

Highlands Newspaper

FREE Every Thursday

Volume 11, Number 24

Real-Time News, Weather & WebCams: HighlandsInfo.com

Thurs., June 12, 2014

Thurs., June 12

• At Highlands Playhouse, "Little Shop of Horrors." Call the box office to reserve your seats 828-526-2695.

• At The Bascom FREE Family Movie Night. "A Bug's Life." – rain or shine. Lawn opens at 7p; movies start at 9p. Food, and beverages available for sale. Bring blankets and/or chairs.

• The annual Owl Prowl at the Nature Center at 7:30 pm. Bring a flashlight Questions? call Michelle at 828-743-9670.

Fri.-Sun., June 13-15

• Hal Phillips on the piano at Sky-line Lodge during dinner and Sunday brunch.

Fri., June 13

• At the Center for Plastic Surgery, an Open House featuring 20% off Obagi Products from 10a to 4p.

• Ribbon cutting at the new pool at the Rec Park at 3pm followed by a free community swim from 3:30-7:30.

• Friday Night Live music in Town Square from 6-8p with the Johnny Webb Band.

Sat. & Sun. June 14 & 15

• Highlands Village Square Arts & Craft Show 10a to 5p. in K-H Park on Pine Street. Rain or shine.

• Booksigning by Chef Knut Meg, "Knuttin to It" at Shakespeare's Books next to Fressers Eatery on N. 5th St.

Sat., June 14

• The Farmers Market, 9a-1p in K-H Park on Pine Street.

• Live Birds of Prey at Cliffside Lake at 11 a.m., \$4 per vehicle. No pets.

• Highlands School Graduation at 7p in the new gym.

Mon.-Wed. June 16-18

• The Highlands Botanical Garden's gardening workshop for kids ages 7 to 10; 10:30am-12:30 pm. Call (828) 526-0188.

Tues., June 17

• Community Table Dinner at the Community Building at 6 p.m. It's free.

Thurs., June 19

• The Town of Highlands Scholarship Golf Tournament at Wildcat Cliffs CC. 9am Shotgun start. Call Rebecca Shuler at 526-2118 or Brian Stiehler at 787-2778. Cost is \$150/player.

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Teachers unhappy with proposed budget

Say it will rob Peter to pay Paul but Peter and Paul are in the same family

By Brittany Burns

Growing increasingly more frustrated with North Carolina's General Assembly's decisions regarding education, Macon County teachers reached out to North

Carolina Senator Republican Jim Davis to express their concerns.

After an email exchange with South Macon Kindergarten teacher Cathy Tipped, Davis, who represents the 50th district, which

includes Macon County, accepted the invitation to listen to teachers' concerns at South Macon Elementary School last week.

"We had a number of con-
• See **TEACHERS** page 17

Highlands School Class of 2014



Saturday, June 14, is the big day for the Class of 2014. The graduation ceremony is in the new gym at 6 p.m. Pictured are: Austin Baty, Ellen Beavers, Tiffany Brown, Olivia Dendy, Emily Dorsey, Craig Forster, Emily Gabbard, Victor Garcia Lopez, Ash Gordon, Cara Hedden, Autumn Houston, Isabella Lupoli, Ana Martinez Juarez, Jean Paul Martinez Juarez, Javier Montalvo Espinoza, Tyler Munger, Ashley Nichols, Ann Marie Osteen, Rebekah Parks, Roy Pioquinto Damian, John Pisano, Mary Gillan Renfro, Matthew Rodriguez, Emily Shuler, Ryan Vinson, Brett Wilson and Mascots, 1st-graders Aislynn Russell Wyatt Luck and Cambran Taylor Ramey.

NC legislature approves fracking bill

Allows state to issue permits by next Spring

"There still seems to be more questions than answers concerning the bill the Governor signed concerning fracking. I think we should all be concerned about this process especially those of us in mountainous counties if for only one reason and that is the danger to water quality. Hopefully this will be of less concern as we learn more about this procedure."

– Ronnie Beale, MC Commission Chair & President-Elect NCACC

By Bruce Henderson
Carolina Public Press

In a fast flurry last week, North Carolina's legislature, approved the state's issuing permits for fracking for natural gas.

In North Carolina, fracking was legalized in the summer of 2012, but up until last week, the legislature has maintained a moratorium on granting permits for the procedure until rules and

regulations can be developed.

Turning down a string of Democratic amendments, the North Carolina House gave the bill final approval on a 64-50 vote. Hours later the Senate agreed to the House changes, 33-12, without debate.

With Gov. Pat McCrory's expected signature, the state could begin issuing permits next spring.

• See **FRACKING** page 7

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County adds \$200,000 to 2014-'15 budget

By Brittany Burns

The county's \$45 million budget was up for discussion Tuesday night, but one in the community attended the public comment period to address commissioners during their monthly meeting.

As required by law, commissioners designated the beginning of Tuesday night's meeting to allow the public to voice their concerns, as questions, or even show support of the county manager's proposed budget. No one signed up to address the board, but Macon County Manager Derek Roland told commissioners about minor changes to the budget that stemmed from the county's work session that was held on May 31.

After hearing from individual stakeholders on May 31, Roland proposed to increase the county's overall budget by

• See **COUNTY** page 11

Fun for the whole family!



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• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• MAYOR ON DUTY •

Warm weather brings myriad of activities

Highlands is a busy town this time of year. I attended the opening of the new exhibition of the Highlands Historical Society this past Friday. It features a wonderful video on the history of efforts to preserve the land and the unique ecological system of the plateau. I highly recommend a visit to the exhibition. Also, the PAC is about to launch later this month their robust chamber music series, and the Playhouse's first production of the year, Little Shop of Horrors, opens tonight.

The new pool at the Highlands Recreation Department will open this Friday, which also coincides with the last day of school. The town has scheduled the pool to open on Friday, barring any last minute inspection problems. Any delay would be broadcasted on WHLC.

The pool looks great and does not leak thousands of gallons of water like the old pool did. The initial cost estimates were off by several hundred thousand dollars. A substantial effort was made to value engineer the project to move it forward. The town was able to appropriate some funds from the enterprise reserve funds to help meet the final pool cost of \$658,000. The good news is that there were no big cost overruns once the contract was signed and construction was underway. Our town manager did a good job in monitoring construction and controlling contract expenditures. We had only one very minor change order that amounted to less than a half of a percent. To stay within costs on a plateau project is commendable.

Town staff and architects are already developing the design and specifications for the new pool cover. The plan is to begin construction of the cover structure as soon as this pool season is over. If all goes according to plans, next year we will begin the pool season with the cover open. At the end of the summer the pool cover will be closed for all-year swimming.

