorney Bill Coward.

Residents along the creek also have questions about dock restrictions both in the creek and in Lake Sequoyah which was classified a Class II water source for Highlands some years ago. Because it is a water source, restrictions apply concerning permanent docks and gasoline powered motorized boats.

Another issue plaguing Highlands water supply is the condition of the Randall Lake dam on Flat Mountain. When it was breached some years ago, silt was sent down the creek. This continues to be a concern to residents and the town. Randall Lake is a private lake over which the town has no jurisdiction. However, after it was breached, the town adopted an ordinance requiring all lake owners up river of Highlands to get a permit before water is let out of a lake for any reason.

The silting of Big Creek and Mirror Lake are also due to development over the years as well as recent hurricanes.

-Simon Lewis

...MEETING continued from page 1

The Pepsi Company is supplying 20oz Purified Water at $1,190.40; 20oz Sports Drink at $1,410; and 20oz Low Calorie Sports Drink at $1,395.00. Coke Products is supplying 10oz 100% Fruit Juice at $9,600.

$41,400; and 20oz Low Calorie Sports Drink at $1,355.00.

Sapphire Valley Arts & Crafts Festival

The first of three Sapphire Valley Arts and Crafts Shows will be held on Saturday and Sunday, June 26-27, 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. on both days.

This show is both the oldest of its kind in the area and the first to preclude the quality of the vendors’ work to ensure that all items are handcrafted creations done by the artisans. Featured items include wood crafts of many different types, jewelers, art of different genres, apparel, pottery, soaps, and much more of interest. All items are moderately priced for the effort involved in their creation, and are uniquely perfect for home décor, personal use, or as gifts.

Also featured are our two animal shelters. The Cashiers Highlands Humane Society and Friends for Life, whose dedicated volunteers will show some of the many animals available for adoption and answer questions about the care of pets.

In addition, live music will be on hand from 1-3 for the public’s enjoyment on both days. Several food booths will offer a selection so plan on lunch!

The show will be held rain or shine at the Sapphire Valley recreation field, located 3 miles west of the crossroads on Route 64. Admission, as always, is free and ample parking is available. We invite you and your family to attend and enjoy a beautiful day surrounded by nature’s beauty and the best of American craftsmanship in a truly friendly atmosphere.

Be Healthy and Protect Your Family

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Smell a musty odor? It’s MOLD!

A healthy home is a happy home!

Highlands’ Newspaper - Thursday, June 24, 2010 - Page 19

$108,815.23 and ice cream for $83,932.06. Sysco is supplying “supplies” at $175,555.08.

In other news the 2009-2010 Macon County Schools drug testing report was presented.

At Franklin High School, 54 random tests conducted with 1 positive test and 53 negative tests. However, 4 suspicious tests were conducted resulting in 3 suspicious positive tests and 1 suspicious negative result – a total of 61 tests.

At Highlands School, 91 random were tests conducted, with 1 positive test, 90 negative tests but no suspicious tests were given.

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**CHEF NICOLAS FIGEL KING OF THE MOUNTAIN!**

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GREAT STEAKS!
Screenings paramount for colon health

Gastroenterologist Dr. Richard Carter discusses colon health.

Several of the attendees posed the question: If a polyp is found during a colonoscopy exam, what is the next step? Dr. Carter answered by giving a hypothetical example: “If polyp is found during an initial screening, I am able to use a special ink solution to tattoo the area making it very recognizable for surgical removal and for future monitoring if the polyp reforms in the future. When removed, the polyp is sent to the lab for testing. If cancerous, the plan of treatment can be determined. If the cancerous cells are found at the tip of the polyp, after removal, the individual is cancer free. If the cancerous cells are found on the area, closest to the base, further testing is required to determine if the cells have spread elsewhere.”

When asked about preparation for a colonoscopy exam, Dr. Carter spoke about the much improved cleansing process the day prior to the procedure. In the past he said, “The patient was instructed to follow an intensive cleansing plan and drink a gallon of “Go Lightly.” Nowadays, we ask our patients to follow a liquid diet, drink lots of water, take 10 tablets of magnesium citrate and 4 Dulcolax tablets, a much less intensive plan.

