

Highlands Newspaper

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Thurs., April 16, 2015

Indications are H-C Hospital's future is bright

On Monday, April 13, The North Carolina Hospital Association named Highlands-Cashiers Hospital one of only 10 hospitals in the state noted for outstanding performance in patient safety and

quality improvement.

"There were only 10 awards given in the state and we got one," said Jackie Ring, president and Chief Nursing Officer at H-C Hospital.

She is the latest in a long line of people to take the helm at the hospital and is striving to guide it and the community through the transition as HC-Hospital becomes an integral part of the Mis-

sion Health system ... and vice versa.

Though the vote is split on whether the hospital's alliance with Mission Health has been

•See HOSPITAL page 16

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Nuisance Ordinance passes 4-1

Effective last night, Macon County officially has a nuisance ordinance that will be in effect 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

In a 4-1 vote, the Macon County Board of Commissioners approved the measure on its second reading, making the ordinance officially active. Commissioner Paul Higdon was the lone nay vote.

At the direction of commissioners, the county planning board spend months developing the ordinance, which although deemed a nuisance ordinance, is intended to regulate malicious noise within the county.

Once the document was completed with the planning board, it passed that board with all but one vote. Planning Board member John Shearl opposed the regulation.

The ordinance was then sent to commissioners who held a public hearing that drew comments from both sides of the ar-

•See NUISANCE page 10



Kirstyn Lamb, Jessica Tilson, Ashlee Maitland, Whitney Billingsley, Courtney Henry, Aislinn Fitzpatrick, Blakely Moore, Emily Crowe, Sara Torres, Erica Barnes, Trinity Dendy, Triffany Preda, Allie Preda, Brooke Rehmeier, Bethany Shuler, Analyse Crook, Sara Rogers, Kim Feria, Madison Lloyd, and Brittany Chastain, manager. See more about Highlands School sports on page 17.

Photo by Kim Lewicki

Practice makes Perfect

By all accounts, the Highlands School Girls Varsity Soccer Team is getting better and better every game.

"We are currently 7-2 and ranked #11 in the

state according to the NC Coaches Association 1A Polls," said Coach Jeff Weller. "After losing six seniors last season with five of them being starters, I

•See SOCCER page 19

Elected officials weigh in on NC legislation

Slowly but surely, it appears the NC legislature has been trying to restrict local governments with financially or partisan motivated

legislation.

Most recently, SB 650 – The Election Transparency Bill; Senate Bill 369 – The Fair Sales Tax Fair-

ness Act; and HB 535 – Promoting Charter School Success Pilot.

SB 650 – The Election

•See LEGISLATION page 5

At a special worksession last Thursday, members of the board of education unanimously voted to submit a \$7.9 million budget to county commissioners, a \$621,342 increase over the current year's funds.

•See BOE page 8

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• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• MAYOR ON DUTY •

Is this less government?



Highlands Mayor
Patrick Taylor

A lot of folks now in the NC legislature ran on a platform of less government, especially one that is centrally controlled. It goes like this, Washington shouldn't be telling Raleigh what is best for North Carolinians. So should Raleigh be telling counties and towns what is best for them? Apparently, yes.

Take for instance the new Senate Bill 369 -- The Sales Tax Fairness Act. When any legislation refers to "fairness" watch out. Fair for whom?

John Peters of the Mount Airy News recently wrote an editorial calling SB 369 a hidden tax hike. Yes, Mount Airy is aka Mayberry, and Sheriff Andy would be just proud of Peters for his plain spoken truth.

Peters points out that the current state sales tax is at 6.75 cents for every dollar in sales. The state gets 4.75 cents while 2 cents goes to localities. Seventy-five percent of this local component goes back to local government from which the sales were made. Twenty-five percent of the local government portion goes to localities throughout the state on a per capita basis. Fair enough.

So Highlands currently nets about \$850,000 a year in sales tax revenue. This revenue stream is a great incentive to support and promote business sales in our community.

The editorial writer from Mount Airy cautions to watch our wallets, the formula is about to be changed by our centralized government in Raleigh. The new proposed formula would increase the state's share to 5.75 cents. The rest of the pot of 6.75 cents would be redistributed to towns and counties on a per capita basis. Small towns like Mount Airy and Highlands would lose substantial sales tax revenue. Heck, they may have to lay off Deputy Barney Fife!

Sheriff Andy would probably see it plain and simple as a state tax increase with a little "mountain hoodoo" thrown in so Raleigh can deny it. As Peters points out, like what I have said before, towns on the losing end of this fair tax bill will be faced with the dilemma of raising taxes, cutting services, or a combination of both. Highlands could lose as much as \$628,000.

If this bill passes in its current form, the centralized power in Raleigh will once again be asserted. Many local governments will have been pushed aside. Raleigh does throw towns and counties a bone. Localities can raise the sales tax by .25 cents which would make the sales tax in that locality 7 cents. This would be accomplished through a referendum. Now is that just special, localities will have to raise taxes, not the Raleigh folks who took the money in the first place.

The League of Municipalities is concerned about this centralization of authority over the last three decades. This bill under scores the concern. North Carolina has operated on the Dillion's Principle of granting local government authority

• See MAYOR page 19

• LETTERS •

Don't let the state take our sales tax money

Dear Editor,

I think eliminating the local sales tax and local control of that tax is a really bad idea for communities such as Highlands, Cashiers and other areas that depend on tourism.

As proposed, the tax is to be administered by the state of North Carolina and given to the cities and counties on a per capita basis.

That would mean that Highlands would be seen as having a population of about 900, Cashiers, 157 and Franklin, 3,900 residents. Yet during the summer months that balloons to over ten times the full-time resident count.

So how are they going to make up the difference, will someone in Raleigh decide how to offset this?

It amazes me that the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners would sign off on this. Has the NCACC consulted anyone in the tourist areas - mountains, coast and areas such as Asheville?

Too bad that someone has not come up with a plan to allow all property owners to have some sort of say in what goes on in the state legislature.

This will kill our area and all other areas that depend on tourism.

Really bad idea.

Jim Rogers
Norton Community
& Oakwood, GA

Yes, to Mayor Taylor

Dear Editor,

Patrick Taylor's recent letter about litter control is so on target. Living on Highway 28 the problem of litter is obvious every single day. Are people so against taking the refuse from fast food, smoking, drinking and cleaning out their cars that they cannot put it all into the multitude of litter containers?

I once heard on a radio ad from South Carolina that they had a "vigilante" telephone number to call if you saw someone littering. The car tag would be given to the authorities and fines would be imposed.

Messing up your living space is just plain lazy and gross. Let's all show leadership on this issue—pick it up, encourage recycling and guide our citizens in the way of cleanliness.

Glenda Bell
Highlands

The 'No evidence for GOD' belief is foolishness

Dear Editor,

Some believe there is no evidence for God, so therefore faith is foolish and belief is nothing more than wishful thinking. Some say only science that is based on evidence and is trustworthy. This is what atheists and people such as Richard Dawkins,

Sam Harris and others believe and it is now part of modern thinking. It is also now politically correct to question anything in reference to God, and such discussions are only acceptable if kept in the confines of church.

This steering away from faith is evident within politics and education. But science too, has tremendous faith in what can't be proven physically. Science gives sources for energy, gravity, and light, but where are its origins, where do these come from? Gravity keeps our feet to the ground, holds our earth, solar system and universe in place, but where do we point to its beginning source? Does guessing or

• See LETTERS page 5

Highlands Newspaper

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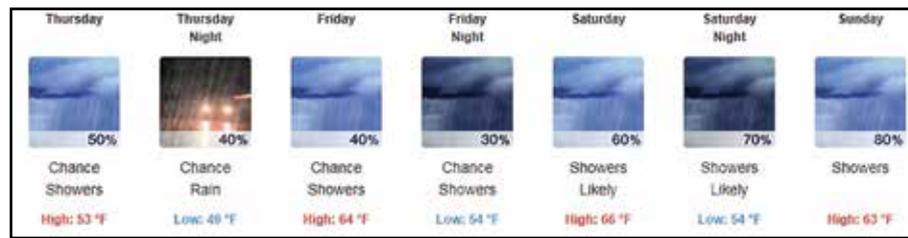
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Letter Policy:

We reserve the right to reject or edit letters-to-the-editor. No anonymous letters will be accepted. Views expressed are not necessarily those of Highlands Newspaper.

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE



• OBITUARY •

Mary Bazan

Mary Bazan, age 94, of Highlands, NC died Tuesday, March 31, 2015 at Fidelia-Eckerd Living Center.

She was born in New York City, NY, the daughter of Roman and Anastasia Zaharchik. She was loving wife of 35 years to the late Nicolas Bazan. She was a loving mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. She was of the Greek Catholic Faith.

