

Highlands Newspaper

FREE Every Thursday

Volume 11, Number 19

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

Thurs., May 8, 2014

Tues., May 13

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

Thurs., May 6

• The Center for Life Enrichment's Facebook for the Absolute Beginner, 6-8p. \$35 member, \$50 nonmember. Call 828-526-8811 to register.

Sat., May 10

• The Farmers Market, 9a-1p in K-H Park. Organic vegetables, eggs, honey, cheeses, home-made food and hand-made items.

Sat. May 10

• 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. Questions, call Michelle at 828-743-9670.

• Hike the Historic Kelsey Trail from Whiteside Mountain to Highlands. Small groups will be led to Leila's Rock, Garnet Rock, Highlands Falls and Soldier's Cave. The first group leaves from K-H Park on Pine Street at 8 am, 8:15 a.m., and 8:30 a.m. and shuttled to Whiteside Mountain to start the 4-hour hike. A picnic lunch at K-H Park will follow. The shuttle, hike and lunch are all included in the donation of \$50. Register at the Greenway website at www.highlandsgreenway.com.

Wed., May 14

• At the Center for Plastic Surgery with Dr. Robert Buchanan, Injectables Open House from 10a to 4p.

Thurs.-Sat., May 15-17

• At The Bascom, the annual Collective Spirits Wine & Food Festival. www.collectivespirits.com.

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PB talks 'trees and construction'

With the face of Highlands changing, the Planning Board is working to firm up ordinances particularly concerning the removal of trees and construction work on public rights-of-way.

The town has long had a

tree ordinance but over the years it has become watered down and so the ordinance is being amended to include more teeth – particularly where fines pertaining to a violation are concerned.

The tree ordinance only

pertains to commercial projects and a tree removal permit is required before any tree eight inches or larger can be removed from a site. To get a permit, a site plan is required showing

• See TREES page 9

County and BOE discuss 2014-'15 budget needs

By Brittany Burns

Macon County Commissioners met with members of the Macon County Board of Education Monday afternoon at Iotla valley Elementary school to hear the district's budget requests for the 2014-'15 school year,

Macon County Superintendent Dr. Chris Baldwin opened the meeting by giving commissioners a breakdown of how the county's overall \$41 million operational budget is spent per child.

He explained that if you divide that \$41 million amongst Macon County's 4,400 students, it averages out to about \$9,000 per student, per year.

With 180 school days built into the calendar, that \$9,000 per student ends up amounting to about \$52 a day for each student. That money goes for transportation to get students to school, to fund two meals a day the state is required to provide by law, to heat the schools in the winter, and cool them in the summers, to help with any sports, after school clubs, and any other services students may need. With the county contribution of \$7,338,330 of that \$41 million this school year, (2013-'14) the county pays for \$12 of

• See BUDGET page 12



Jim Tate (R)
MC Commission Dist. 1



Jane Hipps (D)
NC Senate District 50



Tom Hill (D)
US House of Rep. District 11



Robert Holland
Macon County Sheriff

Primary winners have November in sight

Only 20 percent (5,005) of the 24,980 registered voters in Macon County turned out to vote in the May 6 Primary which has determined who will be on the ballot come November.

The heated Republican contest for the MC Commission District 1 seat was won by incumbent Jim Tate. He got 1,999 votes (61.32%) and John Shearl

• See WINNERS page 16

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County and town officials talk about common needs, goals

By Brittany Burns

Elected officials of the Town of Highlands travelled to the Macon County Heritage Center at the Historic Cowee School last Thursday afternoon to meet with the Town of Franklin and Macon County Board of Commissioners. The joint meeting, which occurs three times a year, is to give elected officials the opportunity to discuss ongoing projects and to encourage communication among the county's leaders.

Highlands new Mayor Patrick Taylor was excited for the opportunity to keep the lines of communication among all county officials open for the betterment of the county.

"As the new Mayor, I really appreciate the opportunity to come meet with the county and the town of Franklin to share common concerns because I have realized that our town has a great working relationship with the county commissions and I look forward to continue to build

• See COMMON page 8

• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• LETTERS •

Were the 'Old Days' really that good?

Dear Editor,

It appears that Bob Wilson, a frequent local letter writer, is stuck in a 1950s time warp. He's still fighting the Red Menace and the cold war, and thinks the enemy is still Communism with its little brother Socialism. His rhetoric is full of old cold war anti-Communist propoganda and group-think.

In the last 50 years the United States has become more like old Fascist Germany than arch enemy, Communist Russia. Yes, there is a ruling political class in our U.S.A. It's the ultra-rich and the corporations they run! But don't take my word for it. Facts provide all the proof necessary.

Will heavier taxation kill industry and push us into debt? Fact: A recent study shows that the effective tax rate for the 500 largest businesses in the U.S. is 13%, far lower than the rate you and I pay. If there is a problem with U.S. debt it's because the lobbyists of corporate America have created a tax code riddled with loop holes, exemptions and tax havens putting the burden of taxes on the Middle Class, which is slowly going broke.

Is our so-called "socialist" Government out to disarm ordinary citizens who may pose a threat? Fact: The United States has more guns per person than any other country. There are probably over 300 million guns in private hands, equaling almost one gun for every man, women and child. Last week armed vigilantes "out-gunned" Federal officers trying to collect over a Million Dollars in grazing fees and penalties legally owed by a wealthy land owner.

Do "socialists" pass more regulations to "keep a lid on things"? Fact: Exactly what regulation on which "things" would we want to do away with? How about less regulation on Duke Power and their coal ash ponds? Less food inspectors? Fewer tests for prescription drugs? Would you want less of these regulations? I know, let's take the air bags out of cars. Corporate profit margins would greatly benefit from those changes.

Are lawmakers attempting to pacify citizens with more freebies? Fact: The largest "freebies", other than those handed to Corporations, are Social Security and Medicare. All other "social welfare" programs are tiny by comparison. Any prob-

lem with Social Security can be cured by requiring the wealthy pay the same percentage we pay. And, if Medicare is out of control, unlike any other major industrialized country, our medical system is designed to make a profit for big insurance companies and medical providers.

If President Obama's goal is to make this into a "Socialist" country he's a colossal failure. The definition of Socialism is to spread the wealth. Exactly the opposite is happening! The wealthy are doing better than any time in the past 100 years. The middle class is shrinking and the poor are getting poorer. Corporate power, especially in the wake of Citizens United and the recent McCutcheon decision, is at the point where they can now buy and sell politicians, just like corporate stock.

Shirl Ches Franklin, NC

New intake valve is another 'boondoggle' in the works

Dear Editor,

Drain Lake Sequoyah? Is this a good idea? The plan being proposed for the town is to draw water from an intake valve near the dam on Lake Sequoyah. This has all the hallmarks of another "boondoggle."

Years ago the town had a water reservoir on the Houston Branch, which was surrounded by Forest Service land and produced pure water needing little or no treatment. The town closed this reservoir and placed the intake valve in Big Creek, the next best source. At the time, the North Carolina Department of Environment, Health and Natural Resources sent the town a letter stating in part:

"There are a number of problems with the proposed use of the main body of Lake

Sequoyah from both regulatory and environmental health considerations. Lake Sequoyah does not meet the conditions of a Class I reservoir designation ... the degree of existing deviation from the established criteria would be very difficult for us to accept ... From an environmental health perspective, we consider it very important that activities on and around raw water reservoirs be controlled and protected from potential sources of pollution. Lake Sequoyah is located at the farthest downstream point where it naturally collects waste discharge and runoff pollutants from the entire community."

Has anything changed since then? Other than more congestion in town and more cars on Main Street? Has the Town Board forgotten the reason the intake valve was placed in Big Creek to begin with? All the natural pollution from town streets and any spills of trucks, etc., in town go into Lake Sequoyah. Also, pollution from the town maintenance property, pesticide runoff from golf courses and any failures from several private property owners' association treatment plants upstream will go into the lake.

Last, but not least, how much construction money will stay in our community? Another "boondoggle" for Asheville engineers and out-of-town contractors?

Richard Melvin Highlands

Passing Through

On the way to Wilmington using the smaller roads off the Interstate I found it depressing to note so many of what appeared to have been small manufacturing businesses shut down.

Empty parking lots told the story of what was probably a previously bustling business and a source of jobs no longer there.

In some of the smaller towns, one could see the effects of losing an industry, however small it may have been, with deserted stores and shops and gas stations out of business. Some of the factories still had identifying signs hanging on the building advertising a company I had never heard of but who obviously had been part of their community. A few of the buildings were pretty slick looking and probably built prior to the current recession. One could only guess what hustle and bustle took place in these buildings. Even their empty parking lots seemed to be haunted

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

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 NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

THURSDAY	THURSDAY NIGHT	FRIDAY	FRIDAY NIGHT	SATURDAY	SATURDAY NIGHT	SUNDAY
Sunny High: 77 °F	Partly Cloudy Low: 56 °F	20% Slight Chc Showers High: 70 °F	30% Chance Showers Low: 52 °F	60% Showers Likely High: 68 °F	40% Chance Showers Low: 56 °F	50% Chance Showers High: 69 °F

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• See LETTERS page 3

• OBITUARIES •

William Lee Huff



William Lee Huff, 74, of Highlands, NC died Friday, May 2, 2014. Born in Dade County, FL he was the son of the late Lewis and Mary Depree Huff. He was a veteran of the US Army serving during the Korean conflict; a service technician for Sears for 29 years; former president of the Winnebago Club, and was active in the Drum and Bugle Corp in Miami. He was a very loving husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather. He loved wood-working and helping others.

