

# Highlands Newspaper

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Thurs., June 9, 2016

## Mayor suggests 'Keep Property Clean' ordinance

Mayor Pat Taylor has taken issue with the old saying, "One man's trash is another man's treasure."

Though the idea didn't gain any traction, at the May Town

Board meeting, Mayor Taylor took a stab at developing a Property Nuisance Ordinance – to make sure property owners both in residential and commercial areas, keep their environs clean.

"Nuisance ordinances are adopted to establish a minimum community standard acceptable by the public at large. Those standards may apply to noise, light, pets, signage, operating hours of

businesses, abandoned autos or a host of other community concerns," reads the introduction in the agenda packet.

In many communities –  
 • See **ORDINANCE** page 14

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## County to cut school funding

*Board of Ed asks for what it requested for 2016-'17*

Funding for Macon County Schools has fluctuated over the last few years with the North Carolina General Assembly shifting funding to public education, while adding restrictions on how local districts can spend the money they do get.

While facing budget cuts on the county level for the upcoming year, the Macon County Board of Education passed a resolution asking the state to fully restore funding to local schools to ensure all students are afforded a fair and accessible education.

The resolution was first presented to the board of education by Franklin High School teacher and North Carolina Association of Educators member John deVille, who urged the board to join

• See **FUNDING** page 9

## Highlands' 'Little Free Library' turns 1!



Highlands' Little Free Library turned one-year-old on May 29th. The kiosk is located in the Kelsey-Hutchinson Founders Park on Pine Street and is available for use anytime by anyone at any age.

A Little Free Library is a "take a book, return a book" free book exchange. Such libraries around the country come in many shapes and sizes, but the most common version is a small wooden box of books.

Anyone may take a book or bring a favorite book to share. Little Free Library book exchanges all have a unique, personal touch. Highlands' was designed, built and is maintained by many dedicated members of the community, including the Highlands School Construction Class.

As of January 2016, there are over 36,000 registered Little Free Library book exchanges in all 50 U.S. states and over 70 countries around the world. Their mission is, "To promote literacy and the love of reading by building free book exchanges worldwide and to build a sense of community as we share skills, creativity and wisdom across generations."

Highlands' Little Free Library is sponsored by the Hudson Library, a member of the Fontana Regional Library System.  
 – Photo by Kim Lewicki

## Public hearing set for county's budget

*Total is \$47 million for 2016-'17*

After a budget work session last week, Macon County Commissioners are prepared to hear comments from the public on Macon County Manager Derek Roland's proposed budget totaling \$47,694,248. The proposed budget includes \$1,047,891 increase in expenditure, the bulk of which can be attributed to the implementation of a new county pay plan to address compensation issues for longer serving employees.

Last week, Roland presented commissioners with a step by step explanation of the final stage in pay plan adjustments that first began in 2012. If approved by commissioners, the new pay plan would increase county ex

• See **COUNTY** page 7

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# • THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

## • MAYOR ON DUTY •

### Coal ash fights over responsibility continue

The battle over coal ash cleanup continues in Raleigh between the legislative and executive branches. Last week I read a briefing from the League of Municipalities newsletter. The recently passed coal ash legislation, which the governor is threatening to veto, impacts municipalities that have water systems near coal ash ponds.

The first draft called for residents outside municipalities that lived next to coal ash ponds and relied on well water, to be able to connect to municipal water systems. For instance, if there was a coal ash pond a half mile outside Highlands, homes could just hook up to the town water system. Sounds great, except who would pay, and what impact would this policy have on a municipal water system?

Legislators creating the first draft failed to include the concerns of the municipalities. Hmm, how could that happen? Representative Chuck McGrady and the League of Municipalities representatives identified the problem. They worked to have the bill changed to require the coal ash producer, aka Duke, to compensate municipal water systems for added costs, such as extending



Highlands Mayor  
Patrick Taylor

water lines beyond service boundaries.

So, the bill was passed in both houses with overwhelming majorities. Like the original 2014 coal ash cleanup bill, the new one creates a commission of citizens to oversee the coal ash cleanup. That commission is problematic for the governor. The original coal ash law of 2014 had a citizen commission appointed by the legislature. Ironically, the 2014 commission was considered to be an entity within

the executive branch. McCrory sued in court claiming only the governor had the constitutional authority to appoint a commission residing in the executive branch. He claimed the law was a legislative overreach of power. The courts ruled in the governor's favor.

The governor contended it was the responsibility of the Department of Natural Resources to oversee the coal ash cleanup, and that he was the chief executive ultimately responsible. After the court ruling, the DNR determined all coal ponds would have to be remediated. The commission appointed by the legislature had been leaning toward making cleanup decisions on a case by case basis. Commission members believed some coal ponds could be left in place, while others would be removed. Experts in the field would make the recommendations to the commission.

Going back to the current legislation, the bill now calls for the majority of the commission members to be appointed by the governor. Supporters contend that this change makes the 2014 bill acceptable to the court and should be accepted by the governor. The governor doesn't see it that way and is threatening a veto. If the legislature overrides his veto, McCrory has stated he will consider filing suit again.

It gets down to the legislature's position of selected coal ash cleanup, thereby saving money, or the governor's DNR plan to remediate all sites which would cost more money. What is the most prudent plan? Duke energy supports the position of the legislature. In the meantime, rate payers across the state are in limbo land.

It is not an easy decision. In the final analysis we will all end up paying the bill, it's just a matter of how much. Our electric utility consultant will update the board later this summer.

## • LETTERS •

### Please explain the unexplainable

Dear Editor,

Roses are red,  
Violets are blue,  
Here are some questions  
For me and you, too.

1. Can somebody explain to me how the Chamber of Commerce can be considered a "non-profit?" Doesn't the word "commerce" in its title belie that supposition?

2. If I changed my first name to Charity, would that qualify me as a non-profit? (Or to Chastity, would that make me a virgin?)

3. Is the proposed Highlands Food and Wine Festival an official town-sponsored event? If not, then if I want to have a big birthday or something celebration, can I hang 7-foot-long banners up and down Main Street on lampposts advertising it to "spread the word" and "create excitement?" And can I expect town employees and town equipment to do the actual physical work for my personal benefit?

4. Can someone explain the following sentence out of a local newspaper article; "One such issue is the closing off of a public place for a ticketed event which according to town policy is not allowed?" How can this be an issue if it is already prohibited in town policy? How do you spell hypocrisy

5. Does anybody see the several conflicts of interest for Jack Austin in being, first, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Chamber of Commerce; second, General Manager of the Old Edwards Inn, and three, the main pusher of the big expanded commercial event that would potentially and conveniently just happen to take place right in front of the OEI itself? Pretty good advertising for a non, non-profit, right? How do you spell transparency

6. And what about the implied ultimatum to the Town Commissioners to give an immediate green flag to all the project organizers' demands, then an implied threat if they didn't? How do you spell intimidation

7. Here's my last and most obvious question, at least in this letter; if the Chamber of Commerce and the Old Edwards Inn can shut down one block of Main Street and can take over the K-H Founders Park and install 6 to 8 for-profit food trucks and beer distributors, then why can't the Village Square Art and Craft Show have its much loved semi-annual event in that same park? How do you spell mercenary?

Are roses red?  
Is compost brown?  
Has Highlands become  
A company town?

Alice Nelson  
Highlands

• See LETTERS page 3

## • WEEKEND WEATHER •



For real-time weather and the extended forecast go to  
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### Highlands Newspaper

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#### Letter Policy:

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

## ...LETTERS continued from page 2

### The Life of a Champion

Dear Editor,

Last Saturday, June 4, 2016, I awoke early and saw the headline news regarding the death of Muhammad Ali. As a child in the '60s, I relished watching him fight, together with his pre and post fight antics. He was a bit of a hero to boys my age, even with the controversy that surrounded his refusal to serve in the military.

So, I was inspired to pen a poem about his life. The poem follows. You have my permission to publish it should you think it worthy and appropriate to do so.

He floated like a butterfly and stung like a bee,  
He took the title from Liston with fists that jabbed like a piston,  
No one could stop him, not Frazier nor Foreman, strong and fast may they be,  
No one had the grace nor speed of the "Louisville Lip," later known as Ali,  
Conversion to Islam took him near and far; to New York, Iraq and Zaire,  
Fighting for equality, money and fame, it was his newfound religion that gave him his name,

As he refused service in Nam, they said it wasn't his faith, rather just a sham,  
The Department of Justice implored him to take up their fight; the Supreme Court said no, to decline was his right,

He sparred with Quarry, Cosell, even Spinks, but Parkinson's proved his toughest foe by far, me thinks,

Nine children he sired and lent each his name, as he added the Presidential Medal of Honor to his outsized fame,

The Thrilla in Manila gave us a scare, but Ali prevailed as he had in Zaire,  
As I ponder the quality that made him most great, his belief in himself, about this there can be no debate,

Meeting royalty, the Pope and heads of state, he, as do we all, had a meeting with fate,

Although the "Rope a Dope," "Rumble in the Jungle" and prose weren't his latest, as they lay him to rest they'll say "He was the Greatest."