She is survived by a daughter, Victoria Buckle Clark of St. Helena, CA; a son, Nicholas Bazan of Highlands, NC; grandchildren, Garrett, Robie & Deanna Buckle, Samanta Nichole Bazan & Bret Bazan and Emily Vavrichek; one great granddaughter, Hailey Buckle.

A service was held April 7th at St. Mary's Cemetery in Centralia, PA
In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made in Mary Bazan's honor to Fidelia-Eckerd Living Center, 250 Hospital Drive, Highlands, NC 28741

Bryant-Grant Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

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



• MILESTONE •

Highlander is running the Boston Marathon to raise funds for cancer research

By Brian Egler

I am running my 15th Boston Marathon on behalf of the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. On April 20th, I will again join over 550 other Dana-Farber runners in an effort to raise over \$8 million in the critical fight against cancer.

Personally, I have lost my Uncle Lee, Aunt Henrietta, Uncle Curly and Aunt Patricia to cancer and I will continue to run in their memory. If you would like me to run in honor of someone who has battled cancer, please let me know and I will include their name on my running singlet on marathon day.

I have set a personal fundraising goal of \$7,000. All funds -- a full 100% raised by DFMC -- benefit the Claudia Adams Barr Program in Innovative Basic Cancer Research, widely recognized as one of the largest and most successful programs of its kind.

The Barr Program funds the brightest, most creative scientists who are making basic research discoveries that are transforming cancer treatment.

For instance, Barr Program support in 1998-2000 and 2002-2004 enabled Rosalind Segal, MD, PhD, to discover that a genetic pathway called "Notch" is consistently dam-



Brian Egler

aged in brain tumors. Drugs already exist for other diseases to target Notch, and exciting new clinical trials are now underway to explore opportunities to use these drugs for brain cancer patients. That has the potential to significantly improve survival for this devastating cancer that affects nearly 23,000 patients every year. Running 26.2 miles is hard. Training for the marathon during the winter months is hard (even in North Carolina!) but none of this compares with the fight that those with cancer endure each and every day.

If you would like to join this cause go to: <http://www.runDFMC.org/2015/briane> to make a donation. Thanks for your consideration.

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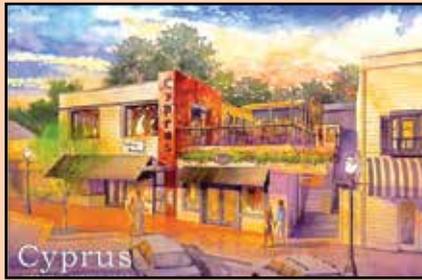
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...LETTERS continued from page 2

wishful thinking get us there? Does science say, belief in gravity is just a crutch for living because you can't point to a physical piece of gravity?

Science and faith complement each other.

Science quantifies and verifies what is already there, and reflects God's handiwork and existence daily. The intricate workings of our universe, solar system, earth, nature, man, and the internal workings of the heart, blood, eyes, the mind, even our DNA is so complex. Each discovery in science points to God's complexity, and we cannot fathom the depths of His being. (Romans 1:20)

But mostly science does not view it this way. It is not about God and his creative nature. This stance is probably because God is authoritative and carries a moral structure. In science of today there is no room for morals. This hasn't always been the case.

At one time, science viewed itself through a Biblical reference or point of view. But modern science has a final voice in what we are to believe and think.

There is good and bad science, just like people are good (God's Image) and bad (evil). This can't be proved, but is so very evident. When nuclear energy was discov-

ered, some used it for good as in nuclear medicine and energy and then some use it for harm that threatens nations. This dichotomy is so blatantly evident to all because it's the world in which we live.

Science needs to find and acknowledge the root cause of good and evil but it can't because this leads to God.

His word answers and explains this dilemma, from beginning to end, and we are part of this dilemma, whether you have faith in Him, or not. Keep Thinking.

Deni Shepard
Franklin

...LEGISLATION from page 1

Transparency Bill – would require two elections currently conducted on a nonpartisan basis to become three partisan-based elections. This would make all school board, city council, and judicial races partisan affairs.

This would be a change for many counties, whose ballots do not reveal the party affiliation of the candidates running.

What is this about?

According to Politics-NC April 2 posting by John Wynne. "There are a lot of local elected officials, especially in rural counties, who are Democrats but the voters don't know it. Forcing their party affiliation to be revealed on the ballot would probably provide a boost for Republican candidates."

So far Town Board members in Highlands, Franklin, the MC Board of Education and the MC Commission have expressed views against the proposed legislation while questioning the reason for it.

At the April 9 special called Board of Education meeting, the board went on record against the legislation when members signed a letter to Senator Jim Davis and Rep. Roger West against the notion.

"SB 650 would provide for partisan school board elections across our state. The Macon County Board of education is made up of five individuals dedicated to improving the education of each and every student in Macon County. We feel strongly that interjecting partisan politics into the election of our members adds nothing of value and is not in the best interest of our students," reads the letter.

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Chris Baldwin said he has no idea why this is being proposed.

"I don't know of a single problem facing our schools that could be solved by making school board elections partisan," he said.

Franklin's Mayor Bob Scott thinks it's a bad idea, too.

"One of my fears about making non-partisan elections partisan is that it will create a situation where em-

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...LEGISLATION continued from page 5

ployees may become subject to political whims and even possible firings," he said. "The NC Legislature has already interfered in local governments by making them subject to district elections,

partisan, and restructuring the numbers on the boards."

In fact, no one who responded to questions regarding this proposed legislation is for it.

"If boards of education and

the municipalities want to have partisan elections that should be their and the local communities' decision; and that goes for establishing districts in counties, too," said MC Commissioner and President of the NCACC Ronnie Beale. "This is Raleigh wanting even more local control."

Highlands Mayor Pat Taylor, who has spoken against the proposed SB 369 – The Fair Sales Tax Fairness Act – feels strongly about this move, as well.

"To be effective, municipal officials must work with citizens and civic groups in the spirit of making decisions for the community good. Declarations of partisan affiliations would hinder this grassroots cooperative spirit by applying external pressures on local officials to support party dogmas and positions," said Taylor. "I would also be concerned about the influx of external funding as parties attempt to control elected positions at all levels. Potential independent, community minded candidates might find the costs too exorbitant even to run."

He also disclosed another move in Raleigh about changing municipal elections to coincide with the even-year state and national elections – the justification being that it would save costs and increase voter turnout.

"I believe the nonpartisan model for municipal elections should remain on the odd-year

cycle currently in place. If not, the issues of municipal governance would be overshadowed by state and national issues," he said. "Also, the voting public would be overwhelmed by the sheer number of candidates on the ballot vying for their consideration. Let's keep nonpartisan, local elections truly local by holding them in the current off-year cycle."

Highlands Town Board member Brian Stiehler is strongly opposed to the proposition.

"This is one more dynamic that we don't need to deal with. I wish both parties, regardless of the level of politics, would start to ask, 'What is best for our communities and not worry about which party supports which cause. At times, I feel partisan politics strips away the common sense approach to decision making," he said. "Furthermore, it forces those politicians to 'think' a certain way and maintain a record if reelection is of interest. There is no value whatsoever to this, locally," he said.

Vice Chair MC Commissioner Jim Tate also weighed in.

"Local government is the most effective type of government simply because it doesn't require as many votes from elected officials to accomplish goals as it does at the state or national level. Because of this, partisan politics doesn't play as much of a role in our local government," he said.

"Most of our elected boards within Macon County have five-member seats, so it only takes three votes to pass an agenda item. I do not see the need for there to be partisan politics in our municipal or Board of Education elections."

However he did say, if Raleigh has its reasons, then he guesses that the counties, school boards and municipalities would have to abide.

"But I would be interested to hear their thought process and reasons," he said.

On March 30, the bill passed in the Senate on the first reading and it was referred to the Committee on Rules and Operations of the Senate.

Senate Bill 369 – The Fair Sales Tax Fairness Act – has gotten a lot of press lately, as it will negatively affect the bottomline of many NC municipalities and counties, particularly rural or small entities.

Sales tax collected at the local level and sent to the state would be reimbursed to the entities that collected it on a per capita basis.

(See Mayor Pat Taylor's message in "Mayor on Duty" on page 2 of this issue.)

SB 369 would severely affect small towns and counties in western North Carolina and coastal resort areas whose influx

• See LEGISLATION page 11

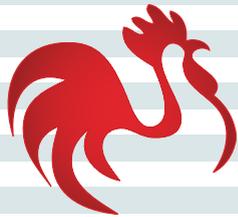
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...BOE continued from page 1

Superintendent Chris Baldwin and school Finance Director Angie Cook said the increase request comes after the North Carolina Department of Instruction gave districts early predictions on what funds are expected to be cut in next year's budget.

While compiling the budget request for commissioners, Cook had yet to receive a planning allotment from the state to use as a guide, so the budget was developed with a "worst case scenario" in mind.