Mr. Huff is survived by his wife of 36 years Virginia Seamans Huff; one daughter, Reatha Scipioni of Port St. Lucie, FL;

one son, William Lee Huff, Jr. and wife Tina of Pembroke Pines, FL; one sister, Carol Rochester of Stuart, FL; five grandchildren, Anthony, Corinnie, Jordan, Tommy and Tim and five great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held Tuesday, May 6, 2014 in the Chapel of Bryant-Grant Funeral Home in Highlands with Zachary Phillips officiating. Burial was in Highlands Memorial Park. Bryant-Grant Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

Online condolences may be made at www.bryantgrantfuneralhome.com.

Verda Lee Adams Sutton



Verda Lee Adams Sutton, 87, of Franklin NC, died May 4, 2014.

Born in Marlin, Texas, she was the daughter of the late James M. Adams and Verda Lee McClain Adams. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Berrien Daniel Sutton, who died January 2, 2000. Verda Lee graduated from Baylor University with a B.A. degree, attended Southern Methodist

University, and was a member of the Pi Beta Phi sorority. She loved to sing, play the piano, garden, and travel. She was a dedicated member of the Garden Club of America, and served as a national officer. Mrs. Sutton enjoyed numerous activities at the Highlands Country Club and the Oceanside Country Club in Ormond Beach, FL. Mrs. Sutton exemplified her faith in Christ each day of her life. She worshipped at Peachtree United Methodist Church, Atlanta, GA and First United Methodist Church, Ormond Beach, FL. She also attended Highlands United Methodist Church and was a resident at Chestnut Hill.

Mrs. Sutton was a beloved wife, mother, and grandmother. She is survived by a daughter, Kathryn Johnson and husband Tim of Charlotte, NC; two granddaughters, Gail Johnson of Charlotte and Meredith Johnson of Atlanta, GA. The last years of her life, Verda Lee was lov-

ingly cared for by a special group of ladies, who she loved very much.

The Funeral service will be held at 6 p.m. Thursday May 8, at the First United Methodist Church of Franklin. Rev. Vic Greene and Rev. Janet Greene will officiate. Burial will be at Sharon Memorial Park, Charlotte, NC.

The family will receive friends from 5 to 6 p.m. Thursday, prior to the service.

Memorial donations can be made to the Highlands United Methodist Church, 315 Main Street, Highlands, NC 28741 or the Foundation Fighting Blindness, PO Box 17279, Baltimore, MD 21298.

Macon Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements.

Online condolences can be made at maconfuneralhome.com

...LETTERS continued from page 2

by the ghosts of times past.

Had we not been in a rush to get to Wilmington it might have been worthwhile to take some pictures to document the empty buildings. Just what was the gizmo or gadget had they manufactured? Tractor wheel rims, flashlights, dies for machines,

• See LETTERS page 6

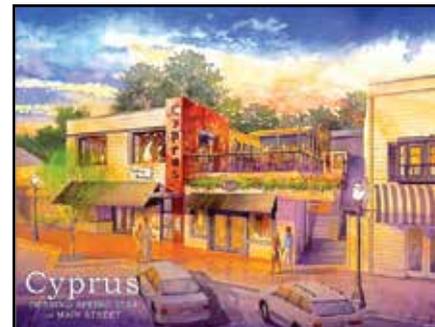
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Commissioner Beale chosen for prestigious nationwide leadership program

Macon County Vice Chairman Ronnie Beale is one of 25 county officials from across the nation selected to attend the 11th annual County Leadership Institute, a rigorous five-day program offered through the National Association of Counties (NACo) in partnership with Cambridge Leadership Associates.

Beale was nominated for the program by the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners (NCACC) because of his demonstrated leadership and commitment to develop collaborative and innovative solutions for local issues. Since he was first elected to the Macon County Board of Commissioners in 2006, Beale has been very active in the NCACC. He has served on the NCACC's Public Education and Health & Human Services (HHS) Steering Committees, and in 2010 he was appointed as chair of the HHS Steering Committee, which earned him a seat on the NCACC Board of Directors. In

2011 he was elected NCACC Second Vice President. He is currently serving as NCACC President Elect and is in line to become NCACC President in August.

"It is a tremendous honor for Ronnie to be chosen for this program," said NCACC Executive Director David F. Thompson. "The County Leadership Institute is one of the premier executive leadership training programs for local elected officials, and the experience he receives will be invaluable for his service to the NCACC and all 100 counties."

In its first 10 years, the Institute graduated nearly 250 leaders from 172 counties in 45 states and earned a reputation for enhancing the capacity for county officials to identify and implement innovative solutions to the complex challenges facing county government in the 21st century. The Institute has developed a curriculum that focuses closely on the demands of personal leadership in a new

era of government, one characterized as a "permanent crisis" by Cambridge Leadership co-founder Marty Linsky. The costs for this year's program, which will be held in Washington, D.C., from June 1-5, are underwritten by corporate and non-profit sponsors, meaning there will be no cost to the citizens of Macon County for Beale to attend the program.

"It is a tremendous opportunity for me, both personally and professionally," said Beale, who received the NCACC's 2013 Outstanding County Commissioner of the Year Award. "County Commissioners have to work with so many different groups every day as we work to improve the quality of life for our citizens, and this course will provide me with the training and tools I need to be an even more effective leader for the citizens of Macon County."

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Local food sales surge in Western North Carolina

Local food sales in Western North Carolina have grown significantly in the last five years. The 2012 Census of Agriculture, released on May 2, shows that direct sales alone have increased by nearly 70% in the region according to analysis by ASAP's Local Food Research Center, from under \$5 million in 2007 to over \$8 million in 2012. The 2012 Census of Agriculture also shows that the region has reversed a disturbing trend in loss of farm acres, actually adding over 10,000 acres between 2007 and 2012 while the rest of North Carolina and the country lost farmland.

It has been five years since the United States Department of Agriculture released the 2007 Census of Agriculture. In that time period the local farm and food scene in Western North Carolina has undergone a visible and dramatic transformation.

"The 2012 Census of Agriculture verifies what we see every day in Western North Carolina - the local food movement is growing," said Charlie Jackson, ASAP's Executive Director. "We just never imagined it would be this dramatic." For over a decade ASAP has worked to build demand for food grown by local farms through their many programs and products, such as the Local Food Guide, Appalachian Grown™ certification and branding, and the Farm Tour.

The success in Western North Carolina is particularly impressive when compared to the rest of North Carolina and the country as a whole. While North Carolina saw a slight increase in direct sales, it is entirely due to the increase in direct sales in Western North Carolina. "If you remove the 23 westernmost counties, North Carolina had a net decrease in direct sales," said Jackson. Direct farm sales are an important measure of consumer demand for locally grown food. According to Jackson "per capita, Western North Carolina consumers buy nearly three times as much directly from farmers than do the rest of North Carolinians."

	WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA	THE REST OF NORTH CAROLINA	UNITED STATES
Direct sales to consumers 2012*	\$8,311,000	\$23,515,000	\$1,309,287,000
Direct sales per capita 2012	\$7.45	\$2.72	\$4.17
Direct sales: percentage change 2007 to 2012	+69%	-3%	+8%
CSA farms 2012	148	431	12,617
Population/CSA farm 2012	7,533	20,031	24,880
Sales of vegetables, melons, and sweet potatoes: percentage change 2007 to 2012	+247%	+23%	+15%
Sales of fruits, tree nuts, and berries: percentage change 2007 to 2012	+24%	+4%	+39%

* All statistics from the table were calculated by ASAP's Local Food Research Center using data from the USDA Census of Agriculture 2012 and 2007, and the United States Census Bureau's State & County Quickfacts population estimates.

*Direct sales include agricultural products produced and sold directly to individuals for human consumption from roadside stands, farmers' markets, pick-your-own sites, etc. |

ASAP's Local Food Research Center has come to the same conclusion as the Census of Agriculture data demonstrates - local food sales are growing and more and more people are seeking out food from local farms. The Center's own data shows that local farms and locally grown food are defining features of life for the people who live in the region. In every category of local food sales there have been large increases. "Not only have we seen these large increases in direct sales, we are seeing more and more restaurants, grocery stores, and even universities, hospitals, and public schools embrace local food" said Jackson. According to ASAP, consumers spent over \$170 million on local farm products in 2013, a 42 percent increase from the previous year.

"Local food is more than just a trend, it is now a movement" said Jackson. "This Census data and our research are proving that local food is an effective and successful approach to keeping farms and engaging people in where their food comes from."

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• THE FREDSTER •

Why, in heaven's name are you living in Highlands?

Forty-six years ago, my police captain threw a set of keys at me and said, "Take your family and enjoy my little cabin in Highlands." I grabbed the keys as they whizzed by my ear.