Another recreation project in the planning stage is the new gym floor. The plan is to continue using the old floor for



the upcoming basketball season. Once the season ends this winter, the new floor will be installed. It should take about a month to complete the job.

The recreation and town administrative staffs are in the process of reviewing upcoming capital improvements and new programming initiatives. For instance, long overdue improvements to the softball park are being considered since the facility is literally falling apart.

In the area of programming we are seeking citizen input. The Town Board and staff want to hear from citizens about what they would like in the way of recreation programming. For example, what classes and programs does the town need to implement for the new all-year pool? Please contact us by phone or through the town website. Or, drop by the Recreation Department and let the staff know about

• See MAYOR page 3

• LETTERS •

Let's not allow fracking in our area

Dear Editor,

North Carolina is about to make revealing the chemicals used in Fracking a felony. Before that happens here are a few possible contents. Residents and visitors of Western North Carolina and recipients of the water that flows from these mountains should know what they might be drinking. Please take notice of Lead and Uranium. Ask your representative why we shouldn't know what is in our drinking water, ask our Governor.

Formaldehyde, Hydrochloric Aunty Acid, Quaternary Ammonium Chloride, Tetrakis, Hydroxymethyl-Phosphonium Sulfate, Ammonium Persulfate, Sodium Chloride, Magnesium Peroxide, Magnesium Oxide, Calcium Chloride, Tetramethyl ammonium chloride, Sodium Chloride, Isopropanol, Methanol, Formic Acid, Acetaldehyde, Petroleum Distillate, Hydrotreated Light Petroleum Distillate, Potassium Metaborate, Triethanolamine Zirconate, Sodium Tetraborate, Zirconium Complex, Borate Salts, Ethylene Glycol,

Polyacrylamide, Thioglycolic Acid, Sodium Erythorbate, Lauryl Sulfate, Sodium Hydroxide, Potassium Hydroxide, Uranium, Lead, Copolymer of Acrylamide, Sodium Acrylate, Sodium Polycarboxylate, Naphthalene-2-Butoxyethanol

Would you drink this water?

Scott Paxton
Highlands

Homeowners beware

Dear Editor

I wonder if the people who own houses along the ridges of Wildcat Cliffs and the people who own houses at the far end of the Bowery Road, and probably some of the houses at the Cullasaja and Highlands Falls Country clubs, all of which look down into scenic and pastoral Whiteside Cove, I wonder if all of these homeowners know that they may soon be looking down not onto cows and horses grazing in green fields or similar peaceful scenes, but instead onto a 115-ft. Verizon telecommunications tower which I would assume, because of its height, will have blinking red lights on it at night.

Verizon is in the process of trying to have this tower placed off of Lombard Lane in Whiteside Cove. I am surely not expert, but I have been told by people more knowledgeable than I that no one, in effect, will actually benefit from the location of this tower, whereas many people will be negatively impacted visually as with light pollution at night.

If I owned one of these nice houses on one of those nice ridges, I would definitely not want this, nor any other tower in my face. Try to visualize it.

Alice Nelson
Highlands

Talk is cheap

Dear Editor,

Our country has just observed another Memorial Day. The print, TV, and social media and politicians have all waved the flag and urged us to thank our veterans and honor those who sacrificed all.

But, if anyone suggested that we all pay enough taxes to keep our promises to the veterans and those presently serving, I missed it. Yes, we owe our freedoms to them. The corporations and billionaires, who have become rich in many cases by the military spending, are not required to pay their fair share of taxes.

So, rather than feeling good about "thanking" our veterans, all of us MUST

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• OBITUARY •

Juliet Aileen Thornton Kerr

Juliet Aileen Thornton Kerr, age 48, died suddenly in the early morning hours of May 29, 2014, in Birmingham, AL. Beloved daughter, sister and best friend, Juliet is survived by her mother, Charlotte Finch Thornton; father, James Skip (Patricia) Thornton; brother, James Matthew (Charlotte) Thornton; sister, Anna (Patrick) Warren; beloved nephew, James Gideon Binge and her namesake niece, Julianna Ashleigh Warren. Julie was very happy and enjoyed life to its fullest with her paramour, Ronald Brakefield. They had planned to spend the rest of their lives together. Graveside services were held on Monday at Allan Cemetery.

...LETTERS from pg 2

determine which candidates will truly honor our veterans and keep our promises to them and VOTE accordingly. We must make sure that we put the election on our calendars and make sure to reserve the time for voting regardless of how difficult some of the legislatures in many states, including North Carolina, try to make the process.

Freedom is not cheap. Only talk is.

Ruth Turner O'Bryan
Franklin, NC

...MAYOR from page 2

your interests.

As always I can be reached at 828-506-3138, or at mayor@highlandsc.org. We look forward to hearing from you.

There's a new act in town!

At the Lost Hiker, Stand Up Comedy with Seth Stern and Jay Risk, hosted by Chris Wilkes. 9 p.m.



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Helen Kim

William Ransom

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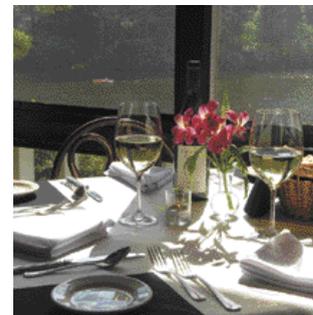
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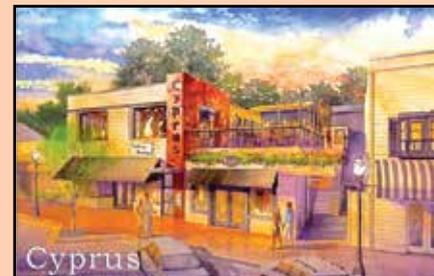
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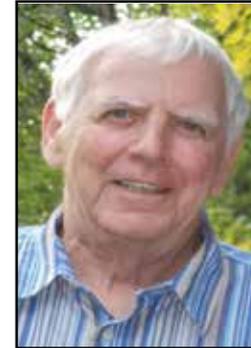
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• THE FREDSTER •

'Excuse me, sir, why are you lying in the street?'

It was a typical Saturday afternoon. Highlands was packed with people and traffic was backed up at all our Main Street intersections. As the li'l missus and I walked by Sports Page restaurant I couldn't help but notice a well dressed gentleman lying in a parking space in front of the store. Since I've seen everything imaginable twice, I whizzed by him without stopping. Five minutes later we were returning when I noted the guy was still there. Thinking he might be dead, drunk or injured, I decided to investigate.



Fred Wooldridge

"Excuse me, sir," I inquired, "May I ask why you're lying here in this parking space right in front of a very popular eatery? Are you aware we have crazy Floridian drivers who will drive right over you? What you're doing is quite dangerous. Ya ain't from around here, are ya?"

