

Highlands Newspaper

FREE every Thursday

Volume 10, Number 22

Internet PDF Version at www.HighlandsNewspaperPDF.com

Thursday, May 31, 2012

Friday, June 1

• At The Center for Plastic Surgery, "Healthy Skin Open House and Jane Iredale Mineral Make-up Consultation, 10a to 4 p. 20% off Obagi and Jane Iredale products.

• B.E.A.R. Talks Program Series "Bears in Your Neighborhood." 7 pm at the Hudson Library. Free program presented by Bear Education and Resources.

Saturday, June 2

• Highlands Farmers Market at Highlands School from 9a to noon.

• Community Support Agriculture (CSA) begins in Cashiers and Highlands at their tailgate and farmers market. Pick up your box of fruits and vegetables at the events each Saturday from 9a to noon. All items are produced locally. To become a CSA member and receive a box of vegetables and herbs each week, email bearfootgrandonna@yahoo.com.

• USFS Kids Fishing Day at Cliffside Lake from 9a-noon. It's free but adults must accompany children 13 and younger.

• Audubon field trip to Tessentee Farms features observing and assisting in bird banding. Assemble at 7:30 am in Highlands Town Hall parking lot to carpool to Otto. Beginners and children are welcome. 828-743-9670 or www.highlandsaudubonsociety.org.

Sun. & Mon., June 3-4

• AUDITIONS for the Highlands-Cashiers Players' play, "The Fox on the Fairway," will be held on Sunday at 3 p.m., and Monday at 5:30 p.m. at the Performing Arts Center in Highlands. Call Tanji Armor, 526-9227.

Sunday, June 3

• At First Presbyterian, a free faculty showcase concert at 2 pm on Sunday in the church sanctuary.

Wednesday, June 6

• Children/Family Movie at The Hudson Library at 3:30 p.m. Babe.

1.1-mile portion of 'Gorge Road' to be closed 3-5 days in June

When it comes to getting up to, out of and around Highlands, it's all about roads.

The big road story last week was that a portion of the 14.4-mile

stretch of US 64 west between Walnut Creek and NC 106 in Highlands would be closed for repaving beginning June and ending early August in time for

school.

Luckily, that's not the case.

The NC Dept. of Transportation representatives say they don't

• See ROAD page 16

Town and Playhouse working on temporary agreement

After a 1 ½ hour meeting last Wednesday between the Town Board and the Playhouse Board, the relationship is as murky as ever.

Each side spoke passionately about what it needed from the other while tiptoeing around the real issue, which is that each side wants it their way.

Basically, if the town is going to use taxpayer money to repair the building and bring it up to code, then the Town Board wants the Playhouse to be open to other entities when it's not being used for Playhouse productions.

"Its value to the town is as a performing arts venue not as a storage unit," said Commissioner Amy Patterson.

• See PLAYHOUSE page 10

Living with Bears



On Friday, June 1 the B.E.A.R. Talks Program Series "Bears in Your Neighborhood" begins at 7 pm at the Hudson Library. This free program is presented by Bear Education and Resources. Lynn and Bud Katz in Cold Springs, snapped this shot of a mama watching her three cubs frolick in their yard.

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2012-'13 draft budget sets electric rate hike at 6% Jan. 2012

On Thursday, May 31, Town Manager Bob Frye presented a draft of the proposed FY 2012-'13 budget to commissioners during a special called meeting.

The good news is the town will pay 100% coverage for both employees and their dependents. The bad news is electric rates are set to increase another 6% Jan. 1, 2013.

In addition, there will be a 15% increase in sanitation fees effective July 1, 2012 and a 20% increase in sewer use fees effective July 1, 2012.

Though there had been some talk earlier about raising the Ad Valorem tax to raise revenue rather than raising electric rates, Frye is proposing no increase for taxes. As per the draft budget, the rate will still be .135 per \$100 valuation.

However, the Highlands Fire District Ad Valorem tax rate is proposed to increase from .009 per \$100 to .010 per \$100 valuation.

Concerning employee/dependent insurance coverage,

• See BUDGET page 18

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• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• LETTERS •

Obama? Really?

Dear Editor,

Karen Hawk's cartoon in the May 17 edition of Highlands Newspaper was not a depiction or suggestion of Obama or anyone else. It was clearly an evolution-based drawing and not a caricature. It was suggestive of human de-evolution. I'm surprised at Fred Woodridge's mis-interpretation.

Jennifer Royce
Highlands

Why a new Post Office?

Dear Editor,

I never agree with Fred Wooldridge on anything but today? Oh, yes. Why, why, why a new post office? This thing has been 'the big elephant' in the room from inception and finally a great and bold statement by you. Of course, unfortunately it is too late. Well, when the USPS goes under, we will have a nice building with which to do something!

Hope your next article will explain the pro post office reasoning. I can not find anyone who can explain it!

Roder Macaulay
Highlands

'Old' Highlands is long gone

Dear Editor:

I have followed with great interest the articles in the Highlands newspapers this year. It is quite amusing to read all the talk of how we should keep Highlands the same quaint and picturesque little town it has always been.

Well my friends, that boat sailed a long time ago.

I have always loved Highlands and will do so until I am buried up there. That being said, I no longer consider it anywhere close to the quaint little town it used to be. Highlands has become the playground of the very wealthy.

I have watched over the years all the changes to Highlands and can truthfully

• HAWK'S EYE VIEW •



LETTERS-TO-THE EDITOR-POLICY

We reserve the right to reject or edit submissions.

NO ANONYMOUS LETTERS WILL BE ACCEPTED.

Views expressed are not necessarily those of Highlands' Newspaper.
Please EMAIL letters by Sunday at 5 p.m. There is a 500-word limit without prior approval.

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say that they have not always been for the better. Pretty much all activities that young people used to enjoy are no longer available. Things like Bill's Soda Shop with their wonderful ice cream sodas and pinball machines, Helen's Barn on Friday and Saturday nights, the Putt-Putt golf course where I spent many an evening challenging my friends and family to a game. The Galax Theater was a favorite place to meet friends and enjoy a movie. Last but not least, my favorite place in the world, Crane's Stables. All of these activities were affordable for everyone.

I don't know about all the local folks in Highlands since I am what most Highlanders call "Summer Folk" but I can't afford to shop in the new shops in Highlands. I used to do my shopping at People's Department Store, the 5 and 10 on the hill, and bought T-Shirts for my friends at the local T-Shirt shops.

I now have to resort to driving to Clayton or Franklin for my everyday shopping. I also have to drive down the gorge road to view a movie, many times on dark, foggy nights. I would always be a nervous wreck until my daughter got home from an evening movie with her friends.

In a very short time, I am hoping to retire to my family's home in Highlands. God blessed me with Great Grandparents that had the foresight to build their summer home in Highlands 112 years ago. It has become my own personal slice of heaven.

My greatest wish would be for the ladies and gentlemen controlling the future of the Town of Highlands to remember that Highlands should be a wonderful place for all individuals. Please keep it a place where everyone has affordable places to live, shop and enjoy. Highlands was built on the backs of down-to-earth mountaineers and Old Guard summer folk that came for campouts, picnics, horseback riding and just plain fun in a wonderful setting. They didn't need expensive shops or high priced restaurants to do that. I would love for my granddaughters to want to visit Grandma and Pop Pop for the summer in Highlands as I did when I was a child. Hopefully, there will be something for them to do that I can afford.

Suzy Foley Jackson
West Columbia, SC
•See LETTERS page 9

Vernon Hugh Phillips, Sr.

