The cost of out-of-state students at HS

By Brittany Burns

With the Highlands border of Macon County brushing up against Georgia, it has been historically common for students from Georgia to attend school in Macon County. A lot of families work over state lines and commute, so each year the school of Highlands brings a list before the board of education with names of “discretionary” students who live outside of North Carolina, but attend school in Macon County. The school board reviews the list, and then approves or denies it for the school year.

Governor signs NC budget bill

Criticism of teacher pay plan continues

By Kirk Ross

Gov. Pat McCrory signed the 2014 budget bill into law on Thursday, capping months-long negotiations that saw North Carolina House and Senate leaders openly divided over key parts of the plan.

The $21 billion state budget, stuffed with dozens of special provisions and tax breaks, is expected to include the largest single increase in teacher pay in North Carolina history and a $1.3 billion investment in public education.

Fun for the whole family!

Highlands on NCAA tour of WNC

A bus load of North Carolina County Commissioners will arrive in Highlands around 3 p.m., Thursday, Aug. 14.

Macon County Commission Vice Chair Ronnie Beale, incoming chairman of the NC Association of County Commissioners (NCACC) is hosting the association’s annual meeting and will be bringing county commissioners from across the state to visit Highlands and other areas of Western North Carolina.

They expect to arrive at Kelsey-Hutchinson Park between 3 and 3:15 pm. Mayor Patrick Taylor will be there and invites the public to come as well. He plans to welcome the group and presents a small gift to the commissioners association. The commissioners will then take a short walking tour of Main Street after which they will return to their bus and travel to Asheville to continue their conference.
Mayors on Duty

NC county commissioners visiting today

H
ighlands will have some special visitors touring the downtown area this afternoon. Our guests will be a delegation of county commissioners from across the state. I, along with town commissioners and representatives of the Chamber of Commerce, will welcome our distinguished guests at Founders Park (Kelsey-Hutchinson Park on Pine Street) around 3 p.m.

Ronnie Beale, Vice Chairman of the Macon County Commissioners, is the incoming president of the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners. He is hosting and coordinating its annual conference that is being held in Western Carolina this year.

Conference participants are taking a bus tour to strategic venues in Western Carolina and Macon County. I am delighted that Commissioner Beale scheduled his fellow commissioners to visit Highlands -- a center of tourism, economic development and beauty in the region.

I know some folks worry about excessive promotion of the town and have concerns about Highlands becoming too big, congested and complex. They see Highlands as a hidden jewel in the mountains that should be kept a secret to just a few. Some may fear too many tourists will erode the quality of life in this small village community.

On the other hand, I believe the town has to have a viable economy for those having to make a living in Highlands. Promoting tourism and welcoming visitors to our community is essential to future sustained and smart growth.

I believe the town will have to take a further step.

We have a substantial aging Baby Boomer population now living in the community. I speak from the perspective of being a Boomer in my prime that just celebrated my 66th birthday. The challenge for the future is to attract other generations to not only visit Highlands, but in some instances to invest financial and social capital in the continuing enhancement of our beloved community.

While Highlands has a history of preserving the best in cultural traditions and the natural environment, we have also been a dynamic community with the goal of continually improving the life styles of our people.

So, I am grateful for the visitors Commissioner Beale is bringing us today. I hope they will have a great experience on Main Street and hopefully return for a longer visit. Let’s get out the good word about all the fabulous things available to folks who find their way to Highlands.

If you see me on Main Street this afternoon, give me a shout-out. I will be walking with our guests.

– Mayor Patrick Taylor

Letters

We reserve the right to reject or edit letters-to-the-editor. No anonymous letters will be accepted.

Views expressed are not necessarily those of Highlands Newspaper. Please EMAIL letters by Sunday at 5 p.m. There is a 500-word limit without prior approval.

Letters-to-the Editor-Policy

Dear Editor,

Have you wondered why worldwide the leftists, environmentalists, and most media are waging a war against that new dirty word — FRACKING?

The answer is simple, and it has nothing to do with the hyperbole, misinformation, and propaganda these anti-frackers use to scare the public.

The first commercial-scale use of fracking is generally credited with starting in 1947. After 67 years, and the fracking of over one million oil and gas wells, anti-frackers abruptly started their war only 3-4 years ago. Why not 67 years ago if it is as devastating to the environment, health and safety as anti-frackers now claim? Where were some lukewarm fracking proponents prior to the war?

Over the past 10 years, the combination of fracking and directional drilling has opened up vast new sources of natural gas and oil in formerly unproductive shale formations in the U.S. and worldwide. These sources will potentially last up to 100 years.

Because of shale fracking, this year the U.S. is expected to become the #1 producer of oil and natural gas in the world, surpassing Saudi Arabia and Russia. Fracking has resulted in substantial economic benefits, and improved energy security for the U.S.

With this new supply of natural gas coming to market, the economics of supply and demand have come into play. Natural gas prices have fallen dramatically. Basic business sense has also come into play as companies generating electricity have begun utilizing the cheaper natural gas to replace more expensive fuels. This reduces both their generating costs and carbon dioxide emissions.

Suddenly the anti-frackers’ “green energy” agenda to replace electricity generated from fossil fuels and nuclear with expensive, unreliable, and non-competitive wind, solar, and biomass, could be mortally in danger from the abundant and less expensive natural gas.

So there is the explanation for the anti-frackers’ recent war on that new dirty word — FRACKING. They must STOP FRAKKING for their own self-interests to save their “green energy” agenda from extinction by natural gas.

Some of the anti-frackers’ arguments against fracking could also be applied to their “green energy” which has its own environmental, health and safety issues they avoid mentioning.

Fracking, like everything, has tradeoffs. Accidents and mistakes happen. Any actual safety, health, and environmental issues should be addressed after fact-based and science-based study, not hysterical accusations. That 67 years of unchallenged fracking experience should allay the public’s fear of fracking. The public should also recognize fracking’s tremendous economic benefits.

