Satulah Mountain trail wars brewing

Public access to the Satulah Mountain Trail has been a bone of contention in Highlands for years. Though a comfortable arrangement appeared to be working, recently a number of people have been harassed by property owners as they attempt to go to the trail on foot, by bike or vehicles.

The last part of what begins as Worley Road – before it ends at the town’s tower and a turnaround/parking area – is a private road. In recent weeks, property owners at the top have started enforcing private property restrictions on anyone trying to access the hiking path to Satulah Mountain’s summit.

By Davin Eldridge

Last week, with the last minute extra $220,000 the Macon County Commission allocated the school system for current expenses for FY 2013-'14, the Board of Education (BOE) began in earnest filling teaching and administrative positions previously on the chopping block.

During its July 3 continuation meeting and following a 97-minute closed work session, board members approved 37 teacher/teacher assistant positions for the coming year. All positions are effective Aug. 1, 2013.

There were 65 positions open in the district – 28 remain unfilled. Six positions were open at Highlands School – four were filled, two are still open.

Effective Aug. 1, William Walz (EC Teacher Asst.), and Kelly Pla (HS Spanish) and Bradley Bergman (HS PE teacher)

Still unfilled is the Middle School Social Studies teacher and the newly vacated School Counselor position previously held by Thomas Jessup who turned in his resignation Monday.

Week-long storms cause havoc in Western NC

Fourth of July festivities fizzled out in Highlands, Cashiers and Franklin as days of unrelated heavy rain that continued into the weekend covered Western North Carolina.

The town of Franklin held their fireworks on Saturday, July 6, but Highlands and Cashiers will be shooting them off over Labor Day weekend.

But on a more serious note, NC DOT crews were busy dealing with flooding and landslides in several mountain counties which.

BOE fills 37 teacher positions

New superintendent sworn in

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Zachary Field deal finalized

Horton resigns; PB vacancies filled

At Tuesday night’s Macon County Commission meeting, commissioners learned the Zachary Field property acquisition had hit a snag but as of Wednesday morning it was worked out so the park will be expand as planned.

Commissioner Jim Tate, who finalized the property acquisition that numerous county commissioners hadn’t been able to do, said there was a mix up about dosing costs as it related to the amount of money the Fisher family wanted out of the deal.

Tate said it was understood that the county would pay dosing costs on both the property swap and the purchase of the new tract – estimated to be between $800 and $1,000 – but it wasn’t in the contract or advertised as such.

According to County Attorney Chester Jones, the Fishers having to pay the dosing costs was a “deal breaker.” He said they also requested to shorten the 30-day inspection period so the dosing date could be moved up.

Commissioner Jim Tate said it was always “understood” that...
The Kreutzer family has nicknamed this friendly bird "Whiskers." It has been showing up on their porch at their cabin near Mirror Lake for weeks and they finally got some photos of it. They have Googled birds with whiskers but are unable to find out anything about it. Can anybody identify their new friend "Whiskers?"

Bust Your Butt Falls - a rushing deluge of water. Photo by Linda Barden

**STORMS continued from page 1**

Damaged roads and impacted travel. Since rain continued through Sunday, July 7, in many areas, flood waters remain too high to discern the full extent of the storms' impacts. Once the water recedes, inspectors will examine roads, pipes and bridges that are now underwater and decide if repairs are needed.

Numerous USFS roads are closed across the district:

- Macon County
  - NC DOT was dispatched to 18 reports of trees down either partially or completely blocking the road; three reports of trees down with power lines; one report of a rock slide on U.S. 441 in the Cowee Mountain area; no debris reached the lanes of travel; and there was a road washout on Big Bear Pen Road in Highlands; one report of a tree down with power lines causing a minor fire; five reports of minor landslides; one structure fire as the result of a possible lightning strike in the Blue Valley Falls Estates subdivision off NC 106 and three river rescues.

- Jackson County
  - The hillside above Dark Ridge Road failed, bringing debris down onto the roadway. It is a through road, so residents could still access their homes.
  - In addition, a bridge on Dicks Creek Road suffered minor damage, and parts of the road were washed out in a few places. Traffic could still travel along the road and across the bridge.

- Transylvania County
  - Heavy rain caused a landslide below Silverstein Road, forcing one lane of the road to close. This is also a through road, meaning residents could still access their homes. NC DOT estimates it will take approximately two weeks to repair this slide area.

- Madison County
  - Gunter Town and Chapel Hill roads near the Laurel community in Pisgah National Forest suffered some of the most significant damage. Heavy rains washed away the hillside above some roads and the hillside below some roads, triggering mudslides that blocked lower roads. NCDOT crews have cleared debris from those blocked roads. The Marshall and Hot Springs areas have seen flooding, but currently, no bridges sustained damage. However, crews will evaluate all bridges once the water recedes.

- Buncombe County
  - A mudslide on Vance Gap Road has blocked off the area near the Governor's Western Mansion. NCDOT is currently evaluating the situation, as well as other areas still dealing with flooding.

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Crews are replacing a 48-inch pipe that crosses under N.C. 113 west of Sparta after heavy rains washed it out Thursday. Repairs will continue through the weekend.

Caldwell County

The Yadkin River overflowed and washed out approximately 200 feet of the shoulder of N.C. 268 between two ends of Laytown Road, which loop back onto the highway northeast of Lenoir. Local traffic can use Laytown Road to get around the area, while tractor trailers must take Gran-din Road to N.C. 18.

In addition, storms caused the shoulder of Waterfalls Road in Patterson near Lenoir to fail. The road is located parallel to U.S. 321. This is a wooded secondary road with steep slopes along which a section about 120 feet wide and 200 feet deep collapsed. Traffic is currently moving through the area; however, the shoulder remains blocked off from traffic.

Charles S. (Charlie) Green

Charles S. (Charlie) Green, 59, of Dodson Street, Mountain City, Georgia, died Monday June 24, 2013 at Mountain Lakes Medical Center.

