School to start Aug. 24 and end May 27 for Highlands

For years the Macon County School system has struggled with making the state mandated calendars work for Highlands and Nantahala where weather plays a big part during the winter months.

At the June MC Board of Education meeting, the board unanimously approved a calendar for Highlands and Nantahala that satisfies both the state’s instructional hour requirement of 1,025 hours or 180 days and those districts’ need for flexibility.

Beginning the 2015-’16 school year, school will begin Monday, August 24 and end Friday, May 27 in Highlands and Nantahala. The school day will begin at 8 a.m. and end at 3:10 p.m., rather than 2:50 p.m. – adding 20 minutes to each school day.

Recent changes to the state’s calendar law have made this possible. Students must now have 1,025 hours or 180 days of instruction during the school year.

Nonprofits, county & town to feel sting of State & House budgets

After spending a few days in Raleigh last week, Macon County Commissioner Ronnie Beale returned to Macon County to share his concerns with the state’s budget proposal and the potential adverse effects looming for the county.

During a special meeting last Thursday, Commissioner Beale told his fellow board members that the consensus around the

July 4th Highlands style is an all day (night) event!

There are family fun events all day and night this weekend. Friday beginning at 6p there is live music in Town Square on Main Street featuring the Johnny Webb Band. Saturday, July 4th events stretch into the evening. At 9a the boy scouts will launch their bottle rockets at the ballfield. The Rec Park’s Family Games are also at the ballfield from 11a to noon and at noon, weather permitting, the MAMA helicopter will land. At 1p the Duck Derby race begins in Mill Creek next to SweeTreats on N. 4th St. The Highlands Rotary BBQ is from 11a to 2p at the K-H Founder’s Park with live music by the Blue Mountain Movement Band. Plates are available for $8. BBQ will also be available at the ballfield. From 6-8p there is live music in K-H Founders Park featuring Fritz and the Crooked Beats. At 8p there is a patriotic concert at the First Presbyterian Church on Main Street. It’s free and will last about 50 minutes, in time to watch the town fireworks display that is set to begin at dark.

Come and get it!

Free lunch available for hungry kids this summer

If you’ve driven by the Highlands Civic Center entrance on N. Fourth Street you have probably noticed the sign, “Summer Feeding Site.”

It’s not about feeding geese or bears or anything like that – it’s about feeding hungry children in Highlands.

The sad truth is, when school lets out in the summer, many families struggle to feed their children. During the school year, children get up to two meals a day at school, but during the summer, if it wasn’t for programs such as the USDA summer food program sponsored by Macon Program for Progress (MPP) some children in Macon County wouldn’t know where their next meal is coming from.

For the last five years MPP has sponsored Macon County’s
Nothing is simple anymore, not even putting on the July 4th fireworks show. Two weeks ago I attended the planning meeting for the annual fireworks display. Highlands Chamber of Commerce director, Bob Kieltyka, was present along with our town manager, the Highlands Recreation Department director, the assistant fire chief and the county fire marshal. The East Coast Pyrotechnics Company’s technician in charge of the show also attended.

I quickly realized that the days of volunteer firefighters manually lighting and firing the fireworks are long gone. The whole technical process is now regulated by various government agencies including Homeland Security. They regulate just about anything involving explosives.

The East Coast Pyrotechnics technicians will have to carefully pack a truck with the fireworks and drive safely up mountain roads. They will spend Saturday setting up five inch mortars and load them with the fireworks, all within a designated firing area at the recreation

The show will go on!

Dear Editor,

I’m not sure if I was more shocked or disappointed in the recent letter from Donald Claims against nature center were not true

July 4th Holiday Sale!

June 30th through July 6th

20% off storewide, 10% Scottish cashmere, Sale room items 75% off

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From $420 Per Night for Two People*

...LETTERS continued from page 2

Murray criticizing so mean-spiritedly the Highlands Nature Center. Expressing unhappiness with the landscaping is one thing, but I found several of Dr. Murray’s assertions to be patently untrue. Any of your readers who might stroll over and visit the Nature Center to see for themselves would, I’m sure, agree that his complaints are nonsense. Filthy and neglected animal tanks? Which nature center did he visit? Complete rubbish.

We are delighted to have an outstanding Nature Center Educator who comes to us from the Carolina Raptor Center, with years of experience in handling and caring for animals; we meticulously follow all Federal and State guidelines on proper animal care and our animals are in great shape, thank you. Backbacks on the floor? Yes, that’s often the case with summer nature camps — the kids’ backpacks are left to one side in the back room while they are out on the trail, in the creek or wherever. There’s always a bit of “kid chaos” when campers are first arriving; perhaps that’s when Dr. Murray visited and the sight proved rather unsettling for him.

If Dr. Murray had actually taken the time to look around the Nature Center he would

THE DAVE DRAKE STUDIO
ANNUAL POTTERY SALE

Friday
July 10
10 AM - 6

Saturday
July 11
10 AM - 8 PM

VISIT THE DAVE DRAKE STUDIO BARN TO PURCHASE TRULY UNIQUE CERAMICS!

Bascom Barn Dance

Saturday, July 11
7 - 10 pm

Come enjoy country, contra, square dancing and more, complete with live bluegrass music from WellStrung, and grub by Fressers.

$5 per person

DON’T BE SQUARE!

Sponsored by Diane and Ray McPhail.

MOUNTAINTOP WINE SHOPPE

Join us July 4th!
Come enjoy
Highlands’ wine destination!
Shoppe opens 11am

FREE Wine Tasting Friday 5-7pm and Saturday 1-3pm

Lawn party & music starts 4pm July 4th.
Great view of the Highlands fireworks spectacular from our lawn and parking lot.

Bring your own chair or blanket.

Sorry – no outside alcohol.

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**Bistro ON MAIN**

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Norma Jean on the guitar in the garden
Saturday and Sunday

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**LUNCH:**
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**UPCOMING EVENTS**

“A curious mind knows no bounds”

- **BRIDGE: PLAY OF THE HAND PART II** (Low Intermediate) Mondays, July 6-Aug 3 (5 Sessions) Time: 9:30-11:30 Location Highlands Civic Center Cost $100/$120
  To be good at bridge the key is practice, practice, practice and this class provides exactly that. Duane Meeter has years of experience in teaching the tricks of improving your game.

- **COSMOLOGY, THE BODY AND SPIRITUALITY**: Tue. July 7 Time: 10-12 Join local Diane McPhail in an enlightening discussion on the inter related wholeness of all creation. Is the meaning of life the realization that we are all connected? This lecture will open you to the awe of creation and life.

