

Highlands Newspaper

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Thurs., Aug. 20, 2015

Highlands School starts with new faces; new schedule

Teachers and administrators are busy preparing for the first day of school on Monday, Aug. 24.

So far there are 355 students registered to return on Monday, but that figure is a moving target until about 10 days after school

starts.

By grade the student count is: K-23 and 1st-25 and those two classes will be combined to make up the K-1 Great Beginnings classes.

There are a total of 29 2nd

graders so there are two second grade classes and 35 3rd graders so there are also two 3rd grade classes.

There is one 4th grade class with 14, two 5th grade classes to accommodate their 28 students.

There are 36 students in 6th grade,

23 7th graders, 32 8th graders, 32 9th graders, 32 10th graders, 30 11th graders and 26 12th-graders.

Teachers this year are: K-1: Jaime Dooley and Andrea Chalker; 2nd: Emilee Deforest and Cynthia

•See **SCHOOL** page 20

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Jackson and Macon border negotiations continue

Macon County taxpayers are getting a slight break this year in the amount of money they pay to service homes located outside of the county. Jackson County has approved a fire tax that would generate about \$55,000 in annual revenue for the Highlands Fire Department.

MC Commissioner Jim Tate told commissioners that the new fire tax will significantly help alleviate some of the costs associated with homes located along the county's border but it won't solve the problem, and work still needs to be done.

"It is my understanding that Jackson County decided not to add any funds to help reimburse our county for the other services we provide such as trash, recreation, emergency services, and the

•See **BORDER** page 3

Highlands School welcomes four new teachers



The first day of school for Highlands School is Monday, Aug. 24. New to the halls are from left: 5th grade teacher Kate Messer, 3rd grade teacher Margie Potts, 3rd-8th PE/Health teacher Crystal Gustin and high school English teacher David Parrish. Potts and Parrish both attended Highlands School K-12.

Photo by Carol Bowen

Parker Meadows economic impact expected to be huge for Macon County

Three years after county commissioners began a journey to develop a new recreation complex for the citizens of Macon County,

the park is finally ready for the first pitch.

Macon County officials invite the public out for the first time on

Tuesday, August 25th beginning at 6 p.m.

"With the grass mowed, the

•See **COMPLEX** page 11

Voucher allocations could effect MC Schools' bottom line

Macon County officials have opposed vouchers since the very beginning and without a state budget for the 2015-'16 school year they have no indication of how the most recent voucher ruling will impact the district.

At the Monday, Aug. 17 school board meeting, Finance Director Angie Cook gave a brief update saying that right now the state is looking at its second budget resolution which is required to meet the August 31, 2015 dead line.

"If they do not have a budget by then, there has been some talk to extend budget negotiations until June 31, 2016," she said.

Superintendent Dr. Chris Baldwin said if a compromise isn't reached and school systems have to operate on a continuing resolu-

•See **VOUCHER** page 9

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• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• MAYOR ON DUTY •

Connectivity will secure our future

I just returned from a fishing trip out West. The town where I stayed was very small, but surrounded by spectacular mountains, with a beautiful river flowing next to the main thoroughfare. Like Highlands, this little community has attractive, cool summer days.

I had difficulty in contacting folks back at Town Hall while on vacation. There was no cell phone service, whatsoever, in this isolated mountain community. High speed Internet was spotty and could be accessed, like TV, only by satellite. Many folks who were forced to use land line modems had limited internet.

One night I was dining on fine barbecue at a local restaurant with several couples who were either contemplating, or in the process of selling their rather expensive houses located in this bucolic community. All expressed concern that the lack of strong, reliable connectivity might impact the sale of their homes. Their consensus was that the old alibi of not needing connectivity because one is "away from it all" and communing with nature may not resonate with many buy-



Mayor Pat Taylor

ers
Back in Highlands, I went to the PAC to the Controlled Chaos Film Festival that was presented by the film students at Western Carolina University. During my vacation, I had been listening to political discourse about how our country is in trouble and falling apart. For us aging boomers that may be the widely held perception.

Maybe that's not the case. I found the work of the young, energetic and creative film students of Western to be "life affirming." Their film introductions were replete with vision, ideas and dedication. It was evident that these youngsters see life through a different creative prism where the new technologies of video, computer graphics and unlimited bandwidth are their new paints and palettes. Like it or not, this dynamic and expansive medium of expression is the future not only for the arts, but for advancements in science, business, communication and almost all aspects of society.

I really enjoyed the student films emanating from our flagship university of West Carolina. The experience reconfirmed my belief that connectivity and bandwidth are essential to the future development of the region. Our young people, like those on the PAC stage, have the creativity and drive, but they must have full access to 21st century technology.

Where am I going with my musings of my vacation and the film festival? Both stories underscore the need to build a first-rate network for Highlands. Our young people will need it, after all they will be our future, creative professionals. The town needs this comprehensive network to insure a steady stream of visitors and to attract people willing to invest in our community.

This fall the town will send a staff team to a conference for communities that are engaged in developing this kind of network. Our folks will study all aspects of the process from engineering networks to financial and delivery strategies. Stay tuned.

The Town Board Meeting is tonight at 7 pm at the Conference Center. The meeting agenda is light.

• LETTERS •

For the love of dogs

Dear Editor,

We are fortunate to live in a dog friendly community. One local business, the Park on Main, has taken the extraordinary step of initiating a foster dog program at the hotel in cooperation with the Cashiers Highlands Humane Society. The first hotel "host" dog, Clyde, has found a new home with guests visiting the Park on Main. A new "host," Bella has taken up residence and awaits the perfect guests to go home with. The proprietors of the Park on Main are to be commended on their efforts to make our dog friendly community even more special. The CHHS is sponsoring a barbecue September 1st at the Old Edwards Inn Farm featuring Atlanta's favorite entertainers Banks & Shane. Proceeds go to furthering the Humane Society's mission at the shelter.

Jack Tarver
Highlands/Atlanta

Farewell to a good man

Dear Editor,

Guess we should have known that we would eventually lost Josh Ward. He has been a good leader of the Planning Board—always fair and willing to listen to everyone. He will be missed by all of us.

I am proud of him for moving upward in his profession. Being the head of the town board of Bryson City will keep him busy and make the most of his many talents in planning and zoning.

Lucky Bryson City and Sad Highlands.

Wish us luck, Josh, in finding a replacement with as much experience and general knowledge as you have. As we all know "A good man is hard to find."

WELL WISHES TO YOU, JOSH. VIA CON DIOS.

Glenda Bell
Highlands

• THANKS •

Crane family says Thanks!

Thanks you for all the love and prayers toward all of us and Oscar during his illness and passing. Special thanks to Elizabeth McConnell, Tim Gibson, Ellis Cleaveland, Gene Remy and Al and Renee Bolt. To the First Baptist Church – our heartfelt love. Words can't express our thanks for all you have done for Kathy and Oscar.

The Crane and Buchanan Families

Charity dinner and silent auction for Hospice House WNC at Paoletti's on Sept. 22

On, Tues., Sept. 22, Paoletti's on Main Street in Highlands is having a charity dinner for the Hospice House Foundation of WNC from 5-7 p.m. Cocktails and Casual Grazing - \$150/person (\$100 is tax deductible). A come-as-you-are social cocktail reception with hors'dourves and select wines. At 7:30 p.m. it's Dining for Dignity - \$250/person (\$150 if tax deductible) This will be a relaxed dining experience where patrons choose from a decadent 4-course menu especially selected for the evening. This dining venue is limited – early reservations are strongly recommended. Please call 828-526-4906.

Highlands Newspaper

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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.

Highlands Newspaper N.O.A.A. Weather Report For Highlands NC						
Thursday	Thursday Night	Friday	Friday Night	Saturday	Saturday Night	Sunday
63%	40%	40% / 40%	30% / 30%	30%		30%
T-storms Likely and Pasty Fog	Chance T-storms	Chance Showers then Chance T-storms	Chance T-storms then Chance Showers	Chance T-storms	Mostly Cloudy	Chance T-storms
High: 75 °F	Low: 62 °F	High: 75 °F	Low: 62 °F	High: 74 °F	Low: 61 °F	High: 76 °F

• OBITUARY •

William Lee Keener

William Lee Keener, age 93, of Highlands, NC, passed away Sunday, August 16, 2015. He was born in Fannin Co., GA, the son of the late William Leander and Nettie Jane Ray Keener. He was a general mechanic for DuPont for 25 years, and was a US Navy Veteran of World War II. He was a loving husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, and great-great-grandfather. Mr. Keener liked gardening, making furniture, building houses, and fishing. He was a member of Selica United Methodist Church in Transylvania County and attended Goldmine Baptist Church. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by a brother, Len Keener.

He is survived by his wife of 67 years, Allie Price Keener, his six children, Kathryn Lee Reece of Waterloo, SC, Gary Price Keener of Pisgah Forest, NC, Keith Allan Keener of Hendersonville, NC, Michael Dennis Keener of Cedar Mountain, NC, Susan Jane Holland of Brevard, NC and William Wade Keener of Highlands, NC; three sisters, Ella Mae Zoellner and Roberta Dendy both of Highlands, NC and Betty Dills of Colorado; twelve grandchildren, nine great-grandchildren and one great-great grandchild.

Memorial services will be held Thursday, August 20, 2015 at 2 pm in the Chapel of Bryant-Grant Funeral Home, with Rev. Alton Dendy officiating. The family will receive friends from 1-2 p.m., one hour prior to the service at the funeral home.

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

...BORDER continued from page 1

Sheriff's Department," Tate told the board last month. "Services that everyone in Macon County has to pay for, but we provide those services to Jackson County for nothing right now."

An agreement isn't off the table and according to Jackson County Manager Chuck Wooten.

"I think that topic [911/EMS & Solid Waste] is something the commissioners are willing to continue discussing," said Wooten. "Obviously, they were interested in how the Macon funding for SCC was resolved so hopefully we will receive an update from Dr. Tomas in the near future."

Earlier this year, Jackson County Commissioners said they were upset over Macon County's decision to decrease funding to Southwestern Community College, and because of that, didn't want to provide Macon with addition funds for services such as trash collection and EMS, etc.

