

Highlands Newspaper

FREE Every Thursday

Volume 11, Number 25

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Thurs., June 19, 2014

Ongoing:

• At Highlands Playhouse, "The Little Shop of Horrors!" Call the box office for tickets 828-526-2695.

Thurs., June 19

• The TofH Scholarship Golf Tournament is at Wildcat Cliffs CC. 9am Call Rebecca Shuler at 526-2118.

• At The Bascom, "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone." Free Family Movie Night—rain or shine at 9p.

Fri.-Sun., June 20-22

• Hal Phillips on the piano at Sky-line Lodge.

Fri., June 20

• At PAC, bluegrass concert by Balsam Range. Call 526.9047 for tickets.

• Friday Night Live music in Town Square from 6-8. "Southern Highlands."

• At the Lost Hiker, Stand Up Comedy hosted by Chris Wilkes. 9 p.m.

Sat., June 21

• Live music in Pine Street Park, from 6-8 p.m., featuring Well Strung.

Sun.-Mon., June 22-23

• At Highlands Playhouse, the movie "The Railway Man." Sundays 6p & 8p - Mondays 4p, 6p & 8p.

Sun.-Thurs, June 22-26

• Vacation Bible School at the Methodist Church from 5-8PM

Sun., June 22

• At 1st Pres, voice recital with Farrel Zehr at 3p.

• H-C Chamber Music Festival Auction fundraiser at Scudder's 4:30-7p. Luncheon and concert included. \$75 per person. Call 526-9060 for tickets.

• Maria Howell to perform at 6 pm at the Episcopal Church to benefit Highlands Friends of Haiti. Tickets are \$100. Call 526-2968.

Mon.-Wed., June 23 - 27th

• Kelsey Kids FREE DAY CAMP. 9am -3pm). Call 787-1050 for info.

Mon., June 23

• Highlands Rec Park Swim Team meet at 7:30p. 18 and under. Bring your swim suit. Call 526-3556.

• Hudson Library showing the "My Life as a Turkey" at 7 pm.

Wed, June 25

• H-C Chamber Music free picnic concert at the Zachary Tolbert House in Cashiers at 5:30p.

• At Highlands PAC, The MET Opera Encore performances at 7 pm. Call 526-9047 for tickets.

Judge shoots down 25% tenure mandate

"The 25% selection of teachers for the 2014-'15 school year is off the table. You don't have to do it. Consequently, any teacher who had been granted tenure before June 30, 2013, keeps it indefinitely."

That was the word to the

MC Board of Education Monday night from the MC Schools Attorney John Henning, Jr.

This puts to rest – at least for the 2014-'15 school year – the mandate handed down by the General Assembly forcing North Carolina school districts to offer

a select 25% of teachers a 4-year contract and a \$500 a year bonus if they gave up their tenure.

Wake County Superior Court Judge Robert Hobgood ruled in favor of NC Association of Educators (NCAE) and several teach-

• See JUDGE page 8

New pool opens with flair



At 3p.m., Friday, June 13, the Summit Architecture team joined Mayor Pat Taylor, Highlands Rec Park Director Lester Norris, Commissioner John Dotson and Town Manager Bob Frye at the opening of the new pool. It started with a ribbon cutting and a "first swim" by Mayor Taylor. (See photo page 2.) Pool hours are 11a to 5p, Mon.-Sat.; Sun., 1-5p. Adult Lap swim is 8a - 9:30a daily and 5-6p Mon., Tues., Thurs; Family Swim in 6-8p Mon., Tues., Thurs. It's \$2 for age 12 and under; and \$3 for age 13 up. A Rec Park Swim Team for ages 18 and under is starting up. First meeting is Monday, June 23 at 7:30p. Call 526-3556 for more information.

Photo by Jim Lewicki

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High School students to get iPads

Macon County Schools Board of Education voted unanimously to lease 750 iPads from Apple so every high school student in the system will have an iPad when school starts the last week in August.

Currently, among teachers and students, there are 1,200 in the system which were first introduced a couple of years ago as a pilot program. In addition, 180 were recently purchased so all tolled there will be 2,130 in the system.

Students in Highlands School's English Teacher Cathy MacIntyre-Ross's class have been using them for a while.

School Board members were worried about lost, damaged or stolen iPads – particularly who would be responsible and how the district could keep losses to a minimum.

Tim Burrell, IT director, explained that there is a Mobile Device Management System in

•See IPADS page 3

Raleigh Report: Stage set for NC budget talks

By Kirk Ross
Carolina Public Press

In the end, the state House version of the Appropriations Act of 2014 attracted a handful of votes from Democrats and passed Friday morning with a 77-

36 vote.

The final version, derived after two days of debate and amendments, heads to the state Senate, which voted out a spending plan earlier this month that is vastly different in several places.

Senate appropriation committees take a look at the House plan this week.

There's no telling how long negotiations between the two chambers will take, but at least

•See NC BUDGET page 6

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• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• MAYOR ON DUTY •

...at tonight's Town Board meeting



cerns. Specific responses and questions the proposed budget, the amendment or UDO changes should be held until the opening of the appropriate public hearing.