Vernon Hugh Phillips, Sr., age 95, of Highlands, NC died Wednesday, May 23, 2012 in the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. He was born in Russell County, AL, the son of the late Kimbro and Alma Farmer Phillips. He is preceded in death by his parents, an older brother, Cyril Phillips, a daughter, Gloria Elizabeth Phillips Patton, a son, Vernon Hugh Phillips, Jr., and a grandson, James Michael Patton. He was a US Army Veteran of WWII. He was married to Winnie Lou Casey Phillips who passed away February 12, 2002. He was a master welder for the Plumber & Pipe Fitters Union and was a member of the Methodist Church. He was a former Mason and his favorite thing in life was vegetable gardening, grandchildren and (chocolate).

He is survived by his daughter, Patricia Zoellner of Highlands, NC; a daughter-in-law, Monthian Phillips of Thailand; his son, Richard Phillips and his wife Mary Ellen of Hampshire, IL; grandchildren, Susan Patton Morrison, Cindy Patton, Diane Patton Wolf, David Hugh Patton, Cindy Zoellner, Carl Zoellner, Victoria Phillips, Helena Phillips and Huck Phillips, great-grandchildren, Terry Wolf, Christopher Morrison, Julia Morrison, Sarah Patton and Justine Patton; one great-great-grandchild, Ciara Wolf.

Funeral services were held Saturday, May 26, 2012 at Bryant-Grant Funeral Home in Highlands. Burial was held at Highlands Memorial Park next to his wife, Winnie Lou.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that memorials be made to: Fidelia-Eckerd Living Center, PO Box 190, Highlands, NC 28741 or First Baptist Church, PO Box 625, Highlands, NC 28741.

Bryant-Grant Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Janice M. Chisholm

Mrs. Janice M. Chisholm, age 68, of Cashiers NC, died Saturday, May 26, 2012 surrounded by her family. She was born in Only TN, the daughter of the late Ray M.

McClanahan and Mildred Harvill McClanahan. She was preceded in death by her parents; her brother John Ervin McClanahan and a son Mark Alan Chisholm.

Mrs. Chisholm was a graduate of the University of Tennessee at Martin, where she was a charter member of the Delta Upsilon chapter of Alpha Delta Pi. She enjoyed her years of teaching in the Cobb County, GA, School System. She was an active member of

•See OBITUARIES page 9



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• LAUGHING AT LIFE •

Fukushima U

Things are not going well at Fukushima University in Fukushima, Japan. Students are scurrying about with radiation SOEKS dosimeters on their hips. You'll find these meters attached right next to their I-Pads which are attached right next to their cameras that are attached right next to an oversized roll of toilet paper. (I'll explain to-

let paper later.) Of course Fukushima, Japan is where Mother Nature decided to show us the real meaning of pollution and struck Earth with a damaging blow to our planet's environment, toppling nuclear plants with a giant earthquake and sending radioactive isotopes into the air, polluting everything, including Toyotas and broccoli chicken with noodles, pronounced "nu-doe." Well, so much for so-called "clean energy." Are you aware isotopes are variants of a particular chemical element?



with Fred Wooldridge
Feedback is encouraged!
askfredanything@aol.com

While all isotopes of a given element share the same number of protons, not to be confused with the croutons in your salad, each isotope differs from the others in the number of neutrons, not to be confused with peons who work for outrageously low salaries. Are you keeping up?

The term "isotope" is formed from the Greek roots isos and topos, hence: "the same place," meaning that different isotopes of a single element occupy the same position on the periodic

table. (I'm sure you already knew that.) The number of protons within the atom's nucleus uniquely identifies an element, but a given element may, in principle, have any number of neutrons. (I'm sure you didn't know that.) The number of nucleons, protons, not croutons or peons, plus neutrons in the nucleus is the mass number and each isotope of a given element has a different mass number. Are you writing this down and are you wondering when I'll tie in the toilet paper angle. Ha, read on.

Just when you thought things couldn't get worse for Fukushima, it did.

• See WOOLDRIDGE page 15

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• THE VIEW FROM HERE •

Our dreams are not their dreams

It didn't seem so bad last year when Bull was finishing middle school. Maybe I suppressed it. They said high school would be a leap in complexity. It doesn't help that Lizzie and I are part of a network of nervous parents who still harbor dreams of their kids ending up at Harvard, or at least Duke. If what they say is true, ninth grade is a make or break year for those aspiring to elite universities.

Bull doesn't seem concerned even though we've explained it well past the point of mutual frustration. We actually stopped explaining months ago, and since then have been harping endlessly. I've reached the conclusion that it doesn't to any good. Some kids just aren't very motivated at this age



Dr. Henry Salzarulo

Feedback is encouraged.

email:
hsalzarulo@aol.com

and, seemingly no threat, warning, or bribe makes the least difference.

My brother was like that. He had no interest in life beyond being with Sharon Stolle, who was a cute girl, but no ticket to Harvard. At Dad's insistence, he enrolled in engineering, a subject in which he had neither interest nor aptitude. After one lack luster year he transferred to Indiana University School of business. He graduated with decent grades, went to Naval Officer Candidate School, and served his time. When he finished his time he used the GI bill to go to graduate school. He never looked back. He finished a master's degree and immediately enrolled in a PhD program. He took a job as a junior instructor and quickly advanced. He made tenured full professor in the minimum possible time and became widely known and respected as an expert in tax accounting. When a major accounting firm endowed a chair of accounting at Miami University, Pete was the first to occupy it. He was a wonderful and self effacing teacher. When I commented on the outstanding success of his graduates, he shrugged and said, "We get pretty smart kids. If we don't screw them up to bad, they do fine."

Nobody screwed up Pete. Mom and Dad ranted for a little while, but lacked our endurance and quickly accepted his mediocrity. Maybe they just gave up. I think it's just as likely they realized that if he was to achieve a measure of greatness, he had to do it on his own. Some kids respond to threats, guilt, or the promise of a new Jeep at graduation. Pete wasn't one of them. Neither is Bull.

We'll get through final week. Grades will be neither as good as we'd dreamed or as bad as we'd feared. Per-

• See SALZARULO page 15



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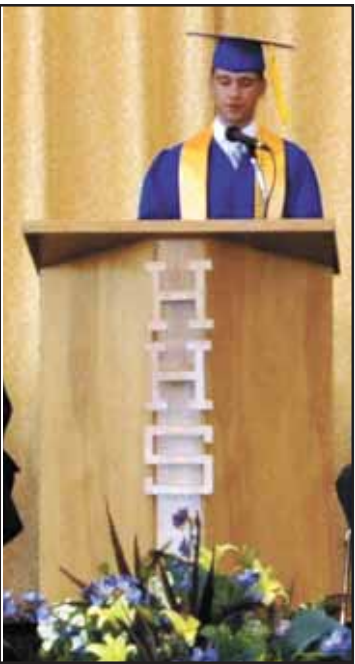
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– Highlands School Graduation – May 26, 2012 –



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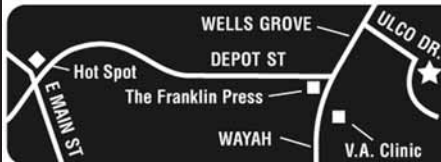
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• COACH'S CORNER •

Spurs formula tweaked, but just as potent

I have to admit that I am guilty when it comes to the San Antonio Spurs. For someone who prides himself on being connected to the sports world and really paying attention to things, (entirely TOO much attention if you were to ask my wife) I completely did not see this Spurs team coming. I was like most of America, I thought that this was the same Spurs team that looked old last year when they got beat by Memphis in the first round. After all, they still feature the same trio of Tim Duncan, Manu Ginobili and Tony Parker from seven years ago when they last won a title-the same trio that has a combined 34 years of NBA experience.

Duncan is so old that he Gregg Popovich actually rested him on several occasions this year and wrote on the scorecard DNP-Old. Ginobili is so old that the bald spot on the back of his head can be seen from the cheap seats. How could this team win 20 straight games and be 10-0 in the playoffs?

The answer lies within an infusion of youth at key positions, particularly with Kawhi Leonard, Danny Green, TiaGo Splitter and Gary Neal, but ultimately the credit must go to both Gregg Popovich and the ageless Duncan.