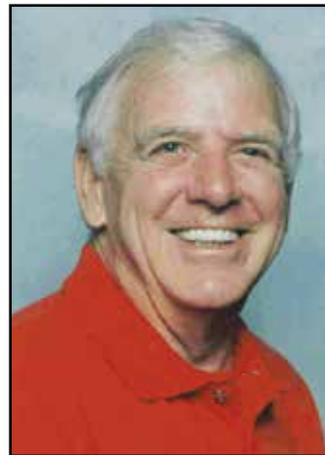
"Thanks, boss. You know I'm not gonna turn down a free vacation," I responded, "but where in the hell is Highlands?" Actually, back in 1968, practically everyone asked, "Where is Highlands?"

And for the record, we've never been full-time Highlanders and wouldn't have it any other way. But we've never missed a summer since '68. Like so many, we fell in love with this beautiful place with one visit. I'm waaaay too much of a winter weenie to allow myself to actually get cold. As you might already know, I'm a rough and tumble guy from the big city of Miami who is comfortable with a gun on his hip, living with criminals I once abused, lots of rudeness, pushing and shoving and...of course, hot weather; different strokes for different folks as they say. God bless those who love the cold 'cause somebody's gotta do it. Hey, who'll keep the fire stoked?

I guess you can imagine that, since '68, I've seen a huge transformation of our wonderful town and, in my opinion, it's mostly all good. Back in the day, the only traffic signal at 106 and 64 had just been installed, replacing the flashing red and amber light.

At first, I fell in love with the 'mountain thing' and then the mountain people; the slow manner in which things got done. Whoever heard of leaving car keys in the ignition and front doors to houses unlocked?

I still remember Steve Potts, sitting over in the front corner of Potts Market, giving me an expense account with just my first name and a hand shake. Ole Steve would freak if he saw what's happened to his grocery. When we paid up at the end of our vacation, the account simply read "Fred - Horse Cove Rd." with the amount



Fred Wooldridge

due. He took a personal check without showing I.D. and we left Highlands reprioritizing our budget, salivating to buy Highlands' property.

In the forty-six summers my family and I have been coming here we've watched Highlands transform from 'mountain' to 'tony.' Tony is good... but so is mountain. Now, instead of people asking where Highlands is, they say, "Highlands? Whoa.... very nice! Are you rich?"

Yes, we are rich. We're

rich in our many mountain friends as they are so awesome. We're rich in being able to spend almost half our year living over 4,000 feet above the sea. We're rich as we continue, year after year, to enjoy the beautiful flora and fauna of Highlands. And finally, we're rich in that the li'l missus and I are, after sooooo many, many years, still in love. Now put a price tag on that and ask if we're rich.

• Have you read Deceived and I'm Moving Back to Mars?

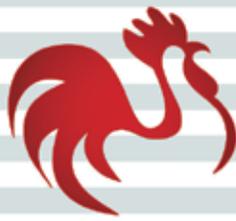
...LETTERS continued from page 3

plumbing, mothballs, diesel injectors, outdoor BBQ's? In passing I could only guess.

Each company had a story to tell, not only about the entrepreneurial people who founded them but the lives and families of the people who labored there. At days end, they all went home to supper and watched the world unfold before them on their television just like the rest of us, filled with the satisfaction of having put in a good day's work.

We can blame part of the recession on the government for requiring banks to make loans to folks who otherwise couldn't afford to buy a home and no question that this played a part in our current economic dilemma when buyers discovered they couldn't afford the monthly payments.

• See LETTERS page 9



MOUNTAIN FRESH GROCERY

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ESPRESSO • WINE • CRAFT BEER • BUTCHER
ARTISAN CHEESE • OIL AND VINEGAR**

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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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A DIFFERENT FULL DINNER EVERY NIGHT. SERVES FOUR SERVING MONDAY THROUGH SATURDAY FROM 4.30 UNTIL WE SELL OUT - CALL AHEAD TO RESERVE...

MONDAY: JAMES BEARD AWARDED CHEF, LOUIS OSTEEN'S LOW COUNTRY LOBSTER / SHRIMP BOIL MAINE LOBSTER TAILS, WILD CAUGHT LARGE SHRIMP, RED BLISS POTATOES, SUMMER CORN, HOUSE MADE SAUSAGE, ALL STEEPED IN LOUIS' PROPRIETARY SEASONING. SERVED WITH DRAWN BUTTER AND COCKTAIL SAUCE. \$33.95 SERVES TWO.

TUESDAY: OVEN OFF NIGHT TWO NATURAL CHICKEN BREASTS GRILLED WITH OUR TUSCAN HERB INFUSED OLIVE OIL, SERVED ON A BED OF GREENS WITH STUFFED BRIE, SPICED PECANS, OUR EXTRA VIRGIN OLIVE OIL AND BALSAMIC VINEGAR ON THE SIDE WITH TWO CUPS OF HOMEMADE GAZPACHO AND A BAGUETTE FROM OUR BAKERY. \$23.95 SERVES TWO

WEDNESDAY: PRIME RIB WITH BAKED POTATOES AND 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

THURSDAY: TWO RACKS OF BABY BACK RIBS - COOKED UNTIL FALL-OFF-THE-BONE-TENDER. SERVED WITH HOUSE MADE BACON/APPLE BAKED BEANS AND POTATO SALAD. \$24.95 SERVES TWO

FRIDAY: WILD CAUGHT SHRIMP; FRIED OR STEAMED WILD CAUGHT NORTH CAROLINA SHRIMP EITHER LIGHTLY BREADED IN OUR SEASONED CORN FLOUR MIXTURE, AND THEN PROPERLY FRIED IN PEANUT OIL AND SERVED

WITH HUSH PUPPIES; OR STEAMED TO ORDER IN OUR LOW COUNTRY SEASONING. BOTH COME WITH COLESLAW AND ROSEMARY SEA SALT BROILED RED POTATOES, TARTAR AND COCKTAIL SAUCE. \$25.95 SERVES TWO

SATURDAY: IN-HOUSE SMOKED BBQ HAND RUBBED PORK BUTT, PIT-SMOKED OVERNIGHT AND HAND PULLED TO ORDER. COMES WITH COLESLAW, APPLE AND BACON BAKED BEANS, AND YEAST ROLLS \$22.95 SERVES TWO

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...COMMON continued from page 1

on that relationship,” he said. “Whether we are elected officials in the county or the towns, we are all serving Macon County residents when it comes down to it.”

Mayor Taylor began by voicing his concerns regarding the infrastructure needs in the Highlands area. Citing his recent appearance at the Macon County Planning Board meeting, Taylor wanted to clarify the needs of Highlands’ Lake Sequoyah. He began by talking about renovations needed at Lake Sequoyah that will eventually result in having to drain the lake for a few months. The dam at Lake Sequoyah has been standing for 80 years, and according to Taylor, very few repairs have been conducted, and the project is overdue.

Taylor said, like Franklin, Highlands is working to improve the town’s water system. “We are looking to move from Chlorine, to a bleach process to treat our water, which is very important,” he said.

In addition to the water system, Taylor noted that the town had received a

grant to replace three main culverts that are located in the floodplain. “We are doing this so when it rains, the water can flow without backing up everything in the area,” he said.

The Town of Franklin’s Mayor Bob Scott began by updating the group on economic development projects within the town such as the old Town Hall building being leased to become a brewery in hopes of rejuvenating downtown.

Scott also noted that he was pleased to be meeting in the old Cowee School and is appreciative of the county’s commitment to breathe life back into the county’s buildings; something he wants to see more of in the city of Franklin.

“Taking an old building that is vacant, and renovating it is something that I would like to see more of, and I hope the board would, too; to see Franklin renovating some of the old buildings and putting them back to use,” said Scott.

According to Scott, he would like to see both the Town of Franklin and the

Town of Highlands work together more in the future to address the economic needs and development opportunities that can benefit all entities.

Macon County Commission Chairman Kevin Corbin introduced County Manager Derek Roland, who was hired to replace Jack Horton. Roland spoke to the impending property revaluation. “We are not sure the impact it is going to have at this time, but we definitely know it will impact us,” said Roland.

Roland stated that heading into the revaluation, the county’s proposed budget reflects no tax increase and stands to prepare for the adverse effects that the 2015 revaluation numbers will have on residents.

According to Commissioner James Tate, the present evaluation estimates a 20-30 percent reduction in property tax revenues, which amounts to a \$2 million decrease in property values during the re-

valuation process.

Former Macon County Commissioner and current board member for the heritage center Bobby Koppers encouraged elected officials to support the center’s summer concert series by purchasing season tickets. The concert series kicks off this weekend with the folk/bluegrass band Red June.

After the meeting, elected officials were given a tour of the Macon County Heritage Center at the Historic Cowee School by members of Heritage Center’s board. Highlands Mayor Taylor showcased his hidden talents of pottery making by throwing a watering jug without the help of any electricity.

The tour highlighted the center’s textile room, the music room, and the kitchen, which will allow for canning this summer



Valerie Whitcup

Lea Kibler

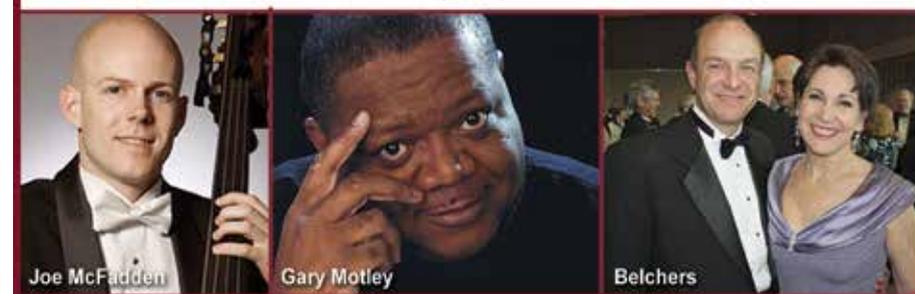
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Joe McFadden

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Belchers



With “heritage” as its theme, Highlands Mayor Pat Taylor showed his peers how to throw a pot without electricity after the combo-meeting held at the Historic Cowee School Heritage Center.
 Photo by Brittany Burns

...TREES continued from page 1

which trees are to be removed, as well as a statement explaining why removal is necessary.