Anyone can access the documents for this meeting, such as the proposed budget, at the town website.

In addition, if someone wants to receive in advance the agenda packet for each town meeting, they can request to be placed in the "Sunshine List."

The agenda packet is usually sent out the Friday before the scheduled board meeting. Requests can be made by contacting the town clerk, Rebecca Shuler, at rebecca.shuler@highlandsnc.org.

Hope to see everyone tonight at 7p.m. at the Highlands Conference Center next to the ball field.

— Mayor Pat Taylor

The main item in the agenda for tonight's town board meeting will be the adoption of the budget for fiscal year 2014-15.

The town manager, staff and board have been working together for the last five months to develop this proposed budget. The line items in the budget were generated from the three workshops that began in this past winter. There are no items the budget that haven't been reviewed prior to this meeting. I anticipate no major changes, if any, in the budget.

A public hearing for citizen response to the budget will be held. After the hearing, the town board will conduct a final review and hopefully approve the proposed budget. The budget must be in place for the new fiscal year starting July 1st.

We will also hold two other public hearings. One hearing will be on the proposed amendment to an ordinance to allow certain metals in limited quantities as siding for buildings. For instance, copper siding and awnings would be permissible under this new ordinance.

Another public hearing will be for several minor changes to the Unified Development Ordinance, aka UDO. Our zoning and code staff are constantly reviewing the UDO for editorial items and to clarify any ambiguous or unclear wording in the UDO.

As always, the meeting tonight will begin with a public comment period where citizens can express general con-



Mayor Pat Taylor was the first one in the pool which opened on Friday, June 13 with a free community swim from 3-7:30p. — Photo by Jim Lewicki

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• LETTERS •

The wealthy do pay taxes

Dear Editor,

I was dismayed by reading the letter in last week's edition, "Talk is Cheap" where the writer lamented about the wealthy and corporations not paying their fair share of taxes.

Although this talk is cheap, the writer conveniently chose to ignore facts.

The problems this country face are not in revenues received from taxes, but how much our government continues to spend.

I am a senior citizen, who has gone through life realizing that I cannot spend more than I have coming in. Our government would do well to follow that simple rule.

How much does the writer of the "Talk is Cheap" letter think the wealthy and corporations should pay in taxes? We must remember that the top 3% income earners in this country pay over 80% of all taxes.

• OBITUARY •

Mae Dryman Potts Tucker

Mae Dryman Potts Tucker, 83, of Franklin passed away Monday, June 9, 2014 in a local hospital. Born in Macon County, she was the daughter of the late Olen and Edna Brown Dryman. She was married to Jack Tucker who preceded her in death. She was a loving mother, grandmother and great grandmother who loved to travel and work in her flowers. She was a member of Highlands First Baptist Church.

Mrs. Tucker is survived by two step daughters, Lisa Crowe and Leslie Tucker both of Highlands; one son, Dennis Potts of Otto and two sisters, Mary Roper and Helen Dishner both of Franklin, three grandchildren and six great grandchildren. In addition to her parents and husband, she was preceded in death by two sons, Doug Potts and David Potts and two brothers, Cecil Dryman and Wayne Dryman.

A memorial service was held Saturday, June 14, 2014 at 11 am in the Chapel of Bryant Grant Funeral Home in Highlands. Burial was in Highlands Memorial Park.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to American Cancer Society, Macon County Unit Relay for Life, PO Box 1648, Franklin, NC 28744.

Bryant Grant Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. Online condolences may be made at www.bryantgrantfuneralhome.com.

• MILESTONE •

Lynn "David" Long, son of Lynn and Valerie Long of Highlands, NC, was named to the Cedarville University Dean's List for the Spring 2014 semester. Long is a freshman majoring in public communication.

...LETTERS continued from page 1

Furthermore, even if this group was taxed at 100%, it would not even cover our government's expenses for one year! Effective tax rates (based on taxable income, after deductions, that we actually have to pay the IRS) are some of the highest in history.

People are quick to point to the higher tax rates of years ago, but they forget that there were a multitude of deductions back then that lowered the actual taxable income, thus lowering the effective tax rate.

Does the writer realize how many people in the country pay no taxes at all? People need to put their ideologies aside, follow the facts, and stop spewing partisan talking points.

We are in a difficult time in this country, because of how divisive political parties have become. We should never forget that this country is about the people, all the people, not just those in power.

Mark Goodwin
Cashiers, NC

...IPADS from page 1

place in which the iPad serial numbers are stored – the serial numbers are also stored with Apple – so combined with the Find My iPad and a GPS application which are loaded and locked in on each device, the location of each iPad is known at all times.

"Lost or stolen iPads can be tracked easily," said Burrell. "As soon as we get the iPads, the GPS is automatically activated. If the iPad is stolen and someone tries to reset it they can't unless they contact our school server so if someone steals it, it is useless to them."

Burrell and Superintendent Chris Baldwin said the iPads are essentially textbooks and policies regarding care, damage or loss are the same.

"Just like with a textbook, if a student intentionally destroys an iPad he or she will be liable for replacement. Replacement cost will be prorated based on the age of the device when it destroyed or lost," said Burrell.

