

Highlands Newspaper

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Thurs., March 3, 2016

Macon County Commission candidates line up

With just under two weeks until North Carolina's March 15 primary election, Macon County Commissioner candidates posted up at the League of Women Voters Candidate Forum last week to define their positions on pertinent

issues facing the community. Three Republican candidates for District 3 and two Republican candidates for District 2 were on hand.

In District 3, Emmanuel "Manny" Carrion, Greg Boyer, and incumbent commissioner

Paul Higdon are each vying for the open seat with the winner heading to the November election to run against Democrat Robert "Bobby" Koppers.

Commissioner Paul Higdon thanked voters for attending the

forum and said he wanted to seek re-election for the same reason he ran for office in the first place.

"What we're charged with is to levy taxes, collect taxes and fund services," said Higdon. "That's the

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Native Highlander part of team to map JC landslides

The recent heavy rains and accompanying landslides are a harsh reminder that landslides are a part of living in mountainous Western North Carolina and most currently Jackson County.

Jackson County has teamed with a local landslide mapping consulting firm to learn more about the landslides that affect the county and what areas may be more prone to landslides in the future. This project will provide information to the citizens of Jackson County so they will be more aware of the hazards and can be proactive in preventing or avoiding them.

Macon County was mapped by the N.C. Geological Survey in 2006 just after the Peeks Creek

• See LANDSLIDES page 13

Questions about Satulah Summit access linger



One spoke of the Highlands Improvement Society's mission was to preserve the natural beauty of Highlands. Under the leadership of Marguerite Ravenel. In 1909 it bought the summit of Satulah Mountain which her father, Capt. Prioleau Ravenel, Sr., had made accessible in 1890 by building a road to the top. The 32-acre park was dedicated to public use in perpetuity. The society built a stone shelter house at the top for those who wanted to spend the night on the summit "for the purpose of beholding the beauties of the sunset, of the starlit heavens and the glories of the sunrise." Only parts of the stone walls and chimney remain today. However today, due to strict access restrictions, visitors to the Satulah Mountain Summit must park on S. 4th Street and walk up the mountain a mile before accessing the Summit trail. This deters many from experiencing the Satulah Mountain Summit and its vistas of three states. See Mayor Pat Taylor's column on page 2.

Photo by Jim Lewicki

Highlands gym roof on BOE wish list for '16-'17

Each year, the Macon County Board of Education asks the school administration for capital outlay requests for the district's 11 different school sites. The principals compile a list of needs at their schools, ranging from roof leaks to parking lot potholes. Principals then narrow down their list based on priority and submit that request to the Board of Education. Superintendent Dr. Chris Baldwin, along with school system leaders, then whittle capital outlay needs further before finalizing a list to send to the Macon County Board of Commissioners for consideration.

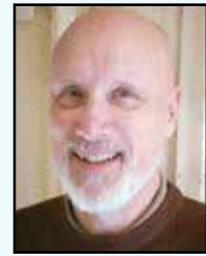
The total capital outlay list started at \$9,389,389.20 and was broken down into three categories, Renovation/Construction, Furniture, Machines and Equipment, and vehicles. Each category,

• See CAPITAL page 5

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• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• MAYOR ON DUTY •

What to do about access to the summit?

Prior to being elected mayor I was aware of the Satulah Mountain issue related to the access of the Highlands/Cashiers Land Trust property on the summit. Back then I met with a number of stakeholders, and believed an equitable solution allowing folks to drive and park on the Land Trust Property was possible. Now, after being in office for two years, I am not so sure.

Recent public statements underscore differing points of view. What is surprising to me is that apparently, even within the Land Trust membership, there are different visions on accessibility and how their Satulah property should be managed.

In addition, there are residents and property owners on the road leading up to the Land Trust property, and their views have to be considered. Some of the residents have concerns about having a public parking area in their neighborhood. I understand their position, since I have seen graffiti sprayed on the town's Satulah water tank and beer cans thrown all around the area.

On the other hand, there are other community stakeholders, like hikers, who want access by vehicle up to the summit.



Highlands Mayor
Patrick Taylor

They point out that the old and very young are unable to make the long hike from town that is now required to get to the top of Satulah. They believe that a few parking spots would guarantee access for everyone. Parking advocates stress that the summit has been fully open to the public for 100 years. They contend there has always been a tradition of vehicular access to this iconic and historic site, whether it was once by wagon or now by automobile.

The complexity of this issue has intensified over recent years with the residential development on Satulah Mountain. Complex legal issues are on the table including ambiguous deed language and ownership. There are also homeowner property rights at stake. All sides have valid points and look for the town to embrace their position.

For instance, some stakeholders have urged me, the mayor, to lead the town in assuring full public access through initiating an eminent domain action. In other words, the town should takeover the current private road that starts at the Worley property, and make it a public road. Under this proposal, limited public parking could be created between the town water tank property and the adjacent Land Trust parcel. Other folks in the Land Trust might object to this plan, as well as a number of Satulah Mountain residents. Such an initiative could trigger years of legal actions in the courts. In the end, the town's eminent domain action might not be upheld.