Dr. Carter advised all attendees to have the initial colonoscopy screening by the age of 50, and prior to that, if there is a family history of colon or any type of cancer. “The majority of the time, if polyps are found during the initial screening, the person will continue to develop them. I recommend, if multiple polyps are found, a follow up colonoscopy every year until there is a clean exam. Also, if the patient is high risk, screenings should be performed every three years.”

In February 2009, from the help of generous donors, HCH purchased a new colonoscopy and endoscopy scope system including a “narrow band imaging (NBI)” scope. The NBI scope has a special black light attached to the scope that can pick up flat lesions (polyps and cancer) that cannot otherwise be detected during a procedure.

“This new state-of-the-art technology provides for a more sensitive screening. I am thrilled that I am able to use the most up to date equipment and know that our patients are receiving the very best in preventative screening,” said Dr. Carter.

This was the second in the 2010 monthly Physician Forum series offered at HCH. "We are excited about the interest of our community and their involvement with the forums,” said Robin T. Taylor, Executive Director of the Foundation and Forum Coordinator. “HCH’s mission is to provide our community with the knowledge and tools to help lead a healthier life.”

The next Physician Forums will be on “Skin Cancer” July 12th 12-1 pm at the Jane Woodruff Medical Clinic.

Newest Generation of Laparoscopic Surgery Technology.
Find It at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital!

This newest generation of equipment provides highest resolution for visualization and documentation of laparoscopic procedures. It also provides capacity for arthroscopic procedures.
Cashiers Resident, Vanna Cameron, knew the real value of quality healthcare on the Highlands-Cashiers plateau.

In early February, Vanna developed pneumonia which sprung from a typical cold and within a few days the pneumonia had spread to both lungs. Extremely sick, Vanna made the short drive to the emergency department at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital (HCH), Board Certified Family Physician, Dr. Richard Matthews was on duty that evening. Dr. Matthews quickly discovered that Vanna was in cardiac trouble. The fluid filling her lungs put her heart into overdrive and Dr. Matthews feared she may not make it through the night. Soon after, Vanna was transported to Mission Hospital’s Heart Center and placed in the ICU.

Vanna spent the next 8 days at Mission and within a few days the pneumonia had cleared. Vanna was eventually transferred back to HCH for the remainder of her recovery.

“HCH was my home for the next 3 weeks and my time spent was indescribable. The staff, members, physicians, nurses and other healthcare personnel could not have been more compassionate, capable and anxious to do whatever was needed to aid in my recovery,” said Vanna. “Linda Suther, RN and Director of Nursing, is to be congratulated for having and maintaining an exemplary level of nursing services. Her team worked together like a well-oiled machine, always with a smile and compassionate words.”

Patients recovering from illnesses like Vanna or post surgery joint replacements, stroke, or other medical conditions often need an extended hospital stay to recover and regain independence. Each patient in HCH’s skilled rehabilitation program works closely with a Physical, Occupational or Speech Therapist, and has 24-hour nursing care. Each patient also works under a personalized plan, that may include intravenous therapy and nutritional therapy, developed with their family and doctor to insure complete recovery.

“Our community is indeed fortunate to have Highlands-Cashiers Hospital with its level of care and caliber of physicians, staff, and personnel at our finger tips. I will be forever grateful,” said Vanna.

“We are pleased with the level of confidence Vanna and her family have expressed. Our hospital is here to serve our community and provide the care needed for our patients to regain health in their time of need,” said Craig James, President and CEO.

Highlands-Cashiers Hospital (HCH) along with AnMed Regional Blood Center will continue their annual joint blood drive July 8th. Greg Johnson of AnMed Blood Center said “The community can play an important role in this summer’s blood supply.”

The AnMed bloodmobile will be at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital on Thursday, July 8th from 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and at the Highland’s First Citizen Bank from 12:30 p.m. to 6 p.m.

