

# Highlands Newspaper

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Thurs., March 12, 2015

## K-H Park design expands to include ice rink and more

A myriad of topics were discussed at the this week's Town Board Retreat – most in regard to planning the FY 2015-'16 budget – including the status of the Kelsey-Hutchinson Park and relocation of the ice rink.

Skip Taylor and Hank Ross, members of the Founders Park Coalition, the group behind making the Kelsey-Hutchinson Park a reality – were on hand to show commissioners plans for the Sosomon property acquisition (.46

acres) which is now part of the park.

With the restroom facility and open-air pavilion going up fast within the original confines of the park, green space appears to have diminished, but the con-

cept and design utilizing the Sosomon property has remedied that perception.

The .46-acre plot, bordered by Pine Street, Pine Street Alley, Oak Street and the western bor-

•See K-H Park page 6

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## HS track & field redo is pending

By Merritt N. Shaw

Thanks to donations from Highlands businesses and the potential of a \$50,000 allocation from the Macon County Commission, renovations to the Highlands School Track and Softball Field may become a reality – but the final word won't come until March 31 at the commission's continued meeting.

At February's school board meeting, Jeff Weller, of Summit Architecture, parent of Highlands School students and Booster Club President, gave a presentation outlining the renovation plans. Landscape architect Hank Ross gave the same presentation at the MC Commission meeting Tuesday night.

Weller said the track and field is the first thing people see as they approach the school and it's kind of an embarrassment.

"It's not attractive. We want to improve the curb appeal shall

•See TRACK page 16

## Lake reveals discarded gun



**OK, so it's just a BB gun, but when a tip came into Highlands Newspaper that a man walking the lake looking for treasure found a gun lying on the exposed lake bed, the Highlands Police Department took it seriously. The tip came in Friday afternoon but a walk along the lake bed didn't reveal anything until Sunday morning after water had receded once again exposing the gun lying in the mud behind the yellow house on the lake. Police Chief Bill Harrell said people should be aware that when walking the lake bed, they are trespassing on private property.**

Photos by Jim Lewicki

## Nuisance Ordinance still in discussion stages

The nuisance ordinance will be revisited at the MC Commission continued meeting March 31 which will also be a joint meeting with the MC Planning Board.

At Tuesday night's MC Commission meeting, Planning Direc-

tor Matt Mason and Planning Board Chairman Chris Haners presented a revised draft of the ordinance which includes more "exceptions" to the ordinance than the original draft.

The purpose of the ordi-

nance is to regulate loud, unnecessary and disturbing noise and possibly actions that occur outside of the city limits of Franklin or Highlands.

According to the draft,

•See NUISANCE page 17

## End of school now June 12; make-up days defined

By Merritt Shaw

Here we go again! The recent snow storms and icy cold weather have caused Macon County students to come up short on instructional hours required by the state if extra days aren't added.

Students missed 30 instructional hours just in the last part of February.

The school board voted to convert Friday, March 27 from a workday to a full instructional day for Franklin, Highlands & Nantahala;

To convert Friday, June 12 from a workday to a full instructional day for Franklin, Highlands & Nantahala, (the last day of school had been June 11) and;

Use Monday, May 25 (Memorial Day) if an additional day of school is missed due to inclement weather. If this day were

•See END OF SCHOOL page 5

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# • THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

## • MAYOR ON DUTY •

## • FORUM •

### Highlands and the Internet

The front cover of a recent issue of The Economist Magazine was titled, "The Planet of the Phones." Along with the title was an illustration of the globe covered with phones, and a subtitle that by 2020 80% of the world's population will own some type of cellular mobile device. An ensuing article went on to describe how these new smart phones are tantamount to super computers that will alter society, our personal lives and the way the world does business.

How does this effect Highlands? Well, I was one of those new residents 15 years ago that took a Luddite position. Like fast food hamburgers, we didn't need "no stinking" cell phones in Highlands. While I still don't want fast food, over the years I have moderated my position to incrementally accept and embrace this creeping, yet seductive digital technology.

Not too many years ago, I still clung to the notion that while connectivity in the town was spotty, it was adequate. Since entering public office, I have become concerned about this connectivity problem for the long term vitality of Highlands, and The Economist issue confirmed my concern.

The town must prepare for a new genera-



Highlands Mayor  
Patrick Taylor

tion of folks that will visit and possibly live in Highlands. If folks journey to our beautiful village only to discover a communication system about as good as in some third world countries, they will go to communities with first rate communication networks. "That is the fact Jack!" By the way, I verified on Google that the previous quote was from Bill Murray in his 1981 movie, Stripes. My how this technology has changed things.

To further my point, I recently spent time with some Highlands friends in Mexico. For everyone on the trip, connection to email, laptops and cell phones in order to keep in touch with friends, family and business colleagues was a priority.

The North Carolina legislature passed a law five years ago prohibiting towns from being in the internet and broadband business. The rationale was that private providers would invest in the infrastructure and better provide these critical services to the consumer with competitive options.

The problem has been the large communication companies have been unwilling to make these network investments in small markets like Highlands. So communities in Western Carolina continue to be under served, if at all.

Recently, the FCC issued a ruling overturning this North Carolina law, and opened the door for towns like Highlands to establish their own complete internet and broadband system. The stakes are tremendous for our future.

The town is monitoring whether there will be court challenges or new restrictive laws coming from Washington or Raleigh. The situation is analogous to rural electrification that took place in the 1930s.

If the private sector will not act, then government institutions charged with serving the people should have the option to provide these essential services.

If the FCC decision holds, I believe Highlands must take this opportunity now, not wait for promises in the future.

**By Ronald A. Paulus, MD, President and CEO, Mission Health**

There may not be words strong enough to describe the magnitude of the healthcare transformation underway today, but it's safe to say terms like "enormous," "revolutionary" and "seismic" are not exaggerations.

Whether you're experiencing this as a consumer or a provider, we all know that how things "used to work" has been forever changed. While talk of these shifts abound, it's not always clear what is happening even when we feel it in our own community. Here are the basics:

- Payments hospitals and health systems receive from Medicare, Medicaid and third-party payers continue to decline.

For Mission Health, we will receive at least \$500 million less in payments over the next 10 years. It's not our "fault" but it means we must continually improve the quality, consistency, reliability and cost-effectiveness of the care we provide.

- At the same time, what healthcare providers get paid for is changing. We used to be paid for "visits, tests or procedures," so more volume meant more revenue. Now, payment is being linked to higher quality and better outcomes; that's a good thing, but a big change.

- All of this change is occurring within a multi-year background trend of declining inpatient hospital stays and increasing outpatient visits locally, regionally and nationally.

- So leading health systems are increasingly emphasizing care for individuals across the continuum from healthy to ill, a concept captured in the term "Population Health."

Population Health means engaging patients as consumers, encouraging and supporting healthy lifestyle choices, preventing illness whenever possible, effectively managing chronic conditions across numerous non-hospital treatment settings, safely

managing acute hospital illnesses and supporting individuals and families even in death with dignity and respect. That's another good thing, but another big change.

So, what's to become of the traditional model of care in the face of these stark new realities? Regardless of our payment cuts, our costs – such as staffing, drugs, supplies and utilities – rise relentlessly each year. To respond, we must continually improve our productivity while reducing our operating costs. These changes have particularly impacted small rural hospitals that are also challenged by a shortage of primary care and specialty physicians, new technology requirements and an ever-increasing regulatory burden. In fact, more than 40 rural hospitals have closed in the U.S. just since January 2010.

In response, small rural providers nationwide are merging with larger systems to improve their recruiting, operational and financial performance while assuring the highest quality of care.

In our own region, most hospitals have chosen to partner with Mission Health – ranked as one of the nation's Top 15 Health Systems for three consecutive years - so that each can gain support while continuing to serve their local community. This is a broad national trend with only one independent hospital remaining today in all of western North Carolina.

In order to better serve our region

• See FORUM page 14

## • CORRECTION •

In last week's article, "New trail to Satulah Summit hits headwinds" article Jim Green was identified as a member of the H-C Land Trust. He is just a concerned private citizen on the matter. Second, Gary Wein was misquoted regarding money offered to pave Worley Rd. It was NOT one of the other home owners up there, but a collection of communications companies who use the tower on Satulah as part of a larger plan that would have, if the Worley Rd homeowners had agreed, put a fiber optics cable under the road to the tower to provide broadband access. They turned down that plan and the money that would have repaved said road.

We regret the error and are happy to set the record straight.

### Highlands Newspaper

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# • OBITUARIES •

## Mary Elizabeth (Betty) Baker



Mary Elizabeth (Betty) Baker, 68, of Lakemont, Georgia, died March 4, 2015.

She was born in Opelika, Alabama, on February 12, 1947. She was a graduate of Dadeville High School and Samford University. She earned a Master's Degree at the University of Alabama.

In 1968 she was married to David Baker at Jackson's Gap Baptist Church. They have one child.

Mrs. Baker was retired from Tallapoosa County Schools in Alabama and Macon County Schools in North Carolina.

Betty was a lifelong member of many churches, most notably First Presbyterian Church and First Methodist Church of Dadeville.

She touched many young lives as a teacher of academically-gifted students and coordinated numerous educational trips abroad and in the U.S.

She leaves her beloved husband of 46 years, David, and her son, Brett, of

Portland, Oregon. She also leaves a sister, Kathy Miller, of Auburn, Alabama, and a brother, Bubba Gibson, and his wife LuCile of Dadeville, Alabama. She also leaves many nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her parents, Joe and Kathrine Gibson.

Funeral services were held at the church immediately following visitation with Brett Baker and Hunter Baker presiding. Graveside Services were held Saturday in the Jackson's Gap Baptist Church Cemetery.

Memorial gifts in Mrs. Baker's memory can be made to the Longstreet Cancer Center at 725 Jesse Jewell Parkway SE, Gainesville, Georgia 30501-3834.