I, along with other town officials, have concerns with using eminent domain to

• See **MAYOR** page 7

• LETTERS •

Facts left out of Town Board discussion

Dear Editor,

I was dismayed to read about the Town Board's discussion surrounding the Village Square Art & Craft Shows at K-H Founders Park as reported in last week's Feb. 25 newspapers. I think the situation was unfairly portrayed.

It is hard not to take this issue personally, especially with some of the comments made by Town Manager Bob Frye, such as "She paid herself..." (payment was made through the Macon County Art Assn.), his sharing of personal information, and his omission of pertinent facts, including that MCAA received seven booth spaces for their artists at both shows, a value of \$2,080. It feels like Mr. Frye et al were attempting to

portray me as a greedy cheat, which would be an untrue characterization.

MCAA was thrilled with the opportunity to sponsor these shows. After they lost their use of the Catholic Church yard, where they showed monthly for a number of years, they needed an avenue to show in Highlands. Our arrangement allowed me to do all the work of organizing, advertising, etc. while they just had to show up and set up. They were quite satisfied, and it helped them fulfill their mission of promoting and fostering interest in the arts in Macon County.

Some people may not know that I started the Village Square shows in 2006,

• See **LETTERS** page 3

• MILESTONE •



Campbell takes 5th place in state tourney

Matthew Campbell, son of Doug and Patti Campbell of Highlands, took 5th place in his weight group at the State wrestling tournament in Asheville, NC on Feb 19-20. This was the NCISAA (North Carolina Independent Schools Athletic Association) annual state tournament for varsity wrestlers. He is in the 8th grade but 8th graders can wrestle varsity at private schools since those schools are smaller and need more boys to fill in all the weight categories. He is the only middle school wrestler at Rabun Gap to make it into the finals of a state tournament. This is his second year wrestling.

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• OBITUARY •

Howard Kazuro Suzuki



Dr. Howard Kazuro Suzuki, retired Professor of Anatomy, accomplished artist and avid fly fisherman, died at home in Gainesville, Florida on Tuesday, Jan. 26, 2016. He was born April 3, 1927 in Ketchikan, Alaska to George Kichijiro and Tsuya Suzuki. He married Tet-suko Fujita, Ph.D, September 13, 1952 who survives him along with their four children Georganne Suzuki (Gainesville), Joan Suzuki Hart (Parker, CO), James Suzuki (Laurie, Tallahassee), Stanley Suzuki (Gainesville), and grandchildren, Matthew Hart (LeeAnn-Prescott, AZ), Joshua Suzuki (Winston-Salem, NC), Danielle, and Alexandra Suzuki (Ocala), and Laurie's children Ian and Lindsey Waldick (Ocala).

Dr. Suzuki was a protector of the environment who appreciated art and music. He dedicated his life to educate future generations of health care professionals. He and his wife lived lives of service which they passed on to their children. He left this world a better place.

He achieved his Eagle Scout while interned in Minidoka Relocation Camp in Idaho in 1942 and went on to earn his Ph.D. at Tulane University in 1955. He was a Professor of Anatomy at Yale University (New Haven, CT), the University of Arkansas (Little Rock) and the University of Florida (Gainesville) where he also served as Dean of Health Related Professions. Dr. Suzuki created an endowed scholarship at UALR to provide financial assistance to 2nd year medical students

...LETTERS continued from page 2

operating them independently at the old post office and the Village Square until the town constructed the new park and required a non-profit sponsor in 2013. This requirement did not stipulate that the majority of revenue had to go to the non-profit, as the reporting implies.

These shows benefit many people, from scores of artisans in Highlands and the area, to the many customers who attend the shows to find that special hand-made something(s), and to local businesses who profit from the influx of visitors, locals, and vendors alike staying at inns, shopping and dining in town. I always give at least one non-profit group a free booth as well, and there have been many.

These events require an enormous amount of work to do well, and I deserve to be fairly compensated for my time and ex-

demonstrating the highest level of understanding of the importance between integrating science and clinical medicine with professional values and ethics in the art of compassionate, individualized, hands-on patient care. No amount of technology can replace listening and physical touch.

He was one of the original members of the University of Florida Gallery Guild. Later in life he became a well-known wildlife sculpture artist. He served as an underwater photographer for the Hawaii Whale Research Foundation and field photographer for the US and Florida Game, Fish & Wildlife Service. As part of the Florida Alligator Research Team he was proud to be known as the Old FART.

In his honor, contributions may be made to the Howard K Suzuki, Ph.D. Scholarship, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, Institutional Advancement, 4301 W. Markham St., #716, Little Rock, AR, 72205 or the Fish & Wildlife Foundation of Florida, P.O. Box 11010, Tallahassee, FL 32302 or on line at <http://www.fishwildlifeof-florida.org/donate-to-the-fish-wildlife-foundation-of-florida/>.

There will be a celebration of his life April 30 in Gainesville, Florida at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Gainesville at 3 p.m. Also on Sunday, June 5, 2-4 pm at the Highlands Nature Center, 930 Horse Cove Rd, there will be a short "service" with refreshments and sharing of Howard stories after.

penses. We are all very proud of the show's high quality, its success, and the professional way it is run. It is truly home grown.

