BOE struggles with state-mandated requirements

North Carolina public school teachers are being put to the test, literally. New legislation requires them to administer yet another test, this time for 3rd graders whose results may or may not reflect on their competency as teachers.

“Our teachers are having to spend valuable time teaching students to test rather than focusing on curriculum and learning,” said BOE member Stephanie McCall. “This is not in the best interest of our students’ or our teachers.”

To add insult to injury, by April, superintendents in the state’s 115 local school boards and that of the Cherokee Nation, must decide what 25% of their voucher system by which private schools have private school voucher program using public funds.

The legislation does not require that a student be struggling academically or attend a poorly performing public school in order to receive a voucher.

It also does not require any assurance that public funds will be spent to provide students with an adequate education and one that is offered on a non-discriminatory basis.

“Basically, the NC School Board Association (NCSBA) of which Macon County is a part, is asking all school systems to sign as co-plaintiffs at no cost to them,” explained BOE attorney John Henning, Jr. “This is a voucher system by which private educational entities are funded with taxpayer dollars which represents a reduction in the public school fund. Private schools have no oversight by the state education board; can select who they want to; discriminate on any basis they see fit; teach whatever they feel they ought to teach and our tax dollars are now going to fund this through the voucher system.”

The suit was filed by four individual taxpayers, three of whom have children attending public schools, and the NCSBA, a nonprofit, nonpartisan membership association that represents all 115 local boards of education in the state and the Board of Education of the Eastern Band of the Cherokee Nation.

“This means $10 million will be allocated the first year, $40 million the next year with no oversight at the state level,” said MC Schools Superintendent Dr. Chris John Henning, Jr. “This is a voucher system by which private educational entities are funded with taxpayer dollars which represents a reduction in the public school fund. Private schools have no oversight by the state education board; can select who they want to; discriminate on any basis they see fit; teach whatever they feel they ought to teach and our tax dollars are now going to fund this through the voucher system.”

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After 50 years, Bob says good-bye

In the course of his 76 years, Bob Houston has retired from three entities but it’s the Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept, that’s held him the longest and it will likely be the hardest stint for him to relinquish.

But after 50 years of service, Bob says it’s time … time for the younger generation to take over and time for him to find something else to do.

After he finished an eight-year tour with the air force December 1963, he came home to Highlands and joined the other 22 Highlands Fire & Rescue (HF&R) volunteers in January 1964.

He is the longest standing member of the Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept.

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As your mayor, I will be writing a brief column before each monthly Town Board meeting to update citizens on the agenda, issues and activities the Town Board will review. The updates will cover the major issues that will be on the meeting agenda.

The next meeting of the board will be on Thursday, January 16th, at 7pm. Meetings are held at the Community Building next to the ball field. There is a public comment period at the beginning of each meeting. It is requested that comments be held to under five minutes. Any requests for the board to take action will be taken under advisement for future meetings.

A major item of the agenda will be the presentation of the town audit by the Martin Starnes Accounting Firm. This company is one of the few companies in North Carolina that specializes in municipal audits. The audit was begun in October. It is anticipated that the town will have a clean audit with no major problems. Not only has the town financials been audited by an independent accounting firm, the audit has also been reviewed by the North Carolina Local Government Commission. If their experts had found discrepancies or problems, the commission would require the town to explain why there was a problem and what would be the plan for correction.

The Local Government Commission is a watchdog agency charged with making sure cities and towns account for the expenditures of taxpayer monies. The commission has the authority to intervene and prohibit unsound expenditures or loans made by municipalities. In summary, residents should know there are checks and balances in place when it comes to your town finances.

The board will also address the proposed budget schedule for the coming fiscal year. We are moving into the season of budget planning and review. In the coming months there will be a public hearing for the presentation of the town audit by the Martin Starnes Accounting Firm. This company is one of the few companies in North Carolina that specializes in municipal audits.

Another agenda item will be a request from a consortium of nonprofit groups requesting board permission to raise private funds to complete the development plan for Kelsey Hutchinson Park. In a related matter Thomas Craig will be requesting permission to use the park for the summer concert series that was initiated last summer.

We will also review a request to extend the Main Street Parking Restrictions into December. Also, amendment to the unified development ordinance will be presented, along with a zoning request for all town-owned properties to be zoned Governmental/Institutional. Currently, there are small town properties, for example the locations of water tanks, that are in other zoning districts. This change is basically a housekeeping procedure to create a consistent zoning map.

Board vacancies and appointments will be reviewed at this session, too. The proposed lettering on police cars will also be taken under advisement for future meetings.