“The number of blood products used for patients is largely increasing each year. More than half of the patients receiving blood from the hospital are your friends and neighbors. The blood that was donated last year given to HCH first, to replenish its blood bank, and then sent areas or facilities in immediate need”, says Ann Greenlee, HCH’s Laboratory Director.

There is never too much participation during times like these. “Blood we get now will last up to 42 days. So blood donated during your drive will help us during a time when collections are normally minimal,” says Johnson, which has supplied the hospital’s needs for blood products for over 20 years”.

These local blood drives that are held all around communities and neighborhoods are crucial to the health of our patients. Giving blood will only take 30-45 minutes out of your day. Donating just one pint of blood can save up to three lives. Give the gift of life!
LOG CABIN RESTAURANT — Back of House help needed. Call at 526-3380. (6/24)

WESTERN CAROLINA UNIVERSITY SEeks a BUSINESS OFFcer for the HIGHLANDS BIOLOGICAL STATION located in HIGHLANDS, NC. This position is responsible for management of day-to-day Highlands Biological St ation fiscal and programmatic operations and supervi- sion of support personnel. The person in this position will be expected to function independently and with a comprehensive understanding of the Station’s mission and annual programmatic timeline. Demonstrated experience in program management and administra- tion is essential; experience with non-profits is desir- able. Core duties include budget management and planning, database management, supervision of support staff and interns, oversight of programmatic operations such as planning and scheduling, student registration, housing schedule, and clerical opera- tions such as payroll, invoicing, and purchasing. For complete details, minimum training and experience requirements and to apply online please visit: https://jobs.wcu.edu/applicants/Central?quickFind=51998. WCUs is a EEO employer. (6/24)

EXPERIENCED LUNCH COOK WANTED: Call before 11 or after 3. 706-212-0202 or email resume (grapesandbeans@yahoo.com) (6/24)

HIGHLANDS INC. & KELSEY PLACE

Restaurant looking for Busser. Tuesday through Saturday lunch. Visit us at 420 Main St for application and interview. No phone calls. (6/24)

HAMPTON INN HIGHLANDS

Now hiring Housekeeper. Must speak English. Visit us at 96 Log Cabin Lane for application or interview. No phone calls. (6/24)

HAMPTON INN


LINE COOK

Opening at Wolfgang’s Restaurant and Wine Bistro. Call 526-8396. (6/3)

WANTED: LICENSED MASSAGE THERAPIST

Available for evening and Sunday hours at private country club. Call Joyce Baillargeon 526-0501.

FULL TIME OR PART TIME JOB OPPORTUNITIES AT HIGH-END CLOTHING STORE

Retail sales experience necessary. Call 828-402-2118. (6/3)

MEDICAL ASSISTANT: at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. Full-time position in a family practice office. Experience preferred with a current certification. Pre-employment substance screening. Call Human Resources, 828-526-1376 or apply online at www.hchospital.org

CNA at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. Our wage scale is $11.00 to $14.40 per hour with shift and week- end differentials. Pre-employment substance screening. Call Human Resources, 828-526-1376 or apply online at www.hchospital.org

RESPIRATORY THERAPIST: at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. FRN position working 12 hour shifts. Must be on call at night and be within 20 minutes of the hospital. Intubation is a must. Pre-employment screening required. Call Human Resources at 828-526-1376 or apply online at www.hchospital.org

RN’s at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. Experienced Med-Surg and ER Nurses needed. Strong leadership skills is a must. Pre-employment screening required. Call Human Resources at 828-526-1376 or apply online at www.hchospital.org

YARD SALES

NOTICE – Beware. A very friendly woman with long, blond hair who drives a pick up truck has reportedly been stealing from area Yard Sales. (6/24)

WALK TO TOWN from this 3/3 furnished older home near Bascom. Year-round, consider seasonal. $1,250/month includes electric, 526-5558 (6/24)

FOR LEASE LARGE 2 STORY 5 BEDROOM HOME with decks. Available for immediate occupancy near downtown Highlands. 914-761-8880 x 19 Sandy. (6/24)