"I know the commissioners were disappointed with the \$200,000 reduction in support by Macon County for SCC," said Wooten in April.

Macon County estimates that it spend about \$200,000 a year providing services to homes in Jackson County. Because the homes are landlocked by forest service lands or by Macon County, it is quicker and more sensible for Macon County to respond in the case of an emergency, something Macon County officials believe is the right thing to do. But it is costing Macon County taxpayers money and leaders want fair compensation from their neighbors in Jackson County.

Wooten said that he has been talking to Macon County Manager Derek Roland, and if an agreement is possible, Wooten

wants to see a different formula used to calculate what the border issue actually costs.

"I have continued to have conversations with Derek Roland and did advise him that if we provided funds for these services then the methodology for the allocation would be focused on how we fund those services in our budget without regard to the tax values in the area of discussion," said Wooten. "Our funding is based upon the resources necessary to perform the service at a level satisfactory to our citizens. The only time we would use tax values is if a special tax was being levied for a specific service, as we have for fire protection."

It isn't just about garbage pickup and EMS and law enforcement services. The Highlands/Cashiers border is causing confusion regarding taxes – as in who residents should pay taxes to.

Recently, Highlands Commissioner Eric Pierson said he got a bill from both Macon and Jackson County and wasn't sure who he should pay. Pierson's property is split between the two counties, but he doesn't know where the line is and what county gets what portion of his annual taxes.

According to Macon County Tax Collector Richard Lightner, the counties send bills to border homes based on what percentage of property falls in which county. So if 10 percent of the property is in Macon County and the rest is in Jackson, then the tax bills for each county should reflect that, he said.

But without a clear understanding of the county line, and since a significant amount of taxes are involved in the pricey homes located along the border, Macon and Jackson do not always agree on where the border line should be drawn.



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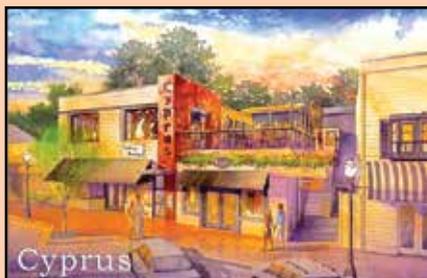
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UPCOMING EVENTS

"A curious mind knows no bounds"

• **WHO ARE WE? THE BIRTH AND MIGRATION OF HOMO SAPIENS:** Friday, Aug. 21 Time: 10-12 For decades theories about human evolution proliferated in the absence of hard evidence, but now human genetic data banks are large enough to put assumptions to the test. Robert Anemone head of the Anthropology Department at UNC Greensboro will look at the latest evidence of the origin and development of our species.

• **APPLE IWORKS: OFFICE SUITE FOR IPAD, IPHONE, AND MAC PRODUCTS:**

Friday, Aug. 21 Time 10:30-3:30 Cost \$70/\$80 Nigel Sixsmith will teach you how to use Pages and how to word process on your Mac and Apple product.

• **WHAT ARE OLD PEOPLE FOR? TO CHANGE THE WORLD! :** Tuesday, Aug. 25 Time: 10-12 How does the world view the swelling ranks of the elderly? In our society aging is viewed as far from flattering but Nell Martin is going to share the positives of aging as well as how to create an inspired life filled with meaning as you age.

• **THE RISE OF THE INDIVIDUAL AND THE QUEST FOR MEANING:** Wed., Aug. 26 Time: 2-4 This lecture will reflect on the teachings of some of history's greatest thinkers and their impact ethically, culturally, spiritually, economically on individuals and society. Presenter Michelle Sorensen is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Philosophy and Religion at WCU

• **WHAT IS VISIONARY ART?:** Thur. Aug. 27 Time: 4-5 Cost \$10 Independent curator and author Tom Patterson will look at the full spectrum of visionary artists and examine the driving force and source of their art: their unconventionally intense imaginations. This program is offered in conjunction with the Bascom's exhibition *Lands Beyond: Other Worldly Landscapes and Visionary Topographies* curated by Patterson.

• **HISTORY OF THE FOLK MUSIC REVIVAL:** Friday, Aug. 28 Time: 1-3 Looking for an enjoyable and entertaining way to spend the afternoon? Join folklorist David A. Brose as he takes you on a fun journey through the history of folk music through lecture/demonstration with samplings of folk favorites from The Kingston Trio, Peter, Paul and Mary and more. Brose has been the folklorist at John C. Campbell Folk School since 1991.

**The cost for all lectures is \$25 members/\$35 non-members For more about classes at The Center for Life Enrichment stop by our office in the lower level of the Peggy Crosby Center at 348 S. 5th Street, call 828-526-8811 or visit www.clehighlands.com*

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• THE FREDSTER •

WOW, did she have gas! ... Could I make this up?

Do you remember the over-the-top tacky column I wrote recently about the smell of sexually aroused camel slobber being a sensual fragrance? I know, I know, you're trying to forget it. Well I wanna go on record to inform my readers I made the whole thing up. Are you stunned?

That's what we satire writers do! We stretch the truth. But this column is for real...kind of...well, most of it...it has nothing to do with camel froth, currently sold by the bottle in Abu Dhabi. See me if you want some. This column will be about as close as I ever get to the truth.

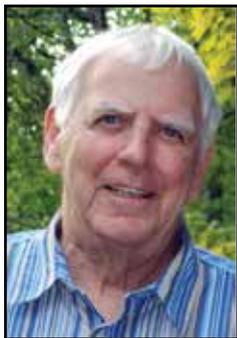
Just when I thought I had seen and heard it all, I went to a bridge game recently and was informed by one of the head gurus that the wearing of perfume or cologne is prohibited. Oh no, I thought, I'll not be able to wear my sexually aroused camel slobber to the games? It's OK because I don't think it was working anyway.

Evidently, bridge leaders are allowed to control the wearing of fragrances at the games. So don't ya love it? Just when I thought there was nothing left for me to make fun of, the ACBL gives me ammo by controlling the wearing of fragrances. Was it Hitler or Stalin who had a similar rule? I'm telling you, ya gotta love the ACBL as they'll take over the world if ISIS doesn't blow us all up first. Fun, fun, fun!

And what makes it all sooooo much fun is that ACBL leaders take all of this stuff serious while I could care less if the sun comes up tomorrow...or not. But what usually initiates such a rule is that someone complains and the bridge leaders must comply and make an announcement.

What may have started this entire hubbub is that this very nice little gal recently showed up for a bridge game smelling of gasoline. Could I make this up? I was not offended by the smell as I love the smell of gasoline.

She apologized immediately for the smell and explained she was filling her gas tank just before the game and thought she heard the auto-fill switch kick off. When she snatched the gas nozzle from her tank she realized it hadn't and it spewed gasoline all over her car, her clothes and skin. She raced home, took a shower, changed clothes and headed for the game. But she still stunk of gasoline.



Fred Wooldrige

Now we lovingly call her "Esso."

And for those bridge players concerned this might happen to them, do the following. Buy a large container of Quaker Oats and a swimming snorkel. If you ever get soaked with gas, race home, fill your bathtub with water and dump the entire container of oats into the water. Get naked, stick the snorkel in your mouth, take a selfie and enter the tub. An infected soaker must remain totally under water for at least five minutes for the oats to take effect. Maybe the ABCL should distribute a handout on this. Wadayathink?

And to solve this fragrance problem during bridge games, specially appointed bridge "sniffers" should be posted at every entrance to the bridge room. After paying the designated fee (it changes each game) the player approaches the entrance to the bridge room and is met by a designated ACBL "sniffer," a person specially trained and appointed by the bridge guru to smell each player.

WARNING: Do not confuse these sniffers with the pencil police. Pencil police do not have the authority to sniff you and should they try they should be reported to the ACBL immediately.

Here's another thing to keep in mind. If a pencil policeman is groping you in search of pencils and during the course of that groping, smells a fragrance on a player, he must immediately report this offense to an official sniffer. Are you writing this down?

And finally, the ACBL may be considering a political move I totally approve of. They may ban the derogatory term "NO TRUMP" from their vocabulary and replace it with "OUTDO." Using this example, the bid will be "ONE OUTDO" instead of "ONE NO TRUMP." Kudos should go out to the ACBL for considering this important political move.

Now if we can only get the "spade" word, a definite racial slur, changed to "shovel," we will have arrived...to where I'm not sure.

NOTE: Fred is running around Highlands with a few copies of his insane book, "I'm Moving Back to Mars." Stop him and ask him about it.

August 26 Interlude is at First Presbyterian Church



At 2pm on Wednesday, August 26, the Interlude Concert Series which is sponsored by First Presbyterian Church and the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation will feature Trio Carolina with Dr. Oral Moses, bass-baritone. The concert will take place at First Presbyterian Church. Members of Trio Carolina are Tacy Edwards, flutist; Kelly O'Dell, oboist; and Dr. Rosylyn Floyd, pianist.

There is no admission charge for the Interlude concerts, which constitute a ministry in music to the community. Dress is casual – come as you are. First Presbyterian Church is located at the corner of Main and Fifth Streets. Handicapped accessible entrances are located on Church Street and on Fifth Street.

New 'Clothes Closet' is set to help clothe and accessorize needy students

Macon County Schools Social Workers Annie Breedlove Wishon and Marci Holland have taken on a new project for this school year. Their goal is to start a clothing closet for all students of Macon County Schools.

Some schools already have a small clothing closet for their individual schools, however, often times more items or different sizes may be needed throughout the year.

There are many, many students in the district who are in need of various clothing items – socks, shoes, book bags, etc.

Keep in mind, Macon County Schools serves preschool through 12th grade. Therefore, all size – new or used will be accepted.

To make a donation, drop items off at any Macon County Schools campus. Annie or Marci will pick up the items and make distributions to students as necessary.