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Gladys Burnette Woodruff

Gladys Burnette Woodruff of Alfred Station, NY, died on Friday, Dec. 20, 2013. Born in Scaly Mountain, NC on August 12, 1924, she resided in North Carolina until her marriage to William Woodruff of Alfred Station NY. He was known to most by Woody. Her parents were John and Mary Burnette of Scaly Mountain, NC. She attended Scaly Mountain Grammar School, graduated from Highlands High School and Brevard College in Brevard, NC. After graduation she was employed as a secretary in the Ecuetsa Paper Plant in Brevard, NC.

Following her marriage in 1946, she moved to Alfred Station, NC where she lived until her death. One sister, Louise Miller and her husband Woody preceded her in death. Remaining are sons John and wife Deborah of Pollock, LA; James and wife Patty of Muncy, PA; and Richard who is still living in the family home in Alfred Station.

Also surviving are two grandchildren and one great-grandchild. She is also survived by three sisters: Joyce and husband Ralph Wetmore of Deland, FL; Jan and husband Harce Cornelius of East Bend, NC and Virginia and husband Joe Petree of Oak Ridge, NC, and a host of friends everywhere.

She was a very faithful member of the Alfred Station Seventh Day Baptist Church as well as a member and past matron of the Kanakadea McArthur #242 Order of the Eastern Star in Alfred Station.

Besides her family and friends, she loved walking, gardening and especially animals - her cats and dogs the most.

Information provided by Virginia Petree, 5736 Bunch Road, Oak Ridge, NC, 27310.

Former harness driver Sam O’Neill, brother of racetrack vet, dead at 76

(Dr. Bob O’Neill is a second-home owner in Highlands)

Sam O’Neill, a retired Standardbred trainer and driver and brother of South Florida racetrack equine practitioner Bob O’Neill, died in Montevideo, Uruguay, on Christmas Day. He was 76 years old.

Mr. O’Neill raced in the 1960s through the ‘80s at Pompano Park in Florida and other racetracks around the country, including Batavia, Meadows, Northfield and Detroit.

“He was a multimillionaire three times and broke three times,” Bob O’Neill said of his brother. “He was involved in women’s fashion business, the equine veterinary supply business, and the (human) shoe business. When he was driving Standardbreds he had a 30-acre farm north of Pompano.”

O’Neill said his brother’s daughter, Kim O’Neill and ex-wife Faye were visiting him in Montevideo, where he’d retired two years ago. They discovered his body on the floor early Christmas morning, and an autopsy is determining whether he fell and struck his head or suffered a heart attack.

“He had two cats - Sammy and Bobby - and Sammy woke them up,” he said. “That’s when they found him.

“He enjoyed riding his motorcycle, smoking fine cigars and drinking good whiskey, “ said O’Neill, who serves as chairman of the Florida Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners.

Sam O’Neill also had a son, who preceded him in death. There are no plans for a funeral service.

Martha Munger Owens

Martha Munger Owens, 73 of the Satolah Community died at her residence Friday, January 10, 2014. She was born March 22, 1940 in Macon County, the daughter of the late William Jesse and Lona Cranye Munger. Martha was a loving wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. She loved gardening, canning and spending time with her family and was a member of Highlands First Baptist Church. Surviving are her husband of 57 years, Jayco Owens, three daughters, Mary Owens Ridgeway (Steve) of Anderson, SC, Melissa Grace (Brian) of Highlands, NC and Sherry Owens of Highlands, NC; five sons, James Owens of Highlands, NC, Bennie Owens (Frankie) of Highlands, NC, Gene Owens (Stacy) of Satolah, GA, Dennis Owens (Sandra) of Highlands, NC and Johnny Owens (Marcy) of Satolah, GA, four brothers, Fred Munger (Madge) of Highlands, NC, Jim Munger (Peggy) of Franklin, NC, Andy Munger (Gail) of Seneca, SC and John Munger (Freida) of Satolah, GA. 16 grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren also survive.

She was preceded in death by a sister, Ann Holly and a brother Gene Munger. Funeral services were held Monday, January 13, 2014 in Macedonia Baptist Church with Rev. Oliver Rice and Rev. Clinton Owens officiating. Burial was in the church cemetery. Pallbearers were Frank Lowery, Ben Owens, D. J. Owens, Stephen Owens, Joey Owens and Brian Grace. Honorary pallbearers were Jacob Owens, Jamie Grace, John Paul Grace, Talon Lowery, Randall McCall, Billy Ottaway and Steve Ridgeway. Memorial donations may be made to Bryant-Grant Funeral Home, 105 West Main St. Franklin, NC 28734 to help with expenses.

CafféREL

“It’s about the food!”
Pasta Sandwiches Sauté

New Winter Hours of Operation as of January 1, 2014:
Closed Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday. Wednesday through Saturday are regularly scheduled hours of operation from 11am to 8pm.

Thank you for your continued support. We look forward to serving you in the new year.

