

Highlands Newspaper

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Thursday, April 25, 2013

Employee/dependent insurance plan changing

For more than a year, the town has been considering changes to its employee/dependent insurance coverage which could represent a significant savings to the town.

Through the insurance committee, which is made up of a rep-

resentative from each department, two scenarios were agreed upon and then put to a vote at a employee meeting, Monday, April 22.

Town employees considered two options: one that does away with the town's contribution to

paying for employee dependents but keeps the deductible contribution the same; and the other which pays for 50% of the dependent benefit and decreases what the town will pay on the deductible benefit to 50%.

"The insurance committee

discussed these options and felt it was best to hold an employee-wide vote," said Town Manager Bob Frye who braced the Town Board and employees of pending changes during discussions last

• See INSURANCE page 4

Commissioners and BOE take close look at educational expenses

By Davin Eldridge
Staff Writer

With officials from both Macon County and the Board of Education draw near the final figure for a school funding request for FY 2013-'14, Macon County Schools Superintendent Jim Duncan gave a presentation to county commissioners last Thursday.

As a jumping off place, the presentation highlighted the BOE's broad categories of line item budget expenditures from FY 2012-'13.

With power rate hikes looming and other operational costs expected to increase for the upcoming fiscal year, Duncan reminded the board that the initial increases sought by the board for FY 2013-'14 are anticipatory. No decisions or actions were made at the meeting.

"It's a good process of com-

munication," remarked County Commissioner Chair Kevin Corbin as the presentation commenced.

In the budget process last spring the county allocated a dollar figure of \$6,911,000 for local expenses for Macon County Public Schools, according to the presentation. In addition, the school board appropriated an additional \$813,011 from other revenue sources as well as depleting its fund balance of \$1,137,022 at the direction of the commission to meet expenses.

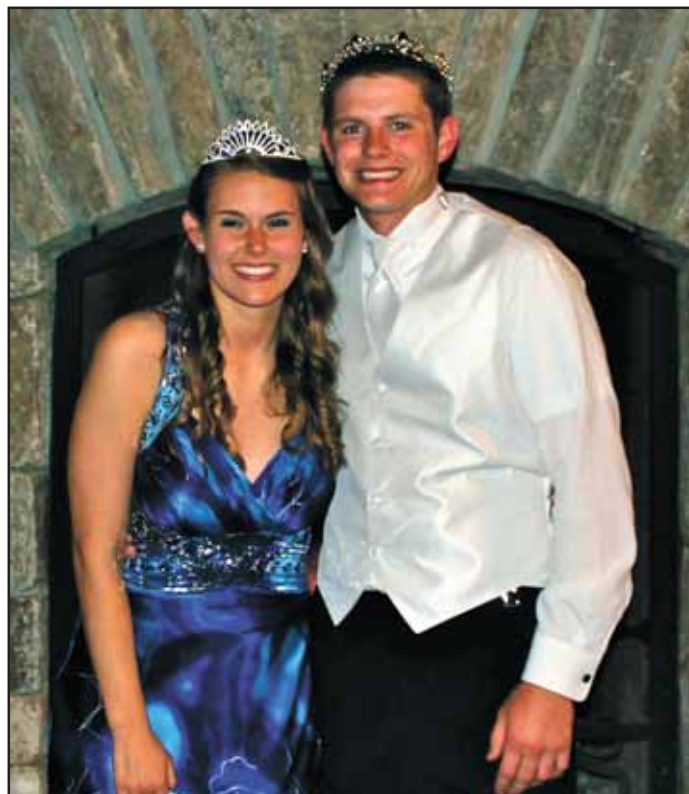
Of these figures, \$3,866,346 includes teachers paid with local expense money due to state reversions, benefits including FICA, retirement and insurance, supplements for three school principals, all coaches, teaching supplies, equipment staff development, custodial, sports officials and co-curricular money for non-revenue sports.

The \$1,369,041 spent, was for power, water, sewer, phone, garbage, fuel oil, natural gas and pest control was used. "Just our power bills alone cost us about \$750,000," said Duncan.

For insurance costs, \$206,535 was spent to cover property, vehicle, liability, workers

• See BOE page 8

King & Queen for the night



Queen Becca Johnson and her King, Parker Sims at Highlands Schools Junior-Senior Prom held at OEI's The Farm, Saturday night. See photos page 10. Photo by Lisa Osteen

HCLT earns national recognition

The Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust has achieved land trust accreditation from the Land Trust Accreditation Commission (LTA), an independent program of the Land Trust Alliance.

"The accreditation process, from adopting and implementing

the LTA Standards and Practices to proceeding through the application, was, in many ways, a journey of discovery and fulfillment. We discovered many ways of improving our land trust and the journey resulted in our adopting a

• See HCLT page 9

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Town Board discusses Brew Pubs and more

At a short Town Board meeting Thursday, April 18, commissioners spent most of the time discussing the Planning Board's stipulations regarding Microbreweries and Brew Pubs.

The ordinance defining Microbreweries made sense to the board: "A brewery that produces less than 15,000 barrels of beer per year with 75% or more of the beer sold off-site. Microbreweries sell to the public by one or more of the following methods: the traditional three-tier system (brewer to wholesaler to retailer to consumer); the two-tier system (brewer acting as wholesaler to retailer to consumer); and, directly to the consumer through carryouts and/or on-site tap-room or restaurant sales. Microbreweries shall only be allowed in the B3 zoning district."

But regarding Brew Pubs, almost immediately commissioners agreed they shouldn't make Highlands' ordinance stricter than the state's - particularly regarding food service.

Unlike restaurants, the state doesn't require Brew Pubs to serve food.

The Planning Board recom-
• See TOWN BOARD page 6

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• OBITUARIES •

Omer Ray "Ted" Fugate

Omer Ray "Ted" Fugate, age 72 of North Carolina, died Friday, April 12, 2013 at Mission Hospital, Asheville, NC. He was born July 15, 1940 in Franklin, OH the son of Omer T. Fugate and Lillian (Harrison) Fugate.

Ted grew up in Franklin and later married Betty Bender to whom he was married for 44 years.

He worked as a real estate agent. Moving to Naples, Florida in 1983, he spent 20 years enjoying family, golf, and boating; then moved to Highlands, NC in 2002 and belonged to Highlands Falls Country Club. His greatest passion was spending time with his wife, daughter, and granddaughters. They brought a smile to his life.

One of his greatest enjoyments beside golf was spending time with his buddy, his Golden Retriever, Czar.

He is survived by his wife, Betty Bender



er Fugate; one daughter, Lisa Fugate Giblin; granddaughters, Keagan and Kenzie Giblin; his father, Omer Theodore Fugate; his sister, Robin Weidle (Tim); and many nieces, nephews, great nieces, and great nephews who loved and adored him. He was preceded in death by his mother in 2000. Funeral services were held Thursday at the First Presbyterian Church in Ohio with Reverend Tim Doty

officiating. Burial was at the Woodside Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, please make donations to Highlands/Cashier Hospital Foundation, 190 Hospital Drive, Highlands, NC 28741 or Cashiers/Highlands Humane Society, 200 Gable Street, Cashier, NC 28717. A guestbook is available at www.breitenbachfuneralhome.com

Phyllis Parker Doherty

Phyllis Parker Doherty, 71, died at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital on Thursday, April 18, 2013 after a year and a half battle with lung cancer. Phyllis was born in Mt. Vernon, IL on February 25, 1942. She moved to Cashiers, N.C. with her family in 1972. Phyllis is the daughter of the late Dale Parker of Cashiers and Eleanor Parker, who resides in Cashiers. She is preceded in death by her son, Jimmy Doherty. Surviving are her husband of 50 wonderful years, Frank Doherty of Cashiers; her daughter, Kim Doherty, Dillard of Franklin; grandchildren, Amanda Dillard of Franklin, Andrew and Albert Dillard of Cashiers, and 4 great-grandchildren, Parker and Brennan Cabe and Jackson Blanton of Franklin and Marley Dillard of Cashiers. Phyllis and her husband Frank owned The Valley Gift Shop in Cashiers from 1972 until 1995. Before they moved to the mountains, the Doherty's lived in Houston, TX and Tulsa, OK. She was always very active in various community organizations during her life.

Phyllis loved to do extensive work on family genealogy, cooking and having her family over for holidays and her little dog, Wags. Funeral services will be Saturday, April 27, 2013 at 1 p.m. at St. Jude's Catholic Church in Cashiers/Sapphire on Hwy 64 East. A reception will follow in the church hall.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Cashiers-Glenville Volunteer Fire Department at P.O. Box 886, Cashiers, N.C. 28717. Bryant-Grant Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. Online condolences may be made at www.bryantgrantfuneralhome.com

• See OBITUARIES page 3

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.