Aside from the park, suitable in-town venues are virtually non-existent. However, thanks to the generosity of Al Bolt we will continue to organize the Village Square Shows at Highlands Plaza (behind the Chinese restaurant). MCAA will continue to sponsor the show, as it would be a big loss for them to lose it.

Yes, I am saddened that the town made the decision to not allow our shows in the beautiful new park. But I am grateful to Planning Director Randy Feierabend and Highlands Fire & Rescue Asst. Chief Robbie Forrester for their valuable time and assistance with the new venue.

**Cynthia Strain
Highlands**

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Paul Taylor 2 Dancers coming to PAC Saturday March 5th

Paul Taylor 2 Dancers, a professional dance company is coming to Highlands, direct from Lincoln Center, NYC. Paul Taylor is an icon in the dance world; former soloist for George Balanchine (NYC Ballet) and Martha Graham. His dance company Taylor 2 is coming to Highlands as part of its outreach to smaller communities – giving them an opportunity to see a professional dance company.

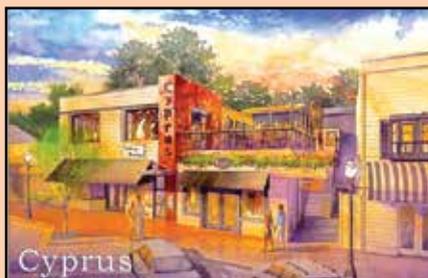
Not only will they give an evening performance, they are giving a Master Class for area high school dance students with a student performance on Friday, March 4 for the schools in Highlands & Cashiers.

This has been two years in the making and is part of the continuing outreach for the PAC Youth Theater program. PAC Director Mary Adair Leslie was awarded grants from the Cullasaja Women's Outreach, Mountain Finding and Gail & Tim Hughes to bring the troupe to Highlands.

The Highlands Performing Arts center will present a special event on Saturday, March 5 at 7:30 pm. Paul Taylor still choreographs two new works a year at age 83.

The Paul Taylor 2 dancers will perform for the schools on Friday morning, give a Master class for our area dance students on Saturday morning and perform for the public on Saturday night. Tickets are \$15 for adults and all students are FREE. Sponsored by the Cullasaja Women's Outreach, Mountain Findings and Gail & Tim Hughes. Tickets are available online at highlandspac.org, or by calling the Performing Arts Center 828.526.9047

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...CANDIDATES from page 1

role the state and federal government also have. We definitely need to have a set budget each year and take just enough money from the taxpayers to adequately fund that budget.”

Higdon is a Macon County native who attended the University of Arkansas at Little Rock after graduating from Franklin High School. In addition to currently serving as a commissioner, Higdon has served on the Macon County Board of Health.

Greg Boyer, a lawyer, said that although he doesn't have any prior political experience, he wanted to run for county commissioner to see a change in Macon County.

“I sat down one day and I looked at what our county was facing and I was concerned,” said Boyer. “Thomas Payne said, ‘These are the times that try men's souls.’ You don't have to watch the news, I'm pretty sure that everyone here has a TV or a computer and has wanted to throw something at it. We can't continue the way we're going. Services are important, taxes are always too high, I don't like to pay taxes, but as a county together, we need to make this county for our future and our children's future to be the key.”

Boyer graduated from Montreat College, Florida State University, and O.W. Coburn School of Law in Tulsa, OK. Boyer and his wife moved to Macon County after spending their honeymoon in a cabin in Cowee.

As a father of four, Emmanuel “Manny” Carrion said he wants to help shape Macon County into something future generations can be proud of.

“I'm 36 years old, I have four kids,” said Carrion. “The chances of those kids going to school here, going to high school, going to college and coming back to Macon County are not too good right now. I'm running for commissioner to give my kids a chance to stay in Macon County, to give my grandkids a chance to stay in Macon County. If there's something I can do now, while those kids are young to give them a chance to stay in Macon County, that's the main reason I'm running for commissioner.”

Carrion started his business Carrion Tree Service in 2007 and is also an investor in the Bowery Restaurant. Between the two business ventures, Carrion helps to employ upwards of 40 people in Macon County.

With the District 2 commission seat left open when incumbent Kevin Corbin announced his bid for the North Carolina House of Representatives District 120, Republicans Karl Gillespie and Ron Haven both signed on. The winner in March will appear on the November ballot against Democrat Charlie Leatherman.

Gillespie touted his routes as a business owner and as a native of Macon County for his reason for running for the commission.

“I could have gone anywhere in the world and worked with my job,” he said. “I came to Macon County, I came home. So, I'm invested in this community, and I will make every decision for the betterment of our people.”

Gillespie is a 5th generation Maconian and currently owns and operates National Communications, Inc., which he started in 1999. Gillespie has served on several community advisory boards and currently serves on the Macon County Planning Board.

...CAPITAL from page 1

then had subcategories that identified requests from respective school sites. The school administration's initial capital outlay request identified \$8,154,173 in renovation and construction needs, but after the prioritizing process, the school board narrowed down the needs to \$363,365, the bulk of which was requested for roof repairs at the Highlands gym.

With the recent renovation completed at Highlands School, there weren't a lot of construction and structural needs identified by school staff. In addition to the \$209,105 requested for the gym roof, initially Principal Brian Jetter requested \$30,000 for stage lighting, but that request was left off after prioritization throughout the district.