Betty will be remembered for her kind and loving spirit and her beautiful smile that lit up the room.

Arrangements are being handled by Alabama Funeral Home in Dadeville/Camp Hill, Alabama.

## Marvin Chambers

Marvin Chambers, 71, died March 6, 2015. A memorial service took place March 10, 2015 in Bowden, GA.

A graveside service is planned for March 14, 2015 at 3 p.m., at the Clear Creek Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to your nearest Alzheimers association.

## Shelia Rae Moffitt



Shelia Rae Moffitt, 64, of Scaly Mountain, NC, died on Tuesday, March 10, 2015.

Born in Macon County, she was the daughter of the late Ray Moffitt and Beatrice Mashburn Moffitt. Shelia was a member of Union United Methodist Church and was a talented artist.

She is survived by her husband of 22 years, David Setser; brother, Terry Moffitt and wife Suzie of Chantilly, VA; nephew, Matt Moffitt and wife Katie and other nieces, nephews, cousins and extended family.

Funeral Service will be held at 11 a.m. Friday, March 13, at Union United

Methodist Church. Rev. Janet Greene will officiate. Burial will be in the church cemetery.

The family will receive friends from 6-8 p.m. Thursday, March 12, at Macon Funeral Home.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations can be made to Union United Methodist Church, C/O Lana Hires, 101 Morrison Church Road, Franklin, NC 28734 or Angel Cancer Care (Angel Foundation, Attention: Don Capaforte), 121 Riverview Street, Franklin, NC 28734. Macon Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements.

## • THANK YOU •

Clear Creek Baptist Church would like to thank everyone who had a hand in helping us raise the money for our heating unit. We have been overwhelmed with the generosity of this community. Thank you for your time, donations, supplies, and prayers. We have paid for the first unit and are more than half way to our second. Thank you again.



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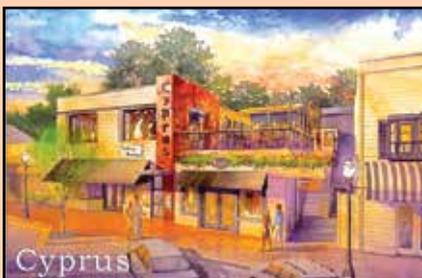
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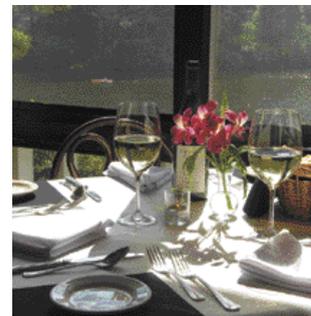
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## ...END OF SCHOOL continued from page 1

to become an instructional day, Veterans would be honored in the classroom with specific lesson plans and other activities.

This has sparked a consensus by the Macon County School Board to yet again send a resolution to state legislatures asking for local control of the school calendar. Approximately 30 other county school boards have sent a similar resolution recently.

“With the changes in our calendar law and with our

recent inclement weather it’s become more and more evident that we need to have local control of our calendar. Under the current calendar situation we have we are very limited on how we can make those days up,” said Superintendent Dr. Chris Baldwin. “Basically we only have two work days left in the school year and spring break. As you all know, it’s very difficult to make up time over spring break because families and teachers have already purchased plane tickets and made travel arrangements. It’s

also very difficult to have Saturday school. It’s just not instructionally worthwhile. “

Though the district isn’t required to legally make the 30 hours up, Baldwin said at the end of the day, Macon County students are short instructional time compared to other districts in the state who may not have had as much inclement weather.

“So, it would be very beneficial to our students if we could have local control of our calendar so we could incorporate work days during the spring semester and possibly start the school year earlier so we can take inclement weather days into account and end school sometime in June if we have to,” he said.

Even though not much instruction will be going on June 12 – the new last day of school – it will satisfy the required instructional day requirement.

“Dr. Baldwin, I feel there is no education happening on that last day of school,” said McCall. “On the books it might give you a full day of instruction, but I don’t think it actually gives you a full day of instruction.”

Baldwin said he agreed but it points to the reason Macon County needs local control of its calendar.

“The issue that I’m having is the General Assembly’s idea to remedy this is allow us to not make those days up. That helps us in terms of being able to end our calendar on time and as planned, but at the end of the day, we are missing a tremendous amount of instruction because we can’t start school early,” he said.

When introducing the resolution, Chairman Jim Breedlove said about three years ago, the Macon County

• See END OF SCHOOL page 14

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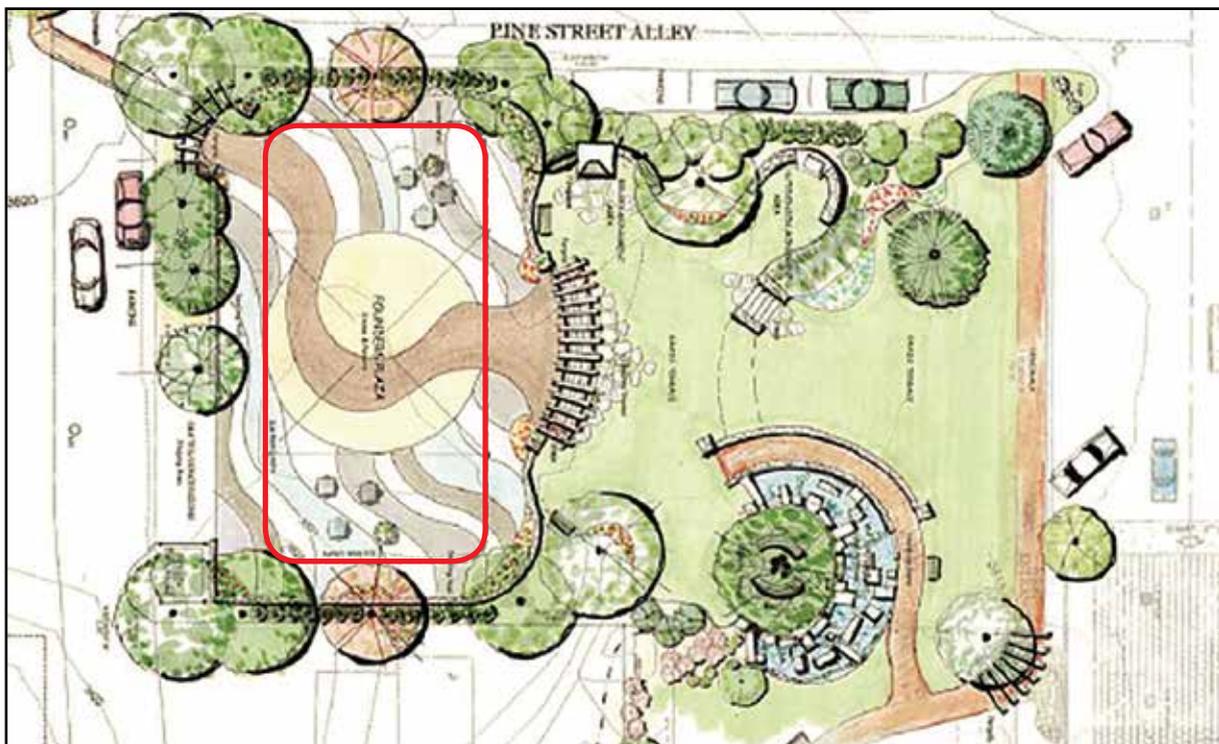
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This is the proposed formation of the Kelsey-Hutchinson Park extended to include the Sossomon property (.46 acres) recently acquired by the foundation. Rather than a rectangle, the park is now an “L” shape. The new part of the park is bordered by Pine Street on the right, Oak Street on the left and Pine Street Alley at the top. The bottom portion connects to the existing park. The area named Founders Plaza (left) is where the ice skating rink will be erected November through February (shown outlined in red). After February, the rink will be disassembled and stored and March through October Founders Plaza can be used as a gathering place for tented nonprofit events and can also serve as a Town Square – something neglected by founders Kelsey and Hutchinson when they outlined the town.

## ...K-H PARK continued from page 1

der of the original park, will be basically split in half.

The half closest to Pine Street and bordering the park boundary will be an open, grassed, green space with terraces surrounded by trees, shrubs and flowers featuring a local quarried stone sculpture water feature for viewing. This will not replace the interactive water feature for children next to the restroom facility.

The entrance to this part of the park will be designated by meandering brick walkways accented by two pergolas (arbors) – one of which will be a handicap ramp walkway to the middle terrace.

Other features being considered for this portion of the park include a Veterans Memorial component (moved from its current location at Main and 6th streets), and a replica of the Kelsey House Chimney which could be used as a heat-generating gathering spot during ice-skating season.

Two additional parking spaces have also been designated for the park.

### Ice Skating Rink

Back in November, Art and Angela Williams of the Old Edwards Hospitality Group, offered to build and finance the operations of an ice rink. The town accepted the offer and it was to be erected on the infield of the ballfield on Hickory Street.

However, in the interim, the Founders Park Coalition acquired the Sossomon property, which meant the ice rink could go in the park – an idea the coalition and the Town Board preferred.

“The spot in Founders Plaza will mean less wear and

tear on the infield and sod at the ball park,” said Richard Delany, president and CEO of OEI.

The southern half of the Sossomon .46-acre tract that borders Oak Street will be designed as a Town Square area with a hard surface of pavers and stone veneer surrounded with landscaped edges and seating walls and benches.

It is envisioned to be a multi-purpose, open-air plaza (65 ft. x 104 ft., 6,825 sq. ft), to accommodate medium-sized events and static tie-down anchors will be embedded in the floor of the plaza to accommodate a 45’x45’ tent. The plaza will also be configured to fit the 45’x 90’ ice rink.

A screen fence will hide the chiller unit necessary for freezing the ice and a skate rental/concession building measuring 10’X24’ will be in the corner of Founders Plaza on the Oak Street side.

