Town Board considering tax and fee increase scenarios while finalizing the 2015-’16 budget

Though the final word on the property valuations isn’t expected until June, the town is moving forward with its budget deliberations based on the worst-case scenario of 7.5% decrease in value – hence a decrease in property tax returns.

To maintain a revenue neutral budget – that is, getting as much revenue from property taxes prior to the reval – a 1.4 cent property tax increase will be levied – 16.9 cents per $100 valuation which is up from the current 15.5 cents.

\* See SCENARIOS page 14

Beale, Roland represented Macon County at County Assembly Day

Leaders push for return of Lottery funds and status of Sales Tax bills

Macon County Commissioner Ronnie Beale and County Manager Derek Roland joined around 300 commissioners from across North Carolina in Raleigh last week for County Assembly Day.

“We were fortunate to have the opportunity to meet with our state elected officials and talk about pending legislations that could have adverse impacts on Macon County,” said Roland.

Organized by the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners, (NCACC) County Assembly Day is billed as an opportunity for local officials to meet legislative leaders and members of their own delegations.

“It was interesting to watch Macon County Commissioner Ronnie Beale introduce Governor Pat McCrory, and other leaders like the Speaker of the House,” said Roland. “As President of the Association, Commissioner Beale has done a tremendous job marketing Macon County to not just county commissioners across the state, but also to the leaders in Raleigh.”

Commissioner Beale informed his fellow board members Tuesday night during their May meeting, that after Governor McCrory announced a $400 million budget surplus, county leaders quickly asked that those funds be returned to the state lottery funds.

“Today, counties are getting about 17.9 percent of the revenue generated through the lottery, and when it was sold to citizens, it was promised that 40 percent would return to the county,” said Beale.

“After the announcement of the budget surplus, we immediately asked for the money to be restored, but I am afraid that fell on deaf ears,” said Beale.

Photo by Cynthia Strain

Stranded cub is rescued

Following days of plaintive cries, the crew of All Seasons Landscape heeded the call and rescued a tiny bear cub they found in a tree in the Highgate community of Highlands.

The week of Thursday, April 23, the crew, which was working at a home across from Summit Trail, heard the cry of the tiny cub.

Thanks to tourism, Maconians pay less in taxes

When industries are still fighting to recover from the great recession, tourism stands as one of the few industries that continues to thrive. Based on a study conducted by Steve Morse’s tourism course at Western Carolina University, tourism continues to be a driving economic incentive for much of Western North Carolina, including Macon County.

Looking at figures from 2013, tourism related spending increased by $27 million from 2009 to 2013. In 2013, spending hit $141 million, continuing the yearly trend of growth in the tourism industry.

“The tourism continues to have a major impact on the Highlands economy,” said Bob Kieltyka, President of the Highlands Chamber of Commerce. “From the beginning, Highlands was built and mar-

\* See BEALE page 8

\* See CUB page 9

\* See TOURISM page 3
Mayor on Duty

Capital project countdown

By Mayor Pat Taylor

Numerous town construction projects began this past winter. All are or nearly complete. Here is an update.

One big project has been literally hidden from sight and underground. Yes, the town intentionally hid it, that is the new six-inch waterline on NC 26. It is now installed and provides better water pressure and fire protection for area neighborhoods.

The culvert replacement project for Spruce, Laurel and 5th Streets was completed in mid-April. The project creates better water drainage of this critical flood plain area. The clear span culverts minimize the trapping of vegetative debris causing water back up, as did the old, small metal culverts.

The ball field facility is finished and play began this week. The new complex has larger bathrooms, a better concession area, and more covered space for viewing the games. Also, it looks great from US 64.

The first phase of Kelsey Hutchinson Founders Park will have a grand opening on Saturday, May 30. Festivities begin with a 5k Race at 8 am and will continue all day. Phase 2, the development of the old Sossoman property, should get underway later this year. The town funded the restrooms, and funds for other construction was secured by the Park Coalition.

The 3rd Street wall project was completed in February. Paving next to the wall and parts of Oak Street were completed on May 1st.

The Dam and Water Intake project on Lake Sequoyah is on schedule, despite some weather delays over the last few months. The critical installation of the gate valve at the bottom of the dam and the water intake on the far side of the lake are now complete. Workers are finishing up repairs on the backside of the dam facing the river. The waterline installation from the lake going down US 64 to Hickory Hill is wrapping up. Contrary to rumors of the lake going down US 64 to Hickory Hill is wrapping up. Contrary to rumors of the lake being empty all summer, within the next few days it will start to return to full pool. A good “gully washer” will fill it up before June 1st. The installation of the pump house will continue for several more months. Repaving of US 64 where the pipe was installed will be completed before June, weather permitting.

This past weekend a major bridge tournament was held on the new gym floor at the Civic Center. The floor was covered with a special carpet roll for protection from 400 players engaged in intense play. New bathrooms on the first floor were thankfully operational too.

Letters-to-the Editor-Policy

We reserve the right to reject or edit submissions. NO ANONYMOUS LETTERS WILL BE ACCEPTED.

Views expressed are not necessarily those of Highlands Newspaper.

Please EMAIL letters by Sunday at 5 p.m. There is a 500-word limit without prior approval.
The swimming pool cover is being completed as I write this piece. Upon its arrival in the next week or so, it will take installers two weeks to erect the covering. Swimming will begin early in June.

So what will I do as all these projects end? Since January I have been visiting every one of them on a daily basis. More projects will be scheduled for the coming year, but not as many and not on the scale as some of the current ones.

I could do anything to help in this matter. The next morning I drove to Highlands and met with the Mayor and the Town Manager. I was given a list of directives to follow in order for the Highlands Police Department to supply an Honor Guard for Officer Ensley’s funeral. I told the Mayor and the Town Manager that what they requested would be taken care of immediately. But by the time I drove back to Franklin, the Chief of Police had called the funeral home and advised them that due to one officer being on vacation and another being in school, an Honor Guard from his department could not be present at the funeral.

As your former Chief of Police, I was in charge of the officers that served under me and the day-to-day operation of the Highlands Police Department. I can think of no excuse for what was done to the Ensley family. Highlands' Police Department's lack of respect for this family hurt them deeply. This shows us that honor and respect are missing in your police department today.