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Wednesday Advanced Art
Wednesdays, 4:15 - 5:30 pm

Kids’ Creation Station
Saturdays, 10 am - noon

Homeschool Ceramics
Mondays, 10:30 - noon

Homeschool Ceramics: Stories in Relief
Tuesdays, Jan. 28, Feb. 4, 11, 18
Featuring WEEKLY SPECIALS and refreshing drinks in our Rainforest Margarita & Mojito Bar! Go to www.elaztecahighlands.com for more information.

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- Serving Lunch Daily
  - 11:30a to 4p
  - (Closed Wednesday)

- Serving Dinner
  - Mon-Sat, beginning at 5:30p
  - (Closed Wednesday)

**The Rainforest Mojito & Margarita Bar & El Azteca Mexican Restaurant**

- Hand-tossed - thick, thin, pan
- Gluten-free & Whole Wheat, too

**Cyprus International Cuisine**

- Serving Lunch & Dinner
- 70 Highlands Plaza NC 28741 Reservations 828-526-2224
- www.ElAztecaHighlands.com

**Winter Hours:** Tues.-Sun. 5-9p

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**SOTCH Report:**

- Impacts from the Community Transformation Project included increased access to healthy foods at farmer’s markets and food stands as well as the implementation of a region-wide Health Impact Assessment.
- Expansions of local worksite wellness programs at Franklin area employers.
- Expansions of nutrition counseling and education services at Macon County Public Health.
- Launch of the Eat Smart, Move More, Faithful Families initiative at area churches.
- Expansion of breastfeeding resources including a new Certified Lactation Educator at Angel Medical Center, a Breastfeeding Peer Counselor at Macon County Public Health, and a breast pump loan program at Macon County Public Health.
- Increased community awareness of the 5-2-1-Almost None initiative. 5-2-1-Almost None promotes eating 5 fruits and vegetables every day; getting no more than 2 hours of “screen time” per day; engaging in 1 hour of physical activity/day; and drinking almost no sugary drinks.

A concern identified in the report cited continued financial insecurity of the Franklin Community Care Clinic (a non-profit organization that provides health care for financially eligible, uninsured patients). Long-term operating funds, qualified medical staffing, and volunteers were identified as resources needed to keep this clinic operational. Acute and emergency care facilities in the county may see an increased demand for services from clients without a payer source if the clinic cannot sustain operations. In addition, many uninsured residents may find it increasingly difficult to get needed medical care. Another concern addressed by the report included non-payment to medical providers by NC TRACS. This lack of payment has resulted in some area medical providers no longer treating Medicaid patients.

In addition to noting these areas of progress and challenges, the SOTCH report also identified several potential emerging health issues that the public health center and other health care providers are monitoring. These emerging health issues included suicide, rabies, lead in groundwater, gonorrhea, and e-cigarettes.

An increase in suicide deaths in Macon County was the first emergent issue identified. Suicide deaths in Macon County have risen from two in 2010, to four in 2011, to 13 in 2012.

A second emergent issue was identified as lead contamination in private wells constructed using galvanized metal components. Specifically, Macon County Environmental Health has identified that an estimated 10%-12% of Macon County wells have high rates of lead, which may be attributable to the use of galvanized pipe and/or pump components.

Rabies control was targeted as the third emerging health issue. Although no Macon County animals have tested positive for rabies in recent years, rabies has been identified in all counties surrounding Macon.

A fourth issue that is being monitored is the rate of locally acquired gonorrhea. Until this year, most cases of gonorrhea among Macon County residents were found to be acquired from partners outside Macon County. In 2012 the health department's disease surveillance system
BREAKFAST
FULL BREAKFAST MADE TO ORDER EVERY MORNING UNTIL 10:30 FRESH EGGS, WAFFLES, FRENCH TOAST BACON, SAUSAGE, HAM BISCUITS, MUFFINS, CROISSANTS ESPRESSO BAR AND COFFEE ROASTED IN-HOUSE

LUNCH
GRILL MONDAY THROUGH SATURDAY STARTING AT 11:00 UNTIL CLOSE, SUNDAYS FROM 11:00 TO 4:00 FRESH ANGUS BURGERS FRESH NATURAL CHICKEN BREASTS CHICKEN TENDERS COOKED TO ORDER HAND CUT FRIES, SALADS, HOMEMADE SOUPS, DAILY SPECIALS

DELI SERVING ALL DAY FRESH CUT NATURAL MEATS, HOMEMADE DELI SALADS PANINI, METLS, HOMEMADE POTATO CHIPS, DAILY SOUP SPECIALS

WOOD FIRE PIZZA OVEN EVERY DAY FROM 11:00 TO CLOSE AUTHENTIC NEAPOLITAN PIZZA MADE FROM SCRATCH FRESH MOZARELLA, BASIL, CRUSHED TOMATOES HOMEMADE ITALIAN SAUSAGE, PANCETTA, AND DAILY SPECIALS