"I don't care about dangerous," he responded, "And you should mind your own business. I'm holding this parking spot until my wife makes a u-turn at Mountain Fresh Grocery and gets back here. Go away and leave me alone. And it's none of your business where I'm from but if you must know I'm from Coral Gables, Florida. Now go away!"

Just then a woman walked up and said, "You can get up, Dilbert. I found a spot in front of Scudder's and took it. I was afraid the cops might have spotted you lying in the street and made you move."

Wanting to be helpful, I asked his li'l mis-

sus, "Have you thought about traffic cones? If you can't get your car to an open spot in time, ole Dilbert could jump out with a traffic cone and place it in the parking space. That's also illegal but it would be a lot safer than lying in the street. By the way, did you notice the grease spot on the back of his shirt? I have a great remedy to get that out."

"You must be from New York," she grumbled. "New Yorkers are always butting into other people's business. I call you

people 'Yorkies.' And don't tell me there's plenty of parking available on Oak Street You think I'm going to walk a whole block to get to the restaurant? Get real!"

"No, actually I'm from South Florida," I responded. "And did you just say 'you people'? Was that a sexist remark or are you just a bigoted anti-semitic jerk?"

The woman shot back, "Hey, I know you. You're that smart-ass writer who pisses everyone off. Haven't they fired you yet?"

"Oh, you mean my twin brother. Yes, they sent him packing back to Florida. I'm taking over next week," I responded.

As the couple walked up the steps to the restaurant, the lady turned and said, "You're as ugly as your brother."

A Special Note: If you do read Fred's book, I'm Moving Back to Mars, you'll learn there's plenty of parking on that planet.

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...FRACKING continued from page 1

Fracking is a method of extracting natural gas by pumping water and chemicals deep underground to release the gas. For proponents it's considered a money and job maker, but its use is increasingly widespread but remains controversial due to environmental and health concerns.

Katie Hicks, assistant director of Clean Water for North Carolina said there is talk about the potential of some small area of shale gas in the Western NC mountains but nothing has been substantiated.

Last week, House members voted to deny debate on five amendments. They started with Charlotte Democrat Becky Carney's attempt to remove provisions that allow the state to start issuing permits 61 days after fracking rules are approved.

Carney said the provisions reneged on lawmakers' promises two years ago to take legislative action on fracking rules, which are still being developed, before permits start going out.

"We made a promise. Now let's stand up for that promise that we made," Carney said.

Republican leaders say the two-year moratorium on permits won't be lifted until rules are in place, fulfilling their promise.

The bill allows the North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural

Resources to begin issuing permits 61 days after drilling rules are approved, unless lawmakers take the unlikely step of blocking the rules.

Democrats fought in vain to add provisions on air emissions, drilling worker housing, disposal of fracking wastes and public disclosure of fracking chemicals.

They debated at length a part of the bill that calls for further study of "forced pooling," in which the property of unwilling owners can be tapped.

"We will end up with landowners being forced to give up control of their property as they have historically, and we do it only for the greed of a few companies," said Rep. Rick Glazier, D-Cumberland.

Republican leaders said most states allow forced pooling and the practice can serve to protect property owners financially if they refuse to allow drilling.

McCrorry praised the bill.

"We have sat on the sidelines as a state for far too long on gas exploration and having North Carolina create jobs and also help with our country's energy independence. Instead we are pumping in natural gas from other states," he said in a statement. "So we are all using that natural gas; but for whatever reason we

are thinking if we do it here, it's wrong but if we take it from someplace else it's right. That's very hypocritical."

The Environmental Defense Fund, an advocacy group, said legislators jumped the gun in allowing fracking.

"Some of the rules are strong, like those on well construction. Others miss the mark," said senior analyst David Kelly. "The proposed wastewater rules mistakenly allow treated wastewater from oil and gas operations to be discharged into rivers and streams. What's troubling is that the state has no water quality standards for many of the contaminants in the wastewater."

Last November, Mitch Gillespie, an assistant secretary of the N.C. Department of Environment and Natural Resources, told a legislative environmental committee that his agency planned to study potential natural gas deposits in Western North Carolina.

Evidently, in response to state legislation, DENR is scouting locations that would be conducive to fracking.

DENR public information officer Jamie Kritzer said the location study would include parts of North Carolina's seven westernmost counties: Cherokee, Clay, Graham, Haywood, Jackson, Macon and Swain.

"Based on rock sampling and geologic mapping conducted by the N.C. Geological Survey during the past three decades, DENR has determined that geologic formations in an area known as the Precambrian rift basin in Western North Carolina have the potential to contain natural gas," he said.

Information in this article also came from Jon Elliston's piece for Carolina Public Press that ran in November 2013 "State agency gives contradictory accounts on WNC gas exploration but reveals area of interest."

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GRILL & PIZZA OPENS AT 11AM EVERY DAY.
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• HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

Ongoing

• Artists wanted for Oct. 4 show featuring historic sites in Macon County. The moveable show will begin in Franklin and move to Highlands and Nantahala. There is a \$35 fee. To register, contact Barbara McRae at mcbbarbara@frontier.com

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.

Thursdays

• 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

Fri.-Sun.

• Hal Phillips on the piano at Skyline Lodge during dinner and Sunday brunch.

Saturdays

• The Land Stewards of the Highlands Plateau, the conservation arm of the Laurel Garden Club, have put together an exhibit in conjunction with the Historical Society at the Museum, which you might find fascinating. It covers our plateau's botanical history from the ice ages to the present. Please visit the Museum on Saturdays to see the display.

• 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 Davidoff.

• Cashiers Local Farmers tail-gate market begins May 10 thru October at the Anglican Church Parking Lot Hwy 64 E next to Macon Bank. Contact 828-226-9988 for info.

Thurs.-Fri., June 12-13

• At CLE, Dr. David Ambaras will discuss the economic, social, and environmental crises that have provoked wide-spread anxieties about the well-being of this once "miraculous" country and the implications of changes inside Japan for the Asia-Pacific region and the wider world. Thursday, 12-2. Cost \$25/\$35. Fri., 10-12. Cost \$25/\$35. To register call 526-8811.

Thurs., June 12

• At Highlands Playhouse, opening night for the 76th season of The Highlands Playhouse and its production of "Little Shop of Horrors." Call

the box office to reserve your seats 828-526-2695.

• "A Bug's Life." Free Family Movie Night at The Bascom -- rain or shine. Lawn opens at 7p; movies start at 9p. Food, wine, beer and soda, candy and popcorn available for sale. Bring blankets and/or chairs.