If an iPad is stolen away from school grounds, a police report must be filed. If stolen on school grounds, then the school system has to file the police report. "If the investigation shows no liability or criminal intent on the student's part, then parents won't have to pay for it and a new one will be issued," said Burrell.

The iPads cost about \$500 each.

Parents will receive a letter and contract explaining who is responsible for what before school starts.

• See IPADS page 9

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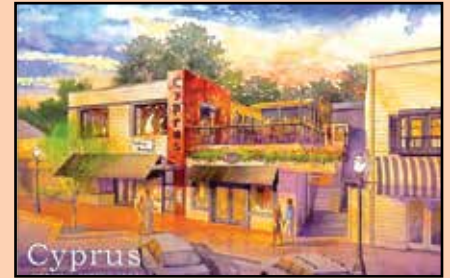
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...NC BUDGET continued from page 1

one clue came out last week when the official adjournment bill was filed with a target date of Friday, June 27.

Notable among the changes passed by the House is a projected boost in the take from the lottery to pay for teacher pay raises averaging 5 percent. The additional lottery sales are driven by removal of a cap on lottery advertising, according to the plan. The projection — the high end of an estimate of income — drew criticism during the proposal's debate and is likely to be one of the first hurdles when the House and Senate conference committee starts meeting.

The Senate plan to raise pay for teachers is also controversial, requiring teachers to give up their career status rights in order to qualify for 11 percent raises. The House plan does not include a requirement that teachers give up career status rights.

The two plans are similar in that they provide higher percentage raises to teachers with less than 15 years of experience and boost the starting pay for the profession, a priority in Gov. Pat McCrory's budget. Unlike the Senate plan, the House plan does not cut funding for about 7,400 teaching

assistants in the second and third grades.

The House does follow the governor's lead in trying to squeeze more dollars out of the university system budget. The governor proposed a \$44 million cut and the House proposed cutting \$20 million while the Senate did anticipate further cuts.

The House and Senate budgets provide for many of the same upgrades to Western region projects, including state funds and bond offerings for a new Western Crime Lab along with major improvements at the Western North Carolina Agricultural Center.

A new WNC addition in the House budget is \$2 million in planning funds for a western campus for the North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics. Also in the House budget is an additional \$1.86 million for innovative high schools including Buncombe Discovery Academy.

The House did not agree with a Senate plan to close some state historic sites, including the Zebulon Baird Vance birthplace in Weaverville.



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•THE FREDSTER•

Breathing through their rectums?

No, no, no, this is not about our politicians' butts (ha) I can see how you're thinking that though! I guess you're wondering how else could they continuously lie to us while never taking a breath. No, fortunately for lowly Americans, uppity politicians have to stop lying momentarily to take in air before lying some more. Praise be!



Fred Wooldridge

These questions and many more came to light when the li'l missus and I took a batch of our grandkids to Loggerhead Park in Juno Beach, Florida back in May. It was National Loggerhead Turtle Day. Of course, the grandkids were as totally bored as the turtles but the li'l missus and I had a blast, listening to the Reggae band, viewing the many displays and staring at huge turtles that ignored us.

Are you sitting down? Loggerhead turtles, who never ever lie, can breathe through their rectums. Whoa, what a waste of talent. How did this come to be, you ask? God only knows but I'm sure He had good intentions.

Loggerheads have been around for about 200 million years, give or take a few thousand. Even though I'm this newspaper's oldest columnist, I was not around for the creation of turtle rectums. Write that down.

Butt (ha, yet again) this knowledge has set my hair on fire, causing my awesome brain to spin out of control. While the town merchants continue to freak out over who is parking where and stupid unimportant stuff like that, I want to know... can a turtle inhale from its rectum and exhale through its nose ... or vice versa? And does a turtle's breathe smell just as bad when exhaling from either end? Inquiring minds want to know.

Then we spoke with a volunteer who was guarding a tank containing a giant turtle who was upside down with his rectum barely sticking out of the water. She informed us the poor ole guy was extremely old, very sick and hadn't moved (ha, once more) or eaten in days. I had to ask, "How do you know it's not dead?" You don't wanna know her answer as it does involve sniffing a rectum. Holy Moly ... where do I sign up for that!

And this part is massive! All of this valuable information would have been lost forever had the United Nations taken over

the Internet. Thank goodness that will not happen and the good ole USA will maintain control. Why is this so important, you ask? Ya see, the UN does not want the world to know about turtle rectums for obvious reasons. The UN is a turtle rectum. Can you blame them?

And in closing, here's another thing I must confess. Since visiting Loggerhead Park and learning all about Loggerheads, I can't stop wondering if every time I listen to the president give one of his many, bla bla speeches, is he breathing through his Hanes or what? Bad Fred.

• Check out Fred's two books, Deceived and I'm Moving Back to Mars

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...JUDGE continued from page 1

ers – one of which was Franklin High School history teacher John deVile – with his decision saying tenure is a property right.

“He said it’s not something that can be just taken away with the stroke of a pen,” said Hen-

ning. “A teacher who has earned tenure, got into teaching with a sort of contractual understanding that if they went through the probationary period and did everything right and got offered tenure then they would have those tenure

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

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rections as long as they remained a teacher in the NC school system.”