In terms of furniture, machines, and equipment, the district's capital outlay request includes \$518,060 in technology replacement plans district-wide. The bulk of that weighs in at \$232,882 for a five-year replacement of desktops in the district. Next, the technology plan calls for \$135,200 for a five-year replacement plan for iPads in the district to continue implanting a 1:1 program for students. The remaining portion of the half a million requested for technology includes \$43,000 for SAN replacement district-wide, \$44,750 for a five-year replacement for laptops, \$11,000 for a five-year replacement of MAC computers in the district and \$51,228 for a seven-year replacement plan for projectors.

While Highlands School was part of a three-school request for new vacuums for \$3,750, as well as a 20' floor scrubber costing \$3,067, neither item made the final cut.

The district's vehicle request include \$28,000 for a box truck and \$88,000 for an activity lift bus.

In all, the school system's original capital outlay need list was reduced from \$9.3 million to \$1,168,850. The board voted to submit the request to county commissioners to be considered as part of the county's budget planning process.

In the past two years, the Macon County Board of Commissioners voted to increase the school system's capital outlay budget and during the county's first budget meeting, the board shared the consensus to once again increase it in the coming year. Last year, commissioners allocated \$300,000 for capital outlay needs in the school system.

Haven, who has previously served on the board of commissioners said that he wants to work to repair the county's economic state.

“There's three places in America that's the worst places to do business, the middle of the desert, New York City, and Macon County, North Carolina,” said Haven. “I believe in having everything that our county can afford to have, and I want to capitalize the word afford. I'm not going to go out and be looking to raise taxes on you, just because we think there's five people there that should have it. I feel like, if we all work together, we could have a fine county, but what we're going to have to do is live within our means.”

Haven graduated from Franklin High School in 1975 and first served as commissioner from 2010-'14.



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...MAYOR continued from page 2

solve this issue. The problem is that the Satulah summit is not a town park or recreation site. The town does not own the summit. That legal fact would make it difficult for the town to take over the road in order to provide public access to a property not even owned by the town. It might be a different situation if the land had been given to the town decades ago for the purpose of providing a park for the public. But, that is not the case now, the summit is owned by the Land Trust, and the road leading to the property is clearly a private road.

So, should the town simply resolve this impasse by invoking eminent domain? I believe the town has the right to apply eminent domain only in cases where there is a vital public interest. In my opinion, this situation does not rise to that level. If the town was being told they could not access their water tank and communication equipment on Satulah, or provide town services to residents because of the private road, that would be an entirely different issue. But that isn't the case, and I don't see how the town can force folks to give up their property so others can park in their neigh-

borhood.

I hope a solution can be found that everyone can support, but don't expect the Town of Highlands to impose a settlement. I have been told by some that my position is short sighted and will be a detriment to the community in the long-term. Maybe so, but at times a municipality is caught between

the positions of conflicting groups. While it may not be fast and efficient, all parties are entitled to due process. The town should not expedite the process with a questionable eminent domain action.

I hope civil discourse will continue to be the guiding principle for all parties as this issue is addressed.



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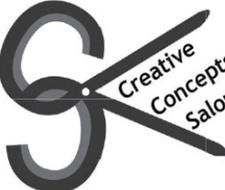


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Owner/Stylist: Lacy Jane Vilaro
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526-5999
Located at 680 N. 4th. St., Highlands
Open Mon-Sat 10a to 5p

• HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

Winter Pool Schedule

Through May 26, 2016

LAP SWIM - ADULTS ONLY

Monday thru Friday

7 - 10 am, 6 lanes

AND Monday thru Thursday

5 - 6 pm, 1 or 2 lanes

Sharing pool with water

aerobics @ 5:15 on

Mondays, Tuesdays, and

Thursdays

PUBLIC SWIM

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday

3 - 5 pm

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday

6 - 8 pm

Saturday 11 am - 6 pm

Sunday 1 - 5 pm

WATER AEROBICS

Monday-Friday

10:15 am

Monday - Thursday 5:15

(Sharing pool for public swim)

Saturday 11:15

(Sharing pool for public swim)

Fee: \$4 per class or

\$30 for 12 classes

POOL PARTIES

Pool available on

Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays

6 - 8 pm

Fee: \$75 / \$50 deposit required

\$50 non-refundable deposit if party is cancelled or a no show less than 2 days before

1st Wednesday of the month—

Kayak Clinic

2nd Wednesday of the month—

Youth Night

3rd Wednesday of the month—

Water Volleyball

4th Wednesday of the month—

Senior Night

6:00 - 7:30 pm

Call us about membership fees

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.

• Anyone interested in taking Adult, Child and Infant First Aid/CPR/AED certification class needs to contact the Highlands Recreation Department.

Last Sundays

• At The Wellness Center, donation based Sound Healing Concert. Learn how to use Music to heal your Nervous System and Reduce Your Stress Naturally at 3pm. 468 Dillard Road (828) 526 9698

Mon. Thurs., Fri., Sat., Sun.

• Movies at the Playhouse: 2, 5 & 8 p.m. Call

526-2685 for weekly movie.

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., 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. Sponsored by the local affiliate of NAMI. For info call 828 369-7385.