Richard Joel



Founder of Bel Canto, Richard Joel enjoying the company of his favorite opera star Stella Zambalis at Bel Canto's 20th anniversary after-party Sept. 9, 2012 at the Highlands Country Club. This is the Richard Joel I will always remember -- a wonderful courtly, gracious, gentleman with a twinkle in his eye who loved life and of course, beautiful singing and all the pomp that came with it! -- Kim Lewicki

Richard Joel, loving husband and father, advertising educator and arts supporter, long-term resident of Tallahassee, FL and Highlands, NC died of natural causes in his sleep on April 15, 2013, at his home at Westminster Oaks in Tallahassee. He was 96.

For 85 years opera was his passion. It started at the age of 11 when he attended a Metropolitan Opera performance of Norma in Atlanta, GA, and until the very end, he would tune in daily to satellite radio to listen to Met opera broadcasts.

Richard Joel was born December 31, 1916 in Athens, GA.

He was a member of ODK and graduated Phi Beta Kappa with a BA degree from the University of Georgia and later earned a Master's degree from the University of Wisconsin.

During WWII he served in the Air Force and after that he embarked on an academic career as a professor at Emory University where he founded and directed The Advertising Institute.

He later taught at Florida State University, Florida Atlantic University, the University of Wisconsin, and finally the University of Tennessee in Knoxville where he chaired the advertising depart-

ment in the College of Communications. He retired as Professor Emeritus of advertising and was named by UT one of the outstanding professors of the year.

After that he returned to Tallahassee where he became a consistent supporter of music at The College of Music at FSU.

He also pursued his hobby as an amateur actor. He was a five-time winner of the

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best actor award at Tallahassee Little Theater. He worked actively with community theaters in all the cities where he served as a university professor.

At Florida State he was president of Phi Beta Kappa, he was active on the Artists Series Committee, and he served on the board of the Tallahassee Little Theater.

While at UT he was on the board and served as public relations director of the Knoxville Opera. At the same time he served as national president of both the Alpha Delta Sigma advertising fraternity and

the American Academy of Advertising.

For three summers early in his career he worked with Clyde Bedell, internationally recognized advertising practitioner and author, whose text book he assisted in writing and editing.

In Knoxville he became a good friend of Robert Lyall, then general director of the Knoxville Opera Company and later director of the New Orleans Opera.

For the next 25 years, Richard would travel annually to New York with him

•See OBITUARIES page 4

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Cherie Bennett

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... OBITUARIES continued from page 3

where he assisted in auditioning over 3,000 opera singers. They would also squeeze in as many Metropolitan Opera performances as their schedules would allow.

While at UT he and his wife Edith were attracted to the climate and natural beauty of Highlands, NC, where they began spending a portion of each year over 35 years ago. Together they became actively involved in local theater and art functions.

Inspired by the exposure to the opera talent in New York and elsewhere, Richard Joel, at 75, created Bel Canto, a musical concert which brought some of the most talented voices in the country to Highlands. His wife Edith actively supported the initiative to become a fundraiser for the Bascom-Louise Gallery where she was serving as a docent.

For 15 years, until the age of 90, Richard relied on

and guided a steering committee made up of some of Highlands' most civic-minded and loyal supporters of the arts. Bel Canto became a highly anticipated event which sold-out annually. As chairman he identified and attracted the talent, he helped create the program, he drew on his advertising experience and originated the publicity by writing the articles for local publications.

In addition he handled the ticket sales while overseeing the steering committee for effective implementation of his vision. After he turned over the position as chairman, his successor observed that it took three people to accomplish all the tasks that Richard had done himself for 15 years. When he attended the 20th annual recital as chairman emeritus, the fundraising had not only been used to purchase numerous significant pieces for the permanent collection at the Gallery, but had been broadened to include music and choral programs in local schools and the community child development center. Truly a lasting legacy.

In addition, during the years in Highlands he was very active in the local theater. He was well into his 80s when he played his last lead role -- in "The Sunshine Boys." And

until his last summer in Highlands he continued his decades-long volunteer work with Mountain Findings, a fundraising endeavor supporting numerous area charities and needs.

Richard Joel is survived by his daughter Madge Joel Ringbakk and her husband Chuck of Tavares, FL; his son Richard Raymon Joel and his wife Elaine of Tavares, FL; as well as two grandsons Rick Ringbakk and Jeremy Joel both of Los Angeles, CA.

He was married to his beloved Edith for 59 years until her death in 2001.

Richard Joel was not only a university professor. He was for so many a Life teacher. For his 90th birthday his daughter contacted a number of his former students, many by then also retired. She received dozens of responses telling in moving detail how much he had meant to them in and out of the classroom and how they had kept up over the decades.

His passion for the arts and opera in particular has demonstrated that age is a state of mind. By following his bliss and engaging life fully, his Journey became a rich beacon for all who had the privilege of knowing him.

In six words: Ninety-six years; no fears, opera ears.

... INSURANCE continued from page 1

year. One option saves the town approximately the \$225,000 and the other \$307,000.

"The choice of which option we will go with was determined by majority vote," said Frye. "The Town Board has indicated it will go with whichever choice the employees vote on."

The two options presented were:

Option A: 100% employee coverage, no dependent coverage, and the current 20/80 split on the deductible (\$2,000 employee \$8,000 town). Cost saving to town with this option, \$307,000.

Option B: 100% employee coverage, 50% dependent coverage, 50/50 split on the deductible (\$5,000 employee

•See INSURANCE page 5



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• LEGISLATIVE UPDATE ... IN THEIR WORDS •

• In this weekly series, legislators will inform constituents of their dealings in Washington, Raleigh and Macon County – in their own words.

Hagan announces bipartisan bill to help NC small businesses expand and hire workers

Bill would promote new construction by letting businesses recover cost of investments in 15 years instead of 39 years

Washington, DC - U.S. Senator Kay Hagan today announced legislation that would promote new construction and investments in property at restaurants, offices and other commercial properties across North Carolina. Hagan is an original cosponsor of this bipartisan bill that would increase access to capital by permanently extending the 15-year tax depreciation period for leasehold improvements, restaurant improvements and new construction and retail improvements.



Investments fuel economic activity and create jobs. According to the Bureau of Economic Analysis, every dollar spent in the construction industry generates an additional \$2.39 in spending in the rest of the economy.

In addition to construction jobs, as employers expand their stores and restaurants, they will also need to hire additional workers. This legislation will be particularly beneficial to North Carolina's \$15 billion restaurant industry, which supports more than 400,000 jobs around the state.

Hagan joined seven Republican Senators and six Democratic Senators to introduce this legislation.

• www.hagan.senate.gov/contact/

REACH truck coming to Highlands May 4

Supplies are needed for the REACH shelter and resale shop in Franklin.

On May 4, the REACH truck will be at the Community Building next to the ballfield from 11a to 2p. Needed are household supplies such as towels, bedding and kitchen items, as well as clothing for men, women and children. These are used by families displaced by abuse and are sold in the resale shop – REACH for Bargains in Franklin. Chad Lucas of Lucas Patton Designs for transforming the resale shop into a more efficient and attractive place.

Last year, REACH of Macon County helped 500 victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. More than 150 adults and children were sheltered for more than 2,000 nights.

... INSURANCE continued from page 4

\$5,000 town). Cost saving to town with this option, \$233,000.

At Monday's meeting 59 ballots were cast with 26 voting for Option A and 33 voting for Option B.

Commissioners will discuss changes to the insurance plan and other monetary issues at the Thursday, April 25 budget workshop meeting at 3 p.m. in the Community Building.

In addition, commissioners will be considering giving employees a 3% COLA raise, at the budget workshop meeting.

Employees received a 3% COLA increase last year which was effective July 1 of 2012.

– Kim Lewicki

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Eye Candy

When you're walking through town and something in a storefront window catches your eye, that's called eye candy. It's just enough to make you look, and the store owner is hoping just enough to make you come inside which leads to browsing, which leads to tasting, trying it on for size, or taking it for a test run – all which lead to BUYING.

Real Estate has its own version of eye candy, and the 2013 Highlands real estate inventory is already shaping up to be a giant, fully stocked candy store. Spring is traditionally the busiest time for new listings both in homes for sale or rent.

After the holidays and winter cold weather are over, people tend to start thinking of new beginnings and looking forward to seeing what the coming year will bring – there's spring cleaning, graduations, weddings, vacation planning and more.

What a lot of sellers are hoping for this year is that buyers will find themselves walking in through the doors of the Highlands candy store (real estate market) and

not only seeing what they like, but trying and buying.

What will make one home stand out above another?

While we always preach pricing a home is critical to it bringing offers, it's not just the price.

With so many homes on the market right now, it's hard for buyers to make a decision solely based on price. Location is still the driving force, and then price would be a shoe-in for second.

Before we get close to having a buyer look at a home for sale, we have to consider what type of buyer we are dealing with, so for this column, let's take a long slow look at the BUYERS.