In addition, Judge Hobbard also ruled that the 25% selection to take the 4-year contract and give up tenure rights, if a teacher had them, was not legal. However, at this point, the school system can’t offer tenure to anyone who didn’t receive it by June 30, 2013.

“What the court’s decision says is you can’t just arbitrarily pull back the tenure once it’s been granted and therefore the 25% selection isn’t constitutional or lawful,” said Henning. “However, the court didn’t go so far as to say the state can’t end the granting of tenure from here on out – like what was done with contract administrators 15 years ago. So you as a board also didn’t get permission to grant tenure.”

Henning said the understanding is that the General Assembly isn’t going to pursue an

• See JUDGE page 9

2014 Feasts of the Festival

Festival Kickoff Cocktail Party at Mountaintop Golf Club

Sunday, June 8 – 6 PM

\$100 Person – 30 Places

Hosts: Ginger Kennedy & Kevin Naylor

Anna & Hays Mershon

Dine on a charcuterie & cheese board, carving station, new potatoes with caviar and other surprise treats

The Eroica Trio at Whiteside Mountain

Saturday, July 26 – 7:15 PM

\$125 Person – 20 Places

Host: Ann Abrams

Feast on a bountiful buffet while conversing with Sara, Erika and Sara

Chill with Cellomania!

Sara, Lexine, Benjamin, David, Guang, James, Alyona and Valerie

Sunday, July 27 - 7:15 PM

\$125 Person – 8 Places

Hosts: Kathy & Mark Whitehead

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A French Fete – SOLD OUT

Thursday, July 31 – 6 PM

\$150 Person – 20 Places

Hosts: Peter & Valerie Whitcup

An exquisite French menu:
seared foie gras with calvados,
roast loin of beef with truffled
sauce perigueux, zucchini
potato gratin, crème brulee

A Louisiana Feast

Friday, August 22 – 6 PM

\$125 Person – 16 Places

Hosts: Carolyn & Rhett Tanner

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Bear Shadow

Thursday, October 23 - 5 PM

\$250 Person - 24 Places

Hosts: Ed & Penny Mawyer

A Culinary Event:
superb 5-course dinner
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...JUDGE continued from page 8

appeal of the issue.

John deVille said when he combines the ruling, plus Sen. Jim Davis's comments at the recent forum, plus the Senate's budget, plus the House budget, this is what he comes up with:

The General Assembly has conceded that tenure/due process for those of us who have it, have reluctantly conceded that tenure is indeed a property right.

Davis admitted that the "Senate had thrown up the white flag" (my words) when I posited that at the forum in that the Senate budget is an attempt to buy the right away.

The House has also conceded the same in that they aren't even discussing it anymore for tenured teachers and have moved to up to four year contracts for new teachers.

"I think the whole 'bribe the teachers' thing in the Senate budget fell so hard, so flat, that the fight is done, he said. "So, for us old-timers, tenure/due process is here

EMC's First Annual Bluegrass Bash fundraiser is July 26

Have you ever gone to bed hungry (really hungry) or cold (so cold you were numb)? I seriously doubt it if you have. I personally have been cold but was able to get warm from our heat source and I have been hungry but always had food to eat.

Many of our HEC clients have and do lack food and fuel. HEC's mission states that no one in the Highlands area should go to bed cold or hungry. Due to circumstances beyond their control they are unable to help themselves. Inflation has eaten up the meager funds some senior citizens had counted on to sustain their lives in the "golden" years.

Likewise the young family who attempts to live on minimum wage cannot make ends meet. Little children have no say in their circumstance. Many of the low income people have to choose, do they buy medicines, food or fuel?

The only way HEC can help meet these needs is if "you" feel inclined to help. This "village" has been very faithful to the low income causes and our prayer is that you will continue to do so. It has been said "that it takes a village" and all of us are citizens of this village.

Please save the date of July 26th for the Highlands Emergency Council's First Annual Bluegrass Bash. Good music, good food, bake sale, crafts and a raffle. Join us and be a part of our mission. See you there! Highlands Civic Center, July 26th, 5a to 10p p.m.

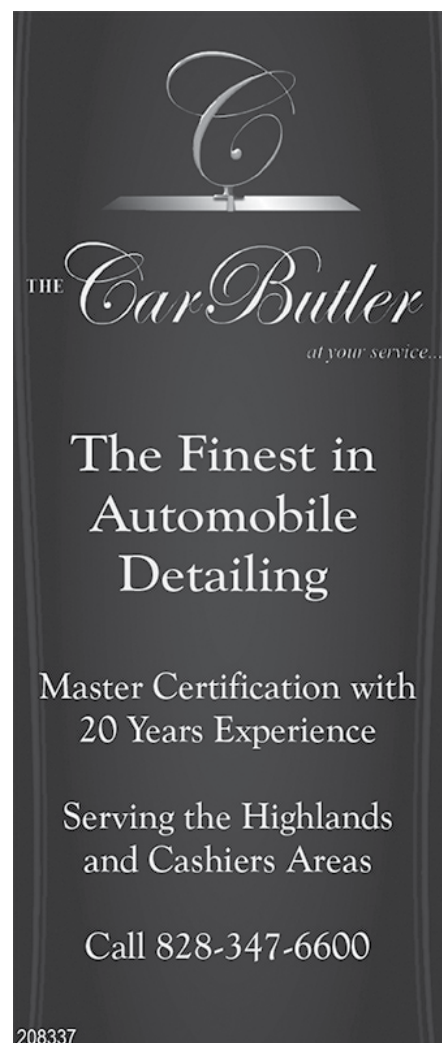
to stay in North Carolina."