One of the most significant funding shortfalls expected by the school system comes in teacher assistant funding.

Funds for teacher assistants have yo-yoed over the last few years, and while Governor Pat McCrory's proposed budget funds the position, the General Assembly continues to reduce the line item. To be prepared, Cook informed the board that her proposed budget was more in line with the House and Senate's view on the position.

"If everyone returns to work next year, we would have to pick their salaries up out of local funds," explained Baldwin in regards to teacher assistants.

Anticipating a reduction in state dollars, Cook presented board members with a budget proposal displaying a \$223,430 increase for teacher assistant funding. Last year, just over \$60,000 was used for the position, but with another reduction by the state, to keep the current staffing levels, which school officials described as minimal at best, the local budget would need to be increased to about \$285,000.

If the county does not fund the school system's full budget request, Baldwin presented board members with options as to how they would make up for a loss of funds for teacher assistants.

To cover the state reduction, Baldwin

told the board that the district could either reduce the number of hours assistants work to 30 hours per week and only require them to work on instructional days or absorb nine positions throughout the district.

Another personnel issue in the budget could cost the county \$90,000.

Last year, state officials gave a \$1,000 across the board raise for all state employees -- except for non-instruction support staff in public education. Bookkeepers, maintenance workers, custodial staff and other clerical positions only received a \$500 raise.

Baldwin explained that he understands there may be other priorities in the budget, but the district owes it to its staff to ask the county to match the state's allocation to ensure all employees receive the same consideration. The cost to provide the other half of the raise would be \$90,000.

The never ending Driver's Education debate also increased the local budget by more than \$70,000. Cook explained that as it stands, it looks as if Macon County may receive the current annual allotment for the program, but in the event it is cut, which is a possibility, the local budget would have to pick up the program. The local budget already pays about \$40,000 a year for the program which covers costs not paid for with other dollars.

If the program is cut completely, but remains mandatory, that line item would need to be bumped up to \$108,851.25.

If not fully funded by the county, Baldwin said one option would be to absorb one classroom teacher position or raise the fees for parents to \$225 per student. Right now, Macon County charges the maximum \$65 allowed by the state for Driver's Education. To be able to charge students more, the state would first have to raise the fee cap.

The budget was approved and is now in the hands of Derek Roland, Macon County Manager. Baldwin told the board that he, Cook, and board chair Jim Breedlove would be joining other department heads on May 15 to discuss the budget further with commissioners.

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are welcome. Please
bring a covered dish.**



COLLECTIVE SPIRITS FANTASTIC FRIDAY

May 15

am

FIRST OFF, join six winemakers/owners and Master Sommelier Andrea Robinson for the WOMEN of WINE Fashion Show & Luncheon at Highlands Country Club.

11:30 AM

\$100 per person

Featuring a Champagne Laurent- Perrier reception followed by an informal viewing of spring's finest fashions from Acorns Boutique while tasting wines and lunching with the owners/winemakers of six extraordinary properties.

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Special guest of honor Master Sommelier Andrea Robinson of the Delta Air Lines Culinary Team will be on hand to guide guests through winery selections to pair with Chef Bryant Withers' delectable lunch menu.

pm

AND...later that evening, join us on the Terrace at the Bascom for the "Stock Your Cellar" Wine Tasting & Market with more than 15 winery principals or winemakers and their finest vintages.

6:00 PM

\$150 per person

Purchase wines to get your cellar in shape for the Season with proceeds going to the Bascom.

Then after tasting, indulge in a little barbecue and bluegrass.



Chef Chris Hall of Atlanta's Local Three will present an old fashioned barbecue with all the fixin's while WellStrung offers the musical centerpiece for a perfectly delicious evening!

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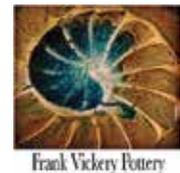


For tickets, contact Events at The Bascom 828.787.2896 or purchase www.CollectiveSpirits.com.

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...NUISANCE continued from page 1

argument including some who wanted to see the ordinance placed on the ballot, and others who wanted nothing to do with added regulations.

The ordinance, which applies to residences outside of the city limits of Franklin and Highlands, is in effect all hours of the day and focuses on loud, unnecessary, and disturbing noises.

By the ordinance's definition, loud, unnecessary, and disturbing noise means, "any noise intentionally created which because of its volume level, duration, and/or character, annoys, disturbs, injures, or endangers the comfort, health, peace, or safety of reasonable persons of ordinary sensibilities in the county."

The new law clearly outlines examples of violations by stating that the use of horns or signal devices, radios, stereos, sound-producing devices, electronic or mechanical devices, boisterous language, or shouting in a manner such that loud, unnecessary, and disturbing noise as defined would each be in violation.

In addition to providing examples of acts that would be in violation, the ordinance clearly defines exemptions that are permitted which include:

- a. Necessary noise from normal and legal operations of any industrial operation, commercial business, nonprofit organization, or governmental facility or function.
- b. Noise resulting from the normal maintenance and operation(s) of residential and commercial property.
- c. Noise resulting from agricultural and

horticultural operations.

d. Noise resulting from any authorized emergency vehicle or public safety vehicle and associated activities conducted from the same.

e. Noise resulting from any military, law enforcement activities, or educational institution of any federal, state, or local government to include military observance.

f. Noise resulting from emergency work necessary to preserve and/or restore property to a safe condition following a fire, accident, natural disaster, etc. or to restore public utilities.

g. Noise from any bell or chime from any building clock, school, or church.

h. Noise from lawful fireworks and noise makers on holidays and at religious ceremonies.

i. Noise created by any public recreational event or public entertainment activity.

j. Noise from firearms while being used in a lawful and safe manner.

Like other ordinance's in the county, the new measure will be enforced by the sheriff's department and any person who violates any provision of the ordinance will be charged with a class 3 misdemeanor and fined no more than \$500.

Commissioners said that in six months the nuisance ordinance will make its way back to the agenda to see how it has held up and whether or not there have been any problems enforcing it. If necessary, commissioners can adjust the law at that time.

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...LEGISLATION continued from page 6

of tourists and second-home owners have historically ensured a healthy sales tax return. Senate Bill 369 would have the sales tax returned based on the year-round population which is significantly smaller than during tourist season.

Meanwhile the NCACC – whose longstanding mission is to seek what is best for all 100 counties especially in regards to having access to the resources they need to survive – is in discussion with the leadership in the House and Senate regarding SB 369 as well as other options.

The bill passed its first reading in the Senate on March 24, 2015 and was referred to the Committee on Finance.

According to Mayor Pat Taylor, SB 369 and SB 650 are examples of how a centralized state government is making top down decisions that impact citizens at the local level.

At last Thursday's special BOE meeting, the School Board signed a letter to Senator Jim Davis and Rep. Roger West regarding HB 535 – Promoting Charter School Success Pilot, too.

This legislation would appropriate \$2 million over the next two years for the

purpose of improving the success of charter schools in North Carolina.

“While we understand the appeal of “school choice,” we consider fully funding our public schools a priority that takes precedent. We feel strongly that all of our students deserve a world class education.

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By publicly funding ‘school choice’ options, a tiered system of educational quality is virtually assured,” reads the letter. “Additionally, we are concerned with the lack of fiscal oversight and accountability associated with the ‘school choice’ movement. We ask that the funds appropriated for HB 535 instead be used to restore funding to

our textbook allocation, or for teacher assistants at the second grade level.”

The bill has just started the gamut. It was introduced in the house April 1, 2015 by Rob Bryan (Rep) District 88, Cecil Brockman (Dem) District 60, and Brian Brown (Rep) District 9.

– Kim Lewicki

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April 23, 24, 25, & 26 2015

Evening Performances: 7:30pm
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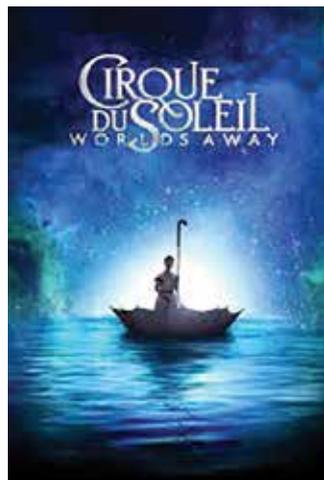
Celluma's deeply penetrating wavelengths kill the bacteria that causes breakouts, while reducing the inflammation, pimples and redness associated with acne. A reduction in lesions and overall improvement in skin appearance is often seen in a matter of weeks.



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• HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

The Highlands Playhouse invites you to transport yourself...to a 'World Away'



A young woman in a small Mid-Western town goes to a traveling carnival one evening, where she is urged by a silent clown to visit the carnival's circus and see The Aerialist, the show's star attraction. She is entranced by The Aerialist, but during his act he misses a catch and falls to the ground. She rushes to help him, but then the ground beneath them gives way and they fall through into the dreamlike world of Cirque du Soleil. Separated, they travel through the different tent worlds trying to find each other, interacting with the strange and wonderful performers and performances of Cirque du Soleil.