Vic Drummond
Franklin
Helen Renee Webb

Helen Renee Webb, 56, of Franklin, NC died Saturday, August 2, 2014. Born in Fulton County, GA, she was the daughter of James Edgar and Martha Stanish Brooks. She liked to paint and do crafts. She was a homemaker and was of the Baptist faith.

She is survived by her companion, Norman Webb; three sons, Johnny Chambers and his wife Mathia of Cornelia, GA, Dewayne Chambers of Clarkesville, GA and Michael Chambers and wife Karry of Toccoa, GA; two brothers, Martin Stanish of MN, and Curtis Brooks of Otto, NC; four grandchildren, Tabytha Shiley and husband Steven, Tasha Chambers, Timothy Carter and Amber Stocker.

Funeral services were held Wednesday, August 6 in the Chapel of Bryant-Grant Funeral Home in Franklin with Rev. Carson Gibson officiating. Burial was held at Highlands Memorial Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers the family requests donations be made in Helen's name to help with funeral expenses to Bryant-Grant Funeral Home, 105 West Main Street, Franklin, NC 28734.

Bryant-Grant Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Online condolences may be made by visiting www.bryantgrantfuneralhome.com.

Esther T. Whiteside

On the afternoon of August 6th, Esther T. Whiteside died surrounded by family, at Northside Hospital, Atlanta, GA., after complications from a fall. She had also been bravely fighting Hodgkins Lymphoma for many years, always remaining optimistic, cheerful and comforted by her faith.

She was born in Bradenton, FL, 1932 on Christmas Day and lived in Cashiers, NC previous to Chambrel in Roswell, GA.

Esther attended Hampton Dubose Academy and graduated from Manatee High School in 1950. In Cashiers she had worked for High Hampton Inn and then Wachovia Bank, from which she retired in 1994. She was known for her warm smile and friendly spirit. Esther enjoyed crocheting and quilting especially for others. She was a member of the Cashiers Quilters and participated in making “Quilts of Valor” for wounded soldiers.

She is survived by her husband of sixty years, William A. Whiteside, son Norman Franklin Whiteside of Charlotte, daughter Susan Whiteside Williams of Roswell and two grandchildren, William Greyson Whiteside (Roswell) and William Norman Whiteside (Charlotte). She was sister to Zoa Green, (deceased) Rollin Thompson, (deceased) Howard Thompson, and Anita Thornton, (deceased).

Viewing will be at Christ Church in Cashiers, Friday August 15th, 6 -8pm with funeral service on Saturday August 16th, 2pm. Burial will be at Upper Zachary Cemetery. The family will receive friends at High Hampton Inn after burial.

In lieu of flowers the family would prefer donations supporting Cashiers Quilters, “Quilts of Valor” c/o Lois Williams, PO Box 10, Glenville NC, 28736.

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

Jack ‘Jackpot’ Penniston Philpot

Jack “Jackpot” Penniston Philpot, age 74, of Highlands, NC died Saturday, August 9, 2014 at Fidelia- Eckerd Living Center. Born in Carol Co., GA he was a CEO for a Medical Lab and drove a school bus in Highlands for several years. He was a 2009 Duke Energy Volunteer of The Year. He volunteered at school, Chamber of Commerce and at Health Tracks at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. He was a very active member of Highlands United Methodist Church where he served in several positions and was a Veteran of the US Navy.

He is survived by two brothers. He was preceded in death by a son, J. P. Philpot.

A memorial service will be held Thursday, August 14, at 4 p.m. at Highlands United Methodist Church with Rev. Paul Christy, Rev. Carrilea Potter and Rev. Zack Christy officiating.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Highlands United Methodist Children/ Youth Fund, PO Box 1959, 315 Main Street, Highlands, NC 28741

Online condolences may be made by visiting www.bryantgrantfuneralhome.com

Bryant-Grant Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.
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Teacher pay plan under fire

When the deal was announced in late July, legislative leaders said it included the largest pay increase for teachers in the state's history, a claim that turned out not to be accurate in terms of a percentage increase.

The North Carolina Association of Educators criticized the plan, saying it was unfair to claim that raises averaged 7 percent since the increase included already-promised longevity pay. The group also said that the plan ends a boost in pay for obtaining a master's degree.

At last Thursday's bill signing, McCrory fired back, saying the plan offered the first significant pay raise in years and that most private-sector employees had not even heard of the idea of longevity pay.

House Majority Leader Skip Stam, R-Wake, also pushed back against the plan's critics, telling WRAL, “I have never seen so much squealing about getting more money.”

But in presenting the benefits of the budget, even the governor dialed back the actual size of the raise, saying the average increase was 5.5 percent.

The size of the raise also varies depending on experience.

Newer teachers would see the biggest...
The bridge slut

Fred Wooldridge

It was my fault. I’m not blaming anyone but myself. I used to wander the streets of Highlands looking for a bridge partner. It was worse than trying to find a parking spot…there just weren’t any. I became a bridge slut. They called me “BS” because I quit the game, hating all the rules.

Ha, not any more! It was mid summer a few years ago when I announced to my loyal bridge friends, including my lil missus, I couldn’t take it anymore. I was having “Mel’s rule of two” nightmares. I wanted to beat up a person I didn’t even know named Cappelletti. I also dreamt the lil missus divorced me and I was forced to marry bridge czar Audrey Grant. Ahhhh! Then I died and went straight to hell where everyone was forced to play bridge 24/7 and I was their bridge director. I woke up in a cold sweat.

So I told my friends, “I can’t take it anymore. I’m taking a sabbatical from bridge.” It was good at first. I cleaned the garage twice and got everything organized. I found tools I hadn’t seen in years. I watched old movies while the lil missus fed her addiction with a new partner. I started a book titled “War & Peace” but only got to page five.

I should have known I couldn’t do the “cold turkey” thing. Few addicts can just quit. Now, my problem was I needed to get back in the game and because I’m a ho-hum player, no one wanted me. (Tissues, please)

More time went by and I was becoming desperate. I made a large sign and stood at 4th and Main St. asking, “Will you play with me?” Bad move! Oh, I got lots of takers but none of them played bridge. I realized the sign might be worded wrong. My next sign asked, “Will you be my partner?” Another bad move with same results. I finally gave up.