SUNDAY SKILLET FRIED CHICKEN EVERY SUNDAY FROM 11:00AM UNTIL WE SELL OUT FRESH ORGANIC HAND CUT, HAND BREADED CHICKEN COOKED IN A CAST IRON SKILLET. SERVED WITH GREEN BEANS, MASHED POTATOES AND GRAVY WITH A WARM HONEY BISCUIT...$8.95

WINE MARKET AN EXCELLENT, COMPREHENSIVE SELECTION OF WINE WITH THE BEST PRICES IN TOWN, AND RUN BY A KNOWLEDGEABLE STAFF. BEER AND WINE AVAILABLE BY THE GLASS WHILE YOU SHOP AND DINE.

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BUTCHER WE SELL ONLY 100% PREMIUM ANGUS BEEF, HAND CUT IN HOUSE. STOCK UP FOR THE WEEKEND EVERY THURSDAY WITH 35% ALL STEAKS AND GROUND BEEF. THEN STOP BY THE TAKE OUT CASE TO COMPLETE YOUR DINNER WITH TWICE BAKED POTATOES, FRESH SALADS AND MORE.

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Baldwin. “There has been some indication that the purpose behind this legislation is to promote competition between public schools and private schools and that will somehow improve education. I don’t buy into that argument, but if you do buy into that argument, let’s make the competition a level playing field with the same levels of accountability and oversight. Furthermore, the money going to the private schools should be at the same level we have at the public schools.”

Shearra Miller, president of the NC-SBA and a member of the Cleveland County BOE said the challenge raises important questions about the use of public funds and the state’s commitment to North Carolina’s students

“By diverting funding from the public schools, vouchers have the potential to significantly damage individual school systems, particularly in smaller districts. As a local board member, I am concerned about the impact this will have on our students,” she said. “In addition, the voucher program does not ensure that the private schools that receive public funding will adhere to our constitution’s promise that students will have the opportunity to receive a sound basic education and will not face discrimination. Given all of these issues, the NCSBA Board of Directors felt strongly that the organization should raise these questions in court.”

Henning said the basis of the lawsuit is that the voucher system enacted by the General Assembly is unconstitutional and the goal is to have it declared so; one reason being that the voucher program created in the budget bill uses public funds for a non-public purpose, which is in violation of the N.C. Constitution

In addition, the complaint asserts that the legislation violates the state constitution by:

• Using public dollars for a non-public purpose—private education opportunities outside of the constitutionally required “general and uniform system of free public schools;”
• Failing to require participating private schools to adhere to any substantive educational standards or practice non-discriminatory admissions; Diverting public dollars from the State School Fund, which is to be used “exclusively for establishing and maintaining a uniform system of public schools;” and
• Creating a system of selective secondary educational opportunities that denies students equal opportunities.

Chairman Jim Breedlove said by deciding to sign on now, Macon County Schools will be listed on the original complaint as one of the initial systems against this.

The legislation indicates the General Assembly’s intent to increase annual appropriations for the program to $50 million per year; While the voucher program requires the State Board of Education to reduce funding to each local board of education in an amount equal to the local board’s per pupil allocation for average daily membership multiplied by the number of students who have received vouchers and were enrolled in the local board’s schools during the prior semester.

“It’s not fair to the students of Macon county or the schools of Macon County, therefore I support this resolution,” said Baldwin.

– Kim Lewicki

In honor of Martin Luther King Jr. Day, USFS fees to Whitewater Falls and Whiteside Mountain will be waived on Jan. 20, 2014.
The Polar Vortex

Don’t you just love the new media buzz word/phrase? Yeah; me either. When I first heard it, visions of Dorothy’s house in The Wizard of Oz came to mind, except of course there were icicles hanging off Toto’s nose. I prefer a different phrase ‘cold snap.’ I know Polar Vortex sounds more cinema worthy, but cold snap hits us where we are, and snap is what happens sometimes; to tree limbs, power lines, plumbing lines, and yes, even fingernails.

From what I’ve read, Polar Vortex is nothing new; the term has been used since 1855. Polar cyclones hover over the Arctic in winter all the time, but when the stratosphere has a dramatic change in temperature, it makes the cyclone ‘polar vortex’ get stronger resulting in colder temperatures. It was just plain C.O.L.D.

How did your home fare in our last cold snap? From what some of our local plumbers have said, we really won’t know until everything thaws. Homes normally protected by leaving heat on and turning the water off ‘at the street’ may not have been enough for some homes.

According to the frost line map provided by the International Code Council (ICC), the depth to have water pipes covered in our area is 18 inches, but the NC building code lists the depth at a minimum of 12 inches. However, with the temperatures we’ve just seen, neither of those basic requirements may have been enough.