Tuesdays

• The Humanist Discussion Group meets every Monday 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 or call 828.331.1524

Every 3rd Tuesday

• The Macon County Poultry club in Franklin meets at 7 pm at the Cooperative extension office on Thomas Heights Road. For more information call 369-3916.

Last Tuesdays

• At the Wellness Center, donation based Belly Dancing 101 at 6:30 p.m. 468 Dillard Road (828) 526 9698.

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

• At the Wellness Place at 6:30 p.m., donation based Art of Meditation. 468 Dillard Road (828) 526 9698.

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. 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 4:30pm-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

• 99ers Bridge at the Rec Park 9a to noon.

• At the Wellness Center, donation based Pinterest Fridays at 6:30p. : Essential Oils, Appetizers and Crafts Night. 468 Dillard Road (828) 526 9698

Every 3rd Friday

• Senior Dinners are at noon November through April.

Saturdays

• At The Wellness Place Donation based 9am Yoga For Dummies at 9 a.m. Fun, Judgement Free Zone, All Levels and All Ages! 468 Dillard Road (828) 526 9698.

• At The Bascom, Pottery Sale in the barn

from 10a to 5p.

Thurs., March 3

• Child care subsidy is a complex program. Learn more about a specific topic or discuss an issue concerning you. Some of the topics on the agenda include legislative changes; updates on NC FAST and the impact on providers and families in the Subsidized Child Care Program; market rate increases; and re-authorization of the Federal Child Care Development Block Grant. The roundtable will be held at the Jackson County Family Resource Center located at 1528 Webster Road, Webster starting at 10 AM. This project is sponsored by Region A Partnership for Children, the WNC Early Childhood Coalition and Southwestern Child Development Commission. For more information contact Sheila Hoyle at 828-586-5561 or sheilahoyle@aol.com.

Friday, March 4

• At 5:30 p.m., it's the Jackson County Republican Convention and Precinct Meetings. All Jackson County registered GOP voters are invited to attend the Jackson County Republican Convention at the Jackson County Senior Center in Sylva. Registration opens at 5 p.m. The Meetings and Convention begin at 5:30 p.m. A buffet dinner will be served. Call Ralph Slaughter at 828 743-6491.

Sat., March 5

Puccini's Manon Lescaut LIVE via Satellite at PAC Sat., March 5



The LIVE via Satellite screening of the Met Opera's new production of Puccini's Manon Lescaut will begin at 12:55pm Saturday, March 5 at the Highlands Performing Arts Center. Starring Kristine Opolais as the seductive, tragic heroine and Roberto Alagna in a role debut as her ardent lover, the Chevalier des Grieux. The staging is conducted by Fabio Luisi, the Met's Principal Conductor, and directed by Sir Richard Eyre, whose past Met productions include acclaimed stagings of Carmen, Werther, and Le Nozze di Figaro. Manon Lescaut will also star Massimo Cavalletti as Manon's cousin, Lescaut, and Brindley Sherratt as Geronte, the wealthy general who takes Manon as his mistress. The LIVE via Satellite broadcast will be shown on our large theater screen. A Pre-Opera Discussion led by Beverly Wichman will begin at 12:30pm. Tickets are available online: highlandspac.org, at the door or by calling 828.526.9047. Adults: \$26 Members: \$22 Students: FREE 507 Chestnut Street, Highlands

• HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

• At PAC, Master Class for area High School Dance Students with Paul Taylor's American Modern Dance company at 9:30 a.m. It's free by registration is required. Call 828-526-9047

• Democratic Party & Precinct Meeting and more at the Hudson Library meeting room in the back, from 5-9 p.m. Wine & hors d'oeuvres at 5p, Precinct meeting at 5:30p, dinner at 6:30p and caucus at 7:30p. Bring a salad, appetizer or wine to share. Main Dishes and dessert will be provided. For more information, call 828-526-4594.

• At PAC, Paul Taylor's American Modern Dance Company at 7:30 p.m. Adults \$15, all students are free. For tickets call 828-526-9047.

Thur., March 10

• The March meeting of the Western North Carolina Woodturners Club, Inc. will be on Thursday at 6 PM at the Blue Ridge School in Glenville, NC. The School is located at 95 Bobcat Drive, Cashers NC. Drive to the back of the school to the wood-working shop. Visitors are always welcome. The club meets in Glenville the second Thursday of every month March through November.

Fri.-Sun., March 11-13

• At PAC, Highlands Community Players presents a Dinner Theatre. with four one-act plays. Fridays

and Saturdays at 6:15 p.m. and Sunday Matinees at 1:15 p.m. at the Performing Arts Center on Chestnut Street. For tickets call 828-526-8084.

Sat., March 12

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a 7-mile moderate hike, elevation change 950 ft., on the Ridge Trail to Dyke Gap in the Coweeta Hydrological Lab area, returning to Shope Creek Rd. Meet at Westgate Plaza in Franklin at 9:00 am, drive 16 miles round trip. Call leader Gail Lehman, 524-5298, for reservations. Visitors welcome, no dogs please.

Sat., March 16

• At PAC, The Met Live in HD at 12:45 p.m. Call 828-526-9047 for tickets.