According to Delany, the chiller only turns on if it’s too warm to keep the ice frozen so it shouldn’t be a nuisance since winter weather is usually below freezing.

As discussed previously, the Williams are providing the funds to purchase a portable ice rink including chiller unit, Zamboni, skates, railings and all costs associated with the rink and those necessary for its operating. They will also fund any expenses or operational losses beyond what is collected in revenue for skating and skate rental for five years – \$200,000 rink; \$10,625 skates; \$13,000 Zamboni; \$13,824 labor – for a preliminary start-up cost of \$230,000 – \$250,000.

There was much discussion between the board and Recreation Director Lester Norris regarding details – whether to charge for skate time or just skate rental, how long to allow people on the ice, how to monitor skate time on the ice, etc., – all of which will be hammered out as

opening day approaches.

Commissioner Amy Patterson said the town should seek to charge enough to eventually pay its own way so the Williams don’t have to pay to offset the proceeds of skate rentals.

Norris plans on opening the rink the weekend before Thanksgiving, Saturday, Nov. 21, 2015. Proposed operating hours through Feb. 21, 2016 are Thursday - Sunday from 11 a.m. until 7 p.m.

Delany said housing the rink in the park will likely attract people to the park during the winter as well as encourage people to dine and shop nearby which will be good for the Highlands economy.

Economic Development experts say an attractive, active, well-functioning public space promotes economic development in a community and helps build a sense of community, civic identity and culture.

“I view the park as a place of common ground that will be open to the public. The new ‘town square’ area will facilitate gatherings of community non-profit groups. It’s use in the winter for ice skating will move the park toward a year round town meeting space,” said Mayor Pat Taylor.

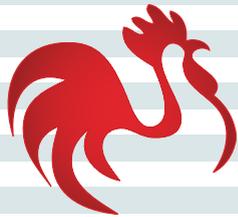
Delany also suggested the ice rink will help promote the park and give it exposure for spring and summer use.

“With the addition of extra parking there and the new restrooms it just seems to make sense,” he said.

The rink will be constructed, delivered and set up by Custom Ice Rinks, Inc. who will also train Highlands staff to set up and take it down.

Meanwhile, the Founders Park Coalition will begin raising money to finish out the new .46-acre tract.

– Kim Lewicki



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# • HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

## Ongoing

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

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

## Thurs.-Sun.

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

## Monday

• Shortoff Baptist Church hosts a non-denominational Men's Meeting the first Monday night of each month at 7 pm and all men are invited to attend.

## First Tuesdays

• FAMILY and Caregiver Support Group Meets: for Individuals that have a friend, family member or loved one living with mental illness. Learn how peers deal with stress and emotional overload. First Tuesday of Every Month 7-8 pm. Call Ann for more info (828) 369-7385

## 2nd and 4th Tuesdays

• OccupyWNC meets at the Jackson

County Justice Center. For more information, visit [www.occupywncc.org](http://www.occupywncc.org) or call 828.331.1524 Tuesdays

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

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

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

## Starting Tues., Feb. 24

• 12-week NAMI Program to educate families dealing with mental illness, 6:30 to 8:30p. The course has the dual focus of education, and understanding the experience of living with mental illness. Confidentiality is maintained. Class size is limited and pre-registration required. Contact: Ann 369-7385 or Linda 369-9838

## Mon., Wed., Fri.

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

• Aerobics with Tina Rogers 8-9a.

• Zumba at the Rec Park at 9:05a. \$5

## 1st Wednesdays

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

## 3rd Wednesdays

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

## Thursdays

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

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

• Weight Watchers support group meets every Thursday at 6pm at the Cashiers Commu-

nity Center. Questions? Call Lisa 828-506-3555.

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

## 2nd Thursdays

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

## Last Fri. of each month

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

## Sundays

• At the Mountain Laurel Tennis Club at 4:30 pm. Multi-denominational, Interactive Bible Study and Fellowship.

## Wednesdays March 4-25

• Marriage Tuneup. 7 p.m. at Church of the Valley in Cashiers. Call 743-5470.

## Thurs., March 12

• Spaghetti Dinner, silent auction and bake sale at Highlands School in conjunction with the book fair, science fair and at PTO meeting. Dinner starts at 4:30p. Sponsored by the Junior Class. Eat in or take out. \$6 for adults and \$3 for children.

• Benefit Spaghetti Supper for Yancey Bartlett from 5-8 p.m. at Creekside Restaurant. Eat in or Order out. Proceeds will go to help Yancy with medical bills and housing needs. He has been diagnosed with a rare disease: polycythemia vera and hasn't been able to work. Call to order take out at 828-526-9822.

• The Macon County Cancer Support Group will meet Thursday, at 7 p.m. in the cafeteria of Angel Medical Center in Franklin. Jo Zachary, former Radio Broadcaster and now Kidney Cancer Survivor will talk about her cancer journey. Light refreshments will be served. A \$50 gift certificate will be given away. Anyone who has been affected by Kidney Cancer is especially invited to attend.

The League of Women Voters (LWV) of Macon County will meet at noon at Tartan Hall to plan several major forums for the coming year – public education, NC tax and funding policies, forum for elected officials – and? We are taking a new approach to League meetings for this year, focusing on forums on key topics of political interest, and now is the time to discuss, suggest speakers, etc. Please join us. Bring your own lunch.

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a strenuous 10.7-mile hike, elevation change 2200 ft., to Blood Mountain, highest point on the Appalachian Trail in Georgia and one of the Dirty Dozen Wilderness Hikes. Good views from Big Cedar Mt. and Blood Mountain. Stone shelter built by the CCC in the 1930s. Meet at West Gate Plaza at 8 am, drive 164 miles round trip. Call leader Diana Otero, 765-318-9981, for reservations. Limit of eight hikers, no dogs please.

## Sat., March 14

• The MET Opera at the Performing Arts Center presents Rossini's La Donna Del Lago 12:55pm. A pre-opera discussion lead by Beverly Pittman will begin at 12:30 pm. Adults: \$24 MET & PAC Members: \$20.40 LIVE in HD - SAVE THE DATE(s) Sunday, March 22, the Bolshoi Ballet presents Romeo & Juliet beginning at 12:55pm (\$20 Adults \$10 Students \$17 Members ). Saturday, March 28 the National Theatre of London presents View From the Bridge, 7pm (Adults \$18 Members \$15.30) Tickets for all events are available online: [highlandspac.org](http://highlandspac.org) or by calling: 828.526.9047

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a strenuous 7-mile hike, elevation change 1500 ft., from Deep Creek Campground to Noland Divide in the Smoky Mountains Park, continuously uphill to Lonesome Pine with spectacular views at Beaugard Ridge. Meet at Bi-Lo parking lot in Franklin at 9:00 am, drive 70 miles round trip. Call leader Gail Lehman, 828-524-5298, for reservations. Visitors welcome, no dogs please.

• The Annual Convention of the Macon County Republican Party will be held on Saturday at the Robert C. Carpenter Community Building in Franklin. The theme of this year's event is "Young Mountain Voices," featuring young civic leaders from Macon County. Keynote speaker is Nick Vaughn, former president of North Carolina Teenage Republicans, and student at Wingate University. Registration begins at noon. Precinct Meetings begin at 12:45, followed by convention business. All registered Republicans and Macon County teenagers may attend. [maconcountyrepublicans@gmail.com](mailto:maconcountyrepublicans@gmail.com)

## Sun., March 15

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take an easy 2-mile hike, with 200 ft. elevation change, exploring historic Tessentee Farms, a property supervised by the Land Trust with an 1800 farm house, forest and open field trails, wildlife, birds, and a white walnut tree plantation. Meet at the Smoky Mtns. Visitor Center in Otto at 2:00 pm, drive 6 miles round trip. Call leader Kay Coriell, 369-6820. Visitors welcome, no dogs please.

## March 20

• All Jackson County voters registered as Republicans by January 31st 2015 are invited to attend the Jackson County Republican Annual Convention at the Heritage Room at the Jackson County Senior Center, 100 County Services Park in Sylva. Registration begins at 5 PM at the Senior Center and will close at 6:30 PM. Those attendees registered as Republicans also will qualify to be one of the 27 delegates and 27 alternates to the upcoming conventions. Precinct meetings begin promptly at 5:30 PM followed by a full buffet dinner prepared by the Senior Center Chef and his staff. For more information call Jackson County Republican Chair Ralph Slaughter at 828 743-6491 or email [jacksonctygot@yahoo.com](mailto:jacksonctygot@yahoo.com)

## Rossini's 'La Donna Del Lago' MET Opera at PAC this Saturday

Saturday, March 14, 12:55pm the MET Opera presents Rossini's La Donna Del Lago. Loch Katrine, Stirlingshire, Scotland. Elena, the Lady of the Lake, makes her daily crossing while shepherds watch their flocks and men hunt in the woods. She sings of her love for Malcolm Groeme, but comes across King James, who has disguised himself as "Uberto," hoping to meet the legendary beauty Elena.



Believing the King to be a hunter who has lost his way, she offers him hospitality and they depart for her home, while the King's men search for their disguised leader. Mystery, war, deception and love

fill this opera based on the poem The Lady of the Lake by Walter Scott. A pre-opera discussion led by Beverly Pittman will begin at 12:30 pm. Adults: \$24 MET & PAC Members: \$20.40 LIVE in HD - SAVE THE DATE(s): Sunday, March 22, the Bolshoi Ballet presents Romeo & Juliet beginning at 12:55pm (\$20 Adults \$10 Students \$17 Members ). Saturday, March 28 the National The-

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# • HIGHLANDS EVENTS •

## Sat., March 21

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate-to-strenuous 5.5 mile hike with elevation change of 3400 ft. to Mt. Sterling in the Smoky Mountains Park for outstanding views of the Pigeon River Gorge. Meet at Waynesville Ingles at 9 am, drive 80 miles round trip from Waynesville. Call leader Keith Patton, 828-456-8895, for reservations. Visitors welcome, no dogs please.