- **IS THAT ABSTRACT ART OR A MAP OF VOTING DISTRICTS?** Drawing the lines during redistricting Wed. July 8 Time: 10-12 Gerrymandering has become a hot button issue as it continues to have a crucial effect on the outcome of political elections around the nation. Dr. Todd Collins, an associate professor at WCU will discuss the history and legality of this political redistricting and look at famous examples, providing a better understanding of this complex process.

- **FACEBOOK FOR THE BEGINNER:** Wed. July 8 Time: 2-4 Cost $35/$45 Feeling left out because everyone except you has a Facebook account? Mary Anne Baker will have you posting updates, photos and connecting with friends and family in no time. This class covers the basics of Facebook from setting up a page to timeline and privacy settings.

- **THE SUSTAINABILITY CHALLENGE: LIVING, LEARNING, & LEADING IN AN ERA OF CLIMATE CHANGE:** Thurs. July 9, Time 10-12 Climate change is already beginning to transform life on Earth. Around the globe, seasons are shifting, temperatures are climbing and sea levels are rising. And meanwhile, our planet must still supply us — and all living things — with air, water, food and safe places to live. If we don’t act now, climate change will rapidly alter the lands and waters we all depend upon for survival, leaving our children and grandchildren with a very different world. Presenter Elizabeth Kiss, President of Agnes Scott College will present the problems we face as the planet heats up.

- **LIVING WITH INDIGENOUS PEOPLES:** Thurs., July 9 Time 2-4 Dale Stewart has traveled the world, visiting with people indigenous to the culture he is in. Join him as he shares his documentation of his travels through photographs, articles and film. Dale is the host of the syndicated radio show Nature’s Edge that aims to immerse the listener in the wonder, surprise and importance that nature has to offer.

*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
...MAYOR continued from page 2

center. While setting up and during the fireworks show, no
one will be allowed within the firing area. The only person-
nel around the mortars will be the technicians from East
Coast Pyrotechnics. Just before the show, they will convert
the back of their truck into a bunker of sorts where firing
the mortars can be done safely with remote controlled elec-
tronic devices.

Indeed, this show is an expensive Chamber of Com-
erce event.
The town came close to not having fireworks this year.
The past firing area has been in the parking lot near the
swimming pool. But, the new pool cover is not totally fire
resistant like a metal roof, so the fire marshal could not ap-
prove placement of the mortars so close to the pool. The
East Coast Pyrotechnics technician responded that their in-
crease in the firing area.

Nevertheless everyone at the meeting worked together
to find a solution, especially after I passionately declared that
this mayor wasn’t about to have a Highlands July 4th without
fireworks. Not an option! Highlands could have something
like a million dollar budget shortfall, and I could deal with
that. But, a disaster of no fireworks on July 4th? How could I
ever live that down?

Assistant Fire Chief Robbie Forrester and Fire Marshal
Jimmy Teem worked hard and developed a new, acceptable
shooting location at the back parking lot behind the dog
park. I want to thank several residents near this new location
for allowing their property to be in the fallout zone where
some bio-degradable paper may come down. Their coopera-
tion enabled the fireworks show to go on this Saturday night.

So, let’s all turnout for this great national celebration.
There are prime locations to view the show such as the ball
field and Founders Park, to name just two. The Bascom
driving lot and Sunset Rock are also good venues.

Don’t forget on Saturday the Rotary Barbecue at
Founders Park, and the events at the ball field.

...LETTERS from page 3

have found that none of the exhibits have been removed,
and few of the exhibits have even been relocated within
the museum. With little actually changed, and one or two
exhibits rearranged and one or two news ones added, how
can he suggest that all of a sudden the Nature Center feels
“barren,” and the displays “arbitrarily arranged and clut-
tered”? And anyway, which is it: barren or cluttered? This
comment, too, is nonsense.

I was sorry that Dr. Murray did not seem to think much
of the little kids’ corner in the back room of the Nature
Center — we rather thought that the new table-top flower-
and pollinator-themed games, chairs, and rug in that area
made it a rather inviting, fun, and, yes, I daresay educational
space for little ones. The large table formerly in the middle
of the room has been removed, to make way for a floor
exhibit under development; perhaps the space thus opened
up in that little room is what Dr. Murray found off-putting.

• See LETTERS page 7
Why I’m a racist and proud of it....period

Well, folks, it’s finally happened. For the first time in the history of our once great nation, an American president has used the “N” word. No, no, no, he didn’t just say the “N” word; he said nigg** in a nationally televised speech, proving to the world he is king of the rappers. Thank God for our nation this president was white. Otherwise the Black Panthers would be calling him a racist and burning down Washington, DC. And I’m sooooo glad our president did this because I can now come out of my closet and announce to the world that I, like our president, am a racist. I knew that in time, we would find something in common.

For starters, America needs to get a grip on who is calling whom a racist. The term, adopted in 1936, means that race is a primary determinant of human traits and capacities and those racial differences that produce an inherent superiority of a particular race. bla, bla, bla! Soooooo let’s see, if a black stranger walks up and sucker punches me, knocking me out, I’m a racist if I become prejudiced against other black guys who look like they’re about to knock me into a coma.

By today’s standards, people are called racists because they support pro-life. I still haven’t figured that one out yet. What does that have to do with a person’s color or being a racist? But if that’s the standard, shouldn’t pro-choice folks be called racist since abortion clinics murder twice as many black babies than white babies? Go figure. Actually if you support pro-choice, are you for killing more lack babies than white? Hmmmm. Maybe I should ask our president since he is pro-choice. Also, I recommend all pro-choice folks watch an abortion before telling me that’s a good thing and not murder. I’ve never watched an abortion but I’ve removed two aborted babies from garbage dumpsters.

But enough about murdering babies and silly stuff like that. By today’s standards, if you don’t want Chicago or Detroit residents from the ‘hood’ living next door to you on Holt Knob, or Country Club Dr., or where ever you live, or you long for our American culture you grew up with but find it has slipped away, then you are, by today’s standards, a racist. Welcome!

If you still want to live the American dream, don’t want a Mosque on every corner of your town and don’t support Sharia Law, then, by today’s standards, you are most definitely a religious racist!

And there are a huge number of racists just like me living in Highlands but most are in the closet. Highlands is a great closet in which to hide from what is happening to America. Come out, come out, wherever you are! I guess they figure if they don’t look then it’s not happening.

During my eleven years with this paper, I’ve been called

...LETTERS from page 6

I found it insulting to the talented and dedicated staff of the Biological Station and its Nature Center that Dr. Murray would promulgate such obvious falsehoods as animal neglect, and charge that we are concerned more with style than substance. On the contrary, I found his letter to be completely lacking in both, and I invite your readers to come confirm this for themselves.

