

Highlands Newspaper

FREE Every Thursday

Volume 11, Number 20

Real-Time News, Weather & WebCams: HighlandsInfo.com

Thurs., May 15, 2014

Thurs.-Sat., May 15-17

• At The Bascom, the annual Collective Spirits Wine & Food Festival. For information, go to www.collectivespirits.com.

Fri. & Sat., May 16-17

• At TJ Bailey's in Town Square, a Robert Graham Trunk Show with opening party Friday at 5p.

Sat., May 17

• First Presbyterian Church will host an old fashioned Hymn Sing at 5pm on Saturday. Everyone is cordially invited to attend.

• The Highlands Plateau Greenway will have its monthly work day this Saturday. If you are interested in participating, please email Ran Shaffner at highlands-greenway@nctv.com or leave a message at 828-526-5622.

• Audubon's weekly bird spotting trip. Carpool from the parking area behind the Highlands Town Hall, unless otherwise noted. All walks will start at 7:30 AM. Call Michelle at 828-743-9670.

Tues., May 20

• No Community Table Dinner this week.

• At the Hudson Library, Dr. R. Michael Abram will present a lecture entitled Fewer Footprints and More Tears commemorating the 175th anniversary of the Trail of Tears (1838-1839) at 4 p.m.

Wed., May 21

• The varsity girls soccer team will play at home Wednesday vs. Alleghany HS at 6pm. Admission will be \$6, only state passes will be accepted no student tickets or season passes will be accepted. Come out and support the Lady Highlanders soccer team.

The 2014-'15 budget is almost complete

No free utilities; 1.5 cent tax increase and 3% electric rate increase imminent

Discussion at last Thursday's Budget Worksession meeting revolved around capital outlay projects, the proposed tax and electric rate increases, and perpetuating free utilities to three entities in

town.

Town Manager Bob Frye began by presenting commissioners with two scenarios – one with a 1.5 cent tax rate increase (the current rate is 13.5 cents per \$100

value) and a 3% electric rate increase effective July 1, 2014 and the other scenario without increases factored in.

• See BUDGET page 4

MMS math teacher arrested

By Brittany Burns

A math teacher and JV baseball coach at Macon Middle School has been suspended pending an investigation about indecent liberties with a child/student.

Jeffrey Todd Rousselle, 24, a second-year math teacher at Macon Middle School was arrested Monday night. Rousselle was charged with one felony count of indecent liberties with a student and one felony count with indecent liberties with a child.

According to details of the investigation that are on file at the county's Clerk of Court's office, Rousselle had been communicating electronically with minor females who were students and/or former students of MMS.

MCSO Detectives Dani Burrows and Amy Stewart interviewed a 14-year-old girl MMS student who confirmed she had been communicating with Rousselle via Facebook. The student told detectives that Rousselle gave her his cell phone number and told her she could text him anytime, and the two did so on a regular basis.

During the investigation, detectives learned that the student's friend found out about the text messages and asked Rousselle about it. Rousselle then told the student he had been texting to

• See ARRESTED page 6

Highlands School's 2014 Val and Sal



Valedictorian Emily Gabbard with Highlands School Principal Brian Jetter and Salutatorian Isabella Lupoli. Both plan to attend University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Photo by Carol Bowen

County's proposed budget is 2.9% less than 2013-'14's

By Brittany Burns

Tuesday night, Macon County Manager Derek Roland presented commissioners with his proposed budget for the fiscal year 2014-'15.

"I am proud to tell you that this budget that I have developed

with the help of Lori Hall and our finance department and by working with all the department heads maintains Macon County's high quality of services and does not include a tax increase," said Roland.

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Inmate found dead in MC jail

By Brittany Burns

After being arrested and detained at the Macon County Detention Center on May 2, 34-year-old Stephen Paul Johnson of Franklin was found dead in his cell on May 3.

Macon County Sheriff Robbie Holland confirmed that due to Johnson's inebriated state, he had been placed in a lock-down cell for approximately 21 hours under observation at all times. "He was very belligerent when he came in but calmed down after a couple of hours. He did not give any of my staff problems after he calmed down and acted appropriate," said Holland.

Holland reported that a little after 9:30 p.m. a jailor spoke to Johnson and didn't find anything out of the ordinary. "He had a conversation with a detention officer a few minutes before his death and did not complain of any complications," said Holland.

Shortly after speaking to Johnson, the jailor returned to find Johnson unresponsive in the cell. "Our Initial investigation will show that our staff did an outstanding job and made a valiant effort to save Mr. Johnson's life," said Holland. "The detention officers immediately rendered aid and began CPR and in my book are heroes for plac-

• See DEAD page 5

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• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• MAYOR ON DUTY •



Is free for some fair for all?

I have heard the criticism. This mayor is against providing free utilities to the arts groups because he doesn't understand the value of the arts. In fact, as a former art professor, I was an outspoken advocate for the arts. I view the arts as an essential part of life and a community. The arts indeed play a very important role in a major industry in Western Carolina, cultural tourism. Yes, folks like to be here in part because we have vibrant arts communities.

With that said, the problem facing the town commissioners is whether the Highlands Playhouse and the Performing Arts Center, should be given free utilities as a part of the town's support of nonprofit organizations. I find this notion of free utilities problematic when residents and businesses face ongoing rate increases.

At the last budget workshop meeting Kevin O'Donald, our electric utility consultant, painted a dismal picture of future electric rate increases across the state. After his presentation the board had a frank discussion about the free utility policy and the town's commitments to these two arts organizations, as well as continuing free utilities for the Chamber of Commerce and the ABC Store.

Let me recap the town's current support to these two arts organizations. The town owns the two buildings they occupy, therefore, we are the landlord.