Whether you are looking to buy a home in this area, or have your home listed for sale, or are renting your home out to others, you must take the necessary precautions to keep your home safe in all kinds of weather. No one is immune to the possible hazards of freakish weather, but we can lessen the severity by taking these proactive steps.

1) Leave some heat on in your home – it doesn’t have to be a ‘livable temperature,’ 40-50 degrees.

2) Have an alternative heat source as a back up plan. If the power goes out and you don’t have an automatic generator, your home may freeze. Even if the power doesn’t fail, if the condensation line of your furnace freezes, the furnace will not work.

3) Turn the water supply to your home off while away in the winter. If your pipes freeze, at least you won’t have endless amounts of water flooding inside your home. Some homes have a turn off valve in the base.

Real Estate Snapshots

Deeded Lake Access

Lovely and spacious (4 bedroom, 2.5 bath) home with a split plan (master suite on one side of the house with 2 guest bedrooms, bath, and pantry/utility room on the other side). Light and bright. 4th bedroom and 1/2 bath on the lower level. Private community lake offers canoeing & fishing. Lakeside tennis court and gazebo. Great value — priced well below tax value! Offered at $287,000, MLS #69634.

In-Town Home w/Stream

The in-town location, w/1.8 acres and bubbling stream, make this beautifully-maintained 2BR/3.5BA with Porte-cochere, w/room for 2 cars & circular driveway, give an inviting first impression. Spacious rooms, including chef’s kitchen with island, fireplace, vaulted ceilings & massive bonus rooms downstairs. Room for a third bedroom downstairs. Wired for elevator from office area to basement. Incredible bonus space on the lower level. Offered at $315,000, MLS #75355.

Historic Highlands Estate

Escape to this historic, 1920s Highlands estate and luxuriate in privacy on 7.27 +/- acres, with an easy walk to Main Street. The 4 BR/3 BA main house features gorgeous woodwork, large stone fireplace in the living & dining rooms; large country kitchen, laundry/mud room, and library. The charming, 2BR/1BA guest house has wood floors throughout, a claw foot tub/shower in the bathroom, and an open deck. Now REDUCED and offered at $1,950,000, MLS #75971.

Mountain Views & Easy Walk to Lake

You will LOVE this cottage! Updated and renovated, this Mirror Lake area 3BR/3BA home features hardwood, tile, and carpet flooring; vaulted ceiling and wood burning fireplace in the living room; loft with office area; expansive deck (open & covered); spacious master suite with fireplace, sitting area, wet bar, and access to the deck and hot tub; great mountain view; and paved access. Furnishings are negotiable! Offered at $375,000, MLS #77862.

Contact

Susie deVille,
Broker-in-Charge
susie@WhiteOakRG.com

(828) 371-2079.

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...BOE continued from page 1
teachers are eligible for a 4-year contract and $500 merit raise each year for four years – with the understanding that they won’t be eligible for tenure and if they have it they must give it up.

Without state-mandated criteria to go by, MC Superintendent Dr. Chris Baldwin and his staff are trying to come up with a way that is neither arbitrary nor capricious to select the 68 teachers to whom they will offer the 4-year contract.

Believing teacher input is important regarding selection criteria, a teacher survey was administered asking for selection criteria priorities and comments.

Of the 272 teachers eligible for the contract, 121 participated in the survey. They listed Priority #1 as offering the contract to beginner teachers, who have not received a raise in six years, and those near retirement.

For Priority #2 was Test Data, in other words, gains made by their students during testing, should be considered since the teachers are seen as being largely responsible for student test scores.

Priority #3 was professionalism, considered by the administration the hardest criteria to define.

Interestingly, when asked what factors should not be considered as criteria 37% said Test Data. Baldwin said not all career teachers have test data in the resume, for instance, physical education, art and music teachers don’t administer state-mandated tests like academic teachers.

To be eligible for the 4-year contract offer, a licensed teacher or instructional support educator must have taught in the MC School System for at least three consecutive years as of Sept. 1, 2013, with ratings of “proficient” or higher on their annual evaluations. Among that pool of eligible educators only 25% can be selected and offered the contract and salary increase.

When asked if they planned to reject the contract offer, 70% (95) of teachers who participated in the survey said they planned to reject the offer; 27% (36) said they weren’t sure yet and 3% (4) said they would accept.

BOE member Gary Shields suggested the teachers take the contract offer. “I would say to them, ‘take the money; take the contract, we need you.’ They represent our most qualified teachers and are the lowest paid. Why not take it for four more years?” he said. “We don’t know how this is going to spin out and right now it is the only way we are allowed to offer a 4-year contract.”