Jim Costa
Executive Director, Highlands Biological Station

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BISCUITS, MUFFINS, CROISSANTS ESPRESSO BAR AND COFFEE ROASTED IN-HOUSE

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GRILL - EVERY DAY OF THE WEEK STARTING AT 11:00 UNTIL CLOSE
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 NAPOLITAN PIZZA MADE FROM SCRATCH, FRESH MOZZARELLA, BASIL, CRUSHED TOMATOES, HOMEMADE ITALIAN SAUSAGE, PANCETTA, AND DAILY SPECIALS

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

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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.

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

Bakery
FULL SERVICE SCRATCH BAKERY MAKING ROLLS, BAGUETTES, SANDWICH BREADS, PASTRIES, BIRTHDAY AND WEDDING CAKES, COOKIES AND SEASONAL SPECIALTIES.

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

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DOZENS OF CHEESES, TAPENADES, OLIVES AND SPECIALTY ITEMS INCLUDING OUR MADE IN HOUSE CRACKERS

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OVER 40 EXTRA VIRGIN OLIVE OILS AND VINEGARS TO CHOOSE FROM. ALL AVAILABLE TO SAMPLE.

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general assembly is that the House and Senate will be in debate well into October before a state budget is passed, something that is virtually unheard of. Not only does the length of debate expected raise concerns, Commissioner Beale noted that he and his colleagues within the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners (NCACC) are concerned about several aspects of the Senate's budget proposal that could potentially have negative implications locally.

The first and most uncertain concern comes in the Senate's plan for changing the way sales tax collections are distributed throughout the state. Currently, sales tax are distributed to the county in which they are earned. So for Macon County, who has a significant tourism industry, the county collects more revenue. In the Senate's budget proposal, there includes a line that calls for sales tax to be redistributed based on per capita rather than location of collection. If the change was to occur, Macon County would receive an allotment from the state based on the number of residents in the county. The change would call for sales tax generated in Macon County, because of Macon County tourism, being distributed elsewhere in the state. While states who do not have industries such as tourism will benefit from the change, early predictions show Macon County losing around $1 million in annual revenue because of the change.

“Sales tax redistribution would have a negative effect on Macon County in the budget year 2018-2019 and beyond,” said Beale. “Macon would lose an estimated 450,000 during those years with losses progressing the following years.”

The amount of the loss for Macon County would be based on a number of factors. Nonprofits could lose some of their tax-exempt status so the first loss would be based on expansion which would account for the service taxes proposed and the money saved on the reduction of nonprofit refunds at an estimated growth of 3.5% each year.

“What that means, is if all those things should not happen, our losses could be more,” said Commissioner Beale. “The cap now for refunds to a nonprofit is $45 million, under the Senate plan that would be reduced to $1 million, even though this affects all nonprofits it will especially hurt hospitals and private colleges. Nonprofit hospitals use much of the refunds to pay...
summer food program, which provides meals for those in need in the community.

The USDA is collaborating with various organizations to stamp out hunger for children who heavily rely on school meals, says Audrey Rowe with the agriculture department.

“Schools aren’t open,” explained Rowe. “Or some are only open for a few weeks in the summer, so children who are used to having their breakfast and lunch at the school, don’t have access.”

The evidence of summer hunger in North Carolina and across the nation clearly exists.

“Many in this country don’t fully understand the level of hunger that families and children face. The fact is 14.3 percent of households in America are food insecure, which means that a family does not know at some point in the year, month, or week if they will be able to provide a full meal for themselves and their children,” said Rowe.

When school is in session, 21 million kids across the country receive free and reduced-price meals, but when school lets out for the summer, only 3.5 million participate in summer meal programs. According to Crystal Nix with MPP, participation remains one of the bigger challenges for the Highlands area.

Last year, MPP’s program distributed about 60 meals a day, this year’s numbers have decreased. “We are doing 40 daily in Highlands,” said Nix. “Children in the community need to know the site is open to all of them.”

Last week alone, the program distributed 3,100 meals across the county.

To help spread the word, Nix sent flyers home with students and distribution sites for the program were publicized as well.

Volunteer Ann McClure and Rowe went to four different sites on their route through the county recently and the children came running out of their homes ready to get the food; some even jumping on their bikes to let neighbors know the food had arrived.

There are 27 distribution sites and a mobile unit to service Macon County, including locations in Highlands. Not all sites are open every week, so participation in the program also depends on which sites are open. The program is funded through the USDA, and as a sponsor, MPP coordinates the local efforts of providing the food, labor, and a kitchens to make the program available.

• See LUNCH page 21
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.

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www.highlandsnchomesites.com
Like us on Facebook at Falling Waters Highlands

2015 Municipal Election Filing notice for Candidates for the Town of Highlands

Notice is hereby given for Filing Notice of Candidacy for the 2015 Municipal Election. Filing will begin at 8 am Monday, July 6, 2015 and will end Friday, July 17, 2015 at Noon per G.S. 163-294.2(c).

The following seats are open for filing at the Macon County Board of Elections office:

Highlands Town Commissioner – Three (3) seats open- Filing Fee is $5. Election office is located in Room 127A on the 1st floor of the Macon County Courthouse. Hours of operation are Mon-Fri 8 am to 5 pm.

Please note that the Rec Park will be closed from Friday, July 3 starting at 9:30 pm and will reopen on Sunday, July 5th.

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Eyelash Extensions • Walk-ins Welcome!

Feasts of the Festival 2015

Every season the Highlands-Cashiers Chamber Music Festival offers an opportunity to meet interesting people and enjoy wonderful food and drink in the setting of some of the area’s most beautiful and elegant private homes and restaurants. These annual FEASTS provide important and vital financial support to the Festival which allows us to bring world-class chamber music to the mountains each year.

Duets & Dinner @ Rabbit Ridge – SOLD OUT
Friday, June 26 – 6 PM
$125 Person – 15 Places
Hosts: Susan & Chip Robert
Fine Food and an Exceptional Recital by pianists Julie Coucheron & William Ransom

Dinner with Roman & Will
Saturday, July 11 – 7 PM
$125 Person – 8 Places
Hosts: Marilyn & Ethan Staats
Laura & Tom Hansen
Atlanta Cuisine with a Russian Twist accompanied by vodka cocktails and ending with a traditional Russian dessert
Special guests: Roman Kim & William Ransom

A Creole Feast with the Coucherons!
Saturday, July 25 – 7 PM
$125 Person – 12 Places
Hosts: Kathy & Mark Whitehead
Nancy & Doug Halford
Join David & Julie after their concert while enjoying the Creole cuisine of Bobby Lee Carey. Wonderful food, views and those charming Coucheron siblings.