**T. Harrison Duke**  
Highlands

### They aren't building any more mountains

Dear Editor,

I want to thank the Highlands Cashiers Land Trust for allowing me to participate in its mission as a member, donor, board member and volunteer. After attending several board and committee meetings, I have found that this is a fine organization doing great work in our community. Its mission is "to protect land resources for future generations," and they are doing that in many ways. They have informative education programs, such as the "Village Nature Series" and "Kids in Nature." The stewardship program of the Land Trust monitors all of its properties on a regular basis, enhances habitat for native plant and animal species, eradicates exotic invasive species and develops trails for public use. Actually what it is protecting is your air and water quality, your view and the real reasons you love this area. The Land Trust preserves special places like Satulah Mountain, the big view, Chimney Top, Rock Mountain and Laurel Knob, just to name a few.

The Land Trust has protected over 3,000 acres in the Highlands Cashiers area since the founding of the original group, the Highlands Improvement Society, in 1909. It frequently partners with the Highlands Biological Station the Highlands Plateau Greenway and many other not-for-profit groups in the area to accomplish mutual goals. Recently it was certified as an accredited land trust by the National Land Trust Alliance, which assures that it is following "best practices" in terms of governance, acquisitions and easements, and stewardship of its holdings.

I will be delighted to answer any questions you may have about the Land Trust.

**Hillrie Quin**  
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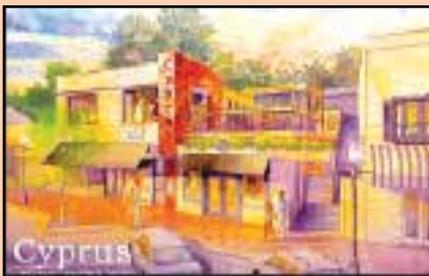


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# • BIZ/ORG NEWS •

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Front left: Rotarian Mike Hunter, John Grindstaff, Supervisor, Air Medical Team for the Mountain Area Medical Airlift, and Christy Kelly, President, Rotary Club of Highlands.

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# • INVESTING AT 4,118 FT. •

## How are the new lending rules actually affecting your real estate deals?

Are you looking for a perfect mountain getaway or your full-time home? Will you need to apply for and receive a mortgage to fulfil that home ownership dream? If you have not been in the market for lender financing since last fall, it is now a new experience. I addressed the coming of this new mortgage banking system last fall, but want to now follow-up with some of the information and results this new world of lending has generated.

To write this article, I've read publications from national sources as well as interviewed local closing attorneys and regional lenders. The main lesson I came away with to impart is that it is now more important than ever to interview a variety of lenders before deciding on who you will work with on your loan.

The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau's (CFPB) new TILA-RESPA Integrated Disclosure (TRID) is the system currently in effect for loan. Yes, that's a lot of governmental anagrams, but the main anagram that you need to remember is TRID. The March 2016 American Association of Bankers newsletter showed that approximately 50% of



**Wanda Klodosky**  
Landmark Realty Group

the lenders surveyed had either added or planned to add staff to facilitate the new rules.

Why is this important to you? The answer is efficiency, timing and cost. One of the key changes in implementing these new rules has been a longer closing cycle. You should go into a loan scenario with a 45 rather than a 30 day closing time in mind. To keep the period no longer than that, the lender has to have all of the information to you to review at least 3 days before the closing (this is not a suggestion, but an enforceable rule supported by significant fines if not followed). If/when there are errors or changes to be made on the new closing document (TRID) the

document goes back to the lender and the 3 day time line begins again when you receive the revised documents. One can easily imagine this becoming a lengthy proposition if the lender has not covering all of the required 'bases'. The survey mentioned above showed that 77% of loans were now delayed. It also showed that approximately 50% of the lending institutions had raised their loan costs, a percentage that matches the number of lenders who added the necessary staff.

A local closing attorney's response to my question on how this was affecting closing was "it depends on the lender." With a lender who has addressed these changes and made the appropriate staff and procedural changes, this process goes very smoothly. A regional lender who I have worked with for 15 years told me this was the answer to all of his wishes as his company now has staff that facilitate these deals and handle all of the day to day follow-up that he had previously been obliged to do to give his clients the best service.

What should you do? You're right, this sounds like a lot of information and we have only scratched the surface of the implications and changes in these new lending procedures. Make sure you work with an educated and professional Realtor when you enter this new world of real estate and lending. A good Realtor will have long term lender referrals to provide so that you can make a sound decision on whose program works best for your situation. Your Realtor will keep the process going and explain it to you each step of the way.

• Wanda Klodosky is the Broker in Charge of Landmark Realty Group's Highlands office. Landmark also has offices in Cashiers and Burlingame providing the Highlands Cashiers Plateau with professional and friendly service. Visit their website at [www.Landmarkrg.com](http://www.Landmarkrg.com)

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# • THE FREDSTER •

## My very patient guardian angel

Note: Fred was a Miami Beach Policeman for 28 years. After retiring he opened a rappel school on the cliffs of Highlands which he ran for thirteen years. These are his stories.

Four years ago a good friend said to me, “Fred, I know you well enough to believe you must have one hellava guardian angel watching over you.”

“Not so,” I snapped back, “I don’t believe in angels, guardian or otherwise.” I walked back to my Bridge game and not another word was spoken about angels.

Early the next morning, an hour before sunrise, as I was sipping coffee from my favorite chair, I thought about guardian angels and what my friend had said. Was it just luck or fate that I have escaped death and so many deadly, dangerous encounters in my life or was an angel actually watching out for me? Did God realize I was too stupid to stay alive on my own and would never make it through life for the amount of time God wanted me here? Did he send a guardian with instructions to keep me alive?

Then, being the practical man I am, I dismissed the thought. Hey, I’m not the kind of guy who has holes in the knees of my pants from too much prayer....I was a street cop.

Then, while sipping my second cup, I remembered a scary, serious crossroads in my life and was unable to know what to do. Hey, what have I got to lose? I’ll ask my angel for help, reminding my angel I’m sometimes not the sharpest tool in the shed.

But was it my guardian angel that did exactly what I asked? A week later I was slammed hard with an answer. My path was crystal clear. So, sitting there finishing my last cup, I added up the times I should have been killed, like when a scumbag shoved a loaded gun in my stomach and pulled the trigger. Why did that gun not fire that one time is a total mystery to me to this day. It had to be my guardian angel watching over me. Now I’m kind of feeling sorry for my angel who has had little rest. I hope he hangs in there with me to the end.

Once again, for years I didn’t believe in stupid stuff like guardian angels. That was for more religious folks but not for me. That was then and this is now. I’m now a believer....a big time believer. How else could I not only still be breathing but also flourishing?

I don’t know if guardian angels have a gender but if they do I’m sure mine is a male angel. Only a male angel could fully understand and tolerate my nonsense and bad-boy behavior. A female angel just might let me fall all the way. But not my angel; he lets me stumble a little to teach a lesson but catches me just in time....almost every time..... actually every time!

A good friend of mine on the police department once said, “Fred, you’ve been from the White House to the shit house more times than anyone on the force.” He was right. I always seemed to be in either “serious trouble” mode or “can do no wrong” mode most of my 28-year tenure. There never seemed to be dull moment. Fortunately, I was in “can do no wrong” mode most of my career. But I still didn’t believe in guardian angels.



Fred Wooldridge

Even after the guy I mentioned before shoved a .25-caliber automatic pistol in my stomach and pulled the trigger, I still didn’t believe in guardian angels....not completely. Some of those models had been recalled by Smith and Wesson for faulty springs in the firing pin mechanisms but the stolen weapon that should have killed me had not been sent back.

Later, a guy from the Dade County Crime Lab called me and said, “You’re the luckiest SOB on the planet. We found a mark on the back of the casing where the firing pin struck, but not hard enough to set off the round. Since then, we’ve test fired that weapon 10 times and all 10 rounds discharged. Again, Fred, you’re the luckiest SOB on the planet.” Still, I didn’t completely believe in guardian angels.

Later that same day, I was called to the chief’s office. He pulled a jigger and bottle of scotch from his desk. He poured me a drink and told me to take the rest of the day off.

“No thanks, boss, I don’t drink on duty,” I said, laughing. He never found out I turned down the drink because I hate scotch.

I have only mentioned a few major events during my career where my angel saved my butt. There are literally scores of more minor events on and off the job where I was rescued. There’s not enough room in this newspaper to mention them all. And still, when I retired in ’89, I didn’t believe in guardian angels. DUH!

Then, once again, in the quiet of the morning, while sipping coffee and listening to the patter of steady rain on the roof of our mountain home, it dawned on me I really do have some kind of a spiritual being watching over me. Blaming “dumb luck” only goes so far and I’m waaaaay past that. Acknowledging I have a guardian angel has brought an inner peace to my life I can’t explain. It feels good.... real good!