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a strenuous 10.2-mile hike, elevation change 1300 ft. to Middle Prong Wilderness Loop, one of the Dirty Dozen Wilderness Hikes using Haywood Gap Trail, Buckeye Gap Trail and the Mountains to Sea Trail off the Blue Ridge Parkway. Meet in the old WalMart parking lot near KFC at 8 am, drive 60 miles round trip. Call leaders Bill and Sharon Van Horn, 828-369-1983, for reservations. Limit of eight hikers. No dogs please.

## Sun., March 22

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate 4-mile hike to William's Pulpit on the Bartram Trail from Wallace Branch with elevation change of 900 ft. and views from the Pulpit. Meet at Westgate Plaza in Franklin at 2 p.m., drive 6 miles round trip. Call leader Mary Stone, 369-7352. Visitors, well-behaved children and friendly dogs on leashes welcome.

## Tues., March 24

• Hudson Library Book Club will discuss "We are not ourselves" by Matthew Thomas beginning at 10:30a. Please call the library at (828)526-3031 or visit [www.fontanalib.org](http://www.fontanalib.org) for more information.

• OccupyWNC will hold an open-to-the-public meeting at Signature Brew in Downtown Sylva, NC at 7 p.m. This first, in a series of 2015 meetings, intends to inform the community about OccupyWNC's many ventures since its beginning in 2011. The event will allow people to meet the Jackson, Macon and Swain county members.

## Sat., March 28

• Bethel United Methodist Church is hosting an Easter Party on March 28, beginning at 10 am. There will be lots of games, an Easter egg hunt and a visit from the Easter Bunny. All are welcome.

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will hold the Thru Hiker Chow Down for hikers on the Appalachian Trail, serving chili dogs and sweets from 11:00 am – 2:00 pm at the Lazy Hiker. If you would like to help prepare food call David Sapin, 828-369-2628.

## Sun., March 29

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take an easy 1.5 mile hike, elevation change 200 ft., on the Rufus Morgan Falls Trail to a beautiful waterfall named for the founder of the Nantahala Hiking Club. Wildflowers should be blooming. Meet at Westgate Plaza in Franklin at 2 pm, drive 24 miles round trip. Call leader Jean Hunnicutt, 524-5234, for reservations. Visitors welcome, no dogs please.

## Mon., March 30

• Macon County Public Health is currently conducting a series of public listening sessions to gain public input on a variety of vulnerable health populations who live in Macon County. A listening session to learn more about the issues affecting those living with a Mental Illness in Macon County will be held at 6p. Dinner will be provided. The meeting will be held at the Sunset Restaurant, 498 Harrison Ave. in Franklin.

## Friday, April 3

• The annual Easter egg hunt at the Fidelia Eckerd Center at 2:30 p.m.

## Sat., April 4

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will meet at the clubhouse in Franklin to prepare Easter bags for hikers on the Appalachian Trail. Meet at the NHC Clubhouse at 9:00 am to help make the bags. Contact Elena Marsh for information, 369-8915.

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate 5-mile hike to Standing Indian Mtn. from Deep Gap north on the Appalachian Trail with elevation change of 1100 ft. Meet at West Gate Plaza in Franklin at 9 am, drive 44 miles round trip. Call leader Mary Stone, 369-7352, for reservations.

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will have a booth with information about the Club at the Nantahala Outdoor Center Festival in Wesser NC. If you would like to help, call Olga Pader, 369-2457.

## Sat., April 11

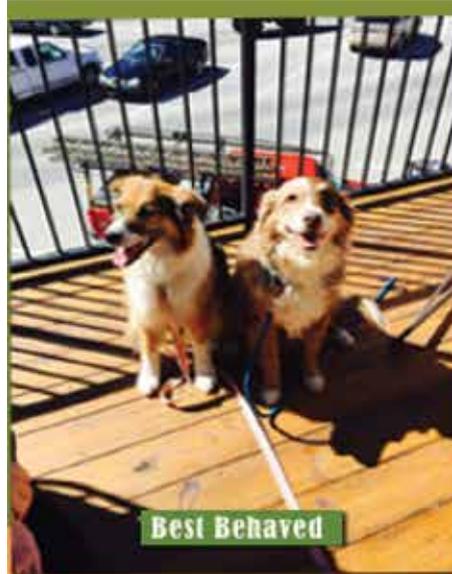
• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a strenuous 10-mile hike with elevation change of 2000 ft. on Standing Indian Loop from the Backcountry parking area, up Kimsey Creek to Deep Gap, lunch on Standing Indian Mtn., returning on Lower Ridge Trail. Wildflowers should be beautiful. Meet at Westgate Plaza at 8:00 am, drive 30 miles round trip. Call leader Don O'Neal, 828-586-5723, for reservations. Limit of eight hikers, no dogs please.

## Sun., April 12

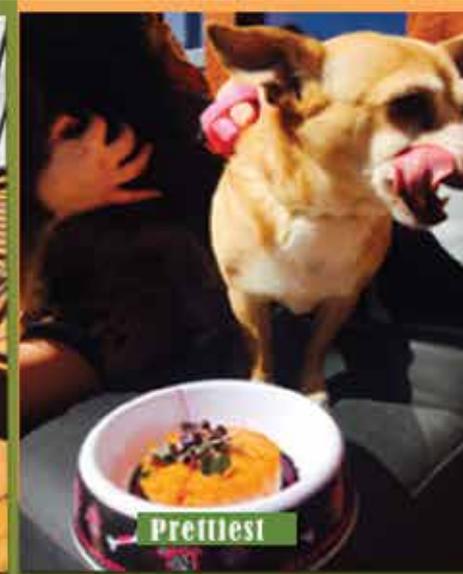
• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate 3.5-mile hike, elevation gain 500 ft., on Wayah Bald Loop with 360 degree views from Wayah Bald. Wildflowers may be blooming. Hopefully we will find some wildflowers. Meet at Westgate Plaza in Franklin at 2:pm, drive 25 miles round trip. Call leader Gail Lehman, 524-5298, for reservations.

## Sat., April 18

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



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# Spring Home Improvement

## Easy Tips to Spruce-Up Your Home's Exterior Trim

(StatePoint) Trimming out a house “from the top down” with colorful but low-maintenance finishes and accessories is a growing trend for busy homeowners looking for easy-care home exteriors.

Experts advise starting at the top of your home with gable vents and louvers, and then making your way down with decorative millwork, window and door trim, followed by a balustrade system and porch columns.

“Today’s homeowners are selecting materials for the outside of the home that are long-lasting and require minimal upkeep,” says Heather Kovacs, product manager for Fypon. “Urethane and PVC ac-

cessories perfectly match the needs of homeowners looking for stylish exterior enhancements that resist moisture, insects, cracking, peeling, rotting and warping.”

Depending on the look you’re going for, keep in mind the finish. If you plan

to paint the accessories, a smooth finish works best. For staining, opt for timber. A stone cast replicates concrete. With these options, you can personalize your home exterior and complement your home’s design with durable, synthetic materials.

### Roofline

At the roofline of the home, consider gable vents and louvers that come in shapes like octagons, cathedral, triangles and ovals. Functional venting louvers should feature corrosion-resistant screens to help keep insects out of the home and angled slates to protect interiors from rain, while still encouraging ventilation for attic spaces.

### Windows and Doors

Pilasters, pediments, crossheads and shutters can enhance key elements of a home’s exterior.

“The windows on the front of a home gain tremendous curb appeal when accented by trim accessories,” points out Kovacs. “Similarly, you can transform a ho-hum entryway into a stunning grand entrance for a home by installing easy-care door surrounds.”

### Eaves

To add the ultimate finishing touch to eaves and window areas on the exterior, Kovacs recommends incorporating brackets, dentil blocks and corbels. These pieces can be positioned under showcase window areas and

on porches, and are also typically found under the roofline of a home. A trellis system installed above a garage door or a secondary entryway of the home can carry through the decorative elements on the exterior.

### Color

With the right color combinations, the trim you add to your home can be striking, drawing together the entire exterior. For this reason, it’s best to consider materials that come with a pre-primed surface ready to stain or paint. For an easy way to add instant curb appeal and character to your home, consider trimming your home top to bottom.



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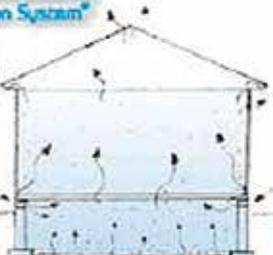
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# Spring Home Improvement

## Gray Trending as a Home Exterior Color

(StatePoint) Giving your home's exterior a fresh look starts with color. And this year, many home improvement trend-spotting experts say the leading color family is gray, with its neutral yet refined elegance.

"Gray is an important home exterior color because it works equally well on all home styles, from historic to contemporary, and in every part of the country," says Kate Smith, president and chief color maven of Sensational Color. "Quite versatile, gray tones can range from cool, clear bluish gray to a true neutral gray through a warm French gray or even taupe. With gray, it's really hard to go wrong."

While you may know whether you like something once it's in place, achieving a look you love before making a commitment is crucial. Smith is offering tips for picking the perfect hues for your home:

- The best gray for your home exterior is one that blends well with your roof and other fixed features, such as brick, stone or permanent design elements. For a middle tone that will work on most homes, look for a classic gray that will never go out of style.

- Light, clear gray is fresh and airy -- just be sure to look for any undertones. What appears as light gray on the swatch

could seem light blue or lavender once applied.

- If you're going with dark gray as the main color, look for one that is rich but soft. Deeper shades with a harder edge are great as accents.

- Gray comes alive with dramatic accent colors. Paint your door a bold color to create a strong focal point. Use other accent colors to play a secondary role.

- A touch of brass, bronze or copper warms up gray; gold or orange adds a spark of color.