The Vega Is Cooking!
Sunday, August 2 – 7 PM
$125 Person – 14 Places
Hosts: Martha & Al Pearson
Kathy & Mark Whitehead
Yinzi, Jessica, Guang and Domenic
Cook up a Chinese Hot Pot Party

Cocktails and Classics
Thursday, August 6 – 6 PM
$75 Person – 24 Places
Hosts: Kendra & Roger Haines
A winning trio: heavy hors d’oeuvres, fine cocktails and piano classics performed by Cashiers pianist Bryan Heller

JOIN US at this season’s events by calling the HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS CHAMBER MUSIC FESTIVAL office at 828-526-9060 or email us at hccmf@frontier.com
Thurs., July 2
• Zahner Lecture o at the Highlands Nature Center from 6:30-7:30p. It’s free

Fri., July 3
• Live music in Town Square on Main Street featuring the Johnny Webb Band 6-8p.

Sat., July 4
• Live music at The Lost Hiker featuring The French Broads at 9p.

• A 5K Run/Walk on Saturday at 8 AM at the Preserve at Rock Creek. Registration is at 7 a.m. All of the proceeds will benefit local charities and we will have refreshments and a bluegrass band after the race. Fees are $20 through June 26 and $25 on race day. For more info or to register go to www.preserveatrockcreekNC.com

• Highlands Rotary BBQ is moving to K-H Founder’s Park, 11a-2p. Pulled pork & chicken sandwiches. Plates include slaw, drink, beans, chips and a cookie for $8. Plus live music featuring the Blue Mountain Movement bluegrass band. Family games will take place as usual at the ballfield, at 9A. MAMA helicopter will land at noon, and the Fire Truck will also be there. BBQ plates will be available. The Duck Derby starts at 1p at Mill Creek. Purchase ducks at the Visitor Center.

Sat. & Sun., July 4 & 5
• At Robert Tino Gallery on Main Street Highlands, Artist Robert Tino will be on site and painting.

Sat. July 5
• At Cliffside Lake, Live Birds of Prey with Michael Skinnner with the Balsam Mountain Trust at 11 a.m. Program on the patio at Cliffside Lake. No pets allowed. Please arrive 15 minutes prior to program. Free by $4/vehicle admission to recreation area.

Mon., July 6-Thurs., July 9
• Little Highlanders Basketball Camp from 9a to noon at the Rec Park. For more information, call 828-526-3556.

Mon., July 6
• At the Hudson Library, John and Cathy Sill will present a photo journey through Alaska featuring the majesty of Denali, the frozen Arctic Ocean, glaciers, whales and seals as well
Highlands Events

as shorebirds and seabirds adorned in their breeding plumage. A mixer with refreshments will begin at 7:00 p.m. with the presentation starting at 7:30 p.m. Please enter through the rear door of the library.

**Tues., July 7**
- Yoga in the K-H Founders Park from 6-7p. Bring a towel or mat and water. Fun for all ages.

**Wed., July 8**
- Free Interlude Concert Series at the Episcopal Church at 2 p.m. with Robert Henry, piano.

**Thurs., July 9**
- The July meeting of The Western North Carolina Woodturners, Inc. is Thursday at 6 PM at the Blue Ridge School, in Glenville, N.C. Located at 95 Bobcat Drive, Cashiers, N.C. Drive to the back of the school to the wood-working shop. Visitors are always welcome. The club meets every second Thursday at 6 PM, March through November.

**Fri. & Sat., July 10 & 11**
- At The Bascom, The Dave Drake Studio Annual Pottery Sale. 10a to 6p on Friday and 10a to 8p on Saturday.

**Through July 11**
- At the Highlands Playhouse, the musical "Anything Goes." For tickets call 828-526-2695.

**Sat., July 11**
- At The Bascom, A Barn Dance from 7-10 p.m. Bluegrass music by WellStrung and food by Fressers. $5 per person. Sponsored by Diane and Ray McPhail.
- Volunteer Get Free Beer! Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust Stewardship Coordinator, Kyle Pursel, will lead a volunteer work day at either Satulah Mountain Preserve or Kelsey Trail. Thanks to a partnership with Highlands’ Satulah Mountain Brewing Company, afterwards volunteers will enjoy a free beer at the brewery. For more contact Kyle at 828-526-1111.
- At The Molly Grace, on 4th St. in Highlands, artist Pam Pattilo will be painting work “inspired by nature” from 10:30a to 5:30p.

**Sun., July 12**
- Summer Colors Fine Art Show from 10a to 5p at the Sapphire Valley Community Center. Indoor exhibition & sales.

**Sun., July 12**
- The Coro Vocati will perform in concert at 3p at Highlands First Presbyterian Church. This 24-member professional chamber choir will perform a varied program of a cappella music including several Robert Shaw and Alice Parker spirituals. There is no charge for admission.

**Mon.-Thurs., July 13-17**
- At First Baptist Church: Camp Kilimanjaro from 9a to noon. At Camp Kilimanjaro, kids will learn to walk in God’s wisdom as they enjoy songs, crafts, games, goodies, and dramas. Vacation Bible School at Camp Kilimanjaro will be filled with excitement, so contact us today! We’re calling all trekkers to join us in an epic expedition through Proverbs! Call 828-526-4153.

**Tues., July 14**
- The Highlands-Cashiers Chamber Music free family concert followed by ice cream social provided by Kilwins at the Presbyterian Church in Highlands at 3 p.m.
- The Plateau Fly Fishing Club will meet at the Albert Carlton Library in Cashiers, NC on Tuesday. It is open to the public. The speaker will be Mac Stone, Executive Director of Naturaland Trust in Greenville, SC. Naturaland works to protect special places in the Southern Blue Ridge Escarpment including many trout streams like the South Saluda River and Little Eastatoe Creek in upstate SC. The meeting begins at 6 PM with a fly tying demonstration followed by Mac’s presentation, “Protecting Trout Waters,” at 7 PM. A raffle will be held for a chance to win the grand prize of a 5 wt. fly rod. Call John at 68-353-4313.

**Wed., July 15**
- Free Interlude Concert Series at the Presbyterian Church at 2 p.m. Presented jointly by Highlands Chamber Music Festival and First Presbyterian Church “The Great Romantics” with music by Chopin and Brahms Norman Krieger, piano.
- The Highlands-Cashiers Chamber Music free Interlude concert with Norman Krieger at Presbyterian Church in Highlands at 2 p.m.
- Tuesday, July 21
- Eco Tour: “Heart of Horse Cove.” Join Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust as we explore Horse Cove. Many have traveled the hairpin picturesque drive down to the Cove but few know about the rich natural and cultural history of this charming valley. Come hear its stories. $35 new friends includes the guided hike, lunch on the trail and a year member.

**See EVENTS page 14**
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Robert will be painting on site all weekend!

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Come meet Amos the 3rd at a Book Signing of “Amos likes to Jump” by Margaret Lowder Friday, July 3 2-4p A story for all ages! The Toy Store / The Book Nook 364 Main Street, Highlands 828-526-9415

Inside the Hen House on Main! 488 E Main Street • 787-2473 New Shipment!