STUNNING MOUNTAIN VIEWS SECLUDED AND ONLY MINUTES FROM THE TOWN OF HIGHLANDS. Fully furnished, large 1 bed, 1 bath apt. with large walkin closet, porch and yard. Updated with new carpet. Available seasonal through November. All utilities included AC and Heat. $1,200 month. Call 526-3500 (Spoiled rotten) or evening, 526-2694, (6/24)

SML PRIVATE ONE BR FURNISHED COTTAGE ON CHESTNUT STREET with screen porch. Additional sleeping loft. Three blocks to Main Street. Available immediately. $500, monthly plus utilities for six months lease. e-mail chestnutcottage@yahoo.com or call Charlie @ (828)526-6645 (6/22)

SPACIOUS MAIN ST. APT., full kitchen, fully furnished, covered balcony, small pets OK. $750/mo. 526-0560, (St. 3/25)

LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION! 2 BR, 1 BA upstairs apt. Quiet area 1/2 block from Main St. (828) 787-2021 or 526-9227. (6/22)

ONE-BEDROOM APARTMENT IN TOWN – 535 N. 4th Street, $650 a month. Call 770-827-0450. (St. 3/25)

FULLY FURNISHED 4-ROOM CABIN SUITE off Glen Falls Road atop Loma Linda Farm. New queen bed, kitchenette, large tiled shower, deck and view. Good for 1 person, $750/mo., includes electric, heat, satellite TV and WiFi. Visit http://highlandscashiersrealestate.blogspot.com for virtual tour. Phone: (828) 421-7822. (6/11/12)

APARTMENT FOR RENT – newly furnished one bedroom bath. AC/Heat. Deck. Fantastic view. 5 min from Highlands. Adults only. No smokers, no pets. Utilities included. $795. Call 526-2694. (St. 7/30)

GREAT 2/BATH APARTMENT – Main Street,
REAL ESTATE FOR RENT/SALE

3 BED, 2 BATH IN APPLE MOUNTAIN. $525,000 of Rent Unfurnished for $1,200/month. Call 526-5056. (St. 5/6)

RETAIL SPACE FOR LEASE MAIN ST HIGHLANDS NC (former Kilwins Ice Cream) Prime Middle of the Block Location First Time Available suitable for retail, clothing, art, and others. 914-761-8880 x 19 Sandy. (st. 4/29)

FOR SALE – BEST 'COMMERCIAL BUY IN HIGHLANDS’ – 535 4th Street. Zoned mixed-use, commercial and residential. Recent Remodel. Great retail/office and separate one-bedroom basement apartment. $389,000. Call 770-827-0450. (St. 11/5)

RESTAURANT FOR LEASE ON THE CASHIER'S ROAD – Previously occupied by High Country Cafe. 6,300 sq. ft. Call Buddy or Sherry Kremser at 706-722-4252. (St. 11/5)

Vehicles for Sale

2008 HONDA CIVIC, white with tan cloth interior, one owner, automatic, AC, 25/36 mpg, FWD, cruise, 26,900 miles, $15,995, 704-681-0331. (st. 6/24)

2003 NISSAN FRONTIER – 4 Door, 60,000 miles, Excellent condition, $9,000 OBO. 526-9180. (St. 8/13)


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828-361-5343
The Franklin Panthers 10U Travel Baseball team competed in the USSSA 5th Annual Blue Ridge Battle of the Bats on June 12-13 in Cherokee, NC. After having one loss and one win on Saturday, the Panthers returned on Sunday to dominate and bring home the honor of overall tournament champions!! Pictured are Front Row L-R: Parker Vaughn, Andrew Terrell, Cameron Gibson, Dylan Burt, Stanley Taylor. Middle Row L-R: Grayson Lane, Justin Penland, Turner Swafford, Harrison Shomaker, Bryson Burt. Back Row L-R: Coaches: Bryan Burt, Chris Schofield, Joey Swafford, Brian Terrell. Not Pictured are player Grant Stiles and Coach Jamie Stiles.