- Both warm and cool greens look fresh against gray; from thyme to palm or forest, green naturally brings out the beauty of gray.

- Tried and true blue -- soft raindrop, bold blue paisley or admiral blue -- keeps gray fresh and clean.

- Go all neutral with gray on gray for a sophisticated scheme.

- If you're updating your roof, consider the 14 shades of gray offered as options for polymer slate and shake roofing tiles at DaVinci Roofscapes. Their newest color, Smokey Gray,



reflects a deep, rich blackish gray reminiscent of real slate. Combined with softer gray roofing tones, such as Light Weathered Gray or Slate Gray, you can create a unique roofing profile.

For more ways to add gray to the exterior of the home, check out the insights from color expert Kate Smith at [www.sensationalcolor.com](http://www.sensationalcolor.com).

For a home update that will signify stability, elegance and dependability, consider going gray.

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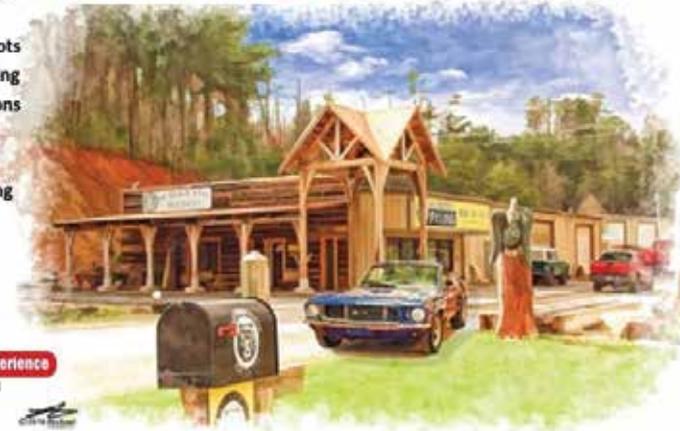
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# Spring Home Improvement

## Five Top Home Improvements that Raise Your House's Resale Value

(StatePoint) Before you decide on a home improvement project, it's a good idea to learn which ones will help raise your house's value and recoup the most money when you decide to sell.

From replacing your front door to adding a deck, there are many mid-range improvements that won't cost a bundle but will deliver great bang for your buck. It's not about spending the most money; it's about improvements that best hold their value.

The experts at "Remodeling" magazine recently released their 28th annual Cost vs. Value Report, comparing construction costs with resale value for 36 of the most popular home improvement projects. When it came to midrange projects, the report found homeowners recouped the highest percentage of costs on these five improvements: steel entry door replacement, installation of manufactured stone veneer on home exteriors, garage door replacements, vinyl siding replacement, and wooden deck additions.

"Making your home stand out from others

on your block and others on the market is achievable if you plan wisely when it comes to remodeling projects," says Phil Wengerd, Vice President of Market Strategies at ProVia, a leading building products manufacturer. "This year's statistics indicate that moderately priced exterior projects can significantly enhance home resale values."

This year's analysis of top midrange home improvement projects provided definite direction for homeowners:

- **Steel Entry Door Replacement:** The 20-Gauge Steel Entry Door has consistently delivered the best return on investment for resale, holding the top spot in the midrange product category since its debut in this report in 2009/2010. The steel entry door is the only project that, on a national basis, more than pays back its investment, typically



recouping 101.8 percent. At ProVia, for example, the company's Legacy Steel Entry Doors are a consistent top sales performer.

- **Manufactured Stone Veneer:** A new project on this year's report is the installation of manufactured stone veneer on home exteriors. This category zoomed to the top of the midrange list, grabbing second place with a 92.2 percent cost-value return. Increased product demand for Heritage Stone is a reflection of this trend, observed by Wengerd and others.

- **Garage Door Replacement:** The installation of new four-section garage doors on galvanized steel tracks proved to be a valuable project with homeowners recouping 88.4 percent of their costs.

- **Vinyl Siding Replacement:** Replacing a home's vinyl siding was one of a

handful of projects that jumped up the list for recouping improvement costs. So not only can new vinyl siding beautify a home, it can keep it weatherproof and enhance its resale value.

- **Deck Addition:** Adding a wooden deck can do more than provide a place to enjoy the great outdoors. When it comes time to sell, you should be able to pocket more than 80 percent of the cost for this improvement.

More resources on home improvement projects, along with information on entry doors, vinyl siding and manufactured stone veneer, can be found at [www.proviaproducts.com/cvv](http://www.proviaproducts.com/cvv).

Before you dip into your wallet, learn which home improvements will best hold their value while enhancing curb appeal.

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# Spring Home Improvement

## Turn Your Bathroom into a Relaxing Oasis

(StatePoint) Time spent in the bathroom can be precious, as it may be your only solo time. When prioritizing home upgrades, consider first transforming a ho-hum, conventional bathroom into an oasis of comfort, style and ultimate relaxation.

### Relax

Replace outdated fixtures with new top-quality options that offer greater functionality. Manufacturers such as Mansfield Plumbing, produce fixtures and fittings designed to work in tandem. Such "suites" of a toilet, sink and bathtub can improve the look of a bathroom setting.

In a toilet, there are certain features to seek. A SmartHeight toilet allows for easier access. For those who are environmentally conscious or looking for a pocketbook-friendly option, seek out a WaterSense rated toilet, signifying greater water conservation.

When it comes to relaxation, the bathtub is king. Luckily, manufacturers are innovating features to go beyond whirlpools. New bathtub offerings include chromatherapy mood light systems, thermotherapy heated backrests and in-line heaters that keep water heated perfectly. Explore your options at [www.Mansfieldplumbing.com](http://www.Mansfieldplumbing.com).

### Retreat

Make your bathroom the perfect retreat from the rest of the house and the outside world with a

few stylish accents that provide greater solitude. For example, privacy decorative glass windows and privacy acrylic block windows offered from Hy-Lite are design elements that don't compromise natural light. Available in four designer frame colors, you can go beyond plain frosted glass with stylish windows that come either operable or fixed in place. Offered in varying shapes and sizes, it's easy to match windows to other bathroom elements, such as tiles and countertops. Full details are available at [www.Hy-Lite.com](http://www.Hy-Lite.com).

Take your spa retreat a step further by piping music into your bathroom with humidity-resistant speakers unsusceptible to steamy showers and hot baths.

### Beauty

On a limited budget you can give the bathroom an elegant long-term face-lift by investing in millwork products that resist humidity so you don't experience warping. From crown moulding to trim around showers and bathtubs to ceiling medallions, polyurethane is a more practical material than traditional wood for these design elements. It's lightweight, easy to install, and most importantly, designed to resist the humidity of bathing.

To get the look of a luxury hotel, the experts at Fypon, which produce thousands of pieces of polyurethane millwork, moulding and trim in a variety of architectural styles, recommend a few project ideas:

- Install a set of pilasters on both sides of your



shower stall and a door crosshead overhead to upgrade your bathroom's look.

- Surround mirrors and decorative accent windows with painted or stained polyurethane mouldings that complement the room.

- Install chair rail moulding around the bathroom to add dimension. Paint above or below the

moulding and use wallpaper, paneling or a different color paint in the other section.

Find more project ideas at [www.Fypon.com](http://www.Fypon.com).

While many think of the bathroom as a place to take care of necessary business, you can easily give yours an upgrade that will transform it into a whole lot more.



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## ...END OF SCHOOL continued from page 5

School Board sent a resolution to the state with negative results but since 30 other districts are requesting control of their calendars and since there is new movement in Raleigh concerning the issue, he believed the school board should proceed with the resolution.

“Just this last week, there were a number of bills that were put before the legislature to bring back local calendar control. I don’t know how far those bills are going, but a number have been filed this year,” he said. “There is a group of legislators who think they know better, and let’s cut

to the chase, it’s due to the tourist industry on the coast and the summer camps. They are worried about keeping the cheap, easy available student labor, and aren’t thinking about what is best for the students.”

McCall said Macon County students are affected and it may even be reflected in End of Grade and End of Course scores.

“Other districts’ kids have two or three weeks more of instruction because their schools are not affected by inclement weather.

The other reason Macon County has always wanted control of its school calendar is because its course work is closely aligned with Southwest Community Col-

lege’s schedule.

Due to the size of its schools and classes, many courses aren’t offered but can be taken through ITV and online through SCC.

But Breedlove and Henning said that’s a fight for another day.

“Even districts that qualified for calendar waivers for various reasons are having the same kind of problem we are having right now because the days allotted through the waiver – a total of four days – aren’t enough wiggle room to make up their lost snow days, so it hasn’t help them turn their problem around.”

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## ...FORUM continued from page 2

Mission Health is aligning hospitals, physicians and other providers with common values – locally owned, community governed, non-profit care. Together we are reinvesting in our local communities and developing innovative approaches to enhance care close to home.

As just one example, Mission provides specialized tele-stroke services to ensure that those who live in western North Carolina and suffer a stroke receive immediate access to state-of-the-art care regardless of where they may live.

Mission Health is constantly working to make healthcare more accessible, convenient, efficient and affordable. We are engaging with consumers where they live and work all across western North Carolina. Our increasing development of ambula-

tory and home health settings mirrors the national trend, while continuing to support patients with more complex needs who require hospitalization. We are reaching out to form new relationships with local businesses and community stakeholders. Each regional member is vital to both the health and economic well-being of its community. With our expanding collaboration and system integration, community members throughout the region now have enhanced access not only to their local hospital, but also to the entire Mission Health network. As we have for the last century, Mission Health is relentlessly committed to working with you to ensure your health, wellness and care now and into the future. It’s our privilege to be your partner.