He was born July 17, 1953 in Highlands, North Carolina, to the late Harvey and Angela M. Wilson Green. He was a house painter by profession, a member of Peoples Baptist church, and a U.S. Army Veteran.

He was preceded in death by an infant daughter and is survived by a special girlfriend and caregiver, Vicki Spencer of Mountain City, Georgia, one sister, Faye Bryant of Franklin, NC; two brothers, Gene Green of Franklin, NC and Dale Green of Sylva, NC. Several nephews, nieces, and cousins also survive.

His body has been cremated and a memorial service will be held on Sunday, July 14th at 2 pm at the Peoples Baptist Church on Clayton Ave. in Clayton, Georgia.

An on-line obituary and guest register is available at http://www.hunterfuneralhome.com/

Hunter Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

... STORMS continued from page 2

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Hey, guys, mark your calendars... .twice!

On Saturday, July 13th, 150 members of the Seymour, GA, all girl's hot babe motorcycled club will roar into Highlands and slowly cruise bare-chested down Main St. as part of a special event to raise money to buy toys for needy children. Yes, I said bare-chested. Do not confuse this event with their annual "toys for tots" event held in December.

Special parking for the cyclists will be provided in a roped off area right in front of Wild Thyme Restaurant. Donors will be allowed to enter the roped off area and present a toy, a personal check or cash to the cyclist of their choice. Pictures will be taken of donors presenting their gifts while shaking hands with their favorite cyclist. I'm guessin', as usual, the Dolly Parton look-a-like cyclist will receive the most donations. I'm sure it's her fancy hairdo that wins 'em over. Wadayathink? Oh, and no touching, please!

Wait, that's not all. The following Saturday, July 20th, the Town Board has approved a one day "back to nature" event at Dog Poop Park, located behind the Rec. center. On this one day, dog owners entering the park will be allowed to completely disrobe and wander the park naked with their nude dogs.

This special program is sponsored by local progressives who claim that humans are the only creatures on planet Earth who are required to cover themselves short-ly after birth. Bring your pooh and 'hang out' with fellow dog owners. Warning: Sniffing will not be permitted.

This special day ends at 2 PM when there will be a dog contest where judges will pick the girl with the most beautiful Schnauzer. Hey, girls, bring your Schnauzers and you could win a box of 1000 dog poop bags. Think about that....1000 dog poop bags!

And for those folks who don't own dogs but are panting to participate, there'll be a nearby "rent-a-dog" service available.

And finally, here's a special note for those Highlanders and visitors who have been totally 'out to lunch' since birth or believe everything they read in a newspaper. Nothing in this column is true. DUH!

Feedback is encouraged
highlandseditor@aol.com

POSITIONS continued pg 1

"After the 20-year mark in North Carolina, I decided it wouldn't be worth staying for years 20 to 30 in North Carolina which is one of the lowest paying states in the country," said Jessup.

He took a job as School Counselor in a grades 6-12 school for the Department of Defense in Virginia for about $20,000 more a year. He begins mid-August.

"We are losing ground," Superintendent June Atkinson said recently, warning of a teacher exodus after lawmakers proposed ending extra pay for teachers with master's degrees, cutting teacher assistants and removing limits on class sizes. This according to an article published in the New York Times, July 9, entitled "The Decline of North Carolina."

The article claims since the Republicans took control of both the executive and legislative branches of NC's government - the first time since Reconstruction - the state government has become a demolition derby, tearing down years of progress in public education, tax policy, racial equality in the courtroom and access to the ballot.

Despite the fact that the state is growing rapidly, legislators have cut back sharply on spending in public schools. Less is spent now than spent in 2007, ranking NC 46th in the nation in per-capita education dollars. In addition, teacher pay is falling, 10,000 pre-kindergarten
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... ZACHARY from page 1

the county would pay the closing costs, but if a solution couldn’t be arrived at he would pay them himself. “I really want this to happen,” he said. “So I will pay the closing costs myself if need be.”

Attorney Jones said the terms of the contract couldn’t be changed but said the county could offer the Fishers $146,000 for the 1.76-acre parcel instead of the original $145,000, so the sellers will get the money they want out of the deal and still have enough to pay the closing costs.

Commissioner Beale said he had no problem with offering the family $1,000 more because the board consented to the $145,000 price when it thought the property was 1.5 acres so paying a little more for the actual 1.76 acres made sense.

The offer was made to the family and Wednesday Commissioner Tate got an email from the Fishers indicating they would take the deal. “They said all is good, but I don’t have a signed contract in hand yet,” he said.

Horton resigns

The other big news item out of Tuesday’s commission meeting is the resignation of County Manager Jack Horton.

He said he was ready to end his second stint with the county effective Oct. 1, 2013.

He said his career in local government has spanned more than 35 years beginning in Swain County and ending in Macon; now he’s ready to “pursue other goals and objectives.”

He served as County Manager twice in Macon County — once from Oct. 1985 to March 1991 and again since Jan. 2008.

He said he is proud of the accomplishments the county has made throughout his tenures including the Business Development Center, the overall school system, the libraries, the SCC campus, the SCC Public Safety Training Center, the recreation fields and parks, sewer and water projects, the solid waste system, the new EMS base, the new Animal Shelter, refinancing the county’s long-term debt to save the county more than $2.7 million, increasing the county’s bond rating from A to A+, as well as putting in place a comprehensive county employee job description, classification and compensation plan.

He said he is also proud of the relationships he and the county commission have cultivated with the county’s municipalities as well as the BOE.

Horton will be formulating a job description of his position, which will be posted immediately, and said he will help
According to Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust (HCLT) Stewardship Coordinator Kyle Pursel, the issue is a complicated one.

“The last section of the road leading to the main trailhead is private. The turnaround at the trailhead — though it looks like a parking area — is not meant for parking but to allow emergency vehicles a place to turn around. Therefore, public car traffic at the trailhead is restricted to those with permission to use vehicles on that road — namely, property owners and town vehicles.”