We are thrilled to be able to offer *Cirque du Soleil: Worlds Away* to local audiences. From the big top to the big screen, visionary filmmaker James Cameron and director Andrew Adamson joined forces to create a visual cinematic feast for the senses. Viewers will have the chance to see a screening of the live act like never before, join the acrobats and aerialists as they soar through the air and feel the tension of the moment as if you were part of the show.

There will be 4 chances to catch this dreamlike attraction: April 20 and 21 at 2pm and 5pm. Tickets are only \$10 and can be bought at the door at the time of the show or reserved beforehand by calling the box office at (828) 526-2695. Full concession service will be available. Audience members of all ages are invited to attend.

Ongoing

- Church of the Incarnation and the First Presbyterian Church are collecting food items for the Highlands Emergency Council and the Food Pantry. Drop off boxes are in the Ravenel Room at First Presbyterian and in the downstairs lobby at the Church of the Incarnation. Monetary donations also accepted. Make checks out to Highlands MountainTop Rotary.

- The Cub and Boy Scouts of America have three drop offs for worn and tattered flags. They properly retire them. Drop offs at Highlands Dillards and Windows 2242 Dillard Road, the Highlands Fire Station or Highlands United Methodist Church office. Contact Phil Potts for more information 828 526-3719

Thurs.-Sun.

- Movies at the Playhouse: Thurs-Sunday. 2, 5 & 8 p.m. Call 526-2685 for weekly movie.

Monday

- 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.

First Tuesdays

- FAMILY and Caregiver Support Group Meets: for Individuals that have a friend, family member or loved one living with mental illness. Learn how peers deal with stress and emotional

overload. First Tuesday of Every Month 7-8 pm. Call Ann for more info (828) 369-7385

2nd and 4th Tuesdays

- OccupyWNC meets at the Jackson County Justice Center. For more information, visit www.occupywnc.org or call 828.331.1524

- TUESDAYS
- READing Paws dog "Beebles" will be at Hudson Library every Tuesday at 3:30pm. Please call (828)526-3031 to register.

- Free Community Table Dinner at the Community Bldg. at 6p.

- Zumba at the Rec Park at 8:05a. \$5.

Mon., Wed., Fri.

- Heart Healthy Exercise Class Monday, Wednesday and Friday 8:30am-9:30am

- Aerobics with Tina Rogers 8-9a.

- Zumba at the Rec Park at 9:05a. \$5

1st Wednesdays

- Family Movies at the Hudson Library at 3:15pm. Call 828-526-3031 for titles.

3rd Wednesdays

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

Thursdays

- Yoga at the Rec Park 8:15 a.m. \$6 per class.

- Storytimes with Miss Deanna at Hudson Library 10:40am. Open to the public.

- Weight Watchers support group meets every Thursday at 6pm at the Cashiers Community Center. Questions? Call Lisa 828-506-3555.

- NAMI Support Group for individuals dealing with mental illness: depression, bipolar, schizophrenia, etc. and the family members of individuals dealing with these challenges from 7 – 8:15 pm. Call Donita for more info (828) 526-9510.

2nd Thursdays

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

3rd Thursdays

- Kidney Smart Classes in Franklin: Every 3rd Thursday of month, 4:30pm-6pm, Angel Medical Center, Video Conference Room, 3rd Floor, 120 Riverview Street, Contact Majestic 828-369-9474

- Kidney Smart Classes in Sylva: Every 3rd Thursday of month, 7:30am-9am, DaVita Sylva Dialysis Center, 655 Asheville Highway, Contact Sue 828-631-0430

Last Fri. of each month

- Community Coffee with Mayor Pat Taylor from 11a to noon at The Hudson Library.

Sundays

- At the Mountain Laurel Tennis Club at 4:30 pm. Multi-denominational, Interactive Bi-

Free Baroque ensemble concert at Episcopal Church April 24

On Friday, April 24, Waldo Baroque and Friends – an ensemble of baroque musicians led by the Bishop of the Diocese



of Upper South Carolina, The Rt. Rev. Andrew Waldo – will perform for free at the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation at 5 p.m.

Bishop Waldo's wife and son, Mary and James, are part of the group, as well. In addition, Waldo Baroque invites talented musicians to perform with them. This performance will feature Andrew and Mary Waldo on baroque recorder, James Waldo and Barbara Krumbieck on baroque cello, and Jared Johnson on harpsichord.

A reception will follow the concert. An offering for the Diocese's work education at Ecole

Bon Sauveur, an Episcopal School in Cange, Haiti will be collected.

The Diocese of Upper South Carolina has been working in Haiti's Central Plateau for 36 years. The people of Cange and the people of Upper South Carolina pledged to be each other's people for life. The results of this special relationship consist of a profound improvement in education, infrastructure and economic development. The diocese is joined by many partners - religious, corporate and educational - including The Episcopal Church of the Incarnation, Highlands, which joined in on the work 15

years ago.

There is an urgent need to fund education in Cange, Haiti, the largest village of the Central Plateau, through Ecole Bon Sauveur, built by the diocese of Upper South Carolina in the early 1980s. The 2010 earthquake in Haiti and the political instability that followed it have made the need ever more pressing. Ecole Bon Sauveur is one of the key institutions in the area.

Prepare to be amazed at the beautiful music you will hear at the concert.

• HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

ble Study and Fellowship.

Fri., April 17

- Kindergarten Orientation at East Franklin Elementary at 9 a.m.

- Kindergarten Orientation at South Macon Elementary at 9:15 a.m.

- Senior Dinner at the Rec Park is Friday at noon. The Menu will be Fried Chicken, Broccoli and Cheese casserole, Mashed Potatoes and Gravy, rolls and salad.. It's free.

- WCU's School of Music will present Little Red Riding Hood...a Children's Opera at 3 p.m. in Coleman Hall of the First Presbyterian Church. There will also be a 1 p.m. performance for Highlands School children K-4. The performance is free.

- Free Oyster Roast at The Bascom to celebrate the Pottery Studio expansion from 6-10p

Sat., April 18

- The Highlands Plateau Greenway will conduct its monthly work day from 9a-noon this Saturday. If you are interested in participating, please email Ran Shaffner at highlands-greenway@nctv.com or leave a message at 828-526-5622. We'll meet at the large upper parking lot (near the pool entrance) in the Recreation Park at 9 AM for a brief orientation session, and you will be furnished with the necessary tools and safety equipment.

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take an easy-to-moderate hike, elevation change 600 ft., to High Falls/ Thurston Hatcher Falls in Jackson County with wildflowers along the trail and a dramatic dam release that day exciting thing to see. Meet at Cashiers Recreation Park at 9 am, drive 18 miles round trip. Call leader Jody Burtner, 828-788-2985, for reservations. Hike limited to 10 people.

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate-to-strenuous 5-mile hike to Windy Falls, a seldom visited falls on

Horse Pasture River in Gorges State Park. Elevation change is 700 ft. with steep descent the last ¼ mile. Meet at Cashiers Recreation Park at 10 am, drive 40

miles round trip. Call leader Mike Kettle, 828-743-1079, for reservations.

Sun., April 19

• See EVENTS page 14

Wildflower Whimsy at Highlands Biological Station May 8 & 9

Wildflower Whimsy will take place this May 8-9 at the Highlands Biological Station in celebration of our treasured spring wildflowers. Each spring,

before the forests fill with lush, green leaves - and the taste of a harsh and gray winter still lingers - the mountains offer a reprieve: a wild garden of spring wildflowers buried in the leaf litter of the forest floor erupts with quiet color. Characterized by low growing and delicate flowers, this fleeting world is easily unseen if you're not looking for it, as these particular flowers must bloom, fruit, and go to seed before the leaves of the trees fill in the canopy and block the sunlight. Many of these plants will go back into dormancy in a matter of weeks - or days - until next spring.

The science behind the timing of these ephemeral flowers is also delicate, fleeting, and beautiful. Complex interactions between environmental and biological factors - the character of the winter, temperature above and below ground, moisture, humidity, slope, altitude, and wind, and insect pollinator emergence - are responsible for this burst of activity, but balance is essential. The uncertainty of spring wildflowers in the May woods makes the discovery of new blooms so precious.

Whether you daydream of sweeping patches of trout



lilies and beds of bloodroot to stave off the winter blues, or you're curious about this diminutive world, Wildflower Whimsy promises to deliver.

This celebration will deepen your appreciation of spring ephemerals, sharpen your observation skills, and show you some of our favorite places to discover wildflowers. On Friday evening, May 8th, whet your palette with heavy hors d'oeuvres, a wine reception and native plant auctions after a lecture on native plants and pollinators by Nancy Adamson of the Xerces Society at 5:30pm. The next morning at 10am, expand your knowledge on a guided wildflower walk - choose your walk from our handpicked selection of favorite places to seek out new blooms with local and regional experts.