But just as I was taking my last Lithium pill, a bridge player took pity on me. He said, “I like you, Fred, even though you’re a “dumb as toast” bridge player. But you’re not a rule-a-holic and I like that. Let’s forget about all those stupid rules and play for fun.” I wanted to kiss him but knew it would start rumors.

We played well together and my need to beat up someone named Drury, a guy I don’t even know, began to wane. Other players began to notice I was back in the game. I’m making a comeback. The lil missus still wants no part of me but I’m bettin she’ll come around once I apply some “new minor forcing” and “coded nines” on her. I may even throw in a “1430” and a “don’t” to win her over.

If my column has made you want to rush out and take bridge lessons, please call me at 1-800-bad-habit.

Note: If you’re interested in playing really bad bridge, read Fred’s mystery/thriller Deceived. It’s about making a slam with only six points.
During the July meeting of the Macon County Board of Education, Highlands Principal Brian Jetter presented board members with a list of eight names of students who live in Georgia but requested to attend school at Highlands. They ranged in grade level from first to tenth, and several include siblings. At the July’s BOE meeting the board approved the list unanimously. So far the total for the 2014-15 school year is 11, so it’s likely the BOE will OK the additional three at its August meeting.

Before students can make it on the discretionary list for presentation before the board, the child’s background is explored extensively by obtaining information including criminal background or disciplinary records the child may have from other areas.

Highlands is the only school in the district that has students in attendance from out-of-state, according to Superintendent Dr. Chris Baldwin. There are students attending Macon County schools who are from out-of-district, such as Jackson County, but those students are transferred to Macon County, thus Macon County receives state dollars based on the Average Daily Membership (ADM) for the student.

Over the past few years, the school board has offered a debate surrounding the board policy that permits out-of-state students to attend school within Macon County.

In 2010, on the heels of budget cuts, the school board debated about out-of-state students paying a tuition.

In 2010, it was estimated to cost Macon County taxpayers $120,000 a year — or $8,000 per student for the then 15 students attending school in Macon County.

Based on 2014 figures though, Macon County stands to pay $9,800 per student or $107,800 this year in costs associated with the 11 students. That amounts to just over the cost of three teaching positions.

Over the past five years, 58 students have attended school from out-of-state, totaling $464,000 in local taxpayer dollars (based on the 2010 figure of $8,000 per student.) Of those 58 students in the last five years, 12 students have been the children of town of Highlands employees, meaning that although the parents didn’t pay property taxes, which is what funds education in the county, they did pay some taxes in the county, since local taxes would have been taken out of their paychecks.

According to Board Policy 409, tuition will be charged to students admitted under the policy if the student doesn’t live in the state. The tuition will equal per pupil allocation for current expenses as provided by the board of commissioners from the preceding year (ADM). Tuition may be waived if the student meets one of the following criteria:

- demonstrates extraordinary financial hardship
- non-resident students of the school district whose parents moved or plan to move into the school district on or before December 1, may be assigned at the beginning of the school year to the school serving the pupil’s new residence without payment of tuition
- a student whose legal residence was located inside the boundaries of the school district and who during the school year moves into the boundaries of another school district will be eligible for continued enrollment during the school year without payment of tuition
- a student whose parents are employees by the school district
- students who live in the isolated geographical area of Satalah, Georgia.

Principal Jetter stated that in...
After a hiatus of several years, Caroline Brown returns to the Village Square Art & Craft Show August 23 & 24th. She will feature new styles and fabrics for her children's clothing line, and maybe her little girl will even model some. See Caroline as well as many other regional crafters and artists from 10 to 5 Saturday and Sunday, along with food and music in the Kelsey-Hutchinson Park on Pine Street. The event is free. For more info contact Cynthia Strain (828) 787-2021 or check out our Facebook page.
NC state budget bill spending breakdown

**Education**
- Spends an additional $282 million for teacher pay increases averaging 5.5 percent. Newer teachers would receive the highest pay increases.
- Changes the system for step increases, reducing the number of steps from 32 to six.
- Non-certified and central office staff would get a $500 salary increase and an $118 benefit contribution.
- Adds $42 million for class size reductions in kindergarten and first grade.
- Requires epi pens for emergency treatment of allergic reactions in all schools.

**Health and Human Services**
- Reduces the number of local mental health agencies in the state from nine to seven.
- Cuts payouts to providers for Medicaid services by 4 percent.
- Changes eligibility to reduce child care subsidies and county-based special assistance for blind, elderly and disabled residents.
- Cuts a total of 17 positions at DHHS, with a reduction of 12 positions in Vocational Rehabilitation.

**Public Safety**
- Moves the State Bureau of Investigation from the Department of Justice to the Department of Public Safety.
- Calls for a study of the role of the Attorney General.

**What does it mean for WNC?**
- Moves the state Alcohol Beverage Control Commission to the Department of Public Safety.
- Requires that future constitutional challenges, such as the recent Asheville water system lawsuit, be heard by a special panel of three Superior Court judges and requires Senate confirmation for the governor's appointees for to the panel.

**WNC-specific provisions**
- The new budget retains a plan backed by both chambers allowing the sale of $15.4 million in bonds along with planning money for a new Western Crime Lab in Edneyville in Henderson County. The budget also includes money to hire 10 forensic scientists and technicians for the Forensic Biology and DNA unit at the lab.

Other spending and capital projects in WNC include:
- $2 million for the McGough Arena roof at the Western North Carolina Agricultural Center.
- Start-up funds for Buncombe Discovery Academy in Buncombe County.
- $75,000 as part of a match for the REACH program’s new shelter for women and families serving Macon and Jackson.
HCP’s ‘Last of the Red Hot Lovers’ begins next week at PAC

Opening the Highlands Cashiers Players 20th season is the brilliantly funny Neil Simon comedy, “The Last of the Red Hot Lovers,” on stage at the Highlands Performing Arts Center Thursday, August 21 through Sunday, August 31.