I have contacted the town of Highlands and asked to be placed on the agenda for the next Town Board meeting. That request is pending at this time. However, I will be at the next Town Board meeting on May 28 and I will ask the board to take the necessary action that something like this may never happened again.

If you agree with me, I’m asking you as citizens of Highlands to come to this meeting and stand with me against the lack of honor and respect shown to Officer Ensley and the Ensley family.

Jerry Cook
Retired Highlands Police Chief

The annual amount of revenue generated from room occupancy tax has grown steadily over the last 30 years in Highlands, and is on track to exceed last year's number in 2015.

For 2013, Highlands collected $316,088.86 in tourism dollars. Last year, that number rose to $363,538.41, and with five more months before the books are closed out this year, Highlands has already collected $304,532.

In fact, for July through January – the months the chamber has numbers so far in 2015 – each month shows an increase over 2014. If the months of February through June collect the same room occupancy tax as 2014, with no increase at all, 2015 will finish out the fiscal year with a total of $414,699 in room tax collected.

In 2013, the Franklin area collected $99,276.88 in room occupancy taxes. WCU's study shows the same growth experienced in Highlands, throughout western North Carolina.

The report indicated that on an average day in 2013 tourism spending generated more than $47,000 in state and local tax revenues and created about $65,000 daily in worker paychecks.

In addition to the levels of local taxes collected, the study showed that in 2013, Macon County tourism produced almost $24 million in worker income and paychecks, generated 1,180 jobs and created more than $11 million in local county tax revenues.

Demonstrating the impact the building industry has for local taxpayers, WCU's study noted that the industry actually provides a tax relief for Maconians. The study said that if tourism did not exist, each household would have to pay $686 more in state and local taxes.
Golden China

Lunch Buffet

LUNCH:
11-2:30, M-TH $7.25
Friday: Seafood Buffet $8.25

Open 7 days a week
11a to 9:30p
Menu available, too
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For reservations call: 526-4429
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Specialty Sandwiches, Hot Dogs & Salads,
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Open 7 days a week from 11 a.m.
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Serving Lunch Daily
11a to 4p
Serving Dinner from
5:30p
7 days a week
I arrived in Highlands on Mother’s Day and learned our town elite finally had the common sense and courage to prohibit sledding on Monkey Hill by clearing the street of snow. We all know that children having fun is something Highlands frowns upon. We are about tourism and making money. (Where are those summer people with their fat wallets?) Children having fun does nothing to put money in the town’s pocketbook.

And what if the town gets sued because two sledders crashed together and were gleefully sent tumbling down in the snow? A child could be hurt and the town would be libel! I don’t blame the town fathers for clearing the snow. The law suits must have been piling up and who needs that? Maybe the town should pass an ordinance prohibiting snow all together. The Mayor should look into prohibiting snow! Wait… I take it back. Before the ink dried on this column the town’s not so elite changed their minds and caved in on children having fun, giving new meaning to the term “wishy-washy.”

Now that we have taken care of those dastardly fun loving sledders, it’s waaaaay past due that we close that dangerous dog park behind the Rec. Park. It’s at this location that animals are turned loose and allowed to roam free, biting whomever they wish. I know of one man who reached down to pet a lady’s Schnauzer and was severely bitten. Can you imagine the consequences if this incident had happened on snowy Monkey Hill? I say close that park before someone falls on fresh slippery dog poop, hits their head on the town’s bench provided inside the park and sues us for negligence. That law suit could take a real bite out of the town’s budget.

And another way to make our town a safer place to visit and not have fun is to do away with the stupid games of tennis and pickle ball. Are you aware of how hard a plastic wiffle ball is? I was once struck right in my face and the pain was at least six figures. And I’ll tell you the first thing that came to my mind was how much I can sue the town for. I would have followed up on the law suit idea but an hour later the redness and pain were gone and I had no proof of injury. Darn; next time I’ll take pictures and call my lawyer.

Tennis is even more dangerous then pickle ball because the ball crosses the net at a high rate of speed. If you’re near the net you could be injured on town property. I mean how many law suits can the town handle?

If the town fathers decide, in their infinite wisdom, that tennis and pickle ball should continue because it brings in a few bucks, then I suggest NFL helmets, hockey masks and knee pads while playing. This way the town would be able to prove to the judge that it did what it could to prevent injury, lessening the amount the town would have to pay. The pile of lawsuits involving Monkey Hill, dog bites, tennis and pickle ball must be enormous.

Well I have to go now. I’m headed over to the dog park to see if I can find some dog poop to slip and fall on. Wish me luck. My lawyer is on standby.

The town should stop monkeying around and take action.
Highlands School produces scholars, athletes and artists

U.S. News & World Report ranks Highlands School 24th in N.C.

U.S. News & World Report, ranked Highlands School 24th in North Carolina and 1,115 in the nation.

Students have the opportunity to take Advanced Placement® course work and exams and the AP® participation rate at Highlands School is 53 percent.

The student body makeup is 49 percent male and 51 percent female, and the total minority enrollment is 17 percent.

Highlands School is 1 of 5 high schools in the Macon County school system.

The Student/Teacher ratio is 10:1, and the school is ranked 36.8 in college readiness.

There are 341 students and 34 teachers.

“We are honored to be considered one of ‘US News and World Reports’ highly ranked schools in both North Carolina and in the United States,” said Highlands School Principal Brian Jetter. “It is an honor of which our students, parents, all our Highlands School employees, Rotary, PTO, all the business supporters, and our Town of Highlands can be proud. It just shows you what can be achieved when all those groups work together.”

However, Jetter said the school, staff and students don’t intend to sit back on their haunches.

“We’ll continue to work together because instead of being the 24th ranked school (out of 1,084 schools) in the state of North Carolina, we want to be in the top 10. And instead of being the 1,155 ranked school out of over 21,000 schools in the United States, we want to be in the top 100. And, instead of being a Silver Medal winner, which is given to the top 10% of schools in the United States, we want to gain a Gold Medal. Everyone pulling together will get us to those goals. Then, for all those people in the East that think we’re just some little ole K-12 school up on a mountain, that plays football, instead of football, they’ll realize ‘there’s something really special up in them thar hills!’