Well, I’m back to walking with Maddy when she’s not on the pickle ball court. I’m functioning well with my damaged brain and with my guardian angel at my side. I’m not slowing down....well, maybe a little. Thank you, Mr. Angel, wherever or wherever you are!

## ...COUNTY continued from page 1

penditures by \$478,939.35 and impact the salaries of 181 employees across all county departments. The slideshow presentation Roland presented to commissioners was created to distribute to all county employees to fully explain the process the county has undergone since 2012 to address discrepancies in county salaries.

In 2012, Macon County leaders started to look at discrepancies in county salaries compared to neighboring and comparable counties in the region by contracting with Springstead Inc, to conduct a pay plan study. The study showed that compared to other counties in the region, Macon County employees were far below, sometimes as much as 21 percent below, the market grade for their positions. Springstead Inc’s study showed commissioners that new hires were there employees most impacted by the pay grade

• See COUNTY page 15

## MOUNTAIN FRESH GROCERY BUTCHER SHOP

CUT TO ORDER  
100% ANGUS  
ALL NATURAL CHICKEN



RIBEYE 10.99

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FLANK STEAK 9.29

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GROUND SIRLOIN 4.55

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CENTER CUT PORK CHOPS 4.99/LB

HOUSE-MADE BREAKFAST  
SAUSAGE 4.95

HOUSE-MADE ITALIAN  
SAUSAGE LINKS 5.99/LB

SLAB BACON 8.95/LB

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M F G R O . C O M

BREAKFAST • LUNCH • DINNER • GRILL WOOD • FIRE PIZZA  
COFFEE • BAKERY • ESPRESSO • WINE • CRAFT BEER  
BUTCHER • ARTISAN CHEESE • OIL AND VINEGAR



# MOUNTAIN FRESH GROCERY



COOKING FOR HIGHLANDS

## 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 cut natural meats, homemade deli salads, specialty sandwiches, homemade potato chips, daily soup specials.

**Deli - Serving all day**  
Fresh cut natural meats, homemade deli salads, specialty sandwiches, 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 SOUTHERN BRUNCH BAR

**Every Sunday from 11am - 3pm**  
Skillet fried chicken, country Angus steak, skillet corn, biscuits & preserves, mashed potatoes, veggies, cobbler, plus the entire soup & salad bar.  
\$11.99 (dine in) or  
\$9.99 a pound (to go) 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-Saturday from 4:30 until we sell out. Call ahead to reserve...*

**Monday - Low Country Lobster / Shrimp Boil** - Maine 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. \$34.95 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.  
\$24.95 serves two

**Wednesday - Prime Rib with Baked Potatoes & Salad** - Premium Angus standing rib roast, cooked medium rare w/ red wine au jus. Two baked potatoes & a large Caesar salad. \$34.95 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.  
\$27.95 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 & served w/ hush puppies; or steamed to order in our low country seasoning. Both come with coleslaw and rosemary sea salt broiled red potatoes, tarter & cocktail sauce.  
\$28.95 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  
\$23.95 serves two

## WINE MARKET & 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.

## BUTCHER SHOP

We sell only 100% Premium Angus beef, hand-cut and ground in house. Seasonal seafood, all natural chicken, made-in-house sausage and more. See out weekly ad for this week's pricing.

## 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 sample.

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## ...FUNDING continued from page 1

other counties in the state in asking the state to restore funding to education in the upcoming budget cycle.

Macon County BOE officials voted to approve the resolution unanimously, which was then forwarded to state leaders.

DeVile has since asked to be placed on the agenda for the June 14 meeting of the Macon County Board of Commissioners to ask them to also support the resolution in hopes of sending a message to the General Assembly.

In 2008, North Carolina was ranked at 25th in the U.S. for teachers' salaries but has since fallen to 42nd overall.

"Despite research showing the cost-effectiveness of Pre-K services, the N.C. General Assembly has cut funding and reduced the number of state funded pre-kindergarten seats by 5,400 since 2008," states the resolution. "The state has cut funding since 2008, so many local government leaders have shouldered more of the burden of funding for public schools by increasing property taxes or cutting important programs or positions."

The resolution calls on the N.C. General Assembly to fully fund public education to reflect growth and student needs as well as calls upon the General Assembly to reinstate K-12 enrollment growth funding as part of the continuation budget. The resolution also calls for legislation that rejects the current trend of shifting education spending to local counties.

School districts are funded from federal, state, and county dollars. In his 2016-'17 budget proposal, Macon County Manager Derek Roland proposed increasing the school system's capital outlay budget, while

decreasing the funds provided to schools for operating expenses.

Roland's budget presentation to commissioners earmarked \$6,995,431 for the Macon County School system's operating budget and \$500,000 for the district's capital outlay budget. The operating budget allocation would be \$342,899 less than the current school year, but the capital outlay budget reflects a 67 percent or \$200,000 increase. Altogether, the county's allocation to Macon County Schools would reflect a \$142,899 reduction.

"While operating expenses have been reduced, this reduction comes in response to an increase in state funding levels for operational experiences, combined with the school system's efforts in reducing the number of locally paid teachers through attrition and transfers to state and federal funds," Roland told commissioners last month. "Both state funding levels and efforts by the school system have proven to be successful and suitable as illustrated in the substantial [school system's] multi-year fund balance growth."

By the end of the year, Superintendent Dr. Chris Baldwin said Macon County Schools could potentially have a \$2.4 million fund balance, which was obtained over the last few years due to attrition and cuts within the district. Some of the money in the fund balance is specifically assigned to certain expenses, which Dr. Baldwin said prevents the district from tapping into it for everyday operating needs in the district.

During a budget worksession last week, Dr. Baldwin plead the school system's case for needing the county to provide the schools with the full \$7.3 million requested.

due to the uncertainty on the state level in regards to funding.

Dr. Baldwin told commissioners that both the full \$7.3 million request and the fund balance are needed in the upcoming budget cycle to complete the school year

Macon County Commissioner Ronnie Beale suggested that the Macon County

Board of Education liaisons meet with the commissioners liaisons to further discuss the budget and to work out a compromise that is beneficial to both parties.

A public hearing is scheduled on the proposed county budget on Tuesday June 14 in the Macon County Commissioners board room.



### Pottery Sale

EVERY SATURDAY, 10 AM TO 5 PM

THE DAVE DRAKE STUDIO BARN AT THE BASCOM



THE BASCOM  
A CENTER FOR THE VISUAL ARTS

323 Franklin Road  
Highlands, NC 28741  
[www.thebascom.org](http://www.thebascom.org)

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- 2 hrs. northeast of Atlanta • 20 Minutes from Highlands, NC



# • HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

## Ongoing

• Highlands Hurricanes Swim Team is open to all levels of swimmers ages 6-18. To sign up contact Coach Steve Hott at 828-421-2121.

## Daily

• At MountainTop Wine Shoppe on Main Street, wine flights.

## Mondays

• Shortoff Baptist Church non-denominational Men's Meeting at 7 pm first Mondays.

• High Cardio Zumba Fitness with Certified Instructor Tiffany Austin at 5:25 p.m.

## Mon. & Wed.

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

## Mon. & Thurs.

• The Joy Program at HUMC from

11:30a to 1:30p. Includes a free lunch a variety of programs and games. All seniors are welcome. For more information, call Tricia Smith at 828-338-8167.

## Mon., Wed., Fri.

• Heart Healthy Exercise Class 8:30am-9:30am at the Rec Park.

• Aerobics with Tina Rogers 8-9a.

## First Tuesdays

• The monthly family support group for those with family members, friends, or loved ones living with the challenge of mental illness meets at 7 p.m. at Memorial United Methodist Church, 4668 Old Murphy Road, Franklin. For info call 828 369-7385.

## Second Tuesdays

• If you are feeling crafty this summer, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month for 'Crafternoons' at 2:30pm.

## Tuesdays

• The Humanist Discussion Group meets every Tuesday morning from 10:30-11:30a in the Meeting Room in the back of Hudson Library,

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

• The Beyond the Walls Book discussion group meets at 4 PM at The Ugly Dog Public House. Each week a short story discussed.

## 2nd and 4th Tuesdays

• OccupyWNC meets at the Jackson County Justice Center. For more information, visit [www.occupywnc.org](http://www.occupywnc.org) or call 828.331.1524

## Tuesday and Thursdays

• Zumba with Connie at the Rec Park 8:15 a.m. \$5.

• Pickle ball is played from 11:30a to 1p in the gym at the Rec Park.

## Wednesdays

• 499ers Bridge Club at the Rec Park at 8:45 a.m. Be seated by 8:30.

• Open Duplicate Bridge at 1 p.m. Be seated by 12:45 a.m.

## 1st Wednesdays

• Family Movies at the Hudson Library at 3:30pm. Call 828-526-3031 for titles.