There are different types of buyers – ask any store merchant. There's the In and Out -- they have an agenda as they rush in, pick up an article and head for the sales counter. There's the Touchy Feely -- they waltz in, take a long glance pick their starting point then touch and feel everything in the store until they've made a full sweep, sometimes they don't even buy, because after seeing everything there's just too much to digest for one day.

There's the Professor. This is the educated buyer -- they've read everything there is to know about what you have to offer they don't have to touch and feel with their hands because their brains are full of the inventory but sometimes the outcome is much like that of their touchy feely cousin.

There's the Dreamer. They really want to buy, but they will only look at the higher price rack, when their budget is much closer to the bargain basement. (You know, where the items for sale may be; things that would be perfect if they had a little TLC, like replacing a lost button, or repairing a frazzled hem.)

Another type of shopper is the Serious Buyer. This buyer walks in and asks for help. They may actually have some of all the above mentioned traits, and they are serious about buying and know that when they walk into your store they do so, because they believe you know your inventory and will help them find exactly what they need.



Jeannie Chambers
The Chambers Agency
REALTORS
jsc@chambersagency.net

Some clothing stores have personal shoppers, assistants, and if the store is small enough, the owners and themselves can help the shopper make the right choice. You can't always get a personal connection in a big box store. The big stores have huge inventories, plenty of buyers, and lots of glitzy marketing – which is great for some shoppers, but the smaller shops have

the same inventory and can add more personal service as well.

Real estate shopping is really no different. We have the same kinds of shoppers. The In and Out home buyer – yes, there have been times where a buyer comes in looks and makes an offer in one day.

The Touchy Feely homebuyer can look for years – even though they know they aren't going to make an offer ever on a particular home, they still want to see it, and touch it – all of it.

The Professor is becoming more popular, and who could blame them for being so well informed with such good informative tools like Zillow, Trulia, Realtor.com, etc. and all at their fingertips with their smart phones?

The Dreamer – we've all seen them. They will probably eventually buy and they are some of the ones that come back year after year to thank you for helping them to find their dream because with a little work, their dream home was there all along.

The serious buyer is always a favorite of any Realtor. You should be able to go into any Realtor's office, give them your wish list and walk away knowing that you have been treated with respect and professionalism, because that's what they're trained to do.

Local brokers know the local inventory, ensuring the Bbuyer gets what they want. After all, that's what we're here to do – assist the buyer with their home buying experience, and help sellers realize the best sales price possible.

Realtors are like storeowners in another area, too -- we count on word-of-

mouth referrals and repeat business.

• Jeannie and Tucker Chambers are owners of The Chambers Agency, REALTORS and specialize in residential real estate and vacation rentals. They are definitely not big box, but love to share their love of Highlands and provide personal service with Buyers and Sellers. 828-526-3717 - 401 N. Fifth Street, Highlands, NC. jsc@chambersagency.net

... TOWN BOARD
from page 1

mended making food service a requirement of Brew Pubs but Thursday night Planning Board Chairman Thomas Craig said deleting that was fine and agreed with commissioners that Brew Pubs should simply be allowed everywhere restaurants are permitted.

There was much discussion about the 1,000 barrels allowed per year at a Brew Pub. There are 31 gallons in a barrel so that's 31,000 gallons of beer per year, but Planning Director David Clabo said the figures came from ordinances from the state and other municipalities.

Earlier, Daniel Heinlein, who is proposing a Brew Pub in Town Square above Wild Thyme Gourmet said he planned on serving snacks like pretzels and envisioned small 15-gallon batches of beer at a time.

Craig said a Brew Pub producing 1,000 barrels a year, "is about as much production you want in a downtown business district" and commissioners agreed.

Parking

Last November the board voted to extend parking restrictions in town including lower Church Street which was previously open for anyone to use.

Under the new restrictions, business owners and employees can't park there which is causing hardship for the two Realtors in the area – Meadows Mountain Realty and White Oak Realty Group.

Judy Michaud of Meadows Mountain and Susie deVille of White Oak asked commissioners to lift the restriction on lower Church which has empty spaces most of the time because otherwise their agents must park as far away as the Episcopal Church.

Mayor David Wilkes and Commissioner John Dotson said Realtors are allowed two parking spots in restricted areas – concessions the board made for Realtors

•See TOWN BOARD page 7



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• COACH'S CORNER •

Hatin'



Ryan Potts
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One of my favorite Chappelle's Show sketches of all time is The Playa Haters Ball. For those of you who haven't seen Chappelle's Show, I would highly recommend it despite the fact that it is most definitely "R" rated. Chappelle was amazing with the way he was able to explore racial and cultural issues through comedy, but in this particular sketch the premise is simple...these guys hate on everything. Sometimes, I find myself to be in a bit of a hatin' mood, and while I can never hate at the level of Silky Johnson, I'm ready to share the hate.

After watching the Braves-Pirates series this weekend on Sportsouth, I have determined that Chip Caray and Joe Simpson can always take a job with Kim Jong Un as part of his propaganda team. Yeesh, those two

... TOWN BOARD from 6

long ago – but both Michaud and deVillie said it's not enough.

Michaud said she has 10 agents in her office which means eight of them have to park long distances away which makes showing property, particularly to elderly clients, difficult.

Commissioners agreed to put the item on the May 23 agenda.

Utility Pole Attachment Policy

Matt Shuler, MIS/GIS director, said over the past several years competition between utilities has increased so he requested permission to assign specific places on new poles for each utility based on its functions – bottom to top – Frontier (telephone), Northland (Cable TV and phone), Highlands Cable (Cable TV) and Balsam West (Fiber).

The idea is to leave room for future attachments per NESC standards. If a pole is too short and a company wants on it must pay for a new pole.

– Kim Lewicki

are horrible...but still not as bad as Hawk Harrelson, who rivals Bob Uecker's character (Harry Doyle) in Major League as the most biased announcer of all time.

Lebron is the best player on the planet right now, and while that makes people compare him to Michael Jordan, they should also add that he gets just as many calls as MJ once did. The other night I saw an official run halfway across the court just to call a foul because the underneath ref wasn't going to bail Lebron out with a foul call...reminded me of the good old days of MJ.

Tiger Woods...only in America can a sex addict who cheated

on his supermodel wife with a Huddle House waitress become someone that people can root for. My Facebook feed blew up during the Masters with people cheering on Tiger, which to me is absolutely absurd. America hates guys like Tyler Hansbrough and JJ Redick for being annoying white guys (see ESPN's most hated college basketball player tournament), but we love Tiger, who is cheap, condescending, rude and is a cheater. Got it.

And finally, irrational hate...who really deserves it. It depends, as there is a difference between "hatin'" and actual hate. For example, I can hate on Roy Williams for his tan or his refusal to call timeouts, but I do it out of the recognition that he is a HOF coach and one of the greats. There are some people, though, who have reached a level of irrationality in which they have some serious fan "issues" to work out. A game is a game, and while sports are often a great outlet for our emotions, they need not lead to high blood pressure and outbursts of profanity.

• HS GIRLS SOCCER •

Lady Highlanders continue winning ways

The Highlands Lady Highlanders soccer team continues to find new ways to impress after finishing out the week with dominating victories over Rabun County and Cherokee. Last Thursday, Highlands traveled to Rabun County to face the Lady Wildcats looking to continue their recent offensive explosion. Lady Highlander forwards Mary Gillian Renfro and Hayden Bates were up to the task, as they teamed up on four goals to stake the Highlanders to a comfortable lead. Midfielder Kirstyn Lamb added a goal for the Highlanders as well to close out the

scoring in a 5-1 victory.

Highlands then followed up their trip to Clayton with a voyage to the Reservation on Monday to face the Cherokee Lady Braves. The scoring came early and often for the Lady Highlanders, particularly off of the foot of Lamb. The sophomore midfielder scored 4 goals for the Lady Highlanders, Bates added two and Rebekah Parks finished off the 7-1 final score with another goal. The Lady Highlanders will host the Swain Lady Maroon Devils on Monday night for Senior Night. Please come out and support your Lady Highlanders as they honor their seniors.

Highlands Newspaper - Thursday, April 25, 2013 - 828-526-3228 - Page 7

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... BOE continued from page 1

compensation and unemployment benefit expenses by the board.

Approximately \$1,083,761 was spent on information technology; including salaries, benefits, licensed software, copiers and internet communications, finance and human resources software. "We're changing a lot of computers out," said Duncan, pointing out that computers diminish expenditures on textbooks.

Of local transportation expenses, the board has to account for 20% of the total school transportation budget from local funds, \$290,650, which includes all white fleet, activity busses, salary benefits, fuel oil, tires and driver incentives. State funded transportation program, however any maintenance on busses is an expense, and not reimbursable by the state.

For maintenance expenses, \$773,900 was spent last year, including salaries, benefits, required permits, fees, uniforms, materials, supplies and equipment.