The reason behind the legislation is to get rid of the tenure system, for which teachers are eligible their fourth year of teaching. Those with tenure, which entitles them to keep their jobs no matter what, still make more than their starting salary.

“Some of us are responsible for producing test scores, others are responsible for producing physical, creative and emotional health. It takes all of us to create a successful learning environment. Any criteria you develop will divide us and cause resentment. Principals are in the best position to select their top teachers but that will destroy a school. Even a random lottery will cause resentment but it is at least random. With any luck we will all opt out and not force our leaders to choose one teacher over another.”

“That is a very profound statement and I would think that most of the educators and administrators agree with it 100%,” said Moore.

Baldwin said he is concerned about the culture and climate of MC Schools next year particularly for the teachers who accept the contract when there are so many who have said they will reject it.

Since the administration doesn’t feel well enough informed to tell teachers what they should do with their career status, within the next three weeks, Attorney Chris Campbell, from the National School Board Association will be coming to Macon County to speak to educators to explain ramifications.

This one-time deal is being offered for the 2014-15 school. Honoring the 4-year contract will cost the state $10 million the first year, $20 million the second year, $40 million the third year, and $80 million the fourth year.

Moore said the legislature is not allowed to earmark funds for future legislators. “After next year, we don’t know what will happen,” he said.

“If we vote people in with some common sense this won’t come back again,” said McCall.

BOE Chairman Jim Breedlove said this is the most divided thing ever forced on the Macon County school system.

“Our superintendent is doing everything he can to be as impartial as he can. He is going to give us a list and we can either approve or decline it, which will undoubtedly cause division between teachers. We are being dealt an impossible situation.”

At the February meeting Baldwin...
HCH Saves Lives.

Stroke is the third leading cause of death in America and the number one cause of adult disability.

Thankfully HCH now has Telestroke!

Call 9-1-1 immediately if you have any of these symptoms.

Know the warning signs. Stroke Symptoms include:

- Sudden numbness or weakness of face, arm or leg - especially on one side of the body.
- Sudden confusion, trouble speaking or understanding.
- Sudden trouble seeing in one or both eyes.
- Sudden trouble walking, dizziness, loss of balance or coordination.
- Sudden severe headache with no known cause.

*National Stroke Association

Telestroke technology is now available 24-7-365 through HCH’s state-of-the-art Emergency Care. Patients who exhibit signs of stroke will be evaluated quickly and accurately via live interaction between HCH Physicians and Mission Health Neurologists.

Join us for "Meet the Robot Day" Thursday, January 23 from 2-3pm.

Call (828) 526-1313
In addition to pastoring, I have (for some 20 years now) also been teaching theological students. Sometimes this is on the homefront. Other times are international. Most recently this teaching ministry took me to Belize, Central America. It was my fourth visit to the country and third time to the theological school.

On this occasion one of my students asked: “Some people believe that hell is now on this earth. Is that true?” I answered “no” and went on to explain the Biblical doctrine of hell.

It is, in the most poignant sense of the word, a terrible truth. Yet one from which Jesus did not back away. He spoke about it more than anyone else in the Bible. And He talked about it more than He talked about heaven.

As someone has said: “There is a hell to shun and a heaven to gain.” I do hope that you will do both.

**Proverbs 3:5**

- **Places to Worship**

**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
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

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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.: Christian Education, 9 a.m. (Bucks in Cashiers) 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
CHRIST CHURCH OF THE VALLEY, CASHIERS
Pastor Steve Kerhoulas
Sun. 10:45am, S.S 9:30am. Wed. 6pm supper and teaching.
Tue. Guys study 8am, Gals 10am.
CLEAR CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH
Pastor Jim Kinard
Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11
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: 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
Thursdays: Holy Eucharist, (chapel), 10 am
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
Dr. Mark Ford, Pastor • 526-4153
Sun.: Worship 10:45am; 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 Bowman, Pastor • 526-3175
Sun.: Worship – 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
HIGHLANDS ASSEMBLY OF GOD
Randy Reed, Pastor
828-421-9172 • 165 S. Sixth Street
Sundays: Worship – 11
HIGHLANDS CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH
Pastor Dan Robinson
670 N. 4th Street (next to the Highlands Civic Center)
Sunday: Morning Worship 10:45 a.m., Evening Worship, 6:30 p.m.
Wednesday: Prayer Service, 6:30 p.m.
HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Pastor Paul Christy 526-3376
Sun: School 9:45a.; Worship 9:09 & 10:50.; Youth 5:30 p.m.
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.
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.
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828-369-9270 or 829-293-5197
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743-2583
Independent Bible Church
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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
Rev. Sam Forrester/Cashiers
Sunday School – 10 am, Worship Service – 11 am
...BOE continued from page 8

will discuss where he is in the process; in March he will present the selection process and if approved will bring a list of the 68 eligible teachers to the board’s April meeting.