The man that everyone in the league knows as "Pop" has built one of the great coaching resumes in NBA history, and his system is so effective because of the way that his aging trio sets the tone for the rest of the team.

At the heart of it all is Duncan, who quarterbacks the defense like a middle linebacker and who shares a brain with his coach on the court. If Duncan is the conductor for Pop's orchestra, then Tony Parker is the engine that powers it-knifing through the lane off of ball screens and making the correct decision every single time.

Ginobili provides a little flash and flare to a team that lacks bells and whistles-but the beauty of Manu is that he has a sense of when to shine and when to let Duncan and Parker do their thing.

Pop's Spurs don't blind you with raw athleticism like Oklahoma City,



Ryan Potts
tryanpotts@hotmail.com

and they don't brutalize you defensively like Miami....instead, they win with a cold and ruthless efficiency.

As a coach it is a joy to watch-the impeccable spacing, the way that all five players work together flawlessly. The orchestra is an apt comparison-because while one instrument can be beautiful, and a duo or trio can sound amazing-there is nothing that sounds like a full orchestra playing together, and that harmony is ultimately why San Antonio will be your NBA champion for the 5th time.

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• CONSERVATIVE POV

A tale of two cities

It's still semi dark here. It's six o'clock, which seems to have become the appointed time of my arising. The Inter-coastal is as smooth as glass. The only sound to be heard is the chirping of invisible birds welcoming the coming day. The streetlights are still on, casting their amber glow as points of light through the wooded areas of mid-Miami Beach.

As I sit on the veranda on the 16th floor of my son's new condo, facing west, I see the sun starting to overshadow the streetlights. The Miami skyline comes into view and MIA begins the day, shooting their silver bullets into the morning sky. The traffic on the road on the other side of the building starts its daily hum.

The surface of the watery glass below me is broken by several one-man rowing skulls, in irregular formation, spearing their way up the river. Some dude standing up in a tiny one person powerboat, armed with a muted bullhorn, is giving instructions to the rowers, who appear to be following his commands.

The first sound of sirens breaks the morning's relative quiet. I can see a fire truck wending its way up Indian River Trail at a very slow rate (I understand the street is peppered with speed bumps), sirens on intermittently much to the displeasure of the still sleeping residents, I'm sure. I don't know if they ever got to the place of the need, if any. Maybe he was just a big, red mobile alarm clock.

It's now seven, morning has broken, but not a creature is visibly stirring across the creek in Miami Beach proper. La Gorce golf course spreads itself through the lovely residences of the glamorous neighborhood where my son lived for the last 14 years. The serenity here, with the exception of the wake-up call, is therapeutic.

The valet brings our car around and we join the colony of traffic ants. Stops and starts ensue as we try to figure out the best way to get where we are going. We drive past the Miami Beach Convention Center and see an immense banner across the front of the building letting us know that EXXXOTICA is having a three-day run. I have no idea what an EXXXOTICA performance consists of, and my son advises that we don't want to know.



**Don Swanson
Feedback is
encouraged.
Email**

swanson@dnet.net

This upcoming Memorial Day Weekend promises to be an exciting one on the Beach, which hosts Urban Beach Weekend. South Beach is home to the 13th Annual Urban Beach Week 2012 during the Memorial Day weekend. What exactly is Urban Beach Week? The Urban Beach Week is the largest Urban Festival in the world that caters toward the Hip Hop Generation from 21 and over. Around 300,000-350,000 participants will make the annual trek to

South Beach for four days full of fun, food, festivities, entertainment, music and more. Sounds just peachy doesn't it?

On the other hand, Miami Beach officials have been planning since last year, working on a more extensive plan to handle crowds, traffic and disorderly behavior. Last year's weekend ended badly with a police-involved shootout with several people hurt and one man killed in the middle of the street. There goes the neighborhood.

"It's more like 20 per cent of the arrests are out-of-towners, 80 to 85 per cent are actually Dade and Broward and Palm Beach. Ninety-five per cent of the guns we take off the street are from Miami-Dade, Broward and Palm Beach," said Sgt. Bobby Hernandez of the Miami Beach Police.

From Local10.com: "A reported arrest quota for Memorial Day weekend is causing anger and concern among community activists and union officers on Miami Beach. Rumors of the quota, which allegedly calls for 2000 people to be arrested over the holiday weekend, first came to light in an email complaint from the officers' union. In that email, the officers' union called the quota "aggressive, patently unfair, and unjust." It sounds like more fun all the time.

In a matter that I consider related, the headline on the Local & State section of the Miami Herald of May 20th reads: "Half 9th-, 10th-graders fail reading." It continues: "Only about half of Miami-Dade and Broward County ninth graders performed at their grade level on the FCAT 2.0 reading exam – on par with the rest of the state – according to results re-

• See SWANSON page 15

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... OBITUARIES continued from page 3

Cashiers United Methodist Church.

She is survived by her husband of 47 years Tommy Chisholm; one daughter, Andrea Stover and husband Tripp of Mechanicsville VA; two sons, Stephen Thomas Chisholm of Fort Collins, CO and Patrick Ervin Chisholm of Bainbridge GA.; two grand-children Avery Stover and Garnett Stover of Mechanicsville VA.

A memorial service was held at the Cashiers United Methodist Church Wednesday, May 30, 2012. Memorial donations can be made to the Emory Transplant Center. Bryant-Grant Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Hester Hedden Keener

Hester Hedden Keener, age 74, of Destin, FL formerly of Highlands, NC died Sunday, May 27, 2012. She was born May 24, 1938 in Gneiss, NC, to the late Quince and Emma Stewart Hedden. She was preceded in death by a son, Terry Dean a daughter, Renee' Gwen, and a brother, Dwight Quincy Hedden. She was a loving mother, grandmother, great-grandmother and sister. She spent many years in both Highlands and Destin working in real estate sales and home construction industries. Her greatest enjoyment came from spending time with her family and hand-crafting many beautiful quilts.

She is survived by a son, Don and wife Nancy of Destin, FL; three granddaughters, Brandy Keener Highsmith of Atlanta, Georgia, Kalee Renee' Keener and Paige Marion Keener of Destin, FL; one great-grandson, Simeon Highsmith of Atlanta, Georgia. Her sisters, Barbara Ledford of Franklin, NC, June Hedden of Lilburn, GA, Mary Keener of Highlands, NC, Shelba McFarland of Virginia Beach, VA, Helen Justice of Hendersonville, NC, Alice Lee of Powell, TN and Hope Calloway of Cullowhee, NC.

Funeral services will be held Saturday, June 2, 2012 at 2 pm at Yellow Mountain Baptist Church, with Rev. Andy Cloer and Rev. Keith Ashe officiating. Burial will be in Stewart Cemetery. Nephews will serve as pallbearers. The family will receive friends from 1-2 pm Saturday, one hour prior to the service at the Church.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Stewart Cemetery Fund. c/o Carl Stewart, 3295 Yellow Mtn. Rd., Cullowhee, NC 28723. Bryant-Grant Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

... LETTERS continued from page 2

Nature Center Trustees & friends

It has come to my attention that there is a proposal on the docket for the June 2nd board meeting at the Highlands Nature Center, to hire a landscape designer.

It is my desire to impress those who are voting on this issue with the fact that there are numerous people who frequent the gardens regularly who love it as it is in it's "apparently" natural state.

With humans to gently and minimally enhance and tend, Nature in Highlands does a great job of creating tranquil beauty. This is Highlands...land of diverse abundance and the Nature Center Gardens currently exemplify that beautifully. You have a unique gem here as it is.

It stands to reason that if you hire a man known for his formal garden designs, that, or something that tends in that direction, is what you will get. And though I'm sure they are lovely in Atlanta, what we want here (we and the salamanders) is what Nature, slightly embellished, has created which is magical, unique and the delight of many a person I have introduced to the gardens.