Available in assorted colors

Happy 4th of July Weekend!

HUGE 4th of July SALE!

Oakleaf flower & garden
133 S. 4th St., Highlands 828-526-8000
113 Hwy. 64 E., Cashiers 828-743-5632
1700 Augusta St., Greenville 864-370-1870

Martha Anne’s on the hill
S. 4th Street 526-4473

Happy Independence Day!

Free People • BB Dakota • Michael Stars Tees • CP Shades • THML

Jeans by:
Joes • 7 for All Mankind • Citizens • AG • Hudson • Mother

Shoes & Sales Room Upstairs:
Bedstu • Miz Mooz • Matisse

355 Main Street (in The Galax Theatre) 526-4660

Come See Us this July 4th Weekend … in Highlands & in Cashiers! Take an EXTRA 20% off Reduced Items!

C. Orrico

In Highlands: On Main St. in Town Square behind Kilwins
In Cashiers: #545 107 south
828-526-9122 • www.corrico.com

Come meet Amos the 3rd at a Book Signing of “Amos likes to Jump” by Margaret Lowder Friday, July 3 2-4p A story for all ages! The Toy Store / The Book Nook 364 Main Street, Highlands 828-526-9415

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www.cabincasualshighlands.com
Magnificent mountain view and meticulously maintained 3br/2ba home on 3.46 +/- private acres, granite countertops, grounds and gardens offer relaxing sitting areas and pathways. $535,000. MLS # 80134

Chestnut Cove 2br/2ba condo with big price reduction. Golf course view, central HVAC, wood floors and owner says bring all offers! $219,000. MLS#79399

Great starter house with over 8 acres of very usable land. Could be a wonderful private estate or farm or could be subdivided. MLS #78581 $298,000

This pristine 3/2 villa with golf and mountain views in Highlands Falls Country Club features vaulted and beamed ceilings in the great room with built-ins next to the stone fireplace. MLS #73139 $325,000

Wildwood Forest home with beautiful mature landscaping. Open deck and covered porch. Features 2 master suites. Home is fully furnished, well maintained and would be a great investment opportunity. MLS #81577 $400,000

Like new and only 4. miles from town, screened from the road by a thick Holly hedge. Property is bordered by several streams. 3/3 plan, with a bright interior and expansive wrap around front porch and a screened porch in the rear. MLS #82064 $599,000

This adorable cottage, right in town, is in wonderful condition and beautifully landscaped with 2 bedrooms and 2 baths in the cottage plus a charming guest house. The property fronts a small stream on one side and backs up to a lovely apple orchard. MLS#81667 $550,000

Great in town location, remodeled in 2008 on nearly 2 acres. 3BR, 3BA, 2 half BA plus an office 2 car garage. New kitchen & baths, hardwood floors, custom cabinets w/granite countertops, SS appliances, French doors MLS #66051 $697,000

Little Bearpen in Highlands City limits. Long mountain views from two covered decks, 2/3, 2 guest rooms, lower level family room, 2nd kitchen and hobby room. $729,000. MLS# 81446

Highlands Condo with a garage. You won't believe the price! Relax on the porch of this small but tidy 1br/1ba condo. Furnished and move-in ready. $48,500. MLS# 81737

On nearly 2 acres with two large, stream-fed ponds and a beautiful recirculating waterfall. 3BD/3BA plus an office and family room. Between Highlands and Cashiers with community pond, tennis court and picnic pavilion. MLS #81836 $524,000

This wonderful mountain cottage has been remodeled & updated throughout. The main house has 2br/2ba, vaulted & beamed LR w/ stone fireplace, newly appointed kitchen. New outdoor living space w/mountain view is screened. The guest house has 2 bedrooms, 2 baths. MLS#81396 $697,000

Cherry Grove 2br/2ba furnished Golf Villa, stone fireplace, vaulted ceilings, covered and open decks and beautifully landscaped with 2 guest suites and lovely touches in each room. $999,999. MLS #81619

Incredible value in Highlands Country Club and full of surprises! This immaculately maintained 4/5 features open floor plan, granite kitchen countertops and vaulted ceilings and very usable land. Could be a wonderful private estate or subdivided. MLS #78581 $298,000

Great rental history! $695,000. MLS #81826

WOW! What a fantastic opportunity! $999,999. MLS #81619

Like new and only 4. miles from town, screened from the road by a thick Holly hedge. Property is bordered by several streams. 3/3 plan, with a bright interior and expansive wrap around front porch and a screened porch in the rear. MLS #82064 $599,000
What a perfect time to be in Highlands and Cashiers! Cool summer temperatures are a magnet for visitors from sultry southern states. It's interesting to drive through town and see the tags from different states...Florida wins by far!

Along with mountain breezes and fresh air to enjoy there is so much to do—garden tours, plays, musicals, art to be drawn, award-winning restaurants, mountains to hike, waterfalls to view, and non-profit galas to attend. And how can we forget shopping and more shopping. Massages and dips in the pool await you. Golf courses are full and clubs are buzzing with conversations and activities. There is an excitement that summer brings and many tourists envy those who live here or have second homes.

Our MLS shows that we are up 18% in sales from last year! We have seen an increase in investors looking to purchase rental property. Rentals can warrant $1,000-$5,000 per week, allowing a great long-term investment! We have become a wedding destination with 300 weddings a year assuring rentals for families, groups.

**See INVESTING page 21**

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### Affordable, Move-in Ready Home

This 3BR/2BA is on 1.16 +/- acres and is ready for you to move in. Features hardwood floors throughout, slate flooring in the kitchen with tile in the bathrooms. Includes a hot tub on the back deck. A full basement features washer & dryer, bathroom, and an ability to finish to your desires. Seller is the original owner and home has been lovingly maintained. This home offers wonderful upgrade potential!

**Offered at $199,000. MLS #80121.**

**Contact Susie deVille (828) 371-2079.**

### Perfect Cottage, Perfect Price

Escape to the mountains to this sweet 2BR/2BA cottage in the woods. Surrounded by lush native shrubs and trees, this cottage is situated on .41 +/- acres, with great positioning on the lot (keeping the house nice and dry!). Open floor plan with hardwood tile and carpet flooring; very efficient wood stove for cozy fall and winter nights; spacious decking; and easy care landscaping with plenty of parking. Home in excellent condition — move-in ready!

**Offered at $235,000. MLS #80377.**

**Contact Susie deVille (828) 371-2079.**

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### In-Town Lakefront Acreage

Premier, in-town location and one-of-a-kind, private, lake estate on 12.12 +/- acres. Only a few minutes to Main St. Wooded trail leads to stunning, clear, 3+ acre lake ringed by lush rhododendron. Charming pavilion for enjoying a picnic, great book, or evening wine. Gentle topography, walking trails, and barn. Several choice building sites, and subdividing is possible. Tremendous investment potential!