HCP’s talented comedic actor Lance Trudel is cast as Barney Cashman, a middle-aged, happily married man, who decides to attempt a one-time-only affair during the permissive days of the so-called sexual revolution of the 1960’s. He winds up, however, attempting to seduce three different women with hilarious results. The first woman he invites to join him is played by Highlands actor, alluring Jennifer Royce. The second is a kooky would-be actress, played with delightful zaniness by Adair Simon, a newcomer to the HCP stage from Cashiers.

The third, a family friend, totally and ridiculously depressed, is played by the HCP’s always comedic Lee Lyons. At the end of Barney’s humorous and ill-fated “affairs,” he gains a new appreciation for his wife of 23 years, revealing playwright Neil Simon’s characteristic compassion for his characters, who, imperfect as they may be, are decent at heart.

The Players box office is now open for reservations, 828-526-4904. Tickets for “The Last of the Red Hot Lover” are also available online, www.whighlandsca-shiersplayers.org
First Mondays
- Shortoff Baptist Church hosts a non-denominational Men’s Meeting the first Monday night of each month at 7 pm and all men are invited to attend.

Tuesdays
- Community Table Dinner at the Community Building at 6 p.m. It’s free.

Tues. & Thurs.
- Aerobics at the Rec Park with Tina Rogers 5:15. $5.

Mon., Wed., Fri.
- Aerobics with Tina Rogers 8-9a.
- Zumba at the Rec Park at 9:05a. $5.

1st Wednesdays
- Family Movies at the Hudson Library at 3:30pm. Call 828-526-3031 for titles.

3rd Wednesdays
- General Audience Movies at Hudson Library at 2pm. Call 828-526-3031 for titles.

Thursdays beginning Sept. 4
- Storytimes with Miss Carol at Hudson Library 10:40am. Open to the public.

Thursdays
- Highlands Writer’s Group meets every Thursday from 1-3:30 pm at Hudson Library. Writers of all genres welcome. For info call 526-8009 or 526-2295.
- Weight Watchers support group meets every Thursday at 6pm at the Cashiers Community Center. Questions? Call Lisa 828-506-3555 Last Fri. of each month.

2nd Thursdays
- Sapphire Valley Needlepoint Guild meets at the Highlands Rec Park at 10 a.m. Newcomers welcomed.

Fri.-Sun.
- Hal Phillips on the piano at Skyline Lodge during dinner and Sunday brunch.

Fri. & Sat.
- The Historical Society Museum is open.

Saturdays
- The Farmers Market, 9a-1p in K-H Park. Organic vegetables, eggs, honey, cheeses, home-made food and hand-made items. For information call 482-0555 Maxine Davidson.
- Cashiers Local Farmers tailgate market begins May 10 thru October at the Anglican Church Parking Lot Hwy 64 E next to Macon Bank.

Thurs., Aug. 14
- Peggy Crosby Center Open-House is Thursday from 5-7 p.m. In addition to refreshments & social gathering, all offices will be open and most will be staffed so that visitors can speak with the non-profits about their individual organizations.
- The Macon County Republican Party executive board will meet on Thursday, at 6 PM at GOP headquarters, 555 Depot Street, Franklin.
- The August meeting of The Western North Carolina Woodturners Club is at 6 p.m. at the Blue Ridge School, in Glenville, N.C. at 95 Bobcat Drive, Cashiers, N.C. Drive to the back of the school to the woodworking shop.

Fri, Aug. 15
- At The Bascom, Barn Dance, 7-10 p.m. $5 per person. Live bluegrass from Benny Queen and The Wild Hog Band. Full bar, grub and fun.
- The High Mountain Squares will host their “Club Colors Dance,” Friday night at the Macon County Community Building, GA Road (441 South), Franklin NC from 6:30 to 9 PM. Richard Smith from Gainesville GA will be the caller. We dance Western Style Square Dancing, main/stream and plus levels. Everyone is welcome.

Sat., Aug. 16
- Relay for Life 5k race hosted by Franklin First Citizens Bank Saturday. Registration is at 8 am and race begins at 9:15 am at the Tasse Shelter, 877 Ulco Drive on the Greenway in Franklin. Registration forms are

Wednesday
- Grilled Chicken Cabanara over Linguini with salad or vegetable

Thursday
- NY Strip with Loaded Baked Potato and Vegetable Medley

Friday
- Charleston-style Crab Cakes with Saffron Rice and Vegetable Medley

Saturday
- Maple Pecan Crusted Trout with Saffron Rice and Vegetable Medley

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www.cgatrainingphotos.com
available at First Citizens Bank, WNC Sportszone, or Franklin Fitness Center. For more info, contact Shannon McConnell at 828-524-2164.

Sat. Aug. 16
- The Highlands Plateau Greenway will have its monthly work day this Saturday. If you are interested in participating, please email Ran Shaffner at highlandsgreenway@ncvt.com or leave a message at 828-526-5622.
- Live Birds of Prey at Cliffside Lake at 11 a.m., $4 per vehicle. No pets. Arrive 15 minutes prior to show. No pets.
- Cowee Textiles at the Macon County Heritage Center in Franklin off Hwy. 28 will be having weaving, basket making, spinning & other textile demonstrations during the 2nd Annual Cowee School Celebration Saturday from noon to 6 p.m. Please call Teresa at 828-349-3878.

At Acorns Boutique on Main, a booksigning with author Cassandra King “The Same Sweet Girls” Guide to Life. 2-4p.
- Saturdays in Pine Street Park, live music from 6-8 p.m. Featuring Mangas Colorado.

Tues., Aug. 19
- Macon County Poultry Club will hold its monthly meeting at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, at the Macon County Cooperative Extension Center, 193 Thomas Heights Road. The public is welcome. For information call 828-524-2058.

Wed., Aug. 20
- Interlude Concert at First Presbyterian at 2 p.m. Georgia State University Vocal Concert.