All proceeds from this event benefit the Highlands Biological Foundation, which supports the three pillars of the Highlands Biological Station: the Nature Center, Botanical Garden, and Laboratory. Our shared mission is to foster research and education focused on the rich natural heritage of the Highlands Plateau. Members of the Foundation receive a discount on tickets. For more information about Wildflower Whimsy, visit www.highlandsbiological.org/wildflower-whimsy/ or call (828) 526-2221.

PAC Youth Theater presents 'Spotlight Two' April 23-26



The Martin Lipscomb Performing Arts Center Youth Theater production is coming up on its eighth year and it doesn't show any signs of slowing down. This year they will SPOTLIGHT TWO: One Act plays that will be sure to knock your socks off.

To start things off, the PAC Youth Theater will present a farce comedy for all of the single ladies. There will be a special guest speaker, Miss Georgina Quackenbush, a single woman herself, and her demonstrators. These people will help to teach us how to capture and keep a husband. Will Ms. Quackenbush have every one of her demonstrators running for the nearest exit, or will the night go as planned?

In the second performance, a scientist by the name of Dr. Henning will take three test subjects and assign them each a spot in a room. Each person's place has one thing that the other two don't, but none of the people knows what they have. What will they do when they want more space in the room? To learn that, come down to the Performing Arts Center and find out.

The production stars area students from Blue Ridge, Highlands and those who are home schooled. Directed by Dr. Ronnie Spilton, the times of the performances are as follows:

- Student Performance: Wednesday, April 22, 10 am & 1pm (no charge for the Wednesday performances)

- Thursday - Sunday, April 23-26. Evening Performances: 7:30pm Sunday Matinee: 2:30pm

Tickets for adults are \$10 and \$5 for students. They are available online at highlandspac.org or by calling the Performing Arts Center: 828.526.9047

• HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

- Missionaries from Turkey, Jesse and Kimmy Ward, will share their church planting experiences in a country that is 99.9% Muslim at the Multi-denominational Bible Study on Sunday. The presentation begins at 6 pm and will take place at the Mountain Laurel Tennis Club. Covered dish fellowship will follow the presentation. All Welcome!

- At PAC, Live HD Series, Ivan the Terrible, 12:55 p.m., Adults \$20, Students, \$10, PAC Members, \$17. Tickets available online at highlandspac.org or by calling 828-526-9047

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take an easy-one-mile hike around the lake at Black

Rock Mt. State Park, drive up to the Visitor Center for views of Clayton and surrounding mountains and visit a small nature museum. Share a parking fee of \$4. Meet at Westgate Plaza in Franklin at 2:00, drive 15 miles round trip. Call leader Kay Coriell, 369-6820, for reservations.

Mon. - Tues, April 20 & 21

- At The Highlands Playhouse, Cirque de Soleil: Worlds Away 2 and 5 p.m. Tickets are \$10. Buy them at the box office. Or call 828-526-2695

Tues., April 21

- Kindergarten Orientation at Nantahala Elementary at 6 p.m.

Thurs.-Sun., April 23-26

- PAC's Youth Theatre will present Spotlight on 2 One Acts:

A Game and How to Capture & Keep a Husband. 7:30 p.m. in the evenings and 2:30 p.m., Sunday matinee. Adults are \$10 and students are \$5. Call 828-526-9047 for tickets.

Thurs., April 23

- Kindergarten Orientation at Highlands School at 10 a.m.

Fri., April 24

- Kindergarten Orientation at Lotla Valley Elementary at 8:30 a.m.

- Kindergarten Orientation at Cartoogechaye Elementary at 9 a.m.

Fri., April 24

- Community Coffee with Mayor Patrick Taylor is at the Hudson Library in the Meeting Room from 11a to noon. This month he will be discussing and answering questions about the budget. Coffee with the mayor is on the last Friday of each month

- Waldo Baroque and Friends will perform a free concert at the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation in Highlands on at 5 pm. A reception will follow the concert. An offering for the Diocese's work education at Ecole Bon Sauveur, an Episcopal School in Cange, Haiti will be collected.

Sat. April 25

- Gorge Cleanup from 9:30a to 2p. This year's cleanup will be in honor of the late Jacpot who started the clean up many years ago. After the clean up there will be a cook out at Cliffside Lake. To volunteer call Jennifer Cunningham at the Highlands Visitor Center at 828-526-2112.

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate-to-strenuous 9.5 mile hike, elevation change 1200 ft., to Palmer Creek in the Smoky Mtns. Park in the Cataloochee area, following the creek all the way up. Meet at Waynesville Ingles at 9am, drive 40 miles round trip from Waynesville. Call leader Keith Patton, 828-456-8895. Visitors welcome, no dogs please.

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a very strenuous 10.6

mile hike, elevation change 2700 ft., to Cold Mountain in the Shining Rock Wilderness, part of the Dirty Dozen Wilderness Hike Challenge, beginning and returning to the Daniel Boone Boy Scout Camp. Meet in the old WalMart parking lot near KFC at 8 am. Drive 80 miles round trip. Call leaders Bill/Sharon Van Horn, 828-369-1983, for reservations. Limit of eight hikers. No dogs please.

Sun., April 26

- The Dedication Service for Goldmine Baptist Church Fellowship Hall will be Sunday, April 26, 2015 at 10:00 am. All family and friends are welcome. Please bring a covered dish.

Through, Sat., May 8

- The Highlands Cub Scout Pack 207 will be collecting items for the Appalachian Animal Rescue Center. Drop items off at the Highlands United Methodist Church on Main Street. For a list of items needed, call 828-200-9753.

Saturday, May 2

- Macon County Public Health will hold several Rabies Vaccination Clinics in the Highlands area on Saturday. Area veterinarians will vaccinate dogs, cats, and ferrets over 4 months of age, as required by NC state law. The cost is \$10 (cash only) per pet and all pets should be kept in vehicles, on leashes, or in carriers. In Highlands: Highlands Conference Center 9am - 10:30 am Highlands Cashiers Animal Clinic. In Scaly Mountain: At the Post Office 11 am - noon Highlands Cashiers Animal Clinic.

Monday, May 4

- The Rotary Club of Highlands will sponsor their 26th Annual Rotary Golf Tournament at historic Highlands County Club. Entrance fee is \$150, with lunch and refreshments, as well as numerous prizes. All golfers are welcome for a day of golf and fun. Contact Joyce Baillargeon at (828) 526-0501 or Slocum Howland at (828) 526-9097 for an ap-

plication. All proceeds support community Rotary programs.

Fri. & Sat., May 8-9

- Wildflower Whimsy at the Highlands Biological Station. 5:30-8:30p on Friday and 10a to 2p on Saturday. This is an annual fundraiser for the Highlands Biological Station, the umbrella organization for the Botanical Garden and Nature Center. Tickets are \$75 for members and \$100 for non-members. Available at highlandsbiological.org/wildflower-whimsy/

Fri.-Sun., May 8-10

- Love Letters at The Highlands Playhouse at 2 p.m. each day. Tickets are \$25. Call 828-526-2695.

Tues. & Thurs., May 12-14

- At CLE, iPad Basics from 6-8 p.m. Cost is \$70 members/\$80 for nonmembers. To register, call 828-526-8811 or email clehighlands@yahoo.com

Friday, May 15

- Collective Spirits celebration at The Bascom. Women of Wine Fashion Show and Luncheon at Highlands Country Club at 11:30 a.m. \$100 per person. Featuring a champagne reception followed by an informal viewing of springs finest fashions from Acorns Boutique while tasting wines and lunching with the owners of six extraordinary properties. At 6 p.m., Stock Your Cellar Wine Tasting and Market on the terrace at The Bascom. Tickets are \$150 per person. The purchase of wines will benefit The Bascom. After the tasting it's BBQ and Bluegrass with Chef Christ Hall of Atlanta's Local Three. Tickets are available by phone at 828-787-2895 or at www.CollectiveSpirits.com

Tues. & Thurs., May 19-21

- At CLE, iPad Advanced from 6-8 p.m. Cost is \$70 members/\$80 for nonmembers. To register, call 828-526-8811 or email clehighlands@yahoo.com

Little Red Riding Hood Children's Opera is Fri., April 17



Western Carolina University's School of Music will present a free children's opera, *Little Red Riding Hood* by Seymour Barab at 3pm on Friday, April 17. The performance will take place in First Presbyterian Church's Coleman Hall - and will be directed by Dr. Mary Kay Bauer and musically directed by Dr. Bradley Martin, both faculty members in the WCU School of Music.

Actors in the opera are all voice students in the WCU School of Music. All area children (and adults too) are invited to attend. There will also be a 1pm performance in Coleman Hall to accommodate Highlands School children in grades K-4.