• At Highlands PAC, the Live in HD Series, with The National Theatre's (London) production of *A Small Family Business* at 7pm. A riotous exposure of entrepreneurial greed by Olivier Award-winning playwright Alan Ayckbourn (Bedroom Farce, A Chorus of Disapproval). Tickets for all events are available online: highlandspac.org or by calling 828.526.9047.

• The annual Owl Prowl in cooperation with the Highlands Nature Center starts at 7:30 pm. Donations to the Carolina Raptor Rehab Center will be appreciated but not required. Bring a flashlight and plan to stay after dark as we hunt for owls in the area. If questions, call Mi-

chelle at 828-743-9670.

• The June meeting of The Western North Carolina Woodturners Club will meet at 6 PM at the Blue Ridge School, in Glenville, N.C. Located at 95 Bobcat Drive, Cashiers, N.C. Drive to the back of the school to the woodworking shop. Visitors welcome.

Fri.-Sat., Jun 13-14

• At The Bascom, a two-day course in hammered copper by Cullowhee metalsmith William Rogers, Friday and Saturday, 1 to 5 pm. Class participants will make a copper pendant or badge that can be worn, using methods practiced by prehistoric Americans to form copper panels and gorgets. Contact the Bascom at 828-526-4949 to register.

Fri., June 13

• At the Center for Plastic Surgery, an Open House featuring 20% off Obagi Products from 10a to 4p.

• Friday Night Live music in Town Square from 6-8. Featuring the Johnny Webb Band.

• Ribbon cutting at the new pool at the Rec Park at 3pm followed by a free community swim from 3:30-7:30.

Sat. & Sun. June 14 & 15

• Highlands Village Square Arts & Craft Show 10a to 5p. in Kelsey-Hutchinson Park on Pine Street. Rain or shine.

• Booksigning by Chef Knut Meg with his first book, "Knuttin to It" at Shakespeare's Books next to Fressers Eatery on N. 5th and Oak streets. For parents and children "Knuttin to It" This hilarious tale is about food that has lost its flavor. The crayons were all colored grey and the markers had gone dry. Flowers lost their sniff. Even erasers were outlawed, as no mistakes were allowed. Sadly, there was no fun left at Orange Peel Elementary!

Sat., June 14

• Audubon's weekly bird spotting trip. Bring binoculars if you have them, good walking shoes, a water bottle, and wet weather gear. Back by popular demand, an outing to Lonesome Valley in Sapphire, with Romney Bathurst leading. Carpool from the parking area of the new Cashiers Rec. Center at 7:30 AM sharp. Questions, call Michelle at 828-743-9670.

• Highlands School Graduation at 7p in the new gym.

WellStrung

Eclectic bluegrass music

Thurs., June 26 at
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in the Lounge



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- ❖ Weddings
- ❖ Private Parties
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Phone: 828-526-5958



Kelsey Kids Day Camp

June 23-27, 2014

Monday through Friday - 9am - 3pm (NO CHARGE)

Ages: 8 - 11years

Contact: Highlands Historical Museum

828-787-1050

Or email: lindawd@hcgexpress.net

• HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

• Live Birds of Prey at Cliffside Lake at 11 a.m., \$4 per vehicle. No pets. Arrive 15 minutes prior to show. No pets.

• At CLE, "Center for Disease Control: Saving Lives, Protecting People 24/7." Presenter Reginald Mebane will familiarize you with the behind the scene activities of the CDC that protect our communities and citizens on a daily basis. Saturday, June 14, Time: 10-11 Cost \$15/\$20. To register call 526-8811.

Through June 15

• At The Bascom Out of the Ordinary, which runs through June 15. The show includes pieces by eight internationally recognized artists who use worn and often discarded materials as the building blocks of their creations. To register, call 828-526-4949.

Mon.-Wed. June 16-June 18

• The Highlands Botanical Garden is hosting a gardening workshop for kids. The workshop is for kids age seven to 10 and will be held each day from 10:30am until 12:30 pm. For more information about this workshop, including a gear list, visit www.highland-sbiological.org/botanical-garden/, call (828) 526-0188, or e-mail keldermonar@gmail.com. Kelder Monar, one of the horticulturists at the Highlands Botanical Garden, will

instruct the workshop. The cost is only \$30 per child, or \$20 for Salamembers.

Tues., June 17

• At CLE, a 4-part series: WWI: Effect on Britain led by presenter Dr. James Diedrick. Dr. Diedrick, 10a-12 Cost \$25/\$35. To register call 526-8811.

• 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.

Weds., June 18 and June 25

• At Highlands PAC, The MET Opera Encore performances begin with Rigoletto and Wednesday, June 25 with La Rondine. 7pm. Tickets for all events are available online: highlandspac.org or by calling 828.526.9047.

Wed., June 18

• The Highlands Health Screening will take place at Blue Ridge School on Wednesday. Those wishing to take advantage of either screening MUST register by calling (828) 526-1435 or visiting the Hospital's website at www.highlandscashiershospital.org.

• At CLE the second part of a 4-part series: On the Homefront During the Great War will be Wednesday, June 18, 10-12 Cost \$25/\$35. To register call 526-8811.

Thurs., June 19

• The Town of Highlands Scholarship Golf Tournament is at Wildcat Cliffs CC. 9am Shotgun start. Anyone interested, please contact co-chairs, Rebecca Shuler at 526-2118 or Brian Stiehler at 787-2778. Cost is \$150/player.

• At The Bascom, "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone." Free Family Movie Night – rain or shine. Lawn opens at 7p; movies start at 9p. Food, wine, beer and soda, candy and popcorn available for sale. Bring blankets and/or chairs.

• Taize service at the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation at 5:30 p.m.

Fri., June 20

• At PAC, the International Bluegrass Music Award (IBMA) 2014 Album of the Year winner, Balsam Range. PAC Memberships are available with five levels of benefits. For tickets call PAC: 828.526.9047. Call today, most of the concerts last year were sold out. Highlands PAC 507 Chestnut Street, Highlands www.highlandspac.org.

• Friday Night Live music in Town Square from 6-8. Featuring Southern Highlands.

• At the Lost Hiker, Stand Up Comedy with Seth Stern and Jay Risk, hosted by Chris Wilkes. 9 p.m.

• Explore the biological and cultural diversity of the southern Appalachian Mountains

with the Highlands Biological Foundation, beginning on Friday with a float down the Little Tennessee River led by Jennie and John Stowers. Either kayaks or canoes available, with instruction from an experienced guide. A catered lunch of local organic foods will be supplied. Bring drinking water, rain gear, sun protection and comfortable shoes. Lunch is included. \$40 for members or \$50 for non-members. For more info, visit www.highland-sbiological.org/forays/ or call (828) 526-2221.