To contact Annie or Marci directly, email them at annie.wishon@macon.k12.nc.us or marci.holland@macon.k12.nc.us



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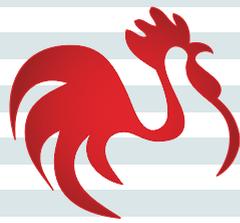
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FRESH ANGUS BURGERS, FRESH NATURAL CHICKEN BREASTS, GRILLED FISH, CHICKEN TENDERS, COOKED TO ORDER HAND CUT FRIES, SALADS, HOMEMADE SOUPS, DAILY SPECIALS, SALAD BAR

DELI - SERVING ALL DAY

FRESH CUT NATURAL MEATS, HOMEMADE DELI SALADS, PANINI MELTS, HOMEMADE POTATO CHIPS, DAILY SOUP SPECIALS

WOOD FIRE PIZZA OVEN -

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

SUNDAY SKILLET FRIED CHICKEN

EVERY SUNDAY FROM 11:00AM UNTIL WE SELL OUT
FRESH ORGANIC HAND CUT, HAND BREADED CHICKEN COOKED IN A CAST IRON SKILLET. SERVED WITH GREEN BEANS, MASHED POTATOES AND GRAVY WITH A WARM HONEY BISCUIT.. \$9.99

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

DINNERS TO GO

A DIFFERENT FULL DINNER FOR TWO EVERY NIGHT, MONDAY THROUGH SATURDAY FROM 4.30 UNTIL WE SELL OUT. CALL AHEAD TO RESERVE...

MONDAY - LOW COUNTRY LOBSTER / SHRIMP BOIL MAIN LOBSTER TAILS, WILD CAUGHT LARGE SHRIMP, RED BLISS POTATOES, SUMMER CORN, HOUSE MADE SAUSAGE, ALL STEEPED IN OUR 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. **\$33.95 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. **\$25.95 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, TARTER AND COCKTAIL SAUCE. **\$26.95 SERVES TWO**

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

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...VOUCHERS continued from page 1

tion through June 30, 2016, the district will need to hire a number of interim or temporary TAs to cover some of the lower grades.

"These would be paid for out of local funds along with any other critical needs that might arise as a result of the year-long continuing resolution. Obviously, this scenario will further deplete our fund balance," he said.

Since voucher allocations deplete the state's funding pool, Macon County was one of the many counties in the state who joined a law suit again the state's voucher program, pleading with the state to fully fund public education instead.

Highlands School principal Brian Jetter agrees.

"My opinion on vouchers is that public money should not go to schools that can 'screen out' students, operate to produce a profit, operate to proselytize, or that do not have transparent finances, as required by public schools," he said.

In 2013, state legislatures developed the Opportunity Scholarship Program, which provides scholarships of up to \$4,200 a year for low-income families to send their children to the school of their choice.

Quickly after the new legislation become official, the legal challenges on the issue began.

The fate of the program was up to the state's Supreme Court, which ruled earlier this month that the vouchers were constitutional despite conflicting court opinions.

The state's Supreme Court pulled the voucher case from the state's court of appeals, and although it was slated to be heard there first, the highest law in the state went ahead and voted 4-3 in favor of the program.

"Our review is limited to a determination of whether plaintiffs have demonstrated that the program legislation plainly and clearly violates our constitution," Chief Justice Mark Martin wrote for the majority. "Plaintiffs have made no such showing in this case. Accordingly, the trial court erred in declaring the Opportunity Scholarship Program unconstitutional."

In August 2014, State Superi-

or Judge Robert Hobgood deemed the program as unconstitutional. "The General Assembly fails the children of North Carolina when they are sent with public taxpayer money to private schools that have no legal obligation to teach them anything," Hobgood said last year.

Reversing Hobgood's ruling, the Supreme Court voted that according to the North Carolina constitution, the state "specifically envisions that children in our state may be educated by means outside of the public school system."

Now that the program is the law of the land, the number of vouchers being allocated have nearly doubled.

With a little more than \$10 million spent on the program last year, more funds are likely to make expansion possible in the coming year.

State officials have already awarded 2,642 scholarships for the 2015-'16 school year, compared to 1,216 during the 2014-'15 school year. There is a waiting list for those who haven't heard yet, which could mean an additional 1,700 vouchers awarded once the state releases its fiscal year budget.

In addition to expanding the number of vouchers allocated, program supporters are now rallying to alter the income eligibility guidelines so more families can apply for the funds, not just low income families.

Previously, program eligibility was based on income guidelines for the free and reduced school lunch program. For example, a family of four was eligible this past school year if their income was no more than \$43,568.

For the 2015-'16 school year, the income eligibility has already

been raised to 33 percent above the limit for receiving a reduced-price school lunch. For a family of five, that equates to an income of up to \$69,903.

The North Carolina State Education Assistance Authority reports that Macon County has seen an increase in the number of voucher applicants this year.

Last year, no Macon County students received a voucher, yet so far this year, 33 applicants have applied.

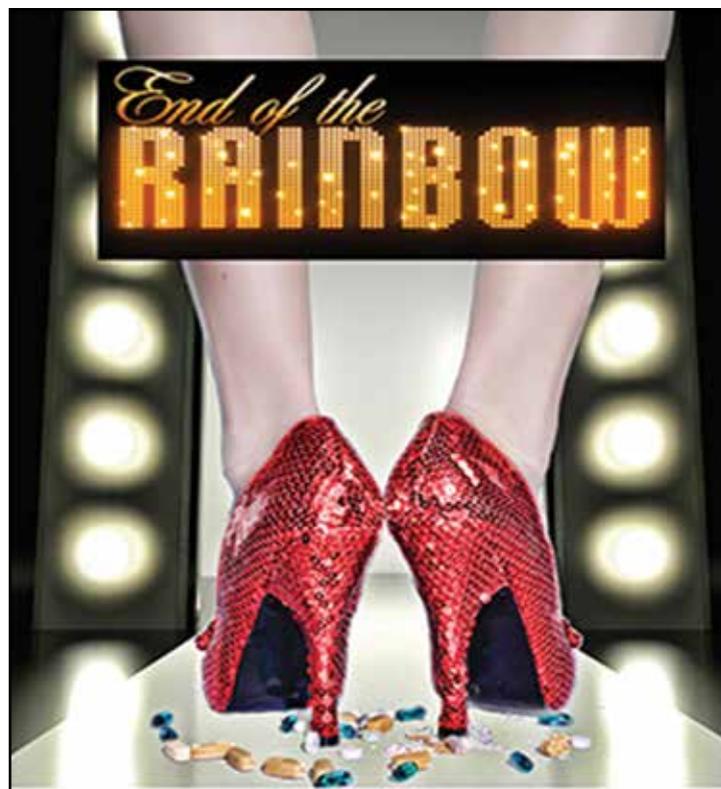
Across the state, last year there were 333 non-public schools eligible to receive voucher students, and that number has also grown for this year, reaching 350.

Macon County has one

school eligible to receive voucher students - Trimont Christian Academy. The State Education Assistance Authority reports that Trimont has received 29 applicants for the vouchers for 2015-'16.

Like Trimont, the majority of the private schools that will be receiving state funded vouchers in the coming year are religious schools, something opponents raised during the legislative battle that played out over the last two years.

In the coming year, the top 27 schools receiving the most number of voucher applicants are all religious school and include Christian and Islamic schools.



End of the RAINBOW

August 27th - September 6th, 2015

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Saturday & Sunday 2pm

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State is seeking the death penalty for Cochran in murder case

One year after Charles Andrew Cochran escaped from the Macon County Detention Center and began a crime spree that resulted in the murder of 71-year-old Day Williamson, in court Tuesday, Aug. 18, District Attorney Ashley Welch informed the court that the state would be seeking the death penalty in the case.

Tuesday afternoon, Cochran appeared before Superior Court Judge Bill Coward. Welch told the court if Cochran pleaded guilty to 1st degree murder, the state would offer a sentence of life in prison rather than the death penalty. After Cochran and his lawyer David Belser deliberated in private, Belser said Cochran was not ready to plead guilty.

Charges against Cochran include 1st degree murder, 1st degree arson, assault by strangulation, felony larceny, larceny of a firearm, and possession of a firearm by a felon.

Attorney Belser requested Judge Coward to delay the hearing a month so he could work with Cochran in hopes of reaching a resolution.

Welch said since the case is a year old, and the Williamson's family had sat in court all day, they deserved a resolution.

Welch's intentions were clear.

"I want to tell Cochran publicly here in the courtroom that if he walks out of here after 2:30 p.m. and wants to plead guilty, it will be too late," said Welch. "The deal will be off the table."

Judge Coward allowed Cochran and Belser to meet privately again at 2:11 p.m. to discuss the option. After a short recess, they returned to the courtroom at 2:25 p.m. and informed Judge Coward that no resolution has been reached.