The PAC has six more years on its lease with the town. The PAC pays no monthly rent. The town is responsible for all exterior maintenance of the building. The PAC is responsible for interior house keeping. Any equipment failure, such as heating and air conditioning, is the responsibility of the town. The town carries insurance on the facility.

The contract states the town will pay for all utilities. These utilities are, electric-

ity, water, sewer, and propane heating. The utilities cost between \$19,000 to \$23,000 per year.

The town has a \$10,000 annual budget line for routine yearly maintenance of the PAC. Town employees and subcontractors are used to meet those commitments.

The Highlands Playhouse also pays no monthly rent. The town is responsible for routine maintenance and replacement of major operating systems. The town carries insurance on the facility and has a \$10,000 annual budget line for Playhouse maintenance. Their utilities cost range from \$14,000 to \$18,000 per year.

Unlike the PAC, the Playhouse has no free utility provision in their lease with the town. They were given free utilities last year, along with the Chamber of Com-

• See **MAYOR ON DUTY** page 3

• LETTERS •

Mayor Taylor is doing a good job

Dear Editors:

In the May 1 issue Fred Wooddrige complimented the Mayor on his explanation of the Duke Power increase.

I would like to add that the Mayor has demonstrated on several occasions an exceptional talent for explaining in simple terms complex issues facing the Town Board. Main Street parking and enclosing the swimming pool are two recent examples. His community walks are also an example of a commitment to listening to citizens.

We should all be grateful that the Mayor is willing to keep us informed and to listen for feedback. This is the essence of

good leadership.

Barrett Hawks
Highlands

B.E.A.R. educators do a great service

Dear Editor,

Thanks for the refreshing article by Cynthia Strain about the bears in the May 8 edition of Highlands Newspaper.

We have attended some of the bear education classes that she is involved with, and have always walked away so much wiser in our respect and obligations toward the bears, and all wildlife

As stewards of the land, we all have a responsibility to respect and venerate those furry and feathered creations of God, whose lands, we, humans are invading.

After the bear travesty in Florida, I am ashamed to say that I hail from Florida; where we desperately need a Cynthia Strain as well as other B.E.A.R. educators. Our wildlife officers need to be educated so that they can educate the public about bears and the precautions to take to distract any bear activity.

Kudos to Cynthia and to the Mayor for teaching us how to keep the bears AND the humans safe!

We can ALL coexist with the wildlife, in our beautiful land, if the right measures are taken.

Thanks for letting me use this forum as my soapbox!

Trudi Hodgson
Parrish, FL and Highlands, NC.

Our Fire Dept. is tops

Dear Editor,

Our deepest Thank You to our Fire Department for your quick response to the potential fire disaster in the forest at my home off of Buck Creek.

Upon my return home on the eve of April 29 we discovered a tree on fire in our forest. It turned out to have started from a wire in the easement that found ground in this tree.

I called 911, spoke to a dispatcher who was very calming as I was quite frightened by the situation. He dispatched the Fire Department who got right out there and after the power co. turned the electricity off the Firefighters were able to extinguish the fire and check the forest around it to be sure all was ok for them to leave.

LETTERS-TO-THE EDITOR-POLICY

We reserve the right to reject or edit submissions.

NO ANONYMOUS LETTERS WILL BE ACCEPTED.

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

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• See **LETTERS** page 3

• OBITUARIES •

Ruth Ellen Darden

Ruth Ellen Darden, 78, of Cashiers died peacefully at the Highlands Cashiers Hospital on Thursday, May 8 from pancreatic cancer. She was born in Connecticut to the late Oliver Champ and Helen Robertson. Ruth moved from Miami to Cashiers in the early 1960's. Here she married Edward Boyle Darden in 1976 and they lived full time in Cashiers.

Ruth was predeceased by her husband, "Bud" Darden in 2010. Ruth is survived by three cousins; Karen Bjorn of Charlottesville, VA; Great Bjorn of Glastonbury, CT; and Leonard Bjorn of Manchester, CT. She is survived by three stepchildren; Carole McKay of Savannah, GA; Ann Darden of Tampa, FL; and Edward Darden of Oak Harbor, WA.

Ruth is also survived by many loving friends in her church and community.

Ruth thought of herself as a true mountain woman and embraced her life in Cashiers. She was a champion tennis player, avid reader, and talented gardener. Ruth was an active member of the Holy Trinity Anglican Church in Cashiers. She was passionate about her dogs, Dixie and Mercury.

Services will be held graveside Thursday, May 15, 2014 at 11:00 am at the Norton Cemetery in Cashiers. In lieu of flowers the family is requesting that donations in honor of Ruth be made to the American Bouvier Rescue League, PO Box 689, Cheshire, MA 01225.

Bryant-Grant Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Online condolences may be made by visiting www.bryantgrantfuneralhome.com.

...MAYOR ON DUTY continued from page 2

merce and the ABC Store. The town has no maintenance agreements for the Chamber or ABC facilities. Each of these facilities incur between \$6,000 to \$8,000 in utilities per year.

I will point out that over the years, both the PAC and Playhouse have made substantial improvements to the buildings they occupy in order to meet their program functions. They also pay for personnel to operate their programs.

So the question facing the Town Board is how and at what level to support these arts organizations? If the free utilities policy is eliminated, there will still be

substantial support for these arts groups by the town. A model that many towns follow is to provide grants to arts organizations rather than direct support in utilities and maintenance costs. Would that be a better model for Highlands, or should we continue on the current course?

Reluctantly, I am in favor of small electric rate increases in order to maintain the system and to have reserve funds for critical town projects. It is hard to reconcile these increases while providing selected organizations free utilities. As my father always taught me, nothing is free, someone has to pay.