## 3rd Wednesdays

• Recently released movies at Hudson Library at 2pm. Call 828-526-3031 for titles.

## Thursdays

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

• Weight Watchers support group meets every Thursday at 5 pm at Christ Church of the Valley 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. as First Unit

## Come meet the nocturnal creatures at the Nature Center

Here in this temperate rainforest we call home, many creatures are most active at night. Nocturnal species emerge each evening while humans rest peacefully in our beds; therefore, we tend to miss out on their incredible calls and fascinating biology. Here is an opportunity for you to break your curfew and learn more about nocturnal creatures in your back yard. Join the fun for Feelin' Froggy and Nocturnal Nature, hosted at the Highlands Biological Station's Nature Center.



Feelin' Froggy is a program for all ages on Thursday, June 16 at 8:30pm. You will learn about the different frogs that call Highlands home. A short presentation will help you distinguish between frogs and toads, identify a few common species, and learn about protecting their declining populations. After the presentation we will hike through the Highlands Botanical Garden to look for frogs and listen for their calls.

Frogs aren't the only nocturnal creatures around here. Nocturnal animals have some fascinating adaptations

to help them survive. For example, each species of firefly has a different flash sequence to attract mates of their own species, but some fireflies take advantage of this system and use it to lure their dinner over. After they have mated, females of the Photuris genus will mimic the flash of other female fireflies to attract hopeful males, which they then seize and devour in order to obtain enough nutrients to lay their eggs and acquire chemical defensive compounds.

Would you like to learn more about fireflies and other nocturnal creatures? Join the program at the Highlands Nature Center on Tuesday, June 21 to learn about some of our nocturnal residents as we walk through the Botanical Garden searching for fireflies (both cannibalistic and not) and bioluminescent fungus net larvae from 9:00-10:00pm. Both programs are open to people ages 6—adult and cost \$3 per person. Advanced registration is required as space is limited. Call (828) 526-2623 to register and please bring a flashlight.

## Highlands Motoring Festival

Friday,  
June 9 through  
Sunday,  
June 12



Join us for our 9th annual motoring festival from June 9-12. It's a four-day event organized and administered by car enthusiasts. All net proceeds go the charity benefit of the Literacy Council of Highlands. Participants will have driving opportunities on newly-paved mountain roads around the waterfall country of western NC. There will be a "Motoring to the Beach" banquet and dance at the Bascom Art Gallery in Highlands on Friday night. The actual car show will be all day Saturday at Pine Street Park; one block from main street Highlands with its restaurants and boutiques. There is always an eclectic field of pre-1990 classic cars which are judged in eight classes. The featured marque for 2016 is BMW to celebrate the company's 100th anniversary. Live music in the park will follow the car show. The final event will be Sunday morning's "Cars & Coffee on Main St." For further information, please visit our website: [www.highlandsmotoringfestival.com](http://www.highlandsmotoringfestival.com)

# • HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

ed Methodist Church Out Reach Center on West Main Street beside Bryant's Funnel Home and across the street from the Lazy Hiker Brewery Call Donita for more info (828) 526-9510.

## 2nd Thursdays

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

## 3rd Thursdays

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

• Kidney Smart Classes in Sylva: from, 7:30am-9am, DaVita Sylva Dialysis Center, 655 Asheville Highway, Contact Sue 828-631-0430

## Fridays - Tuesdays

• Movies at The Highlands Playhouse, 3 and 7 p.m.

## Fridays

• 199ers Bridge Club at the Rec Park at 9 a.m. Be seated by 8:45 a.m.

• Open Duplicate Bridge at 1 p.m. Be seated by 12:45 a.m.

• Friday Night Live, 6-8pm in Town Square. Live music. Free

## Every 3rd Friday

• Senior Dinners are at noon November through April.

## Every 2nd Saturday

• A group meets every 2nd Saturday of the month at Highlands Hudson Library at 10am. There are speakers, videos, recipes, health tips, and more to educate people about any health issues. Group is a non-profit. Contact Kelly Woods 828-421-3520 or live4above@aol.com

## Saturdays

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

• At The Bascom, Pottery Sale in the barn from 10a to 5p.

• Highlands Marketplace at K-H Park 8a to noon.

## Thurs., June 9

• The Macon County Cancer Support Group will meet Thursday, at 7 p.m. in the cafeteria of Angel Medical Center, Riverview Street, Franklin. Mary Bennett, Face Painter & Henna Artist will present a special program on "Henna Painting for Cancer Survivors". There will be door prizes and light refreshments. Everyone is welcome to attend.

## Sun., June 9-12

• At K-H Founders Park, Highlands Motoring Festival.

## Thurs., June 9

• NC Woodturners Club meets at Blue Ridge School in Glenville at 6 p.m.

• At the Nature Center, Owl Prowl at 7:30 p.m. Bring a flashlight. Free. Donations accepted for Carolina Raptor Center.

## Fri., June 10

• SOAR Charity Pasta Dinner at the Highlands Civic Center from 5-7 p.m. \$10 per person.

• Friday Foray with the Highlands Biological Station. Hike to Whiterock along one of the most beautiful sections of the Bartram Trail, one packed with stunning wildflowers, endless vistas, and a fascinating geologic history. This hike will also be from 10am-2pm and \$15 for members, \$35 for non-members. For more information, visit [www.highlandsbiological.org/forays](http://www.highlandsbiological.org/forays)

## Sat., June 11

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate-to-strenuous 8.5 mile hike, elevation change 800 ft., to Noland Creek in Smoky Mtn. Nat'l. Park. Meet at Bi-Lo parking lot in Franklin at 9:00 am, carpooling to Bryson City, then on Lakeview Rd., "road-to-nowhere" where trail begins at the Bridge. Meet at Bi - Lo parking lot in Franklin at 9:00 am. Call leaders Gail Lehman, 524-5298, for reservations. Visitors welcome, no dogs.

## Sun., June 12

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take an easy-to-moderate 2-mile hike to Cliffside Lake Park, climbing 400 ft. to gazebo on Clifftop Vista, then descending to walk around the lake. Meet at Bi - Lo parking lot in Franklin at 2:00 pm, drive 30 miles round trip. Call leader Jean Hunnicutt, 524-5234, for reservations. Visitors welcome, no dogs.

• The Battle of Sugartown Chapter of the North Carolina Society, Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), will hold its monthly meeting at 11:30 in the Boiler Room Restaurant at 1024 Georgia Road in Franklin. All DAR members and prospective members are welcome. For further information, please call 828-524-2673.

## Mon., June 13

• Garden Tour: Five Senses in the Garden, at The Botanical Garden at the Highlands Biological Station from 10:30-11:30 am. Free.

## Tues., June 14

• Mountain High Republican Women's Club Luncheon Meeting at Wildcat Cliffs Country Club, 11:30 AM. The featured speakers are the Republican Party Chairs from Jackson, Macon and Transylvania County who will reveal their

county's plan for Republicans to win in November. The MHRWC includes women in Jackson, Macon and Transylvania Counties. Members and others interested are invited to attend the luncheon meetings and to join the group. For luncheon reservations, please call 828 743-1658 or email [mtnrepublicanwomen@yahoo.com](mailto:mtnrepublicanwomen@yahoo.com). Inquiries may also be mailed to MHRWC, P.O. Box 126, Cashiers, NC 28717.

## Thurs., June 16

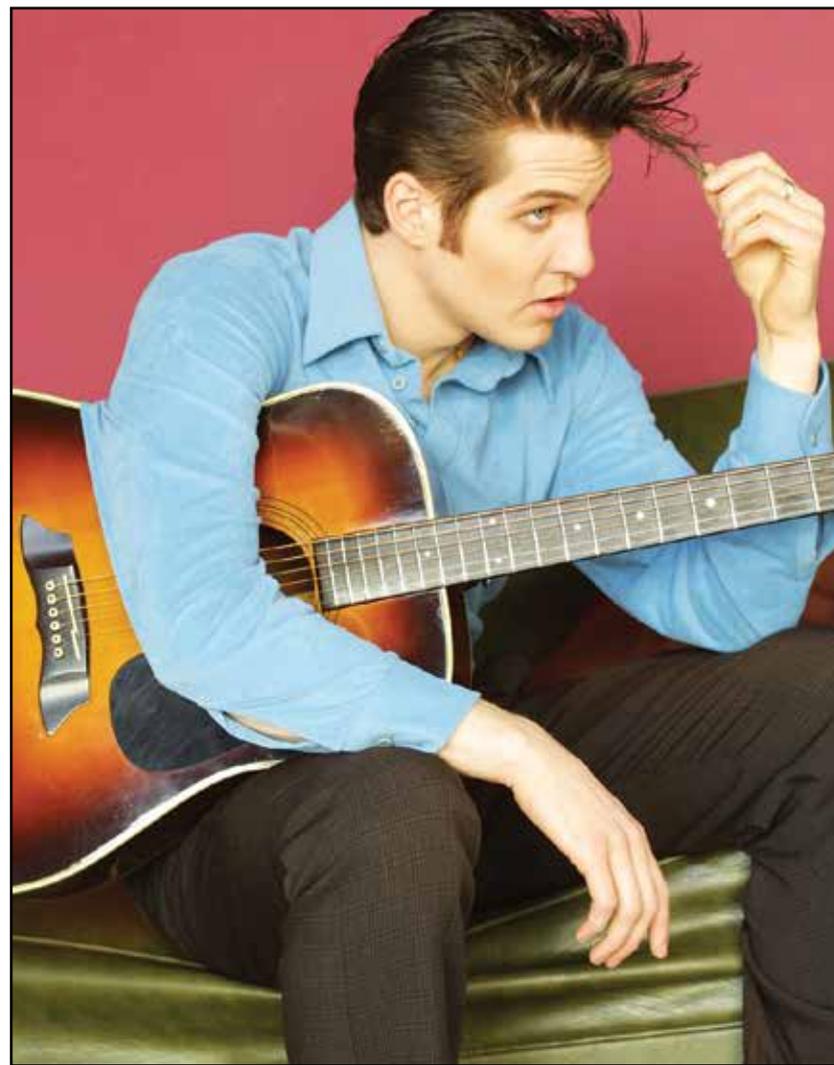
• Feeling Froggy at The Nature Center at the Highlands Biological Station at 8:30 pm. \$3 per person.