Tues., March 15

• Highlands School kindergarten registration at 10 a.m.

• Yoga Highlands offers Nourishing Our Children: Food and Behavior and the Connection to True Health. We welcome parents, teachers, and anyone wanting to know more. Tuesday, at 5:30 pm, 464 Carolina Way, 828-526-8880 for more info. FREE

Fri.-Sun., March 18-20

• At PAC, Highlands Community Players presents a Dinner Theatre. with four one-act plays. Fridays and Saturdays at 6:15 p.m. and Sunday Matinees at 1:15 p.m. at the Perform-

ing Arts Center on Chestnut Street. For tickets call 828-526-8084.

Sat., March 19

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a 3-mile moderate hike, elevation change 600 ft., from Wallace Branch to the Bartram Trail, passing a couple of waterfalls. Bring a snack, meet at Westgate Plaza in Franklin at 10:30 am, drive 5 miles round trip. Call leader Kathy Ratcliff, 349-3380, for reservations.

Lucien Harris exhibit opens at The Bascom



Lucien Harris was a painter of natural subjects and an enthusiastic admirer of the beauty in Highlands. He moved to the area in 1980 to gain continuous inspiration for his work.

As an advocate for encouraging the arts within local communities, he became a founding member of The Art League of Highlands in 1980. Through his various roles as a teacher and supporter of the League, he was instrumental in the early development of The Bascom Louise Gallery at The Hudson Library.

With the Art League of Highlands, The Bascom is honored to showcase the extraordinary talent of Lucien Harris. "We are fortunate to have this work in our collection and even more so to have borrowed additional paintings from the Harris family and local collectors who knew him and admired his work," said Sallie Taylor, Chief Exhibitions Officer of The Bascom.

The work of Lucien Harris will be on exhibition from March 5 to May 22, 2016 in The Bascom's Joel Gallery with free admission. The public is invited to attend an exhibition reception for Lucien Harris Saturday, April 30, 5 to 7 pm. For more information, please contact The Bascom at 828.526.4949 or visit www.thebascom.org.

HCP's March Medley features 4 one-act plays and dinner!



Chef Michael Lanzaletta serves turkey tetrazzini to director Donna Cochran in preparation for Highlands Cashiers Players production of March Medley. This is a group of four one act plays that will accompany dinner served March 11-13 and March 18-20 at the Performing Arts Center. Call 828 526 8084 for reservations.



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 MODERN
 DANCE**

Direct from Lincoln Center, NYC

Master Class for Area
 HS Dance Students
 Saturday, March 5
 9:30am
NO CHARGE:
 Registration required:
 828.526.9047

Saturday, March 5 7:30pm
 Adults \$15 ALL Students: FREE

Highlands Performing Arts Center
 507 Chestnut Street
 Tickets available online: highlandspac.org
 or by calling 828.526.9047

• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

Statues are reminders of the person who lived a sacred life

By Rev. Dr. Francis Xavier Arockiasamy
OLM Catholic Church

There is a false opinion among some people regarding the use of statues in churches. Usually we see a lot of statues in the Catholic churches. I would like to share a Catholic view on statues.

The statues are used in the churches to recall the person or thing depicted. It just helps us to remember them in our memory. Catholics decorate statues with a lot of flowers to honor their memory.

From the book of Genesis of the Old Testament of the Bible, we have a passage 1:27, which says, "God created man in his image; in the divine image he created him; male and female he created them." An image could be understood as an inanimate thing, like a painted or carved figure. Or a living thing. In the book of Genesis, we are told that God created humankind in the divine image. It is our understanding that the image is reflected in the human's capacity to plan, to desire, to achieve, to respond personally to each other and to God. These qualities are found in the living God described in the Old Testament of the Holy Bible.

In the New Testament, from the letter of St. Paul to the Colossians, St. Paul uses the idea of image extensively. i.e. "Christ is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation." (Col.1:15). In his theology, St. Paul says that God, who could not be imaged in the Old Testament, has given us a human image of the divine being in Jesus Christ. The real meaning is that the human face of Jesus Christ has become the visible image of the God who could not be imaged in the Old Testament. It is God who has given us a visible image—the face of Christ.

It is the understanding in the history of the Catholic Church that has given us a visible image; therefore we can imitate this divine action in our representations of Christ. St. Paul explains in his second letter to the Corinthians. i.e. 2Cor.3:14-17. He says, "Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. All of us, gazing with unveiled face on the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, as from the Lord who is the Spirit." He explains that the image of Christ removes the veil that may remain over the hearts of those who read the Old Testament.

So Dear Brothers and Sisters, it is the understanding of the Catholic Church regarding the images found in art of angels, Mary and the saints who are not Gods, but creatures of God. They help us to understand what God has done for us. The sacred images were part of the culture and worship of the first Christians in history and tradition. Catholics look to saints because they are such wonderful humans who are mirrors of Christ. They were given to us to imitate. To be clear, in the biblical sense, the images of Christ and the saints are not idols. There are spiritual and physical realities in the glorified bodies of Christ and his beloved which the images represent. It is also understood that if the images are lost or destroyed, the spiritual reality remains. If you destroy an idol nothing remains. So the images or statues which are used in the Catholic Church are just reminders of the person who lived a sacred life and is recognized by the Church today as a saint and a holy person.