Winning Team of the Highlands Scholarship Fund Tournament held at Wildcat Cliffs Country Club on Monday, June 21 were from left: Mike Dowd, Brad Joyner, Keith Webb, and Chuck Summey. They shot a collective 55. Not pictured is Frank Buskirk, Wildcat Member, who got a hole-in-one on the 14th hole during the tournament and donated $300 to the Fund in lieu of paying for a round of drinks (a customary practice when getting a hole-in-one). He also won a certificate to play at Lake Toxaway that was donated as a raffle prize.

Wildcat Cliffs Country Club members recently honored their General Manager, George Shook for his 30 years of distinguished service. Following graduation from Western Carolina University with a degree in Accounting, Mr. Shook, at the youthful age of 23, began his career as Wildcat’s Comptroller. Two years later, he took the mantle of General Manager and has been at the Wildcat helm ever since, a rare and formidable accomplishment in the mercurial world of club management. Known for his problem solving skills and ability to work with a wide variety of personalities, George has the respect and support of Wildcat members as well as their appreciation for a job well done. During his tutelage, Wildcat Cliffs has prospered, remaining debt free and financially sound. Although Mr. Shook candidly admits however, that one thing has remained constant over his 30 years— a never ending list of challenges and unknowns.

The Franklin Panthers 10U Travel Baseball team competed in the USSSA 5th Annual Blue Ridge Battle of the Bats on June 12-13 in Cherokee, NC. After having one loss and one win on Saturday, the Panthers returned on Sunday to dominate and bring home the honor of overall tournament champions!! Pictured are Front Row L-R: Parker Vaughn, Andrew Terrell, Cameron Gibson, Dylan Burt, Stanley Taylor. Middle Row L-R: Grayson Lane, Justin Penland, Turner Swafford, Harrison Shomaker, Bryson Burt. Back Row L-R: Coaches: Bryan Burt, Chris Schofield, Joey Swafford, Brian Terrell. Not Pictured are player Grant Stiles and Coach Jamie Stiles.
... BUDGET continued from page 1

from Duke, I would hate to see us give up any dedicated revenue we have now especially when the economy is tight,” said Mayor David Wilkes. “The fact that we are holding steady is positive when other municipalities are raising taxes.”

Capital projects include a new Lake Sequoyah water intake, Lake Sequoyah dam repairs, water plant blower cover, the Mirror Lake Sewer Improvement Project, UV lights and sampler at the Sewer Plant, renovations of the former Highlands ABC Store for the Police Department. The total figure to complete the renovation isn’t known yet, but $52,000 has been budgeted for design costs in the FY11 budget.

Other CIP projects are paving for Holt Circle, Spring and Hickory streets, sidewalk projects for 3rd (Spring to NC 28) and extension of the sidewalk from RBC Bank to The Bascom, a local match for the National Trails Grant for the town’s Greenway Trail and electric pole change outs estimated at $50,000.

The General Fund for FY 11 is $4,144,785. The Street Department is 36% of General Fund Expenditures — $1,505,900; Administration is 31% — $1,274,848; the Police Department is 23% — $966,155; Planning & Development is 6% — $266,155; and an increase to the undesignated fund balance is of $71,082 represents 4% of the General Fund. The fund balance is about 37%— down 1% from last year.

The Finance Committee also suggested not giving town employees a 2% cost of living raise since very few people outside government are getting raises this year. However, the savings would only be $44,832 and commissioners agreed the amount in terms of the overall budget was insignificant. They also said Highland town employees deserve the increase because the town and its citizens benefit from the fruits of their labor and the money will be circulated back into the community.

On the revenue side, 58% comes from property taxes — $2,415,000; 19% comes from sales tax — $770,000; 9% comes from a transfer from Electric Capital Reserves — $388,785; 7% comes from the Powell Bill — $270,000; and 7% comes from all other revenue sources — $301,000.

There is $19,000 left in the Bowery Road Escrow fund and it’s estimated $518,753 from the last reported figure of $429,000. Town Manager Jim Fail said the Sewer Fund’s financial position will improve significantly when new customers come online.

The total budget is $13,434,154.