To run the central office and school board, \$1,403,432 was spent on salaries, supplements to directors, benefits, substitute teachers, employee payouts, custodial contracts, mowing contracts, charter school expenditures, memberships, required audits, legal fees, travel expense, supplies, medicaid billing and scholars program.

Changes for the 2013-'14 fiscal year,

include a BOE-proposed 2% for salary increase – some of this to come from bumps on required salary schedules and an anticipated 1% from the state.

Additionally, 9.5% increase for utilities is expected, 6% for insurance benefits and .5% for retirement.

The total current local operating budget is \$8,861,033 – up from last year's \$6,911,000.

"I want this to be as transparent as it can possibly be," said Duncan.

School Security

Separate from the draft budget, Duncan revisited the matter of school safety measures by the county, following a recent security study by East Franklin Elementary School Tolley Bowles, educational advisor Terry Bell and Sheriff Robert Holland.

A preliminary figure of \$40,000 was requested for district-wide security measures. "This [money] is to get our front door areas tightened up and security primarily for all the elementary schools. We really have not decided what exactly we want to do on school security," said Duncan. "Typically the state will match funds on grants for such projects. This would be a great start in keeping our schools safe. This is what we would like to ask you all to consider," said Duncan. No action was taken by commissioners.



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Opening Reception:
Saturday, April 27
from 2 to 4 pm

*Above left: Linda Anderson, **Flow**
in the Hydrangea (detail), 2012
Above right: Edward Burtnysky,
Rock of Ages #1 (detail), 1991*

... HCLT continued from page 1

more disciplined approach to protecting conservation land. It also gave us confidence that our organization can meet its future challenges. HCLT will proudly display the accreditation seal as an indication of this journey and its continuing commitments to land conservation, the general public and HCLT's stakeholders," noted Board President Lila Howland.

The Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust originated in 1883 as the Highlands Improvement Society (HIS). In 1909, the HIS along with the citizens of Highlands bought 56 acres on Satulah Mountain, saving the summit from development. Since then the Land Trust has gone on to conserve over 2,400 acres in some 75 places with conservation-minded people of southern Macon and Jackson Counties. These conserved properties include Ravenel Park, what remains of the historic Kelsey Trail, Rock and Chimneytop Mountains and many others.

The Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust was awarded accreditation this April and is one of only 207 land trusts from across the country that has been awarded accreditation since the fall of 2008. Accredited land trusts are authorized to display a seal indicating to the public that they meet national standards for excellence, uphold the public trust and ensure that conservation efforts are permanent. The seal is a mark of distinction in land conservation.

"This round of accreditation decisions represents another significant milestone for the accreditation program; the 207 accredited land trusts account for half of the 20,645,165 acres currently owned in fee or protected by a conservation easement held by a land trust," said Commission Executive Director Tammara Van Ryn. "Accreditation provides the public with an assurance that, at the time of accreditation, land trusts meet high standards for quality and that the results of their conservation work are permanent."

Conserving land helps ensure clean air and drinking water; safe, healthy food; scenic landscapes and views; recreational places; and habitat for the diversity of life on earth. In addition to health and food benefits, conserving land increases property values near greenbelts, saves tax dollars by encouraging more efficient development, and reduces the need for expensive water filtration facilities. Across the country, local citizens and communities have come together to form more than 1,700 land trusts to save the places

• See HCLT page 22

• HS NEWS •



King Arthur comes to town

By: Highlands Multimedia and Webpage Design class

On Tuesday April 2, Paula Gray from King Arthur Flour in Vermont came to Highlands School to teach the kids how to make bread from scratch and other life lessons.

Mrs. Cashion, Highlands School's Foods and Consumer Science teacher, invited students 3rd grade through high school to attend the Life Skills Bread Baking Program, whose goal is for students to "learn, bake, and share."

Austin and Gracie Forester assisted Ms. Gray as they demonstrated how to make basic bread dough that can be used to make not only loaves of bread, but also pizza, cinnamon rolls, pretzel, and bread sticks.

Ms. Gray related the baking of bread to math and science, and even drama. She taught the students that they have to be very precise in their baking practices. She also taught the kids that yeast is a living organism and is dormant until you add the warm water and sugar. In working with the dough Ms. Gray gave the advice, when kneading the dough remember, "Fold, push away, then turn." All through the program, Ms. Gray involved the audience with questions dealing with math, science, and baking.

As a follow-up to the program, Mrs. Cashion's students will teach students from younger grades how to bake bread to share with their families and the local food pantry. Helping others in the community is an important life lesson that was taught. And remember as Ms. Gray said, "if you show up with cookies or brownies, aren't people glad to see you?"



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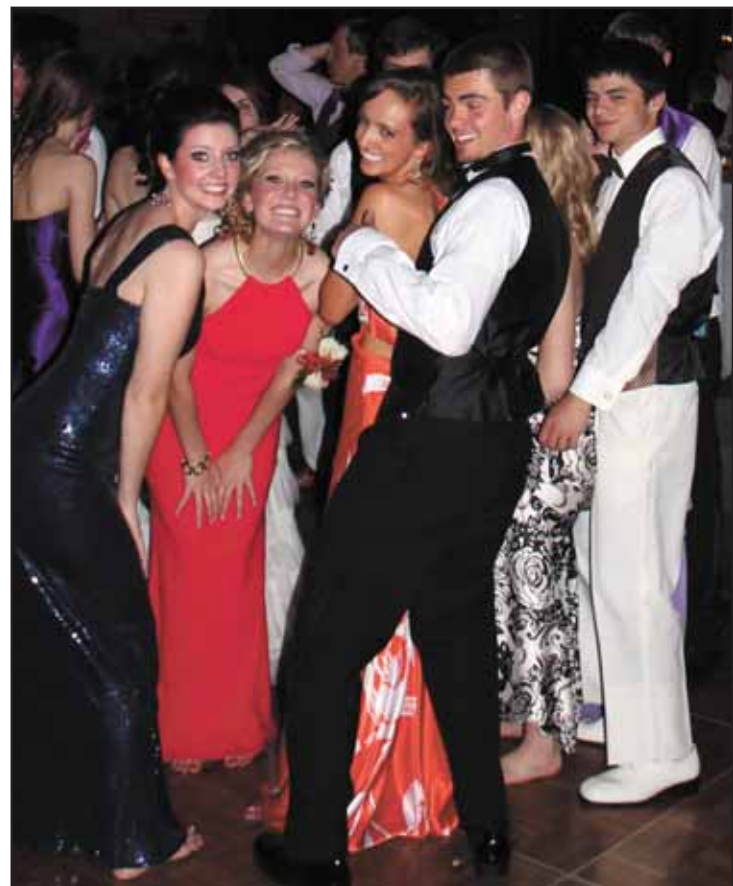


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A Night of Lights ... Highlands School Prom Saturday, April 18 at The Farm



Photos by Lisa Osteen



• HIGHLANDS AREA UPCOMING EVENTS •

Ongoing

• Registration is now open for the 2013 summer Nature Day Camps at the Highlands Nature Center. Five different camps are being 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 and sessions run from Tuesday to Friday each week. For complete schedules, costs, and other information, please call 828-526-2623 or visit the summer camps webpage at www.highlandsbiological.org.

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 class. First class free.

Monday & Wednesday

• Hatha Yoga – Body n' Soul. 7:45a at

First Presbyterian Church. R.Y.T and Y.A. (828) 482-2128. (8/29)

Monday & Thursday

• Hatha Yoga – Body n' Soul. 10:45a at the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation. R.Y.T and Y.A. (828) 482-2128. (8/29)

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 H-C 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.

• Mah Jong games will be held, open to the public, at the Albert Carlton Cashiers-Community Library at 1 p.m.

1st Wednesday

• Movies at the Hudson Library. Children/ Family movies at 3:30 p.m. Free including popcorn. Bring your own soft drinks. 828-526-3031 for movie information.

3rd Wednesday

• Movies at the Hudson Library. Recently released movies at 2 p.m. Free including popcorn. Bring your own soft drinks. 828-526-3031 for movie information.

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.

• See EVENTS page 14

Gear up for Collective Spirits at The Bascom premier spring wine & food event with guest vintners

More than 500 lucky oenophiles will be wine and dine on May 16–18 at The Bascom's annual Collective Spirits fundraiser. The festivities kick off on Thursday evening with exclusive benefactor-only dinners featuring renowned chefs and notable wines. Chefs include Susan Spicer of New Orleans' Bayona restaurant, Elliott Moss of The Admiral in Asheville, James Beard award winner, Sean Brock of Husk in Charleston, Reagan Browell of The Willcox Inn in Aiken (SC), Patrick Owens of Charleston's Opal and Chris Hall of Local Three in Atlanta. These dinners are even more sought after due to their locations in some of Highlands' and Cashiers' finest private homes.