But said Pursel, foot traffic is allowed on the entire length of the road. However, this technically means a “Satulah summit hike” must be made on foot from S. 4th Street, unless a property owner along the way allows parking on their property.

No one seems to know if bike traffic is allowed on the last part of the road — but it would take hardy souls to walk or bike the length of Worley Road.

Pursel said the summit of Satulah Mountain, which can be accessed by two trails, is open to public hiking and will remain so for the foreseeable future.

“The last sections of roads leading to the two trails that reach the summit are on private roads and thus the public are not technically allowed to drive to the trailheads. That said, you are perfectly allowed to hike to the trailheads. I am not sure about how the private road impacts riding your bike.”

He said if anyone comes across a property owner saying someone can’t walk or run up the road to Satulah Mountain, they are to contact the HCLT.

“That is against the law. In the past, HCLT has legally defended and won a case when people tried to restrict access to these historic public trails. Anyone saying foot traffic is restricted is wrong,” said Pursel.

Town Manager Bob Frye said irate citizens have come to Town Hall to complain and report the harassment but he said there is little he can do.

“The last part of Worley Road is a private road and apparently one or more of the owners have decided to enforce their property rights. The town’s position is that it their right to do so,” said Frye. “As to what has been al-
Randall Atcheson Returns to Highlands

On July 20th at 4pm, Randall Atcheson, the internationally renowned pianist, will perform at the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation in Highlands for the benefit of the Highlands Community Child Development Center. He has performed worldwide for presidents and dignitaries and recently completed his 11th concert at Carnegie Hall. He was featured on “Fox and Friends” on Memorial Day performing a medley of patriotic songs. Atcheson’s unique interpretations of gospel, pop and classical pieces are extraordinary and display his talents as a musical renaissance man. Admission to the concert is free but reserved seats are available for a $50 donation to the Child Development Center by calling Nancy Bruns at 828-226-1830.

Atcheson was recognized early in life as a prodigy in both the piano and organ. He is a graduate of the Juilliard School, where he was the only student to graduate with a major in both piano and organ performance. He has recorded 16 albums in his career as a very accomplished musician. With a rare musical gift that he openly credits to his Creator, he raises well-crafted music to the level of greatness, and he takes masterpieces and makes them unforgettable.

The Child Development Center is a nonprofit organization that serves 68 children ages 3 months to 5 years of working parents of the Highlands Plateau by providing high quality care and education in a four star facility.

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CLE July 11-18 line-up of lectures: art, history, literature, environment, culinary and more

There is lots to entice this week. Unless specified, classes meet at the new CLE Lecture Hall at the Peggy Crosby Center, 348 S. Fifth St., Highlands, and cost: $25 for CLE members, $35 for non-members. To join, call 828-526-8811 or go to www.clehighlands.com.

Architect/Illustrator Knight Martorell, a former art director and adjunct professor at the University of South Florida School of Architecture and Community Design, will teach “Beginning Pen and Ink Drawing.” The five-session course runs 10 a.m. to noon Mondays and Wednesdays, July 15-29 at The Bascom. The cost is $85 for CLE members, $95 for non-members.

OEI Executive Chef Johannes Klapdohr has arranged “Harvest and Cooking at the Farm”, a fun culinary opportunity for intergenerational learning. Bring your daughter or grand-daughter, or perhaps your spouse or best friend. Tuesday, July 16, 10am-2pm.

“Influence of the Orient and Eastern Culture on the West During the Renaissance” is a mouthful, but Mimi Fenton, PhD, professor of English at Western Carolina University, and an authority on John Milton, will explain from 10 a.m. to noon Wednesday, July 17. A hint: It may have started in the 1430s when a Chinese fleet sailed into what is now Venice, Italy.

“Easter, 1916” is Irish poet W.B. Yeats’ attempt to deal with the violent, unsuccessful uprising by Irish republicans, who later were executed by the British. Christine S. Cozzens, PhD, chairman of the English department and director of the Center for Writing and Speaking at Agnes Scott College, will discuss Yeats and the poem, from 10 a.m. to noon Thursday, July 18.

“Turning the Tide, Saving the Seas” is an issue that should be of concern to everyone. Dorinda Dallmeyer, director of the Environmental Ethics Certificate Program at the University of Georgia, will dive into the subject 2-4 p.m. Thursday, July 18.

Dollie Swanson, a judge for the Garden Club of America, designed her garden in Highlands with paths around berms, a koi pond, a sunken terrace with curved seats, dwarf conifers, a blueberry patch and a trail through the woods. Those who sign up for “A Garden in Spite of Shade - Efif Doog” art, history, literature, environment, culinary, landscaping and science will see her garden when she gives garden tips in her home, 2-4 p.m. Friday, July 19.

The Vega String Quartet and renowned physicist, Sidney Perkowitz, PhD, will explore the connection between science and music in a program, “Genius Comes in Many Colors” 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, July 20, at the Performing Arts Center. Perkowitz specializes in presenting scientific topics to non-scientific-minded people. His latest book, “Slow Light: Invisibility, Teleportation and Other Mysteries of Light,” was published in 2011.

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Commission Chair Kevin Corbin and Vice Chair Ronnie Beale said Horton is probably the best county manager in the state—a man who is highly respected by his peers statewide.

Planning Board
The commission voted to fill two vacancies on the County’s Planning Board. Chairman Carl Gillespie and member Lewis Penland are stepping down and John Shearl and Joe Deal will take their places.

Commissioners Corbin, Paul Higdon and Ron Haven voted for Shearl; Commissioners Corbin, Beale and Tate voted for Deal.

Liaison to the Planning Board, Commissioner Tate, said now that commission accepted the amendments to the subdivision ordinance, the next issue the Planning Board will consider are the flood plain, sign and high-impact ordinances followed by a review of all the vacant land owned by the county.