Thurs.–Sun. Aug. 21-31

Thurs., Aug. 28
- At the Hudson Library, author presentation of “Cherokee Little People Were Real” at 4 p.m.

Fri., Aug. 29
- Community Coffee with Mayor Pat Taylor at the Hudson Library in the Meeting Room from 11a to noon. This month Mayor Patrick Taylor and Chief Bill Harrell answering questions and discussing the Highlands Police Department. Refreshments provided
- Twilight 5K. Starts at 6 p.m. at the K-H Park on Pine Street. $25 early signup. Kids under 10 free. Bring a cooler and blanket. Music by Copious Jones 6-10p. All proceeds to benefit the Highlands School Track Team. Register at www.twilighthrocknroll5K.com. Sign up form also available at the Rec Park, Highlands Decorating Center and Macon Bank.

Wed., Aug. 27
- Interlude Concert at the Episcopal Church at 2 p.m. featuring Summit Piano Trio.

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Most of you remember playing the game of Hopscotch as a child. The first recorded game of Hopscotch was in the 17th century, but some believe ancient Roman children played it as well. In today's world, I wonder what percentage of children plays the game of Hopscotch? The rules vary, but the general idea is to draw six to eleven blocks, then throw a rock or object into a square, then jump on one foot (or two for a double block) skipping the marked spot, then turn around and come back to the beginning, stooping to pick up the marker on the way—all without stumbling. A good game to keep youngsters occupied; it teaches balance, determination, and how to play well with others.

Now, I know what you're thinking. What does a simple game of hopscotch have to do with real estate? Not much really, except that life-long lessons we've learned—even from a 'simple game of hopscotch', can come into play anytime in your life—even when buying and selling real estate.

For the rest of this column—consider yourself reading a 'split screen'. On the left are two children in the 1960s – Dick and Jane, and on the right, same Dick and Jane but about 50 years later.

Dick: OK, then. I'll play. You draw up the lines in the dirt, and I'll find the perfect stone for us to use.

They played several games—they both won multiple times. There were a few times there was a 'draw'; no one won, but they played on anyway. The competition got pretty tough sometimes to be so much fun!

Dick: OK, then. I'll play. You draw up the lines in the dirt, and I'll find the perfect stone for us to use.

Dick: What kind of game?
Jane: Hopscotch.
Dick: That's a dumb game.
Jane: Bet I can beat you, are you up for the challenge?
Dick: No way.
Jane: Yes, way. This is going
INVESTING continued from page 14


Jane: Oh, gosh. I don't know. Can you show me some of everything?

Dick: Well, I could, but there's so much on the market, let's try to narrow your search a little. I want to be able to find you the best of the best – that will make it easier on you when you start comparing what you've seen.

Jane: OK. You know, just show me some things you know about. Believe me when I say, 'when I see what I want, I'll know it' and 'I won't waste your time – we can just move on the next place if it's not right.' Are you up for the challenge?

Dick: It's really no challenge, just a matter of finding you the best match for you.

Jane: Well, OK, I'm ready. This is going to be fun!

Dick: OK, then I'm ready too. You look through these MLS sheets I've pulled for you, and I'll find the perfect places for us to see.

They saw several homes and condos – some she liked more than others. Dick realized Jane was serious about buying, and concentrated and listened to everything she said she wanted in her investment property. She brought some of her family and friends in to see her top choices, and listened as they gave her advice about which house to 'jump on' and buy. It ended up with Jane closing on a second home. It took several months from the first 'looking day' to the closing date, but that's OK, because at the 'end of the day', they both knew they had done their best; they toasted the day with a glass of wine.

In this case, the real estate Broker knew his territory, gave the buyer good advice, got all the proper papers signed and the buyer became educated on the area real estate market – she learned what had sold and what hadn't, what kind of offer to make for that offer to get accepted, then in her due diligence period, she exercised her right to have all the inspections she

Real Estate Snapshots

Price Reduction in Highlands Mtn. Club!

Known as Rosebay Cottage, this cottage is replete with commanding classic granite fireplace, original pine paneling and oak floors that would give any business endeavor instant cache. Great road visibility on Highway 64 East (Cashiers Rd.) Plans for possible expansion on file.

Offered at $145,000, MLS #80141.
Contact Sheryl Wilson at (828) 337-0706.

Adorable 1940s Cottage

Minutes to downtown Highlands. This is a lovely 2 bedroom, 2 bath end unit with a wooded view. This unit has been updated with tile, wood, carpet flooring, & granite counter tops. There is a stone fireplace with gas logs, large storage closet and screened-in porch. Amenities include clubhouse, pool & tennis.

Offered at $195,000, MLS #76224.
Contact Sheryl Wilson at (828) 337-0706.

Adorable 1940s Cottage

This 3BR/2BA home sits on 1.16 +/- acres and is move-in ready. Hardwood floors, slate flooring in the kitchen; tile in the bathrooms. Includes a hot tub on the back deck. A full basement features W/D, bathroom, and ready to finish. Shed/workshop, also. Lovingly maintained with upgrade potential!

Offered at $199,000, MLS #80121.
Contact Susie deVille at (828) 371-2079.

Premium Highlands Commercial Acreage

Premium Highlands commercial parcel, zoned B-3, with easy egress/ingress from Highways 106 and 64, as well as Holt Knob Road. Superb topography, visibility offering multiple building sites for residential or commercial uses. Buyer may purchase a portion of the 3.12 +/- acres, if desired. Sellers reserves the right to approve the intended use of the Subject Property.

Offered at $5,148,000, MLS #80139.
Call Susie deVille at (828) 371-2079.

REAL ESTATE SNAPSHOTs
What in the world is going on?

Pastor Gary Hewins
Community Bible Church

Syria is in the midst of civil war. ISIS terrorists are infiltrating sovereign Iraq. Christians and non-Christians alike are under siege. Russian backed rebels have annexed Crimea and Ukraine is defending herself against further infiltration. A commercial jetliner filled with innocent civilians has been shot from the sky. Gaza city is being lit up with bombs, children are being used as human shields and hundreds of tunnels are being destroyed. The world is groaning from chaos. The Ebola virus is being spread in western Africa.