He said NCAE is continuing to push for rolling contracts which wouldn't have the same level of protection current tenure does but would still force school districts to provide counseling and action plans for teachers whose performance may be seem to be weak so that teachers aren't simply tossed aside without cause nor collaborative efforts to remediate.

So contracts and letters were mailed to the 108 probationary teachers across the system who have been waiting to hear if they were on the 25% select list or if they would be offered employment for the 2014-'15 school year. None of them have tenure.

Henning said the two different budgets – Senate and House – have different ways of dealing with this going forward. The state budget is being hammered out this week. Depending on the version that wins, teachers could be offered 1-, 2-, or 4-year contracts which probably wouldn't take effect until next year.

– Kim Lewicki



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...IPADS continued from page 3

At the beginning of the school year, each high school student will be issued an iPad preloaded with textbooks and applications pertaining to his or her schedule for the year.

Orientation will take place during the school day the first week of school to teach students how to use the iPad.

"This is really about having up-to-date textbooks, something we haven't had. Digital textbooks are really fairly simple to ma-

nipulate," said Baldwin.

Students can purchase and download certain approved applications, but the list is very restricted. Games will not be allowed. Whatever students purchase will follow them on an Apple account which they can access when they leave school if they purchase an iPad later.

Teachers can also control what is being accessed on the device in the classroom.

– Kim Lewicki



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Bluegrass concert at PAC is Friday



Bluegrass with Balsam Range this Friday, June 20th at the Highlands PAC on Chestnut Street at 8pm. Presented by Wilson Gas Service. Balsam Range won ALBUM of the YEAR 2013 from the International Bluegrass Music Awards for Papertown; SONG of the YEAR 2011 for Trains I Missed; and 7 #1 National Songs. Tickets: \$35 & \$25 are available online at highlandspac.org or by calling 828.526.9047.

• BIZ/ORG NEWS •

Exhibit opens at the Historical Museum



The Highlands Historical Society and the Land Stewards have collaborated on an exhibit on display at the Historical Museum as well as a DVD that outlines the botanical history of the Highlands Plateau. The DVD is named "In the Footsteps of the Ancients." Pictured are members of the Highlands Historical Society and the Land Stewards on opening day, Friday, June 6. The museum is open Fridays and Saturdays

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Stand Up Comedy at the Lost Hiker

Friday, June 20 at 9p

By **Melanie Kay Griffin**

Coming to you live, straight out of Palm Beach County, Florida, The Lost Hiker presents The Hospitality Show, a stand-up comedy show featuring five of South Florida's finest, most reputable comics and hosted by Highlands' own Chris Wilkes.

The group of comedians that will be performing is made up of Seth Stern, Jay Risk, Stefanie Howard, Dennis Howe and Michael Cintron, all of whom are currently filming to be featured on a television special about the comedy scene in South Florida. It's called "Florida's Last Call" and will be airing next month on the ABC Network.

Seth Stern, an improv master and overall funny guy, was born in New York and raised in South Florida. He has been hot on the comedy scene since he started performing last year.

Jay Risk, a native of New Jersey, is currently the signature entertainment at Florida Atlantic University and the executive producer of Florida's Last Call. He has appeared on the soap opera "The Guiding Light", as well as on Regis and Kathy Lee and People Are Talking with Matt Lauer.

Stefanie Howard will be the new signature entertainment at Florida Atlantic University beginning in the fall. She was a host alongside Ryan Seacrest on the first season of American Idol, and hosted this year's Miss Boca Raton pageant.

Dennis Howe began his active career as a stand-up comic in 2012 after a successful set at his older brother's wedding, which I'm told was "awesome". He is currently the lead sketch artist for Florida's Last Call.

Michael Cintron, also a very accomplished comic, has won several comedy contests including the Boca Raton Comedy Festival Contest and the National Lampoon's Comedy Contest. He has also been featured on several radio shows and podcasts, as well as the MTV Guy Code Miami Comedy Showcase.

The show will begin at 9pm on Friday, June 20th at the Lost Hiker, located at 476 Carolina Way in downtown Highlands. The bar will be open until 2am and features great local brews and signature cocktails served in a refreshingly fun and energetic setting.

Please call the Lost Hiker for further inquiries at 828-526-8232. Trust me, you will not want to miss this!