Why this is even being considered?
Sarah Harkins, Highlands



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... **PLAYHOUSE** continued from page 1

Artistic Director DV Caitlyn, said there are problems with sharing the venue, and if sharing becomes a reality details concerning the use of Playhouse-owned lighting and sound apparatus and even the box office would have to be worked out.

"We can't come in May and have everything be disorganized," he said.

Commissioner Patterson said that nothing is insurmountable and that the idea of various groups using the venue throughout the year is doable if it is managed properly.

"Just like the [Martin-Lipscomb] Performing Arts Center," she said. "We don't want to take away your traditional season, but the rest of the year would be an opportunity for other people to come in and use it. The Playhouse is better venue for certain types of performances."

She also said Highlands is a different community than it was 40 years ago when the Playhouse was it. "There are a lot more groups who should be able to use the Playhouse."

Currently, the Playhouse rents the building for \$1 a year and is responsible for repairs, maintenance and utilities.

However, being open for business only four months during the year, means making enough money to stay afloat – make repairs, pay performers, staff and utilities – pretty much impossible. Consequently, when it came to repairs, a piecemeal approach has been the norm year after year, many times with the town coming to the rescue.

In FY2011-12, the town has invested \$114,000 in electrical, roof, and HVAC repairs – money that wasn't budgeted – and that makes Town Manager Bob Frye very uncomfortable.

"Since January 2012, we have had a never-ending series of money requests (not

just from the Playhouse) that have come out of no where," said Town Manager Bob Frye. "I need to be a good steward of public's money. I'm not saying what you're doing isn't important, but we need a budget plan. I need to know what you need so we can budget five years out to eventually get this building in the condition it needs to be in."

Still, based on responses, it's clear that the Playhouse board would prefer to be the board in charge of what goes on in the Playhouse.

"But what you have now is a rundown place," said Patterson. "So you can't use the scenario you've used in the past as a model because what you've been doing isn't working."

Bringing up the past was a point of contention with the Playhouse Board, but the past is the foundation on which the "relationship" between the two entities has been built – a relationship that has often been tepid.

The Town Board is split on how to approach the agreement with The Playhouse.

• See PLAYHOUSE page 11

Dr. Joseph H. Wilbanks, D.D.S.

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... PLAYHOUSE continued from page 10

Some members, like Commissioner Patterson, want to support the arts in Highlands by providing the buildings, paying for repairs, paying utilities and opening up the venues to other groups when the parent group of each facility isn't using it.

"We should support the arts and their venues but that means the venues need to be open to all," she said. "We should support the performing arts like we do recreation. Neither can make enough money to be self-sufficient."

Some members, like Commissioner John Dotson, want a landlord/tenant situation where the Playhouse pays rent (an amount to be determined) so it is incumbent upon the Playhouse to have control of its destiny.

"To meet expenses, you can lease it out – whatever you want to do," he said. "You have control over who comes in." And that would mean a Playhouse person running the lights and sound equipment.

But Commissioner Patterson said the landlord/tenant situation between the town and the Playhouse hasn't worked in the past when rent was only \$1.

Caitlyn reiterated what board members have said over the years; that opening the venue to others is sticky because "the content of performances is a reflection on the Playhouse."

Patterson said it might be time to separate the Playhouse building, from The Playhouse company.

Mayor David Wilkes said a temporary agreement should be drawn up whereby the Playhouse has the venue for its traditional 3-4 month timeframe with other groups allowed to use it the rest of the time. "Your block of time is yours. If you can come up with a 12-month schedule,

then that's your timeframe. But realistically, that's 1 ½ years away."

With the recent \$100,000 donation by Horst and Margaret Winkler – money they earmarked for winterization – the possibility of a year-round facility is a real one. Working around the Playhouse's current schedule, it will take about 1 ½ to complete the work.

Wilkes went on to say the Playhouse can't afford to pay rent anymore than PAC can. "You are the primary tenant right now. If you schedule something every month, great. But until you reach that point, then the town should be able to look to the community to fill the spaces. We don't want to lock up a 12-month period for a 3 ½ months and two functions in November and December. Lacking a program, the town should be able to use the building. I see this as a way to support the arts."

But now Caitlyn has the opportunity to schedule a 12-month program, said board member Wanda Drake.

"You gauge the health of a community by its arts," said Caitlyn. "You now have the opportunity that a lot of other towns in North Carolina don't have. You'll have a year-round magnet that is professional theater in the mountains of North Carolina."

The town has hired a project manager to oversee the maintenance, repairs and renovation of all its buildings and the town will be the General Contractor when work needs to be done.

From an operational standpoint, Frye wants the Winkler money to be a line item in the upcoming FY2012-13 budget so he can manage the funds used

• See PLAYHOUSE page 14

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SAT. OCT 6, 10AM - 5PM

Foxfire Mountaineer Festival

WWW.FOXFIREMOUNTAINEER.ORG

SAT. OCT 27, 10AM - 1PM

Halloween Hay Day

SAT. OCT 27, 1PM

Halloween Trick or Treat

Main Street, Clayton

SAT. NOV. 17, 5PM-7PM

Festival of Trees Preview Party

Rabun County Civic Center

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THURS. NOV 22, 8AM

Clayton Clucker's Turkey Trot

FRI. NOV 23, 5PM - 8PM

Christmas in Clayton

FRI. NOV 23, 11AM-6PM &

SAT. NOV 24, 10AM-5PM

Holiday Shopping Extravaganza and
Festival of Trees

Rabun County Civic Center

WWW.RABUNCIVICCENTER.COM

SAT. DEC 1, 5PM

Christmas Parade

Main Street, Clayton

WWW.GAMOUNTAINS.COM

• Registration is now open for the 2012 summer nature day camps at the Highlands Nature Center. Five different camps are offered: "WOW! - a World of Wonder" (ages 4-6), "Amazing Animals" (ages 7-10), "NatureWorks" (ages 8-11), "Mountain Explorers" (ages 10-13), and "Junior Ecologists" (ages 11-14). Most camps are offered more than once during the summer. Sessions run from Tuesday to Friday each week. For complete schedules, costs, and other information, please call 828-526-2623 or visit www.wcu.edu/hbs.

Mon., Wed., Fri.

• Heart Healthy Exercise Class at the Rec Park. 8:30-9:30 a.m. \$20/month.

• Step Aerobics with Tina Rogers at the Rec Park, 8-9 a.m. \$10 per class or \$40 a month.

• Zumba at the Rec Park, 9:05a-10a. \$5 per calss. First class free. Call Mary Barbour for Franklin schedule: 828-342-2498.

Mondays

• Mountain View Group of Alcoholics Anonymous will be held in the Faith and Fellowship Center of First Presbyterian Church. Enter via the entrance on 5th St. and proceed a few steps down to the library.

Tuesdays

• Highlands Rotary Club meets at noon at the Highlands Conference Center at noon.

• Closed AA Women's meeting, 5:30 p.m. at the Presbyterian Church at Fifth and Main streets.

Wednesdays

• The Highlands Mountaintop Rotary meets at 7:30 a.m. in the dining room at the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. Enter the hospital in the main or emergency entrance and follow the signs downstairs. Visitors are welcome. Meetings end at 8:30 am.

• Men's interdenominational Bible Study at 8:30 a.m. at First Baptist Church.

• The Homegrown Buds, a homeschool 4-H club, meets at noon at the Macon County Library on Siler Road in Franklin at 1 p.m.

Wednesdays & Fridays

• Open AA meeting at noon at the Presbyterian Church at Fifth and Main streets.

Thursdays

• Al-Anon meeting, noon at the Episcopal Church on Main and Fifth streets.

• The Highlands Writers Group meets at 1 p.m. at the Hudson Library on Thursdays. Call Anne Doggett at 526 8009.