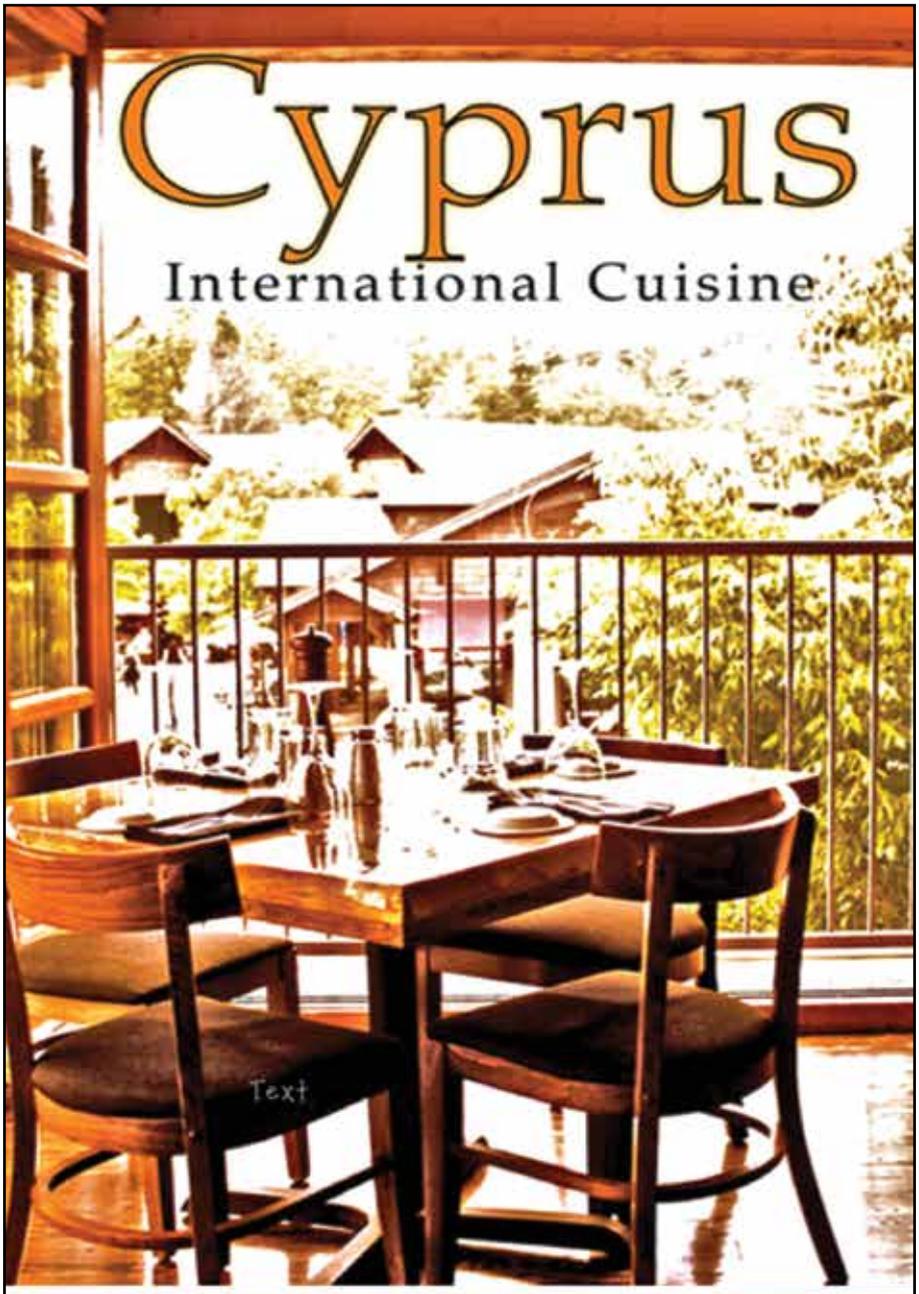
Attorney Belser motioned for the judge to give the case another month, while Welch petitioned for a Rule 24 hearing to be conducted immediately.

A Rule 24 hearing is a hearing before a judge in first-degree murder cases. The purpose is to determine whether the State will seek the death penalty in the case.

Coward denied the motion to continue the case and moved forward with Rule 24 proceedings.

"The state has found more than one aggravating circumstance in this case based on the evidence we have been presented and because of that, we will be seeking the death penalty," declared DA Welch.

• See DEATH PENALTY page 11



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...COMPLEX continued from page 1



The Parker Meadows Recreation Complex is located on 48 acres in Franklin. The \$3.6 million public park features an 8-field, double-cloverleaf baseball/softball complex with a walking track, multi-use field and playground.

field perfected, and everything finally in place, we couldn't think of a better way to say thank you than to give our citizens the opportunity to have the "first look," said Derek Roland, Macon County Manager. "Without the support of the Macon County community, this project would not have been possible. This is their facility and Macon County is honored to be able to show it to them for the first time."

The Parker Meadows Recreation Complex is a world-class recreation facility located on 48 acres in Franklin. The \$3.6 million public park features an 8-field, double-cloverleaf baseball/softball complex with a walking track, multi-use field and playground.

Just a couple weeks following the unveiling the new park to the community, the Macon County Parks and Recreation staff will host the park's first ball tournament on September 12 when Macon County will play host to the United States Fastpitch Association's Girls Softball Tournament.

After the first tournament and with the exception of one weekend, the Parker Meadows Recreation Complex is booked every weekend through the end of October with softball and baseball tournaments expected to bring hundreds of teams from across the southeast to Franklin.

According to MC Economic Development Director Tommy Jenkins, the complex will be directly responsible for injecting thousands of dollars into Macon County.

Hosting a two-day, 24-team tournament could mean a local economic impact of \$259,500; a two-day 48-team tournament could mean a total local economic impact of \$519,000.

"In the planning stages of this project engineers who were working with us told us there was no way we could bring this facility

for less than \$6 million dollars," said Roland. "Even though we encountered obstacles along the way; we were still able to come in well below preliminary estimates. This could not have happened without the hard work and dedication of Macon County staff, contractors and design professionals working on this project. At the end of the day, each of these groups had one goal in mind: Build the best recreation park in our region, at the lowest price possible. On August 25, 2015 we will be delighted to show you that we have done exactly that."

The public is invited out to the park on August 25 for "Parker Meadows Under the Lights" for self-guided park tours, a free hotdog dinner, ribbon cutting, and live entertainment from Josh Beasley.

...DEATH PENALTY from page 10

Since the state is seeking the death penalty, Cochran will now be appointed a second counsel moving forward.

His next court appearance is on the November court calendar. Although Cochran is expected to appear in court in November, to give his new counsel adequate time to review the case, it is unlikely that anything will be decided then.

While on trash detail at the detention center on Thursday, July 30, 2014, Cochran, 21, of Franklin, was able to escape custody after running into a deeply wooded area next to the detention center and disappear. He remained on the run for five days before being captured. While evading police, Cochran was charged with the strangulation of Williamson. He also burned down her home in Burningtown.

WHEN MINUTES COUNT

When emergencies occur minutes count. Providing 24/7 emergency care, our Highlands-Cashiers Hospital team of emergency department specialists are prepared to ensure that the highest level of care is always available and accessible to the community. And, because we are a part of Mission Health, our patients can be transported in less than 15 minutes by MAMA (Mountain Area Medical Lift) to Mission Hospital's Level II trauma center for emergency heart, stroke and advanced critical care services.

On your journey to be well, get well or stay well every minute counts. Highlands-Cashiers Hospital offers you and your family the exceptional care and medical professionals you need to help you achieve and exceed your personal health goals.

Learn more at hchospital.org.

**HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS
HOSPITAL**

• HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

Mon.-Sat.

• Nantahala Tennis Club meets at 9a.m. to noon each day. All visitors welcome.

Sun. - Tues.

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

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.

Mon. & Wed.

• Zumba with Mary K. Barbour at the Rec Park from noon to 1p. For more information, call 828.342.2498.

• Donation Based Family Fitness Class at The Nature Center every Monday at noon and Wednesday at 7pm for Teens and Adults,

Mon., Wed., Fri.

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

• Aerobics with Tina Rogers 8-9a.

First Tuesdays

• The monthly family support group for those with family members, friends, or loved ones living with the challenge of mental illness meets the first Tuesday of each month, 7p.m. at Memorial United Methodist Church, 4668 Old Murphy Road, Franklin. This group is sponsored by the local affiliate of NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness). For more information: Ann 828 369-7385

Tuesdays

• Growing Stronger Together - A support and learning group for women who have physical or mental difficulties including depression or high stress. \$5 per session. Meets weekly on Tuesdays through August 4 at the Peggy Crosby Center, Rm.203. Led by Bonnie Gramlich, LPC and

sponsored by HUMC and the Counseling and Psychotherapy Center of Highlands. Call 828.342.0546 to register or for more info.

• FREE Community Table Dinner at the Community Bldg. at 6p.

• FREE Yoga in the K-H Founders Park Tuesdays from 6-7 p.m. Bring the whole family (along with a towel and a bottle of water) for a gentle, community stretch!

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 and Thursdays

• Zumba with Connie at the Rec Park **will resume Tuesday, Sept. 15.** at 8a. \$5.

• Pickle ball is played from 9:30-11a in the gym at the Rec Park.

1st Wednesdays

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

2nd Wednesdays

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

Wednesdays

• Children's Book of the Month Club and Story Hour with Nonnie (Diane McPhail) at Shakespeare & Company in Village Square at 11 a.m.

• Live music at Satulah Mountain Brewing Company with Jimandi, a local duo, 7:30-10:30p.

Thursdays

• Storytimes with Miss Deanna at Hudson Library 10:40 am. 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 individu-

als 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.

• Free lectures at the Highlands Nature Center, 930 Horse Cove Road in Highlands at 6:30 p.m. For more information, call (828) 526-2221.

2nd Thursdays

• Sapphire Valley Needlepoint Guild meets at the Highlands Rec Park at 10 a.m.

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.

Fridays and Saturdays:

• The Highlands Historical Museum is open every Friday and Saturday from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.. On display is a Botanical History of the Highlands Plateau, a gallery of local photographs by George Masa, and presentations of Mary Lapham's TB Sanatorium, the Moccasin War of 1885, Abraham Lincoln's alleged origins, Joe Webb's tools, and books and DVDs about Highlands history. For more information, email highlandshistory@nctv.com.

Fridays

• Live music in Town Square from 6-8p.

Saturdays

• Highlands Marketplace in K-H Found-

ers Park on Pine Street from 9a to 2p.

• Children's Story Hour with Nonnie (Diane McPhail) at Shakespeare & Company in Village Square at 11 a.m.

• At MountainTop Wine Shoppe on Main Street, free wine tasting from 1-3 p.m.

• Music in the K-H Founders Park from 6-8p. Bring a picnic.

Through Aug. 22

• At the Highlands Playhouse, First Date. Wed.-Sat., at 8 p.m. and Sat. & Sun. at 2 p.m. for Tickets call 828-526-2695.

Thurs.-Sun, Aug. 13-16

• Bascom in Bloom. Thurs: Horticulture Lecture Series and Demonstrations. FREE. Open all day. Fri. & Sat., Aug. 14-15, Bascom in Bloom Flower Show. Demonstration and Champagne Luncheon. Tickets are \$85 per person. Sun., Aug. 16, Benefactor Party: Music by The Tams and dinner by award winning Avalon Catering. For more information, call 828-4526-4949.

Thurs., Aug. 20

• Highlands School orientation from 4-6p. Open House for ALL students.

• The Zahner Conservation Lecture Series at 6:30 in the Nature Center of the Highlands Biological Station. Please join us for a talk by Dr. Cheryl Waters-Tormey, Associate Professor, Western Carolina University entitled: "Energy Literacy and How "Fracking" (High Volume Slickwater Hydraulic Fracturing) Fits In, North Carolina and Beyond."