Highlands School student Trinity Dendy’s artwork was chosen to be used on the school system’s annual invitation and posters for the students’ artwork exhibit, Sunday, May 17 from 1 to 3 p.m., at the Macon County Public Library on Siler Road in Franklin.
BREAKFAST
FULL BREAKFAST MADE TO ORDER EVERY MORNING UNTIL 11:00AM
CAGE FREE EGGS, WAFFLES, FRENCH TOAST, BACON, SAUSAGE, HAM,
BISCUITS, MUFFINS, CROISSANTS ESPRESSO BAR AND COFFEE ROASTED IN-HOUSE

LUNCH
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 NEAPOLITAN PIZZA MADE FROM SCRATCH, FRESH MOZZARELLA, BASIL, CRUSHED TOMATOES, HOMEMADE ITALIAN SAUSAGE, PANCETTA, AND DAILY SPECIALS

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

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

DINNERS TO GO
A DIFFERENT FULL DINNER FOR TWO EVERY NIGHT, MONDAY THROUGH SATURDAY FROM 4:30 UNTIL WE SELL OUT. CALL AHEAD TO RESERVE...

MONDAY - LOW COUNTRY LOBSTER / SHRIMP BOIL MAIN LOBSTER TAILS, WILD CAUGHT LARGE SHRIMP, RED BLISS POTATOES, SUMMER CORN, HOUSE MADE SAUSAGE, ALL STEEPED IN OUR SEASONING, SERVED WITH DRAWN BUTTER AND COCKTAIL SAUCE. $33.95 SERVES TWO

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

WEDNESDAY - PRIME RIB WITH BAKED POTATOES AND SALAD. PREMIUM ANGUS STANDING RIB ROAST, COOKED MEDIUM RARE WITH RED WINE AU JUS. TWO BAKED POTATOES AND A LARGE CAESAR SALAD. $33.95 SERVES TWO

THURSDAY - TWO RACKS OF BABY BACK RIBS - COOKED UNTIL FALL-OFF-THE-BONE-TENDER. SERVED WITH HOUSE MADE BACON/APPLE BAKED BEANS AND POTATO SALAD. $25.95 SERVES TWO

FRIDAY - WILD CAUGHT SHRIMP: FRIED OR STEAMED, WILD CAUGHT NORTH CAROLINA SHRIMP EITHER LIGHTLY BREADED IN OUR SEASONED CORN FLOUR MIXTURE, AND THEN PROPERLY FRIED IN PEANUT OIL AND SERVED WITH HUSH PUPPIES; OR STEAMED TO ORDER IN OUR LOW COUNTRY SEASONING. BOTH COME WITH COLESLAW AND ROSEMARY SEA SALT BROILED RED POTATOES, TARTER AND COCKTAIL SAUCE. $26.95 SERVES TWO

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

WINE MARKET AND CRAFT BEER
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.

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

ARTISAN OIL AND VINEGAR
OVER 40 EXTRA VIRGIN OLIVE OILS AND VINEGARS TO CHOOSE FROM. ALL AVAILABLE TO SAMPL.
...BEALE continued from page 1

According to Roland, one of the main focuses for the NCACC, as well as Macon leaders, was meeting with state representatives regarding the potential legislation that would change the way sales tax is distributed throughout the state.

“There are two bills currently in the legislation that look at new formulas for redistributing the sales tax,” said Roland. “Both bills suggest that sales tax be redistributed based on a per capita formula rather than based on where the sales tax is generated.”

Roland explained that Macon County, with a significant portion of the local economy coming from tourism dollars, stands to lose over one million dollars if the legislation was to pass.

Commissioner Beale said that after meeting with Phil Berger, President Pro Tem of the Senate, he learned that the sales tax legislation is moving slowly and would likely not be taken up this year.

“Being able to shake hands with and talk to our state leaders is invaluable,” said Roland. “As a county, we are fortunate to be a part of an association [NCACC] that facilitates these types of interactions, and are even more fortunate that our own county commissioner serves as president.”

President of the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners and Macon Commissioner Ronnie Beale addressed leaders during County Assembly Day in Raleigh.
...CUB continued from page 1

kept hearing a cub crying and noticed a mama bear and another cub camped out in the yard next door.

“After a while – after hearing this from 8 in the morning until 5 at night and watching the mama, who was obviously distraught, walk back and forth on the road – we wondered what was going on? We finally located the cub 25-35 feet up a tree,” said Rich.

When the crew found the cub, one guy climbed up the tree to get the cub to get him down,” said Rich.

“We put him in the woods so the mama could go get him, but he kept crossing the road and coming back our way; the mama just paced the road but wouldn’t come near. The cub was very, very weak; he’d been up there for days; so that night I took him home,” he said.

Meanwhile, a nearby homeowner contacted Cynthia Strain, director of the B.E.A.R. Taskforce who contacted the only licensed bear rehabilitator in North Carolina and she told her how to care for and feed the cub. Strain relayed the information to Rich and he and co-workers bottle-fed the cub with a milk supplement for puppies.

Rich said they felt obliged to do take the cub home since the mama wouldn’t come to it and he was weak and hungry.

“He was very cuddly, friendly and playful. As he climbed higher, he untangled himself from the branches but then fell out of the tree into a rhododendron bush where the netting caught him. At that point, it was easy to get him because he was about 12 feet up,” said Rich.

When they cut the netting off the cub, they realized it had been there a long time because it was already calloused over in places.

“After a while – after hearing this treatment works deep beneath the surface of the skin to give a younger healthier looking appearance. Soothing pulses of heat work with light to lessen sun spots, even out skin tone and smooth the texture of your skin with virtually no down time to lessen sun spots, even out skin tone and smooth the texture of your skin with virtually no down time or discomfort.

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These tiny microcurrent impulses trigger chemical reactions at a cellular level to enhance the production of natural collagen and elastin, provide circulatory benefits, and work directly on the nerves and muscle fibers. The result is visible firming and smoothing of the skin. It also helps tone facial muscles.

Although you will notice the treatment’s tightening effects immediately, the more significant improvement will occur gradually over a period of several weeks as the new collagen forms.