...LETTERS continued from page 2

Thank you so much for your dedication to keeping our communities and forests safe.

Jean Smith
Buck Creek's Panther Mtn.

Political cleansing

Dear Editor,

It's probably always been that way. People tend to forget lessons of the past and focus only on the present leaving out anything that may disagree with their views.

Politics has always been about money and is nothing new. The one who spends the most money usually wins a political office.

The Supreme Court in its Citizens United decision allowed not only large

companies to donate to candidates but allowed Unions and trial lawyer groups to donate large sums of money.

One might say that companies who donate money at least put people to work and give them jobs but Unions do nothing of the sort, and for the most part have become a drag on our society. To be honest, unions did serve a purpose at one time in the past and there are many examples of the good things they accomplished but now days, it's become a way for union leaders to get rich off the backs of the union workers who pay them their dues, sometimes unwillingly having their dues deducted from their paychecks. When unions cause prices to go up, the end result is a net loss of jobs as we saw in the automobile industry and

• See LETTERS page 8

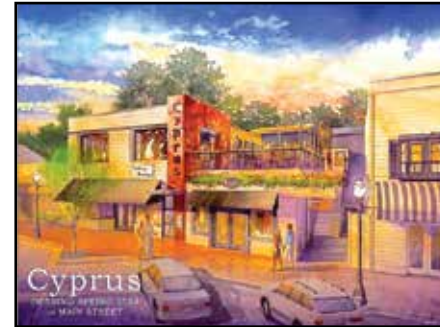
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...BUDGET continued from page 1

To fund everything on the Capital Outlay "Wish List," with the tax and rate increases, \$751,686 would still have to be transferred from the undesignated General Fund Balance. Without the tax and rate increases, \$1.026 million would have to be transferred. There is \$1.2 million in that fund now.

Following much discussion, commissioners agreed to definitely eliminate \$331,800 from the capital outlay wish list for 2014-'15. Those projects are: the water dept. Ton Dump Truck (\$55,000); the water dept. Excavator and Trailer (\$42,000); the sewer dept. replacement pick-up truck (\$35,000) and the Civic Center stage renovations (\$199,800.)

"The consensus was that renovating the stage at the Civic Center was a lot of money for a small space. It and the other items will be considered in the 2015-'16 budget," said Frye.

Still under consideration for elimination in the 2014-

'15 budget are the restrooms at the Kelsey-Hutchinson Park which are estimated to cost \$200,000; new Christmas decorations for \$25,000; and the construction of a storage building for the Christmas decorations estimated to cost \$25,000 – for a total of \$250,000.

In for sure this budget year, are Street Dept. items – Oak Street paving for \$115,000; repairs to the wall on 3rd Street at Main Street Inn for \$120,000; various sidewalks (\$50,000) and Chowan Road (\$150,000) – "assuming NC DOT gives us written confirmation that it will help with equipment, materials and funding as promised," said Frye.

"The other thing that needs to be discussed is whether it will be a two-way road as requested by the residents or a one-way directional road," he said. "This will be decided later."

As far as equipment goes, a replacement dump truck and mowing/snow plow will be in the budget for \$120,000.

New replacement cardboard stations and a 10-yard side loading trash truck for the Sanitation Dept. is in the

budget for \$125,000.

The NC 28 waterline replacement project for \$690,000 is also in as is the Treatment Plant Storage Tank Rehab for \$62,000.

The Police Dept. will be getting two new Ford Taurus vehicles for a total of \$83,000 and a new detective position at \$62,000.

The water system communication upgrade will be funded for \$73,000. Commissioners didn't vote to include the construction and maintenance of a fiber optic cable plant to be operated by the Town of Highlands with a \$650,000 price tag.

The upper level restrooms at the Civic Center will be renovated for \$64,800; the salary/position study will be funded for \$8,000 as will additional wire pulling equipment for \$10,000.

The 1.5 cent tax increase

Money generated from the 1.5 cent tax increase will

• See BUDGET page 5

• HIGHLANDS DINING •



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...BUDGET continued from page 4

be earmarked for the Parks & Recreation Dept. which will get it out of the \$80,000 to \$100,000 hole it realizes each year and enable the town to fund operations at the new year-round pool without having to engage in fund-raising activities or elicit funding from other sources.

"We believe this will fill the deficit hole in the Rec Park budget and enable us to make necessary repairs and upgrades as needed as well as fund operations at the year-round pool," said Frye.

Commissioners agreed to the tax increase but Commissioner John Dotson suggested the increase be sunset in three to five years. Commissioners will discuss this further at the final budget worksession Thursday, May 15 at 3 p.m. in the Community Building.

Electric rate increase

The Electric Fund is the town's most lucrative enterprise fund and it's used to fund everything needed in that department as well as capital outlay needs in other departments.

"The other enterprise funds – namely the water, sewer and sanitation funds – hold their own as far as operational costs go, but money for their capital needs come from the electric fund. We could raise rates in the other three departments but then there would be four rate increases instead of just one," said Frye. "If we just raise electric rates, there will be only one increase for services and it will be done in one swoop so it is the most cost effective way."

Frye said with a healthy Electric Fund, the town doesn't have to borrow money, and it can fund needs in its other departments.

Since two years ago, when Duke raised Highlands' wholesale rates which forced the town to increase utility rates by 22%, the town has used its Electric Fund reserves when it had to absorb the amount of Duke's increase which it didn't pass on to Highlands residents.

"We don't have any reserves left," said Frye. "This 3% increase effective July 1, 2014 will enable us to build the fund back up so we can handle future wholesale increases

as well as a likely \$200,000 bill coming our way to offset the cost due to the abnormally cold winter we just had."