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Highlands School Class of 2014 Graduation – Sat., June 14



Blessing by Pastor
Jeremy Dooley; Val &
Sal address by Emily
Gabbard & Bella Lupoli;
Guest Speaker previous
Middle School History
teacher Steve Massey.
– Photos by Kim Lewicki



Highlands School Class of 2014 Graduation – Sat., June 14



Learn to Forage at The Village Green

Can some plants really prevent and cure cancer? Is it true that some garden variety weeds can add flavor to a summer salad? How do you identify edible mushrooms and where do you find them? These are just a few questions that Asheville's famed forager, Alan Muskat, will answer

during the Village Nature Series 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, June 24 at The Village Green Commons on Frank Allen Road in Cashiers.

The talk, "Off the Eaten Path" will separate wild food fact and fiction. With "show and smell," wit and wisdom Alan Muskat will share tales of high-class survival.

The Village Nature Series is a free, monthly program of naturalist presentations sponsored by The Village Green and the Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust. Alan Muskat, who is also the founder of No Taste Like Home, will lead a private forag-

ing tour of Skylight Farm near Cashiers on Wednesday, June 25. For more info on The Village Nature Series visit The Village Green website at www.villagegreencashiersnc.com and click on the "Events" tab.

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H-C Chamber Music offers free picnic concert at Zachary-Tolbert House June 25



The Highlands-Cashiers Chamber Music Festival will stage a free outdoor picnic concert by the Smoky Mountain Brass Quintet at 5:30 P.M. Wednesday, June 25, at the Zachary-Tolbert House in Cashiers. Everyone is invited to bring a blanket and a picnic basket and revel in what's become a cherished part of the local summer season. The Quintet-In-Residence at Western Carolina University, the Smoky Mountain Brass Quintet performs a wide variety of music ranging from Classical to Jazz, and Patriotic to Pop.

WCU Faculty Showcase Concert at First Presbyterian on June 29

The Music Committee of First Presbyterian Church and the Music Department of Western Carolina University will co-sponsor a faculty showcase concert at 3pm on Sunday, June 29. The concert will take place in the church sanctuary. Featured will be: Amy Cherry, trumpet; Daniel Cherry, trombone; Ian Jeffress, saxophone; Michael Lancaster, baritone; Lillian Pearson, piano; Will Peebles, bassoon; and Eldred Spell, flute.

Everyone is cordially invited to come and enjoy this free 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.

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Time 10-12

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• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

Bridging the gap

By Martha Porter

The political and military conflicts which monopolize the headlines and capture the evening news of today often carry religious undertones. There is conflict within the Muslim world as divisions are drawn between Shiite and Sunni factions; there is conflict between Jews and Palestinians, between Christians and Muslims, between different Buddhist sects – and enough division with each Christian denomination that there is little energy left over for interdenominational conflicts.

While Christians may pride themselves on the relative non-violence of their conflicts, it was not always so. In the early years of the Christian church, when theological affirmations were being fine-tuned, the battles were not just intellectual, but could also be physically brutal. By the fourth century, the theological battles were raging in earnest, and opponents did not hesitate to use force to retaliate against each other.

The powerful emperor Constantine saw the harm that such religious divisions could bring, but he also saw the potential for unification if agreements could be reached. In search of that agreement, he brought together some 300 bishops to craft a statement of belief. That statement has come down to us as The Nicene Creed, which is the affirmation of faith used in many contemporary Christian churches.

A major point of dissension among the bishops was the nature of the relationship between God and Jesus. Alexander, the bishop of Alexandria, and his assistant and eventual successor, Athanasius, saw it as crucial that Jesus be affirmed as fully human AND fully divine. Arius, a persuasive and personable priest, argued that, while Jesus was indeed divine, he was also human in a way that made him unequal with the Father, the God of creation.

The dissension in the Christian community over these definitions was intense and divisive enough to threaten not only the stability of the church, but also the unity of the Roman empire itself. When Constantine convened the famous Council of Bishops in Nicaea to formulate a statement of belief, he hoped that it would resolve the differences and unify both church and state.

The creed which emerged from this gathering succeeded only in intensifying the theological conflict within the church. Despite the state “seal of approval” on the Creed from Constantine, who wrote, “the decision of 300 bishops must be considered no other than the judgment of God,” the debates escalated from disagreement to violence.

The Creed ultimately may have given the emerging church an identity that allowed it to survive, but it could not then and has not now unified Christianity around a single understanding of who Jesus is in relation to God – much less who God is. Our statements about God and Jesus range from absolute assurances about who God is, how God works in the world, what God expects from us and what role Jesus played in the relationship between God and the world, to voices from what is termed progressive Christianity who, while affirming that we live within an Infinite Mystery, propose that we cease using the term “God” because of all the cultural baggage it carries.

What can bridge the gap? What can hold us together? Our only hope is the primary commandment that Jesus affirmed: “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” (Matthew 22: 37-39)

Proverbs 3:5

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Wed.: Men's Bible Study - 8:30 a.m., First Baptist Church

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Wed. Kidsquest 6p.; Worship 7p.

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Sundays: Worship: 11

HIGHLANDS CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Dan Robinson

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

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

Wednesday: Prayer Service, 6:30 p.

HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Pastor Paul Christy 526-3376

Sun: School 9:45a.; Worship 8:30, 9:09, 10:50.; Youth 5:30 p.