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Mountain Magic - Thursday, June 24, 2010 - Page 25

property taxes — 5,415,000; 19% comes
from sales tax — $770,000; 9% comes
from a transfer from Electric Capital Reserves — $388,785; 7% comes from the Powell Bill — $270,000; and 7% comes from all other revenue sources — $301,000.

The proposed Sewer Fund was adjusted to $518,753 from the last reported figure of $429,000. Town Manager Jim Fail said the Sewer Fund’s financial position will improve significantly when new customers come online.

The total budget is $13,434,154.
Police & Fire Report

The following are the Highlands Police Dept. log entries from June 12. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor, or public officials have been used.

June 12
• At 4:45 p.m., a shopkeeper on Main Street filed a report regarding abusive verbal treatment she received two days in a row from another shopkeeper over a parking space.

June 13
• At 1:13 a.m., the dept. responded to a one-vehicle accident on Mt. Lori Drive.

June 14
• At 9:30 a.m., a resident on Dogwood Lane reported vandalism to her mailbox.
• At 7:45 p.m., the dept. received a noise complaint over construction work being done after hours.
• At 11:41 p.m., the dept. responded to a two-vehicle accident on U.S. 64.

June 15
• At 11:55 a.m., a resident on Cobb Road reported that sometime between Jan. 5 and April 16 some- one sliced her screen door and took a table valued at $800 from her porch.
• At 7 p.m., officers received a call about a alligator snapping turtle on NC 106, that was not taking removal from the roadway easily.

June 16
• At 9:50 a.m., a resident on Hickory Hill Lane reported a broken window in a rear door, unlocked the door and entered the house. Nothing was taken but it appeared someone had laid down on the bed.
• Officers assisted a motorist at 2nd and Main Streets whose vehicle had broken down.

June 19
• At 6 p.m., the dept. responded to a two-vehicle accident at U.S. 64 east and Fourth Street involving a motorcycle.
• At 7:05 p.m., officers received a complaint from a resident on Shelby Drive concerning barking dogs on Munger Lane.

June 20
• At 1:35 a.m., officers assisted another agency at a residence for a possible heart attack.
• At 12:10 p.m., officers were called to Main and NC 28 when a vehicle hit a planter.

June 21
• Officers assisted another agency at Highlands Inn when towels burning in the dryer prompted an evacuation of the inn.
• During the week, police officers responded to 6 alarms and issued 16 citations.

The following are the Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. log entries from June 19:

June 19
• At 11:40 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on The Gray Rocks. It was false.

June 21
• At 11:45 a.m., the dept. responded to a call of a possible structure fire at Highlands Inn because smoke was in the basement. Highlands Police and Fire & Rescue evacuated people. The smoke was due to towels burning in the dryer. The basement was ventilated and there was no damage.
• At 7 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call at a residence on Cobb Road. The victim was taken to the hospital.

June 23
• At 4:25 p.m., the dept.; responded to a motorcy- cle accident at NC 106 and US 64 west. The cycle driver suffered a broken leg and possible head inju- ries. He was flown to Mission Hospital in Asheveille.
• At 8:51 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call at a residence on Honey Circle Lane. The victim was taken to the hospital.

NOTE: Highlands Fire & Rescue reminds citi- zens and visitors to heed warnings at area waterfalls and rivers.

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Highlands-Cashiers Hospital Welcomes New Board Certified Physician.

Dr. Richard M. Stewart, Internal Medicine, joins
Dr. Richard S. Matthews, Family Medicine.

Richard M. Stewart, MD, brings 30 years experience as a Board Certified physician in Internal Medicine. He is a graduate of Emory University in Atlanta, and earned his Medical Degree from Tulane Medical School in New Orleans, LA, where he also completed his Residency and Internship. Dr. Stewart will join Dr. Matthews in serving our Highlands-Cashiers communities. Their offices are located in Suite 303 of the Jane Woodruff Clinic.

Call (828) 526-4942 to schedule your appointment.

To learn more about Highlands-Cashiers Hospital physicians visit: www.highlandscashiershospital.org

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