Evidently, due to the cold winter, there was a supply and demand bottleneck and Duke had to buy power on the open market. Consequently, Highlands will be billed an extra \$200,000 by Duke but Frye said the town will not pass that cost on to its consumers.

With the 3% rate increase imminent, commissioners have decided to do away with its recent policy to give the Highlands Playhouse, the ABC Store and the Chamber of Commerce free utilities. The Martin-Lipscomb Performing Arts Center (PAC) has free utilities built into its lease which expires 2020.

"PAC's contract will be discussed with our attorney at the March 15 budget worksession, but the consensus is the town shouldn't break a contract made in good faith and so even if the other three entities have to pay utilities, PAC won't have to until its lease is up in 2020," said Frye.

He said basically at this point, since Duke's wholesale

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...DEATH continued from page 1

ing their own safety at risk in order to render that aid. Deputies and detention officers as well as medical first responders and EMS personnel did all they could to save Mr. Johnson's life."

On Monday, an autopsy was performed and no clear indication as to cause of death was available in the preliminary report, Holland said.

Both the State Bureau of Investigation and local detectives are continuing to investigate the cause of death. An autopsy was conducted on Monday and now investigators are waiting on results of the toxicology exam, which is expected to take several weeks. "We are conducting the investigation and awaiting toxicology of that autopsy. The deceased had several medical issues prior to his death," said Holland.

Johnson was arrested on Friday evening for a misdemeanor count of assault on a female and possessing/concealing-tax paid liquor.

According to Johnson's original arrest report, Officer Anthony Hopkins and Sergeant Tenhagen responded to a domestic dispute call on Moses Road, Johnson's address. Dispatch advised the responding officers that the female victim (Melissa Barnes) had left the residence where the assault took place. According to police reports, Johnson had grabbed the victim by her ankle and dragged her through the house and grabbed her by the arm.

During the arrest, officers detected a strong odor of alcohol on Johnson and Barnes informed them he had been drinking white liquor. Johnson allowed officers to search the house for the alcohol, which was found in the bedroom and collected as evidence. Officers also found a bottle of oxycodone on Johnson, for which he was prescribed. In the oxycodone bottle, officers found 13, 1 mg and 4, .5 mg Alprazolam tablets, which were not in the correct subscribed container.

During Holland's tenure as sheriff, no other deaths have been reported at the Macon County Detention Center. The last death came before Holland was elected as sheriff and was the result of a hanging by an inmate in the jail.

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• THE FREDSTER •

Why does Highlands obsess over parking?

Come to Highlands, park your car, spend money, enjoy the town and.... spend more money. Period.

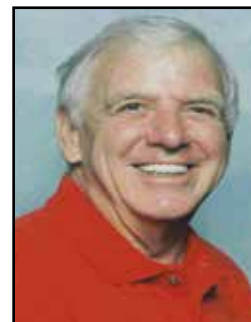
I believe one of the earmarks of a healthy town is when mature adults have nothing better to do than continuously wring their hands over where people will park. I say, "Who cares?" I think it's fun to obsess over parking. Yes, we are a healthy town. And yes, we always have parking spaces available.

I remember waaaay back when town leaders viewed no available parking on a clogged Main Street as a good and prosperous thing. I've never believed people would drive all the way up this mountain for a visit and then leave town over not finding a place to park on Main Street. Visitors who want to park on our main drag will continuously loop Main St. until they get lucky and find a spot. Wait....are you sitting down? Visitors won't be upset if they give up and park elsewhere. And "elsewhere" is always available.

If you think I'm wrong, then take this test. Pick a weekend and time when you think Highlands is the busiest. Hop in your car and drive up and down Spring Street. Then drive up and down Third Street from Main Street to the Walhalla Road. Check out the public lot behind Town Hall. Oh, and don't forget all of Oak St. TA DA!! Empty parking spaces are begging to be filled. And don't ya know if our town fathers try to further regulate parking, it will only make matters worse. Read our parking history. We've done some really stupid stuff.

And here's an excellent tip for our Main St. merchants. If your employees continue to park on Main Street against your wishes, put your arm around them, give them a big hug and say, "You're fired! Now you can park wherever you wish."

Maybe we should send our town leaders to Dubai (only kidding) for a parking study. I guarantee you when they return they'll kiss our parking spaces. Ya see, once off the Dubai bypasses, downtown traffic is gridlocked and parking anywhere is expensive....real expensive. Horn honking and rear bumper bumping is common. While it's acceptable to shout an insult about a



Fred Wooldridge

driver's mother, displaying the bird will get you arrested. But wait, this is not Dubai. We're a beautiful resort town high in the mountains.

I've always felt a seasonal electric tram service would flourish here, especially if they accented our mountain flavor. Miami Beach, also a resort community, has used this system for decades. Town leaders should research the Lincoln Road Mall.

In the meantime, I'll continue to make a few bucks by parking on Main St. early and then selling my spot for two bucks. Is that legal? Would you believe I don't care?

• I'm Moving Back to Mars is Fred's book about a guy who couldn't find a parking spot on Main Street and moved to Mars. Ha, not really....Don't write in!

...ARRESTED

continued from page 1

change his name in her phone from Mr. Rousselle to Jeff. He also pulled the student out of her homeroom class and reportedly told the student, "if you tell anyone you're going to be in so much trouble, it's not even funny" (in an angry tone).

Detective Burrows and Stewart also received a report from a grandmother in reference to her granddaughter, a 12-year-old student at Macon Middle School, exchanging online messages with Rousselle. She said she was concerned that her granddaughter was contacted by Rousselle via Facebook and that he had sent his cell phone number to her granddaughter. She also said that Rousselle instructed her granddaughter to keep his number in her phone under his first name.