Proverbs 3:5

• PLACES TO WORSHIP •

John 3:16

BLUEVALLEY 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/Holy Communion

CHRIST ANGLICAN CHURCH

Rector: Jim Murphy, 252-671-4011

464 US Hwy 64 east, Cashiers

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.

CLEAR CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Jim Kinard

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

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

Wednesdays - Supper at 6 p.m.

COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH

www.cbchighlands.com • 526-4685

3645 Cashiers Rd, Highlands, NC

Senior Pastor Gary Hewins

Sun.: 9:30am: Sunday School

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

10:45am: Worship Service

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

University

EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE INCARNATION

Rev. Bruce Walker • 526-2968

Sundays: Education for Adults, 9 a.m.

Holy Eucharist Rite II, (chapel), 10:30 a.m.

8 a.m., services and Healing services will resume in the spring.

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: 8:30a and 11 a.m.; School: 9:30

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

Wednesdays: Choir: 5:30p

GOLDMINE BAPTIST CHURCH

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

Sunday School: 10 am, Worship Service: 11 am

Bible Study: 6 pm

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HAMBURG BAPTIST CHURCH

Hwy 107N. • Glenville, 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, 6p.

Wednesday: Bible Study, 6:30p; Prayer Mtg., 7:30p.

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

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4224 Big Ridge Road (4.5 miles from NC 107)

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

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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.

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP

85 Sierra Drive • 828-524-6777

Sunday Worship - 11 a.m.

WHITESIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Rev. Sam Forrester/Cashiers

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Internet search sites are not created equal

By Wanda Klodosky
Landmark Realty Group

As much has changed since we last explored this subject, I'd like to present new information and opinions. Before approaching a REALTOR to view properties, aspiring real estate buyers often conduct online research. Even before attending their first showing, prospective buyers have the ability to take virtual tours, click through photographs, and get a notion of the market value of the properties that interest them. Real estate websites are valuable tools for consumer research; however, not all information is created equal. On the internet, there are no standards to safeguard accuracy. That's why in the real estate purchase process, it's important to critically evaluate the quality and credibility of the information gleaned from online content.

Two of the most influential online resources for potential real estate buyers include Realtor.com and Zillow Group (includes Trulia.com and Zillow.com).

When conducting online real estate research on these sites, consider the following:

- Can you determine how the

website obtained their information?

- Does this site have the credentials and qualifications to be an authority on the subject?

- Is there a sponsor or advertiser on the page? Could that sponsorship influence the credibility of the information?

- Is the information current?

So, how do these internet favorites rate on the quality and credibility tests?

Realtor.com

Fact: Longest Running website, publicly traded

Strength: Realtor.com, Move Inc.'s, leading product, has achieved a reputation of accuracy owed to its collaboration with the National Association of Realtors. This partnership permits Realtor.com to collect information directly from over 900 multiple listing services across the country. The information on Realtor.com is coming directly from the REALTORS that are listing the properties. By associating with a credible organization such as The National Association of Realtors, there is more certainty that the information is factual, current, and reliable. Realtor.com places accuracy as a priority above all else. On Realtor.com, the listings are updated

regularly to include the most recent listings and only properties that are currently on the market.

Weakness: Previously thought to be less user friendly than its counterparts, consumers complained in the past that Realtor.com is complicated to use and that the advertising on the sidebar creates confusion when trying to decipher whom to contact for further information on an individual listing. That being said, Realtor.com made an effort to position their branding in a way that better reflected their purpose. They revised their logo and launched a new site.

Verdict: In consideration of their commitment to accuracy, current data, affiliation with the National Association of Realtors, and the improvements made to allow for a more user friendly website, Realtor.com is an excellent go-to source for real estate research. They rate high on quality and credibility.

Zillow Group

History: Via a \$2.5 billion acquisition on February 17, 2015, Zillow, Inc. and Trulia, Inc. now operate as wholly owned subsidiaries of Zillow Group, Inc., which is

• See INVESTING page 14

The Democratic Party is Throwing a PARTY! It's a Precinct Meeting and more: Food, Fun & Caucus!

Saturday, March 5th, 5-9 p.m.

in the Hudson Library Back Room

Wine & hors d'oeuvres – 5p

Precinct Meeting – 5:30p

Dinner – 6:30p

CAUCUS – 7:30p

All are invited!

Bring a salad, appetizer or wine to share. Main dishes and dessert will be provided.

For more info, call 828-526-4594.



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Dinner Theatre
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Directed by Donna Cochran

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by Judith Pratt

Misfortune
by Mark Harvey Levine

Friday—Sunday, March 11, 12, 13
Friday—Sunday, March 18, 19, 20
Fridays & Saturdays at 6:15 p.m.
Sunday Matinees at 1:15 p.m.