## Highlands School Scholarship Golf Tournament set for May 14

May 14 marks a special date in Highlands. Wildcat Cliff Country Club will once again host the annual Scholarship Golf Classic. The Town of Highlands Scholarship fund began in 1975 through the generosity of a local businessman named Jack Taylor. His gift of \$5,000 was the initial funding for this scholarship program enabled by special legislation in the NC General Assembly making Highlands unique in the state with the ability to administer such a fund for the benefit of Highlands School graduates who are committed to higher education through college, university or vocational training. In succeeding years Jack Brockway along with other prominent concerned citizens became increasingly involved in the development and promotion of the Town of Highlands Scholarship Endowment Fund which now exceeds \$780,000. Through the ensuing years, various Clubs including Highlands Falls, Cullasaja, and now Wildcat Cliffs, have graciously provided each of their unique golf course and clubhouse facilities for the purpose of creating an annual one day “fund drive golf tournament.” The historical generosity has been essential in building and sustaining the endowment fund with the ultimate goal of providing financial and moral support to our young Highland School graduates.

Event Co-Chair, Brian Stiehler said, “We are excited to continue this important tradition. Wildcat Cliffs management and staff have gone above and beyond to make this a successful event on all levels. We are grateful for the membership and staff of WCCC.”

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

# • INVESTING AT 4,118 FT. •

## Spring Cleaning – Don't Forget the Exterior of Your Home

Whether you plan to sell your home tomorrow, or never, here are a few tips to help you protect one of your most valuable assets.

When we are in winter survival mode it is easy to put off until tomorrow what it's too cold to do today. This is particularly true with respect to inspecting our homes to be certain that everything is in good repair. When it

comes to home maintenance an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. That's why it's a good idea to spend one of the first beautiful spring days strolling around your home making an inspection of the exterior. It doesn't take but a few minutes to inspect the following exterior features that can become problematic over the winter:

- **Roof:** From the ground do a visual inspection for evidence of damage, checking for cracked, curled or missing shingles. If you notice any vines or moss growing on your roof this is a sign of moisture. If you notice any signs of damage call a contractor for evaluation and necessary repairs. While the contractor is on the roof, have him clean leaves from roof valleys and any limbs or other debris that has accumulated over the winter. Also, check your attic and be certain that your vents are unobstructed and free from debris or animal nests. Also check for roof leaks which will be discernable by signs of moisture or discoloration on your rafters or wet spots on your insulation.

- **Chimneys:** Examine outside of chimney for damage. Have the flue cleaned and inspected by a certified chimney sweep.

- **Siding:** Examine the siding for signs of disrepair. Pay special attention to the area under the roof eaves for signs of water or discoloration, indications that ice dams might have created leaks along the roof edge. Have your siding cleaned to remove salt, mildew and grime that may have accumulated over the winter.

- **Decks:** Check for loose or buckling boards which may need repair. Also check for water stains where the deck ties to the house. Ongoing water leakage can



**Wanda Klodosky**  
Landmark Realty Group

lead to wood decay, weakening the deck structure and the house. If you have any doubt about the structural integrity of the deck, call a professional to investigate. Pressure wash your deck to remove mold and mildew. You may do it yourself or hire a contractor. If doing it yourself remember that if you see wood damage, like raised fibers you need to increase the distance between the spray nozzle and the decking.

- **Garage Doors:** To check that the door is balanced, release it into the manual mode and lift it by handle. The door should lift easily and smoothly and stay open on its own about 3 feet off the ground. If it doesn't, hire a garage-door technician to counterbalance its overhead spring. Next, set the reversing force on the opener as low as possible.

- **Driveways:** This step is especially important for our area where freezing and thawing happen during the winter months. Nip cracks in the bud in the driveway and paths before weeds take up residence. Home centers sell patching materials and fillers designed for asphalt and concrete surfaces which will work for small repairs. For more extensive damage you'll need to hire a professional. For walkways ensure they are in good repair and free from uneven surfaces, mossy patches or holes.

- **Gutters:** Clear gutters of debris and check them for corrosion, joint separation, and loose fasteners. Flush out downspouts and unclog leader pipes. Leaders should extend at least 5 feet to direct water away from the foundation.

- **Foundation:** Examine your foundation. Look for cracks and discolorations that point to a water leak or moisture source. Seal and treat as necessary. Small fissures are generally normal, but large or gaping cracks signal potential foundation failure. Consult a structural engineer if you notice any significant signs of structural damage.

- **Outside faucets:** Check outside hose faucets for freeze damage. Turn the water on and place your thumb or finger over the opening. If you can stop the flow of water, it is likely the pipe inside the home is damaged and will need to be replaced.

• See INVESTING page 19

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## ...TRACK continued from page 1

we say, so when someone drives up to the school, it's an impressive first impression."

But besides aesthetics, it's not conducive for regulation softball or track.

"Students have to run six laps plus 100 yards to make a mile because its an odd shaped track and there is a portion of the fence that is higher than the other

fence for softball play, because the field is too short for a regulation softball field."

In addition the scoreboard is decrepit, there are drainage problems and the batting cages are lacking.

Talk of a repairs segued into a complete redo when the Booster Club realized repairs wouldn't last.

"We weren't going to sink \$100,000

into something when five years later it would be worthless," he said. "As we talked about it further we realized it was getting too big for the Booster Club, so we went out into the community, talked to the school, the principal, Superintendent Dr. Baldwin, MC Commissioner Jimmy Tate, realizing we didn't want to throw good money after bad."

The approximate total estimated cost of the project is \$404,100.

Renovations and additions include: a maintenance building and dugouts, demo track, structures, fences, additional drainage, a new four-lane, prep and paving, track striping, soil prep and sod, high jump pad area, fencing for road side and softball field (black coated), electrical conduits and wiring, permits, temporary facilities, mobilization, long and triple jump pit.

After private monetary and in-kind donations, \$50,000 is needed from the county. The original request was for \$93,000 but a hefty private donation came in Sunday.

Other donations include in-kind donations include \$35,000 from John Lupoli, owner of Lupoli Real Estate, Jeff Weller of Summit Architecture, PA and Hank Ross, of Ross Landscaping Architecture, PLLC are donating design and drawing services equivalent to \$35,000. County Commissioner Jim Tate of Tate Landscaping Services, Inc. is donating landscape construction and sodding materials worth \$35,000.

Equipment, landscaping and signage will all be paid for through private donors who have pledged \$40,000. The Rotary Club of Highlands has donated \$8,600 and finally and most significant, A.L. Williams, Jr. Family Foundation, Inc. is donating \$150,000

"I think it is very impressive that people are willing to go above and beyond to

help our school. I know you have done a lot of work and I appreciate that as a parent," said school board member Stephanie McCall at the February BOE meeting.

School Board Attorney, John Henning said he has begun drafting an agreement between the school board and the community groups. He wants to make sure the proper bidding process takes place concerning the aspects of the project that aren't in-kind services and will be working with all parties involved.

At Tuesday's commission meeting Attorney Chester Jones agreed.

"I need to talk with School Board Attorney, John Henning, Jr. to see how the fund distribution will be structured, since it's public money, it has to be handled a little differently."

Commissioner Ronnie Beale asked what was the time-line for the project and whether it should be paid for with contingency funds from the FY-2014-'15 budget or budgeted in the FY 2015-'16 budget beginning July 1.

Ross said it was hoped the project could be done during the summer months while the kids are out of school.

Since Finance Director Lori Hall said she would have to see what was left in this year's contingency fund, Chairman Kevin Corbin suggested deferring a decision but said since 80% to 85% is being paid for by the Highlands community the commission should consider handling it in the current budget if possible.

Commissioner Gary Shields had concerns about protecting the capital outlay money for the schools.

"I don't want to get to the end of this and all of a sudden the capital outlay budget has to be docked," he said.

• See TRACK page 17



Batting cages at the track/field.

## ...NUISANCE continued from page 1

“Loud, Unnecessary and Disturbing Noise shall mean: any noise intentionally created which because of its volume level, duration and/or character annoys, disturbs, injures, or endangers the comfort, health, peace, or safety of reasonable persons of ordinary sensibilities in the County.”

Specifically, the following shall be unlawful and are declared to be nuisances in violation of this ordinance, but such enumeration shall not be deemed to be exclusive:

- The use of horns or signal devices in a manner such that “loud, unnecessary and disturbing noise”, as defined herein, is produced from the same.
- The use of radios, stereos, sound-producing devices, electronic or mechanical devices, or sound amplification devices in a manner such that “loud, unnecessary, and disturbing noise” as defined herein is produced from the same.
- The use of loud, boisterous language, or shouting in a manner such that “loud, unnecessary, and disturbing noise” as

defined herein is produced from the same.

Noises exempted from the ordinance are as follows:

- Necessary noise from the normal and legal operations of any industrial operation, commercial business, nonprofit organization, or governmental facility or function.
- Noise resulting from the normal maintenance and operation(s) of residential and commercial property.
- Noise resulting from agricultural and horticultural operations.
- Noise resulting from any authorized emergency vehicle or public safety vehicle and associated activities conducted from the same.
- Noise resulting from any military, law enforcement activities, or educational institution of any federal, state, or local government to include military observances.
- Noise resulting from emergency work necessary to preserve and/or restore property to a safe condition following a fire, accident, natural disaster, etc. or to

restore public utilities.

- Noise from any bell or chime from any building clock, school, or church.
- Noise from lawful fireworks and noise makers on holidays and at religious ceremonies.
- Noise created by any public recreational event or public entertainment activity.
- Noise from firearms while being used in a lawful and safe manner.

The intention of the ordinance is to have something the sheriff’s department can enforce. Those in violation will be charged with a Class 3 misdemeanor with fines up to \$500. The ordinance would be in effect 24 hours a day.

Though County Attorney Chester Jones said a public hearing isn’t necessary, commissioners agreed one should take place.

“It’s public money so we should give the public a chance,” said Commissioner Paul Higdon.

Commission Chair Kevin Corbin agreed.

The public hearing will take place at the March 31 continued MC Commission meeting in the boardroom.