After being interviewed by Burrows and Stewart, Rousselle admitted to having a conversation with the 14-year-old student regarding inappropriate subject matter such as the student's bra size. When asked about other communications, Rousselle admitted to talking with a former student who is now in 10th grade. He admitted he had met with the girl after hours on the campus of South Macon School and the two had kissed on the lips.

Detectives interviewed the girl who is



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FULL BREAKFAST MADE TO ORDER EVERY MORNING UNTIL 10:30
FRESH EGGS, WAFFLES, FRENCH TOAST BACON, SAUSAGE, HAM BISCUITS, MUFFINS, CROISSANTS
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GRILL - EVERY DAY OF THE WEEK STARTING AT 11:00 UNTIL CLOSE
FRESH ANGUS BURGERS, FRESH NATURAL CHICKEN BREASTS, GRILLED FISH, CHICKEN TENDERS, COOKED TO ORDER HAND CUT FRIES, SALADS, HOMEMADE SOUPS, DAILY SPECIALS

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FRESH CUT NATURAL MEATS, HOMEMADE DELI SALADS PANINI, MELTS, HOMEMADE POTATO CHIPS, DAILY SOUP SPECIALS

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EVERY DAY FROM 11:00 TO CLOSE
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EVERY SUNDAY FROM 11:00AM UNTIL WE SELL OUT FRESH ORGANIC HAND CUT, HAND BREADED CHICKEN COOKED IN A CAST IRON SKILLET. SERVED WITH GREEN BEANS, MASHED POTATOES AND GRAVY WITH A WARM HONEY BISCUIT...\$8.95

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A LARGE SELECTION OF TAKE-AWAY ITEMS FULLY PREPARED, READY TO TAKE HOME INCLUDING GRILLED PORK LOINS, HOME MADE MAC & CHEESE, MASHED POTATOES, HERB RUBBED CHICKEN, MADE IN HOUSE BBQ, CHICKEN SALAD DELI SALADS & MUCH MORE

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A DIFFERENT FULL DINNER EVERY NIGHT. SERVES FOUR SERVING MONDAY THROUGH SATURDAY FROM 4.30 UNTIL WE SELL OUT - CALL AHEAD TO RESERVE...

MONDAY: JAMES BEARD AWARDED CHEF, LOUIS OSTEEN'S LOW COUNTRY LOBSTER / SHRIMP BOIL MAINE LOBSTER TAILS, WILD CAUGHT LARGE SHRIMP, RED BLISS POTATOES, SUMMER CORN, HOUSE MADE SAUSAGE, ALL STEEPED IN LOUIS' PROPRIETARY SEASONING. SERVED WITH DRAWN BUTTER AND COCKTAIL SAUCE. \$33.95 SERVES TWO.

TUESDAY: OVEN OFF NIGHT TWO NATURAL CHICKEN BREASTS GRILLED WITH OUR TUSCAN HERB INFUSED OLIVE OIL, SERVED ON A BED OF GREENS WITH STUFFED BRIE, SPICED PECANS, OUR EXTRA VIRGIN OLIVE OIL AND BALSAMIC VINEGAR ON THE SIDE WITH TWO CUPS OF HOMEMADE GAZPACHO AND A BAGUETTE FROM OUR BAKERY. \$23.95 SERVES TWO

WEDNESDAY: PRIME RIB WITH BAKED POTATOES AND SALAD PREMIUM ANGUS STANDING RIB ROAST, COOKED MEDIUM RARE WITH RED WINE AU JUS, TWO BAKED POTATOES AND A LARGE CAESAR SALAD. \$32.95 SERVES TWO

THURSDAY: TWO RACKS OF BABY BACK RIBS - COOKED UNTIL FALL-OFF-THE-BONE-TENDER. SERVED WITH HOUSE MADE BACON/APPLE BAKED BEANS AND POTATO SALAD. \$24.95 SERVES TWO

FRIDAY: WILD CAUGHT SHRIMP; FRIED OR STEAMED WILD CAUGHT NORTH CAROLINA SHRIMP EITHER LIGHTLY BREADED IN OUR SEASONED CORN FLOUR MIXTURE, AND THEN PROPERLY FRIED IN PEANUT OIL AND SERVED

WITH HUSH PUPPIES; OR STEAMED TO ORDER IN OUR LOW COUNTRY SEASONING. BOTH COME WITH COLESLAW AND ROSEMARY SEA SALT BROILED RED POTATOES, TARTAR AND COCKTAIL SAUCE. \$25.95 SERVES TWO

SATURDAY: IN-HOUSE SMOKED BBQ HAND RUBBED PORK BUTT, PIT-SMOKED OVERNIGHT AND HAND PULLED TO ORDER. COMES WITH COLESLAW, APPLE AND BACON BAKED BEANS, AND YEAST ROLLS \$22.95 SERVES TWO

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...LETTERS continued from page 3

forcing jobs overseas to places like China or more automation to replace workers in America.

There is a cure for all this and it is to have all campaign money paid for by taxpayers.

Each candidate would be allocated a certain amount of money, depending on what political office they were running for. In order to qualify for that money, they would have to prove they have a percentage of public support for their campaign, otherwise you might have 500 people run-

ning for the same office. It's not clear how we could force the newspaper and television industries to allow space and time for political campaigns but perhaps the taxpayers could absorb some of that cost as well. We should be able to work that out.

OK, so now we have a bunch of newly elected people who have not been bought out in advance by some rich individual, company, union or trial lawyer group. Whoever wins can start with a totally clean slate, free of pressure from any special interest group and ready to do what's best for

America.