Friday begins with two educational tasting seminars in the classrooms at The Bascom. Friday evening will include a VIP Wine Tasting of rare and collectible restaurant-only wine-list wines, followed by the Stock Your Cellar Wine Market and Tasting on the Terrace at The Bascom. The Market will spotlight dozens of award-winning vintners, who will offer tastings and hard-to-find wines for sale by the discounted case. A seated dinner on Saturday at Highlands Country Club will culminate in a live auction conducted by wine specialist Greg Quiroga of Reynolds-Buckley in California. In May 2010, Quiroga built up a six-figure seed fund for The Bascom's mountain plateau outreach and educational programs benefiting underserved children and families. There is never a charge for gallery exhibitions at The Bascom, which is open year round, seven days a week. More than 40,000 people, including residents of the Highlands-Cashiers plateau, area children youth and adults, and visitors to the community are served each year. Expect even more re-

sults from the proceeds, which will continue to enrich the life of the region's residents through The Bascom's high-quality educational programs, many at no cost to the community.

Saturday's live auction items are a fabulous mix of glamorous trips to luxury destinations, exclusive gourmet dinners, private wine tastings hosted by the vintners themselves and carefully curated wine collections. The Bascom announces its Collective Spirits 2013 vintners, with special Guest of Honor winemaker Rick Sayre of the Rodney Strong Winery.

Please mark your calendar for the Collective Spirits events: Thursday, May 16 – Private Wine Dinners (Benefactors only*) – 6 pm; Friday, May 17 – Educational Tasting Seminars – 1 pm and 3 pm; Friday, May 17 – Stock Your Cellar Wine Market and Tasting (\$100 per person) – 6 pm; Saturday, May 18 – Gala Dinner and Auction (\$275 per person) – 6 pm *Benefactor packages start at \$2,500

For more information about events and participating chefs and vintners, please visit collectivespirits.com. For ticketing information, call 828-787-2896. For other Collective Spirits inquiries, contact Claire Cameron, Events Manager, at 828-787-2882.

Thousands of year-round and seasonal residents experience The Bascom through classes, workshops, events and exhibitions. A non-profit cultural center acclaimed for its barn-like architecture on a beautiful six-acre campus, The Bascom is open year-round, Monday through Saturday, 10 am to 5 pm, and Sunday, noon to 5 pm. For more information, or for more details on all Bascom activities, visit www.TheBascom.org or call 828-526-4949.

On stage now at PAC, Youth Theater's 'John Lennon & Me'



Members of the cast: From left to right: Taylor Baumgarner, AdriAnn McCall, Abby Gilbert, Raven Westbrook, Sayla Roman, (front row right) Brook Rehmeier, Johnny Perez, (back row right) David Long, Destiny Martin & Sarah Ballentine.

The PAC Youth Theater production of John Lennon & Me opens Thursday (this) evening at 7:30pm. After eight intense weeks of rehearsals the show is ready! John Lennon & Me is about life, death, coping, power and first boyfriends. Of course, there will be Beetle music and dancing included. Performances will continue Friday and Saturday evenings at 7:30 and Sunday at 2:30. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for students and may be purchased online at www.highlandspac.org, by calling 828.526.9047 or at the door. Seating is general admission so come early to get a good seat!



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Spring Home Improvement

Smart lighting ideas when remodeling or building a home

(StatePoint) If you're building or remodeling your home, as more Americans are doing these days, consider a fresh approach to your lighting both inside and out.

"Lighting sets the mood for a space and illuminates daily activities," says Jeff Dross, trends expert at Kichler, a manufacturer of decorative lighting, landscape lighting and ceiling fans. "A good lighting design will balance form and function for beauty, safety and convenience."

To maximize the appearance and functionality of your rooms and outdoor spaces, there are several things you should know before getting started:

- **Style:** Consider your taste and how your lighting will interact with your décor and architecture. Is your style contemporary, traditional or transitional?

If you have heavily ornamented furniture, wallpaper or window dressings, consider lighting that's cleaner and simpler for a balanced contrast.

"The trend today is cleaner and simpler designs, regard-

less of your style preference," says Dross. "Keep it simple."

Finish: Today's most popular fixtures feature lighter colors like polished nickel or chrome, and textured or distressed finishes such as aged bronze.

Layers: Multiple light sources can minimize glare and shadows, while adding depth and dimension, so layer spaces with ambient (overhead), task and accent lighting. Ceiling fans are a favorite source of ambient lighting for a great room or family room.

- **Functionality:** Think about how you plan to use each space you're lighting. For example, if your dining room serves more as a homework and hobby station than a formal place to gather, you'll want to install a maximum amount of light. If you entertain there, be sure to install a dimmer.

Take advantage of the experience and expertise of a designer, contractor or lighting professional to help you determine how your lighting can accommodate your daily life.



- **Dimensions:** Pick appropriately sized lighting fixtures for the size of your rooms. A good rule of thumb for chandeliers is to add the two dimensions of your room to arrive at a minimum diameter. So a 12x12 room should have a fixture with a minimum diameter of 24 inches and be no larger than the width of the dining room table.

- **Energy-efficiency:** Consider new lighting technologies such as LED lighting, which can save you money on electric bills.

- **Wiring:** Know where the outlets and electrical boxes are. This is especially important for new construction or large remodeling jobs.

- **Sunlight:** Natural light plays a large role in the type of lighting you need. Look at where

the windows are and how much light they let in. Pay attention to plants or trees that may partially block the sun's rays.

It's important to consider both daytime and nighttime lighting when choosing lighting.

- **Accents:** Light the cove, add sconces and fill the tray ceiling with light. Accent lighting is the jewelry of the home and can make a huge difference to your home's appeal. For more lighting ideas, visit www.Kichler.com.

If you haven't given lighting careful consideration in the past, now is the perfect opportunity -- whether you're remodeling or building your home.

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Spring Home Improvement

Soundproofing tips to turn your home into a quiet sanctuary

(StatePoint) All around us, life is getting louder. But home should be a place to relax and unwind. Between televisions, cell phones, computers and video games, it's sometimes hard to find peace and quiet within the walls of your home.

Luckily, with a few do-it-yourself soundproofing projects, you can reclaim your home as a place of respite no matter what's going on in the rooms around you.

• **Fabrics:** For a quick fix, think fabric. In addition to complementing the look of a room, soft rugs, carpeting, curtains and tapestries make great sound absorbers. And just a few rugs can spell a lot of disturbance-free foot traffic.

• **Furniture:** Give rooms a unique touch and a powerful sound barrier by placing thickly-upholstered chairs in each corner. Large bookcases against common walls can also help block

noise.

• **Surface texture:** Rough surfaces on walls and ceilings, such as sprayed-on texture, a textured paint job or even wallpaper can help reduce sound waves in a noisy room.

• **Insulation:** The simplest, most effective way to soundproof is to reduce air-flow between rooms with a high-density stone wool insulation that's specifically designed for noise reduction.

For example, Roxul Safe 'n' Sound, for use between interior walls, in ceilings, and between floors, traps sound waves and vibrations in the thousands of interconnected spaces created by its fiber structure. Because it can be cut precisely with a serrated blade, it can be trimmed for the best possible fit, meaning maximum sound absorption.

Installation is easy and will go a long way to reduce sound transmission with the added benefit of improving



your home's fire resistance. And because stone wool insulation is mold resistant and doesn't slump or settle inside walls over time, it is maintenance free. More information can be found at www.Roxul.com.

• **Cracks:** Sound can burrow through crevices and cracks. Seal cracks around baseboards and in drywall,

and block slits around window seals and interior doors.

While homes are getting louder, there's good news -- many sound-proofing techniques have additional benefits, from aesthetic appeal to improved energy efficiency. Take steps today to make your home a more peaceful, comfortable place to live.



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• HIGHLANDS AREA UPCOMING EVENTS •

HUMC has new fundraiser



Nature Crisp and Highlands United Methodist Church are teaming up to raise money for missions to feed people here and abroad.

Boxes of organic produce will be available for pick up every Saturday from 10a-noon in front of the Highlands Methodist Church on Main Street.

All proceeds will go to a missions fund to feed people and send people to school here and abroad.

The all natural and organic produce high brix and nutrient dense -- 3-5X more nutrient dense than regular produce.

A large crate -- 20+lbs -- will offer a selection of fresh fruits and vegetables. The selection will change from week to week due to what's in season.

The crate is \$55/weekly, \$220 for the month and \$110 bi-weekly for the month.

Master Card, Visa, and American Express, check or cash is accepted.

Some of the items we have to offer: Kale, Lettuce, Carrots (traditional, purple), Irish Potatoes, Sweet Potatoes, Purple Sweet Potatoes, Bell Pepper, Yellow Squash, Zucchini, Beefsteak Tomatoes, Cluster Tomatoes, Roma Tomatoes, Radishes, Beets (purple, red, white, gold), Cabbage, Broccoli, Cucumbers, Onions, and Corn. Fresh herbs such as Chives, Basil and many more, Brussels sprouts, Collards, Okra.