• Free Dinner at the Cashiers Community Center from 5-7 p.m. Mostly organic, healthy food. Donations accepted. Call 743-5706 for more information. Volunteers needed!

Saturdays

• The Highlands Farmers Market 9am-12 through October.

• The Art Room, 45 East Main St. in Franklin is having free Make & Take Classes from 10am to 12:30. Come make a Card...Ages 15 and up please! Call Dianne 828-349-3777 or Robin 828-421-9891.

Bascom Community Knitters welcome all knitters, crocheters, smockers and needlepointers to join us on the Terrace at the Bascom. 10 until noon. From now until Thanksgiving! Come and knit or come and watch. mscarolray@yahoo.com

Every Third Saturday

• The Highlands Memorial Post #370 of the American Legion meets at the Shortoff Baptist Church. Breakfast is at 9 am. Meeting is at 10 a.m. All veterans are invited to attend.

Through June 6

• Before and Again Tee Shirt Trunk Show at Bungalow Boutique. 15 Flashpoint Drive in Cashiers (Behind Cornucopia Restaurant.)

Friday, June 1

• At The Center for Plastic Surgery, "Healthy Skin Open House and Jane Iredale Mineral Make-up Consultation, 10a to 4 p. 20% off Obagi and Jane Iredale products.

• B.E.A.R. Talks Program Series "Bears in Your Neighborhood." 7 pm

at the Hudson Library. Free program presented by Bear Education and Resources. Task Force of the Western North Carolina Alliance

Saturday, June 2

• Highlands Road Race 8 a.m. at the Rec Park.

• Chivaree Southern Art & Design opening 3-8:30 p.m. #8 Cashiers Commons Shopping Center next to Zoller's on Hwy 107 N. Live woodturning, food, drink and music.

• This Audubon field trip to Tessentee Farms features observing and assisting in bird banding. The opportunity to see birds up close should not be missed! Assemble at 7:30 am in Highlands Town Hall parking lot to carpool to Otto. Beginners and children are welcome. 828-743-9670 or www.highlandsaudubonsociety.org.

Sunday & Monday, June 3-4

• AUDITIONS for the Highlands Cashiers Players' play, The Fox on the Fairway, will be held on Sunday, June 3, 3 p.m., and Monday, June 4, 5:30 p.m. at the Performing Arts Center in Highlands. There are parts for one young man, two older men, one young woman, and two older women. Rehearsals will be held in July and August; performance dates are August 22-26 and August 30-September 2. The play is a wild-and-crazy comedy by Ken Ludwig, master of modern farce. Scripts may be read in the Hudson Library in Highlands, the Cashiers Library, or by special arrangement with the director, Tanji Armor, 526-9227.

Sunday, June 3

• At First Presbyterian, a faculty showcase concert at 2pm on Sunday, June 3. The concert will take place in the church sanctuary. Everyone is cordially invited to come and enjoy this concert. First Presbyterian Church is located at the corner of Main and Fifth Streets. Handicap entrances are located on Church Street and on Fifth Street.

• The High Mountain Squares will be having a special "WATERMELON DANCE" on Sunday at the Macon County Recreation Park Pavilion from 2-5p. The callers are Ken Perkins from Pelzer, SC and Tom Pustinger from Spartansburg, SC. We dance Western Style Square Dancing, main/stream and plus levels. A picnic will be furnished at the dance. Everyone is welcome, so come in casual clothes and enjoy the food and dancing. Call 828-349-0905.

Starting Tuesday, June 5

• The local Audubon society will have a birding exhibit on display at the Hudson Library in Highlands which will extend through the end of June. Residents and visitors are welcome to come see this display which tells why our area of North Carolina has the distinct title of being an Audubon Important Bird Area (IBA).

Tuesday, June 5

• The Plateau Fly Fishing club kicks off its 11th season on Tuesday at the Albert Carlton Library in Cashiers. The meeting begins at 7 PM and ill feature speaker Nathan Chapman, guide and master flyrod builder, specializing in custom fiberglass rods. Prior to the meeting, Nathan will conduct a casting clinic at the pond behind the library. Everyone is welcome. Call 828-885-7130 for additional information.

Wednesday, June 6

• Children/Family Movie at The Hudson Library at 3:30 p.m. Babe.

Thursday, June 7

• Join Audubon members and others at the Highlands Nature Center for the annual Owl Prowl at 7 pm. Program and prowling for owls is being presented by the Raptor Rehab Center, with co-sponsors, Highlands Nature Center and Highlands Plateau Audubon Society. Children welcome.

Friday & Saturday, June 8-9

• Farms and Flowers Garden Tour to benefit R.E.A.C.H. of Macon County. 10 a.m. to 4 pm. Tour transportation begins either at the First United Methodist Church, 66 Harrison Ave., or Swiftwater Farm 5500 Tessentee Road. Adults \$25 in advance, \$30 at the door. Children under 12 \$5. For more information or to purchase tickets visit REACHofMaconCounty.org.

Saturday, June 9

• Kick off the season with Family Fund Day at The Bascom on

Highlands Area Upcoming Events

PULL OUT

Saturday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Join us for a day of exploration, creativity and art including a scavenger hunt, fun facts about The Bascom Nature Trail presentations and self-guided birding activities. Plus as an extra treat, local youth bank Heed the Warning will perform!

- The Highlands Plateau Greenway is sponsoring the first ever hike of the newly completed trail. The hike will include: lunch, guided hike, shuttle and one year individual greenway membership all for \$25. The food cost and shuttle gas is being covered by a grant from the Cullasaja Women's Outreach. The basic hike will be from Mirror Lake, through the Rec Park, up the Kelsey Trail, over Big Bear Pen, through the Highlands Biological Station, ending on Sunset Rock. We may be surprised along the way by several historic figures. To sign up please send an email to Hillrie Quin at hmquin@frontier.com or call 526-2385.

- Swiftwater Farm will be location of the second annual Farms and Flowers for Families Garden Tour benefitting REACH of Macon County on Friday June 8 and Saturday June 9 from 10 am until 4pm. Swiftwater Farms in south Franklin is a 150 acre estate with something for everyone. Tickets are \$25 in advance and \$30 at the door, \$10 for children. Tickets can be purchased at Treasures for REACH or by visiting the website ReachofMaconCounty.org

Monday, June 11

- Dr. Paul Cabiran, Board Certified Dermatologist, will present a program on the major types of skin cancer, risk factors, treatment and prevention entitled "Skin Cancer Answers," Monday at 12 noon, HCH Campus Jane Woodruff Clinic, First Level Classroom 103. A complimentary box lunch will be provided. Reservations are necessary. 828-526-1313.

Wednesday, June 13

- At the 5 p.m. Sapphire Community Center Bear & BBQ at 5 p.m. Bear Stories and Photography with Bill Lea

Thursday, June 14-Sunday, July 8

- At The Highlands Playhouse, The Spitfire Grill. Call 828-526-2695 for ticket information.

Thursday, June 14

- Annual Highlands School Scholarship Golf Tournament at Wildcat Cliffs Country Club. The event kicks off at 7:30 a.m. for breakfast and use of the driving range and practice green. A 9 a.m. shotgun start followed by cocktails, lunch and an awards ceremony. The cost for the event is \$150 per player. For sponsorship information or to sign up, please contact event co-chairs, Brian Stiehler (787-2778) or Rebecca Shuler (526-2118).

Saturday, June 16

- Annual Reese Family Reunion at the Rec Park from 10a to 2p. Call Ann Wilson for more information at 864-888-1111.