There are only three reasons a tree can be removed:

Trees can come down if they are dead, if the tree places life, limb or property in jeopardy due to a storm, accident or other acts of nature; or if the tree is diseased, infected or infested as verified by an International Society of Arboriculture certified arborist.

Town Planner Josh Ward said there have been several incidents where trees were removed without a permit which carries a penalty of just \$100. The amended ordinance will suggest a \$500 per tree penalty and will require a tree or plantings equivalent to the tree replaced.

Ran Shaffner, who worked on the original tree ordinance back in the mid-80s presented the original tree ordinance which was much meatier than the one currently on the books. He requested that the Planning Board look it over and consider putting some of the meat back in the ordinance. It included a replacement list of native plants, shrubs and trees that could be used for re-plantings as well as the need for a performance bond to ensure the plan OK'd by staff is adhered to.

"The purpose of this is to ensure that large trees aren't destroyed or removed without good reason," he said.

The board tabled the amendments to the ordinance so incorporations from the old ordinance could be considered thoroughly.

Streets & Sidewalks

The use of streets and sidewalks during construction activities was also considered.

Ward said more and more people are opting to renovate, refurbish and update the exterior of their shops and businesses in the downtown business district and it's important that certain timeframe constraints be levied.

"We are trying to avoid people beginning work in the middle of the season," said Commissioner Eric Pierson, who is a member of the town's Land Use Committee."

Planning Board Chairman Thomas Craig agreed.

"We need guidelines and to be a little more forceful concerning the use of public sidewalks," he said. "We are going to see more of this over the next few years."

Ward said staff gets complaints from business owners when work prohibits pedestrian traffic, saying "People are staying away from the area due to the work."

Basically, a permit must be issued by

the Town Manager for any construction activities requiring the use of public sidewalks or parking places within the downtown B1 area 48 hours prior to commencement of work. Furthermore, the work can only be done November 1 through April 30, Monday through Friday from 7:30a to 6p.

However, the Town Manager can issue a permit for general maintenance between May 1 and Oct. 30 as long as work is done Monday through Wednesday from 6a to 9p.

In addition, the permit holder must schedule a pre-construction meeting with the Highlands Police Department to ensure safe pedestrian access four feet around the construction area.

Of course, if there is an emergency repair needed due to a storm, the Town Manager may use his discretion.

Amendments to the Town Code of Ordinances was passed 6-1 with Ashley Hagan Binder voting no because she didn't think it was fair to curtail construction work during the "season."

The Playhouse

The Planning Board also unanimously OK'd the construction of a 20'x20' deck at the Highlands Playhouse adjacent to the bricked and covered entry way. The large trees will remain. Cimarron Builders is gifting the deck to the Playhouse which will house 13 tables and chairs.

— Kim Lewicki

Macon's Board of Elections Director resigns

By Brittany Burns

Macon County's Board of Election's Director, Kim Bishop, has officially resigned from her position.

According to North Carolina State Board of Elections Public Information Officer Josh Lawson, Bishop's resignation letter states, "I hereby formally tender my resignation, effective immediately, as Board of Elections director for Macon County, North Carolina."

Bishop has been a suspect in the State Bureau of Investigation's probe into alleged embezzlement of more than \$50,000 from the local board of elections since January.

Bishop's resignation letter was printed on Bill Jones' letterhead and came with a letter from Jones, who is acting as Bishop's attorney. The letter stated that Bishop was in possession of a set of keys, a telephone,

• See RESIGNS page 16

...LETTERS continued from page 6

We can blame the Realtors who sold the homes folks couldn't afford, the appraisers who inflated the values of the homes and the mortgage brokers who bundled them up and sold them to the investment banks. In the end, it was a boom but as with all booms, it inevitably collapsed.

But the story of these closed-down small factories is a different story because the vast majority of them made things that we can now buy cheaper from China. Cheaper Chinese products probably played as much of a role as anything else in sinking our economy, closing down those small manufacturers.

Lower labor costs allow China to turn out cheaper goods which we buy knowing full well that we are costing American jobs. We are doing it to ourselves, shooting ourselves in the foot by buying Chinese goods. With higher minimum wages here, we'll buy even more Chinese goods, all very sad indeed.

We never seem to learn.

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WED **PRIME RIB WITH BAKED POTATOES & SALAD** **\$32.95**
PREMIUM ANGUS STANDING RIB ROAST, COOKED MEDIUM RARE WITH RED WINE AU JUS, TWO BAKED POTATOES AND A LARGE CAESAR SALAD. **SERVES TWO**

THURS **BABY BACK RIBS** **\$24.95**
COOKED FALL-OFF-THE-BONE-TENDER. SERVED WITH HOUSE MADE BACON/APPLE BAKED BEANS, AND POTATO SALAD. **SERVES TWO**

FRI **SHRIMP; FRIED OR STEAMED** **\$25.95**
WILD CAUGHT LARGE SHRIMP EITHER LIGHTLY BREADED IN OUR SEASONED CORN FLOUR MIXTURE, AND THEN PROPERLY FRIED IN PEANUT OIL AND SERVED WITH HUSH PUPPIES; OR STEAMED TO ORDER IN OUR LOW COUNTRY SEASONING. BOTH COME WITH COLESLAW AND ROSEMARY SEA SALT BROILED RED POTATOES, TARTER AND COCKTAIL SAUCE. **SERVES TWO**

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• HIGHLANDS 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 mbarbara@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.

• Beginning Tuesday, May 13, NAMI will offer a 10-week class on recovery and wellness for adults challenged with a mental illness. This is a nationally recognized course with a holistic approach to recovery through a combination of lecture, discussion, interactive exercises an stress-management

• See **EVENTS** page 11

'Highlands Own Arts & Crafts Show' now in coordination with HomeTown Day

After 31 years of faithful service, the Highlands Women's club is handing over sponsorship of the Highlands Arts & Crafts show to the Town of Highlands which will use the event to benefit the Town of Highlands Scholarship Fund. Town Clerk, Rebecca Shuler has graciously agreed to serve as chairman of this event.

On Saturday, November 2nd, 2013, the Town of Highlands held the first annual HomeTown Day at Kelsey Hutchinson Park from 11am until 3pm. Activities included craft and farmers market vendors, food, music, and activities for the whole family. This year the Town will combine the two events on Saturday, October 11th, 2014.

The Craft Show returning to Highlands

Own Arts & Crafts Show will be held at the Highlands Civic Center while HomeTown Day activities will remain in the park. The hope is to involve more non-profit groups as well as closet and professional crafters.

Information on fees, deadlines and applications can be found at www.highland-snc.org or by contacting Rebecca Shuler at Town Hall by phone (828)526.2118, by email rebecca.shuler@highland-snc.org, or mail PO Box 460, Highlands, NC 28741.

Please, Come Out, for this great opportunity to make a little extra spending money and help the Town of Highlands Scholarship Fund grow.

Fontana Libraries to conduct patron survey of computer and internet use

How important are computer and internet resources for library patrons, and how and why do patrons use them? To find out, all Fontana Regional Library branches in Macon, Jackson, and Swain Counties will conduct an online survey from May 5th to May 24th. The project is a vital tool in helping the library evaluate and improve services to members of the community.

Called "The Impact Survey," the questionnaire takes 10-15 minutes to complete, is completely anonymous, and is available in English and Spanish. The questions deal with general use of library and online resources, as well as how patrons use these resources for specific purposes, such as education, employment, entrepreneurship, health & wellness, eGovernment, civic engagement, eCommerce, and socializing.

The Impact Survey is the result of a

partnership between the University of Washington and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. In 2009, the University of Washington Information School conducted the first large-scale investigation of the ways U.S. library patrons use computers and the Internet at public libraries, why they use it, and how it impacts their lives. Because the patron survey was such a success, it is now available as a tool for use by all U.S. public libraries.

Members of the public may access the online survey beginning May 5th through the library's website at www.fontanalib.org, or through public computers at the library.

For more information, please contact the Macon County Public Library in Franklin at 524-3600 or the Hudson Library in Highlands at 526-3031.

• HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

techniques. It meets in Franklin on Tuesdays from 6:30-8:30p. Class size is limited to 20. It is free but pre-registration is required. For more information or to register, call Linda Lampkin at 828-369-7184 or lampkinl@cs.com.

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

• Community Coffee with Mayor Pat Taylor from 11a to noon in the Hudson Li-

brary.

Thurs., May 6

• The Center for Life Enrichment's Face-book for the Absolute Beginner, 6-8p. \$35 member, /\$50 nonmember. Call 828-526-8811 to register.