If interested, email Andrea Gabbard at andregabbard@gmail.com with your contact information (name, number, e-mail address, allergies ect.)

• The Highlands Writers Group meets at 1 p.m. at the Hudson Library. 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!

Second Thursdays

• The regular meeting of Highlands Chapter #284, Order of The Eastern Star is held at 7:30 p.m.

Saturdays

• At Mountain Fresh Grocery, free wine tastings from 2-4 p.m.

• 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.

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.

Thurs.-Sun., April 25-28

• The PAC Youth Theater presents "John Lennon and Me" at the Performing Arts Center. Shows are at 7:30p and 2:30p Sunday matinee.

Thursday, April 25

• Dine out in Highlands for AIDS. Cyprus International Restaurant and Wolfgang's are contributing 20% of their dinner sales to WNCAP.

• At the Macon County Health Clinic, 8 am to noon, free screenings for stroke and oral cancer. The stroke screening includes cholesterol, glucose, and blood pressure, and BMI. Free giveaways and educational displays will also be featured. From noon to 2 pm, tour the new facility located at 108 Macon Center Drive and meet Dr. Kaldre his staff. Appointments for the screenings are required. Call 349-2425, to reserve your slot.

Dine Out for Life TODAY, Thurs. April 25

On April 25th thousands of caring individuals will be making reservations in the US and in Canada to support the AIDS Fund-raiser "Dining Out for Life®" (DOFL). Here in Western North Carolina the event supports the Western North Carolina AIDS Project (WNCAP). Since 1986 WNCAP has provided HIV/AIDS Outreach Education & Prevention programs and case management services to those affected by the disease in Macon County and 17 other counties. DOFL is a vital fundraiser necessary for WNCAP to carry on critical services throughout our region. Last year the event raised \$157,000.

In the US there are currently over 1.2 million people living with AIDS. This number includes over 35,000 men, women and children in North Carolina. According to the CDC over 50,000 new HIV infections occur annually in the US. Though HIV/Aids is a global health threat, funding for testing, treatment and care in the US has never been enough to meet ongoing need. Due to budget cuts there will be less money from government for treatment and prevention in NC and across the US. That is why support of WNCAP is

so important this year.

In Highlands Cyprus and Wolfgang's will be participating in this year's event. They will contribute 20% of their sales that evening to WNCAP. Please add your contribution by having dinner at either restaurant. Your participation is a win-win-win for everyone. A win for you is a great meal out, a win for the restaurant, increased sales, and a BIG win for the clients of WNCAP and future generations who will continue to benefit from the services offered.

For a complete list of sponsors and other participating restaurants in other cities, please visit www.wncap.org/dofl.

Make your plans now to call your friends, colleagues and neighbors and put together your gathering at Wolfgang's or Cyprus. You just might help save a life! By attending you can enter in a drawing for prizes including airfare for two people anywhere in the US. If you will not be able to attend, but want to make a donation to WNCAP go to www.wncap.org and clicking on donate. If you want to be entered in the drawing just put in DOFL drawing in the box for donations made in memory of someone.

Sat., April 27

• Car show fundraiser for Care Net. 10a to 3p at Sonic on 441 (GA Rd.) Registration \$10. For information call 828-349-0986.

Monday, April 29

• The first meeting of the Art League of Highlands 2013 season at the Calderone Gallery, 3608 Highway 246, Sky Valley, GA 30537. Meeting at 3 p.m., followed by social time at 4:30 p.m. with program from 5-6 p.m. Pat Calderone will give a short welcoming presentation of the Gallery and her paintings, which will be followed by members presenting some of their art in a "show and tell" format. Social time and the meeting are open to the public. Call 706-746-5540 for more information and directions to the venue.

• SCC Macon Campus Blood Drive (149 Siler Farm Road; Franklin, NC) 10am – 7 pm Please call Fairley Pollock at (828) 306-7017 or logon to www.redcrossblood.org – Keyword: MACON for an appointment.

Thurs., May 2

• Taize at HUMC at 5:30p.
• The Rotary Club of Highlands and the Highlands-Cashiers Humane Society will join forces to benefit a mutual goal: Saving pets!

Win a Kindle!

Calling all middle school age students in Highlands and Cashiers! There is still time to enter the "If I Were a Book" writing contest in either the prose or poetry categories. The deadline for entries is May 6 and the entry may be up to 325 words in length.

The First Place winner in each category will not only win a Kindle, but also will be published in the Laurel Magazine and will be invited to read his or her entry at "Poetry Night" at the library in Cashiers on August 15.

Call Kathie Blozan at 743-1765 for further information and to obtain an entry form. The submission must begin with the words "If I were a book." All middle school students in Cashiers and Highlands, including home-schoolers are eligible. The contest is being sponsored by the Cashiers Writers Group and the Friends of the Albert Carlton-Cashiers Community Library and is a part of the Love Your Library celebration this summer.

Cats and Dogs Rotary Bingo to be held on Thursday from 6:30-8:30p at the Highlands Community Building

Friday, May 3

• Angel Medical Center Blood Drive (120 Riverview Street; Franklin, NC 28734) 8 am – 5 pm Please contact Barbara Hall at (828) 369-4166; 1800RedCross or log onto www.redcrossblood.org for an appointment.

• The High Mountain Squares will dance this Friday night at the Macon County Community Building on Route 441 South from 6:30-9 p.m. Bob Morrison from Wind-er, GA will be the caller. Mike McDonald and Debbie McClain will be calling the Round and Line Dancing. We dance Western Style Square Dancing, main/stream and plus levels. Everyone is welcome. For information call 828-349-0905.

Saturday, May 4

• The REACH truck will be at the Community Building in Highlands next to the ballfield from 11a to 2p to collect towels, bedding, kitchen items as well as clothing for men, women and children.

Monday, May 6

• Rotary Club of Highland's Annual Golf Tournament at the Highlands Country Club. Registration, the driving range and the practice green will open at 11 am with a noon shotgun start. Lunch at the turn and beverages on the course, and a HCC logo Tervis Tumbler. There will be closest to the pin and long drive competitions, raffles and Mulligans on sale for only \$5. Entry fee is \$150 per player and ALL proceeds benefit the Rotary Club of Highlands. Sign up alone or as part of a foursome. Contact Joyce Baillargeon at 828-526-0501 or email jbailargeon@highlandscountryclub.com

• Entry Deadline for the "If I were a book" writing contest sponsored by The Cashiers Writer's Group and the Friends of the Albert Carlton Cashiers Community Library. There are two categories: poetry and prose. The piece(s) must begin with the words "If I were a book," and can be as long as 325 words. Forms are available at the library or by calling Kathie Blozan at 743-1765. Teachers in Cashiers and Highlands also have forms. Homeschoolers are encouraged to submit work as well. The contest is a part of the "Love Your Library" week in June. Winners of the middle school writing contest will be invited to read their work at Poetry Night at the Cashiers Library First place winners will receive a Kindle and have their work published in the Laurel Magazine. Second place winners will receive a gift certificate for Chapter 2 Book Store.

• BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NEWS •



Among the chapter members who participated in the 4 day field trip, from left to right were Mary Lou Waas, Ted Waas, Don Shure, Romney Bathurst, Kay Henderson, Pat Strickland, Althea Davis, and Janice Shure

Local Audubon members get headstart on spring birding

Thirteen members of Highlands Plateau Audubon Society recently journeyed to Dauphin Island, Alabama to get a preview of Spring Migration. Among the range of the 117 species of birds the group saw were Reddish Egrets and Great Blue Herons to Prothonotary Warblers and Summer Tanagers. It was a colorful adventure!



Rotary Bingo benefits Boy Scouts

On Thursday, April 11, the Rotary Club of Highlands partnered with our local Boy Scouts to sponsor Bingo. All proceeds went to support Highlands troop 207. Pictured are scouts with the winner of the Super Bingo game Jacqueline Podzinski.



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Celebrate Service

National Volunteer Week
April 21-27, 2013

More than 100 smiling volunteers provide valuable services throughout Highlands-Cashiers Hospital and Eckerd Living Center.

During National Volunteer Week we wish to take this opportunity to thank our valued volunteers from the bottom of our hearts for compassionately sharing your time to help others.

Every service you perform, every person you help, and every heart you touch is a meaningful gift!

Gift Shop • Mail Room • Greeter • Laundry • Pharmacy
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Highlands-Cashiers
HOSPITAL

For Volunteer Opportunities: (828) 526-1376
www.highlandscashiershospital.org

• BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NEWS •



From left: Gerry Doubleday, Avary Doubleday, Dolly Harbison award winner and Bill Stiefel.