“Jesus put it this way over two thousand years ago. There will be wars and rumors of wars. Nation will rise up against nation. Kingdom will rise up against kingdoms.” (Matt. 24). In the last days the faith of many will grow cold. That’s not to mention the earthquakes, pestilence, famine etc. etc.


Those who follow Christ are to do none of these things. Should we not all realize that all that Christ said here on earth and also about the earth is coming to pass? If that which He prophesied is coming to pass were not all of his teaching also true.

Spiritually speaking I encourage you to discover some biblical teaching to help you discover the depths of the seriousness of being without Christ both here and in the days ahead. This world for which he died is groaning in distress. Those without faith in Him have an even greater hopeless eternity.

Spiritually speaking we should all be building one another up in this most holy faith. The world today and its distressing condition is a reminder that those in Christ are called to pray and share the good news that there is eternal life only in Christ! Let’s remain steadfast in this chaotic time.

Proverbs 3:5

• Places to Worship •

BLUE VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH
Rev. Oliver Rice, Pastor (706) 782-3965
Sundays: School: 10 a.m.; Worship: 11 am
Sunday night services every 2nd & 4th Sunday at 7 p.m.
Wednesdays: Mid-week prayer meeting: 7 p.m.

BUCK CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH
828-269-3546 • Rev. Jamie Passmore, Pastor
Sundays: School: 10 a.m.; Worship: 11 a.m.

CHAPEL OF SKY VALLEY
Sky Valley, GA • 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.: 8:30a Traditional (said) 1928 Service, including Communion; 9:30a Christian Education; 10:30a Faithful Family Service w/Music & Communion.
Mon.: Bible Study & Supper at homes - 6 p.m.
Wed.: Men’s Bible Study -8:30 a.m.; First Baptist Church

CHRIST CHURCH OF THE VALLEY, CASHIERS
Pastor Steve Kerhoulas • 743-5470
Sun. 10:45am, S.S 9:30am. Wed. 6pm supper and teaching.
Tues. Guys study 8am, Gals 10am.

CLEAR CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH
Pastor Jim Kinard
Sundays: School: 10 a.m.; Worship: 11 a.m.
Wednesdays - 7 p.m.

COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH
www.cbchighlands.com • 526-4685
3645 Cashiers Rd, Highlands, NC
Senior Pastor Gary Hewins
Sun.: 9:30am: Sunday School 10:30am: Middle & High School; 10:45am: Child. Program, 10:45am: Worship Service
Wed.: 5pm Dinner ($7 adult, $2 child), 6pm CBC University

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE CHURCH
283 Spring Street
Sunday Service: 11 a.m.; Testimony Mtg: 5 p.m. on 3rd Wed.

EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE INCARNATION
Rev. Bruce Walker • 526-2968
Sundays: Eucharist Rite I 8a in chapel; Education and choir rehearsal, 9 am, Holy Eucharist Rite II, (sanctuary), 10:30a Faithful Family Service w/Music & Communion.
Wed.: 10 a.m., Morning Prayer
Thursdays: Holy Eucharist, (chapel), 10 am

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF CASHIERS
828-526-4153 • www.fbchighlands.org
Dr. Mark Ford, Pastor
220 Main Street, Highlands NC 28741
Sun.: Worship 10:45 am; Sun.: Bible Study 9:30 am
Wed.: Men’s Bible Study 8:30 am; Prayer Mtg 6:15 pm; Choir 5 pm

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Curtis Fussell & Emily Wilmarth, pastors
526-3175 • fpchighlands.org
Sun.: Worship: 8:30 & 11 a.m.; 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

GRACE COMMUNITY CHURCH OF CASHIERS
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242 Hwy 107N. 1/4 miles from Crossroads in Cashiers
www.gracecashiers.com • Pastor Steve Doerter: 743-9814

HAMBURG BAPTIST CHURCH
Hwy 107N. • Glenville, NC • 743-2729
Pastor Nathan Johnson
Sunday: School 9:45a, Worship 11 a & 7 p, Bible Study 6 p
Wed. Kidsquest 6p; Worship 7p.

HIGHLANDS ASSEMBLY OF GOD
Randy Reed, Pastor 828-421-9172 • 165 S. Sixth Street

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

HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Pastor Paul Christy 526-3376
Sun: School 9:45a; Worship 8:30, 9:09, 10:50.; Youth 5:30 p.
Wed: Supper: 5:15; 7:15:children, youth, & adults studies; 6:15:Adult choir (nursery provided) Thurs:12:30; Women’s Bible Study (nursery)

HOLY FAMILY LUTHERAN CHURCH:ELCA
Chaplain Margaret Howell • 2152 Dillard Road • 526-9741
Sun: 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
Horse Cove - Kay Ward 743-5009
Old-Fashion hymn-sing Sunday 7-8p.

MACEDONIA BAPTIST CHURCH
8 miles south of Highlands on N.C. 28 S in Satolah
Pastor Troy Nicholson, (828) 526-8425
Sundays: School: 10 a.m.; Worship: 11; Choir: 6 p.m.
Wed: Bible Study and Youth Mtg.: 6 p.m.

MOUNTAIN SYNAGOGUE
St. Cyprian’s Episcopal Church, Franklin
828-369-9270 or 828-293-5197

MOUNTAIN BIBLE CHURCH
743-2583 • Independent Bible Church
Sun: 10:30 a.m. at Big Ridge Baptist Church, 4224 Big Ridge Road (4.5 miles from NC 107)
Wed: Bible Study 6:30 p.m.; Youth Group 6 p.m.

OUR LADY OF THE MOUNTAINS CATHOLIC CHURCH
Parish office: 526-2418
Mass: Sun: 10:30 a.m.; Sat. at 6p

SCALY MOUNTAIN BAPTIST CHURCH
Rev. Dwight Loggins
Sundays: School: 10 a.m.; Worship: 11 a.m. & 7 p.m.
Wednesdays: Prayer Mtg: 7 p.m.