Sat., June 21

• Audubon's weekly bird spotting trip. Carpool from the parking area behind the Highlands Town Hall, unless otherwise noted. All walks will start at 7:30 AM. If questions, call Michelle at 828-743-9670.

• Saturdays in Pine Street Park, live music from 6-8 p.m. Featuring Well Strung.

• The Work Day will begin as usual at 9a and the Annual Meeting at take place at noon at the sheltered picnic table in the Rec Park.

• At The Bascom, 10 am till noon, World Wide Knit In Public Day on the Terrace at The Bascom. Demonstrations of knitting, crocheting and spinning wool into yarn. Try your hand at **knitting a row**.

• See EVENTS page 10

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A LARGE SELECTION OF TAKE- AWAY ITEMS FULLY PREPARED, READY TO TAKE HOME INCLUDING GRILLED PORK LOINS, HOME MADE MAC & CHEESE, MASHED POTATOES, HERB RUBBED CHICKEN, MADE IN HOUSE BBQ, CHICKEN SALAD DELI SALADS & MUCH MORE.

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HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS

Sun., June 22

• H-C Chamber Music Festival Auction fundraiser at Scudder's Gallery 4:30-7p. Luncheon and string quartet concert included. \$75 per person. Call 526-9060 for tickets.

• Atlanta vocalist Maria Howell will perform June 22 at 6 pm at

the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation to benefit Highlands Friends of Haiti. The event begins with wine and hors d'oeuvres followed by a short live auction and Maria's performance. Tickets are \$100 and may be purchased at the Church of the Incarnation, 520 Main Street, Highlands, NC or online at the incarnationwnc.org or call 526-2968.



Highlands Village Square Arts & Craft Show

10a to 5p. in K-H Park on Pine Street. Rain or shine. Artists and crafters and food and music, too! (The next one is Aug. 23-24)



Balsam Range at PAC June 20

BALSAM RANGE is group of five outstanding acoustic musicians and singers from Haywood County, NC.

Now meet the band...BALSAM RANGE. Tim Surrent delivers entertaining MC work as well as seasoned lead and harmony singing. Buddy Melton is one of the most gifted tenor voices in bluegrass and Americana today. His range and tones largely give BALSAM RANGE its identifying sound, and his stellar fiddle playing supports the band's programs equally. Caleb Smith has been called "one of the top young guns of guitar." His envied unique guitar style pairs perfectly with his energetic power singing. Darren Nicholson is one of the most gifted mandolins players and harmony singers ever to come from the Southern Mountains. Marc Pruet plays traditional three finger banjo in intuitive and powerful ways that blend and compliment the influences in the band of jazz and bluegrass...country and gospel...and swing and old-time.

BALSAM RANGE will be at Highlands PAC Friday, June 20, 8pm, 507 Chestnut Street. Tickets available online: highlandspac.org or by calling 828.526.9047

VBS at HUMC

Highlands United Methodist Church invites all children to gear up at Workshop of Wonders: Imagine and Build with God, Vacation Bible School. Explore and experience how the ordinary becomes extraordinary with God! The fun begins Sunday, June 22, at 5p.m. with dinner and ends at 8 p.m. Thurs., June 26.

The fun starts each night with kid-friendly dinners served at 5pm followed by Opening Assembly time at 5:30pm. Activities are for children who have completed PreK-5th grade, Preschool Activities are open to children ages 3 and 4, and there is a nursery for children two and younger. Youth students (finishing 6th graders and older) are encouraged to volunteer.

To register, contact Jennifer Forrester at 526-3376 or humcjenifer@gmail.com

Auction, luncheon and concert fundraiser for H-C Chamber Music at Scudders



Two Highlands institutions – the Highlands-Cashiers Chamber Music Festival and Scudder's Gallery – will join forces to offer an astonishing auction of remarkable deals.

The auction, slated for 4:30 to 7 P.M. Sunday, June 22, at Scudder's 352 Main Street gallery, features eight unique items – a luncheon with the Eroica Trio in the bidder's home; a Vega String Quartet house concert; Festival Artistic Director and Internationally-Recognized Pianist William Ransom performing in the bidder's home; a set of two Napoleonic plates; original paintings by 2014 Festival artist Richard Highsmith; an exclusive Bordeaux Wine Dinner at Wolfgang's Restaurant & Wine Bistro; exquisite blown glass from Chivaree Gallery; and a fabulous select wine collection.

During the auction itself, festival favorites violinist Helen Kim and cellist Charae Krueger will perform between the bidding. Wine and hors d'oeuvres will be served.

Cost of the event is \$75 per person, with the price of the ticket going toward an opening bid on an item. Space is limited. For reservations or more information, call the Highlands-Cashiers Chamber Music Festival at (828) 526-9060.

Scudder's Gallery has been a Main Street mainstay since 1976. It's been a trusted source for the finest antiques and jewelry available in today's marketplace. Scudder's is also a direct importer of antique furniture, fine jewelry, oriental rugs, and fine art collectibles.

Throughout the Highlands-Cashiers Chamber Music Festival's 33rd season, which stretches from June 22 through August 10, concerts will be held at 6:00 P.M. Fridays at the Martin-Lipscomb Performing Arts Center in Highlands and repeated at 5:00 P.M. Saturdays at the Albert Carlton-Cashiers Community Library in Cashiers. Sunday concerts will be staged at 5:00 P.M. at the Performing Arts Center in Highlands and repeated at 5:00 P.M. Mondays at the Cashiers Community Library.

For more information about the festival and its full lineup of performances and events, visit www.h-cmusicfestival.org.

Obagi® Healthy Skin Open House and Jane Iredale® Mineral Make-up Consultation



At The Center for Plastic Surgery
Friday, June 13th - 10:00 AM til 4:00 PM

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...COUNTY continued from page 1

\$200,000, funds that would be provided through the county's fund balance without a tax increase.

At the request of Macon County Sheriff Robert Holland, Roland proposed adding \$10,600 to the county's budget to pay for additional perimeter fencing at the detention center. With the recent inmate escape, (the first to occur during Holland's tenure), the sheriff wanted to ensure another attempt is not successful. The Constantine wire fencing will be used to line the fencing that surrounds the detention center's loading dock, which is used when transferring inmates to the facility. Holland explained that while he understands the budget is tight due to economic uncertainties, the proposed \$10,600 will make the facility more secure. In the future he hopes to close in the loading area.

"I really think he is asking for the bare minimum here because he knows the budget is tight. I think this is something we need to do," said Commissioner Ron Haven.