- Friends and family of Woodrow Cunningham, native of Franklin and Western Carolina who is suffering from usually fatal brain tumors, are holding a benefit for Woodrow at the South Macon Elementary School at 5 p.m. in the school cafe. All donations will assist to defray his medical bills and expenses. A hot dog dinner and dessert will be provided by the school employees and asking for a \$5 donation The benefit-auction is offering as top prize a free Oceanfront Cottage in Vero Beach, Florida for one week December 15-22nd. Entertainers will be at the benefit. All donors of \$1 for will receive a free drawing ticket (\$1 each or 6 for \$5) for the Florida vacation plus many other gifts given by Franklin and Highlands merchants and friends. You do not have to be present to win and contributions can be made on line at macgrady@comcast.net where tickets will be mailed to all donors. Please mail any funds on or before June 10th should be sent to Woodrow Cunningham % his sister, Louise Dills at 52 Pastureview, Franklin, NC 28734

Wednesday, June 20

- Adult Movie at The Hudson Library at 2 p.m. Secretariat.

Fri.-Sun., June 22, 23, 24

- History Live sponsored by the Highlands Historical Society. The theme this year is "Our Mountains and the People Who Named Them. Friday and Saturday's production is at the Historical Village on N. 4th Street from 6-7:15 p.m. Sunday's production is at PAC on Chestnut Street at 4 p.m.

Tickets are \$10 for adults and students are free.

Saturday, June 23

- Highlands-Cashiers free health screening at Blue Ridge School beginning at 7:15 a.m. Those wishing to take advantage of either screening can register by calling the Hospital at (828) 526-1435.

Saturday, June 24

- The fundraiser will be a Honduran "baleada" luncheon at 12pm in the Methodist Church on Sunday. Entrance will be \$10 for baleadas and Honduran coffee. Alex Osteen will present the video that his townspeople made about the Health Clinic as well as show pictures of the people involved (i.e. my friends and neighbors there) as well as of the Health Clinic itself. Everybody is invited. Take out will be available. All proceeds from the event, plus any donations people may make, go to the construction materials for this Health Clinic project. I'm attaching my executive summary and budget for the project in case you'd like to reference them. People can come and eat or just make a donation or help by volunteering. Can contact me (email or cell at 828 200-2360).

Thursday, July 12-Sunday, July 22

- At The Highlands Playhouse, Walter Cronkite is Dead. Call 828-526-2695 for ticket information.

Saturday, July 21

- Highlands-Cashiers Free Health Clinic starts at 7:15 am. Appointments are required. Call the Foundation office 828-526-1435.

Friday-Sunday, June 22-24

- The theme for this year's "History Live!" sponsored by the Highlands Historical Society is "Our Mountains and The People Who Named Them." The dates for this year's program are Friday-Sunday, with the Friday and Saturday programs taking place at the Highlands Historic Village on N. Fourth Street from 6 to 7:15 p.m., and Sunday's at the Performing Arts Center on Chestnut Street beginning at 4 p.m. Admission is \$10 for adults with students admitted free. Proceeds benefit the work of the Historical Society.

Mon.-Fri., June 25-29

- The Highlands Biological Station, as part of their series of field-based courses, is pleased to offer "Mountain Biodiversity for science educators" with Karen Kandl, associate director of the Station. The course is a fantastic and affordable opportunity for science educators to continue to improve as teachers. They can receive CEU's or graduate credit, and the course and housing fee is only \$150. There are no pre-requisites and the course is open to educators of all levels.

Friday, July 6

- Preview Party & Auction (the precursor to the Follow the Star...Bazaar at Highlands United Methodist Church 5:30-7:30 p.m. \$15 per person includes preview party and auction with heavy hors oeuvres.

Saturday, July 7

- Follow the Star...Bazaar at Highlands United Methodist Church 8a to 4p. Breakfast will be available from 8-10a; and lunch from 11:30a-1:30p

Fri.-Sun., July 13-15

- The Bascom's Mountains in Bloom Garden Festival. On the 14th, it's eight gardens in the Ravenel area. Tour participants will also enjoy a gourmet box lunch served on the Terrace at The Bascom between 11:30 am-2:30 pm. Tickets for the garden tours are \$80 per person. Group discounts are available. At The Bascom campus, on Friday and Saturday, July 13-14, from 9a-5p, free-admission juried Flower Show with nationally recognized judges. Then on Sunday, July 15 it's a private tour from 1-3 pm tour. Benefactors are also invited to the premier event for Mountains in Bloom, the "Flower Drum Song" Benefactor Party on Sunday. Stroll through the magical and enchanting, lushly landscaped gardens at The Farm at Old Edwards Inn. Music by Jim Gibson of Hickory Cove Music. A seated candlelight dinner with exquisite cuisine prepared by New Mountain Events will follow. For information call 787-2866.

Sat., July 21

- All day at the Sapphire Valley Community Center, Wilderness Wildlife Days with B.E.A.R. members and Bill Lea



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The Spitfire Grill
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Walter Cronkite Is Dead
July 12 - 22



Dames at Sea
July 26 - August 19



Lindsey Alley
August 31 - September 3

for winterization.

“We will be managing the construction and payouts and to do that it has to be a specific line item, otherwise we have to front the money and wait for payback. With a single-audit document, the intent is to have a budget so we can see what the money is spent on,” he said.

But Commissioner Gary Drake said the Winklers gave the money to the Playhouse board so it can winterize the building so it can be used year-round, not to the building.

Mayor Wilkes suggested a 16-month agreement to get through the renovation.

Dotson suggested a hybrid landlord/tenant lease but if there are schedule openings they can be filled. Patterson said it's a town building so if the town is using taxpayers' money to fix it, legally it has to let people use it.

Commissioner Eric Pierson agreed. “We need a uniform lease for all our buildings,” he said. “We need to take control and understand exactly what is going on in our buildings.”

There are five town-owned buildings all with different leases. But that's a story for another day.

The mayor suggested the Winklers be consulted about the money management and the Playhouse board should decide how it wants to move forward.

– Kim Lewicki



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... SALZARULO continued from page 5

haps someday, maybe even next year, when it might still be possible to squeeze into Chapel Hill, Bull might decide we've been right all along. But maybe not. Maybe his dreams are not our dreams. He is an accomplished skier, skilled SCUBA diver, and wonderful teacher. Maybe greatness for him is a life of following the seasons from snow to sun. It's not a bad life.

Think of all the people who work their entire lives to get a shot at it. If that's what he decides, I hope I'm still healthy enough to take a lesson from him. There is one thing of which I'm certain. He won't take me to the top of a double black mogul run, challenge me to ski it and say, "Dad, you'll never reach greatness if you don't ski this run." Instead he'll say, "Let's have some fun," and he'll mean it. Why can't we learn from the young?

... SWANSON continued from page 8

leased Friday.

And, although superintendents in both districts say they have a way to go to bring all students up to proficiency, the news wasn't as bad as some expected." Well, isn't that special. "Overall, the ninth- and 10th-graders did reasonably well on the new performance scale," said Miami-Dade Superintendent Alberto Carvalho." Just stick with me, it's going to get good.

"Earlier this week, the state BOE released preliminary results for the FCAT writing exam, which showed dramatic drops in proficiency." Here it comes. "Seeing the passing rate would have dropped by more than 50 percent, the state board changed the passing score from 4 to 3."

Since I am completely speechless, I leave it to you to internalize the last statement.

Is there a connection between subject one (street chaos) and two failing schools? I think so.

Even though my son took 9th & 10th in the Dade system, he had the inherent sense to evacuate the beach and escape to a lovely hotel in Ft. Lauderdale. Any resident of the Beach with the means to do so will be doing something similar.

NOTE

Back Days and the story of the family of Ethel Mae Potts Paul, descendants of WT and Mattie Potts will continue in next week's edition.

... WOOLDRIDGE continued from page 4

Mother Nature, mean as a snake, sent a huge tsunami, killing thousands and washing all that isotope covered radio active debris into the ocean. The good news is it's all heading for California where only evil exists. I'm kinda bummed out at Mother Nature. I don't know why she didn't just shake California into the Pacific ocean and leave the good, honest hard-working people of Fukushima alone. But mine is not to wonder why. It's her show.