Yes, we would still need lobbyists simply because someone needs to represent the groups that dumb laws can make or break. Over 100,000 jobs were lost when our lawmakers passed a 10% tax on luxury items because no lobbyist was there to tell them about the consequences of their actions. But, no bribes, no free vacations or free lunches would be allowed.

Probably wishful thinking, however, the idea would require revolutionary laws to be passed because there are too many entrenched politicians dependent on what many of us view as bribes. Only when the public can break away from control by special interests, demanding some revolutionary new laws, can we break this weak link in our democracy."

Bob Wilson
Franklin, NC

POLICE & FIRE REPORTS

Highlands PD log entries from April 7. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor, or public officials have been used.

April 7

• At 4:15 p.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident on S. 4th Street.

• At 9:19 a.m., officers responded to a call about harassment where a person was screaming and cursing at a restaurant on Main Street.

April 9

• At 11 a.m., officers responded to a call of a burglary without forced entry at a residence at Shelby Place where numerous pieces of jewelry valued at over \$6,000 were taken.

April 21

• At 11:36 a.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident on NC 106.

April 24

• At 3:40 p.m., Constance Renea Bédient, 46, of Cullowhee, NC, was arrested for possession of methamphetamine, equipment and paraphernalia and possession of a knife, on N. 4th Street. She was issued a \$2,500 secured bond. Her trial date was May 1.

April 27

• At 1 p.m., officers responded to a call about someone uttering abusive language at a local restaurant.

April 29

• At 1:13 p.m., Martin Lynn Cress, 60, of Wilton Manors, NC, was arrested for DWI on NC 28. He was issued a \$10,000 secured bond. His trial date is May 28.

• At 9 p.m., officers responded to a call about larceny of a storage closet at a residence on Pickleimer Road where lights for the yard, power tools and extension cords were taken.

April 30

• At 4:30 p.m., officers responded to a call about a door that was locked but open at a residence on Bowery Road.

May 2

• At 6:46 p.m., officers responded to a one-vehicle accident on Church Street.

May 3

• At 8:01 p.m., officers responded to a one-vehicle accident on Spring Street.

• At 1:45 p.m., officers responded to a call about a driver hitting a handrail and fleeing the scene at the intersection of N. 2nd Street and Main Street.

May 5

• At 4:45 p.m., Arthur Scott Potts, 25, of Highlands, was arrested for burglary with forcible entry, larceny and vandalism. He was issued a \$4,000 secured bond. His

• See POLICE & FIRE page 10

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...ARRESTED from pg 6

now in high school and she said that she began communicating with Rousselle at the end of her 8th grade year via Facebook. Rousselle gave her his cell phone number and they texted each other daily. The high school student said she and Rousselle had exchanged inappropriate photos. She also confirmed that they had met at South Macon in August of 2012 and had kissed a few times on the lips during the meeting.

Rousselle was arrested by Officer Stephanie Robbins at his East Franklin home Monday night around 10:30 p.m. Rousselle was booked into the Macon County Detention Center on a \$75,000 secured bond. His trial date is set for May 22. According to Sheriff's Office the investigation is ongoing; more people are involved.

Rousselle was arrested due to charges stemming from a relationship with a former student who no longer attends MMS.

Macon County Schools administration said Rousselle has been suspended from his teaching position at MMS for the rest of the school year, pending further investigation.

...LESS continued from page 1

Roland's proposed budget sits at \$45,521,122, which is 3.4 percent less than the fiscal year '13-'14's original budget of \$47,145,470 and 2.9 percent less than the projected expenditures in 2014 (\$46,857,615).

Roland emphasized that despite developing a lower overall budget, he worked with department heads to ensure that an exceptional level of services will continue to be offered, the county will retain a strong fund balance, and Macon County will be in a promising fiscal position as they head into the 2015 property revaluation.

"While our financial position is something to celebrate, I feel we should acknowledge that the FY '14-'15 is a turning point for Macon County," said Roland. "In the coming year, we are faced with challenges, internally and externally, that will directly impact this organization. It is crucial we begin addressing these challenges now, while contenting to provide public service to our citizens at the highest level possible."

Going into next year, the proposed budget recommends \$1,182,471 in capital

items across all departments in the county. "It is important to note that these items were absorbed in the operating budget and will require no appropriation from fund balance other than the \$366,642 to cover project costs associated with the Parker Meadows property," noted Roland.

The majority of the capital items outlined in the budget are for Health and Human services and Public Safety. "Historically, these two areas have accounted for approximately 50 percent of total expenditures from the general fund, indicating the high level of priority placed on public safety and the well-being of our citizens by the board of commissioners," said Roland.

Capital expenditures from the Sheriff's Department include \$5,000 for a firing range allotment for training purposes and \$85,280 to purchase two patrol SUVs and one Patrol Sedan. Emergency Management was granted \$20,000 to replace the Nantahala base roof and gutter system, \$125,000 to purchase a new ambulance, and \$28,000 to replace the radio

communications in the service vehicle.

The capital expenditures budget also includes funds for federally funded grant vehicles for the transit department, which the county will be reimbursed.

Roland explained that the soil and water conservation was granted a new 4-wheel drive vehicle because the department had not received a new vehicle in the department's 27 years of existence.

The budget proposes \$68,000 for the child dental health clinic to be used to refurbish the molar roller vehicle that visits area schools to provide dental care.

When commissioners approved funding for the Parker Meadows property, they were informed by Seth Adams, Recreation Department Director, that the recreation budget would need to be increased to manage new operating expenses. Roland explained that the increase was reflected in the capital equipment budget for the department in his proposed budget.

"Capital equipment for the recreation parks in the amount of \$22,500 will be

• See LESS page 14

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

Always an exciting evening
with the Whiteheads!