“If there is any vacant land, I think the county should consider selling what it doesn’t want,” said Tate. “We are potentially losing tax value if the land isn’t being used.”

Corbin said the amendments to the subdivision ordinance made it more user-friendly and easier to develop land thereby passing the savings of time and money on to consumers.

Highlands MS Courtyard
Dr. Rebecca Schilling of the Mountain Garden Club and Highlands School Science teacher Stephanie Smathers were given plaques of appreciation for making a vision for an outdoor classroom in the courtyard between the main school and middle school building a reality. Chairman Corbin said the project was an excellent example of private folks doing a job to help the entire community and the school. See the July 18 edition for the full story.

– Kim Lewicki
Highlands Area Events

Upcoming Programs with the Highlands Biological Foundation

Every summer the Highlands Biological Foundation hosts free evening lectures on Thursdays focused on the theme of natural history and conservation, a tradition that began in the 1930s. The Zahner Conservation Lecture Series serves to educate and inspire the public through a series of talks from well-known regional scientists, conservationists, artists, and writers. On Thursday, July 18 at 7pm, Rekha Morris will discuss “The Demise of a Single Floral Genus as an Indicator of Environmental Devastation.” Rekha teaches several programs for the S.C. Master Gardeners, and her special interests are shade gardening and native plants of the southeastern U.S. and their Asian counterparts. On Thursday, July 25 at 7pm, the topic will be “Environmental Health, Genes, and Contaminants: New Lessons from Wildlife.” The speaker, Dr. Louis Guillette, is professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the Medical University of South Carolina. He has spent decades examining how environmental pollutants such as endocrine disrupters affect the development and functioning of the reproductive system in vertebrates, specifically alligators, fish, and frogs. The public is invited to participate in these free lectures, which will be held at the Highlands Nature Center, 930 Horse Cove Road in Highlands.

The Highlands Biological Foundation also organizes a “Think About Thursdays” family activity series. On July 18 from 1pm until 3pm, Meet Your Neighbours co-founder Clay Bolt will lead a conservation photography workshop for kids and their parents. Have you ever wondered how your favorite nature programs are made? Do you love movies, animals and stories? Want to make your own videos about the wildlife in your own backyard? If so, then this is the class for you. Join award-winning nature photographer Clay Bolt as he teaches you the basics of wildlife filmmaking and editing. Students will learn the fundamentals of composition, image / sound recording and editing. This workshop is limited to ten kids, ages 10 - and up - and their guardians. The cost is $10 for members and $15 for non-members. Advanced registration is required.

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Perennial favorites this week at HCCMF

The Highlands-Cashiers Chamber Music Festival celebrates its second week with a pair of performances with perennial favorites The Eroica Trio.

The most sought-after trio in the world, the Grammy®-nominated Eroica Trio thrills audiences with flawless technical virtuosity, irresistible enthusiasm and sensual elegance. Whether playing the great standards of the piano trio repertoire or daring contemporary works, the three young women who make up this celebrated ensemble electrify the concert stage with their passionate performances. The New York Times writes, “They play chamber music for the concert hall. There is an edge of the seat intensity to every note they produce.”

The Trio won the prestigious Naumburg Award, resulting in a highly successful Lincoln Center debut and has since toured the United States, Europe, and Asia. While maintaining their demanding concert schedule, the Eroica Trio has released eight critically lauded recordings for Angel/EMI Classics Records, garnering multiple Grammy nominations.

The Eroica Trio is on the vanguard of a new generation of artists who are changing the face of classical music. The first all-female chamber ensembles to reach the top echelon of its field, the Eroica Trio broke an age-old gender barrier. As the Chicago Sun Times remarked, “Our image of the piano trio is largely formed by groups like the celebrated [original] Beaux Arts, three middle-aged gentlemen who apply their wisdom and artistry to their chosen repertory. That image is about to change.” The Trio took its name from the Italian for “heroic,” eroica is a word that aptly reflects the ensemble’s approach to music. As critics have noted, “it’s been decades since this country has produced a chamber music organization with this much passion.”

On Friday, July 12, and Saturday, July 13, The Eroica Trio will perform Bach’s “Chaconne,” Bruce Wolosoff’s “Trio,” and Frank Martin’s “Piano Trio based on Irish Folk Tunes.”

On Sunday, July 14, and Monday, July 15, the trio will be joined by violist Miles Hoffman and violinist Margaux Maloney for Loilette’s “Sonata in B Minor for Trio;” Dvorak’s “piano Quartet in Eb Major;” and Schumann’s “Piano Quartet in Eb Major.”

Throughout the Highlands-Cashiers Chamber Music Festival season, concerts are held at 6p.m. Fridays at the Martin-Lipscomb Performing Arts Center in Highlands and repeated at 5p.m. Saturdays at the Albert Carlton-Cashiers Community Library in Cashiers. Sunday concerts are staged at 5p.m. at the Performing Arts Center in Highlands and repeated at 5p.m. Mondays at the Cashiers Community Library.

The Center for Life Enrichment will host Dr. James Flannery’s “James Joyce’s Chamber Music” at the Martin Lipscomb Performing Arts Center in Highlands from 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, July 13. This lecture, offered in partnership with the Highlands-Cashiers Chamber Music Festival, will Joyce’s beautiful set of 36 poems, and on Joyce’s “alternate life” as a musician. Dr. Flannery will explore Joyce’s great love of and use of music in his writing, and the similarities between poetry and music. The class will include some performances by Dr. Flannery of some of Joyce’s favorite songs.