**$2,950,000. MLS #80931.**

**Contact Susie deVille (828) 371-2079.**

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### Close to Town, Elegant & Cozy

This 2BR/2BA in Designer’s Alley neighborhood of Mirrormont, is an interior designer’s home replete w/fine finishes & wonderful design elements. Rocking chair front porch & treehouse screened porch off living room. Chef’s kitchen w/honed, black granite counter tops w/custom, soapstone farmhouse sink & Calcutta subway marble tiles. Oversized master bedroom w/a walkout sleeping porch. Master bath w/his/hers sinks & custom vanity w/granite top. Stone, wood-burning FP in LR.

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

**Contact Susie deVille (828) 371-2079.**

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### CHEAPER THAN RENT

This 2BR/2BA mobile home on site Great for seasonal employees.

**Offered at $131,000. MLS #80357.**

**Contact Susie deVille (828) 371-2079.**
Close to town in Shelby Place, this spacious home has quality finishes, easy living plan. Huge screened porch and 2 car garage make this a great family home. Offered at $795,000. mls #74675

Walk to town 3BR/3BA condo Covered parking, patio. Step to Harris Lake park and Main Street. The condo is move in ready even for designer tastes. Offered at $729,900. mls #81600

Lovely 2BR/2BA has had some upgrades and features a view overlooking Tug Wa Ridge Lake. Amenities include clubhouse, swimming pool, tennis courts and reasonable HOA fees. A great weekend getaway or summer retreat. Offered at $225,000. mls #81541

5/BR/4BA home. Unique with heavy logs, lots of stone and wood in this Octagon 2 story. Lovingly restored with central heat and air and meticulously maintained by the current Owner. Offered at $875,000. mls #81152

Great home on top of Holt Knob with 3BR/5BA, decks, screened porch, sunroom with wet bar, kitchen/living area with fireplace; a 3rd floor family room/office/playroom with extra sleeping area and a bath; a two-car garage. Walk to town; furnished. Views from almost every room. $699,500. mls #80341

Next to guard gate on Rocky Hill Road, this home features light and great space. Main level has 3BR/3BA, Open floor plan. Cathedral living room with fireplace, huge covered porch. 2-car garage. 2BD/2BA, and family room downstairs. Offered at $617,000. mls #81337

Chesnut Cove condo in excellent condition. 2BR/2BA. Views of small stream, ridgeline and 11th Fairway. Great move in ready unit. Furnishings negotiable. Offered at $199,900. mls #81523

Upper level 3BD/3BA nicely furnished condo is move-in ready. Great views. Entry level condo at Old Edwards Club. Offered at $499,900.00 unfurnished or $515,000.00 Furnished mls #81414

Walk to town 3BR/1.5 cottage in a quiet part of town. Walk to Main Street. Stone fireplace, great room open to kitchen and dining. Master suite on main with 2 guests upstairs. Decks on front and side. Low maintenance yard and home. Offered at $309,000. MLS # 81145

Quaint cottage with open living, dining, and kitchen areas. Double sided Stone faced Fireplace, 3BR/2BA in Trillium Links and Lake Club including clubhouse, deeded Lake Glenville access, golf course, RV/boat storage. Price $239,000. MLS 81546

This one-level charmer has been renovated. 3BR/2BA, plus den/sleeping room with a bath. Stone fireplace, covered porch and deck, garage. Lovely mature grounds. Offered at $359,000. mls #81502

3BD/2.5BA custom log home on Bowery Road on 1.5 +/- acres. Close to town and in move in condition. Hardwood floors, an open great room/dining room and kitchen. Master bedroom is on the main level. Glass sunroom on the main floor. Offered at 795,000. mls #80309

3BE/3BA tongue and groove pine paneling, wide southern pine flooring, beams, fireplace and a large master bath. Easy walk to town and Mirror Lake located on Cullasaja Drive. An exceptional offering priced at $485,000. MLS# 81355

This great family property with pond, waterfall and views. Main 4BR/2BA, 2 half bath house has old Highlands Charm. Over 2 acres of land plus an extra lot with a 2BR septic approval for guest house. Offered at $695,000. mls #81059

Great year round bright and light home. Level lot. Split bedroom plan with 3BR/2.5BA on the main level, 2-car garage. Vaulted living room, with gas fireplace, kitchen and huge enclosed loft with storage. Offered at $575,000. mls #81022

On a wooded lot with flat usable grounds. Huge great room with custom kitchen, large covered porch. Main level master with gas log fireplace. Library/den and laundry upstairs. Lower level has family room with fireplace, morning kitchen, 2BR/2BA, and a den with huge porch. Offered at $1,150,000. mls #81413

Lovely 2BR/2BA has had some upgrades and features a view overlooking Tug Wa Ridge Lake. Amenities include clubhouse, swimming pool, tennis courts and reasonable HOA fees. A great weekend getaway or summer retreat. Offered at $225,000. mls #81541


Views and over 4 acres of privacy with this charming mountain cottage. Open vaulted living room with fireplace. Main floor master with bath. 2 bedrooms upstairs with shared bath. Each has access to an upper level balcony, Huge deck. Offered at $395,000. mls #80351

This great family property with pond, waterfall and views. Main 4BR/2BA, 2 half bath house has old Highlands Charm. Over 2 acres of land plus an extra lot with a 2BR septic approval for guest house. Offered at $695,000. mls #81059

Old Highlands Charm with updated kitchen and baths in this 4BR/3BA. High beamed ceilings in the living room that opens onto a covered porch with some mountain view. Grassy lawn Renovations are almost finished. Garage and basement Offered at $560,000. mls #81502

3BD/2.5BA home sits on almost an acre. 2-story great room w/stone fireplace, wood floors and opens to large deck overlooking pond. Lots of mountain charm in this upscale cabin. Detached 1/car garage. Offered at $269,000. mls #80360

Walk to town 3BR/1.5 cottage in a quiet part of town. Walk to Main Street. Stone Fireplace, great room open to kitchen and dining. Master suite on main with 2 guests upstairs. Decks on front and side. Low maintenance yard and home. Offered at $309,000. MLS # 81145


On a wooded lot with flat usable grounds. Huge great room with custom kitchen, large covered porch. Main level master with gas log fireplace. Library/den and laundry upstairs. Lower level has family room with fireplace, morning kitchen, 2BR/2BA, and a den with huge porch. Offered at $1,150,000. mls #81413

This great family property with pond, waterfall and views. Main 4BR/2BA, 2 half bath house has old Highlands Charm. Over 2 acres of land plus an extra lot with a 2BR septic approval for guest house. Offered at $695,000. mls #81059