The story of Little Red Riding Hood is charming. It is filled with goodness and with evil, and of course a happy ending! The music is delightful and fun and fast paced. Both children and adults will enjoy this performance.

First Presbyterian Church is located at the corner of Main and Fifth Streets. Handicap entrances are located on Fifth Street and on Church Street.

• INVESTING AT 4,118 FT. •

Highlands Hits Its Stride



Jody Lovell
828-526-4104
highlandssir.com

See the entire article in Southbound Magazine <http://www.atlantamagazine.com/southbound-articles/highlands-hits-its-stride/>

• Jody and Wood Lovell own Highlands Sotheby's International Realty, the top-producing brokerage firm in Highlands in 2014. With two locations, one at

the entrance of Cullasaja Club and one in The Old Edwards' Inn Complex, they will be moving their downtown location to the new Bryson building at the corner of Main Street and Highway 64. They and their team of 19 brokers can be reached at (828) 526-4104.



A family friend, Allison Entrekim, just wrote an amazing article about Highlands in Southbound Magazine entitled "Highlands Hits Its Stride." The theme is based on Highlands becoming a year-round destination for the young and upwardly mobile as well as a summer retreat for wealthy retirees and their families. Described as a "cocoon" that swelled in population from 1,200 to 30,000 during the summers and contracted after Labor Day, Allison observes correctly that there is now a shift from a secret summer enclave to a popular year-round destination.

The background of Highlands is accurately described from Kelsey and Hutchinson's sleepy epicenter from North to South with the catalyst for change being Art and Angela Williams' commitment to creating a luxury, European-style hotel in the heart of Highlands. The undeniable success of their vision has resulted in Conde Nast Traveler recently naming The Old Edwards Inn the fourth-best hotel in the country, forty-fifth in the world and the best overall in the South. This well-deserved acclaim attracts people from all over the world who never would have heard of Highlands.

Quoting a young devotee in her forties, the article observes that the wedding business fills the town with twenty and thirty-somethings who return to vacation after attending a weekend event. "Ten years ago, most folks in Highlands were between fifty-five and seventy; today, the majority is between thirty-five and fifty." Allison correctly comments that the older crowd hasn't left nor been alienated, but that a younger layer has arrived.

My favorite quote in the article is from Art Williams who says "The town's soul still feels the same. It's still a neat, old, wacky Main Street. It's not a museum. It's a real, live place where real, live people work and live." Working here now going on fifteen years, I can attest to this positive growth in the real estate community. Just last week, a couple from Minneapolis made an appointment for a tour. They carefully analyzed all fifty states for retirement and chose North Carolina as their top state. As soon as they started to discuss North Carolina, friends and colleagues insisted they visit Highlands. After just one day, they espoused that our community exceeded all of their expectations!

Based on all of this positive energy and attention, 2015 should be a record-setting year for "investing on the Plateau."

Falling Waters



Falling Waters... is a newer well maintained 52 acre community just 2.8 miles from Main St. Highlands. Secluded but not remote, no road noise, no thru traffic...peaceful, quiet and private.



The land is well forested and gentle, easy building sites and a pleasant place to walk. Two waterfalls and several creeks add charm and interest to many home sites. Paved roads, Underground utilities & Gated.

Would love to build BUT.....

Neil & Paula Van Hoogen (the developers) can help. We are knowledgeable, experienced and love the building process. We can assist with the many decisions, choices and options. In your absence, we will be your eyes and ears watching out for your best interest. Let's explore the possibilities!

Welcome...Come Visit.

GPS Address:

**78 Black Bear Trace
Highlands, NC 28741**

From Main St. take NC 106 toward Dillard. 1.8 miles turn R on Mt. Laurel Dr., 3 tenths mile, turn L on Moonlight.

Entrance is on the R
highlandsnchomesites.com
www.highlandsnchomesites.com

828-508-9952

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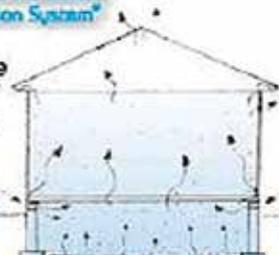
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...HOSPITAL continued from page 1

good for the hospital, its employees, and the community, the alliance, says Ring, though turbulent as any transition often is, is working out for the best.

Hospital Foundation board member and retired orthopedic surgeon Slocum Howland understands some of the challenges but he and Ring see a bright

future for H-C Hospital.

“The landscape of medicine is changing, especially for small hospitals in rural communities,” said Howland. “I think the affiliation with Mission is good for H-C Hospital and the community.”

For one thing the hospital has no debt and instead of consistently losing \$3 million a year, it's now only losing a little over \$1 million.

“Of course the hope now is that the hospital will break even from now on or that Mission will subsidize it so that it will do OK,” he said.

Fundraising is still necessary – though not for operational expenses or to keep the doors open as in the past.

According to Howland, the foundation now raises money for three things only: primary care – so the hospital can attract physicians to the area and perhaps subsidize their practices until they get on their feet; to update equipment to ensure reliable diagnostics and to refurbish the Emergency Room (ER).

Recruiting and keeping Primary Care Physicians is difficult all over the country because they don't make as much money as specialists, so that is a prime goal of Mission Health and H-C Hospital.

“We also want to always have the latest state-of-the-art diagnos-

tic abilities and we want to make the bays in the ER more private, not just separated by a curtain,” he said.

A key component to the Mission/H-C Hospital alliance is the telemedicine capabilities which are available via the T-1 line that connects Highlands to Mission; and this is often used in the ER.

“It means access to a specialist who can actually see you and talk to you to establish the state of health first-hand from miles away. It's an instant consultation,” said Howland.

The ability to see and talk to both the patient and the ER doctor and see the results of the tests already administered, means no down time, no travel time; just immediate attention and care by an expert in a particular field.

Once the specialist telecommunicates with the patient and doctors, the staff both here and afar can decide if the patient needs bed care at H-C Hospital or something more. If it's something more it means an ambulance or helicopter ride to Mission in Asheville.

“For a rural community it's phenomenal. This means access to a specialist without leaving town,” said Howland.

But when it's not something more, it's important to have a hospital with beds for those patients who doctors determine need at-



Jackie Ring
President/Chief Nursing
Officer
H-C Hospital

attention but not necessarily a trip to Asheville.

That's why H-C Hospital won't become an expanded ER or triage unit.

One thing Howland stressed was the fact that it was the hospital board who decided to close the surgery unit at H-C Hospital, not Mission.

Running a hospital is a business and if there isn't enough business to justify a surgery center and the doctors to staff it full time, it just made good business sense to close it, said Howland.

“We had eight surgeries in a month. That's just not enough. Doctors have to stay busy to keep their skills honed,” he said. “So, it's good news that this hospital has aligned itself with Mission; it's good for the hospital and it's good for the community.”

The truth is, in the past many people in the community chose to have surgeries and procedures at Mission before H-C Hospital was affiliated with it, as well as at Harris Regional Hospital simply because it was less expensive. Howland and Ring suggest that may have been true, but the affiliation has changed things.

Ring echoed much of Howland's sentiment about the future and the affiliation but spoke from a nurse's point of view.

“Mission gives us the depth and clinical expertise which is

huge for a small hospital. Mission has been tremendously supportive and I wouldn't have come here if Mission's mission wasn't in line with mine which is patient quality,” she said.

As president she is working to bring specialized services to Highlands by drawing from the Mission Health system.

“It's true that we don't do surgeries that would require general anesthesia, but there are many surgical procedures we can do in our surgery like colonoscopies even ophthalmology procedures. I am working with a number of specialists in the Mission Health system about coming to Highlands a couple of days a week,” she said. “I want to build this back up and bring as many health services as possible to the community so there is access whether here, or by telemedicine, or at Mission.”

She agreed that transition and change are hard but these changes had to take place to keep the hospital viable.

“Yes, this represents a change in the way services will be delivered, but they will still be available,” she said.

Ring is currently looking for nurse practitioners and primary care physicians but is experiencing what other recruiters have experienced for decades – it's hard to recruit doctors and nurses to the hospital because it's too expensive to live in Highlands. And hopefully that's how the Hospital Foundation can help.

“For instance, because of the cost of living here, the hospital was using travel nurses to fill positions, but they get paid double. So there are cost concerns. I'm trying to work out a solution to that. If I can limit costs and keep good care in this community, I will be happy.”

Ring has a slew of degrees and certifications – MBA/MHA, RN, FACHE, and NEA-C but under it all she's a nurse foremost and is straightforward, up front and genuine when she says it's the community she wants to provide and care for.

– Kim Lewicki

Moore signs with Lee University

Highlands School Senior Davis Moore signed his national letter of intent to run track and cross country at Lee University on Wednesday, April 15 at Highlands School.

Moore said he decided to attend Lee University after visiting the campus and meeting the track coach.