Roland also proposed to increase Macon County Schools' capital outlay needs from \$99,000 to \$199,000 to improve aging school sites. "Some of the schools are 10 and 15 years old and needs some improvements," said Roland. "With this money, I think the school system will be able to do that."

REACH of Macon County requested a one-time allocation of \$30,000 to help the domestic violence prevention organization construct a new shelter. The \$30,000 is part of \$300,000 REACH must raise in matching funds to receive a \$600,000 grant for the project which is estimated to cost more than \$1 million. Jackson County Commissioners designated \$25,000 in their budget; the REACH shelter in Macon County also serves Jackson. Roland proposed adding the \$30,000 to MC's budget.

Roland's additional requests also included \$15,000 for the Community Care Clinic. Originally the county's line item for the clinic was zero and included no funds in the coming year. To ensure the clinic would stay open, Roland proposed including \$15,000.

In his original budget, Roland decreased funding to Southwestern Community College by \$200,000. While the county's budget includes funds for the Macon campus, Roland found \$200,000 that has been given annually to cover the costs of operations at the Jackson campus. The \$200,000 line item had originated long before the Macon Campus was constructed. With new demands on Macon County at the local campus, Roland did not see the need to fund Jackson operations. Terry Bell

• See COUNTY page 12



Live in HD Series

The Metropolitan Opera HD LIVE

National Theatre Live

National Theatre, London

Thursday, June 12 7pm

A Small Family Business

MET Opera Encore

Wednesday(s) 7pm

June 18 *Rigoletto*

June 25 *La Rondine*

Concert Series

Bluegrass: Balsam Range

Friday, June 20 8pm

\$35 & \$25



Presented by:
Wilson Gas Service



Retro Rock: The HIT MEN

Saturday, June 28 8pm

SOLD OUT

Presented by: Beth & Dan Riley,
Valerie & Peter Whitcup, Diane & Ray McPhail,
Ruth Gershon & Sandy Cohn, Louise & Rick Demetriou,
Jane Webb & David LaCagnina, Carole Simmons,
Cindy & Rick Trevathan, Patsy & Bill Wolfe

Highlands PAC 507 Chestnut Street

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\$33.95
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2 FRESH CHICKEN BREASTS, GRILLED
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WITH STUFFED BRIE, SPICY/SWEET
PECANS, MOUNTAIN FRESH OIL AND
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MOUNTAIN FRESH BAKERY FRENCH
BAGUETTE

\$23.95
SERVES
TWO

WED

PRIME RIB WITH BAKED
POTATOES & SALAD
PREMIUM ANGUS STANDING RIB ROAST,
COOKED MEDIUM RARE WITH RED WINE
AU JUS, TWO BAKED POTATOES AND A
LARGE CAESAR SALAD.

\$32.95
SERVES
TWO

THURS

BABY BACK RIBS
COOKED FALL-OFF-THE-BONE-TENDER.
SERVED WITH HOUSE MADE
BACON/APPLE BAKED BEANS, AND
POTATO SALAD.

\$24.95
SERVES
TWO

FRI

SHRIMP; FRIED OR STEAMED
WILD CAUGHT LARGE SHRIMP EITHER
LIGHTLY BREADED IN OUR SEASONED
CORN FLOUR MIXTURE, AND THEN PROP-
ERLY FRIED IN PEANUT OIL AND SERVED
WITH HUSH PUPPIES; OR STEAMED TO
ORDER IN OUR LOW COUNTRY SEA-
SONING. BOTH COME WITH COLESLAW AND
ROSEMARY SEA SALT BROILED RED
POTATOES, TARTER AND COCKTAIL
SAUCE.

\$25.95
SERVES
TWO

SAT

IN-HOUSE SMOKED BBQ
SERVED WITH COLESLAW BACON/APPLE
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with the SCC Board of Trustees spoke to commissioners during the May 31 work session in hopes of reclaiming the funds to cover the costs of increased operational costs at the Macon Campus.

Aside from the shifting of funds, Roland proposed allocating \$39,400 to SCC for the coming fiscal year.

The last increase to the budget is \$5,000 for the Highlands Recreation Park. Highlands has received over \$1 million in donations to replace the gym floor and cover the pool but it is seeking money for maintenance costs at Zachary Park.

The county owns the park, but Highlands manages and maintains it – costs that have increased with the county's recent purchase of additional property there.

In addition to the \$200,000 added to the overall budget, a tax increase was added to the proposed budget for two fire districts.

Commissioner Jim Tate, liaison to the fire departments asked to grant a fire tax increase to both Clarks Chapel and Mountain Valley Fire Departments. Roland concurred.

Since the budget needs to be approved by June 30, county commissioners will meet on Monday, June 16 at 6 p.m. for a final vote on the budget. If the budget does not pass with the majority

of the vote, changes will be made and another vote will be held.

• BIZ/ORG. NEWS •

Laurel Garden donates to Highlands Bio Station



Sonya Carpenter happily receives a matching grant check of \$5,000 for the Highlands Biological Station from Lila Howland, president of the Laurel Garden Club.

Shop LOCAL for DAD this Father's Day!

CELEBRATE FATHER'S DAY

SPOIL

DAD

JUNE 13+14+15

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Dad said he didn't want anything for Father's Day... Fisherman's lie!



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Highlands School - Class of 2014



Ana Isabel Martinez
Juarez • Gap Year

Emily Gabbard
Valedictorian
UNC Chapel Hill



Isabella Lupoli
Salutatorian
UNC Chapel Hill



Austin Baty
AB Tech

Falling Waters is a 52 acre community just 2.5 miles from Main St. Secluded but not remote; peaceful, quiet and private. Mature hardwoods, giant Rhodies, Mountain Laurel and a plethora of wild flowers that take turns showing off thru the seasons. Two waterfalls & several creeks add charm & interest. Paved roads, underground utilities, newer homes built after 2000, no road noise, well maintained, a great place to take a walk!



Two lots sold this winter and a year round home is being built ... New cottage section opening soon!

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

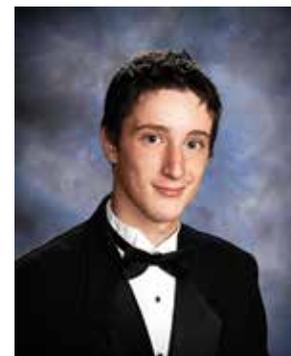
www.highlandsnchomesites.com

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

828-508-9952.