For more information about the festival and its full lineup of performances and events, visit www.h-cmusicfestival.org or call (828) 526-9060.
Kelsey Kids FREE Day Camp
July 15-19

Making and tasting butter made from fresh cow’s milk.
Kelsey Kids Day Camp is July 15-19 for ages: 8 – 11 years. The camp is free and lunch is included. It is sponsored by the Highlands Historical Society. To register contact Linda David @ 526-3374 or email: lindawd@hcexpress.net

July 11 Rotary Bingo to benefit area’s free dental clinic

The Rotary Club of Cashiers and the Rotary Club of Highlands present Tooth Fairy Rotary Bingo on Thursday from 6:30 to 8:30p at the Highlands Community Building. Tooth Fairy Bingo benefits the Blue Ridge Free Dental Clinic in Cashiers which serves Macon, Jackson and surrounding counties. It’s $1 per card per game and there will be 15 games. Half of all money paid to play Bingo will be awarded to winners and half will go to the Blue Ridge Free Dental Clinic. Refreshments are free.

Tooth Fairy Rotary Bingo on Thursday from 6:30 to 8:30p at the Highlands Community Building. Tooth Fairy Bingo benefits the Blue Ridge Free Dental Clinic in Cashiers which serves Macon, Jackson and surrounding counties. It’s $1 per card per game and there will be 15 games. Half of all money paid to play Bingo will be awarded to winners and half will go to the Blue Ridge Free Dental Clinic. Refreshments are free.
Wildcat Cliffs Country Club hosted the Town of Highlands Annual Scholarship Golf Tournament on June 13th. Pictured is the winning team of Hal Taylor, John Crowe, Paul Christy and Keven Gabbard. The event raised approximately $23,000 for the Town Scholarship fund which annually awards $38,000 to Highlands School Graduates for higher education. Event Chairperson and Town Commissioner, Brian Stiehler said, “We are extremely grateful for the generosity and support from Wildcat Cliffs CC. Without that, the fund would not be where it is today. WCCC is an important part of our community and the Town of Highlands is most appreciative of the membership and staff.” The event attracted 80 golfers and brought the Scholarship Fund total close to $800,000. The Scholarship Golf Tournament in conjunction with the Three River Fly Fishing Tournament are annual events to raise money for local scholarships.
**HIGHLANDS AREA UPCOMING EVENTS**

**HCLT's Waterfall Eco Tour is Friday, July 12th**

It is speculated that Western North Carolina, specifically this region, has one of the highest densities of waterfalls in the nation. High rainfall, our geology and climate are all contributing factors. If you have been to the Highlands-Cashiers Plateau, chances are you have enjoyed one of our many magnificent falls. Waterfalls are important from an ecological standpoint because they provide healthy habitat for a number of rare and endangered species of plants and wildlife. Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust, whose mission is to conserve valuable land and resources for all generations, conserves a number of properties in our area that are home to some very special waterfalls, many of which help protect the quality of Highlands’ drinking water supply. On Friday, July 12th, the public will have the opportunity to come along for a guided adventure to learn more on a “Trio of Waterfalls Eco Tour.”

Join us as we visit three special waterfalls, all located in Highlands. Pinky Falls is a well-loved spot for locals that is owned and protected by the Land Trust. See it from a new perspective. Big Creek Gorge is a new property with an unnamed waterfall, recently conserved by the Land Trust via a conservation easement. A conservation easement is a tool commonly used by land trusts to help landowners conserve their property. The landowner retains ownership of their property but donates some or all of their development rights, ensuring that their land will remain conserved forever. It is then the responsibility of the land trust to be good stewards of that property in perpetuity. It is a common misconception that property in a conservation easement is public property; this is not the case. However, on July 12th HCLT has been granted special permission by the landowner of Big Creek Gorge to bring guests to this property. The third waterfall we will visit will be chosen by participants the day of the Eco Tour! To learn more and to reserve your spot contact Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust at Julie.hitrust@earthlink.net or 828-526-1111.

*To learn more about how you can conserve your family property, visit www.hicashlt.org or call the offices at 828-526-1111.

**... POSITIONS from page 4**

slots are scheduled to be removed, and even services to disabled children are being chopped, says the article. Numerous positions – teacher/TA/administrative – have yet to be filled in Macon County. According to Superintendent Chris Baldwin, the remaining positions will most likely be filled by BOE’s July 22 meeting.

At that meeting the BOE will also likely discuss using at least a portion of the 2% teacher supplement money to make up the $220,000 still lacking in its current expense budget.

At its July 9 meeting, the MC Commission finalized the OK for the BOE to use the supplement money – about $430,000 – as it sees fit.

The positions filled last Wednesday by the BOE were considered from a unanimously approved list submitted by Superintendent Baldwin, who had been sworn-in after taking the Oath of Office that morning by Macon County Clerk of Court Vic Perry at the School Central Office. It was Baldwin’s first official act as Superintendent for Macon County Schools.

**FALLING WATERS**

Lot prices start at $79,000. Owner financing available.

A 52-acre community just 2.5 miles from Main Street. Secluded but not remote; peaceful, quiet and private. Mature hardwoods, giant rhodies, mountain laurel and a plethora of wild flowers. Two waterfalls and several creeks add charm and interest.

It is our goal that Falling Waters be aesthetically pleasing and well maintained, while preserving the backdrop of its natural beauty. Falling Waters is governed by the NC Planned Community Act, and excellent framework for basic structure governing practices and declarations. We have added our own well thought out covenants to protect the environment and help insure that the Falling Waters community is a sanctuary where peace, safety and happiness abound.

Perhaps most important is our desire to create and live in a caring community with a culture of good will, harmony and consideration. We believe the best rule is “Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.”

**Welcome...Come Visit!**

From Main St., take Hwy. 106 (The Dillard Road) 1.8 miles just past the Glen Falls sign, turn right on Mt. Laurel Dr., go 3 tenths of a mile turn left on Moonlight. The entrance is on the right.

www.highlandsnchomesites.com

Contact (onsite owner) or your broker for plats, prices & a guided tour.