A special menu is planned with
perhaps a surprise chef!

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

Enjoy the vineyards and
the famed Tanner Dahlias while
dining on delicious Louisiana fare.

Bear Shadow

Thursday, October 23 - 5 PM

\$250 Person - Places (TBA)

Hosts: Ed & Penny Mawyer

A Culinary Event:
superb 5-course dinner
with very special wine pairings
all accompanied by a
viewing of "The Shadow"



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LOBSTER TAILS, WILD CAUGHT LARGE SHRIMP, RED BLISS POTATOES, SUMMER CORN, HOUSE MADE SAUSAGE, ALL STEEPED IN LOUIS'S PROPRIETARY SEASONING. SERVED WITH DRAWN BUTTER AND COCKTAIL SAUCE.

\$33.95
SERVES TWO

TUES

OVEN OFF NIGHT
2 FRESH CHICKEN BREASTS, GRILLED WITH ROSEMARY INFUSED OLIVE OIL. SERVED ON A BED OF MIXED GREENS, WITH STUFFED BRIE, SPICY/SWEET PECANS, MOUNTAIN FRESH OIL AND VINEGAR ON THE SIDE AND TWO CUPS OF HOUSE MADE GAZPACHO, WITH A MOUNTAIN FRESH BAKERY FRENCH BAGUETTE

\$23.95
SERVES TWO

WED

PRIME RIB WITH BAKED POTATOES & SALAD
PREMIUM ANGUS STANDING RIB ROAST, COOKED MEDIUM RARE WITH RED WINE AU JUS, TWO BAKED POTATOES AND A LARGE CAESAR SALAD.

\$32.95
SERVES TWO

THURS

BABY BACK RIBS
COOKED FALL-OFF-THE-BONE-TENDER. SERVED WITH HOUSE MADE BACON/APPLE BAKED BEANS, AND POTATO SALAD.

\$24.95
SERVES TWO

FRI

SHRIMP; FRIED OR STEAMED
WILD CAUGHT LARGE SHRIMP EITHER LIGHTLY BREADED IN OUR SEASONED CORN FLOUR MIXTURE, AND THEN PROPERLY FRIED IN PEANUT OIL AND SERVED WITH HUSH PUPPIES; OR STEAMED TO ORDER IN OUR LOW COUNTRY SEASONING. BOTH COME WITH COLESLAW AND ROSEMARY SEA SALT BROILED RED POTATOES, TARTER AND COCKTAIL SAUCE.

\$25.95
SERVES TWO

SAT

IN-HOUSE SMOKED BBQ
SERVED WITH COLESLAW BACON/APPLE BAKED BEANS AND YEAST ROLLS.

\$22.95
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The choir with Pope John Paul II.

Angels to honor a saint to sing in Highlands

The world famous Atlanta Boy Choir will travel to Poland on May 29 to honor Pope John Paul II being made a Saint.

This outstanding group of men and boys perform annually at Highlands Episcopal Church of the Incarnation and will sing there on Sunday afternoon, May 25th at 4 P.M.

The concert, free and open to the public will have some reserved seating for those wishing to help sponsor a boy for this trip honoring a Saint. Those wishing to do this may contribute \$100 and receive special recognition.

This choir, well loved by Highland's audiences for many years has won several Grammy Awards during their 56 years under the direction of Maestro Fletcher Wolfe.

The choir performs all over the world in famous Cathedrals and concert halls and often appears with the world's great orchestras.

Recently they have been heard in Vienna's Musikverein as well as the Great Hall of the Philharmonic in St. Petersburg, Russia.

They appeared many times in Rome with Pope John Paul II officiating and he called them "HIS ANGELS OF SONG."

To reserve a seat for this concert call 404-378-0064 or email the choir at info@atlantaboychoir.org

...POLICE & FIRE continued from page 8

trial date is May 22.

- At 8:30 p.m., Cenobia Garcia Mendoza, 23, of Highlands, was arrested for Failure to Appear and reckless driving. He was issued a \$500 secured bond. His trial date is May 21.

- At 10:30 a.m., officers responded to a call about a burglary with forced entry, larceny and vandalism at Ruka's Restaurant where \$110 worth of alcoholic beverages were taken.

- At 12:10 p.m., officers responded to a call about trickery mail fraud where the victim wasn't returned the correct item in the mail.

The Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. log entries from April 29.

April 29

- At 7:51 p.m., the dept. responded to a call from a residence on Panther Mountain.

May 2

- At 11:15 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Country Club Drive. It was false.

May 3

- At 6:11 p.m., the dept. set up for MAMA at the hospital.

May 4

- At 11:10 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Clubhouse Trail.

May 5

- At 12:38 p.m., the dept. set up for MAMA at the hospital.

- At 12:40 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Ravenel Ridge. It was false.

- At 4:55 p.m., the dept. set up for MAMA at the hospital.

May 6

- A little past midnight, the dept. was first-responders to assist EMS at a residence on Azalea Circle.

• HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

Ongoing

• Artists wanted for Oct. 4 show featuring historic sites in Macon County. The moveable show will begin in Franklin and move to Highlands and Nantahala. There is a \$35 fee. To register, contact Barbara McRae at mcrbarbara@frontier.com

First Mondays

• Shortoff Baptist Church hosts a non-denominational Men's Meeting the first Monday night of each month at 7 pm and all men are invited to attend.

Tuesdays

• Community Table Dinner at the Community Building at 6 p.m. It's free.
• Beginning Tuesday, May 13, NAMI will offer a 10-week class on recovery and wellness for adults challenged with a mental illness. This is a nationally recognized course with a holistic approach to recovery through a combination of lecture, discussion, interactive exercises and stress-management techniques. It meets in Franklin on Tuesdays from 6:30-8:30p. Class size is limited to 20. It is free but pre-registration is required. For more information or to register, call Linda Lampkin at 828-369-7184 or lampkin-fl@cs.com.