SCALY MOUNTAIN CHURCH OF GOD
290 Buck Knob Road; Pastor Alfred Sizemore • 526-3212
Sun: School and Adult discussion group 9:30 a.m.; Worship – 11 a.m. & 7 p.m.
Wed: Adult Bible Study & Youth: 7 p.m.

SHORTOFF BAPTIST CHURCH
Pastor Rev. Andy Cloer
Sundays: School: 10 a.m.; Worship: 11 a.m.
Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study: 7 p.m.

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 grade meets 2nd Sundays 5 - 7:30 p.m.

WHITESIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Rev. Sam Forrester/Cashiers
Sundays: School: 10 a.m.; Worship: 11 a.m.
Wednesdays: Prayer Mtg.: 7 p.m.
...INVESTING continued from page 15

Looking for a home and a business – all in one? You’re invited to preview this outstanding property zoned for Tourist Home or just a large family! Take 64 West to Mirror Lake Road. Cross bridge and turn left onto Hickory Hill Road. Look for Mac’s Manor and Country Club Properties sign.

Call Betty or Don 828-226-3382 or 828-526-2520
Country Club Properties

...INVESTING continued from page 15

wanted in order to have peace of mind with her new investment. Real estate isn’t really a game, but it does teach some of the same lessons learned in a simple game of hopscotch.

Real estate professionals use them daily: balancing our time between families (the real estate person AND the buyers AND sellers), determination to keep everyone’s ‘eye on the prize’, and of course ‘playing well with others’ is something we should all strive for in dealing with everyone.

This is such an exciting time in Highlands area real estate. The diversity of properties being presented offers more possibilities than ever for ‘first-timers’ to play the ‘simple game of real estate.’

• Jeannie and Tucker Chambers are owners and brokers of Chambers Realty & Vacation Rentals of 401 N. Fifth Street in Highlands. Both are ‘children of the 60’s’ and enjoy working with buyers, sellers and rental owners from ANY era.
...STUDENTS continued from 8

the last five years, all students have either met the above requirements, or have been the children of employees within the town of Highlands, even though that specific exemption is not listed in the board policy.

“The policy does not state children of the Town of Highlands specifically, that has been a long standing agreement between the town and the school (system),” said Jetter. “It has been in place long before I became principal. I believe I did see a written document at the Central Office years ago referring to it as an agreement, and I think I remember the Board discussing it because the Town does a lot of things for the school at no cost.”

In 2010, 14 of the 15 discretionary students being discussed lived in Satolah, Georgia.

At the July 26, 2010 board meeting, members said the provision allowing those students to attend school within the district tuition-free was costly to the district in a time of uncertain budget cuts.

The board tabled the July 26 discussion until August 3, when it further considered the out-of-state tuition policy.

Although they were considering the possibility of an installment payment plan for families, or only charging the then, per pupil cost for in-state students of $1,300, during the special called meeting on Aug. 3, board members voted to allow the children to attend school at Highlands tuition-free for one year. In addition, the policy was changed to exempt those students living in the isolated geographical area of Satolah, GA.

Although the discretionary student list has to be board approved each year, the tuition discussion has not been explored in depth since 2010. But with continued budget cuts year after year, an exhausted fund balance, and the potential to send teachers home this year, the tuition plan may be discussed at future school board meetings.

In 2010 neighboring Rabun County, Georgia was charging North Carolina students $10,300 to cross state lines to attend its public schools.

When asked about current financial stakes associated with the out-of-state tuition, Macon County Schools finance director Angie Cook said Macon County has not received any tuition payments in the last 10 years. Part of that is due to years such as 2010, when board members voted to waive the policy and fees for that calendar year, she said.

Out of the about 363 currently enrolled at Highlands school, 11 students are from Georgia, 19 are from outside of the Highlands school district, but are from other school sites within Macon County, and 21 students are from across district lines into Jackson County, giving a total of 51 discretionary students for the district.

Superintendent Dr. Chris Baldwin said other than the ADM figure, it is difficult to put a cost on out-of-state students because the extra students effect the school population which effects class size and teacher-to-student ratios which all should be taken into account when considering the cost.

**Group promotes county heritage with quilt donation**

Ladies from Iotla Baptist Church made these quilts and donated them to Macon County schools. Pictured from left are: Shirley Parks from East Franklin Elementary School; Principal, James Bryan of Nantahala School; Allison Guynn Lead Teacher from South Macon Elementary School; Gary Brown the Iotla Valley Elementary School Principal; and Brian Jetter the Highlands School Principal.
Highlands Police Log entries from July 21. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor or public officials have been used.

July 21
• At 10 a.m., officers responded to a call about someone using a credit card fraudulently; and obtaining money by false means; involving more than $3,200.
• At 1:30 p.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident in the Mountain Fresh Foods parking lot.

July 31
• At 4:21 p.m., Andrea Michelle Cochran, 31, of Highlands, was arrested for DWI and driving with a revoked license when pulled over on Main Street. She was taken to the MC Detention Center and released on a $3,000 secured bond. Her trial date is Aug. 21.

Aug. 3
• At 2:45 p.m., officers responded to a single motorcycle accident on US 64 west.
• At 11 a.m., officers responded to a one vehicle accident on NC 28 south.

Aug. 4
• At 6:55 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a medical alarm at a residence on Kelsey Court.

Aug. 5
• At 8:10 p.m., officers responded to a one-vehicle accident on Spring Street.

Aug. 7
• At 6:55 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a motor vehicle accident at S. 4th Street.

Aug. 8
• At 8:40 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to assist EMS at a residence on Clubhouse Trail.
• At 8:33 a.m., the dept. dive team provided mutual aid to the Clay County Fire and Rescue.

Aug. 9
• At 1:02 a.m., the dept. provided mutual aid to the Cashiers Fire Dept.

Aug. 11
• At 2:40 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a fire alarm at a residence on Coxe Lane.