## Fri., June 17

• Friday Foray with the Highlands Biological Station. Float down the Little Tennessee river from 10am-2pm. Kayaks and canoes will be available, along with in

• See EVENTS page 12

## Retro Rock at PAC June 17 & 18



**Retro Rock at it's BEST!** The Highlands Performing Arts Center will present Travis LeDoyt in concert on Friday & Saturday, June 17 & 18 at 8pm. The NY Times called Travis The Best Young ELVIS. Born in 1977, the year Elvis died, Travis never had the opportunity to see the King. Through his remarkable resemblance and his incredible talent to emulate his performance, voice and style, Travis flawlessly captures the essence of Elvis in his prime. Specializing in the 1959-1962 years. The reincarnation witnessed through his dynamic show is truly spectacular and offers for those who never saw the King, the next best thing. Tickets are available online: [highlandspac.org](http://highlandspac.org) or by calling 828.526.9047

# • HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

struction from an experienced guide. This foray will cost \$40 for members and \$50 for non-members. For more information, visit [www.highlandsbiological.org/forays/](http://www.highlandsbiological.org/forays/).

## Fri. & Sat., June 17-18

• At PAC, Retro Rock: Travis LeDoyt. The best young Elvis. Call 828-526-9047 for tickets.

## Sat. & Sun., June 18 & 19:

• Highlands Village Square Art & Craft Show. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. New location at Highlands (Bryson's) Plaza on Hwy. 106. Regional art & crafts, live music. Sponsored by Macon County Art Assn. FREE! For info call (828) 787-2021.

## Sat., June 18

• At HUMC, tea and crumpets with Mary Kay Andrews, shares the story from her latest book, "The Weekenders." She is known for her mysteries, as well as her novels. This fun-filled afternoon is a fundraiser for the Highlands United Methodist Church's new Faith & Fellowship Center. Tickets are \$20. Call 828-526-3376 or 828-526-2746.

• Annual Reese Family Reunion at the Rec Park from 10a to 2p.

• At CLE, POLITICAL ECONOMY

OF GLOBAL MARKETS 10a to noon.

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a very strenuous 9-mile hike, elevation change 3800 ft., to Gregory Bald from Sam's Gap in Smoky Mtn. Park, through Cades Cove, one of the most natural garden spots in the Park. Meet at Dillsboro Huddle House at 8 am, drive 130 miles round trip. Call leader Don O'Neal, 586-5723, for reservations. Able visitors welcome, no dogs.

• Shrimp Boil fundraiser to benefit Kelsey-Hutchinson Park on the plaza in the park at 6-8 p.m. Proceeds will help complete the Monument Garden, the Sitting Fountain and the Historic Fireplace. \$50 ticket includes the Low Country Boil Dinner and 3 drinks including wine and beer. \$5 wine and beer tickets available at the plaza. Live music by Goldie & The Screamers. Tickets are available at the Highlands Chamber of Commerce, the Dry Sink or online at [www.foundersparkhighlands.org](http://www.foundersparkhighlands.org).

## Sun., June 19

• At PAC, WCU presents Shakespear at 5 p.m. Performance is \$20 Fish n Chips dinner is \$50. For tickets call 526-9060.

## Fri., June 20

• Garden Tour: Bog Carnivores at the Botanical Garden from 10:30-11:30 a.m. Free.

## Tues., June 21

• Guided adventures led by experts in their field. Reservations required. \$35 donation for new friends includes the guided hike, lunch on the trail and a one year membership to HCLT, \$10 for HCLT members. Contact Julie at [julie.hitrust@earthlink.net](mailto:julie.hitrust@earthlink.net) or 526-1111. Balsam Mountain Preserve Expedition- Our visit will include a hike through the renowned landscape that some call a living laboratory for scientific research and exploration as well as a visit to their on-site nature center to meet the wildlife that reside there.

• Nocturnal Nature at the Nature Center at 9 p.m. \$3 per person.

• Like playing with Legos? The Hudson Library is starting a Lego Club that will meet once a month. The first Lego Club from 2:30-4pm.

## Wed., June 22

• At CLE, BEES, PLEASE: Native Bee Diversity in Your Garden and Beyond, 2-4 p.m.

## Thurs., June 23

• At CLE, HIGHLIGHTS OF NC MUSEUM OF ART. 10a to noon.

• Needlepoint exhibit at Chestnut Hill of Highlands from 4:30 - 6 pm. Refreshments. Featuring needlework of artists Leila Chapman, Barbara Cusachs, Doris Long and others from Highlands and Cashiers. 64 Clubhouse Trail.

## Sun., June 25

• The LIFE-Saving ministry is having its 4th Annual Bloemsma Barn Event. Mountain Faith Band from Sylva will be performing in Franklin's 1st ever Amphitheater Style Concert. They were Semifinalists

on America's Got Talent this past season. Smoky Mountain Pregnancy Care Center has two free medical clinics serving WNC and upper NE GA.

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will hold a Hike Leader Workshop for those interested in leading hikes. Lunch will be provided after the workshop and then a hike. Meet at the NHC Club House on Carl Slagle Rd. at 10:00 am. Contact Mary Stone, 369-7352, or [mary23stone@yahoo.com](mailto:mary23stone@yahoo.com), for reservations or information.

• At PAC, Guy Bavli, Master of the Mind at 8 p.m. Call 828-526-9047 for tickets.

## Tues., June 28

• Village Nature Series. Dig deeper and learn more about our natural and cultural heritage at these free family friendly programs, the final Tuesday of the month from May through September at The Village Green Commons in Cashiers. Programs begin at 5:30 PM, rain or shine. No reservations required, everyone welcome. If Fossils Could Talk- Discover the History of the Earth Through Fossils and Local Geology with Dr. Frank Forcino.

• Summer Reading for Kids at Hudson Library. Professor Whizzpop will present 'Going for the Gold' at 2:30pm on be sure to stop by and see the well-loved magician and balloon artist.

## Fri., July 1

• At the Highlands Civic Center, Ron Cromer will present 'Snakes Alive' at 2:30pm at the Highlands Civic Center. This fun program includes a lecture dispelling common myths about snakes and the opportunity for attendees to hold snakes as well as other reptiles.

## Sun., July 3

• At Cliffside Lake, Michael Skinner

## Village Square Art & Craft Show

# JUNE 18 & 19 10 - 5

**FREE!** Regional Artisans - Music - Food  
\*New Location! Family fun!

Hwy. 106 Highlands, NC in Highlands (Bryson's) Plaza



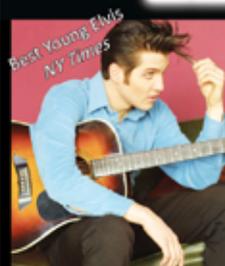
Sponsored by the Macon County Art Association

For info call (828) 787-2021 Plan now for  
Aug. 20/21 show





## June Concerts



**Travis LeDoyt**  
TWO Nights  
Friday & Saturday  
June 17 & 18  
8pm

Presented by Ray & Diane McPhail and Geri & Wade Coleman



**Guy Bavli**  
Master of  
the Mind  
Saturday  
June 25 8pm

Star of Caesar's Palace & NBC's Phenomenon

Presented by Peter & Valerie Whitcup

Highlands Performing Arts Center 507 Chestnut Street  
Tickets available online: [highlandspac.org](http://highlandspac.org) or by calling 828.526.9047

# • HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

with Balsam Mountain Trust and live raptors at 11 a.m.