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MicroCurrent
Microcurrent aids in reducing the signs of aging by utilizing a low level of electricity that mimics our own body’s biological current.

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Your skin will LOVE it!

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Located behind Highlands Decorating Center on NC 106 (The Dillard Road)
ful,” he said. “He got up on the couch and even held on to our legs to go for a ride when he was tired of walking.”

The next day, Rich and his crew returned with the bear and put him within five feet of the mother, but she just picked up the other cub and took off when they set the rescued cub near her. After that final encounter, they took the cub, who was estimated to be between four and six months old and weighed six pounds, home again and after three to four days he got his strength back, however it took bottle-feeding him every two hours.

Mike Carroway, Wildlife Biologist with NC Wildlife Resource Commission, was contacted and Wildlife Resource officers arrived at Rich’s house to take the cub to a rehabilitator.

“The cub was extremely habitualized to people and to survive, it needed to get its ‘wildness’ back,” said Carroway.

The cub was taken to the only rehabilitation facility in North Carolina where it will be nursed and raised with other cubs and once its weaned will be put in an area with bigger bears. Eventually, it will be released into the wild – probably the summer of 2016.

“The cub was in great shape, but had more contact with multiple people (and the family dog) than is ideal,” said Strain. “However, the rehabilitator told me that with a lot of hard work, he ought to be fine.”

The rehabilitator has had great success with her techniques and in her setting he will have other cubs to play with prior to being moved to a “wild” area with virtually no human contact. In this area, the bears are fed with automatic machines so they can forage in the huge “pen.”

Carroway said cubs are orphaned for various reasons but suggests that people leave them alone for between 24 to 48 hours before intervening.

“If there are people in the vicinity, the mama bear won’t return until she feels safe. You have to give the mama a chance to come out; at least 24-48 hours to come back,” he said.

Though Carroway believes the mama would have eventually returned, he said rehabilitation works. “But it only takes a cub 48 hours to become habitualized to people,” he said.

He said they have had to rescue a number of orphaned cubs this year.

“Cubs are usually born in January and there is a bumper crop of bear cubs this year due to the excellent mast crop last year so the bears went into their dens healthy. This typically happens every other year and it seems all the bears are synced to have cubs this year,” he said.

Carroway’s advice for anyone who comes across a cub. “Leave it alone 24-48 hours and the mama will come back.”

Those who harbor cubs can be levied stiff penalties and fees because it’s illegal to keep bear cubs in North Carolina.

– Kim Lewicki
The Recreation Department is now accepting application for Lifeguards for the Summer. We will be offering a Lifeguard course in late April and early May.

NOTE: Anyone interested in putting together a softball team in the Highlands Spring League needs to contact Lester Norris at 828-526-3556 by Thursday, April 23rd before 4:30pm.

Ongoing

Chamber of Highlands

• The Highlands Chamber of Commerce will be sponsoring its Annual May Day Festival this Saturday, May 16th, from 10 am to 4 pm. This event is free and open to the public.

• Highlands Marketplace in the Highlands Village green is open daily from 9 am to 5 pm with a range of shops and services.

• The Highlands Farmers Market is open every Saturday from 8 am to 1 pm.

• Highlands Emergency Council and Highlands MountainTop Rotary are hosting a Blood Drive on Tuesday, May 17th, from 3 pm to 6 pm at the Highlands Community Center.

• Highlands Emergency Council is accepting donations of working and non-working appliances and electronics. 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 of each month at 7 pm and all men are invited to attend.

First Tuesdays

• Highlands Emergency Council 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.

• 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

• OccupancyWNC meets at the Jackson County Justice Center. For more information, visit www.occupancywnc.org or call 828.331.1524

Tuesdays

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

Tuesday and Thursdays

• Zumba with Connie at the Rec Park at 8a. $5.

Mon., Wed., Fri.

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

• Aerobics with Tina Rogers 8-9a.

• Zumba at the Rec Park at 9:05a. $5

Wed. through June 3

• At The Bascom: After School Art Adventure, 3:15-4:30p. To register, call Anna Alig at 787-2865.

1st Wednesdays

• Family Movies at the Hudson Library at 3:15p. 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 Dean at Hudson Library 10:40am. Open to the public.

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

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

2nd Thursdays

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

3rd Thursdays

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

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

Last Fri. of each month

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

Saturdays

• Highlands Marketplace in the vacant lot next to K-H Founders Park on Pine Street from 8a to 2p.

Sat. through May 30

• At the Bascom: Kids’ Creation Station. 10a to noon. $5. To register, call Anna Alig at 787-2865.

Sundays

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

NOTE:

• Highlands area events •

First Tuesdays

• Highlands Emergency Council and the First Presbyterian Church will host an old fashioned Hymn Sing at 5pm on Sunday, May 17 at the church. Those in attendance will have the opportunity to choose a hymn they wish to sing from the 1938 Cokesbury hymnal. Stell Huie will be song leader with Angie Coleman, Farrel Zehr and Stell Huie. Please come and join us for an enjoyable time of music and Christian fellowship. The church is located at the corner of Main and Fifth Streets. Handicapped accessible entrances are located on Church Street and on Fifth Street.

Old Fashioned Hymn Sing at First Presbyterian on May 17

Sign up for Kelsey Kids Camp!

Kelsey Kids will once again gather to learn about the history and experiences of the early lives of Highland’s people beginning in 1875. The camp is June 15-19

Led by experienced and knowledgeable citizens of the town of Highlands, this promises to be an enriching summer experience. We will visit Fire Brethe, take a hike, make discoveries, experience music from a dulcimer and guitar, have a pioneer lunch, and make discoveries in the museum and other activities. You will receive a list of activities for the week before camp begins.

Ages 8 to 11 who are interested in learning about Highland’s history and can attend for the 5 days are welcome at NO CHARGE. Lunch is included.

Each day camp begins at 9 AM until 3pm Monday through Friday at the Historical Village Museum on the Cashiers Road.