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

Aug. 3
• At 8:48 a.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident at the first entrance of the Wildcat Cliffs Country Club on US 64 east.
• At 10:15 a.m., the dept. responded to a medical alarm at a residence at the Highlands Mountain Club.
• At 11:03 p.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident at S. 4th Street.

Aug. 4
• At 8:40 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to assist EMS at a residence on Clubhouse Trail.

Aug. 7
• At 6:55 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a motor vehicle accident at S. 4th Street.

Aug. 8
• At 8:33 a.m., the dept. dive team provided mutual aid to the Clay County Fire and Rescue.

Aug. 9
• At 1:02 a.m., the dept. provided mutual aid to the Cashiers Fire Dept.

Aug. 10
• At 12:54 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Western Rhodes Road.
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MOUNTAIN FRESH GROCERY IS SEEKING A CAKE DECORATOR FOR THEIR GOURMET BAKERY. Full time, year round. Must have experience with wedding cakes. Must have portfolio & references. Candidate should be punctual and professional. Contact Christina at 828-526-2400. (8/21)

WAITSTAFF NEEDED AT TOKYO RESTAURANT. Call Jimmy at 828-526-8800. (st. 7/31)

SEEKING OFFICE MANAGER/BOOKKEEPER for approximately 20-30 hours/week. MUST be proficient in Quickbooks, preferably Premiere Plus Constructor Edition, Excel, and Word. Prefer previous work experience with building contractor. Salary DOE. Email resume to office@greenmountainbuilders.com. (8/7)

RESTAURANT MANAGER NEEDED. Downtown Highlands restaurant looking for a Manager. Great Pay and Full-time. Send resume to Marketing Representative at chesley.owens@yahoo.com. Looking to hire immediately. (st. 7/17)

LEAD LINE COOK & DISHWASHER needed at casual fine dining, up to $13/hour or salary B.O.E. jasoncancilla2012@gmail.com (st. 6/19)

THE BISTRO AT MAIN STREET INN is hiring cooks, servers, food runners. Stop by to apply or call 526-2590.

PART TIME SEASONAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY AVAILABLE. Prior wait staff experience required. 20 - 30 hours with weekend availability. Call 803-389-0199. (st. 6/12)

CNA, NURSES, CAREGIVERS needed for Home Care Agency serving Older Adults in Macon, Jackson and Transylvania counties. Call 828-200-9000. (st. 5/15)

WOLFGANGS RESTAURANT is looking for experienced servers and a part-time host/hostess. Please call Robbie at 828-526-3807. (st. 5/15)

SALES ASSOCIATE FOR HIGH END RETAIL CLOTHING STORE IN HIGHLANDS, NC. Full time, part-time and seasonal. Must be available to work weekends. Retail clothing sales experience preferred. Please call 828-200-1703. (st. 3/13)

CAREER OPPORTUNITY AT TJ BAILEY IN HIGHLANDS. Retail, Online Sales and Multi-media Marketing positions available. Come grow with us. - full or part-time. 828-526-2262 or resume store@TJbmens.com (st. 2/13)

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GREAT LOCATION ON CAROLINA WAY between 64E and 5th St across from Bank of America. ±1480 sqft. Office or retail. $1500/month. Call Tom Clark (404) 210-7979 or (828)526-4646. (st. 9/19/13)

BUILDING FOR SALE. 170 ft. Hwy frontage. Steet level. 3 offices, rec room, kit & bath. Large parking area. Lower level, 2BR/2BA apt. Separate entry. offered by TLC Assc. 828-371-2485 asking $415,000. (st. 6/12)

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2BED/2BATH 1.20 AC. Fantastic views & Privacy $88,999.00. Call 482-2050 706.782.9728. Cypresslanesale@facebook. (st. 8/7)

2BR/1BA HOME Clear creek Road. New exterior paint, inside paint, Brand new appliances, new flooring throughout. ±165,000. (828) 526 2288/ (828) 482-2385. (st. 7/31)

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TOP OF THE LINE MAYTAG Washer (electric) and Dryer (gas). Never used. Call 828-526-0469. (st. 7/17)

2005 KAWASAKI VULCAN 1600 Classic Nomad with fairing, windshield, saddlebags and new tires. $3,800. Call 678-878-8757, ask for Art. (6/26)

NOW AVAILABLE! HIGHLANDS, N.C. THE EARLY YEARS VOLUME II, historic Highlands photos. Sold at selected locations in Highlands. For info call Angie Jenkins @ 828-200-0183 (st. 6/12)

LAKE HOUSE -- 5BR/3BA. 7 miles from Highlands. Reduced $50,000 from $299,000 to $249,000. By owner Call 706-741-3096. (8/28)

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LOTS/LAND FOR SALE

38 ACRES 3 miles north of Glenville, NC. $205,000. (706) 865-9312. (8/21 pd)

FOR SALE BY OWNER – 3 building lots in the gated community of Rustic Falls. $100,000 each. Must sell due to health reasons. Asking $15,000 each. Call owner at 803-640-6004. (St. 5/1)

MUST SELL 6+ acres at Lake Glenville. Lake and mountain views. $130,000 or Best Offer. Call 706-348-3208. (st. 2/20)

1/2 ACRE KNOB FOR SALE Homesite is cleared for Camper or Cabin. Driveway in, 1000 gal Septic/Drainfield in, Well permit in hand. Scaly Mountain area near Highlands. No Restrictions and Very Beautiful. $42,000 850-363-1436. (st. 6/26)

ITEMS FOR SALE

FURNITURE: couch and matching chair, $40; 9-drawer dresser, $25; 4 kitchen chairs, $25; end table, $15; TV cabinet, $15; garden hose storage unit, $6. Call 526-5367. (7/24)

BISTRO TABLES W/CHAIRS. Tommy Bahamas chair, like new, lots of other pieces.Call 828-526-3742. (7/24)


HIGHLANDS TAXI & SHUTTLE. Let Charlie Dasher handle your transportation whether it's to the airport, a special event, or just around town. Van service for weddings. Licensed and insured. 526-8645. (st. 7/18/13)

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