## Tues., July 5

• Guided adventures led by experts in their field. Reservations required. \$35 donation for new friends includes the guided hike, lunch on the trail and a one year membership to HCLT, \$10 for HCLT members. Contact Julie at julie.hitrust@earthlink.net or 526-1111. A Walk through Time, Sargent to Sunset, Visit the historic Sargent property, HCLT's first conservation easement and home to a number of rare plants then trek up to Sunset Rock, one of HCLT's oldest owned properties.

## Fri., July 8

• At Hudson Library, at 2:30pm, get ready to learn all about Monarch butterflies and create fun crafts presented by Balsam Mountain Trust.

## Sat., July 9

• Highlands Plateau Greenway's Highlands Art Tour hike begin at 9:30 a.m. at K-H Founders Park. You will walk Main Street to the Bascom Art Gallery for a tour and then see the Bascom trail

to Oak Lane back through the Rec Park to the Highlands Historical Society and Kelsey Hutchinson – Founders Park. Your leader will be Sallie Taylor of the Bascom. To sign up please call Hillrie Quin at 828 526-2385 or email hillriemquin@gmail.com. Sign up early. \$25 and will include the hikes, lunch and a year's membership in the Highlands Plateau Greenway

• Highlands Plateau Greenway's Highlands Botanical Tour begin at 9:30 a.m. at K-H Founders Park. You will walk to the Highlands Biological Station and Gardens, up to Sunset Rock and back to Kelsey Hutchinson – Founders Park. Your leader will be Sonya Carpenter, Executive Director of the Highlands Biological Foundation. To sign up please call Hillrie Quin at 828 526-2385 or email hillriemquin@gmail.com. Sign up early. \$25 and will include the hikes, lunch and a year's membership in the Highlands Plateau Greenway

• Highlands Plateau Greenway's Historic Highlands Tour begin at 9:30 a.m. at K-H Founders Park. You will tour the Highlands Historical Museum and walk through the Rec Park greenway trails, including the

new Oak Lane and Sled Run trails, guided by local historian Ran Shaffner. To sign up please call Hillrie Quin at 828 526-2385 or email hillriemquin@gmail.com. Sign up early. \$25 and will include the hikes, lunch and a year's membership in the Highlands Plateau Greenway

• Highlands Plateau Greenway's Satulah Summit Tour begin at 9:30 a.m. at K-H Founders Park. You will walk from Kelsey Hutchinson – Founders Park to the summit of Satulah and back to the park. Your group will discuss the unique biological features of Satulah and the status of access. Your leader will be Dr. Gary Wein, Executive Director of the Highlands Cashiers Land Trust. To sign up please call Hillrie Quin at 828 526-2385 or email hillriemquin@gmail.com. Sign up early. \$25 and will include the hikes, lunch and a year's membership in the Highlands Plateau Greenway

## Thurs., July 14

• At Hudson Library, in honor of its summer reading theme – Wellness, Fit-

ness, and Sports – the library will have a Game Day on July 14<sup>th</sup>, at 2:30pm. Registration is required.

## Sun., July 23

• At Cliffside Lake, Michael Skinner with Balsam Mountain Trust and live raptors at 11 a.m.

## Tues., July 26

• Village Nature Series. Dig deeper and learn more about our natural and cultural heritage at these free family friendly programs, the final Tuesday of the month from May through September at The Village Green Commons in Cashiers. Programs begin at 5:30 PM, rain or shine. No reservations required, everyone welcome. Go Green with Moss- Explore the Green Advantages of Mosses in Sustainable Landscapes and Traditional Gardens with Annie Martin. \*\$20 supply fee for your own handmade moss garden.

## Wed., July 27

• At Hudson Library, 2:30pm the N.C. Museum of Natural Sciences will present an 'Animal Tracks' program.

June's got rhythm, sunshine, the longest day of the year and these fabulous classes offered by **Center for Life Enrichment** – all for your learning pleasure.

WE ARE PLEASED TO PRESENT THE FOLLOWING COURSES AND WORKSHOPS FOR THE MONTH OF JUNE

### ARTS & ARCHITECTURE

Highlights of NC Museum of Art - Wednesday, June 15, 10 am -12 noon  
Great American Photographic Road Trip - Thursday, June 16, 10 am - 12 noon  
Pioneer Potter, Walter B. Stephen (Bascom Exhibition/Lecture) - Thursday, June 30, 4-5 pm

### COMPUTERS & TECHNOLOGY

Advanced Photo editing for iPad - Tuesday, June 14 - 10:30 am - 3:30 pm  
iPad PRO, Friday, June 17 - 10:30 am - 3:30 pm  
SIFT: Everything You Ever Wanted to Know - Wednesday, June 23, 10:30 am - 3:30 pm **FULL**

### CULINARY

Cooking Demo and Lunch at Lakeside - Monday, June 13, 11:30 am - 2 pm

### CURRENT AFFAIRS

Syria - Friday, June 10, 2-4 pm  
Political Economy of Global Markets - Saturday, June 18, 10 am - 12 noon  
Unending Conflict on Korean Peninsula - Wednesday, June 22, 10 am - 12 noon  
FBI Post 9/11 - Thursday, June 23, 2-4 pm  
Legal Eagles or Donkeys and Elephants - Monday, June 27, 2-4 pm

### HISTORY

The Creation of Lexus - Thursday, June 16, 2-4 pm  
Frederick Law Olmsted and the South - Monday, June 20, 2-4 pm  
Japan and the US in the Cold War, Tuesday, June 21, 10 am - 12 noon  
League of Nations - Friday, June 24, 2-4 pm  
James and Dolley Madison, Washington and Montpelier - Saturday, June 25, 10 am - 12 noon  
Building a Sacred Landscape - Wednesday, June 29, 10 am - 12 noon  
Mummies and Mysteries of the Peruvian Desert - Thursday, June 30, 2-4 pm

### HOME, GARDEN AND NATURE

How to Plan A Garden (includes tour) - Thursday, June 9, 9:30 am - 12 noon  
Garden Study Field Trip with Mary Palmer Dargan - Thursday, June 14, 9:30 am - 1 pm  
Simply Succulent Gardening - Tuesday, June 28, 10 am - 12 noon  
Past Perfect: Living with Heirlooms and Antiques - Thursday, June 30, 10 am - 12 noon

### LITERATURE AND LANGUAGE

The Amazing Life and Work of Peter Matthiessen -  
Tuesdays, June 7, 14, 21, 28 (4 sessions) 5:30-8:30 pm

### MUSIC

Carnival in the Americas: Trinidad, Brazil & New Orleans -  
Friday, June 17, 10 am - 12 noon

### SCIENCE

A Biomimicry Primer: How Nature Inspires Science -  
Friday, June 10, 10 am - 12 noon  
Bees, Please - Wednesday, June 22, 2-4 pm

### TRIPS

Chocolate & Orchids: An Exploration on Botany, Foods and Culture of  
Mexico - November 12-20, 2016 - **SPACE IS LIMITED** - Book Now!

Exploring the Wines of Oregon's Willamette Valley -  
September 13-17, 2016 - **SOLD OUT!** -

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Performance only: \$20  
Performance/English Fish n' Chips Dinner: \$50

For tickets: 828-526-9060 fax: 828-526-4893  
email: [hccmf@frontier.com](mailto:hccmf@frontier.com)  
web: [www.h-cmusicfestival.org](http://www.h-cmusicfestival.org)

# • BIZ/ORG NEWS •

## It's official: non-native plants are not welcomed in Highlands



Photo by Marleen Salo

At last month's Coffee with the Mayor at the Hudson Library, Mayor Patrick Taylor signed a resolution proclaiming that Highlands, North Carolina, is a Native Plant Sanctuary. Furthermore, it is recognized that the Coalition for Non-native Invasive Plants Management is an organization dedicated to preserving the native plants of this region.

Mayor Taylor was joined by representatives of the Highlands Biological Station, the H-C Land Trust, the Highlands Plateau Audubon Society, the Highlands Plateau Greenway and the Land Stewards of the Highlands Plateau.

## ...ORDINANCE continued from page 1

Franklin and Cashiers included –such a idea wouldn't have even made it to the agenda packet.

But zoning isn't a "bad word" in Highlands and so the notion was presented.

Mayor Taylor discussed establishing community expectations for what are acceptable standards for public safety and welfare as it applies to the maintenance and upkeep of property.

"I have seen a potential problem where people leave unsightly things in their front yards and was considering working on an ordinance," he said.

Commissioner Donnie Calloway said 20 years ago this was brought up and "it solicited a lot of comments."

Since the definition of nuisance and debris is subjective, the board was hesitant to pursue the notion.

"This could be a very slippery slope," said Commissioner Eric Pierson.

The major concern of adopting a nuisance ordinance as it applies to debris and such in yards is someone might not think his junk is junk.

According to the documentation submitted by Planning Director Randy Feierabend, it is generally acceptable that white goods classified as broken appliances shouldn't be left to rust in the front yard. Likewise, particularly with bears roaming around, bags of garbage are generally considered unacceptable.