Thurs., May 8

• The League of Women Voters will screen the film "Inequality for All." The film features economist and former Secretary of Labor, Robert Reich, trying to raise awareness of our country's widening economic gap and the effects that gap has on our economy and on most people. The award-winning film has been called "a passionate argument on behalf of the middle class." The film is 90 minutes long and begins at noon in Tartan Hall at the Franklin First Presbyterian Church.

Beginning Sat., May 10

• 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 tailgate 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.

Sat. May 10

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take an easy 1.5 mile evening walk on the Greenway through woods and open fields in the early evening light. Meet at the Macon County Library in the left rear parking lot at 7 p.m. Call leader Kay Coriell, 369-6820, for reservations. Visitors welcome, no pets please.

• 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. Bring binoculars if you have them, good walking shoes, a water

bottle, and wet weather gear. Trip down the mountain to Horse Cove and Chattooga River area to try to find the rarely seen Swain-

• See **EVENTS page 14**

Town' scholarsip golf tourney is June 19

Thursday, June 19th, 2014 marks a special date in Highlands. Wildcat Cliffs Country Club will host the annual Scholarship Golf Classic.

The Town of Highlands Scholarship fund began in 1975 through the generosity of a local businessman named Jack Taylor. His gift of \$5,000 was the initial funding for this scholarship program enabled by special legislation in the NC General Assembly making Highlands unique in the state with the ability to administer such a fund for the benefit of Highlands School graduates who are committed to higher education through college, university or vocational training.

In succeeding years Jack Brockway along with other prominent concerned citizens became increasingly involved in the development and promotion of the Town of Highlands Scholarship Endowment Fund which at the time exceeds \$780,000. Through the ensuing years, various clubs including Highlands Falls, Cullasaja Club, and now Wildcat Cliffs, have graciously provided each of their unique golf course and clubhouse facilities for the purpose of creating an annual one day "fund drive golf tournament."

The historical generosity has been essential in building and sustaining the endowment fund with the ultimate goal of providing financial and moral support to our young highland school graduates.

Town Commissioner and event co-chair, Brian Stiehler said, "We are excited to continue this important tradition. Wildcat Cliffs' management and staff have gone above and beyond to make this a successful event on all levels. We are grateful for the membership and staff of WCCC."

The event kicks off at 7:30 am with breakfast and use of the driving range and practice green. A 9 am shotgun start is followed by cocktails, lunch and awards ceremony. The cost for the event is \$150 per player. For sponsorship information or to sign up, please contact event co-chairs, Brian Stiehler (787-2778) or Rebecca Shuler (526-2118).

2014 Cashiers Arts and Crafts Show is May 24 -25



The 6th Annual Spring Cashiers Arts and Crafts Show will be held May 24 and 25 at the Cashiers Village Green. Sponsored by the Rotary Club of Cashiers Valley, the Spring Arts and Crafts Show will run from 10 am to 5 pm both Saturday and Sunday; rain or shine. While admission is free, a donation of \$3 to \$5 is encouraged to help benefit local community service efforts.

This juried event will showcase some of the finest artisans of the Southeast. With more than 60 exhibitors, featured art media will include: clay, wood, fibers, glass, metal, watercolor, oils and photography; and take the form of jewelry, clothing, indoor and outdoor furniture, quilts, rugs, pottery, paintings and metal art, wooden

bowls and ceramics, to homemade specialties, plus more.

Rotary Club members will provide concessions offering hamburgers, hot dogs, veggie burgers, and drinks on sale. Families can also take advantage of the nearby playground and picnic areas.

All proceeds will benefit local Rotary programs and community service efforts. Over the last 20 years the Rotary Club of Cashiers Valley has donated nearly \$1 million to more than 50 Cashiers charities. The Arts and Crafts Show location on the Village Green is at the intersection of Highways 64 and 107 in beautiful Cashiers, North Carolina. For more information go to www.cashiersrotary.org.

Mountain Garden Plant Sale is set for Sat., May 24 at the ball park



One of the many native plants to be found at the Mountain Garden Club Plant Sale this year is *Phlox stolonifera*. It is a low-growing plant, 7 to 10 inches tall, with bright splashes of purple-blue blooms, found on the woodland hillsides in our region and elsewhere in the Appalachians. For this beautiful specimen as well as many more varieties of native plants, don't miss this much anticipated annual event on Saturday, May 24, at the Highlands Ball Park from 9 a.m. until noon.

...BUDGET from page 1

that \$52 per day for students. This school year, the district started with a local current expense budget of just over \$9 million and is projected to finish out the year just under \$8.8 million.

After factoring in the increased costs of teacher salaries, Macon County Schools is requesting the county increase the total local allocation from \$7,338,330 to \$7,839,090, about a \$500,000 increase for 2014-'15.

Dr. Baldwin attributed the majority of the increase to needing funds to cover the cost of the proposed salary raises at the state level. North Carolina Governor Pat McCrory has proposed to increase teacher salaries by 7.1 percent and additional staff such as teaching assistants and clerical, by 3 percent.

Macon County currently has 37 teachers' salaries paid for out of the current expense budget. A statewide salary raise would mean that the county would have to increase the budgeting for those 37 teachers.

Commissioner Ronnie Beale was adamant about a salary raise being handed down by the state and believes that it will be funded through state lottery money.

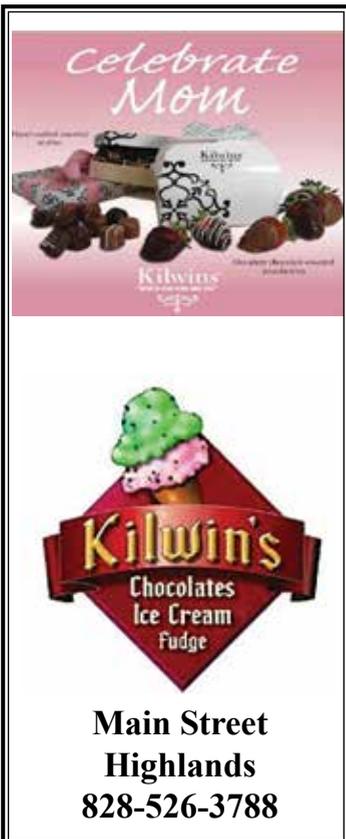
The state provides local districts with one teacher for every 22-23 students. With geographically isolated schools like Nantahala and Highlands, that ratio for Macon County is skewed and leaves the district short teachers. To provide enough teachers for those schools as well, teachers are paid for out of local dollars.

Dr. Baldwin noted that the cost of operating those schools due to their geographical locations (Highlands and Nantahala) accounts for an additional \$1 million needed in the budget. Those schools are so dense, that if the schools in Highlands and Nantahala were divided to Franklin schools, it would only add an average of two students per grade level.

"The state just doesn't understand the distance of these

• See BUDGET page 18

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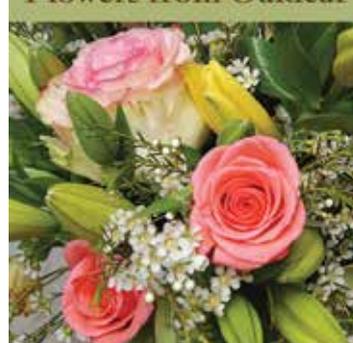


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<http://facebook.com/LuluBleuNC>



Happy Mother's Day!

Sunday, May 11th



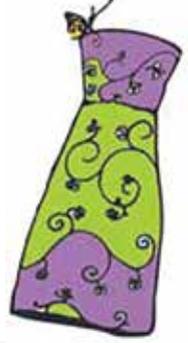
Spring SALE

Continues at The Dry Sink!

50% Off Selected Items

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468 Carolina Way
Highlands



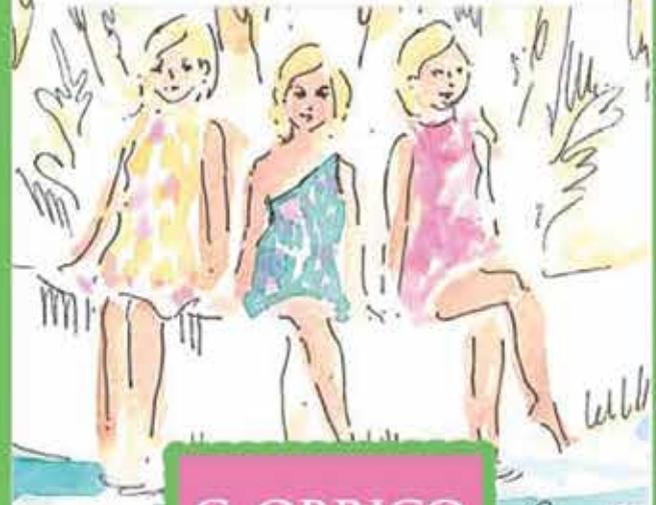
SALE!

Organic Cotton 600 ct Sheet Sets
King or Queen \$69.95 each
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411 N. 4th Street
526-5114

It's good to be back... Happy Mother's Day!



C. ORRICO

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Great Mother's Day Gift!

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2 miles past
Highlands Country Club on left
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• HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

son's Warbler. Brock Hutchins will lead. If questions, call Michelle at 828-743-9670.