"The school stood out in that it places a high emphasis on distance running," he said. "They have an impressive cross country and track program full of talented runners. I am excited and honored to have the opportunity to join them."

Moore's track coach Ryan Kean at Highlands School said Moore's rise to the top is pretty amazing.

"Believe it or not, Davis has only been running competitively at Highlands for the last school year. So the fact that he is signing on to an NCAA Division II school with a reputable athletics program with such a

small time frame to establish his own reputation is something to be proud of," he said.

Kean said characteristics he displayed in the classroom were seen on the field, as well.

"He was my student before my athlete, and I was always impressed with the work ethic and enthusiasm he brought to the classroom and I'm glad to say that those same characteristics carry on into races. He is as disciplined and as motivated as they come," he said. "It is nice to see his character being recognized in such a way."

Lee University is in Cleveland, TN and is said to be emerging as a leader in higher education in the southeastern region. According to U.S. News & World Report the Christian institution is consistently ranked in the "Top Tier" in the south.

Pictured with Davis is his family and Coach Ryan Kean and Highlands Roadrunner member Morris Williams.

- Kim Lewicki



Photo by Ann Porter

• HIGHLANDS SCHOOL SPRING SPORTS TEAMS •



VARSITY TRACK: Montana McElroy, Remy Adrian, Christopher Benton, Cole Drummonds, Carter Potts, Jose Jimenez, David Rogers, Kyle Dorsey



MS TRACK: Taj Roman, Jaden Hames, Freddie Lopez, Abbey Olivera, Gracie Forrester, Marilyn Valero, Julia Egler, Pablo Jimenez, Jonathan Miller

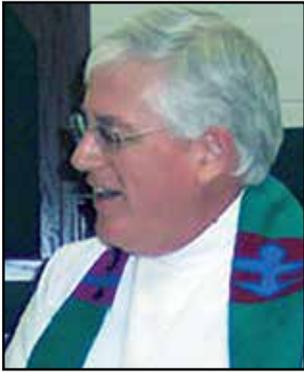


GOLF: Coach Kyle Gabbard, Austin Nichols, Kyle Gabbard, Brent Amundrud, Johnny Lupoli, not pictured Davis Moore.



TENNIS: Max Renfro, Harrison Renfro, Kyle Iezzi, Tucker Johnson, Jackson Hall, Chandler Stolfus. (Not all are pictured.)
Photos by Kim Lewicki

Jesus arisen to fear



Father Jim Murphy
Christ Anglican Church
Cashiers

When my bride and I were married nearly three decades ago, we made a pact with each other. We agreed that neither of us would egregiously surprise the other. Both of us were “surprise averse” you might say, especially when said surprise was anything other than private. We didn’t like exposure to situations where the “unknown” might be encountered, indeed, we feared them.

Our distaste for the unknown has not changed during our lives and I think that most folks can identify with that. Sure there are the thrill seekers and adrenaline junkies that feed off of mystery and darkness, but the vast majority of us have a high level of appreciation for having everything out in the light. “What you see is what you get” is a simply fine state of being for me and most, thank you very much!

That being the case, it is understandable that the folks who went to Jesus’ tomb in the wee hours of the first Easter morning were fearful, disbelieving and afraid. Whether it was the women who went early to attend to Jesus’ remains or the disciples who later learned of the mysterious disappearance of the Lord’s body, fear and disbelief were their early reactions. Indeed, on multiple post-resurrection occasions when people found themselves in the presence of the risen Savior, there was more often than not disbelief and a heightened degree of anxiety. Even after he had told them that all this would happen.

Yet, who could blame them? For the most part, we all have a little of Missouri in us. When push comes to shove, many of us live in a kind of “Show Me” state. We like surety, we demand proof, just like the Apostle Thomas did. Truth to tell, we prefer to be our own eye-witnesses.

Compounding the difficulty with believing that Christ was raised from the dead is a certain amount of cultural baggage that humanity has carried throughout its history. We’re all raised in a culture where we’re taught that death has the final say. That no one cheats death, it’s the end. How could anyone believe that Jesus was alive?

That is where faith in God comes in. The faith that Jehovah exists, to be sure! The faith that the risen Redeemer is Light and that in him there is no darkness at

Proverbs 3:5

BLUEVALLEY 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

CHAPEL OF SKYVALLEY

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

CHRIST ANGLICAN CHURCH

Rector: Jim Murphy, 252-671-4011
464 US Hwy 64 east, Cashiers
Sun.: 9:15a Christian Education at Buck’s Coffee Cashiers
Crossroads; 10:30a Faithful, Family Service w/ Music & Communion.

Mon.: Bible Study & Supper at homes - 6 p.m.

CHRIST CHURCH OF THE VALLEY, CASHIERS

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

CLEAR CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Jim Kinard
Sundays: School: 10 a.m.; Worship: 11 a.m.
1st & 3rd Sunday night Service: 7 p.m.
Wednesdays - Supper at 6 p.m.

COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH

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

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

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

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Curtis Fussell & Emily Wilmarth, pastors
526-3175 • fpchighlands.org
Sun.: Worship: 11 a.m.; School: 9:30
Mondays: 8 a.m.: Men’s Prayer Group & Breakfast
Wednesdays: Choir: 5:30p

GOLDMINE BAPTIST CHURCH

(Off Franklin/Highlands Rd) • Rev. Carson Gibson
Sunday School: 10 am, Worship Service: 11 am
Bible Study: 6 pm

GRACE COMMUNITY CHURCH OF CASHIERS

Non-Denominational-Contemporary Worship
242 Hwy 107N, 1/4 miles from Crossroads in Cashiers
www.gracecashiers.com • Pastor Steve Doerter: 743-9814
Services: Sundays 10am - Wed. - 7pm; Dinner - Wed. 6pm

PLACES TO WORSHIP •

John 3:16

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: 5:15; youth, & adults activities: 6; Handbell rehearsal, 6:15; Choir Rehearsal 7. (nursery provided);
7pm Intercessory Prayer Ministry

HOLY FAMILY LUTHERAN CHURCH: ELCA

Chaplain Margaret Howell • 2152 Dillard Road • 526-9741

Sun: School and Adult discussion group 9:30 a.m.;
Worship/Communion: 10:30

HEALING SERVICE on the 5th Sunday of the month.

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
Sun: 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 (Father Francis): 526-2418
Mass: Sun: 11 a.m.; Sat. at 4p

SCALY MOUNTAIN BAPTIST CHURCH

Rev. Marty Kilby
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 Jerry David Hall • 526-3212
Sun.: School: 10 a.m.; Worship: 10:45 a.m.; Worship: 6 p.m.

SHORTOFF BAPTIST CHURCH

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

THE CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

1448 Highway 107 South, Office: 743-2359
Rev. Douglas E. Remer
Oct-May: Sunday Services: Rite I, 8a Rite II, 10:30
June-Sept: Sunday Services: Rite I, 8a, Rite II, 9:15 & 11a
Nursery available for Rite II services

Sept 6-Oct 25- Informal Evening Eucharist- 5:30 p.m.

Thursday: Noon Healing Service with Eucharist.

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP

85 Sierra Drive • 828-524-6777
Sunday Worship - 11 a.m.

WHITESIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

• FIRE REPORT •

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

April 7

• At 3:06 p.m., the dept. investigated a call about smoke in the area of Satulah Falls Lane.

April 8

• At 2:56 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm on Main

Street.

• At 5:55 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Wyanoak Road. The patient was transported to the hospital.

• At 7:45 p.m., the dept. stood by for the MAMA helicopter at the hospital.

• At 7:51 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to Highlands Plaza.

• At 11:27 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Flat Mountain Road. There was no problem.

April 9

• At 8:19 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a medical alarm from a residence on Old Walhalla Road that was a false alarm.

April 12

• At 7:45 p.m., the dept. provided mutual aid the Scaly Fire Dept.

April 13

• At 6:26 a.m., the dept. provided mutual aid the the Cashiers Fire Dept.

April 14

• At 1:20 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to Highlands Plaza.

• At 2:39 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Owl Gap Road.

...MAYOR continued from page 2

through enabling state legislation. At one point this enabling legislation from Raleigh gave local governments broad powers, but slowly but surely there has been mounting restrictions placed on local governments.

Senate Bill 369 --The Fair Sales Tax Fairness Act is an example of how a centralized state government is making top down decisions that impact citizens at the local level. Legislators want to help themselves in resolving a

state budget deficit and pass their problems down to the local level. Maybe it is time to reassess the top down Dillion's Principle and consider the grassroots principle of home rule.

...SOCCER continued from page 1

expected a rebuilding year."

This season there are three seniors and three juniors, with the remaining 13 players all being underclassmen. However, after just a few games in, the older upperclassmen are doing well and leading the younger players.