But, he wrote, "is a stack of lumber different from a stack of firewood? And at what point does the lumber become a nuisance – after one week, one month, six months?"

Feierabend said the town has the legal authority to establish such standards but it should make sure the standards are reasonable and enforceable.

"An ordinance, if adopted, should be clear and precise leaving little room for debate," he said.

Mayor Taylor said his thoughts only concerned front yards not side or back yards, but even so, Commissioner Brian Stiehler said "trash is subjective."

In the end, commissioners decided the town's annual free pick up of white goods and building materials was enough.

### Other Town Board News

The board adopted "Rules Governing Outdoor Recreation Uses" which centered around K-H Founders Park, the fact that allowed events had to be public-oriented and sponsored by the Town of Highlands or a non-profit approved by the town. And foremost, no commercial (for profit) or private uses are permitted in the park.

Much was included about tents – number of, size of, placement of. The placement of events banners in and around the park was also solidified with designated spots outlined.

Town Manager Bob Frye also presented the 2016-17 budget whose public hearing will be at the next Town Board meeting, Thursday, June 16.

The budget has total expenditures of \$14,520,640 with total revenues of \$13,387,516 resulting in a \$1,113,104 deficit which will be made up by fund balance appropriations from the General Fund, the Water Fund and the Electrical Fund.

– Kim Lewicki



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## ...COUNTY continued from page 7

discrepancies and county commissioners voted to adopt a new pay plan that brought those pay grades up to market comparison.

Once the Springstead recommendations were made and implemented, compression issues within county departments

### Pay scale chart

#### Calculated Longevity:

$(\text{Previous Grade/Current Grade} \times \text{Years at Previous Grade}) + (\text{Repeat as needed for each previous Grade}) + \text{Years of Service at Current Grade} = \text{Calculated Longevity.}$

#### Pay Plan Recommended Salary:

$\{(\text{Current Grade Minimum}) + (\text{Current Grade Step} \times \text{Calculated Longevity})\} \times 94\% = \text{PPR Salary}$

County Average Employee Years of Service - Calculated: 8.85 Years

Total Employees Evaluated: 367

Average Employee Salary – Current: \$36,645.89

Average Employee Salary – Method 4 Implemented: \$37,950.76

Average Increase per Employee – Method 4 Implemented: \$1,304.87  
(\$37,950.76 - \$36,645.89)

Average Increase per Employee per Year in Position – Method 4 Implemented: \$147.44  
(\$1,304.87 / 8.85 Years of Service - Calculated)

\*\*All budget #'s representative of 80 hr. pay period

Total County Salary Budget – Current: \$13,449,039.80

Total County Salary Budget – Method 4 Implemented: \$13,927,979.15

Budget Increase to Fund Method 4: \$478,939.35

% Increase to Fund Method 4: 3.56%

were made more evident. Because new hire salaries were increased to become competitive with regional salaries, some new hire salaries were near or sometimes more than the salaries of employees who were in supervisor roles or who have served the county for years.

Commissioners directed Roland to further study the compression issues earlier this year and develop a plan to address the issue in the upcoming budget. Roland worked with department heads and county employees to complete a comprehensive study of county positions and develop a plan to address the compression issues.

Roland informed commissioners last week that the committee discovered that a newly hired maintenance worker in Macon County would be hired in at \$22,932. Under the current pay plan, a maintenance worker with 13.9 years of service to Macon County currently earns \$23,855. A new hire Sheriff's

Deputy will be hired in at \$32,268 with zero years of experience and a deputy serving 8.2 years will earn \$32,913.

To address the salary issues, Roland said the committee recommended that a method for calculating longevity, as well as comparative analysis be used to recommend employee salaries. The method would take into account the years of service of employees as well as what the fair market pay grade is for each position.

At just under \$500,000 Macon County would be able to bring 181 county employees up to fair levels based on the years they have worked serving the citizens of Macon County.

A public hearing in the proposed budget in its entirety, including the pay plan portion, is scheduled for Tuesday, June 14, at 6 p.m. in the commissioners' board room in the courthouse.

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# • SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

## What makes our nation great?

By Pastor Sam Forrester  
Whiteside Presbyterian Church

George Washington in his first address as President to the nation showed he understood it was virtue that would make our nation great. Political freedom cannot exist where there is no religious foundation. It is only Christianity that can give to a group of people the potent force needed to sustain that freedom.

Freedom is not the right to do whatever you want. That is anarchy. Freedom is the privilege to do whatever society allows within its rules. True freedom is doing what God created you to do, therefore, freedom in this world is following rules established from God's Word. The founders of our nation were men who saw the hope in this. They gave us a Constitution designed, not to limit the people but to limit the government's power over the people. The founders understood that ultimately men are accountable to God not to government. Government is just a tool to maintain order, so the truth of the Gospel can be proclaimed. The idea of religious freedom in the Constitution is not freedom from religion but freedom to exercise religion.

That Constitution established capitalistic principles that declared every person was responsible for his own actions. Christianity readily accepted its role in this nation as the guardian of right and wrong. A person was free to make as much for himself as he could. However, he was expected to follow the rules in doing it. This became the engine that made our nation such a wonderful place to live. That has been proven, by the millions of people who have risked everything they had, including their lives, to reach our shores.

We have been a nation open to receiving people from across the world. Emma Lazarus in her poem on a plaque in the Statue of Liberty says it so well. "Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, the wretched refuse of your teeming shore. Send these, the homeless, tempest-tossed, to me: I lift my lamb beside the golden door." All we have asked of them in return is they accept the principles by which we have been allowed to offer them such hope. To stand fast on the principles of honor, trust and care for their neighbors. Leave the garbage that destroyed their hope of happiness in their former nations behind and embrace a new way of life.

What has made America great is her people and their commitment to following godly principles. Living righteous lives is a true American hallmark of greatness. The religious freedom our Constitution guards for us is a beacon shining across this world.

The great danger we face today is the failure that far too many don't understand this. Our world is being turned upside down by those who have completely abandoned the very thing that has made us a great nation.

What can we do to regain that greatness? The greatness I'm talking about is the privilege of being the one who has the right to live your life as you see fit. Political

• See SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING page 17

## Proverbs 3:5

### BLUE VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH

Rev. Oliver Rice, Pastor (706) 782-3965

Sundays: School: 10 a.m., Worship: 11

Sunday night services every 2nd & 4th Sunday at 7

Wednesdays: Mid-week prayer meeting: 7 p.m.

### BUCK CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

828-269-3546 • Rev. Jamie Passmore, Pastor

Sundays: School: 10 a.m.; Worship: 11

### CHAPEL OF 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/ 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;

9:30a Sunday School; 10:30a Family Service w/ Music Mon.:

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

### CHRIST CHURCH OF THE VALLEY, CASHIERS

Pastor Steve Kerhoulas • 743-5470

Sun. 10:45am, S.S 9:30am. Wed. 6pm supper and teaching.

Tues. Guys study 8am, Gals 10am.

### CHRISTIAN SCIENCE CHURCH

283 Spring Street

Sunday Service: 11 a.m.

Testimony Meeting 3rd Wednesday at 5 p.m.

### CLEAR CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Jim Kinard

Sundays: School: 10 a.m.; Worship: 11 a.m.

1st & 3rd Sunday night Service: 7 p.m.

Wednesdays - Supper at 6 p.m.

### COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH

www.cbchighlands.com • 526-4685

3645 Cashiers Rd, Highlands, NC

Senior Pastor Gary Hewins

Sun.: 9:30am: Sunday School

10:30am: Middle & High School; 10:45am: Child. Program,

10:45am: Worship Service

Wed.: 5pm Dinner (\$7 adult, \$2 child), 6pm CBC U.

### EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE INCARNATION

The Rev. Dr. Maurice L. Goldsmith, Interim Rector

526-2968

Sundays: Holy Eucharist (chapel) at 8 a.m.

Education and choir rehearsal, 9 am,

Holy Eucharist Rite II, (sanctuary), 10:30, nursery available

Wednesday: 10 a.m., Morning Prayer

Thursdays: Holy Eucharist Rite II. Prayers for healing,

(chapel), 10 am

### FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH HIGHLANDS

828-526-4153 • www.fbchighlands.org

Dr. Mark Ford, Pastor

220 Main Street, Highlands NC 28741

Sun.: Worship 10:45 am; Sun.: Bible Study 9:30 am

Wed.: Men's Bible Study 8:30 am; Prayer Mtg 6:15 pm;

Choir 5 pm

### FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Curtis Fussell & Emily Wilmarth, pastors

526-3175 • fpchighlands.org

Sun.: Worship: 11 a.m.; School: 9:30

Mondays: 8 a.m.: Men's Prayer Group & Breakfast

Wednesdays: Choir: 5:30p

### GOLDMINE BAPTIST CHURCH

(Off Franklin/Highlands Rd) • Rev. Carson Gibson

Sunday School: 10 am, Worship Service: 11 am

Bible Study: 6 pm

### GRACE COMMUNITY CHURCH OF CASHIERS

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# • PLACES TO WORSHIP •

## John 3:16

Services: Sundays 10am - Wed. - 7pm; Dinner - Wed. 6pm

### HAMBURG BAPTIST CHURCH

Hwy 107N. • Glensville, Nc • 743-2729

Pastor Nathan Johnson

Sunday: School 9:45a, Worship 11a & 7p, Bible Study 6p

Wed. Kidsquest 6p.; Worship 7p.