Meanwhile, according to statistics from the National Center of Education listing actual dollars earned and current dollars from 1969 to 2013, North Carolina teachers rank last in the nation. Salaries have dropped 14.8% since 1969 meaning teachers now earn 14.8% less than they did in 1969 when North Carolina was in good shape compared to other states in the nation.

“Despite that, when you compare our students’ achievement to what has happened to our teacher salaries, our teachers are teaching well despite what we are paying them,” said Baldwin.

The following is a list of the 272 teachers eligible to be selected as the 25% and offered the 4-year contract and $500 per year raise.

Dr. Baldwin encourages any teacher who believes he or she should have been included on this list to contact him.

Cartoogechaye School: (22)
Naomi Albee, Deborah Brendel, Deborah Brown, Laura Brown, Brian Crupi, Deborah Garvey, Paula Guy, Sarah Ann Holbrooks, Corinne Honey, Patricia Jackson, Janice Jordan, Amber Keener, Kathryn Jo Kennedy, Sarah Lowell, Rebecca McCall, Larry McConnell, Angela Phillips, Angela Pickens, Amber Raby, Kristina Richardson, Karen Rogers, Alisha Stewart

East Franklin School: (26)
Christina Baird, Jennifer Baldwin, Stephanie Braswell, Jacqueline Brown, Lynda Elliott, Amber Engert, Katharine Fraser, Laura Fromknecht, Darlene Fromknecht, Vera Hoffman, Laura Holland, Brooke Keener, Vanessa Long, Angela Martin, Christine Moore, Lora Neitz, Jamie O’Donoghue, Synethia Owens, Pamela Owens, Crystal Parker, Charlotte Rhoden, Terry Stamey, Robin Sumner, Michael Waters, Dawn Watson, Jennifer Worley

Franklin High School: (59)

Highlands School: (24)
Sheila Archer, Brian Aulisio, Glna Billingsley, Carol Bowen, Karen Brooksbank, Sabrina Cashion, John Cashion, Ashly Coppage, Kara Faust, Christopher Green, Tracy Hedden, Brett Lamb, Michelle Lane, Julie McClellan, Cathy McIntyre-Ross, Meghan Mileti, Melanie Miller, Christine Murphy, Kimberly Pinkston, Anne Porter, Donna Sizemore, Stephanie Smathers, Denise West, Elizabeth Woods

Iota Valley School: (24)

Macon Early College: (6)
Daniel Alich, Holly Cabe, Jennifer England, Eric Jackson, Mary Pittman, Meghan Reynolds

Macon Middle School: (29)

Mountain View School: (32)
Leah Ballew, Judy Bell, Joyce Brendle-Fox, Donna Brooks, Samantha Bullis, Loretta Castner, Deborah Cloer, Carolyn Cope, Diane Cotton, Debra Gibbs, Marlene Greeble, Kimberly Green, Sean Greene, Joan Gurtler, Tracy Hagan, Landon Holland, Jennifer Huckabee,

See BOE page 13
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Highlands PD log entries from Nov. 30. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor, or public officials have been used.

Nov. 30
• At 9:55 a.m., officers assisted with a voluntary commitment at a residence on Hicks Road.

Dec. 17
• At 5:10 p.m., officers responded to a call about a juvenile who ran away at a residence on Smallwood Ave.

Dec. 18
• At 2:29 p.m., officers responded to a residence on Moorewood Circle concerning burglary and larceny where sports and recreation equipment and power and hand tools were stolen.

Dec. 27
• At 3:10 p.m., Stuart Walter Armor, 51, was arrested for driving left of center on S. 2nd Street.
• At 10:45 p.m., officers responded to a call of simple physical assault at Old Edwards Inn where a woman was slapped on the face.

Dec. 29
• At 2 p.m., officers responded to a call of burglary with forced entry and fraud concerning cable charges at a residence on Spruce Street. Dec. 31

Dec. 30
• At 10:08 p.m., officers were called to a residence on Choctaw Lane for a welfare check. A woman was found DOA.

Jan 1
• At 2:41 p.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident on US 64 west.

Jan 5
• At 5:30 a.m., officers responded to Old Edwards Inn concerning a drunk and disruptive patron.

The Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. log entries from Jan. 7

Jan 7
• At 9:31 a.m., the dept. provided mutual aid to Cashiers on a possible structure fire. It was cancelled en route.
• At 4:03 p.m., the dept. checked a heater in a residence on Oak Street.

Jan 8
• At 12:04 p.m., the dept. responded to a possible structure fire on Flat Mountain Road. Fire was out on arrival.
• At 12:42 p.m., the dept. responded to a water flow alarm at OEI on Church Street.
• At 2:33 p.m., the dept. responded to an alarm at the hospital.
• At 4:28 p.m., the dept. responded to a water flow alarm at a residence on Falls Drive W.