Sooooo, all you environmentalists out there reading this, stop giving Americans, including li'l ole me, a hassle over burning fossil fuels. Jump on Mother Nature who did more environmental damage in a few hours than Americans do in a decade. And if you're wondering about the toilet paper, it has nothing to do with anything in this column. I knew if I mentioned toilet paper you would keep reading to the end. Bad Fred!

And if you're offended by anything written in this column, I say "Fukushima U."

• Read Deceived or I'm Moving back to Mars on line or at your book store.

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... ROAD continued from page 1

expect any portion of the road to be closed the entire two-month time period.

"Most likely, the 1.1-mile portion of the gorge will be closed for 3-5 days for paving," said Brian Burch, NC DOT division construction engineer.

On other parts of the road, traffic will be restricted to one-lane from Walnut Creek to Buck Creek at which point motorists will be re-routed through Buck Creek. It will become one-way again at Gold Mine, while the 1.1 portion of the Gorge Road is paved. The entire road will be open 7 p.m. to 7 a.m. throughout the project. Once the 1.1-mile portion is paved it, too, will be one-lane.

Other than knowing it was in the plans for "sometime in the near future" the Macon County Commission, knew nothing of the plan and the Highlands Town Board, and the Highlands Area Chamber of Commerce knew next to nothing.

"The State has not notified any of our board members officially that I am aware of nor did County Manager Jack Horton know about this," said Commission Chairman Kevin Corbin. "I do know that we have wanted the work done, but I was not aware of a schedule."

Town Manager Bob Frye said the town

knew of the project prior to the story surfacing but didn't say why the news wasn't released to the public.

President of the Highlands Area Chamber of Commerce Bob Kieltyka said he first heard of it from the radio. "I later discovered there was a very brief press release with virtually no details issued by the DOT, but I was not copied in."

After hearing from MC Commission Chair Corbin, DOT Division Construction Engineer Burch had this to say:

"The paving of US 64 from Walnut Creek Road to NC 106 in Highlands has been awarded to APAC-Harrison (the same company that has the Post Office job). This contract also includes the paving of Horse Cove Road south of Highlands. The contract time runs from June 4-October 19.

"However, the time period for closing of US 64 through the Cullasaja Gorge is from June 4-August 3. This timeframe was chosen due to the fact a school bus travels this route when school is in session.

"We do not expect that the closing will last for the entire two-month time period. Most likely, the road will be closed

• See ROADS page 17



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for 3-5 days to pave this 1.1 mile section. "Prior to the closing, Wesley Grindstaff, district engineer, will be notifying the media, Macon County, Town of Highlands, and Emergency Management of the exact date the closing will start.

"I apologize for not notifying the commissioners of this project."

Kieltyka said he hopes every effort will be made to minimize the detour by way of Buck Creek as it will make access to the waterfalls, Cliffside and Van Hook Glade very inconvenient at best.

"As it is many visitors don't come to Highlands whenever Dry Falls is closed."

Dry Falls has been closed for repairs since April of this year and it set to reopen in September. The project will stabilize the trail, reconstruct and replace the entire walking path, remove tripping hazards and protect water quality through drainage control measures.

Meanwhile, Jerry Moore, owner of Kilwin's Chocolates and Ice Cream in Highlands has written Senator Jim Davis expressing his concerns and is urging others to do the same because any disruption on US 64 west affects business in Highlands.

"As a small business owner in Highlands, NC, I was disappointed and ex-

tremely concerned to hear the plans to close the Gorge Road (Hwy. 64/28) from Buck Creek Road to beyond Gold Mine Road from June through August. As you are aware, Highlands depends heavily on the tourist season that runs from Memorial Day (May 28) through the end of August.

"During this time period, my business earns approximately 50% of all its revenue for the year. The closing of this major artery from Franklin to Highlands will substantially impede or eliminate those travelers coming from towns west of Highlands. This move will also hurt businesses in the Franklin area due to travelers going to Clayton, GA via 106/246 in lieu of driving out of town to Buck Creek Road and then to Franklin.

"I respectfully urge your office to contact the Department of Transportation and ask it to reconsider these closing dates for their upcoming project. If the road is allowed to close as planned, I have no doubt that Highlands and Franklin businesses will be negatively impacted by this action."

GA Hwy 246/Bridge

Happily, repairing the bridge over the Little Tennessee River on GA Highway 246 near the intersection of Hwy 441 in Dillard

•See ROADS page 19



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

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Wed.: Men's Bible Study -8:30 a.m., First Baptist Church
Thurs.: Women's Prayer Group - 10 a.m., Whiteside Presbyterian
Church; Healing Service at noon

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Wednesdays -- 7 p.m.

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10:30 am: Middle School; 10:45 am: Children's Program., Worship
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Wed.: 6pm: CBC University Program

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in the Main Nave of the Church.
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Tuesday: 8 a.m. Men's Cursillo Group; Bible Study 10:30 a.m.
Reverend Howard L'Enfant

Thursday: 10 a.m. Holy Eucharist (Chapel)

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Dr. Charles Harris, Pastor • 526-4153
Sun.: Worship 10:45 a.m.; School – 9:30 a.m.
Wed.: Men's Bible Study 8:30 a.m., Prayer Meeting – 6:15 p.m.,
Choir – 5 p.m.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Dr. Lee Bowman, Pastor
Dr. Don Mullen, Parish Associate 526-3175
Sun.: Worship – 11 a.m.; Sun. 8:30a communion service June-
Labor Day; School – 9:30
Mondays: 8 a.m. – Men's Prayer Group & Breakfast
Wednesdays – Choir – 7

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Worship, 6:30 p.m.
Wednesday: Prayer Service, 6:30 p.m.

HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Pastor Paul Christy 526-3376
Sun: School 9:45a.; Worship 8:30 & 10:50.; Youth Group 5:30 p.
Wed: Supper; 6; 7:15 – children, youth, & adults studies; 6:15 –
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Thurs:12:30 – Women's Bible Study (nursery)

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

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Wed: Adult Bible Study & Youth – 7 p.m.

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... BUDGET continued from page 1

Frye said, “For this budget year, the recommendation is to cap costs at the FY 2012-13 level and then have the insurance committee look at what our options are in time for next year’s budget.”

As presented, the overall FY 2012-13 Budget has revenues and expenditures totaling \$13,019,315.

The budget is balanced across all funds and includes a \$155,168 General Fund Balance Appropriation.

The General Fund Balance Appropriations are being used as follows; \$74,138.00 to balance the General Fund Budget while the remaining \$80,930 was transferred to Recreation Special Revenue Fund which is the only department that isn't self-sustaining.

All other funds are self-supporting and require no fund transfers to enable them to operate.

Insurance costs are projected to increase by 3% but the Town will continue to pay 100% of employee dependent benefits. The FY 2012-13 Budget also includes a 3% Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) for all full time employees.

There is \$15,000 allocated for non-profit funding which is currently allocated to fund the requests from the Highlands Community Child Development Center, the Emergency Council, and the Peggy Crosby Center; each would be funded at \$5,000.

There are a number of Capital Projects slated for 2012-'13 – a total of \$1,024,000.

- In Water Distribution: a Filter Media Rehab/Replacement for \$460,000; in the Street Department/Street Paving, for OEI \$66,000; on Little Bear Pen Road \$76,000; on Wahoo Road \$28,000, on Mt. Lori Road \$69,000; for Chowan repairs \$25,000. The total is \$264,000.

- In the Sanitation Department: Replacement of a Garbage Truck for \$120,000.

- In the Electrical Department: 4x4 Service Bucket Truck for \$115,000;

- In the MIS/GIS Department: Fiber Optic to Water and Sewer Plants for \$35,000; Reconfigure Services for Reliability/Virtualization for \$12,000; Replacement Equipment – 2 Servers for \$12,000; NAS for \$6,000 which is a total of \$65,000 for that department.