AnnMarie Osteen
Southwestern CC



Ash Gordon
Gap Year



Ashley Nichols
Regents University



Autumn Houston
Southwestern CC



Brett Wilson
Southwestern CC



Cara Hedden
Southwestern CC



Craig Forster
Southwestern CC



Ellen Beavers
UNC Chapel Hill



Emily Dorsey
WCU Honors College



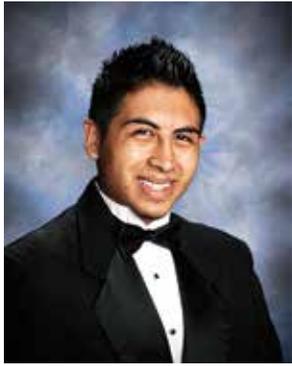
Incredible mountain views from this King Mountain 2BR/2BA! Gated community with low fees. **\$285,000. MLS #78386.**

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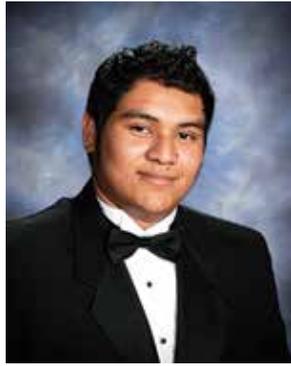
Highlands School - Class of 2014



Emily Shuler
Southwestern CC



Javier Montalvo Espinoza • Gap Year



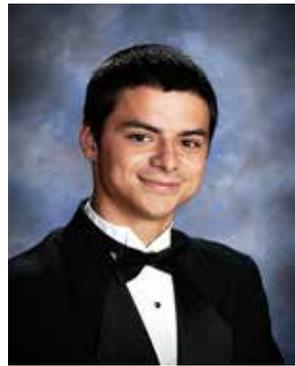
Jean Paul Martinez Juarez • Gap Year



John Pisano
Gap Year



Mary Gillan Renfro
Appalachian State



Matthew Rodriguez
AB Tech



Olivia Dendy
Southwestern CC



Rebekah Parks
Bryan College



Rogelio Pioquinto
Damian • SCC



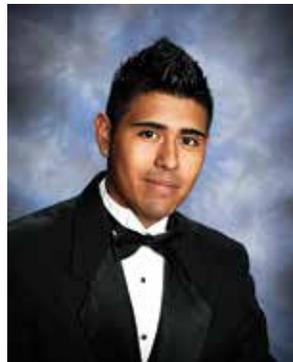
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• **SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING** •

The Peace of Wild Things

By The Rev. Dr. Virginia Monroe
Church of the Good Shepherd

If you look in the dictionary, you discover among several definitions of grace," In Christianity, the infinite love, mercy, favor and goodwill shown to humankind by God." If you look into your life, you discover that the static of anxiety can make it difficult to discern that unlimited, ever-present positive power. Wendell Berry describes his way of connecting to grace:

The Peace of Wild Things

When despair for the world grows in me and I wake in the night at the least sound

In fear of what my life and my children's lives may be,

I go and lie down where the wood drake rests in his beauty on the water, and the great heron feeds.

I come into the peace of wild things who do not tax their lives with forethought of grief. I come into the presence of still water.

And I feel above me the day-blind stars waiting with their light. For a time I rest in the grace of the world, and am free.

• *The Selected Poems of Wendell Berry*

How do you "come into the presence of still water" when there is no pond nearby? When the sky above you is filled with clouds and the only wild things you encounter are the fears attacking your mind?

Take a tip from Berry, "I go and lie down." Oh, you may not be able to literally lie down, but you can be still. If only for a few minutes. No matter where you are, or what you are doing, be it trying to sleep at night or attempting to work in the day. Be still. And breathe. Just breathe. Slowly. Deeply. God says, "Be still, and know that I am God!" (Psalm 46:10) Be still. And you will discover that you "rest in the grace of the world." Even if you are standing in the middle of a dry concrete parking lot.



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Wed.: Men's Bible Study - 8:30 a.m., First Baptist Church

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Tues. Guys study 8am, Gals 10am.

CLEAR CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Jim Kinard

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

Wednesdays - 7 p.m.

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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

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Wednesday: 10 a.m., Morning Prayer

Thursdays: Holy Eucharist, (chapel), 10 am

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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

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Mondays: 8 a.m.: Men's Prayer Group & Breakfast

Wednesdays: Choir: 7

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Pastor Nathan Johnson

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

Wed. Kidsquest 6p.; Worship 7p.

HIGHLANDS ASSEMBLY OF GOD

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

Sundays: Worship: 11

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; 6; 7:15: children, youth, & adults studies;

6:15: Adult choir (nursery provided) Thurs: 12:30:

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Wed: Bible Study and Youth Mtg.: 7 p.m.

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4224 Big Ridge Road (4.5 miles from NC 107)

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Wednesdays: Prayer Mtg.: 7 p.m.

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290 Buck Knob Road; Pastor Alfred Sizemore • 526-3212

Sun.: School: 10 a.m.; Worship: 10:45 a.m.; Worship: 6 p.m.

Wed: Adult Bible Study & Youth: 7 p.m.

SHORTOFF BAPTIST CHURCH

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Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study: 7

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Rev. Sam Forrester/Cashiers

Sunday School: 10 am, Worship Service: 11 am

...TEACHERS continued from page 1

cerns that were presented to Senator Davis," said Macon County Teacher of the Year Melissa Faetz. "As you may be aware, the budget approved by the senate had a much-needed raise for teachers, but this salary increase has many strings attached to it. First and foremost, for teachers to receive a salary increase, they must be willing to give up their rights to due-process, commonly referred to as tenure. Teachers must sign one- to four-year contracts and can be released at the end of those contracts with no reason given."

Senator Davis continues to support the senate's plan to buy-out teacher's tenure rights. "The state of North Carolina has ruled that tenure rights are property rights," said Davis. "The proposed raise is a way to buy out those perceived property rights."

Davis is adamant that teachers who are performing up to par should have nothing to worry about regarding tenure rights.

"A lot of teachers are upset because they feel their due process rights are being taken away, and that is not the case," he said. "Doing away with tenure just eliminates the complicated process that exists to fire teachers who are not performing up to standard. Of the about 100,000 K-12 teachers in the state, only 17 were dismissed last year. You cannot tell me that only 17 teachers were not performing up to standard!"

South Macon Principal Tolly Bowles believes the new tenure legislation isn't needed since measures are already in place.

"Sen. Davis said the purpose of doing away with teacher tenure was 'to get rid of bad teachers.' My thoughts are that steps are already in place for that," said Bowles. "To be fair when addressing personnel issues, due process has to be in place."

Faetz said another concern posed to Davis was the general education budget where \$465 million is being used for salary increases.

"Senator Tillman has stated that \$390 million of the \$465 million will be taken from the K-12 education budget," she said. "Out of that \$390 million, \$233 million comes from cutting teacher assistants across the state. Other cuts include cuts to the driver education program and to the Department of Public Instruction. We like to say that they are 'robbing Peter to pay Paul,' but this time Peter and Paul are in the same family. They are paying for an increase in education by making deep cuts to education. It doesn't make sense at all."