828-508-9952.
Dr. Lapham dress at HHS Museum

Come see the dress worn by Dr. Mary Lapham which is now on display at the Highlands Historical Museum, 524 N. 4th Street. The dress was donated to Highlands Historical Society by Isabel Chambers whose mother, Mrs. Tudor Hall, rescued it years ago. The dress has been restored and is part of the Mary Lapham's TB Sanitorium Exhibit honoring Dr. Lapham's role as a devoted savior of many Highlanders from the most virulent and dreaded disease of early 20th-century America.

Local 8-year-old team named Champions!

Franklin's 8-year-old baseball team went 5-1 during All-Star play, outscoring opponents 94-31.

One of Highlands very own, Trevor Reese the son of Aaron and Justyne Reese, played alongside 12 of his Franklin team mates to take home the District 5 Champions title for 2013.

Front row, from left: Joshua Zoellner #8 (Catcher & Right & Left Fielder), Davis Anders #10 (3rd Baseman), Dawson Green #22 (1st Baseman and Short Fielder), Ashton White #13 (2nd Baseman), Caleb Cloer #42 (Catcher & Right Center Fielder), Trevor Reese #14 (Short Stop), Maddox Waldroop #12 (Left Fielder).

Second row: Kehler Lamb #1 (Pitcher), Tyler Smith #32 (Right Fielder), Ty Handley #16 (Right Fielder), Daniel Ensley #7 (Catcher), Jacob Sanders #5 (Left & Right Fielder), Braxton Mira-Knippel #8 (Left Center Fielder and 1st Baseman).

Back row: Assistant Coaches Eddie Sutton, Todd Green, Tim Anders, Head Coach Billy Vanhook, and Assistant Coach Chris Waldroop.

Franklin’s 8U All-star baseball team has come a long way in a year.

This time last year, playing as 7-year-olds, they were out-matched by Hendersonville in the District 5 Championship.

The boys and their coaches set a goal to get back to the same point and, hopefully, turn the result around. That's exactly what the team did, beating Hendersonville 5-2 in the final gameto win the District 5 Championship for 2013.

Head coach Billy Vanhook called it "pretty incredible."

Wednesday ‘Interlude’ at First Pres on July 17

At 2pm on July 17, the Interlude Concert Series sponsored by First Presbyterian Church and the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation will feature Trey Clegg, organist and Larry Black, trumpet. The concert will take place at First Presbyterian Church. There is no admission charge for the Interlude concerts, which constitute a ministry in music to the community. Dress is casual - come as you are. Handicap entrances are located on Church Street and on Fifth Street.
Mountain Fresh now serving up a hefty variety of ‘wood-fired’ pizza

It's fast, fresh, an all one price – $10.95 for an 8-inch pie. Gourmet-style, flat bread pizza in about 20 varieties in 5 minutes.

Photo by Kim Lewicki

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www.shirazruggalleries.com
For the first time in my life I was away from our United States on the 4th of July. Sixty miles north of London I found myself among those from whom we as a nation were liberated. No fireworks or sparklers or any mention of them among the “Brits.” I really missed celebrating our national freedom with my countrymen. I couldn’t help thinking about true freedom.

National freedom and personal freedom have one reality in common. To be free, someone has to die. How many people died so we as Americans would be free? How many Americans died that others would be free? As you know, freedom is not free. Freedom is a result of a revolution.

In nearly 20 years of ministry I have seen troubled people around the world set free from addiction, bitterness, idleness, habits, depression, sin, unforgiveness, envy, pornography, demonic possession, apathy and all the other cruddy things that keep us from joy. In all cases, a revolution took place in their heart.

One could say that some of that freedom was a result of working hard at a situation. But in reality, lasting freedom doesn’t just happen that way. Liberated people are free because ultimately someone died so they would really live.

Are you a slave to something? Are you as free as you wish to be? Do you own things or do they own in some way own you? What has you? Are you free from death or are you scared of it? Are you free from self or do you scare yourself? Are you a people pleaser? Are you co-dependent, addicted, apathetic, purposeless or bored? There are all kinds of bondage out there...the list goes on and on...yet it doesn’t have to be your personal issue. Be freed by someone who has the key to the door that currently has you imprisoned in that area of your life.

Who needs lifeless religion that enslaves? Who needs or wants an arid legalism that sentences us to a “spiritual death row?” Christ came to lead a revolution not all that different than the American Revolution. He came to set the captives free and he continues to do so today. He will do so for you. If you are a Christian and you are not free -- something is wrong, really wrong. If your experience with Christ and the church has yielded you little to no freedom -- something is wrong. That stinks.

You and I were created to be free. The first words God spoke to Adam were “you are free...” (Gen. 2:16). Christ came and died and rose again to provide you and me access to the Spirit of God in our daily lives. “Where the Spirit of the Lord is there is freedom” (2 Cor. 3:17). To be free, we can ill afford to talk about Christ. We must converse with Him. To be truly free, we can ill afford to simply be associated with a church, we must be the church. To be free from the trappings of tradition we must enjoy the reality of a joyous ongoing encounter with the Christ.

Are you free? ...or are you playing games? Consider the following suggested course of action. Go somewhere by yourself -- maybe the woods, a mountaintop, your back deck or your bedroom and do something along the following lines the next few weeks:

Settle yourself into a place of reflection and cry out to God for freedom where needed. Over the next few weeks get to a place where your prayer comes from your heart in a way that works for you and see what Christ will do as you build trust in Him. And expect a revolution.