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507 Chestnut Street
Highlands NC

TICKETS: 828-526-8084
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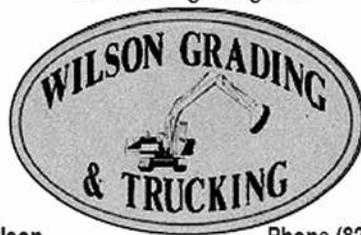
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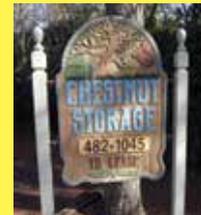
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...LANDSLIDES continued from page 1

landslide. It was the first county mapped by the NCGS after it got funding for the mapping. Jackson County was in the process of being mapped by the NCGS when the state landslide mapping program lost its funding.

Jackson County has contracted Appalachian Landslide Consultants, PLLC (ALC) – owned by native Highlander Jennifer Bryson Bauer and Stephen Fuemmeler – to map landslides and landslide prone areas throughout the county. Bauer and Fuemmeler are licensed geologists and will begin their field work this month.

Both were on the NCGS mapping team that mapped Macon County. When funding was cut, they started ALC and have been offering mapping services as a private firm.

“We’ve mapped a portion of Haywood County with funds from non-profit organizations. Jackson County is the first government entity to contract the mapping since the NCGS program was eliminated,” said Bauer.

“It is encouraging to see Jackson County step up and tackle this problem on their own. We hope other counties that don’t have landslide maps will follow their lead to get this important information to the people who live here in the mountains of Western NC,” says Stephen Fuemmeler. Jennifer Bauer adds, “The maps are a tool to help citizens become

more aware of landslides in the county and to make informed decisions when developing. When used properly, the maps will help people save money, save time, and maybe even save their lives.”

ALC will be driving many of the roads in the county looking for areas affected by landslides, both in the ancient past and from recent rains. They will be talking to landowners about any landslides they know about and asking permission to access property when needed. When they find landslides, they will collect data on the types of rocks, soil, and other slope characteristics that contributed to the landslide. This information will be used to help locate other areas that might be more prone to landslides in future heavy rain events.

ALC will also be assisting the Jackson County Emergency Management office with any landslide emergencies or safety concerns they have. Additionally, ALC will notify Jackson County EMS if they find any slope stability issues that they feel could pose an immediate threat to life or property.

Public outreach and education is also an important component of this project. ALC has produced a brochure with information about the project, the mapping products, and landslides in Jackson County, which they will hand out to landowners they meet. They will also be creating a User’s Guide for the landslide

inventory and susceptibility maps they produce. After the maps have been finalized, ALC will lead a workshop for interested users to learn how to use the online landslide map viewer.

The county is helping coordinate project stakeholders meetings with invited members who represent different sectors, regions, and organizations within Jackson County. The first of these meetings was held in January of this year. There are other community

meetings throughout the project to follow in the coming year. The final stakeholders and community meetings will be held in the spring of 2017.

ALC anticipates field work lasting until the end of this year, and then computer modelling lasting through spring of 2017. The project will be completed by June 30, 2017. Visit www.appalachian-landslide.com to learn more about landslides and landslide mapping.

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...INVESTING continued from page 11

comprised of four real estate brands: Zillow, Trulia, StreetEasy, and HotPads. The union of Zillow and Trulia is a nuptial between previous rivals. Together they form an online real estate force-complete with 2,000 employees. Zillow Group is publicly traded on the NASDAQ.

Strength: Zillow is well-liked by consumers because of its attractive and easy to use format. Both the property information and the mortgage calculators are popular. The search feature includes a variety of fil-

ters to narrow your search. The map displays red dots for all the properties listed in an area. Zillow features active listings of properties for sale as well as information on houses that are not currently on the market.

Weakness: A Zestimate is Zillow's automated property value estimate. According to Fortune, "Zillow has Zestimated the value of 57% of U.S. housing stock, but only 65% of that could be considered accurate." Zestimates are consistently quoted to REALTORS as measures of market value and that could

incant a major annoyance for the buyer, seller, and REALTOR, an annoyance that could be quite costly. Drastic Zestimate gaps are difficult to maneuver. For instance, if a house has a Zestimate of \$350,000 but the home is listed at \$450,000, a potential buyer will most likely cringe at the asking price and challenge its validity. Alternately, a seller might demand to know from their REALTOR why the suggested listing price is at \$595,000 if Zillow estimates that their property is worth \$685,000. The Washington Post states that nationwide Zillow has a "median error rate of about 8%". However, they go on to show specific areas with error rates as high as 42%.

Verdict: Due to the user friendliness of

Zillow Group's websites, Zillow is a nice point of departure down the path of real estate research...just to get an idea of what is available on the market. Think of it as your online "Real Estate Wish Book". What about the Zestimates? The best bet is to delegate serious pricing discussion to the established experts on real estate values- experienced local REALTORS.

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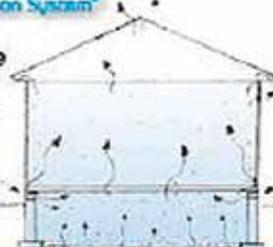
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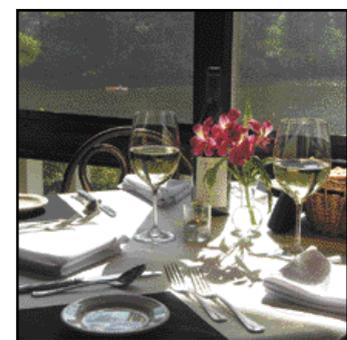
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