Doubleday named 'Harbison' recipient

The Hudson Library honored one of its own with the Gertrude and Dolly Harbison Award at its board meeting on Tuesday, April 9. The library is the second oldest library in North Carolina having been founded in 1884. Several librarians served between 1884 and 1926 when Gertrude Harbison assumed the position and her sister Dolly, became the assistant librarian. They remained in that capacity for 50 years. A decade or so ago the Harbison Award was created to honor an individual who has

served the library with dedication above and beyond the expectations of any board member. Since its inception, it has only been awarded four times and we have now recognized Avary Doubleday as the fifth recipient. She has devoted nine years of services to the Hudson Library, the Fontana Regional Library and the Macon County Library where she finished her term as president of the Macon County Library Board this past February.

Hospital announces schedule for upcoming free health screenings

Area residents will have the opportunity to find out if they are in good health, as Highlands-Cashiers Hospital again hosts complimentary community health screenings in the area.

This will be the 20th season that the Hospital has offered free health screenings. Nearly 400 people took advantage of last year's series of screenings. HCH has planned two screenings this season, one in Highlands and one in Cashiers. The Highlands screening will take place on the first floor of the Jane Woodruff Clinic Wednesday, May 22nd. The Cashiers screening will be held at Blue Ridge School on Wednesday, June 19th.

Each screening will begin at 7:15 a.m. and will be limited to the first 150 registrants; however, priority will be given to those with addresses in the hospital's service area. For the Highlands screening, priority will be given to residents in Highlands, Scaly Mountain and Sky Valley areas. For the Cashiers screening, residents with zip codes for Cashiers, Glenville, Sap-

day, May 22nd. The Cashiers screening will be held at Blue Ridge School on Wednesday, June 19th.

... SCREENINGS continued from page 16

phire, Mill Creek and Yellow/Cullowhee Mountain areas will be given priority. Those from other areas or residents who cannot attend their local screening will be placed on a waiting list and accommodated if a slot should open up or go unfilled.

Community residents can begin registering for one of the two screenings now. The Hospital's Foundation Office schedules participants by time slots to help reduce waiting times.

Participants will be checked for height and weight, BMI (body mass index), blood pressure, blood oxygen saturation level, cholesterol and triglyceride levels, glucose (blood sugar) levels, and white and red blood cell counts (to detect anemia and infection). Men over the age of 50 will also receive a blood test to help detect prostate cancer (PSA).

In addition to the various tests, a dietitian/nutritionist will be on hand to discuss healthy eating and exercise habits, and a physical therapist will be available to evaluate balance and strength. Hearing tests and ear examinations will also be conducted at the screenings, and several other health professionals are in attendance. Everyone will enjoy a complimentary continental breakfast.

A wealth of health information is also available. There is no age limit, but minors require parental consent.

Due to the nature of the tests being offered, those participating in screenings are asked not to eat or drink anything but water after midnight the night before. Confidential results of screening tests will be reviewed by the participant's own family physician (or another local physician if no family doctor is specified) before being mailed out.

Those wishing to take advantage of either screening MUST register by calling (828) 526-1435 or visiting the Hospital's website at www.highlandscashiershospital.org

• HEALTH MATTERS •

Non-cosmetic eyelid problems



Dr. Robert Buchanan
www.PlasticSurgeryToday.com

Problems of the eyelids are exceedingly common. They are exceptionally problematic because they disturb the proper function of the eyelid, which, in turn, can affect our vision, cause dry eye, cause headache or even lead to blindness. They can be divided into those arising within the eyelid it-

self due to abnormalities of the eyelid muscles or malposition of the eyelid itself and external problems that just happen to occur on the eyelid or affect it.

One of the most common problems of the eyelid is droop of the upper lid.

This problem can

be either extrinsic or intrinsic. Intrinsic droop is secondary to an abnormality of the muscle holding the eyelid up. This is complicated by the fact that there are actually three muscles that elevate the up-

per eyelid and any one of them can cause droop. The most common problem occurs when the levator, the voluntary lid elevator, stretch-

• See HEALTH MATTERS page 19

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• Biz/ORGANIZATION NEWS •



Dr. Dyer examines a student.

Rotary clubs sponsor 'Dental Exam Day' at Highlands School

On April 5, members of the Rotary Club of Highlands and the Highlands Mountaintop Rotary Club combined to sponsor Dental Examination Day at Highlands School for students in grades K-5. Local dentists Drs. Christopher Dyer, William Stiefel and Bruce Walker volunteered their time and expertise to examine the students.

After each student was examined, a form was completed and sent home to the parents indicating any potential dental problems.

In addition to the annual dental examination day, the two clubs jointly sponsor and fund a weekly fluoride rinse and a yearly dental education day for students in grades K-5.

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• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

Learning to
live again

Father Bruce Walker
Episcopal Church of the
Incarnation



A little over a week ago, we once again came face to face with the reality that the world is not as it should be or as we want it to be. Two of our fellow human beings thought it a good idea to explode homemade bombs in a crowded Boston street near the end of one of the most prestigious sports events in our nation. The cheering and celebration for the participants of the Boston Marathon turned to screams of horror amidst increasing confusion. Few knew what had just happened, but trained as we are in modern acts of terror it soon became clear. Once again we were under attack, but from whom and for what reason? The immediate needs of the victims were quickly and admirably addressed and at last count the 180 injured who were admitted to hospital trauma centers are now expected to survive. For this, we give thanks.

We are saddened by the loss of life and sit now in our own bewilderment of what to do next. This is not the first time we have met with death or encountered the cold hard realities of life in today's world. This will likely not be the last time we will endure the struggle and pain of tragic loss. What are we to do now?

My first suggestion is to acknowledge the loss. Pray for those who lost their lives, pray for their families, pray for those whose lives are now changed. While we acknowledge that life has now changed, I suggest that we also acknowledge that life has not ended. Life has not ended for those who died, it has changed. Life has not ended for the families who suffered loss, but it has most dramatically changed and likely forever. What are they to do?

My last suggestion is to learn how to live again. As we continue in this world of confusion, we can best serve ourselves and others, by learning how to navigate this world in a better way! We might take our cue from the young boy who lost his life in the explosion. Before his death, he created a poster which read simply, "no more hurting people" and then he added the word – "peace." This young man has become a symbol for hope in this hurting world. His admonition for peaceful coexistence should not go unheeded. Martin Richard is showing us a way forward.

Like another Martin (Luther King) of years gone by, he teaches and leads us on a path of non-violence. Like John Lennon, who also died a violent death, this younger version, is challenging us once again, "to give peace a chance." Why not start again today? Aren't we all ready for a better world in which to live?

Speaking theologically, most religions do speak of a

John 3:16

• PLACES TO WORSHIP •

Proverbs 3:5

BLUE VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH
Rev. Oliver Rice, Pastor (706) 782-3965
Sundays: School – 10 a.m., Worship – 11
Sunday night services every 2nd & 4th Sunday at 7
Wednesdays: Mid-week prayer meeting – 7 p.m.

BUCK CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH
Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11

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Catered dinner - Wed. 6pm

CHAPEL OF SKY VALLEY
Sky Valley, GA
Church: 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
Worshipping at the facilities of Whiteside Presbyterian Church, Cashiers
Sun.: Holy Communion - 9 a.m.; Adult Forum - 10:45 at Buck's Coffee Cafe, Cashiers
Mon.: Bible Study & Supper at homes - 6 p.m.
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

CLEAR CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH
Pastor Jim Kinard
Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11
Wednesdays -- 7 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: Children's 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: Holy Eucharist Rite I (chapel), 8 am, Education and choir rehearsal, 9 am, Holy Eucharist Rite II, (sanctuary), 10:30 am
Thursdays: Holy Eucharist, (chapel), 10 am

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
Dr. Mark Ford, 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 • 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

GOLDMINE BAPTIST CHURCH
(Off Franklin/Highlands Rd)
Rev. Carson Gibson
Sunday School – 10 am, Worship Service – 11 am
Bible Study – 6 pm

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)
Sunday: Morning Worship 10:45 a., Evening Worship, 6:30 p.
Wednesday: Prayer Service, 6:30 p.

HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Pastor Paul Christy 526-3376
Sun: School 9:45a.; Worship 8:30, 9:09 & 10:50.; Youth Group 5:30 p.
Wed: Supper; 6; 7:15 – children, youth, & adults studies; 6:15 – Adult choir (nursery provided for Wed. p.m. activities)
Thurs:12:30 – Women's Bible Study (nursery)

HOLY FAMILY LUTHERAN CHURCH – ELCA
Chaplain Margaret Howell
2152 Dillard Road – 526-9741
Sundays: Sunday 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
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Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11
Choir – 6 p.m.
Wed: Bible Study and Youth Mtg. – 7 p.m.

MOUNTAIN SYNAGOGUE
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MOUNTAIN BIBLE CHURCH
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SCALY MOUNTAIN BAPTIST CHURCH
Rev. Dwight Loggins
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 Alfred Sizemore • 526-3212
Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 10:45 a.m.; Worship – 6 p.m.
Wed: Adult Bible Study & Youth – 7 p.m.