– Kim Lewicki

## ...TRACK from page 16

Commissioner Paul Higdon felt that the project should be funded from one budget.

“I think it all should be worked into an overall budget. Instead of funding a project here and a project there, it should all be under one umbrella,” he said.

Commissioner Beale made a motion to vote on the project.

“To have the community involvement this project has, I think that we can make a motion and vote for it right now. As far as I’m concerned. It’s a great project,” he said.

However Chairman Corbin said though the general consensus was that all the commissioners were on board with the project, a vote would not be taken at the continued commission meeting on March 31 at 6 p.m. once they determined how to allocate the county’s funds.



## • BIZ/ORGANIZATION NEWS •

### TurfNet names local 2014 Golf Course Superintendent of the Year

Fred Gehrish, golf course superintendent of Highlands Falls Country Club, was named the winner of the 2014 TurfNet Superintendent of the Year Award on February 26 at the Golf Industry Show in San Antonio Texas. This is one of the highest honors a superintendent can achieve in his career.

“Fred Gehrish not only knows how to grow grass and manage a crew and a budget, but he is also very attuned to club members,” said Charles Sausman, member of Highlands Falls Country Club

Gehrish was one of 10 finalists for the award. Finalists were chosen by a panel of judges that included representatives from Syngenta, Turfnet, Golfweek, USGA Green Section, PGA Tour, Nicklaus Golf, Cornell University, Aspire Golf, Florida GCSA, and Golf Property

Analysts. Each nominee was judged based on the following criteria: labor management, maximizing budget limitations, educating and advancing the careers of colleagues and assistants, negotiating with government agencies, preparing for tournaments under unusual circumstances, service to golf clientele, upgrading or renovating the course and dealing with extreme or emergency conditions.

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## What is your reality

By Paul Christy  
Highlands United Methodist Church

Have you ever heard the phrase “this is reality!” When we hear that phrase we normally know that something is coming that we will have to face. Maybe we have put off a conversation that we need to have and all of a sudden reality hits when we run into that person and we have the conversation.

Maybe we don't eat as we should and because of our terrible eating habits we start having health concerns -- reality hits. Or as students we put off studying for a test or writing a paper and then the date sneaks up on us and we can only say, this is reality, we need to do the work, or we have to do the work.

Sometimes reality hits us right between the eyes, and sometimes we do all we can to escape reality.

I begin with this thought this week because I want to share with you a story about reality.

I have been doing this preaching thing for some 26 years now and no matter how hard I try to convince myself of this fact, I do not know everything about the work and practice of ministry. In fact, the older I get the more I realize just how much I do not know about ministry.

Several months ago, I met a man from Chicago named Brian, who our church asked to come to talk about leadership in the life of the local church. I thought, what can this man teach us about leadership? What can he say that we have not already heard? These were the honest thoughts of what I was thinking. However he came and talked with me and the church and it was amazing. He said things that I had not thought about. He said things that made me think in different ways. You see for me the reality of Brain coming to talk with us as a church was that he had some very valuable things to say to us. Reality hit me in the face because he had a wisdom that was powerful.

I started thinking about reality a lot lately because in the life of the church we are in the season we call Lent. It is in this season that we wait for the news of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. As I start thinking about Jesus it's amazing how some of His words strike a sense of reality in our lives.

One time Jesus was defending a woman who had been caught in adultery and in that day and time she could be stoned for her indiscretion. That was the reality. But Jesus found this woman and looked into her very soul, knelt down, drew in the sand and said, “You know, I know what the law says, but how about this, let anyone without sin cast the first stone.” And something amazing happened, no one threw a rock at this woman. Sometimes when reality and faith meet, things turn out differently than we expect.

Jesus was speaking another time to a group of people and a real smart man came up to Jesus and said, what do I need to do get into heaven. Jesus wisely said; “What do the commandments say?”

The wise man said, “The first and great commandment says that you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, strength, soul and mind.”

Jesus said you are right but unless you can love your neighbor as yourself it is not as powerful to just love God. So Jesus put the first and great commandment together

• See SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING page 19

## Proverbs 3:5

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Wednesday: 10 a.m., Morning Prayer  
Thursdays: Holy Eucharist, (chapel), 10 am

### FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH HIGHLANDS

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

### FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

### GOLDMINE BAPTIST CHURCH

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

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## John 3:16

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Pastor Nathan Johnson  
Sunday: School 9:45a, Worship 11a & 7p, Bible Study 6p  
Wed. Kidsquest 6p.; Worship 7p.

### HIGHLANDS ASSEMBLY OF GOD

Randy Reed, Pastor 828-421-9172 • 165 S. Sixth Street  
Sundays: Worship: 11

### HIGHLANDS CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Dan Robinson  
670 N. 4th Street (next to the Highlands Civic Center)  
Sun.: Morning Worship 10:45 a., Evening Worship, 6:30 p.  
Wednesday: Prayer Service, 6:30 p.

### HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Pastor Paul Christy 526-3376  
Sun: School 9:45a.; Worship 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);  
7:00pm Intercessory Prayer Ministry

### HOLY FAMILY LUTHERAN CHURCH: ELCA

Chaplain Margaret Howell • 2152 Dillard Road • 526-9741

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

HEALING SERVICE on the 5th Sunday of the month.

### MACEDONIA BAPTIST CHURCH

8 miles south of Highlands on N.C. 28 S in Satolah  
Pastor Troy Nicholson, (828) 526-8425  
Sundays: School: 10 a.m.; Worship: 11, Choir: 6 p.m.  
Wed: Bible Study and Youth Mtg.: 7 p.m.

### MOUNTAIN SYNAGOGUE

St. Cyprian's Episcopal Church, Franklin  
828-369-9270 or 828-293-5197

### MOUNTAIN BIBLE CHURCH

743-2583 • Independent Bible Church  
Sun: 10:30 a.m. at Big Ridge Baptist Church,  
4224 Big Ridge Road (4.5 miles from NC 107)  
Weds: Bible Study 6:30 p.m.; Youth Group 6 p.m.

### OUR LADY OF THE MOUNTAINS CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

### SCALY MOUNTAIN BAPTIST CHURCH

Rev. Marty Kilby  
Sundays: School - 10 a.m.; Worship - 11 a.m. & 7  
Wednesdays: Prayer Mtg.: 7 p.m.

### SCALY MOUNTAIN CHURCH OF GOD

290 Buck Knob Road; Pastor Jerry David Hall • 526-3212  
Sun.: School: 10 a.m.; Worship: 10:45 a.m.; Worship: 6 p.m.

### SHORTOFF BAPTIST CHURCH

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

### THE CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

1448 Highway 107 South, Office: 743-2359  
Rev. Douglas E. Remer  
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June-Sept: Sunday Services: Rite I, 8a, Rite II, 9:15 & 11a  
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### UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP

85 Sierra Drive • 828-524-6777  
Sunday Worship - 11 a.m.  
Religious Education - 11 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.  
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### WHITESIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

## • POLICE & FIRE REPORTS •

**The Highlands Police log entries from Feb. 14. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor or public officials have been used.**

### Feb. 14

• At 6:38 p.m., officers responded to a one-vehicle accident on NC 106.

### Feb. 23

• At 3:10 p.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident on US 64 west.

• At 8:45 p.m., officers responded to a call of a man and woman hitting each other at a residence on Cook Road.

• At 9:14 p.m., Amy Potts McDowell, 32 of Highlands was arrested for simple assault.

• At 10:13 p.m., Joshua Warren McDowell, 33, of Highlands, was arrested for possession of a controlled substance, and simple assault.

### Feb. 24

• At 12:50 p.m., officers re-

sponded to a one-vehicle accident on NC 106.

### March 2

• At 10:56 p.m., Tracy Lee Masterson, 31, of Franklin, was arrested for DWI when pulled over for speeding and driving left of center on US 64 west.

**The Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. log entries from March 8.**

### March 6

• At 12:58 p.m., the department responded to a motor vehicle accident on US 64 west. There were no injuries.

• At 2:10 p.m., the department was first-responders to a residence on 5th Street.

• At 2:32 p.m., the department responded to a call from a resident on Netsi Place regarding the smell of propane, but nothing was found.

### March 8

• At 11:36 a.m., the department was first-responders to a residence on US 64 west.

## ...INVESTING continued from page 15

• Have air conditioning serviced. Now is the time to have a qualified heating and cooling contractor service your air conditioning unit. Clean equipment operates more efficiently and an

## ...SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING continued from page 18

with the second and said you know it is really about loving God and loving others.

So the reality of our faith is that we are called to love one another.

So I guess this week I want us all think about this: how are we showing love to each other, and how are we speaking love to one another? You see when it is all said and done, it is about loving God and loving others, so how are you doing with reality?

annual service call will keep the system working at peak performance. Also, remember to keep your filters changed throughout the spring and summer to ensure good airflow.

3. Don't forget your septic system. Have your septic tank inspected and pumped as necessary. This can prevent a major issue down the road which could result in soil consolidation, plumbing repairs and extensive cleanup.

4. Clean windows. Boost natural light throughout your home by cleaning the windows, inside and out. For second-story windows hire a service to clean the outside, or use a hose attachment to clean them yourself (while standing safely on the ground!). Check your window screens for damage as well.

5. Tune up lawn mower and gas grill. Make sure all of your outdoor equipment is clean and in working order. Stock up on the types of fuel you will need to run your lawn mower and gas grill.

## • BIZ/ORGANIZATION NEWS •

### Nursing scholarship applications due by June 10, 2015

The Judy Moore Memorial Scholarship Endowment Committee is accepting scholarship applications for the 2015 year. The endowment is an affiliate of the NC Community Foundation.

This Scholarship Program for Nurses was established in 1997 as a memorial to Judy Moore, RN who was killed in a tragic accident in 1996. A resident of Macon County, Judy was an inspiration to both nurses and patients in her role as a Community Health Nurse III and as an OB-GYN Nurse Practitioner. Since the first award in August of 1998, the scholarship has been given to 30 individuals (some have been awarded funding more than one year) and over \$30,000 has been presented.