As requested at the May 13 Town Board meeting, the Small Town Main Street Program submitted a proposed budget for fabrication and installation of wayfinding signs for Highlands.

The proposed budget includes four gateway signs installed for a total of between \$10,800-\$12,800; 10 vehicular directional signs installed for a total of between \$18,000 to \$25,000; 5 parking directional signs or a total of between \$4,500-\$7,000 which brings it to a total of 25 signs for between \$33,300 and \$44,800

Ran Shaffner, with the Design/Wayfinding committee, said these are very rough estimates based on types of wayfinding signs that Frazier Associates will propose when they survey the town beginning May 31.

– Kim Lewicki

finished a month early. Motorists traveling to and from Highlands and Dillard via GA Hwy 246 and NC 106 will no longer have to take the 3-mile scenic route around construction.

Chowan Road

The town was hoping it would cost no more than \$300,000 to stabilize Chowan Road – a portion of which has been closed for several months – but with estimates topping \$500,000 the town is re-thinking its options.

Core samples taken about six weeks ago reveal about 15-20 feet of sandy soil which isn't conducive to an economical stabilization scenario which has made the estimate soar.

Town Engineer Lamar Nix is looking at less expensive stabilization scenarios so the unstable portion of the road will remain closed.

"We haven't been able to come up with a proposal in time for the 2012-'13 budget. We need something that makes good economic sense," he said.

Currently, Town Manager Bob Frye has included \$25,000 for Chowan repair in Capital Projects outlay for FY 2012-13. Nix said the funds will be used to re-seed and stabilize the bank which is fallen away.

Spring Street

At the May 3 Town Board meeting, the board unanimously approved making Spring Street a one-way street east between S. 4th and Fifth streets. Now both Church Street – the portion that parallels Spring between 4th & 5th – are both one-way streets going east.

During the May 17 Town Board meeting public comment period, Mary Bynum, owner of McCulley's discussed concerns about traffic flow.

When she asked why this was done commissioners said it was because the hump on Spring Street makes it hard for drivers to see what's coming, which is a safety issue.

About six years ago, Old Edwards Inn (OEI) offered to fund the reengineering of the intersection where South, Satulah and S. 4th streets converge, if NC DOT – using the town as the lead agency – reimbursed OEI. That seemed to be "a go" but somewhere along the line the project and funding options disappeared.

Then a few years ago, during the parking/travel pattern study the prospect of a round-about at the South, Satulah, S. 4th streets intersection was discussed to eliminate the snarl and safety issues. But in the

end, it was determined that the area was too small to incorporate a round-about.

Now merchants on S. 4th worry that traffic is being directed away from the area since there are two, one-way streets going east.

Commissioner John Dotson agreed that signage was needed to re-direct people back to S. 4th via South Street. "I've seen people turn right at Fifth and go all the way to the school not realizing they are leaving the area entirely."

Bynum came armed with several letters from concerned merchants and citizens who want Spring Street to be two-way as before.

Bynum said it would be a different story if the round-about had been incorporated into the plan because people would have had a way to turn around without leaving the area.

Commissioners asked that the letters be submitted for review at the June 3 Town Board meeting.

Church Street

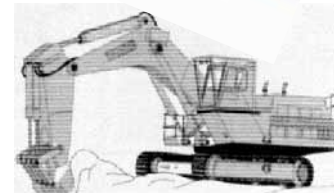
The portion of Church Street Alley behind Town Square to Third Street is no longer a through-way, but the portion from S. 4th to Town Square is still a one-way street which now empties onto Spring Street near the Highlands United Methodist Church pond.

– Kim Lewicki

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ISLAND LIFE, Mon. June 4, 10-12 at Nature Center, Jim Costa, Director of Highlands Biological Station and Professor of Biology at WCU

THROUGH THE EYES OF THE CHEROKEE
Tues. June 5, 10-12 FULL. 1:00-3:00 has space. Meet in parking lot behind Civic Center (Rec Park) for a field trip.

RON RASH: LIFE AND WORKS UP TO 2012
Tuesdays, June 5, 12, 19, 26. 3-5 FULL, Evening session from 5:30-8:30 meets in homes of participants and has space available.

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• See CLASSIFIEDS page 22

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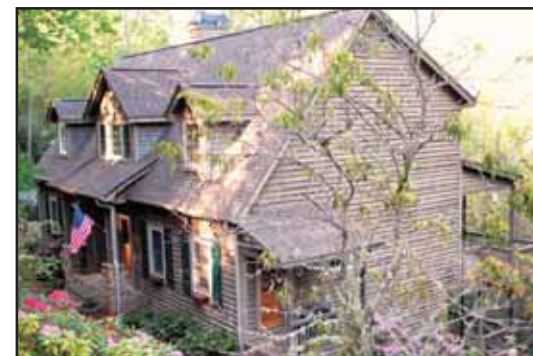
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6/7

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RESI. / COMMERCIAL FOR RENT

3 BED, 2 BATH – No pets, no smoking. Security deposit and first month's rent. \$1,000. Mountain Shadows, Highlands. Call 586-3937. (St. 5/31)

3 BED/3 1/2 BATH HOUSE ON CASHIERS ROAD. – Available June 1. No pets. Nicely appointed. Call 352-390-8885.

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8645 (st. May 3)

ONE-BED, ONE BATH – Furnished. Scaly Mtn. \$500/Mth, plus utilities. No pets, no smokers. Call 828-200-9360 (st. 5/3)

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LOT FOR SALE, NICE NEIGHBORHOOD – 1.45 acres, heavily wooded w/stream, 4-BR septic permit, Mirrormont area, walk to town, \$169,900, 770-861-4249. (7/19)

SEE FALLING WATERS – 52-acre community just 2.5 miles from Main Street. Secluded but not remote, no road noise, no thru traffic. Peaceful, quiet and private. Offered in parcels of .75 acres to 10+ acres. Carve out your creekfront, waterfall view or multi-use estate. Owner financing. 828-508-9952. From Main St. take Hwy 106 1.8 miles just past Glen Falls sign, turn right on Mr. Laurel Dr., 3-tenths mile turn left on Moonlight. Entrance on right. (st. 5/3)

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HATE TO MOVE SALE – Saturday, June 2, 9a-5p at New Leaf Interiors at 535 N. 4th St. Beautiful Mountain furniture, rare oak furniture, Harley Davidson prints (1988s). Too much to list. Must see! (f/31)



Highlands F&R aids in Whiteside rescue

Around noon, Saturday, May 26, fire and rescue crews from Cashiers, Highlands, Toxaway and others rescued a woman rock climber who fell 16 feet from a cliff on Whiteside Mountain.

It took 4 ½ hours and scores of rescuers to retrieve and carry her down to the parking lot.

She was transported to Highlands-Cashiers Hospital where surgery was done on two broken ankles.

She was visiting Highlands and returned home via private vehicle. Her companion called 9-1-1 from the mountain. Glenville-Cashiers Rescue received the call and other departments responded as mutual aid.

Eight members responded from Highlands Fire & Rescue and numerous others from other departments in Jackson County.

"It took that many people to switch off carrying her out," said Glenville-Cashiers Rescue Supervisor Brenda Stewart. "It was quite a hike and a long distance."

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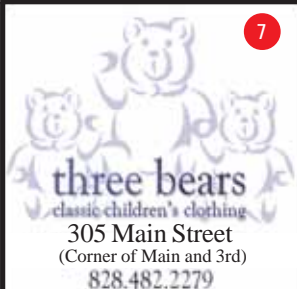
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Saturday, June 2
• Highlands Farmers Market at Highlands School from 9a to noon.
• USFS Kids Fishing Day at Cliffside Lake from 9a-noon. It's free but adults must accompany children 13 and younger.
Sunday, June 3
• At First Presbyterian, a free faculty showcase concert at 2 pm on Sunday in the church sanctuary.



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