Friday, August 21

• Eco Tour: "Serpentine Barrens," Join Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust as we explore a unique ecosystem within the Nantahala National Forest and learn more about its inhabitants from your herpetologist and botanist guides. \$35 new friends includes the guided hike, lunch on the trail



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• HIGHLANDS EVENTS •

and a year membership to Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust! HCLT members: \$10. Reservations required: Julie.hitrust@earthlink.net, 526-1111.

Fri., Aug. 21

• The High Mountain Squares will host their "All Gospel Music Dance," this Friday night at the Macon County Community Building, GA Road (441 South), Franklin NC from 6:30 to 9 PM. Dr. Jim Duncan from Otto, NC will be the caller. We dance Western Style Square Dancing, main/stream and plus levels. Everyone is welcome. Classes will start September 14th.

Sat., Aug. 22

• 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 highlandsgreenway@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 9:00 AM for a brief orientation session, and you will be furnished with the necessary tools and safety equipment.

• The Laurel Garden Club kitchen tour from 9a to 3p. Tickets go on sale May 1 at The Dry Sink, 450 Main Street in Highlands, and online at www.laurelgardenclub-highlands.com. Tickets are \$65 each.

• Relay for Life 5K and Kids Glo Fun Run at 6 p.m. First 50 People to register will receive an event shirt. Race day registration begins at 5:30 PM. Kid's Glo Fun Run will start at 6 p.m. Relay For Life 5k Glo Run will start at 7:15 p.m. \$20 Adult Registration if done by August 14th. \$10 Kids Glo Fun Run Pre-registration by August 14th. Tasse Shelter on the Greenway

Sunday, Aug. 23

• **The Highlands Plateau Greenway will conduct its monthly work day from 9a – noon this Saturday, August 22nd. If you are interested in participating, please email Ran Shaffner at highlandsgreenway@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 9a for a brief orientation session, and you will be furnished with the necessary tools and safety equipment.**

• At K-H Founders Park and Yoga Highlands, FLOW: Yoga and River festival to benefit the Chattooga Conservancy from 1-6 p.m. Meditation classes, river update, healing arts silent auction. Collaboration with Cashiers Valley Fusion, Highland Hiker and Yoga Highlands. Special Concert with Blue Spirit Wheel! \$10 online tickets.

www.bluespiritwheel.com/events/. Donations for mini-classes and silent auction support Chattooga Conservancy.

• Art for the love of Hospice at Carpe Diem Farms, 4-7 p.m..Casual Attire suggested. Tickets are \$50. Call 828-524-8261.

Mon., Aug. 24

• Noted photographers and videographers Ed and Cindy Boos will present "Wild Critter Adventures" in photos and commentary at the Hudson Library in Highlands. This group of photos was taken in Bosque del Apache in New Mexico, Bear River in Utah, Yellowstone and Kenya as well as Highlands. The program begins at 7:30 p.m. with light refreshments at 7 p.m. Please enter through the rear door.

• The Jackson County Republican party will meet on Monday, at 6:30 PM at Ryan's in Sylva, Come earlier to eat. The guest speaker is Deon Dunn, who will speak for Senator Ted Cruz, Republicans, unaffiliated voters and others interested are invited to attend For Jackson County GOP information, please call Ralph Slaughter @ 828 743-6491 or email: jacksonctygop@yahoo.com. Like us on Facebook at Jackson County Republican Party.

Tuesday, August 25

• Free Interlude Concert Series at the Presbyterian Church at 2 p.m. Trio Carolina with Oral Moses, bass-baritone.

• Village Nature Series: "Bug Appetit!" – a "tasteful" presentation about insects with Zack Lemann. Zack Lemann, Chief Entomologist at The Audubon Insectarium in New Orleans. No reservations are necessary, everyone is welcome, rain or shine. Programs begin at 5:30 PM and usually last about an hour. All programs are family friendly.

• The 2015 Ladies Night Out Program, the topic will be General Health. We will have a speaker discussing general health topics and concerns. If you bring donations for Kids Place you will receive an extra door prize ticket. Please bring shelf stable foods/drink and paper goods such as paper towels, napkins, plates and cups. This program will be held in the cafeteria at AMC two times this date. One will be at 4 p.m. and one will be at 6:30 p.m., so you can choose which one you want to attend. The same presentation will be given at both meetings. All women are invited to attend one of these meetings and are asked to encourage all the women in their life, who are over the age of 13 years, to attend with them.

Aug. 27 – Sept. 6

• At the Highlands Playhouse, "End of the Rainbow." For tickets, call 828-526-2695.

• See EVENTS page 14

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• HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

• HCP presents Vanya & Sonia & Ma-sha & Spike at the Performing Arts Center. For ticket information call 828-526-8084.

Sat., Aug. 29

• Jackson County Parks and Recreation and Chiquapin to host 3rd Annual Cashiers Trail Mix trail run and team adventure mud run -- a 5 mile competitive trail run over diverse terrain or a 3.1762 mile team adventure run including obstacles, mud, and much more! The athlete may sign up for one or both events and must have a team of four for the adventure run. For more information visit <http://www.cashierstrailmix.com> or call Jackson County Parks and Recreation Department at 828.631.2020.

Sat.-Sun., Aug. 29 & 30

• Highlands Village Square Art & Craft Show. Regional artisans, music, food. 10 - 5 in Kelsey-Hutchinson Park on Pine Street, downtown Highlands. Admission free. Sponsored by Macon County Art Assn. Call (828) 787-2021 for info.

Sat & Sun., Sept. 5-6

• Fall Arts & Crafts Show at the Village Green in Cashiers. 10am - 5pm (Rain or Shine). More than 70 exhibiting artisans and good food. Admission is free but donations will be accepted to benefit area non-profits. Sponsored by the Rotary Club of Cashiers Valley.

Sat., Sept. 6

• At Cliffs Lake, Live Birds of Prey with Michael Skinner with the Balsam Mountain Trust at 11 a.m. Program on the patio at Cliffs Lake. No pets allowed.

Please arrive 15 minutes prior to program. Free by \$4/vehicle admission to recreation area.

Thursday, Sept. 10

• Dahlia Festival Patron Party. 6:30 p.m. at the Hudson House, Highlands Country Club. Mexican Fiesta with Live Mariachi Band. Tickets \$125. For more details, go to www.highlandshistory.com or call the Highlands Historical Society at (828) 787-1050. Proceeds raised by the Festival underwrite the upkeep of the Prince House, the oldest home within the town of Highlands.

Sat., Sept. 12

• Highlands' 5th Annual Dahlia Festival. 1- 5 p.m. at the Highlands Rec Park & Civic Center. All dahlia enthusiasts are urged to join in the competition. Prizes will be presented in multiple categories. It is to celebrate the beauty and enjoyment of these gorgeous flowers that grow so well in our beautiful mountains. Come and bring your blooms to share with other dahlia lovers. Public admission \$5 at the door. Exhibitor fee \$10. Live Music (Dulcimer players 2 - 3:30 p.m.) Refreshments and Actors in Period Costumes at the Highland Historical Museum

Sun., Sept. 13

• The 23rd Annual Bel Canto Recital will again present a quartet of renowned singers from the world of opera - Jennifer Black, Audrey Babcock, mezzo-soprano, Jonathan Burton, tenor, and Mark Walters, baritone. Don't miss this year's performance! If you have any questions, please call us at 828 526 5213 or email at highlandsbelcanto@gmail.com.

gmail.com.

Thursday, Sept. 17

• Eco Tour: "Bald Rock." Join Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust on this special access hike to the summit of "Old Bald" through Camp Merrie-Woode. You'll have the chance to see and learn about a number of rare plants from your botanist guide and be rewarded with a grand view from above. \$35 new friends includes the guided hike, lunch on the trail and a year membership to Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust! HCLT members: \$10. Reservations required: Julie. hitrust@earthlink.net, 526-1111. Together we are saving mountains: www.hicashlt.org.

Sept. 18-20

• At the Highlands Playhouse, 2015 Highlands Playhouse Classic Film Festival celebrating 1939 -- Cinema's Greatest Movie Year. For more information, call 828-526-2695

Tues., Sept. 22

• Paoletti's Reataurant is having a charity dinner for the Hospice House Foundation of WNC from 5-7 p.m. Cocktails and Casual Grazing - \$150/person (\$100 is tax deductible). A come-as-you-are social cocktail reception with hors'dourves and select wines. At 7:30 p.m. it's Dining for Dignity - \$250/person (\$150 if tax deductible) This will be a relaxed dining experience where patrons choose from a decadent 4-course menu especially selected for the evening. This dining venue is limited - early reservations are strongly recommended. Please call 828-526-4906.

Wed., Sept. 23

• Eco Tour: "HCLT's Annual Elk Excursion". Join Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust on this enchanting journey that has become an annual tradition. We will travel to Cataloochee Valley at the peak of the rut. As the autumn leaves are donning their colors you will begin with a hands on orientation by one of the Bugle Corp specialists then have a chance to witness the intriguing behaviors of these magnificent creatures in their own habitat. \$35 new friends includes the guided hike, lunch on the trail and a year membership to Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust! HCLT members: \$10. Reservations required: Julie. hitrust@earthlink.net, 526-1111. Together we are saving mountains: www.hicashlt.org.

Tuesday, Sept. 29

• Village Nature Series: "Sheepnoses & Timbertwigs" - all about heritage apples with Dana Holden. Dana has a passion for finding and preserving apples that are part of Appalachian agricultural heritage. She shares her avocation and knowledge of heritage apples, their uses and their unique stories with a variety of groups. The Village Nature Series (VNS) is a free speaker series at The Village Green Commons in Cashiers co-hosted by Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust and The Village Green. VNS brings experts in their field of natural or cultural heritage to Cashiers one evening a month throughout the summer. No reservations are necessary, everyone is welcome, rain or shine. Programs begin at 5:30 PM and usually last about an hour.