Wed: Supper; 6; 7:15: children, youth, & adults studies;

6:15: Adult choir (nursery provided) 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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4224 Big Ridge Road (4.5 miles from NC 107)

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

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

SHORTOFF BAPTIST CHURCH

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• POLICE & FIRE REPORTS •

Highlands PD log entries from May 20. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor, or public officials have been used

May 20

• At 10:40 a.m., officers were called to a sidewalk on Oak Street where two females were arguing.

May 22

• At 4 p.m., officers were notified about a person who agreed to sell items at a flea market and on Ebay who hasn't provided money for the items or returned them.

May 24

• At 4:50 p.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident on Second Street.

May 26

• At 5:16 p.m., officers responded to a one-vehicle accident on Horse Cove Road.

• At 5:01 a.m., Thomas Arthur Doggett, 49, of Franklin, was arrested for DWI and miscellaneous traffic offences when police responded to a one-vehicle accident on Horse Cove Road. He was issued a \$4,000 secured bond. His trial date was June 13.

May 27

• At 2:50 p.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident on Main Street.

May 28

• At 4:30 p.m., officers responded to a call about juveniles skateboarding on town sidewalks.

May 29

• At 10:26 p.m., officers responded to a one-vehicle accident on US 64 east.

June 1

• At 1:30 p.m., a lost Rolex watch was reported.

• See POLICE page 18



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• BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NEWS •

Cyprus International Restaurant is a combination of passion, skill and innovation

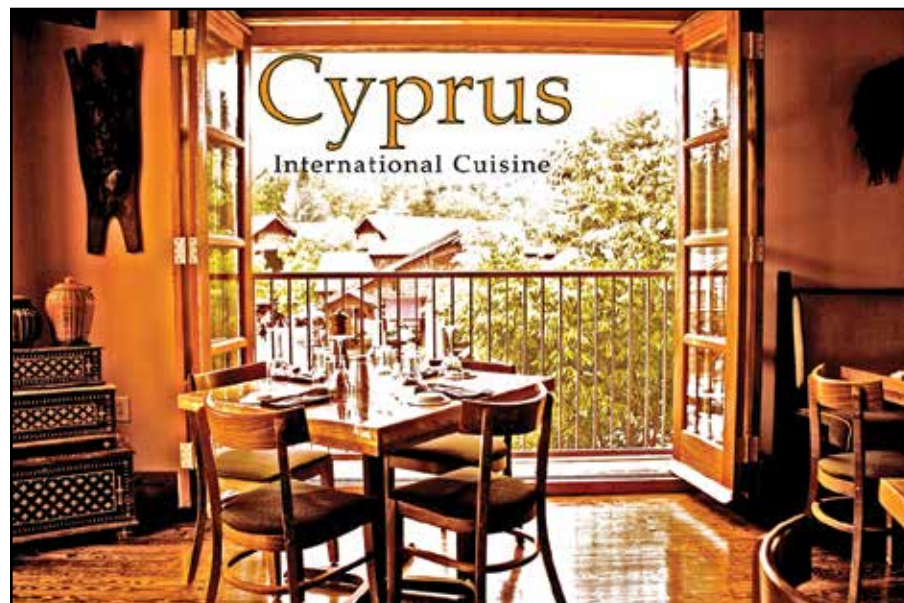
By Melanie Kay Griffin

After 12 successful years as a destination dining establishment, Cyprus International Cuisine is thrilled to announce its relocation to Main Street, right in the heart of downtown Highlands. Featuring a floor-to-ceiling window and an open-air patio, it overlooks the main strip and allows passersby to catch a glimpse of the exquisite interior and entice them to join in for a unique and unforgettable dining experience.

The executive chef and owner Nicholas Figel continues to use his

passion, knowledge and culinary innovation to design extraordinary dishes that electrify all of the senses. He ignites fervor and enthusiasm for food in everyone who comes to experience his fine craft, as well as in those who work alongside him.

Tommy Lasley is Chef Figel's right hand man and collaborator. One of the original chefs to work with Figel, he has returned to Highlands to kick off the 13th summer season at Cyprus. Lasley studied at the Culinary Institute of America in New York. While there, he took the opportunity to work with some



of the greats in the business, including the acclaimed chef Andre Soltner, an internationally recognized French chef and author, as well as Dan Barber, owner of several restaurants including The Blue Hill, a nominee for the James Beard Award for Best New Restaurant. Figel said in reference to Lasley, "He is truly a rising star in the world of cuisine."

When Figel was asked about his expectations for Cyprus and his collaboration with Lasley, he replied, "I'm happy to announce that we will be combining our skill sets to produce an exceptional cuisine and an inspiring international experience, and I believe our unique food will be a great vehicle to facilitate the ideas and concepts we are striving to achieve."

Each week, the menu showcases a different region of the globe accompanied by fresh seasonal produce to enhance it. "Cyprus is designed to easily incorporate any ingredient in the world," said Lasley. "Some restaurants are pigeon-holed by ingredients that dominate their genre, where at Cyprus there is no border that restricts our culinary ambitions."

Cyprus regularly astounds locals and visitors with the distinctive fusion of local ingredients and exotic flair. The weekly feature "Solstice in the Summer Highlands," a celebratory menu featuring this season's vegetables from the local harvest is in full swing.