Great year round bright and light home. Level lot. Split bedroom plan with 3BR/2.5BA on the main level, 2-car garage. Vaulted living room, with gas fireplace, kitchen and huge enclosed loft with storage. Offered at $575,000. mls #81022

Walk to town 3BR/1.5 cottage in a quiet part of town. Walk to Main Street. Stone Fireplace, great room open to kitchen and dining. Master suite on main with 2 guests upstairs. Decks on front and side. Low maintenance yard and home. Offered at $309,000. MLS # 81145


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This one-level charmer has been renovated. 3BR/2BA, plus den/sleeping room with a bath. Stone fireplace, covered porch and deck, garage. Lovely mature grounds. Offered at $359,000. mls #81502

3BD/2.5BA home sits on almost an acre. 2-story great room w/stone fireplace, wood floors and opens to large deck overlooking pond. Lots of mountain charm in this upscale cabin. Detached 1/car garage. Offered at $269,000. mls #80360

Walk to town 3BR/1.5 cottage in a quiet part of town. Walk to Main Street. Stone Fireplace, great room open to kitchen and dining. Master suite on main with 2 guests upstairs. Decks on front and side. Low maintenance yard and home. Offered at $309,000. MLS # 81145


On a wooded lot with flat usable grounds. Huge great room with custom kitchen, large covered porch. Main level master with gas log fireplace. Library/den and laundry upstairs. Lower level has family room with fireplace, morning kitchen, 2BR/2BA, and a den with huge porch. Offered at $1,150,000. mls #81413

This great family property with pond, waterfall and views. Main 4BR/2BA, 2 half bath house has old Highlands Charm. Over 2 acres of land plus an extra lot with a 2BR septic approval for guest house. Offered at $695,000. mls #81059

Great year round bright and light home. Level lot. Split bedroom plan with 3BR/2.5BA on the main level, 2-car garage. Vaulted living room, with gas fireplace, kitchen and huge enclosed loft with storage. Offered at $575,000. mls #81022
INVESTING continued from page 19

and wedding parties. Others gather for reunions or simply to enjoy our little paradise.

I’m often asked the criterion for a successful rental. As the old cliché goes – location, location, location is a must. And renters are as diverse as homes on the market. If you are a golfer, Old Edwards Club at Highlands Cove offers condos and lovely homes with marvelous views that can be rented short and long term. We now see an increase in renters who want a “walk to town” location so anything within walking distance is a sure bet. Town Place Condominiums and Townhomes near the ball field have proven to be very desirable and profitable. Waterfront homes rent well also.

Upscale Living in Downtown Highlands!
Located off Hickory Street
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• Old Edwards Club Membership
• 3 BD/3.5 BA or 4BA/3.5BA (with optional Lower Level)
• One Car Garage with Every Home
• Master on Main Floor
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• Screened Porch with Stone Fireplace (Front)
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Office: 828-526-8784

Julie Osborn
Broker
Cell: 828-200-6165
Office: 828-526-8784
opposed to 1,025 hours and 180 days, which was the previous law.

With the change, end-of-semester testing can be completed before the Christmas break.

“The calendars submitted by Nantahala and Highlands and approved by the board Monday night will allow the high school students at those schools to test before Christmas,” said Superintendent Dr. Chris Baldwin. “The hope is that this will lead to improved student achievement on the exams. We have always felt that administering the first semester end-of-course test only one week after a two-week break put our students and teachers at a disadvantage. The principals believe the ability to test, and ending the school year prior to Memorial Day will lead to improved achievement.”

By adding 20 minutes to the instructional day, the schools will potentially have 1,083 hours of instruction in 2015-'16 vs. 1,080 in 2014-'15 in 170 school days vs. 180.

• See SCHOOL page 25
for services rendered to those without or with insufficient insurance. This could have an effect on both of our hospitals in Macon County.”

Commissioner Beale noted that another significant area of concern locally continues to be the funding for Drivers Education.

“The House budget continues funding Drivers Ed at $24.6 million with the hope that this money would come from late registration fees” said Beale. “The Senate continues the requirement of participating in the program for another year but does not fund it. This would mean the cost would have to be made up by the school system or the families to the tune of $300 to $400 dollars. The Senate bill does require the Community College system to start a program going forward, but with no money allocation. Any of these options has the potential to cost Macon County taxpayers.”

Tuesday, the NC General Assembly approved a continuing budget. As such, the state will no longer fund Driver’s Education. Macon County Schools will begin to fund Driver’s Education from available funds and fees. Therefore, beginning July 1, 2015, the charge for Driver’s Education in Macon County will be $65. If parents or students have paid the previous amount of $20, they will only be responsible for the additional $45.

With October looking to be the earliest the public will learn what the actual state budget is, organizations such as the county and school board, who produce budgets that are directly affected by the state’s budget are essentially having to create budgets that are shooting at a sliding target, leaving many unanswered questions on the table.

“These are just a few of the real differences in the House and Senate proposals not to mention Teacher Assistants, Medicaid reform and other items,” said Beale. “This is why most think it will be fall before a budget is passed in NC. The good news is the NCACC is very much involved in these talks. It is my honor to represent Macon County as the discussion continues.”
No Apple Juice w/o Crushed Apples

By Rev’d Jim Murphy,
Christ Anglican Church

The Easter experience for our risen Lord, and for all who choose to put their trust in Jesus, was/is all about transformation. The Resurrection was a radical transformation from one state of being to another. It was a “born again” experience that transformed our Savior from life with limitations (common humanity) to life without limits (uncommon, holy Spirituality). For believers, personal ownership of (honest faith in) our Redeemer’s resurrection changes us from the state of decay and death into one of unending growth and eternal life. Alleluia!

However, we do ourselves a great disservice if we fail to understand that “transformation” implies change to the extent that we realize, “We’re not in Kansas anymore,” ala Dorothy in the Wizard of Oz. That’s to say that the aforementioned transformation is not supposed to be just a spiritual change but also an environmental change. Jesus, Paul, James, and many others go to great lengths to explain that such change is necessary. In effect they say that without discernable, visible transformation, without tangible, sometimes uncomfortable change, our faith is of little value or even, perhaps, in vain. That is to say that Jesus’ death and resurrection calls for and grants something greater, a new state of being.

A child’s devotional put this whole transformation thing well. It said in part, “that you can’t have grape juice without crushing (transforming) a few grapes.” As a resident of the Carolina mountain area, I prefer to think of apple cider and crushing apples instead of grapes, but the point is the same. If you thirst for the really good stuff, if it is your hearts’ desire to experience the abundant and eternal life that Jesus promises and you are in a state of decay and death (don’t worry, we’re all born that way), then a transformation must take place to move from one state of being to the other.