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The importance of small mammals to the ecosystem – Aug. 27 at the Nature Center

The Zahner Conservation Lecture Series continues on Thursday, August 27th at 6:30 in the Nature Center of the Highlands Biological Station.

This series is designed to help educate and inspire the public through a series of talks from well-known regional scientists, conservationists, artists, and writers.

Please join us for a talk by Dr. Edward Pivorun, retired Professor of Biology at Clemson University, entitled: "Though Small, We Pack Quite a Wallop: The Saga of Small Mammals and the Environment."

Although most people consider "rats" and "mice" vermin and have never seen or heard of a wild shrew, the small mammal faunas in the forests, fields, wetlands and even deserts play an important and even an essential role in maintaining robust and stable ecosystems. Voles, not moles, aid in the distribution and maintenance of fungal spores that produce underground fungi that are essential for the well being of many herbaceous and woody plants. Small mammals aid in the dispersal of seeds or can deplete the seed bank of species and inhibit the regrowth of seedlings. Shrews and moles impact the soil invertebrate populations, being voracious consumers of various insect larvae.

Small mammals also serve as models regarding physiological adaptations. The woodland jumping mouse enters hibernation and the deer mouse displays daily torpor. Desert rodents are able to live their whole lives without drinking water because of their efficient kidney systems and a highly efficient nasal countercurrent water recovery system.

Without these small mammals, predators such as fox, coyote, owls and hawks



Red Squirrel



Golden Mouse

would starve and their production of young would be severely limited. The field-dwelling cotton rat has one of the highest reproductive rates and is extremely important as a food resource.

As important as small mammals are in natural ecosystems, the effects of small mammals on human disease spread cannot be underestimated. As human housing development encroaches deeper into wooded ecosystems, there is a greater probability of disease spread – such as Lyme disease and Hantavirus Pulmonary Syndrome – from the wild mammal populations to

humans.

Dr Ed Pivorun, a retired professor of Biological Sciences at Clemson University, has taught courses in comparative physiology, mammalogy and tropical biology. Currently he has been teaching the mammal course during the summer at the Highlands Biological Station. He was the primary researcher in Great Smoky Mountains National Park surveying mammal populations for the All Taxa Biological Inventory (ATBI) program. He is the primary author of the book Mammals of the Great Smoky Mountains and Southern Appalachian Mountains (iTunes store). He is now involved with the Emmy award-winning SC ETV show Expeditions with Patrick McMillan, where he serves as a photographer, videographer and advisor. He has worked in locations from Barrow Alaska south to Patagonia, Chile, and from California east to the rice plantations and bird rookeries of South Carolina.

The public is invited to participate in this free lecture, sponsored by Vevie and Lawrence Dimmitt. For a full schedule of lectures, as well as information on other programs, please visit www.highlandsbio.com

Tonight, Aug. 20 at the Zahner Conservation Lecture Series at 6:30 in the Nature Center Dr. Cheryl Waters-Tormey, Associate Professor, Western Carolina University entitled: "Energy Literacy and How "Fracking" (High Volume Slickwater Hydraulic Fracturing) Fits In, North Carolina and Beyond."



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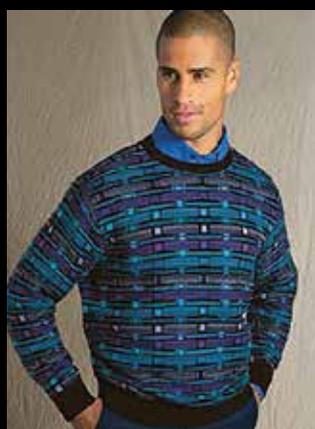
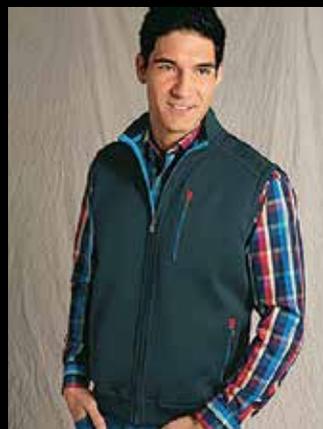
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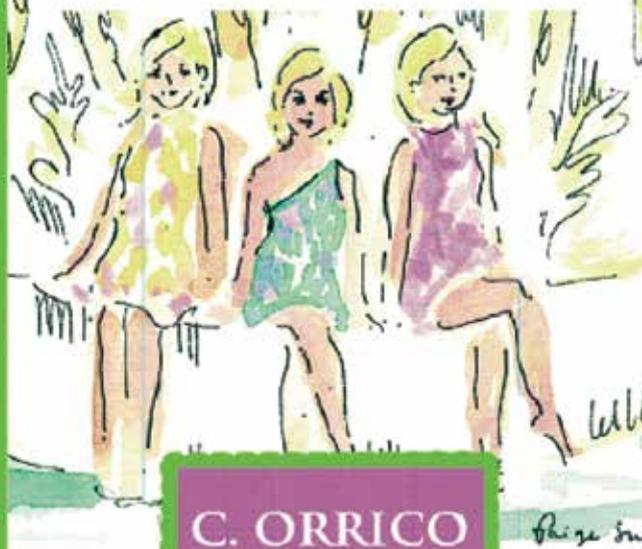
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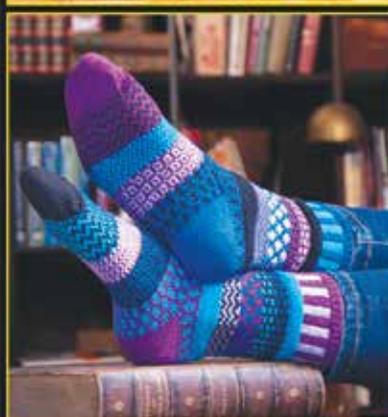
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2014 visitor impact for Macon County

County Spending by Domestic Visitors increases by 5.63 percent to \$148.78 million

Visit North Carolina announced today that domestic visitors to and within Macon County spent \$148.78 million in 2014, an increase of 5.63% from 2013.

Chamber of Commerce

Executive Director Bob Kieltyka stated: "Continued growth of the travel and tourism Industry clearly demonstrates its importance as an economic force in Macon County," said Bob Kieltyka, executive director of the Highlands Chamber

of Commerce. "The latest report on the impact of domestic visitor spending in the county continues a string of successive years of growth in this sector of the local economy."

Tourism impact highlights

for 2014:

- The travel and tourism industry directly employs more than 1,220 in Macon County.

- Total payroll generated by the tourism industry in Macon County was \$25,260,000.

- State tax revenue generated in Macon County totaled \$6,450,000 through state sales and excise taxes, and taxes on personal and corporate income. Approximately \$11,680,000 in local taxes were generated from sales and property tax revenue from travel generated and travel supported businesses.

Governor Pat McCrory announced in May that visitors

to North Carolina spent a record \$21.3 billion in 2014, an increase of 5.5 percent from 2013.

These statistics are from the "2014 Economic impact of Travel on North Carolina Counties." The study was prepared for Visit North Carolina by the U.S. Travel Association.

"All eight regions of the state had spending growth of 4 percent or more and 90 percent of the state's counties saw direct tourism employment growth from 2013 to 2014," said Wit Tuttell, executive director of Visit North Carolina. "As the sixth most visited state in the country, tourism continues to

• See **VISITOR** page 19



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Good News...and No Bad News!

Wow...what a great selling season we are having! It has been years since we have seen this flurry of activity with buyers. We are putting homes and lots under contract each week and some are secured with back-up offers! We are even getting multiple offers and one just paid more than asking price!

If you have been thinking of selling, do it now. What has made the difference, you might ask, so I will give you my opinion.

With over 300 weddings in Highlands each year, the exposure to our lovely town—from many who have never visited before—fall in love with us, as I did 21 years ago. What's not to love? Mountains that surround and beckon you, waterfalls that depict nature's best, cool temps in the summer, gentle snows in the winter, restaurants that rival the best anywhere in the country, divine shopping, playhouses and performing art centers that entertain to your heart's content, and a fine arts center that allows beginners to grow at their own pace.

As I previously wrote back in the spring, if your home is priced right, well-maintained, and has great curb appeal, it will sell now. A full-time broker, who is aware



Pat Allen
Broker-in-charge
Cell: 828-200-9179
Office: 828-526-8784

of true market value, and lives and breathes real estate on a daily basis, can help you accomplish your goal. We still have stagnant inventory that was priced wrong from the beginning and has increased overall days on the market for our MLS listings statistics. That helps no one.

Zillow's zestimate confuses buyers with no regard for location and possible inaccurate data. We, as good brokers, have to explain that Highlands and the surrounding area's locations, whether mountain views or on water, add to the value and are priced accordingly. Many tax appraisals are still inflated and should not be an indicator of the selling price of your home.

So you see, a full-time broker who sells throughout our area can determine the value of your home and get it sold.

There's no better time to sell than now. Call any of our professional brokers if you want to buy or sell. It's still not too late to get a great value and our brokers can guide you in the right direction. I always think resale when working with buyers and take that into account when showing homes or land to secure their piece of mind. Buying or selling can be stressful and we always strive for

a win-win situation.

Pat Allen is owner and broker-in-charge of Pat Allen

Realty Group. Visit its webpage at www.patallenrealtygroup.com or call Pat's cell at 828-200-9179 or the office at 828-526-8784.

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...VISITOR continued from page 18

be a major driver of economic development across North Carolina.”
Statewide:

- State tax receipts as a result of visitor spending neared the \$1.1 billion mark in 2014 representing a 4% growth over 2013.
- Visitors spend more than \$58 million per day in North Carolina. That spending adds more than \$4.6 million per day to state and local tax revenues (about \$2.9 million in state taxes and \$1.7 million in local taxes).
- The travel and tourism industry directly employs more than 200,000 North Carolinians.



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...SCHOOL continued from page 1

Henderson; 3rd: Jamey Christy and Margie Potts; 4th: Melanie Miller; 5th: Angela Sanchez and Kate Messer; 6th: Joy Archer; 7th and 8th: Michele Lane, Valery Bates, Stephanie Smathers and Sarah Hibbits; 9th - 12th: Math: Gina Billingsley and Brian Aulisio; English: Cathy Mac-Ross and David Parrish; Science: Tyler Holmes; Social Studies: Chris Green and Ryan Kean.