If you are looking to have an awe-inspiring dining experience, this is the place to come. Between the delectable eats, signature cocktails, beautiful setting and impeccable service, it's safe to say that Cyprus is on top of its game, and is on its way to becoming a world class dining destination. Reservations to dine can be made online at cyrushighlands.com, or by phone at 828-526-4429.

...POLICE & FIRE continued from page 17

June 2

• At 1:30 p.m., officers received a call about someone in possession of less than .5 oz of schedule IV drugs at Highlands School.

June 4

• At 12:31 p.m., officers were called to a parking lot on Harris Drive involving medication that was left in a mail box.

June 5

• At 8:14 a.m., a breaking and entering with forced entry was reported at the First Baptist Church where there was damage to the rear door of the sanctuary.

June 8

• At 9:51 a.m., Ramirez-Perez Lazaro, 31, of Franklin, was arrested for driving without a license on Clear Creek Road. He was issued a \$500 secured bond. His trial date is July 9.

June 6

• At 2:20 p.m., officers responded to a call about a gas drive-off from the Farmers Market at Main and NC 106 in the amount of \$82.81.

• See POLICE & FIRE page 19

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Real Estate Negotiations – Can it be a Win-Win?

By Wanda Klodosky
Landmark Realty Group

Many real estate transactions fall apart when the parties are \$15,000 or less apart in the price negotiation phase. The major reason for this is at least one of the parties involved forgets about the ultimate end goal of either buying or selling a home and gets immersed in 'the game of winning'. In this article, we'll look at some negotiation techniques that can help both the seller and the buyer end up with their ultimate goal of completing a real estate transaction.

On both sides, the negotiation process begins with choosing the right REALTOR® for your situation. Communication between the REALTOR® and the represented party is key. Remember, no matter how experienced you are in real estate transactions, a seasoned and qualified REALTOR® will have been involved in many more transactions. While the final decisions are up to you, make sure that you choose a REALTOR® who you will listen to and respect their opinions.

In any negotiation, the person with the most knowledge and information is always at an advantage. Do your homework. Have your REALTOR® provide a market analysis of your home as a seller and of the properties you are considering as a buyer. Understand the market you are working in to know its general strengths and weaknesses.

...POLICE & FIRE continued from 18

The Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. log entries from June 5.

June 5
• At 1:49 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Hickory Knut Road.

June 8
• At 4:56 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to assist EMS at 200 Main.

• At 4:56 a.m., the dept. responded to a miscellaneous fire call

Buyers should try to talk to the neighbors of a home they plan to purchase before the negotiations begin. That said, keep in mind that these folks may have their own agenda.

The next negotiation principle is usually easier for a buyer. Don't negotiate without options. The seller always has the option to just decide not to sell, but a buyer should find more than one home that will suite their needs before beginning the process. Knowing your options and having a plan will help you negotiate from a position of strength.

Find out as much as you can about the other party's situation. Your REALTOR® and the internet will help with this area. Your REALTOR® can ask around to try to find out as much information as possible. Look up the other party on the internet, you'd be surprised as to what you can find. Know as much as you can about the other party and reveal as little as you can about your position.

The next principle is 'Keep the Conversation Going'. The longer the negotiation process goes on, the more likely it is that the transaction will be completed. As a seller, don't be so offended by a low offer that you don't counter back to the buyers. The best rule of thumb in a negotiation is to try to leave your ego at the door. Keep in mind that this is not personal. Both parties should try to keep the process moving. Price is not the only piece of the transaction that can be negotiated. If you've reached the limit on

at Carolina Way.

• At 6:30 p.m., the dept. assisted in locating a lost hiker on Yellow Mountain.

June 9
• A little past midnight, the dept. was first-responders to EMS at a residence on Wildwood Forest Road.

• At 8:35 p.m., the dept. responded to a call about illegal burning at a residence on US 64 east.

your price negotiation ability, try to offer some other concession. This can be as simple as changing the due diligence or closing date, or offering some of the furnishings that you had planned to remove. There are many other items rather than price that can enter into the negotiation process. Receiving some concession at each phase of the negotiation goes a long way toward both parties feeling like they have had a successful real estate transaction.

In conclusion, everyone understands that negotiating a real estate deal is extremely stressful as a rule. Using and understanding key negotiating skills will help the process go much smoother for all concerned.

Landmark Realty Group is a leading real estate company on the Highlands-Cashiers plateau. Established in 2004, it has focused on providing high quality service for all its clients. Wanda Klodosky is very active in local organizations and has been a great addition to The Landmark Team. Landmark Realty Group of Highlands is located at 225 Main Street. Landmark also has other

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• See CLASSIFIEDS page 22

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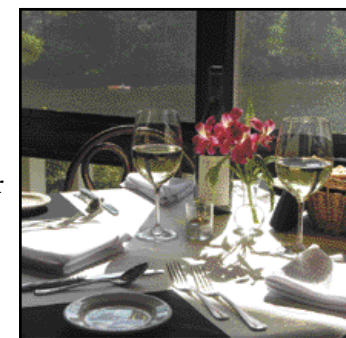
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