Applications are available from the website: www.highlandshistory.com and at the Museum. Linda David will be glad to email an application and answer any questions to anyone who desires one. Her email address is: lindawd@hcgexpress.net

First Presbyterian Church will host an old fashioned Hymn Sing at 5pm on Sunday, May 17 at the church. Those in attendance will have the opportunity to choose a hymn they wish to sing from the 1938 Cokesbury hymnal. Stell Huie will be song leader with Angie Coleman at the piano. The FPC Men’s Quartet will also sing several favorites. Members of the group from left are Bob Wright, Wayne Coleman, Farrel Zehr and Stell Huie. Please come and join us for an enjoyable time of music and Christian fellowship. The church is located at the corner of Main and Fifth Streets. Handicapped accessible entrances are located on Church Street and on Fifth Street.
HCLT and LTLT Invite you to float down the Little T!

On Saturday afternoon, May 16th, two land conservation organizations, Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust and the Land Trust for the Little Tennessee (LTLT) will co-sponsor a float trip down the Little Tennessee River in Franklin. A limited number of canoes and kayaks will be available for a 4.5-mile trip down the river to the 4,800-acre Needmore Game Lands, LTLT’s flagship conservation project. Along the way we will see Cherokee cultural sites, stream restoration sites, and wildlife which may include bald eagles and river otters. The cost of participating in this float trip is $35. For details, contact HCLT at 526-1111.

Community Theater—Where closeness is relative: If one family member gets involved in a local production, often they enlist their relatives to join in. This is the case with many couples acting in the upcoming production of Robert Inman’s “Welcome to Mitford” playing at PAC starting May 21. Pictured above are Jackie and son Jordan Powell, Jason and wife Samantha Moore, Ken and Sarah Knight with stepson Lance Trudel, Ron Leslie and wife Kathryn Buckley, and (of course) Stan and director Donna Cochran.

HCP’s ‘Welcome to Mitford’ begins May 21

After the tasting it’s BBQ and Bluegrass with Chef Christ Hall of Atlanta’s Local Three. Tickets are available by phone at 828-787-2895 or at www.CollectiveSpirits.com.

The High Mountain Squares will host their “All Singing Call Dance.” Friday night at the Macon County Community Building, GA Road (441 South), Franklin NC from 6:30 to 9:00 PM. Dr. Jim Duncan from Otto, NC will be the caller. We dance Western Style Square Dancing, main/stream and plus levels. Everyone is welcome. For information call 828-371-4946, 828-342-1560, 828-332-0001.

Sat., May 16

The Highlands Plateau Greenway will conduct its monthly work day from 9a – noon on this Saturday. If you are interested in participating, please email Ran Shaffner at highlandsgreenway@wncgen@yahoo.com or leave a message at 828-526-5622. We’ll meet at the large upper parking lot (near the pool entrance) in the Recreation Center. Everyone is welcome. For more information, contact HCLT at 526-1111.

Plans for the genealogy workshop to be held in Macon County on Saturday have been finalized. It will be held at the Macon County Public Library at 149 Siler Road in Franklin, NC and will be from 1 PM to 4 PM. There will be time for questions and discussion following the workshop. Each attendee will receive a packet of information and a set of handouts. Sponsored by the Battle of Sugartown Chapter of the NSDAR, the workshop is free of charge. However, it is wise to reserve a seat to ensure a set of handouts as well as a seat. Topics to be covered include: how to begin researching, using public records and sources, using the internet to your advantage, DNA and genealogy, getting past brick walls, and much more. There will be a number of drawings for valuable door prizes which have been provided by various vendors of genealogical items such as books, software, subscriptions, etc. For more information, directions or to reserve a seat, call 828-369-8030 or e-mail wncgen@yahoo.com. 

Fri., May 22

Donors with all blood types are needed, especially those with types O negative, A negative and B negative. Whole blood can be donated every 56 days, and double red cells may be donated every 112 days, up to three times per year. First Baptist Church, Franklin 12:30 to 5p.m. For more information or to schedule an appointment please call (828) 369-9559.

At Cliffside Lake, Live Birds of Prey with Michael Skinner 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.

Fri., May 22

Donors with all blood types are needed, especially those with types O negative, A negative and B negative. Whole blood can be donated every 56 days, and double red cells may be donated every 112 days, up to three times per year. Lowe’s on Georgia Hwy 93 from 9 a.m. until noon.

Highlands Plateau Audubon. Birds and Beer led by Romney Bathurst with Michelle Styring assisting. Meet at 7:30 a.m. at the Highlands Town Hall parking lot to explore these lovely private properties and help add to their yard lists as we search for wood warblers and much more.

Sun., May 17

• At First Presbyterian Church, an old fashion hymn sing at 5 p.m.

Tues. & Thurs., May 19-21

• At CLE, iPAD Advanced from 8-5:30. Cost is $70 members/$80 for nonmembers. To register, call 828-526-8811 or email clehighlands@yahoo.com.

Tues., May 19

Donors with all blood types are needed, especially those with types O negative, A negative and B negative. Whole blood can be donated every 56 days, and double red cells may be donated every 112 days, up to three times per year. Mountain View Intermediate School 2-6p.m. For more information or to schedule an appointment please call (828) 349-1325.

Highlands Plateau Audubon. Birds and Beer led by Romney Bathurst. Meet outside the Ugly Dog Pub in Highlands at 5:00 p.m. to look for local birds including owls around Harris Lake and enjoying beer and bird talk with those attending.

Thurs.-Sun., May 21-24

HCP’s “Welcome to Mitford,” at PAC. For tickets and further information contact the Highlands Cashiers Players at 828-526-8084.

Thurs., May 21

Donors with all blood types are needed, especially those with types O negative, A negative and B negative. Whole blood can be donated every 56 days, and double red cells may be donated every 112 days, up to three times per year. First Baptist Church, Franklin 12:30 to 5p.m. For more information or to schedule an appointment please call (828) 369-9559.

For tickets and further information contact the Highlands Cashiers Players at 828-526-8084.
a fun and skilled leader, is the state Audubon Director of Land Bird Conservation. Gorges S. P. offers possibilities for sightseeing, Swainson’s and Worm-eating Warblers among many others. Meet at 7:30 a.m. at the Highlands Town hall parking lot or at 8 a.m. at the new Cashiers Rec Center parking lot.

**Tues., May 26**
- At Hudson Library, Book Club at 10 a.m., to discuss “Unbroken.”
- Highlands Plateau Audubon. Wings to Soar multimedia program on raptors with live birds. This event, co-sponsored by Mountain Wildlife Days, offers a wonderful presentation that is free and welcomes families and children of all ages.