• Hike the Historic Kelsey Trail from Whiteside Mountain to Highlands. Along the way, small groups will be led to Leila's Rock, Garnet Rock, Highlands Falls and Soldier's Cave. You may

see some very interesting characters from the past as you go. The first group will leave from Kelsey-Hutchinson Park on Pine Street at 8 AM. Another group will leave at 8:15 AM and if demand dictates a third group at 8:30 AM. You will be shuttled to Whiteside Mountain to start the hike. The hike will

take about 4 hours. A picnic lunch at Kelsey-Hutchinson Park will follow. The shuttle, hike and lunch are all included in the donation of \$50. Space is limited, and the choice of starting time will go to the first people to register. You may register at the Greenway website at www.highlandsgreenway.com. Follow the link for the Kelsey Trail Hike and purchase tickets by check or credit card online. More details about the hike is provided under the Event Calendar tab.

Mon., May 12

• The Battle of Sugartown Chapter of the North Carolina Society, Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), will hold its monthly luncheon meeting on Monday, in a private room at the Boiler Room Restaurant at the Smokey Mountain Center for the Performing Arts, 1024 Georgia Road in Franklin. All DAR members and prospective members are invited to attend. For further information, please see http://www.ncdar.org/BattleOfSugartown_files/index.html or contact 828-369-3136 or 828-524-2673.

• WNC Teacher of the Year Melissa Faetz and her husband Tyler Faetz will speak at 6pm on Monday, at this month's Macon County Democratic Men's Club meeting at the Macon County Democratic Headquarters, 251 Sloan Rd, Franklin. Come hear their ideas on how to improve public education. Business meeting to follow.

Wed., May 14

• At the Center for Plastic Surgery with Dr. Robert Buchanan, Injectables Open House from 10a to 4p.

Thurs., May 15

• The Macon County GOP Executive Board will meet Thursday at 6 PM at Republican Headquarters, 555 Depot Street, in Franklin.

Thurs.-Sat., May 15-17

• At The Bascom, the annual Collective Spirits Wine & Food Festival. For information, go to www.collectivespirits.com.

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HCP's directors for upcoming show



Bonnie Cushman Earman, Director and Kevin Murphy, Assistant Director.
Photo by Cynthia Strain.

Bonnie Cushman Earman is the director of the upcoming Highlands Cashiers Players' spring play, "Mama Won't Fly" but this is not her first theatrical experience. Earman has acted in several HCP productions over the years and made her directorial debut last spring with "Love, Loss and What I Wore."

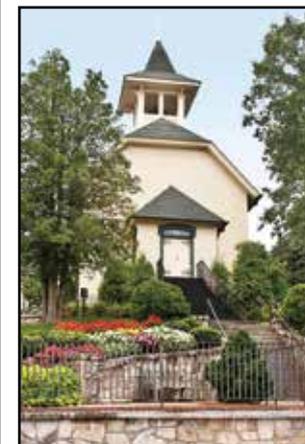
Earman studied for years under the tutelage of well-known actress Collin Wilcox Paxton, both on and off stage. As a member and manager of the Instant Theatre Company, she embraced all aspects of theatre from scripted pieces to improv. Bonnie brings her love of

live theater, the wisdom of her mentor, and her own unique vision to "Mama Won't Fly".

Assisting the director is Kevin Murphy of Franklin. Murphy most recently starred in the winter play, "Weekend Comedy" as well as "Almost Maine" and "Murder Among Friends" He is a graduate of the Savannah College of Arts and Design with a degree in the performing arts.

Mark your calendar for this funny, Southern production. "Mama Won't Fly" will be staged May 22-25 and May 29-June 1, 2014 at the Highlands Performing Arts Center.

Hymn-sing set for May 17



First Presbyterian Church will host an old fashioned Hymn Sing at 5pm on Saturday, May 17. Those attending may choose a hymn they wish to sing from the 1938 Cokesbury Hymnal. Song leader will be Stell Huie with Angie Jenkins at the piano. Everyone is cordially invited to attend. The church is located at the corner of Main and Fifth Streets. Handicap entrances are located on Church Street and on Fifth Street.



Injectables Open House

Wednesday, May 14, 2014, 10a-4p

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Mothering God who gave us birth

**Chaplain Margaret Howell
Holy Family Lutheran Church**

Mother's Day can be bittersweet for children, too no matter what their ages might be. Many of us no longer have our mothers with us, and my goodness, don't we miss them to this day?

Some of us have mothers who no longer know who we are, victims of illness and age. Some of us are not on good terms with our mothers. But even folks who didn't have a close relationship with their mother miss them when they die. Why is that? Is it regret? Longing? A wish that time could be reversed and we could see them just one more time, make peace and forget the enmity of the past?

Our mothers never stop loving us, even when we are all grown up. We know that they are just as anxious about our safety now as when we left for their first day of school so long ago. Mothers love us even when we are mean and hateful and walk down wrong paths. They never stop loving us. God never stops loving us, either -- not when we're grown and independent, not when we turn away from him, not when we rage against the cruelties of life, as though they were all His fault. Like mothers, God is all about unconditional love, peace and understanding.

Jesus often engaged in pastoral prayer for his disciples. He asks God to not only protect them but to become one with them as He has become one with the Father who is also our Mother. His prayer is that we might be family. And just as our biological or adopted family is part of who we are, so is the Family of God part of who we are! Any good Lutheran knows that in our baptism we are adopted into God's family -- we are brothers and sisters with Christ! That means as much as God loved Jesus, his only begotten Son, so he loves us, his adopted children.

God has picked out each and every one of us to be His children, not only in heaven but on earth. As with any family, there are chores. Just as we all have things we do to support our families, so too does Jesus ask us to support God's family-- the church on earth.

Just as we love one another, warts and all, so too are we to take that love out into the wider world. Mothers often give up much for the sake of their children, So, too, does the church give of itself to a world that is longing for love. We do that in a thousand different ways.

Jesus, in a priestly prayer for his disciples from the gospel of John, says; "I ask not only on behalf of these but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one. As you Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also believe that you have sent me. The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may be come completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you loved me." — *John 17: 20-23*

Mothering God, you gave me birth in the bright morning of this world.

Creator, source of every breath, you are my rain, my wind, my sun.

Mothering Christ, you took my form, offering me your food of light, grain of life, and grape of love, your very body for my peace.

Mothering Spirit, nurturing one, in arms of patience hold me close,

so that in faith I root and grow until I flow'r, until I know
— *Julian of Norwich, 1343-1413*

Proverbs 3:5

• **PLACES TO WORSHIP** • **John 3:16**

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
GRACE COMMUNITY CHURCH OF CASHIERS
Non-Denominational-Contemporary Worship
242 Hwy 107N, 1/4 miles from Crossroads in Cashiers
www.gracecashiers.com • Pastor Steve Doerter: 828-743-9814

Services: Sundays 10am - Wed. - 7pm
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.: 8:30a Traditional (said) 1928 Service, including Communion; 9:30a Christian Education (a.k.a., Sunday School); 10:30a Faithful, Family Service including Music & Communion.

Mon.: Bible Study & Supper at homes - 6 p.m.
Wed.: Men's Bible Study -8:30 a.m., First Baptist Church
CHRIST CHURCH OF THE VALLEY, CASHIERS
Pastor Steve Kerhoulas
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: Education and choir rehearsal, 9 am, Holy Eucharist Rite II, (sanctuary), 10:30
Wednesday: 10 a.m., Morning Prayer

Thursdays: Holy Eucharist, (chapel), 10 am
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH HIGHLANDS
www.fbchighlands.org
Dr. Mark Ford, Pastor
220 Main Street, Highlands NC 28741
828-526-4153

Sun.:Worship 10:45 am; Sun.: Bible Study 9:30 am
Wed.: Men's Bible Study 8:30 am; Prayer Meeting 6:15 pm; Choir 5 pm

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Dr. Lee Bowman, Pastor • 526-3175
Sun.:Worship: 11 a.m.; School:9:30

HAMBURG BAPTIST CHURCH
Hwy 107N. • Glenville, Nc • 743-2729
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 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: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 Troy Nicholson, (828) 526-8425
Sundays: School: 10 a.m.;Worship: 11
Choir:6 p.m.
Wed: Bible Study and Youth Mtg.:7 p.m.

MOUNTAIN SYNAGOGUE
St. Cyprian's Episcopal Church, Franklin
828-369-9270 or 828-293-5197
MOUNTAIN BIBLE CHURCH
743-2583
Independent Bible Church
Sundays: 10:30 a.m. at Big Ridge Baptist Church, 4224 Big Ridge Road (4.5 miles from NC 107)

Weds: Bible Study 6:30 p.m.;Youth Group 6 p.m.
OUR LADY OF THE MOUNTAINS CATHOLIC CHURCH
Parish office: 526-2418
Mass:Sun: 10:30 a.m.;Thurs & Fri.: 9 a.; Sat., 4p
SCALY MOUNTAIN BAPTIST CHURCH
Rev. Dwight Loggins
Sundays: School -10 a.m.;Worship -11 a.m. & 7
Wednesdays: Prayer Mtg.:7 p.m.

SCALY MOUNTAIN CHURCH OF GOD
290 Buck Knob Road; Pastor Alfred Sizemore • 526-3212
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
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 grade meets 2nd Sundays 5 - 7:30 p.m

WHITESIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Rev. Sam Forrester/Cashiers
Sunday School: 10 am, Worship Service: 11 am

• BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NEWS •

New Rotary Member



On April 14, 2014 the Rotary Club of Highlands inducted Jerry Moore, owner of the Highlands Kilwins, as its newest member. The photo shows Jerry (l) with his sponsor Derek Taylor.