Part and parcel to the grace of Jesus’ resurrection is that it’s never too late to start or to resume the transformational process. Ours is an altogether patient God. That is to say that prior to our physical death, it’s not too late to secure and enhance our abundant life here and our eternal life in heaven. All we need do is allow for a little godly crushing. Renewed worship, prayer, sacrificial giving, bible study, mission, ministry, volunteerism, and yes, even righteous suffering, are those tools we can employ as Christians to allow our Lord to transform us. When we enter into such with vigorous commitment, then our thirst for the really good stuff will be satisfied. God is faithful, as the scriptures say, and he will do it.

Along with God’s patient grace, the greatest gift, one that still flows from Jesus’ resurrection and the occasion of Pentecost, is the awesome gift of God’s Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit empowers us, if we deign to allow him, to undergo godly transformation. When we allow him to do his transformational work in us, then even if we experience painful crushing, we find our lives to be amazingly enhanced by the process.

Let us give ourselves to godly crushing that our thirst for the best may be slaked. May we be transformed so as to allow Jesus to be glorified and others to taste the sweet nectar of godly crushing. With the annual observance of Pentecost in the recent past, there is no better time to start.
The Highlands Police log entries from June 13. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor or public officials have been used.

June 13
• At 3 p.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident on Carolina Way.
• At 11:04 p.m., officers responded to a report of vandalism on Spring Street where a person returned to a vehicle and found it damaged.

June 17
• At 4:30 a.m., officers responded to a simple assault of a female at a residence on Brooks Road.
• At 10:15 a.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident on NC 106.

June 19
• At 4 p.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident on Carolina Way.

June 20
• At 11:36 a.m., officers responded to a one-vehicle accident on Horsecove Road.
• At 12:19 p.m., Rebekah Chrysteen Keenan, 23, of Greenville, SC, was arrested for DWI and trafficking in MDA/MDMA and maintaining a vehicle for trafficking.

June 22
• At 4:15 p.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident on NC 28.

June 23
• At 10:30 a.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident on Catawba Trail.

June 24
• At 5:06 a.m., the dept. responded to a Co. alarm at a residence on Cobb Road.
• At 12:44 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm on Main Street.

June 25
• At 1:48 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Bob Zahner Road.
• At 3 p.m., the dept. offered public assistance to a motorist on NC 28 south.
• At 4:43 p.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on NC 106.

June 26
• At 1:46 p.m., the dept. responded to a gas leak at a residence on Wayanoak Road.
• At 2:18 p.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on US 64 east.

June 27
• At 11:32 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Spruce Lane.
• At 7:28 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Clubhouse Trail.
• At 8:30 a.m., the dept. stoodby for the MAMA helicopter at the hospital.
• At 10:27 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence at the Highlands Mountain Club.
• At 12:03 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Split Rail Row.

...SCHOOL from page 22

“We will be monitoring the impact of the changes in the length of the instructional day on the bus schedule as well as student achievement,” said Baldwin. “Our desire is to remove hardships for parents and students and by doing so, improve student achievement.”

Highlands School Principal Brian Jetter said there are a number of “upsides” to the scenario including state exams before going home for the 2-week Christmas break; set snow days to make up for inclement weather in the winter and early spring; the last student day being May 27th, with graduation on May 28th prior to Memorial Day holiday; with 20 minutes more instruction per day.

Superintendent Baldwin said the two calendars are considered pilot programs and will be considered for other schools for the 2016-17 school year.

– Kim Lewicki
...LETTERS from page 7

Please don’t dig up plants

Dear Editor,

We who live on and off of Bowery Road in Highlands appreciate and enjoy the Native Flora and fauna. So, to the woman who was digging the Wild Azalea on Bowery Road on Saturday evening, please leave the majesty that Mother Nature provided for the enjoyment of all, and not your personal gain. I am confident that any of our local nurseries can accommodate your garden needs. Thank you.

Jane Hill Scott
Highlands

...GRADING continued from page 1

grades and also to note that the seven-point grading scale was used through the 2014-'15 school year.

At its June MC Board of Education meeting, board members went a step further by applying the new 10-point grading system from kindergarten through 12th grade in Macon County.

“The changes made to the K-8 grade scale was a result of the state changing the high school grade scale beginning with the 2015-'16 school year,” said MC Schools Superintendent Dr. Chris Baldwin. “The board felt that it was important for the grade scale to be consistent in all of our schools. Now, an ‘A’ in middle school will be the same grade as an ‘A’ in high school.”

The changes that the board approved Monday night were also made to reduce confusion for parents, especially those who might have students in both middle and high school, said Baldwin.

“Now, and ‘A’ in middle school will be the same as an ‘A’ in high school.”

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“Now, and ‘A’ will be an ‘A’ in both schools,” he said.

• See GRADING page 27
...GRADING continued from page 26

So on the 10-point scale, an ‘A’ is 90-100, a ‘B’ is 80-89, a ‘C’ is 70-79, a ‘D’ is 60-69 and an ‘F’ is 50-59.

On the 7-point scale, an ‘A’ was 93-100, a ‘B’ was 92-85, a ‘C’ was 77 to 84, a ‘D’ was 70-76 and a F was 69 and below.

“The state made the changes at the high school level so that our students would be compared favorably to other states who also use the 10-point scale,” said Baldwin. “As noted by board member Goldsmith, our students had been competing at a disadvantage with students from other states in terms of college admission.”

Highlands School Principal Brian Jetter agreed with BOE member Fred Goldsmith.

“If you have a 92 as an ‘A’ in one place and the same 92 is a ‘B’ in another place, that is unequal. I think that was the state’s purpose in mandating the change,” he said.

However, Jetter said he believes college admission folks look well beyond simple GPAs and take those inequities into account when looking at student admissions.

Monday night there was much discussion about the ‘F’ ranking on the 10-point system of 59 to 0.

MC Commissioner and past BOE member and past Franklin High School Principal Gary Shields said making the ‘F’ ranking that large – in other words from 59 to zero – wouldn’t give students who are failing an incentive to do better.

“Failing is failing whether it’s a zero or a 59. However you can recover from a 59 but you can’t recover from a zero,” he said.

Superintendent Baldwin agreed.

“If you have three zeros and three 100s the average is still 50 and you are still failing,” he said.

Shields said furthermore, giving out zeros is usually a disciplinary action, not an academic one.

“Zeros are usually given based on behavior: ‘you didn’t turn in your paper so you get a zero.’ They are used in a negative way.”

Superintendent Baldwin said the mastery concept is also being discussed statewide whereby students can test out of courses which makes the grades null and void.

“We need to leave this behind the scenes in the world of adults who are teaching the students and let them use the zeros as a way to make students succeed,” said Jetter.

Superintendent Baldwin agreed to poll all the principals about the issue.

– Kim Lewicki
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