Not just another article

Pastor Gary Hewins
Community Bible Church

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**SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING**

**John 3:16**

**PLACES TO WORSHIP**

**Proverbs 3:5**

**Blue Valley Baptist Church**
Rev. Oliver Rice, Pastor (706) 782-3965
Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11
Sunday night services every 2nd & 4th Sunday at 7

**Buck Creek Baptist Church**
Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11

**Grace Community Church of Cashiers**
Non-Denominational-Contemporary Worship
242 Hwy 107N, 1/4 miles from Crossroads in Cashiers
wWww.gracecacihiers.com • Pastor Steve Doerter: 828-743-9814
Services: Sundays 10am - Wed. - 7p.m
Catered dinner - Wed. 6pm

**Chapel of Sky Valley**
Sky Valley, GA
Church: 706-746-2999
Sundays: 10 a.m. – Worship
Holy Communion 1st Sunday of the month
Wednesdays: 9 a.m. Healing and Prayer w/Holy Communion

**Christ Anglican Church**
Rector: Jim Murphy, 252-671-4011
464 US Hwy 64 east, Cashiers
Sun.: Holy Communion - 8:30 a.m.; Christian Education, 9:30 a.m.
Family Worship with music and Communion, 10:30 a.m.
Mon.: Bible Study & Supper at homes - 6 p.m.
Wed.: Men’s Bible Study -8:30 a.m., First Baptist Church

**Christian Science Church**
283 Spring Street
Sunday Service: 11 a.m.
Testimony Meeting: 5 p.m. on the 3rd Wed.

**Clear Creek Baptist Church**
Pastor Jim Kinard
Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11
Wednesdays - 7 p.m.

**Community Bible Church**
www.cbc.highlands.com • 526-4685
3645 Cashiers Rd, Highlands, NC
Senior Pastor Gary Hewins
Sun.: 9:30am: Sunday School
10:30am: Middle & High School; 10:45am: Children’s Program.;
10:45am: Worship Service
Wed.: 5pm Dinner ($7 adult, $2 child), 6pm CBC University

**Episcopal Church of the Incarnation**
Rev. Bruce Walker • 526-2968
Sundays: Holy Eucharist Rite I (chapel), 8 am, Education and choir rehearsal, 9 am, Holy Eucharist Rite II, (sanctuary), 10:30 am
Thursdays: Holy Eucharist, (chapel), 10 am

**First Baptist Church**
Dr. Mark Ford, Pastor • 526-4153
Sun.: Worship 10:45 a.m.; School – 9:30 a.m.
Wed.: Men’s Bible Study 8:30 a.m., Prayer Meeting – 6:15 p.m.; Choir – 5 p.m.

**First Presbyterian Church**
Dr. Lee Bo wman, Pastor • 526-3175
Sun.: Worship – 11 a.m.; Sun. 8:30a communion service June-Labor Day;
School – 9:30
Mondays: 8 a.m. – Men’s Prayer Group & Breakfast
Wednesdays – Choir – 7

**Goldmine Baptist Church**
(Off Franklin/Highlands Rd)
Rev. Carson Gibson
Sunday School – 10 am, Worship Service – 11 am
Bible Study – 6 pm

**Highlands Assembly of God**
Randi Reed, Pastor

**HIGHLANDS CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH**
Pastor Dan Robinson
670 N. 4th Street (next to the Highlands Civic Center)
Sunday: Morning Worship 10:45 a., Evening Worship, 6:30 p.m.
Wednesday: Prayer Service, 6:30 p.

**HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**
Pastor Paul Christy 526-3376
Wed: Supper 6; 7:15 – children, youth, & adults studies; 6:15 – Adult choir (nursery provided for Wed. p.m. activities)
Thurs:12:30 – Women's Bible Study (nursery)

**Holy Family Lutheran Church - ELCA**
Chaplain Margaret Howell
2152 Dillard Road – 526-9741
Sundays: Sunday School and Adult discussion group 9:30 a.m.;
Worship/Communion – 10:30

**Healing Service** on the 5th Sunday of the month.

**Little Church in the Wildwood**
In Horsecove
Sunday 7-8 p.m. Hymn-sing
Call Kay Ward at 743-5009

**Macedonia Baptist Church**
8 miles south of Highlands on N.C. 28 S in Satolah
Pastor Roy Lowe, (828) 526-8425
Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11
Choir – 6 p.m.
Wed: Bible Study and Youth Mtg. – 7 p.m.

**Mountain Synagogue**
St. Cyprian’s Episcopal Church, Franklin
828-369-9270 or 828-293-5197

**Mountain Bible Church**
Pastor: Clayton Lopez • 828-743-9704
Independent Bible Church
Sundays:10:30 a.m. at Big Ridge Baptist Church, 4224 Big Ridge Road
(4.5 miles from NC 107)
Weds: Bible Study 6:30 p.m.; Youth Group 6 p.m.

**Our Lady of the Mountains Catholic Church**
Parish office: 526-2418
Mass: – Sun: 11 a.m.; Thurs & Fri. 9 a.m.; Sat., 4p

**Scaly Mountain Baptist Church**
Rev. Dwight Loggins
Sundays: School –10 a.m.; Worship –11 a.m. & 7 Wednesdays: Prayer Mtg. – 7 p.m.

**Scaly Mountain Church of God**
290 Buck Knob Road; Pastor Alfred Sizemore +526-3212
Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 10:45 a.m.; Worship – 6 p.m.
Wed: Adult Bible Study & Youth – 7 p.m.

**Shortoff Baptist Church**
Pastor Rev. Andy Cloer
Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11 Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study – 7

**Unitarian Universalist Fellowship**
85 Sierra Drive • 828-524-6777
Sunday Worship - 11 a.m.
Child Care - 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Religious Education - 11 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.
Youth 8th - 12th grades meet the 2nd Sundays 5 - 7:30 p.m

**Whiteside Presbyterian Church**
Cashiers, Rev. Sam Forrester, 743-2122
Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11
Bridge Club donation to H-C Hospital helps buy Bi-Pap machine

The Highlands Duplicate Bridge Club (HDBC) recently provided a special donation of $10,000 to the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital Foundation.

These funds along with a $2,000 gift from Treasurer Ralph Bornheim provided the funds to purchase a Respironics V60 Ventilator, or “Bi-Pap” machine to assist patients with breathing therapies. The new equipment is a non-invasive positive pressure ventilator that improves a patient’s oxygenation while suffering from congestive heart failure or severe dyspnea.