Iotla Valley Principal Gary Brown said he too was concerned with the impact the budget will have on direct teacher-to-student contact. "I have serious concerns

regarding the general trend of education in our state," said Brown. "Chief among them is the increased workload placed on classroom teachers (particularly at the elementary level) while the amount of help available to complete those tasks has markedly diminished. Over the past 10-12 years, the number of adults working directly with students in the regular classroom has dwindled. I fear we are not giving our kids at the K-4 level as solid an education as my own son and daughter received in this same district 25 years ago."

He said the proposed decrease in teacher assistants to fund the teacher raises is detrimental to education.

"Years ago, there were full time assistants in grades K-3. Now there are just enough assistants to cover grades K and 1st and when those assistants help with the upper grades, even K and 1st does not get full time help, said Brown. "Evidence indicates that the students who have access to both a teacher and an assistant for two years or longer have higher reading scores. This makes sense because literacy instruction is the primary reason for having classroom assistants."

Senator Davis said that questions such as the specific funding proposed by the senate are not his areas of expertise and if teachers wanted those types of answers, they should have invited someone from the appropriations committee.

Though he doesn't think teachers got the answers they were looking for, he promised to take their concerns to Raleigh. "The Senate's budget is different from the House's budget and we will come together to debate and negotiate the state's budget. I don't know what the final outcome will be."

When asked if he thought the meeting was constructive, Brown said only time will tell. "There are some hard feelings right now among educators and those feelings were bound to come out," said Brown. "But I do believe that disagreeing sides must talk and more importantly must listen if progress is to be made on any of the tough issues, whether they be local, state or national. Both sides usually have a thread of truth and correctness to their arguments, and a middle ground is often a way to take the best of both. We no longer seem to seek that though. The willingness to compromise, the very quality that allowed our Constitution to come into existence over 200 years ago, is now viewed as a weakness."

Although Davis couldn't answer most of their questions, Faetz hopes their concerns will give him some things to think about before voting on the final budget. "He was elected by the people of Western North Carolina to represent their needs."

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Highlands Falls Country Club. Whiteside Mountain view, 4br/4.5ba, private setting on two lots, lower level guest suites. \$747,000. MLS# 71048



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Close in cottage just past Highlands CC with mountain charm! Great screened deck with stone fireplace, open living area with 2nd fireplace, large kitchen with breakfast nook. MLS #79324 \$475,000



Wonderful nostalgic cottage with three fireplaces on a corner lot across the street from the Mirror Lake wetlands. Remodeled, 4/3, great yard, easy walk to town. MLS #79205 \$950,000



Highlands Falls Country Club free standing condo with 3br/3ba, vaulted ceilings, stone fireplace, golf course view and zero maintenance. \$400,000. MLS# 74042



Mirror Lake Charmer. A good mountain view from the deck of this 3br/2ba home with wood ceilings and family room. \$387,000. MLS# 76090



Spacious Rustic Home in Laurel Falls with long range mountain view. 3br/3.5 baths, large porches, stone faced wood burning fireplace. MLS #75979 \$527,000



On the Atlanta side of town in Highland Gap, this 4/4 home has a 360 degree mountain view and view of a beautiful waterfall. Reclaimed antique doors, hardware and fixtures throughout. Sits on a knoll with room to play- MLS #79031 \$897,000

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A Lesson from a Client



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plan: all factors that they could not fix. Even if they loved the other features of the home, they would not waste energy trying to convince themselves they could live with such a challenging feature. By staying true to their "process," they currently have a wonderful home that fits their

needs perfectly.

This story is a short lesson to buyers -- trying to look at too many homes each day overloads your memory to the point that important features run together and inevitably you will have to revisit many of those homes to correct your memory.

If you truly know certain features are unacceptable, move on. Do your homework and utilize your time prudently, and house-hunting can be fun and efficient. Happy Buying in 2014; now is the time!

• Jody and Wood Lovell own Highlands Sotheby's International Realty, a leader in the local real estate market. Jody has been the top-producing broker over the last four years on the entire MLS. Please call them for your real estate needs at (828)-526-4104.

Enjoying life in the mountains as a broker for the last 14 years has given me the privilege of meeting a plethora of wonderful and interesting clients. One couple that I worked with 10 years ago had sold many homes during their lives together. They had a system

that worked well to narrow down the overwhelming selection of inventory from which to choose. Here was their method:

Each day, they looked at six homes, as more than that only confused them. At the end of the day, they would decide on their two favorite homes. The next day, they would compare those homes to the choices for that day and still narrow the selection down to two by the end of the day.

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On a wooded lot with a winter view of Lake Sequoyah, this cozy and very chic 3BR/3BA cottage will delight you. The main level features a charming master suite, open kitchen, dining and living space with a fireplace, high ceilings, and covered porch. Lower level has additional bedrooms. Launch your canoe or fish. Easy drive to Highlands' Main Street. Offered at \$328,000, MLS #79157.

Contact Susie deVillie at (828) 371-2079.

Rustic Elegance Steps from the Lake



Immaculate, pristine, ideal Mirror Lake area cottage just steps from the lake. Gorgeous wooded lot with secret garden (viewable from the open deck and master). At once cozy and elegant, this 3BR/2BA cottage features an expansive kitchen, sun room (could be used as a dining area), hardwood flooring, fireplace and bay window in the living room, covered porch, and single garage. Light and bright throughout with all the touches of fine mountain living. A stunner! Offered at \$399,000, MLS #77904.

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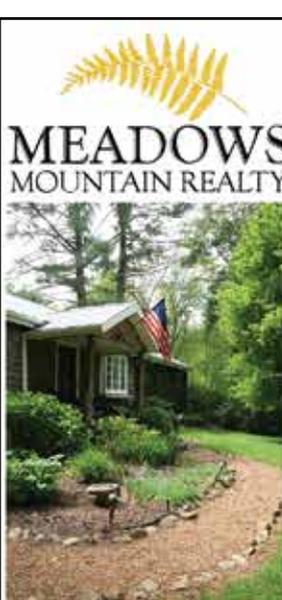


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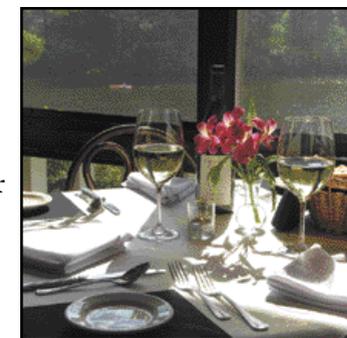
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