There are four new teachers: David Parrish who is teaching high school English; Margie Potts who is teaching 3rd grade; Kate Messer who is teaching 5th grade; and Crystal Guston who is teaching 3rd through 8th grade PE and Health.

Both Margie Potts and David Parrish attended Highlands School kindergarten through twelfth grade and they are both psyched about being back where it all began for them.

"I feel so fortunate to come back to the school that shaped my education from Kindergarten through 12th grade as a teacher," said Potts about her first teaching assignment. "I'm so excited to get started!"

As to what she hopes to accomplish Potts said she just wants to serve her school the best she can, and help her students be successful learners. "I'm also really looking forward to learning from all the other teachers, too."

Parrish who has taught high school in Asheboro, NC, was a bit more philosophi-

cal.

"It's a nostalgic feeling coming home. I loved my Asheboro community and tenure, but there's nothing more humbling than walking the halls of your youth," he said. "I'm excited and feel I know where our students are coming from. After roaming the streets of Highlands all my life, I believe I can relate to what they are bringing to the table every day. I hope to dive into the community head first and see what drives these students."

He acknowledges a difference between Asheboro and Highlands.

"I believe that this experience will differ from my Asheboro tenure in that I have a very serious stake and obligation to our community. With all the warm welcomes and love, I feel a sense of ownership in my work and community and am eager to give back to my motherland."

Kate Messer said she is excited to be back in the classroom after spending several years managing Half Mile Farm.

"I am looking forward to getting to know my 5th grade students and their families and working with a great team at Highlands School creating life long learners," she said.

Back in June a new calendar was accepted for both Highlands and Nantahala,

• See **SCHOOL** page 21



The spacious grounds and unique buildings of The Bascom are available for rent. Large, medium and small-sized venues for receptions, weddings, meetings and other gatherings are available to the entire community.

The Main Building Atrium and Terrace can accommodate numerous guests, while The Horst Winkler Sculpture Trail's Pavilion would be the perfect site for an intimate ceremony with a small reception. Whether you are planning your only daughter's wedding, corporate board meeting and retreat, company party, or large birthday bash for your best friends, The Bascom has a unique setting for every special occasion.

The Bascom's list of approved caterers will provide many choices for you to have the perfect event.



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the two schools in the county that have traditionally struggled with the state-mandated calendar due to inclement weather and scheduling online classes students take through Southwestern Community College.

This year school starts at 8 a.m. and dismisses at 3:10 p.m. rather than 2:50 p.m., which adds 20 minutes to each day.

This change will enable students to get the required 1,025 hours or 180 days of instruction

while, getting end of semester testing completed before the Christmas break which keeps them in line with the SCC and still enables inclement weather days in the schedule without losing instruction time.

Highlands School is considered one big family and this year camaraderie will be put to the test with renovations in the high school wing expected to be completed in December.

Consequently, classrooms in

the elementary wing will be dual purposed.

"We gave the high school wing and front office area over to the contractors when they started on July 15th and it is now completed," said Principal Brian Jetter. "The high school rooms are supposed to be finished by December."

Until then, high school teachers will meet their classes in the

upper portion of the elementary wing, classrooms that have been used for that purpose in the past.

"We have the ITV lab meeting in the computer lab room. We have another class meeting in a portion of the Media Center. Hopefully, the construction will meet schedule and the teachers can be back in their rooms in the high school wing by December,"

said Jetter.

The construction consists of doing the same things that were done to the elementary classrooms two years ago: new floors, ceilings, windows, HVAC, paint, and electrical – all funded with QZAB monies – a zero percent interest loan from the federal government.

– Kim Lewicki

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Offered at \$498,000. MLS #81239.

Contact Susie deVile (828) 371-2079.



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Right, Chris Hess, plays Spike and Raina Trent plays Nina. in HCP's production of "Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike." The show is running from Aug. 27 through Sept. 6 at PAC. For tickets call 828-526-8084.

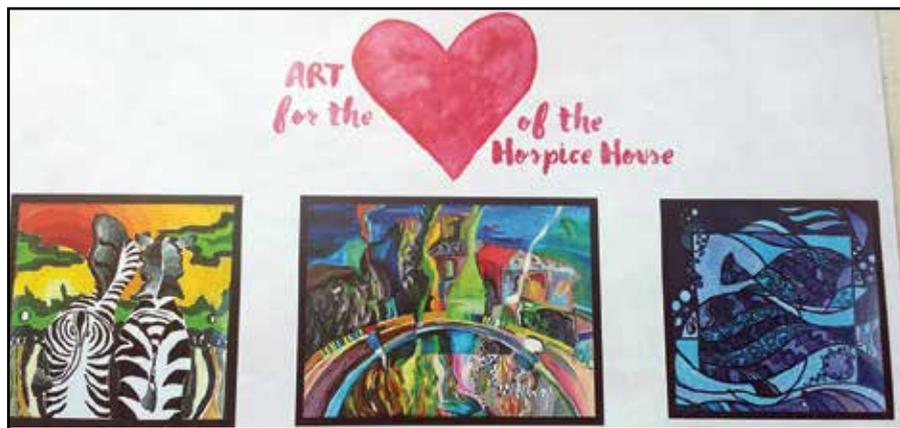
HCP Box Office open for Season Subscribers

To kick off its 21st season, the Highlands Cashiers Players are presenting the recent Broadway comedy by Christopher Durang, "Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike," 2013 Tony winner for Best Play and recipient of the prestigious Drama Critics Circle Award.

The characters of the play, siblings Vanya, Masha, and Sonia, were from plays of Russian playwright Anton Chekov. Vanya and Sonia are still living in the family home when sister Masha, a glamorous successful middle-aged actress, returns home accompanied by her "companion" Spike, a much younger sexy guy. When Masha announces plans to sell the house, the conflict begins, aided and abetted by Cassandra, the strange volatile housemaid who predicts a future of doom and goes to hilarious extremes to prevent

the sale. In the midst of the controversy, the family is invited to a costume party by the next door neighbor's lovely young daughter, Nina, who immediately catches Spike's wandering eye. The ridiculous costumes that Masha insists everyone wear to the party create even more dissension among the characters and more laughs for the audience. But of course, it's a comedy and the ending satisfies all.

The box office, 828-526-8084, will be open for season subscribers today and tomorrow and for others beginning Saturday, August 22. The play runs August 27 through August 30 and September 3 through 6 at the Highlands Performing Arts Center, 507 Chestnut Street. Evening performances begin at 7:30, Sunday matinees at 2:30.



Art for the Love of the Hospice House

On Sunday, Aug. 23, Carpe Diem Farms presents Art for the Love of the Hospice House from 4-7 p.m. Tickets are \$50 for an evening of fun, appetizers, spirits, music and a silent auction of original art from the Public Children's Art Studio in Minsk, Belarus. Each piece will have a "buy now" price. All proceeds will benefit the Hospice House Foundation of WNC. For more information, visit hhfwncc.org or call 828-524-8261.

• BUSINESS / ORGANIZATION NEWS •



Pictured from left are Charlie Sheehan, Chairman of HCH Board of Directors, Sam Paisley, Roberta Dawson, Barbara Cusachs and HCH president and CNO Jackie Ring.

Highlands-Cashiers Hospital honors its volunteers

Highlands-Cashiers Hospital (HCH) recently celebrated the many contributions their dedicated volunteers provide to

the hospital during a banquet at Wildcat Cliffs Country Club. Several volunteers were recognized for their years of service. These

include Sam Paisley and Roberta Dawson who have volunteered for 10 years and Barbara Cusachs who has volunteered for 20 years at the hospital.

“Our volunteers contribute in many departments around the hospital,” said Jackie Ring, President and CNO for Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. “From the pharmacy and gift shop to Health-Tracks, their countless hours of service are an integral part of our mission to provide quality health-care to our communities.”

According to Ring, HCH’s volunteers are also an invaluable asset when it comes to providing special funding to the hospital and staff. The volunteers provide scholarships to staff in the nursing field and recently awarded \$500 to a nurse. Funding for this type of project comes from sales in the gift shop located in the hospital lobby.

“Highlands-Cashiers Hospital had approximately 90 ac-

tive volunteers during 2014-15, and they have donated well over 7,500 hours during the past year,” said Ring. “This represents an economic benefit in excess of \$150,000 to the hospital and the communities we serve.”

“All of these things demon-

strate how the volunteers are an essential part of the hospital and their dedication and compassion is unmatched,” said Ring.

If you are interested in volunteering at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital, please contact Elizabeth Latimer at (828) 526-1345.

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Macon County Community Foundation accepting grant applications – Deadline is Aug. 25

The board of advisors of the Macon County Community Foundation is currently accepting grant requests for community projects funded from its community fund, according to Regina Lupoli, board president.

Funds are available for non-profit organizations that serve general charitable needs in Macon County.

Applications are available online only beginning July 10. Visit nccommunityfoundation.org for information about applying online. The deadline for submitting applications is noon Aug. 25.

The Macon County Community Foundation is an affiliate of the North Carolina Community Foundation. The community fund was established to help support local charitable needs through annual grants.

In addition to Lupoli, board members are: Mandy Lail (vice-president), Granville Yeon (secretary), Pam Collins, Sean Gibson, Louise Henry, Michele

Hubbs, Kim Lloyd, Bryan Robinson, Tina Rogers, Derek Rowland, Nicole Sloop and Karen M. Stiwinter.

All the information that

any non-profit helping Macon County residents might needs can be found at <http://www.nccommunityfoundation.org/macon/>

• See GRANT page 25

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• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

A reflection on love



I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. John 13:34 (NRSV)

Love is _____.

By Rev. Bruce Walker
Episcopal Church of the Incarnation

Given all that is happening in the world today, some are asking the question, where is the love? From the shootings in Charleston, SC to the continuing arguments over social and political issues, often love is left on the outside looking in.

Even so, we have glimpses of what love is. In the aftermath of the horrific actions of a deranged young man, many of the people most affected rose up to offer forgiveness. Recently, some of us witnessed love made real when two people came together to have their relationship blessed in the context of marriage after 38 years of faithful togetherness. Love is all around us and can be found, if you are looking for it.