**Tues. & Thurs., May 26 -28**
- At CLE, A Fun Guide to the Best Applications for iPAD & iPhone from 6-8 p.m. Cost is $70 members/$80 for nonmembers. To register, call 828-526-8811 or email clehighlands@yahoo.com

**Thurs., May 28**
- Retirement Celebration for R.L. Forrester at the Highlands Police Dept. from 6-7 p.m. at the Highlands Community Building, 869 N. 4th Street, next to the ball field. Light refreshments will be provided. At 7 p.m., at the Highlands Town Board meeting, Captain Forrester will be recognized for his years of distinguished service.
- 12th Annual “Salamander Meander” at 9 pm at the Highlands Nature Center. Bring a flashlight and go on a short night hike to search for salamanders along the Garden Trails. Ages are 6 and up; cost is $5 per person. Advanced registration is required; please call Patrick Brannon at 526-4123 to sign up for more information.
- Highlands Plateau Audubon. Car trip along Rich Gap Road led by Brock Hutchins. This is easy, roadside birding at one of our local “hot spots” featuring Scarlet Tanagers, possible Red-tailed Hawks, Black-throated Green Warblers and much more.

**Sat., June 6**
- Kids Fishing Day at Cliffside Park from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Free for children 12 years old and under. Adults must accompany children. Bring your pole, though some will be provided along with bait.

**Sun., June 7**
- The Highlands Community fund will be hosting ‘Rise and Shine for the Highlands Community Fund’ at the Bascom on Sunday at 6:30. Tickets to this event are $75 and the dress is mountain casual. For more information contact the Highlands Community Fund Board member, Gayle Cummings, at 828-526-0247 or gayle.cummings@me.com.

**Thurs.-Sun., June 11-14**
- Highlands Motoring Festival. Go to www.HighlandsMotoringFestival.org for complete list of events.

**Sat. June 13**
- At Cliffside Lake, Live Birds of Prey with Michael Skinner 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.-Fri., June 15-19**
- Kelsey Kids Camp for kids 8 to 11 years old at the Highlands Historical Village. 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. It’s free and includes lunch. To register go to www.highlandshistory.com or email Linda David at lindawd@hcgexpress.net.

**Sat.-Sun., June 20 & 21**
- Highlands Village Square Art & Craft Show. Regional artisans, music, food. 10 - 5 in Kelsey-Hutchinson Park on Pine Street, downtown Highlands, NC. Admission free. Sponsored by Macon County Art Assn.

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**Please join us in celebrating the retirement of Captain R.L. Forrester of the Highlands Police Department on May 28, 2015 from 6-7 p.m. at the Highlands Community Building 869 N. 4th Street Highlands, NC (Next to the Ballfield)**

Light Refreshments will be provided.

At 7 p.m., prior to dismissing guests, the Highlands Town Board meeting will begin, recognizing Captain Forrester for years of distinguished service.
The Town Board is considering what capital improvement projects it should budget in 2015-'16 and which to shelve until a later date.

However, usually delaying projects like paving, water lines, equipment purchases and updates to the water treatment plant, ends up costing more because typically the cost of projects and goods rise as the years march on.

At the second budget work session meeting last Thursday, commissioners learned that there is $3,682,200 in capital project requests across departments.

Expenditures across departments is $11,974,269 with projected revenues from the town’s enterprise funds at $12,861,655.

If all the capital project requests were funded with monies from the enterprise funds, the town would be in the hole $2,794,814.

So, does the town cut projects, delay projects or fund them through the undesignated fund balances at its disposal – which the town has.

Currently $2.5 million sits in the undesignated General Fund Balance and $2.7 million sits in the undesignated Enterprise Fund Balances.

Recently, the town has spent money from its undesignated fund balances so the undesignated fund balance is now 38% of the budget rather than 42% as in the past.

Healthy municipalities don’t like to go below 25% even though only an 8% undesignated fund balance is required by law.

However one catastrophe – a hurri-

...SCENARIOS continued from page 1

per $100 valuation.

Coupled with the possibility of losing about $625,000 in sales tax proceeds, during the 2016-'17 budget year, the Town Board is considering what capital improvement projects it should budget in 2015-'16 and which to shelve until a later date.

Financially, the possibility of losing $625,000 in sales tax proceeds in the 2016-'17 budget year means the Town Board will have to be very careful about what capital improvement projects it budget.

Recently, the town has spent money from its undesignated fund balances so the undesignated fund balance is now 38% of the budget rather than 42% as in the past.

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...SCENARIOS continued from page 1
Focus On Outdoor Spaces and Surroundings

By Lynn Kimball
Meadows Mountain Realty

From walls of windows to spacious decks, and expansive patios to lush gardens, the focus of many homes capitalizes on the fabulous outdoor lifestyle our area offers. There are many trends that are being seen around the nation that are prevalent right here.

Covered decks that offer comfortable outdoor living spaces, including seating that could fit just as well inside plus outdoor fireplaces are common in luxury homes in Highlands. Likewise the outdoor kitchen has made its mark, expanding outdoor entertaining to capitalize on the fresh mountain air and views. Beautifully landscaped gardens also add value to homes in our area and our lifestyle, enhancing the natural beauty surrounding us.

Whether you are planning to sell your home or simply want to enhance its value, it is important to remember what draws people to our area in the first place. If your home boasts great views, a beautiful lawn or a wonderful spot to enjoy the sunshine and fresh air, take the time to make improvements to enhance your surroundings.

Making landscaping improvements around your home adds to your home’s curb appeal, and curb appeal is what makes your home attractive to potential buyers. Spring has arrived and now is a great time to weed your flower beds, prune your trees and shrubs, and plan what you want to plant for the growing season. We live in a spectacular area, ripe with natural flora and fauna and a place where flowers flourish. There is no time like the present to make improvements to your property.

Spring is the time of year when many second home buyers are thinking about summer and where they like to spend their time. As we approach the busiest time of year for real estate in Highlands, all signs are pointing to a busy summer. The vacation home market is on a rebound, great news for our area. More and more people are feeling financial confidence which is translating into spending more money and making real estate investments. Vacation home markets around the nation are showing signs of strength and the Highlands area is no different.