"With that strong leadership, the younger players have been able to step into their own roles and these Lady Highlanders are really

playing well," said Weller. "We have already beaten Pisgah HS(twice), Brevard(twice), Rabun Gap away as well as others. Our only two losses have been to Habersham Central, which is a school of almost 2,000 students in high school in Mt Airy, GA. We also were able to beat Towns County 2-1 at their place for the first time since I have been coaching at Highlands. Last year we beat them at home, but we had not

beaten them on their field prior to this year."

Coach Weller said he's very excited moving forward this season.

"We are at about our half way point in the regular season, and I see even better things to come," he said.

— Kim Lewicki

...SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING continued from page 18

all, certainly! The faith to have complete confidence in what the Holy Spirit has spoken, without a doubt! Faith carries us past the unknown. If the Lord God Almighty is who he says he is in his Word, that all things were created by him and adhere in him, whereby anything and everything is possible with him, then believing is our only legitimate response. If what we discern of him in the world around us corroborates the testimony of his Word, then faith in him as true and trustworthy is the only viable option left for us.

All throughout the history of the world God and Jesus have repeatedly told us, in no uncertain terms, through both word

and deed, that he would of necessity rise from the dead. That God his Father and ours, is the master of the universe, not Satan or the evil that causes the fear of the unknown and the disbelief that is so prevalent.

Surprised though they may have been at first, the women and disciples overcame their fear with faith in Christ Jesus. It all came together for them as they entered into the life that the Savior's resurrection guaranteed them and guarantees we who believe. Are you fearful of the unknown? Do you still think that death has the final say? There is still time to discard unbelief for the faith that gives life abundantly.

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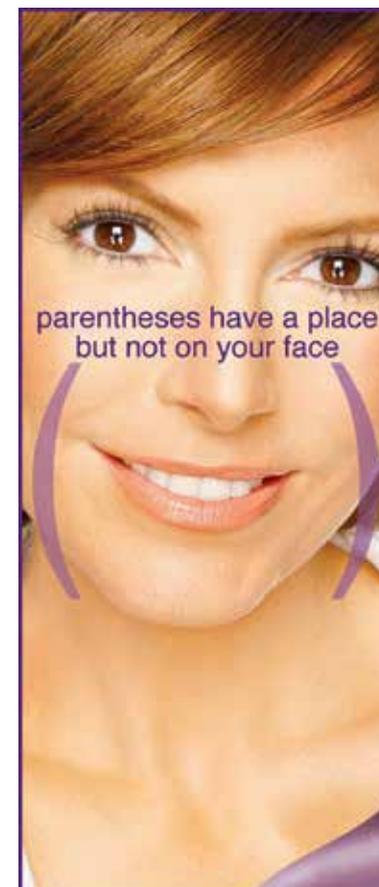
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• BUSINESS / ORGANIZATION NEWS •

Laurel Garden Club elects 2015 officers



The 2015 officers of the Laurel Garden Club are pictured from left: Lila Howland, president; Brenda Manning, second vice president/membership; Nancy Parker, treasurer; Mary Guy Gunn, first vice president/program co-chairwoman; Sally Caffery, corresponding secretary; Minnie Bob Campbell, recording secretary; and Jane Webb La Cagnina, first vice president/program co-chairwoman. The purposes of the Laurel Garden Club are to aid in the protection and conservation of our natural resources, encourage civic beauty and roadside beautification, stimulate the fine art of gardening, and enable cooperation with other organizations furthering the interest of horticulture and conservation.

MountainTop Rotary meets with Assistant Governor, Kenny Nicholson



Rotary's new district Assistant Governor, Kenny Nicholson, attended the MountainTop Rotary meeting on April 8. Kenny will be taking over for departing Assistant Governor Jody Cook on July 1, 2015. Kenny has an education background and has been a Rotarian for several years. He is excited to serve our district in this capacity. Pictured from left: Kenny Nicholson and Bill Zoellner.

The Mountaintop Rotary Club meets every Wednesday morning at 7:30 am at the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital lower level Dining Room.

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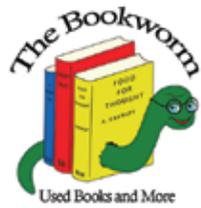
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APPROXIMATELY 1,500 SQ. FT. of

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VAC/SEASONAL RENTAL

HIGHLANDS VACATION RENTAL DOWNTOWN. 2/2 updated in 2014 with luxury master bath, king bed, marble & SS kitchen. Second floor condo two blocks off Main. Renovated like an Old Edwards Suite! W/D in unit, flat screen T.V., gas fireplace, off street parking. Available weekly \$1,000 plus utilities. Call 828-352-8519. (st. 12/25)

LOTS/LAND FOR SALE

LAND FOR SALE IN CLEAR CREEK: 2.18 acre parcel has road frontage on Mack Wilson Rd. \$17,000. Any reasonable offers will be considered. Call 828-526-2874. (3/26)

FOR SALE BY OWNER - 3 building lots in the gated community of Rustic Falls. Macon County tax records value at \$51,000 each. Must sell due to health reasons. Asking \$15,000 each. Call owner at 803-640-6004. (St. 5/1)

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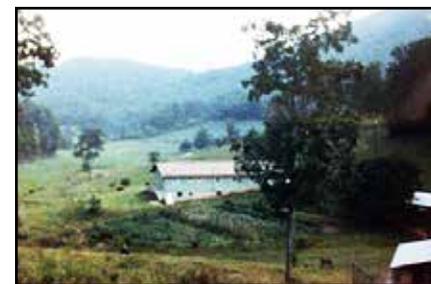
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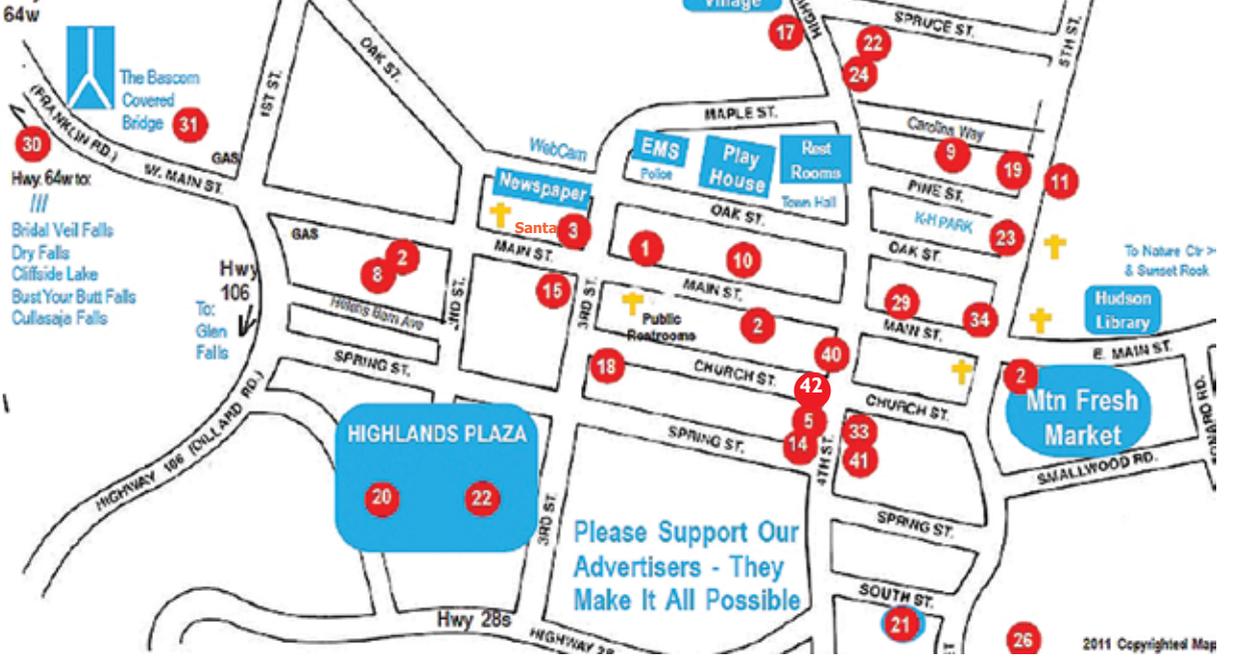


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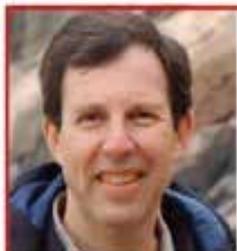
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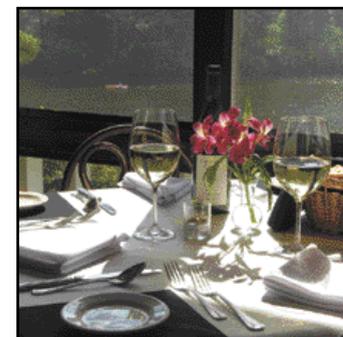
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