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

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WHITESIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Cashiers, Rev. Sam Forrester, 743-2122
Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11

... HEALTH MATTERS continued from page 17

es and becomes lax with time. We see this very commonly in people seeking cosmetic improvement of the eyelids. This muscle is easily accessed through a regular blepharoplasty incision and requires only a few stitches to imbricate it and elevate the eyelid to a normal position. Another common cause of droop seen at the time of cosmetic consultation is from descent of the brow. Although it is most commonly extrinsic, due to gravitational pull on the brow causing the tissue from above the eyelid itself to descend into the eyelid, pushing it down, it can also occur from weakness of the frontalis muscle, the muscle that elevates the brow. Usually this is corrected with some type of brow lift procedure which pulls the tissues back into the brow where they belong and out of the eyelid, thus allowing the lid to assume its normal position.

The third muscle that controls eyelid position is Muller's muscle. This is a muscle that is not voluntarily controlled but controlled by the sympathetic nervous system. It normally holds the eyelid in the correct position while you are awake, but it allows the eyelid to close when you become sleepy. Occasionally it also becomes stretched and fails to hold the eyelid in its normal open position. When this occurs, this muscle is approached from the eyeball side of the lid and shortened by removing a strip of conjunctiva and muscle from the back side of the lid.

The most common other problems of the eyelid usually concern the lower lid. These occur from either stretch of the lid itself or tightening of one of the layers of the lid. Of these, ectropion, eversion of the lower lid away from the globe, is most common. Mild forms can cause dry eye. More advanced forms cause chronic irritation of the lining of the eye and lid, with redness, swelling and occasionally even weeping. If left untreated, this can even cause blindness. This condition therefore needs to be treated early by simply taking out the excess lid length, adding

tissue to replace the scar, or both.

The opposite is an entropion where the lid turns inward. Frequently the most symptomatic part of this is what is known as trichiasis, or irritation of the eyeball from the eyelashes scraping against the globe or cornea. This condition is usually from some type of scarring of the internal layers of the eyelid following some type of surgery. Correction usually involves release of the scar and insertion something, such as a graft, to prevent recurrence.

Another very common problem of the eyelids is the presence of either malignant or nonmalignant lesions. Benign lesions generally require no treatment unless they are causing problems with function of the eyelid or are simply cosmetically undesirable. The one exception is verrucae, better known as warts. These lesions occur when a virus enters an otherwise benign lesion and begins growing. This can cause a very large, irritative lesion that can interfere with function of the lid, bleed, or become otherwise problematic. These are treated essentially like malignant lesions in order to make certain that all of the cells containing the virus are removed.

Premalignant and malignant lesions, however, such as actinic keratoses, basal cell epithelioma and squamous cell carcinoma, all do require treatment to prevent destruction of the eyelid. These are more easily treated on the loose upper eyelid skin. On the lower eyelid simple excision can cause ectropion or other functional abnormalities of the eyelid. Therefore, frequently a skin graft or flap which moves tissue from a looser area into the tighter lid may be necessary in order to prevent problems in lid function. This is one of the places where Mohs surgery is exceptionally useful. Mohs removes the lesion with exceptionally small

• See HEALTH MATTERS page 22

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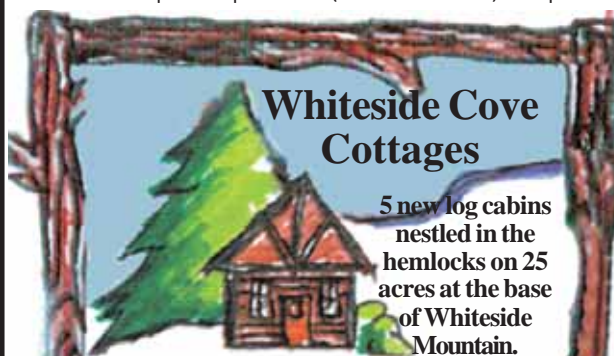
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• See CLASSIFIEDS page 22



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... CLASSIFIEDS from page 21

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... HCLT continued from page 9

they love. Community leaders in land trusts throughout the country have worked with willing landowners to save over 47 million acres of farms, forests, parks and places people care about, including land transferred to public agencies and protected via other means. Strong, well-managed land trusts provide local communities with effective champions and caretakers of their critical land resources, and safeguard the land through the generations.

"The Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust accredited status demonstrates our commitment to permanent land conservation that benefits the entire community," says Executive Director Gary Wein.

... SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING continued from page 18

place, condition or state of mind where peace reigns supreme. Hebrew and Christian scriptures speak of the Garden of Eden. It is a place where we have been and a place we long to return.

Speaking from a Christian perspective, it is our understanding that Jesus Christ will someday usher us into a new Eden. Some call this heaven and truly it is a better place. We long to be there, but we are not there yet. We live in the now, but the not yet - in what some call the in between time. What are we to do?

In the face of this tragedy and others that will certainly befall us, we are to learn to live again. Life has not ended, it has only changed. The good news is that even in this "in-between time," Christ is present. So in our struggles, when we ask those hard questions of life, we should also ask the most relevant of all, "Where is God in the midst of all this?" I pray that you will discover the Lord walking beside you, supporting you every step of the way!

... HEALTH MATTERS from page 19

margins and then makes certain by microscopic examination and further resection if necessary that the margins are totally free. This allows removal of as minimal an amount of lid skin as possible. This procedure is done by a specially trained dermatologic surgeon. We then generally do the closure to assure that the eyelid continues to function properly.

Lesions near the lid margins are especially problematic because immediately under the skin at the margin is a thick, cartilaginous structure called the tarsus. Here the skin cannot simply be excised but requires grafting, a flap, or complete transection of the entire lid and tarsus in order to remove the lesion and close the defect.

In summary, there are many problems that can occur to the eyelids. Some of those problems have multiple causes. When evaluating a problem, the underlying cause and the effect of the problem or correction thereof on lid mechanics need to be determined in order to select the most reasonable method for correcting the problem to prevent functional consequences.

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• POLICE & FIRE •

Highlands PD log entries from April 5. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor, or public officials have been used.

April 5

• At 4:40 p.m., officers assisted with an involuntary commitment of a resident on Choctaw Lane.

April 9

• At 9:15 a.m., officers responded to a call about the larceny of farm and garden vehicles and implements valued at \$5,000 from Spruce Street.

• At 9:45 a.m., officers responded to a call about the larceny of a dark leather couch valued at \$100 taken from Mountain Findings on Spruce Street.

April 10

• At 5:40 p.m., officers were called to N. 4th Street where a plastic bag filled with white powder assumed to be drugs was found. It is under investigation.

April 15

• At 11:30 a.m., officers were called about a city ordinance violation at a residence on Wingina Place.

The Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. log entries from April 11.

April 11

• At 1:25 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm set off by a worker at a residence on Cullasaja Drive.

• At 5:22 p.m., the dept. responded to a two-

vehicle accident on N. 4th Street.

April 12

• At 7:21 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call at a residence on Sky Lake Drive. EMS transported to the hospital.

• At 9:57 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm set off by burning food at a residence on NC 106.

April 13

• At 9:07 p.m., the dept. responded to a possible structure fire but fire was due to an ash bucket on fire at a residence on S. 4th St.

• At 3:36 p.m., the dept. responded to an alarm set off by an elderly patient at the Fidelia Eckerd Center.

• At 8:39 p.m., the dept. responded to a vehicle roll-over on US 64 west. EMS transported to the hospital.

April 14

• At 3:35 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call at a residence on Arnold Road. EMS transported to the hospital.

April 16

• At 6:49 a.m., the dept. responded to a medical alert alarm at a residence on N. 5th Street. Helped the resident off the floor.

• At 8:40 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call at N. 5th Street where the resident had fallen. EMS transported to the hospital.

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Parking Regulations went into effect April 15th. Employees and Business owner must park in the designated parking areas. For a map of the areas you are allowed to park please visit the Town website highlandsnc.org,



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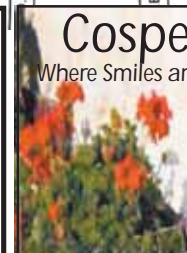
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PAC Youth Theater's 'John Lennon & Me' opens April 25



The PAC Youth Theater is in full rehearsal mode. Pictured is a dance rehearsal featuring Choreographer Kaycee Carver with Katherine Potts, David Long, Raven Westbrook, Brooke Rehmeier and Abby Gilbert. Kaycee is currently attending the University of Georgia and is a PAC Youth Theater graduate. Be sure to come see this year's production of John Lennon & Me. Opening Thursday, April 25 and continuing the 26th, 27th and 28th. Evening performances begin at 7:30 and the Sunday matinee begins at 2:30. Tickets may be purchased by calling: 828.526.9047 or online: www.highlandspac.org.



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