Lynn Kimball has over 41 years of real estate experience, with 30 years serving the Highlands area. She has gained Emeritus Status with the National Association of Realtors and is currently serving as Vice President for the Highlands Cashiers Board of Realtors. Whether you are interested in searching properties or comprehensive information about our area, you are invited to visit her user friendly website at www.signatureproperties-nc.com. Meadows Mountain Realty has two locations, at 41 Church Street in the Old Edwards Inn complex or visit Lynn at her 2334 Cashiers Road location across from Highlands Falls Country Club. Lynn Kimball may be reached at 828-421-8193 or by email at Lynn@MeadowsMtnRealty.com.
On May 4 Highlands Country Club hosted the annual Rotary Club of Highlands golf tournament. Players enjoyed golf on the historic course, as well as lunch, beverages and prizes. All money raised by this tournament helps fund the many projects of the Rotary Club of Highlands. After the golf tournament, Rotary members and their guests celebrated the 70th anniversary of the Rotary Club of Highlands. The club was started in 1945 and over the years has sponsored and supported numerous local, national and international projects.

Mary Adair Leslie, Director of the Martin-Lipscomb Performing Arts Center (PAC), defined the relationship of the PAC with other 501(c)3 organizations, primarily (but not exclusively), the Highlands-Cashiers Players and the Chamber Music Festival. These latter two organizations are separate non-profit organizations which rent space from the PAC. The Performing Arts Center presents six live concert performances as well as live streaming opera, ballet, and national theater plays. Seven volunteers are needed for each performance. Each volunteer receives a free ticket as a thank-you. To volunteer, contact Mary Adair Leslie at 828-526-9047. For more information, please visit the Rotary Club of Highlands website at highlandsrotary.org.

Rotary’s Annual Golf Tournament and Celebration of the Club’s 70th Anniversary

Rotary President Peter Ray, Rotary Assistant District Governor Ken Nicholson and President-Elect Christy Kelly enjoy the anniversary party.

April Rotary Scholars of the Month

The Rotary Club of Highlands honored its April Highlands School Scholars of the Month at its May 5 meeting. Pictured with Nicole Lui, School Counselor, and Peter Ray, club President, are: Logan Petrone, middle school winner; Grace Brassard, high school winner and Nicole Taylor, elementary school winner.
Mayor Patrick Taylor explained the capital projects going on in town. He is pictured with club president Bill Zoellner. The Mountaintop Rotary Club meets every Wednesday morning at 7:30 am at the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital lower level Dining Room.
God’s goodness surrounds us

By Emily Wilmarth
First Presbyterian Church

My husband and I have been watching Ken Burns’ fantastic documentary The National Parks: America’s Best Idea over the past few weeks. (You can find it on Netflix.) The six-episode series documents the birth and evolution of the national parks, and encompasses first-hand interviews, records and early accounts of the first parks, and of course, stunning cinematography. I highly recommend it.

I have loved learning about John Muir, one of the key figures and early advocates for setting aside the land for our national parks. A Scotsman (and son of a Presbyterian pastor) who immigrated to the United States with his family in 1849, Muir was a keen observer of the natural world and a lover of nature. His words are often quoted throughout the documentary. They demonstrate Muir’s profound faith in the God of creation. Clearly, this man found in nature proof of God’s existence and holiness.

“All the wild world is beautiful, and it matters but little where we go, to highlands or lowlands, woods or plains, on the sea or land or down among the crystals of waves or high in a balloon in the sky; through all the climates, hot or cold, storms and calms, everywhere and always we are in God’s eternal beauty and love. So universally true is this, the spot where we chance to be always seems the best.” (John of the Mountains: The Unpublished Journals of John Muir (1938), page 299.)

Living in Highlands, where one day alone can bring a cool morning mist, a torrential hailstorm, a peaceful glow of sunset, and a visit from a bear and her sprightly cubs, it’s hard not to agree with Muir. Standing in the midst of our beautiful surroundings, we can get a sense that we are part of something much greater than ourselves. The grandeur of nature reminds us that God’s powerful works are far greater than anything humans can accomplish. Surrounded by this holy goodness day in and day out is both humbling and satisfying; it draws out of me words of gratitude to God each page 299.)

Yet, I know that God’s goodness is not limited to mountain vistas or peaceful woods. I have found God’s profound, creative, powerful presence in the midst of a crowded urban spaces as well. Walking through the streets of New York City at rush hour, I have been amazed by the sheer volume and diversity of God’s creation. Sitting down to share a meal with men and women experiencing hunger and homelessness at a shelter in downtown Atlanta, I have been humbled by the ways people in life’s toughest conditions can still find joy. Working alongside volunteers from near and far to clean up after Hurricane Sandy struck my then home-state of New Jersey, I was overwhelmed by the generosity of strangers who simply wanted to do something to help.

Wherever you are, the beauty of God’s creation is there, too. Keep your eyes open. Take it all in. “God never made an ugly landscape,” indeed. (Muir quoted by Samuel Hall Young in Alaska Days with John Muir (1915), Chapter 7.)

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Proverbs 3:5

Blue Valley Baptist Church
Rev. Oliver Rice, Pastor (760) 782-3965
Sundays: School: 10 a.m.; Worship: 11
Sunday night services every 2nd & 4th Sunday at 7
Wednesdays: Mid-week prayer meeting: 7 p.m.

Buck Creek Baptist Church
828-269-3546 • Rev. Jamie Passmore, Pastor
Sundays: School: 10 a.m.; Worship: 11

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

Christ Anglican Church
Rector: Jim Murphy, 252-671-4011
464 US Hwy 64 east, Cashiers
Sun.: 8:30a Traditional (Quiet) 1928 Prayer Book Service;
9:30 Sunday School; 10:30a Family Service w/ Music
Mon.: Bible Study & Supper at homes - 6 p.m.

Christ Church of the Valley, Cashiers
 Pastor Steve Kerhoulas • 743-5470
Sun.10:45am, S.S 9:30am. Wed. 6pm supper and teaching.
Tues. guys study 8am, Gals 10am.