• At 5:23 p.m., the dept. swan was reported stuck on the frozen Lake Sequoyah. A fireman took a canoe out on top of the ice and rescued the swan.
• At 8:34 p.m., the dept. responded to a CO2 alarm at a residence on Rock Gap Rd.
• At 9:57 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Harris Drive where someone had fallen.

Jan 9
• At 2:36 p.m., the dept. secured the landing for the MAMA helicopter at the hospital.
• At 3:26 p.m., the dept. responded to a water flow alarm at OEI on Main Street.
• At 9:46 p.m., and again at 11:28 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Wahoo Trail. EMS transported to the hospital for the second call.

Jan 11
• At 3:26 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at OEI on Church Street. It was false.

...BOE continued from page 8

il. Take care of your family. I know I missed a lot of stuff with my family because I always responded. But you need to think about your family first because they are going to be gone.”

His daughter Karin Potts had this to say.

“I have often said he could write a book on the countless calls, the rescues on the mountains and waterfalls, saving lives … some lost; tragedies, and many happy endings,” said Karin. “It was simply a way for life for him, and our family. He was always ready to literally run out the door at any given moment. Obviously, we are thankful for all of the men that have given so much. I’m just amazed at Dad’s dedication, commitment, and pride in the department for 50 years.”

Please join the community at Bob’s 50-years of service gathering at the fire house Friday, Jan. 24 from 2-4 p.m. No gifts, please.

– Kim Lewicki

...BOE continued from page 11


Nantahala School: (11)
Natalie Grant, Leslie Hollowell, Daniel Lopp, Leslie Ma son, Jennifer Neal, Tammy Newton, Teresa Schmidt, Kathleen Shook, Maria Tallent, Joshua Taylor, Shannon West

South Macon School: (33)
Regina Barrett, Sarah Bolick, Linda Brogden, Melissa Cabe, Justin Cashion, Margaret Crownover, Melissa Curtis, Clara Dills, Melissa Faetz, Julie Henning, Delaney Holloway, Vickie Hubbs, Donna Kimsey, Christine Kinsland, Daniel Kowal, Tracy McCoy, Cristy Passmore, Kathleen Patterson, Charlotte Pearson, Meagan Rogers, Frances Seay, Sharon Sellers, Melissa Setser, Rena Sutton, Cathy Tippett, Tammy Trubicza, Pamela Turner, Linda Williams, Richard Woleslagle, Angela Wood, David Yokel, Deborah Young, Cody Zoellner

Union Academy: (6)
Jennifer Angel, Mary Jenkins, Anna Kohlman, Shelley Marshall, Barbara Schuldenfrei, Phyllis Thompson.

– Kim Lewicki
...INVESTING continued from page 7

If your home isn’t going to be used during the winter months, it’s always best to call on a licensed plumber to have your home properly winterized when not in use. This can be costly if you plan to come back and forth, but it is well worth it if you think of the potential damages that could occur by not doing anything. If your home is for sale, ask plumbers to keep your home looking ‘as normal’ as possible, by replacing the toilet lids, leaving the refrigerators in place, replacing the bottom of the dishwasher, etc. Your listing broker can write a note to be left on the toilets/sinks warning they aren’t to be used while the water is off to your home.

Winter in Highlands can be as rewarding as the other seasons; it’s much quieter and a slower pace. Real estate sales and vacation rentals don’t stop, and you may find it easier to ‘shop’ for a home in the winter. Come on up! the weather’s fine (Now, when I say ‘fine’ that may be fine for ducks, or fine for Polar bears, but fine (Now, when I say ‘fine’ that may be fine for ducks, or fine for Polar bears, but come on up anyway; we’re here, and if we can do it, so can you.

Take that Polar Vortex!

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Applications available at the store in Highlands Plaza. (st. 1/9)

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ITEMS FOR SALE

20” DELL MONITOR, used one year. $85. 526-5558 (1/23)

2006 JAYCO JAYFLIGHT 27.5 BHS 5TH WHEEL CAMPER WITH GOOSENECK ADAPTER. Split sleeping areas with bunk beds and queen masterbed. Sleeps 8 to 9. Very clean. Like new with all the luxuries of home. $9,000. Call to view. 828-526-8373. (st. 1/9)


DOWNSIZING FURNITURE SALE – Sofas, chairs, dining room furniture, kitchen island, end tables, lamps, and king size beds Call 828-200-1367. (st. 11/27)

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Source Green Heat Efficient Electric Heater w/remote, wood grain cabinet pd. $179 - like new, only used 4 months - $100 200-0183)

SERVICES

MOUNTAIN MAID HOUSE CLEANING SERVICE – Call Amy at 828-342-2279, references available. (12/19)

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