HCH’s Respiratory Therapist, Rita Garland said “The Bi-Pap” machine, equipped with a fitted mask and tubing, helps move or rid fluid build up from the lungs. While measuring a patient’s blood gases, candidates for this advanced therapy include those with SpO2s (oxygen level in the blood) less than 90%, respiratory rate greater than 24, PH less than 7.35 or PaCO2 greater than 45.

The combination of the “Bi-Pap” machine and medications can greatly improve the patient’s condition.

The Board of Advisors of the HDBC are Sally Copeland (President), Mary Lou Nolan (Vice-President), Cathie McKeon (Secretary), Ralph Bornheim (Treasurer), Stewart Manning (Tournament Chairman), and Co-Club Managers, Cecil Hines and Brenda Manning. The HDBC is able to make this donation to the Hospital from the proceeds of the May Tournament and also the games played throughout the year by the club members. The Board of Advisors would like to thank all members of the club and those who played in the May Tournament for making this donation possible.

Fire Report

The Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. log entries from July 3.

July 3
• At 3:17 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to assist EMS at a residence on Upper Divide Road. EMS transported to the hospital.
• At 5:43 p.m., the dept. provided mutual aid to Cashiers FD for a structure fire.
• At 6:27 p.m., the dept. was called to check on a bridge that had washed out on a secondary road off Horse Cove and to check on mudslides.

July 4
• At 10:29 a.m., the dept. was called to Horse Cove Road concerning a tree on a power line. The Town Electric Dept. was notified.
• At noon, the dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a call on Cowee Ridge Road. EMS transported to the hospital.

July 5
• At 10:36 a.m., the dept. was called to Flat Mountain Road concerning a power line down and sparking.

From left: (HCH President and CEO Craig James, HCH Foundation and Marketing Executive Director Robin Taylor, Highlands Duplicate Bridge Club Tournament Chairman Stewart Manning, and Highlands Duplicate Bridge Club President Sally Copland.)
Larry Houston
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4BD/3BA BLUE VALLEY HOME FOR RENT: 828-713-6101. (st. 5/16)

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2BR/1BA, SCREENED PORCH, PARTIAL VIEW. On Little Bear Pen, 718 Center Drive. Available September only. $800/wk or $1,900/mth. non-smoker. (pets?) Call 706-372-3004. (6/13)

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

MUST SELL VERY Nice 56ac Lot. Near Highlands, No Restrictions $44,000 850-363-1436. (st. 6/6)

LOT FOR SALE, nice neighborhood, 1.45 acres, heavily wooded w/stream, 4-BR septic permit, Mirrormont area, walk to town, $169,900, 770-861-4249. (7/25)

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WILL PAY SMALL FEE FOR HELP with my new HP computer and Windows version 8. Call 828-482-0064. (st. 6/20)

HELP WANTED

SKYLINE LODGE SEEKING servers, dishwasher and cooks. Call 526-2121 and leave message for Chef Tom. (st. 7/11)

THE NEW SKY VALLEY COUNTRY CLUB IS NOW OPEN AND HIRING WAIT STAFF, BARTENDERS AND KITCHEN STAFF: Experienced staff preferred. If you enjoy serving nice people in any of these capacities we would like to meet you. Interested candidates should email resumes to dmspears@msn.com or stop by the clubhouse to fill out an application between 2-5pm Tuesday-Saturday. 706 746 5932. (st. 7/11)

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Audubon connects with nature this month

With weekly Saturday walks and several featured programs, the Highlands Plateau Audubon Society has a very busy schedule to offer the public this month.

Upcoming walks include one for Saturday, July 13 around Horse Cove and Rich Gap Road areas in Highlands. The group will be seeking breeding warblers and colorful tanagers. Visit the website listed below for carpool locations and times. A second walk will be led in conjunction with Mountain Wildlife Days in Cashiers, walking along the Cashiers Board Walk and Village Green. The group will meet at the new Cashiers Community Center parking lot next door to the Library at 8:00 AM. The Audubon chapter will provide binoculars to use for those who may need them.

This outing will be over in time to attend the first indoor Mountain Wildlife Days presentation at the Sapphire Valley Community Center at 10am. On the last Saturday of July, the 27th, Brock Hutchins, past president of HPAS will lead a walk on Turtle Pond Road near Highlands. Members of The Franklin Bird Club will be joining in this walk. The area offers the opportunity to search several types of habitats that should yield a large variety of birds. Visit website for carpool locations and times for this venue. As is true with every first Saturday of the month walk, the August 3 trip will be beginner-friendly.

International birder, Romney Bathurst will be presenting an evening program “After the Victory of the Revolution: Birding in Cuba Today” on Monday, July 22, at Highlands Civic Center at 7 PM. Cuba has long been a sought-after birding destination, as the island offers 26 endemic species, including the world’s smallest bird, the Bee Hummingbird (2-1/4”). Thus it was an opportunity not to be missed by Bathurst, when she was offered a spot on a licensed bird survey in April.

It proved to be a fascinating experience, and not only for the beautiful birds! In her Gundlach’s Hawk.

Please join the Highlands Plateau Audubon Society for an up-to-date look at this island nation! The program, as always, is offered free of charge and the public is most welcome.

For more info about all of the above, visit www.highlandsaudubonsociety.org or call 743-9670.

Bathurst will also be teaching a class through the CLE (Center for Life Enrichment) on Thursday, July 25 entitled “Birding Beyond Our Borders” from 2-4 pm at the Peggy Crosby Center in Highlands. When not birding internationally, Bathurst is a regular HPAS field trip leader and member of the HPAS board of directors. The class is offered as part of Audubon’s educational outreach program. Call the CLE at 526-8811 to register or go to www.dehighlands.com. The cost is $25 for CLE members and $35 for nonmembers.
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