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

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

Episcopal Church of the Incarnation
Rev. Bruce Walker • 526-2968
Sundays: Holy Eucharist (chapel) at 8 a.m. Education and choir rehearsal, 9 am, Holy Eucharist Rite II, (sanctuary), 10:30
Wednesdays: 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 • fchighlands.org
Sun.: Worship: 11 a.m.; School: 9:30
Mondays: 8 a.m. Men’s Prayer Group & Breakfast
Wednesdays: Choir 5:30p.

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

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

Hamburg Baptist Church
Hwy 107N. • Glenville, Nc • 743-2729

Hamburg Presbyterian Church
Rev. Sam Forrester/Cashiers
Sunday School: 10 a.m., Worship: 11 a.m.

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.

Mountaintop Synagogue
at St. Cyprian’s Episcopal Church, Franklin
828-524-9463

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)
Wed: 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 4 p.m.

Scaly Mountain Baptist Church
Rev. Marty Klisky
Sundays: School –10 a.m.; Worship –11 a.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

The Church of the Good Shepherd
1448 Highway 107 South, Office: 743-2259
Rev. Douglas E. Remer
Oct-May: Sunday Services: Rite I, 8a Rite II, 10:30
June-Sept: Sunday Services: Rite I, 8a, Rite II, 9:15 & 11a
Nursery available for Rite II services
Sept 6-Oct 25 Informal Evening Eucharist:5-30 p.m.
Thursday: Noon Healing Service with Eucharist.

Little Church in the Wildwood
Beginning Memorial Day weekend
Horse Cove - Kay Ward 743-5009
Old-Fashion hymn-sing Sunday 7-8p.

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
85 Sierra Drive • 828-524-6777
Saturday Night Services: 85 Sierra Drive • 828-524-6777
Sunday Worship - 11 a.m.
The Highlands Police log entries from May 4. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor or public officials have been used.

May 4
• At 11:10 p.m., officers were requested involving an animal complaint at a residence on Mill Creek Lane.

May 5
• At 12:10 p.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident in Highlands Plaza.

May 6
• At 8:35 p.m., officers were requested at the Asia House restaurant where a patron was arguing with the owner.

May 7
• A little past midnight, officers received a call about a dog running a bear at a residence on Trillium Circle.

May 9
• At 5:30 p.m., officers received a report of a burglary without forced entry at a residence on Upper Lake Road, where $200 in cash was taken.

May 10
• At 2:05 a.m., Geremy G. Gould, 24, of New Hampshire, was arrested for DWI when he was stopped on US 64 east for driving left of center.

May 10
• At 3:53 p.m., officers were requested at a residence on Hummingbird Lane where someone was trespassing on the lake bed.

May 11
• At 3:15 p.m., officers responded to a one-vehicle accident on Paul Walden Road.
• At 3:35 p.m., officers were requested on NC 106 where people were yelling at each other on the side of the road.

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

May 7
• At 12:54 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Crescent Trail.

May 10
• At 3:20 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence in the Cullasaja Club.

May 11
• At 10:20 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Pierson Drive.

Join Us for a
Project Lazarus Community Forum & Workshop
Wednesday, May 20 from noon to 2:30p
at the
Post and Beam Restaurant at The Golf Club at Mill Creek
341 Country Club Drive, Franklin, NC.

Keynote speaker will be:
Fred Wells Brason, II, CEO of Project Lazarus

Topics include:
• Understand how the Project Lazarus Model works
• Identify what is needed for a successful community-based prescription
overdose prevention program
• Describe the role of coalitions in overdose prevention and supporting
people with chronic pain

Lunch will be available to the first 35 people.
To register call 349-2426 or email dwilde@maconnc.org

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...SCENARIOS continued from page 14

cane or winter storm – where a town has to foot the bill for repairs prior to any reimbursement – can quickly use up undesignated funds and put a town in financial straits.

The only thing the board decided on during the first budget meeting was to increase property taxes by 1.4 cents; the only thing it decided on at the second meeting was to pass a project ordinance for the Lake Sequoyah Project since it is crossing two budget years.

Town Manager Bob Frye said the town needs a free-standing ordinance to enable it to appropriate funds – which it has – to both finish out the 2014-15 budget year and move into the 2015-16 budget year.

Other than that, at Commissioner Amy Patterson’s suggestion, Frye was asked to come up with several “budget scenarios” should the town not pursue a revenue neutral stance with the 1.4 cents tax increase or decide to raise fees – something Frye didn’t think was necessary when he delivered the first 2015-16 budget scenario.

“There was a lot of discussion over whether or not some projects I marked for potential elimination needed to be done this year so as to not get in a hole down the road, but a lot of things need fixing,” said Frye. “In the end, they asked that I provide them some additional revenue figures for various fee increases and tax increases so they could see how much revenue would be generated.”

If more revenue was generated, fewer capital project requests would have to be eliminated or delayed.

Frye said though he wasn’t looking at any fee increases this year, fee increases would definitely have to happen in the 2016-17 budget – specifically electrical and sanitation.

“I will have some figures at the next meeting – Thursday, May 21 at 3 p.m. – for potential sanitation fee increase as well as revenue generated by a .25 .50 .75 and 1.0 cent increase to the tax rate which would be beyond the revenue neutral rate of 1.4 cents,” said Frye.
phone number and a brief description of commercial janitorial experience or call 919-780-9232. (st. 4/30)

**POTPOURRI BOUTIQUE STORES IN HIGHLANDS AND CASHIERS** looking for seasonal part or full time sales persons from May to November. Must have retail experience with women’s clothing and accessories, eyewear experience a plus. Required to work weekends and holidays, except Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day. Fast paced, on your feet all day. Email resume to potpourrihighlands@yahoo.com (st. 4/16)

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- **LOTS/LAND FOR SALE**
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  - **RESIDENTIAL FOR SALE CABINS FOR SALE/RENT.** Located on Sawmill Road in Clear Creek. 4.63 acres. Call 828-526-2720. Price Negotiable. (st. 5/7)
  - **2BED/2BATH 1.20 AC.** Fantastic views & Privacy $88,999. Call 482.2050 706.782.9728. Cypresslanesale@facebook.com. (st. 8/7)
- **ITEMS FOR SALE**
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