Many years ago, one of my last stops on the road to ordination was a meeting with the board of the examining chaplains in Columbia, SC. The questions covered a wide range of territory. I was even asked to sing part of our liturgy. But what I remember most was a "fill in the blank" response: God is _____.

There are many ways to answer, but I knew that what they were looking for was LOVE! Aren't we all?

Going back a bit further, I remember what one of my favorite soul singers, Al Green, had to say about love. Noting the great power of love, he sang, "Love will make you do right, love will make you do wrong - make you come home early, make you stay out all night long." Love has great power. He also sang that "love will make you want to dance!" It will make you laugh and sing a bit too!

So what does our faith say about love? At many weddings we read from Paul's writings about love. He says that, "Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, and endures all things. Love never ends." Paul makes it clear that love is the greatest gift we can hope for.

While saying that "God is love" is about the best way to speak of God in one word, the converse is not as helpful, for love is not God. God is God and always will be. In the end, what we can say as Christians is that true love is living the life we find in Christ Jesus. Moreover, what we can all say with some assurance is that God is present where love is found. Love is the connecting medium of the universe and so is found everywhere. Take a look around this fine world today and resolve to live your life dancing and singing about this great power and wonder. It is the way forward!

Proverbs 3:5

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Wednesdays: 9 a.m. Healing and Prayer w/Holy Communion

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464 US Hwy 64 east, Cashiers
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9:30a Sunday School; 10:30a Family Service w/ Music
Mon.: Bible Study & Supper at homes - 6 p.m.

CHRIST CHURCH OF THE VALLEY, CASHIERS
Pastor Steve Kerhoulas • 743-5470
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Tues. Guys study 8am, Gals 10am.

CLEAR CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH
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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: Holy Eucharist (chapel) at 8 a.m.
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
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Mondays: 8 a.m.: Men's Prayer Group & Breakfast
Wednesdays: Choir: 5:30p

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• PLACES TO WORSHIP •

John 3:16

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Wed. Kidsquest 6p.; Worship 7p.

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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
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Sundays: School: 10 a.m.; Worship: 11, Choir: 6 p.m.
Wed: Bible Study and Youth Mtg.: 7 p.m.

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Wednesdays: Prayer Mtg.: 7 p.m.

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

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Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study: 7

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• POLICE & FIRE REPORTS •

The Highlands Police log entries from July 31. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor or public officials have been used.

July 31

• At 7 p.m., officers responded to a call about a larceny from a vehicle on S. 3rd Street where a windows was broken and a gun was removed from a computer bag.

Aug. 5

• At 8 p.m., officers responded to a 2-vehicle hit and run accident on NC 28.

Aug. 6

• At 1:30 p.m., officers responded to a 2-vehicle accident on Main Street.

Aug. 7

• At 8 p.m., officers responded to a call about a larceny at 200 Main where clothes were taken from a suitcase.

Aug. 9

• At 9:38 p.m., officers responded to a call of damage to property at Fibber Magee's Closet on Laurel Street where a vehicle hit a stone pillar and knocked it over.

• A little past midnight, officers responded to a call about a vehicle being stolen while the victim was in The Ugly Dog.

The Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. log from July 3

Aug. 5

• At 11:09 a.m., the dept. stood by at the H-C Hospital for the MAMA helicopter.

Aug. 6

• A little past midnight, the dept. provided mutual aid to the Cashiers Fire Department.

• At 9:54 a.m., the dept. responded

to a fire alarm at the Highlands Cashiers Hospital.

• At 10:02 a.m., the dept. provided mutual aid to the Scaly Fire Department.

Aug. 7

• At 2:16 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Hickory Knutt Gap Road.

• At 9:34 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Holly Berry Road.

Aug. 8

• At 8:51 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Ring Road.

• At 9:46 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Cullasaja Drive.

Aug. 9

• At 3:47 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Satulah Falls Road.

Aug. 10

• At 1:36 p.m. the dept. stood by at the H-C Hospital for the MAMA helicopter.

• At 3:03 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a building on Main Street.

Aug. 11

• At 11:29 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Apple Mountain road.

• At 12:42 p.m., the dept. stood by at the H-C Hospital for the MAMA helicopter

Aug. 13

• At 5:04 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Dogwood Lane.

• At 5:12 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Spruce Lane.

Aug. 14

• At 1:47 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Country Club Drive.

• At 6:16 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Upper Brushy Face Road.

Aug. 15

• At 3:26 a.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on NC 106.

Aug. 16

• At 5:37 a.m., the dept. gave public assistance at a residence on Hicks Road.

• At 8:19 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Oak Street.

Aug. 18

• At 6:42 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Turtle Pond Road.

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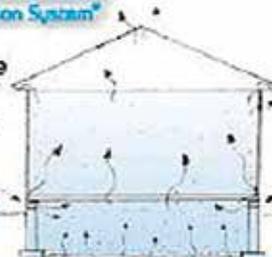
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...GRANT continued from page 23

applying-for-grants

For further information, contact any board member; the NCCF Regional Associate Sue LeLievre at 800-201-9532 or visit the NCCF website at www.ncccommunityfoundation.org.

About the North Carolina Community Foundation

The NCCF is the single statewide community foundation serving North Carolina and has made \$89 million in grants since its inception in 1988. With more than \$191 million in assets, NCCF sustains 1,200 endowments established

to provide long-term support of a broad range of community needs, nonprofit organizations, institutions and scholarships. The NCCF partners with 60 affiliate foundations to provide local resource allocation and community assistance in 67 counties across the state. An important component of

NCCF's mission is to ensure that rural philanthropy has a voice at local, regional and national levels.

For more information, visit ncccommunityfoundation.org and Facebook or follow on LinkedIn and Twitter @NCCF.

• BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NEWS •

Cullasaja Women's Outreach grant funds playground and more at HCCDC



Enjoying the newly-completed infant outdoor activity area at the Child Development Center, made possible through a grant from Cullasaja Women's Outreach.

Thanks to a grant from Cullasaja Women's Outreach, the Child Development Center has a new outdoor activity area that's just for infants. The Center's infants are enjoying the colors, textures, sounds and smells of the outdoors, all of which stimulate their senses and initiate creative play.



The CWO grant also helped defray the costs of updating the Center's 2015 curriculum and purchase classroom supplies and learning materials.

"We appreciate the generosity of Cullasaja Women's Outreach and look forward to continuing our partnership with them and other community funding sources to provide new opportunities for our children and families," said Pat Hedden, Executive Director.

The Highlands Community Child De-

velopment Center is a 501(c)(3) corporation whose mission is to provide affordable, high-quality preschool child care and early childhood education to promote optimal cognitive, physical, emotional, and social development in a safe and loving environment to young children and their families regardless of race, color, national origin, gender, age, disability, religion, or financial status.

Bates receives scholarship from Highlands Roadrunners Club

Morris Williams, Vice President of the Highlands Roadrunners Club, recently presented a \$500 scholarship to former Highlands student-athlete Hayden Bates.

Hayden is entering her junior year at Davidson College where she continues to excel in both academics and athletics.

"She has made excellent progress in both areas," Williams said, "and this year

she will be a leader on the cross country and track teams."

Over the last 15 years, the Highlands Roadrunners Club has awarded a total of \$11,500 to 20 different Highlands students who continued athletics in college. The Club has also provided over \$3,500 for other health and fitness activities in the Highlands area.



Highlands School Butterfly Garden is thriving thanks to the Mountain Garden Club

Native Joe Pye weed and other blooms welcome students back to Highlands School, thanks to the Mountain Garden Club's butterfly garden which has brightened the campus for almost 20 years.



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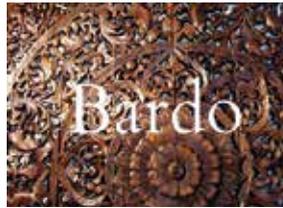
26-27, 8A.M.—3P.M. Miscellaneous household items (no kitchen items) books, garage items. 150 Zermatt Circle, Highlands. Holt Knob Community across from PNC Bank on Franklin Rd. Drive up Holt Knob Road (bearing right) to Lucerne Drive. Make left on Lucerne, 1 block to Zermatt.

Bear left on Zermatt. It's the 6th house on the left.

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-- Cherry Dining Room Table, 60 inches round with 20-inch extension leaf (pads included). One armed chair and 7 side chairs. Cherry China Cabinet. Natural finish Armoire for clothes storage. Cherry Computer Desk. 828-526-3048. (st. 8/20)

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SALES POSITIONS FOR BARDO, A RETAIL FURNITURE & home accessory store. Full & part time positions are available. Send resume to Bardo49nc@gmail.com or apply in person 460 Main Street Highlands NC. MUST be able to work weekends. & or Friday & Saturday nights. Also able to lift over 50 lb. (st. 7/23)

BOX OFFICE STAFF

NEEDED. The Highlands Playhouse is looking for part time box office staff to assist with movies. Must be personable, mathematically inclined and have reliable transportation. Must be able to

work nights and weekends. Stop in the box office to pick up an application. Call 828-526-2695 with any questions. (st. 8/20)

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ALTITUDES AT SKY-LINE looking for Waitstaff. Call Eric at 828-526-2121. (st. 8/20)

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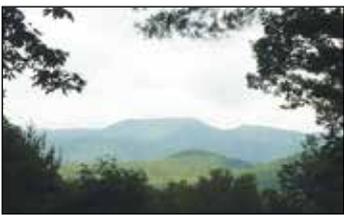
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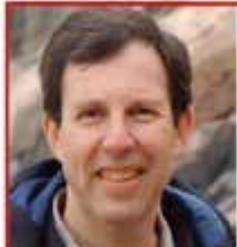
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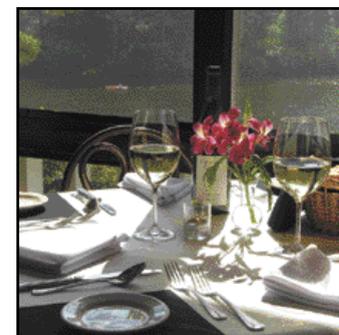
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