### HIGHLANDS ASSEMBLY OF GOD

Randy Reed, Pastor 828-421-9172 • 165 S. Sixth Street

Sundays: Worship: 11

### HIGHLANDS CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Dan Robinson

670 N. 4th Street (next to the Highlands Civic Center)

Sun.: Morning Worship 10:45 a., Evening Worship, 6:30 p.

Wednesday: Prayer Service, 6:30 p.

### HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Pastor Paul Christy 526-3376

Sun: School 9:45a.; Worship 9:09, 10:50.; Youth 5:30 p.

Wed: Supper: 5:15; youth, & adults activities: 6; Handbell

rehearsal, 6:15; Choir Rehearsal 7. (nursery provided); 7pm

Intercessory Prayer Ministry

### HOLY FAMILY LUTHERAN CHURCH: ELCA

Chaplain Margaret Howell • 2152 Dillard Road • 526-9741

Sun: School and Adult discussion group 9:30 a.m.;

Worship/Communion: 10:30

HEALING SERVICE on the 5th Sunday of the month.

### MACEDONIA BAPTIST CHURCH

8 miles south of Highlands on N.C. 28 S in Satolah

Pastor Troy Nicholson, (828) 526-8425

Sundays: School: 10 a.m.; Worship: 11, Choir: 6 p.m.

Wed: Bible Study and Youth Mtg.: 7 p.m.

### MOUNTAIN SYNAGOGUE

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)

Weds: Bible Study 6:30 p.m.; Youth Group 6 p.m.

### OUR LADY OF THE MOUNTAINS CATHOLIC

#### CHURCH

Parish office (Father Francis): 526-2418

Mass: Sun: 11 a.m.; Sat. at 4p

### SCALY MOUNTAIN BAPTIST CHURCH

Rev. Marty Kilby

Sundays: School - 10 a.m.; Worship - 11 a.m. & 7

Wednesdays: Prayer Mtg.: 7 p.m.

### SCALY MOUNTAIN CHURCH OF GOD

290 Buck Knob Road; Pastor Jerry David Hall • 526-3212

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

### SHORTOFF BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Rev. Andy Cloer

Sundays: School: 10 a.m.; Worship: 11

Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study: 7

### THE CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

1448 Highway 107 South, Office: 743-2359

Rev. Douglas E. Remer

Oct-May: Sunday Services: Rite I, 8a Rite II, 10:30

June-Sept: Sunday Services: Rite I, 8a, Rite II, 9:15 & 11a

Nursery available for Rite II services

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

Thursday: Noon Healing Service with Eucharist.

### 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

Sunday Worship - 11 a.m.

### WHITESIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Rev. Sam Forrester/Cashiers

Sunday School: 10 am, Worship Service: 11 am

# • POLICE & FIRE REPORTS •

**The Highlands Police log entries from May 24. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor or public officials have been used.**

## May 24

• At 4:10 p.m., officers responded to a one-vehicle accident at Fibber Magees.

## May 27

• At 11 a.m., officers received a report of vandalism at the Highlands Mountain Club where someone hit and broke a light.

## May 30

• At 1 p.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident in Highlands Plaza.

• At 8 p.m., a suspicious person was reported at the Satulah Mountain Brewing Company. He was in the area during closing time and left his belongings.

## May 31

• At 8 p.m., officers received a report of painters taking a cat and forcing it into a can of paint enough to submerge its

head at a residence on Harris Drive.

**The Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. log from May 26**

## May 26

• At 12:21 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Falls Village Court.

## May 27

• At 11:48 p.m., the dept. stood by for the MAMA helicopter at the hospital.

## May 29

• At 8:13 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Hoppoldt Drive.

## May 30

• At 11:03 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on BigView Drive.

## May 31

• At 6:03 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to Big View Drive and then to the hospital.

• At 1:31 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to Main Street.

## June 1

• At 10:14 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Dixon Drive.  
**June 2**

• At 10:05 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Cullasaja

Drive.

## June 5

• At 7:39 p.m. the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Rocky Ridge Road.

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## ...SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING continued from 16

correctness has destroyed that idea and continues to drag us into a dark abyss of confusion. Failure by churches to preach the truth of God's Word and confront sin without apology has left us without virtue. We must turn back and take the admonition of George Washington to heart and seek out the virtue that can come to us only through faithful study of God's Word. There, and there only, will we find the greatness we once showed to the world.

# MOVING SALE

## Saturday, June 11

### 9 a.m.- 4 p.m.

### 248 N. 6th Street

## Highlands Mill Creek Village Condos

## Check Facebook: Wiley Sloan

## for item pictures



Color, Cuts, Up Do's, Highlights, Massage, Facials, Manicures, Pedicures, Reflexology, Personal Training

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## Shear Elevations

Color, Cuts, Highlights, Perms, Manicures, Pedicures, Acrylics & Gel Enhancements, Up Do's and Facial Waxing

Owner/Stylist: Lisa L. Shearon; Stylist: Jane B. Earp;  
Stylist/Nail Tech: Kristi Billingsley; Nail Tech: Katie Baker Passmore  
828-526-9477 • 225 Spring Street, Highlands

Call for an appointment  
**TODAY**



Upstairs and Across the Walkway at "Falls on Main" Highlands (828) 526-3939

OPENING AT 9A · TUESDAY - SATURDAY

Owner/Stylist: Lacy Jane Vilardo  
Stylists: Heather D. Escandon, Maggie Barden, Bri Field  
Nail Tech: Jenna Schmitt

Hair • Nails • Waxing • Tanning • Eyelash Extensions • Walk-ins Welcome!

# • BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NEWS •

## Artists in residence at Chestnut Hill Retirement Center

Last week's Chestnut Hill Art Exhibit at the retirement center featured paintings from a number of the residents who have been studying painting each Wednesday morning from 10a-3p under the direction of Susan Jaeger.

The classes are designed to help Chestnut Hill residents improve their art skills and display their talents.

Friends of residents at Chestnut Hill may join the classes, too, when space permits. For complete details, contact Mary Bean at 526-8400 or @ mdb.chestnuthill@yahoo.com.

About eight different artists were featured last week including Sue Blair, Susan Jaeger, Martha Parrish & Ken Bowser.

For a list of all artists included you may contact Mary Bean, Public Relations Manager at Chestnut Hill.



By Ken Bowser



By Martha Parrish

## Have you Fixed Your Dirt Crawl Space?

### Dry Crawl Spaces

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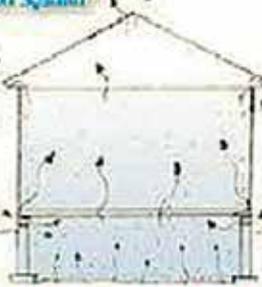
- Mold
- Bugs
- Structural Damage
- Smells & Odors
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# • BIZ/ORG NEWS •

## Jackson County Republicans open Election Headquarters

Republicans from North and South Jackson County celebrated the Grand Opening of the North Jackson County Election Headquarters Office at their monthly meeting on May 23rd. A Hot Dog and Barbeque cookout with all the fixin's preceded the business meeting. Chief grill master Mike Clampett, NC House Candidate, manned the grill while GOP members added all varieties of sides, desserts and beverages. The office, located at 60 West Sylva Shopping Area between Sylva and Dillsboro, will provide campaign road and yard signs as well as all the paraphernalia connected to national and local candidates.

Speakers at the meeting included Southwestern Community College President Don Tomas and Jackson County School Board Member Ali Laird-Large who spoke in support of the Jackson County ¼ cent sales tax funding source for Jackson County Public Schools and Southwestern

Community College renovations and additions to existing schools. Republican Jackson County Commission candidates Ron Mau and Mickey Luker paired up to present their view of the County Commis-

sion financial record in relation to the need for a tax increase.

The South Jackson County Headquarters Office will open soon in Cashiers. Voters are invit

• See Republicans page 21

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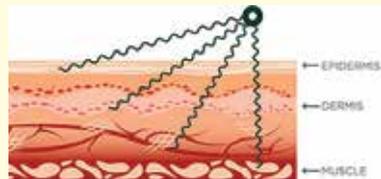
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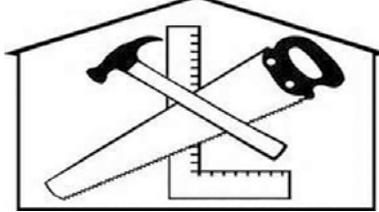
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