March Rotary Scholars for March



The Rotary Club of Highlands honored the March Highlands School Scholars of the Month at its March 24 meeting. Pictured with Nicole Lui, School Counselor, and Rick Reid, club President, are: Tyler Munger, high school winner; Julia Pisano, elementary school winner and Alexis Healey, middle school winner.

Highlands' Rotary clubs sponsor Dental Exam Day at Highlands School



On May 2 the Rotary Club of Highlands and the Highlands Mountaintop Rotary Club sponsored Dental Examination Day at Highlands School for students in grades K-5. Local retired dentists Drs. William Stiefel and Bruce Walker volunteered their time and expertise to examine the students. After each student was examined, a form was completed and sent home to the parents indicating any potential dental problems. In addition to the annual dental examination day, the two clubs jointly sponsor and fund a weekly fluoride rinse and a yearly dental education day for students in grades K-5. The photo shows Drs. Walker (left) and Stiefel with several of the students after their exam.

...WINNERS

from page 1

garnered 1,261 votes (38.68%).

Republican Sheriff Robert Holland beat Bryan Carpenter with 2,844 votes (85.74%) to Carpenter's 473 votes (14.26%).

On the Democrat ballot, the Register of Deeds seat was held by incumbent Todd Raby who got 1,123 votes (70.58%) compared to Nikki Tallent's 361 votes (22.69%) and Kenneth Blaine's 107 votes (6.73%).

Democrats Tom Hill and Keith Ruehl fought for the U.S. House of Representatives District 11 seat now held by Republican Mark Meadows. Hill beat Ruehl with 937 votes (65.57%) to Ruehl's 492 votes (34.43%).

Democrats Jane Hipps and Ron Robinson faced off for the NC Senate District 50 seat currently held by Republican Jim Davis. Hipps garnered 1,075 votes (69.44%) to Robinson's 473 votes (30.56%).

Democrats Kay Hagan fought to hold her U.S. Senate seat against Will Stewart and Ernest Reeves. Hagan got 1,198 votes (77.4%); Stewart got 205 votes (13.23%) and Reeves got 146 votes (9.43%).

•See WINNERS page 18

...RESIGNS from page 9

an ID badge and a Walmart card and wanted direction on how to surrender the items.

Board of Elections member Gary Dills said that Debbie George will continue as Interim Director pending State Board of Elections action upon the County Board's recommendation of a replacement Director. The Macon County Board of Elections is preparing a County Director nomination to the State Board of Elections.

The investigation into Bishop was launched earlier this year when County Manager Derek Roland was made aware of some possible irregularities with the board of elections finances. Upon further review, the board of elections office was closed and was turned over to the SBI.

Friends say 'good-bye' to Mary Lou



Friends of the Library, employees and board members gave previous Hudson Library librarian Mary Lou Worley a going away party recently. Worley has retired and plans to move out west.

Wildflower Whimsey was fun!



The Highlands Biological Foundation sponsored the Wildflower Whimsey over the weekend. In addition to four flower hikes there was a silent auction and a live auction, wine, good food and an informative slide presentation. This is the time to see all the beautiful wild flowers in bloom.

Photo by Glenda Bell

• INVESTING AT 4,118 Ft. •



Some things to consider when purchasing a second home for rental property

By Wanda Klodosky
Landmark Realty Group

Highlands is a wonderful place to purchase a second home as most of you readers know. Using that home as a rental property investment can be a perfect way

to achieve the long-term goal of 2nd home ownership sooner than your target retirement date. In this article we'll look at some of the ways to get started on this process with some tangible details and creative ideas.

First, as with any large deci-

sion or purchase, do your homework. There are some reference and source materials listed at the end of the article to help you make a profitable and informed decision.

Before you start searching for the perfect home, determine

your financing. Ask your CPA about the long term tax advantages and implications - there are many. Explore different options for financing, rental home loans usually require 20% down and about a half percent higher

• See **INVESTING** page 19

• REAL ESTATE SNAPSHOTS •

ONE-OF-A-KIND REAL LOG CABIN! This year round home was constructed from 4 log cabins (Circa 1800s) from remote Kentucky. Creativity to the max and the epitome of mountain charm. 3 bedrooms plus studio, 4-1/2 baths, loft, fireplace, garage. 1.69+/- acres with a great view of Shortoff Mountain. Offered at \$1,150,000. mls #79292

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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!

Welcome...Come Visit.

GPS Address: 78 Black Bear Trace Highlands, NC 28741
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.

Reduced! Best In-Town Value!



Two rondettes at the end of Old Farm Road in the prestigious Satulah Mountain area make the perfect walk-to-town investment. 2BR/1.5BA main house and 1BR/1BA guest house, nestled in the gentility of Satulah. This "Old Highlands" neighborhood is an ideal family get-a-way site or private retreat for the professional. Live in the main house & rent the guest house! Offered at \$248,900. MLS #75356.

Best Walk-to-Town Setting



The mountain getaway property everyone seeks! Exquisite grounds offer the perfect setting for this charming 2BR/2BA cottage situated in one of Highlands' most desired neighborhoods. Features include hardwood and tile flooring, stone fireplace, single garage, wrap-around decking, and generator. Professional landscaping highlights the gorgeous pond, waterfall and stream; enjoy your mountain sanctuary from the covered porch or the gazebo. Easy walk to The Bascom or on to town to enjoy everything downtown Highlands has to offer. Terrific rental history and offered furnished. Offered at \$568,000. MLS #79195.



Susie deVille,
Broker-in-Charge
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Highly Visible, Cashiers Commercial



Excellent commercial building in a desirable, high-traffic, highly-visible location. Features include: reception area, 2 individual offices, large conference area with office space & covered decking, lounge/office machine area w/half bath, and spacious lower level double garage/storage area. Garage is semi-conditioned. Shared well is 275' deep & produces 40 gpm. Each level is 1,200 sf. Plenty of parking. Offered at \$285,000, MLS #79335.

Exquisite Luxury Living



On 2.55 +/- gentle acres this elegant home features 4BR/4.5BA, gourmet kitchen with the finest appliances and custom cabinetry, soaring ceilings with slate fireplaces, heated travertine tile in the bathrooms, office/den, and the most coveted long-range views of Whiteside Mountain and beyond. Entertaining is a view-lover's dream on the expansive Carolina Porch with built-in Viking grill, stone fireplace. Elegant guest living area with kitchen and billiard room on the lower level. Superb quality and high-end finishes throughout offer the best in luxury mountain living. Offered at \$2,675,000, MLS #79156.

Call
Susie deVille
at
828-371-2079

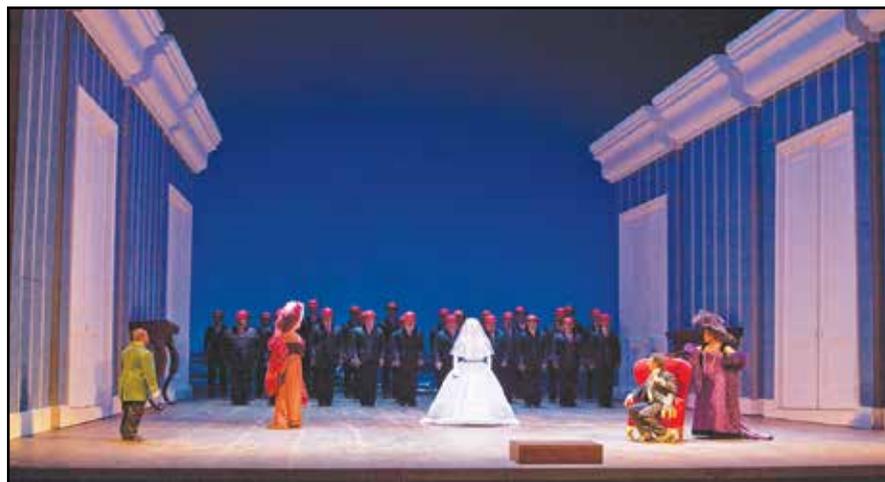
MET Opera's La Cenerentola Live in HD at PAC, Sat., May 10

A peerless pair of Rossini virtuosos joins forces in *La Cenerentola*—a vocal tour de force for mezzo-soprano Joyce DiDonato, singing her first Met performances of the Cinderella title role, and the high-flying tenor Juan Diego Flórez, as her Prince Charming. Alessandro Corbelli and Luca Pisaroni complete the cast, with Met Principal Conductor Fabio Luisi leading the effervescent score.

La Cenerentola, (Cinderella, or Goodness Triumphant) is an operatic drama in two acts by Gioachino Rossini. The libretto was written by Jacopo Ferretti, based on the fairy tale *Cendrillon* by Charles Perrault. The opera was first performed in Rome's Teatro Valle on 25 January 1817.

Rossini composed *La Cenerentola* when he was 25 years old, following the success of *The Barber of Seville* the year before. *La Cenerentola*, which he completed in a period of three weeks, is considered to have some of his finest writing for solo voice and ensembles. The light, energetic overture has been in the standard repertoire since its premiere as *La Cenerentola*.