At least \$1,000 in scholarship funds will be made available for the 2015 year. The application deadline is Wednesday, June 10, 2015 for both undergraduate

and graduate scholarships. Applicants must have completed their first semester in the Nursing Program and have met other eligibility requirements.

Applications are available

on line via the NC Community Foundation site - [www.nccommunityfoundation.org](http://www.nccommunityfoundation.org) or get additional information by calling Anne Hyder at 828 - 524-6564

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6. Spiff up the porch. Inspect the floor and repaint if needed. Sweep away dust and cobwebs, wipe down the light fixtures, get a new doormat and prepare your containers for spring planting. If your porch furniture or cushions have been in storage, set them out now

7. Landscaping. Take a look at your trees and shrubs to see if any look diseased or weakened. Pay particular attention to those that have dangling limbs that need to be removed.

• Wanda Klodosky is the Broker in Charge of Landmark Realty Group's Highlands' office. Landmark Realty has offices at 225 Main St Highlands, Cashiers (Crossroads & Frank Allen Rd) and Burlingame. Landmark's Brokers are committed to the highest level of professional real estate service and welcome everyone to visit our website at [www.landmarkrg.com](http://www.landmarkrg.com) to learn more about our company and the Highlands-Cashiers Plateau.

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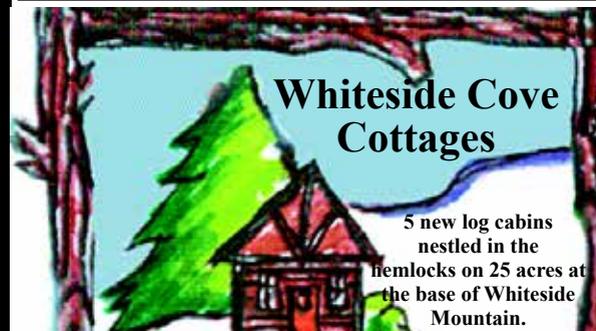
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# • BUSINESS / ORGANIZATION NEWS •

## Stroud Elected Chairman of NC Animal Federation



David Stroud, Executive Director of the Cashiers-Highlands Humane Society, has been re-elected in a state-wide vote of animal welfare professionals to a second term on the Board of Directors for the North Carolina Animal Federation (NCAF). Only 10 directors were chosen from across the state to serve.

In addition, the 2015 NCAF Board of Directors unanimously elected Stroud to the position of Chairman. Stroud served as Vice Chairman in 2014.

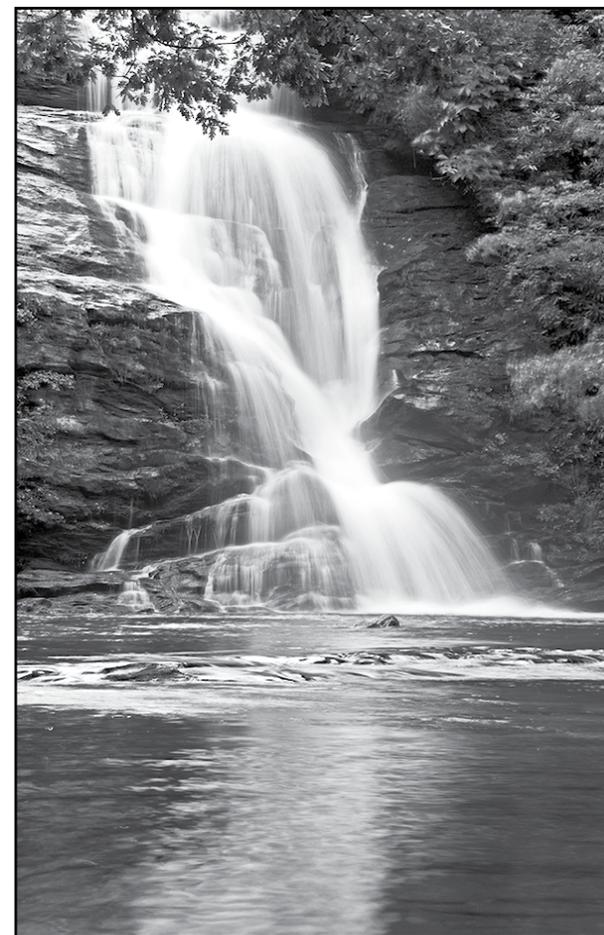
"We are excited to have David lead the North Carolina Animal Federation this year," said Shelly Moore, President & CEO of Humane Society Charlotte, NCAF co-founder and current Treasurer. "His professionalism, leadership style and experience are great assets to our Board and organization."

In 2013, Stroud was named to the Legislative Committee of NCAF and has worked for the past two years to promote legislation that would shut down puppy mills. He has also worked with the committee to increase the number of certified rabies vaccinators in the state, and to increase training opportunities for animal welfare professionals. Stroud will continue to serve on the Legislative Committee in addition to his new duties as NCAF Chairman of the Board.

"I am humbled to be selected by my peers for a leadership position in our industry," says Stroud. "The professional members in NCAF representing both public and private shelters all across our great state are compassionate, caring people who are dedicated to saving animals and empowering the people who love and protect them. It is an honor to be asked to serve as Chairman, and it is a tremendous opportunity to serve as a statewide animal welfare ambassador for Cashiers and Highlands."

The purpose of the North Carolina Animal Federation is to unite statewide animal welfare organizations and their professionals to exchange ideas and information, while working collectively to elevate the standard of care and level of knowledge related to animal welfare in the state of North Carolina.

## Ray winner of Land Trust Sunsetennial Photo Contest, Professional Division



Highlander, Peter Ray won top honors in an "historic" photography contest. "Secret Falls" won Best in Show in Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust's Sunsetennial Photography Contest Professional Division which was judged by Sallie Taylor, Executive Director of The Bascom. The contest was held in honor of the Land Trust's "Sunsetennial: 100 Years of Conserving Ravenel Park, home of Sunset and Sunrise Rocks in Highlands". The Land Trust celebrated this historic anniversary throughout 2014 and this division of the photo contest marks the final event of their Sunsetennial year.

Visit Highlands' Hudson Library to see the award winning photo. The winner of the Amateur Division, which was awarded in late 2014, was Melanie Ham with her photo, "Brother and Sister in the Clouds". To learn more about Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust and their mission to conserve valuable land resources for all generations, visit [www.hicashlt.org](http://www.hicashlt.org).

**Advertising in Highlands Newspaper WORKS!**

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Fidelia Eckerd Living Center's 2015 Valentine's Day King and Queen Helen Radder and William Creswell!



Residents of the Eckerd Living Center enjoyed Fat Tuesday with a Masquerade Party in celebration of Mardi Gras. Pictured is Helen Radder.

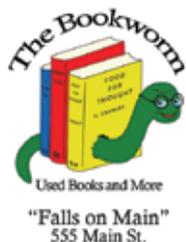
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# • CLASSIFIEDS •

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**CHEF NEEDED FOR CREEK-SIDE RESTAURANT IN HIGHLANDS.** Experience, creativity and enthusiasm are necessary. Call Bob for an interview, 828-526-9822. (st. 2/26)

**MOUNTAIN FRESH GROCERY** is accepting applications for full-time positions as a coffee/ barista server. Contact Don at 828-526-2400.

**MANAGER & SALES ASSOCIATES NEEDED FOR BARDO,** a retail furniture and home accessory store. Full and part time positions in our Cashiers & Highlands locations are available. Send resume [Bardo49nc@gmail.com](mailto:Bardo49nc@gmail.com) (828) 482-2410. (st. 2/12)

**WOLFGANG'S RESTAURANT** now hiring experienced waitstaff and line cook. Please call Jacque at 828.526.3807 (st. 2/29)

**FULLTIME GRILLAND PIZZA POSITIONS** available at Mountain Fresh Grocery. Please apply in person or email [jobs828@gmail.com](mailto:jobs828@gmail.com)

**LOCAL CHURCH SEEKS FINANCIAL MANAGER/BOOKKEEPER** – Community Bible Church is hiring a full-time financial manager and bookkeeper. Interested parties can submit resumes to [CBCFinanceResumes@gmail.com](mailto:CBCFinanceResumes@gmail.com) Job responsibilities will include accounts payable and receivable, budget tracking, payroll, financial reports, bank-

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## LOTS/LAND FOR SALE

**LAND FOR SALE IN CLEAR CREEK:** 2.18 acre parcel has road frontage on Mack Wilson Rd. \$17,000. Any reasonable offers will be considered. Call 828-526-2874. (st. 10/23)

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

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**PIANOS FOR SALE** - 2 consoles, 1 spinet, 1 upright, 1 electric organ, \$150 each, all 5 for \$500. Call 526 4818 (st. 10/23)

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**HIGH COUNTRY PHOTO/KEVIN VINSON:** scanning photos, slides & negatives to CD or DVD for easier viewing. Video transfer to DVD. Everything done in house. Leave message at 828-526-5208. (st. 12/4)

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**CABINS FOR SALE/RENT.** Located on Sawmill Road in Clear Creek. 4.63 acres. Call 828-526-2720. Price Negotiable. (2/26)

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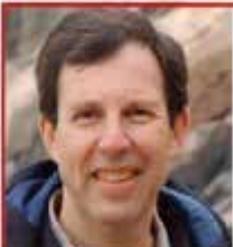
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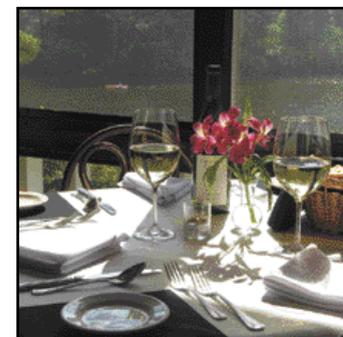
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