From 1960 onward, as Rossini enjoyed a renaissance, a new generation of Rossini



mezzo-sopranos and contraltos ensured the renewed popularity of *La Cenerentola*. There are changes from the traditional fairy tale in *La Cenerentola* because Rossini opted for having a non-magical resolution to the story (unlike the original source), due to obvious limitations in the "special effects" available.

The MET Opera's *La Cenerentola* be-

gins at 12:55 and the pre-opera discussion at 12:30...the last of the MET Opera Live in HD performances for the 2013-14 Season. Tickets are \$24 for adults and Students are FREE, due to the generosity of our underwriters. Tickets are available online: highlandspac.org or by calling 828.526.9047 507 Chestnut Street, Highlands

...WINNERS

continued from page 16

Eight Republicans fought for a place on the ballot in November against incumbent Hagan. Thom Tillis won 1,267 votes (41.80%).

Statewide only 15.71% (1,023,366) of the state's 6,515,126 registered voters turned out for the Primary.

For the U.S. House of Representative District 11 seat, Tom Hill got 16,644 votes (53.97%) and Keith Ruehl got 14,193 (46.03%) of the vote.

For the NC State Senate District 50 seat, Jane Hipps got 9,344 votes (70.21%) and Ron Robinson got 3,964 votes (29.79%).

For the U.S. Senate seat Democrat incumbent Kay Hagan got 370,312 votes (77.16%). In November she will face off with Republican Thom Tillis who got 222,408 votes (45.69%).

For a complete list of all the races go to <http://maconnc.org/board-of-elections.html>

— Kim Lewicki

• BIZ/ORG NEWS •

Shuler brings other clerks to Highlands for academy class



The Regional Master Municipal Clerk Academy class was held Friday, May 2, 2014 in Highlands at the First Presbyterian Church in Coleman Hall. The Regional Master Municipal Clerk Academies provide additional training opportunities during the year for those clerks working towards recertification or their Certified or Master Municipal Clerk designations. Academies consist of identical programs offered on a regional basis. Regional Schools are usually held on Fridays if possible any time from late March through May. Mayor Taylor welcomed the class to Highlands and during the lunch break the class took a trip to Sunset Rock. We had several participants that took the opportunity to visit the Highlands area for the weekend. Rebecca Shuler, Highlands Town Clerk and Secretary to the Town Manager hosted the event.

...BUDGET continued from page 12

schools," said Beale. "They just look at mileage and don't look at the mountains in between.

Capital Outlay Requests

After explaining the district's current expense needs, Dr. Baldwin turned his focus to the capital outlay budget for the 2014-15 school year.

In 2013-14 the county allocated \$99,000 of the district's requested \$297,000 capital outlay needs. Before that, although the district requested \$426,900, the amount that has been historically funded, in both 2010-11 and 2011-12 was zero; no capital outlay monies were given to the school system, causing the district's infrastructure to suffer.

Dr. Baldwin directed each school site's principal to draft a list of capital outlay requests and then the school board prioritized those requests and presented them to the county Monday night.

While there were 49 total requests from principals amounting to \$4,370,897, the school board narrowed the list so for next school year, the district is requesting funding for 17 projects, totaling \$700,450.

Items making up the bulk of the \$700,450 included \$181,000 for new windows at Franklin High School, \$135,000 for sewer plant renovations at Nantahala,

and \$114,000 for funds to buy furniture districtwide.

Highlands School had two projects identified -- \$1,250,000 million for renovations to the high school wing and \$25,000 to resurface the track, Board member Stephanie McCall told the board that the funds for the track were no longer needed because a member of the community made a donation for that project.

The renovations for the high school wing were identified as an item that could be funded through QZAB funds, and therefore were not considered in the capital outlay requests.

In addition to the \$700,450 for building repairs, the district is requesting \$430,000 for technology needs in the school system.

Commissioner Beale informed both boards that throughout the state, county governments contribute about \$650 million each year to public education, and those funds are on top of the money allocated from the state.

Macon County Manager Derek Roland is expected to present his proposed budget to the board of commissioners at the Tuesday, May 13 meeting. After commissioners review the proposed budget, they will hold public hearings..

...INVESTING continued from page 17

interest rate than primary home loans. Consider a home equity loan on your current home or even a second mortgage. Another creative way to purchase a vacation rental home would be with a partner or partners. This should be done with a written agreement between the parties and drawn up by an attorney to protect everyone's long-term interests. Do your research and speaking with mortgage and accounting specialists would be a smart way to begin the process.

The next important piece of the process is to figure out who will manage the property. There are DIY websites like Vacation Rentals by Owner (VRBO) or, you may need someone in the area to handle this for you. There are several local rental management companies. These businesses offer a full line of services

which can cover anything from professional cleaning to taking care of maintenance and repair issues. These companies are usually on-call 24/7, track billing and handle any collections for you. In addition, most offer expansive advertising to get your property the most exposure. Interview them to understand their unique terms and services.

Once you've got your financial and operational pieces in order, then we come to the fun part! Work with a local REALTOR® to find a house that is either already ready for the vacation rental market or can easily be made rental ready. Here are some of the most common requests that Landmark Vacation Rentals receives from today's vacation renters:

1. At least three bedrooms and two baths (three baths are excellent as that provides a bath-

room for each bedroom)

2. Master bedroom on the main floor – a second bedroom, also on the main floor, is a bonus.

3. To target all of your potential renters, having as few stairs as possible is a bonus.

4. Central heat and air conditioning. Even if air conditioning isn't always needed here, it's difficult to convince a renter coming from temperatures in the 90s with high humidity that they won't need AC.

5. Hardwood floors are a plus for both the renters and for the care of the home.

6. Wood burning fireplace(s) to provide mountain ambiance is a frequent request. An outdoor fireplace is a huge plus.

7. Good outdoor living area.

8. Amenities like golf or tennis are a huge plus, but make sure you're aware of the rental require-

ments/restrictions at the various clubs.

9. and, as always in real estate, Location, Location, Location!

In conclusion, purchasing a second home for a vacation rental property while interest rates are low and the inventory of homes for sale is high can be an excellent investment opportunity. Just make sure that you work with a real estate professional who understands the processes necessary to make this work for you.

Some reference materials: First-Time Landlord: Renting Out a Single-Family Home by Janet Portman, et al, Buying a Second Home: Income, Getaway or Retirement, by Craig Venezia

Landmark Realty Group is a leading real estate company on the Highlands-Cashiers plateau.

Established in 2004, it has focused on providing high quality service for all its clients. Wanda Klodosky is very active in local organizations and has been a great addition to The Landmark Team. Make sure Wanda is on the top of your list of contacts when making real estate decisions. Wanda purchased her Highlands home as a second home/rental in 1998 before moving here full-time in 2009.

Landmark Realty Group of Highlands is located at 225 Main Street. Landmark also has other offices on the Highlands-Cashiers Plateau in Cashiers and an office at the Burlingame Welcome Center. Visit them today at www.LandmarkRG.com or call (828) 526-4663.

• BIZ/ORG NEWS •

Citizens turn out for Health Dept.'s 'Wellness' kickoff



The MC Health Dept.'s Leading the Way to Wellness Kickoff for community walking was held Saturday, April 26 in front of Town Hall. About 40 participants turned out to walk one and a quarter miles. County Commissioner Jim Tate and Mayor Pat Taylor participated and will be holding a series of community walks in the coming weeks. Mayor Taylor's walks will be on Tuesdays at 5 pm. Commissioner Tate's walk will be on Wednesdays at 5:30 pm. Both walks will originate in front of Town Hall. As Commissioner Tate said both the Mayor and he will be happy to answer any questions while walking. Research has shown communities with organized walking programs have better health profiles than those that don't. There are several walking groups and activities in Highlands and this program is another effort to get more folks active throughout the county.

– Photo by Cynthia Strain

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TOWN OF HIGHLANDS WATER/SEWER MAINTENANCE WORKER II – Under general supervision performs, as a member of a crew, a variety of skilled and limited skill manual labor work in the maintenance of municipal water distribution and sewer collection systems and the installation of water services and related facilities; performs related work as required. Possession of a valid commercial driver's license will be required. Starting wage is \$13.29 per hour with benefits package. Applicants with valid North Carolina board certifications will have an adjustment to the hourly rate. Full job description and applications are available at Town Hall in the Human Resources Dept. or online at www.highlandscnc.org. Submit applications to Sonja Gibson, HR Director, at PO Box 460, Highlands, NC 28741 or in person. Job will be open until filled. The Town of Highlands is an EEOC employer. (5/8)

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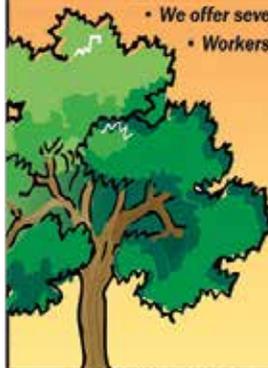
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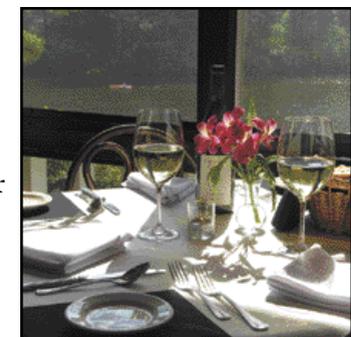
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