Tues. & Thurs.

• Aerobics at the Rec Park with Tina Rogers 5:15. \$5.

Mon., Wed., Fri.

• Aerobics with Tina Rogers 8-9a.
• Zumba at the Rec Park at 9:05a. \$5.

Thursdays

• Weight Watchers support group meets every Thursday at 6pm at the Cashiers Community Center. Questions? Call Lisa 828-506-3555 Last Fri. of each month

• Community Coffee with Mayor Pat Taylor from 11a to noon in the Hudson Library.

Saturdays

• The Farmers Market, 9a-1p in K-H Park. Organic vegetables, eggs, honey, cheeses, home-made food and hand-made items. For information call 482-0555 Maxine Davidoff.

• Cashiers Local Farmers tailgate market begins May 10 thru October at the Anglican Church Parking Lot Hwy 64 E next to Macon Bank. Contact 828-226-9988 for info.

Thurs., May 15

• The Macon County GOP Executive Board will meet Thursday at 6 PM at Republican Headquarters, 555 Depot Street, in Franklin.

Thurs.-Sat., May 15-17

• At The Bascom, the annual Collective Spirits Wine & Food Festival. For information, go to www.collectivespirits.com.

Fri. & Sat., May 16-17

• At TJ Bailey's in Town Square, a Robert Graham Trunk Show with opening party Friday at 5p.

Sat., May 17

• First Presbyterian Church will host an old fashioned Hymn Sing at 5pm on Saturday. Those attending may choose a hymn they wish to sing from the 1938 Cokesbury Hymnal. Song leader will be Stell Huie with Angie Jenkins at the piano. Everyone is cordially invited to attend.

• The Highlands Plateau Greenway will have its monthly work day this Saturday. If you are interested in participating, please email Ran Shaffner at highlandsgreenway@nctv.com or leave a message at 828-526-5622. We'll meet at the large upper parking lot (near the pool entrance) behind the Rec Park at 9 AM for a brief orientation session. You will be furnished with the necessary tools and safety equipment.

Please bring water, rain gear, and a day pack to hold them. Wearing clothes that can get dirty is advised.

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate 7-mile hike, with elevation change of 500 ft., to Panther Creek Falls off Hwy. 441, south of the Tallulah Falls area. Meet at Westgate Plaza in Franklin at 9 am. Drive 70 miles round trip. Call leader Gail Lehman, 524-5298, for reservations. Visitors welcome; no pets please.

• Audubon's weekly bird spotting trip. Carpool from the parking area behind the Highlands Town Hall, unless otherwise noted. All walks will start at 7:30 AM. Bring binoculars if you have them, good walking shoes, a water bottle, and wet weather gear. Guest leader Rob Bjerregaard will join Russ Regnery and Avery Doubleday for a trip to Flat Mountain Road and the area near the Ranger Falls trailhead. Rob is a well-known Ornithologist and lecturer. If questions, call Michelle at 828-743-9670.

• Gorges State Park staff and volunteers will host a day of family fun with a variety of scheduled activities throughout

the day on Saturday, May 17 from 10 am to 7 pm. Gratitude Day is complimentary to all guests and a way for park staff to give back to the community through an exciting family fun-filled day in the park. Gorges State Park can be reached by taking US 64 to NC 281. Take NC 281 one mile, the park entrance will be on your left. Upon entering the park, follow the signs and parking attendants instructions to the Visitors Center Parking.

Sun., May 18 to Thurs., May 22

• Some of the most beautiful visuals and only available every five years in the U.S.: Asheville's chapter of Ikebana International will host the upcoming North American Regional Conference of Ikebana International at the Renaissance Asheville Hotel. We are requesting advance coverage. If you would like additional images or more information, please contact: Louise Glickman, PR for Ikebana International in Asheville, 828-273-8783 or lsglickman@gmail.com.

Tues., May 20

• At the Hudson Library, Dr. R. Mi-

• See EVENTS page 12

2014 Cashiers Arts and Crafts Show is May 24 -25



The 6th Annual Spring Cashiers Arts and Crafts Show will be held May 24 and 25 at the Cashiers Village Green. Sponsored by the Rotary Club of Cashiers Valley, the Spring Arts and Crafts Show will run from 10 am to 5 pm both Saturday and Sunday; rain or shine. While admission is free, a donation of \$3 to \$5 is encouraged to help benefit local community service efforts.

This juried event will showcase some of the finest artisans of the Southeast. With more than 60 exhibitors, featured art media will include: clay, wood, fibers, glass, metal, watercolor, oils and photography; and take the form of jewelry, clothing, indoor and outdoor furniture, quilts, rugs, pottery, paintings and metal art, wooden bowls and ceramics, to homemade specialties, plus more.

Rotary Club members will provide concessions offering hamburgers, hot dogs, veggie burgers, and drinks on sale. Families can also take advantage of the nearby playground and picnic areas.

All proceeds will benefit local Rotary programs and community service efforts. Over the last 20 years the Rotary Club of Cashiers Valley has donated nearly \$1 million to more than 50 of Cashiers' charities. The Arts and Crafts Show location on the Village Green is at the intersection of Highways 64 and 107 in beautiful Cashiers, North Carolina. For more information go to www.cashiersrotary.org.

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32nd Mountain Garden Club
PLANT SALE
May 24
2014
9 am to noon
Highlands NC
Cash or checks
Baseball Park on Hwy 64
North 4th & Hickory
Rain date May 25, 1-4 pm

•HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS•

chael Abram will present a lecture entitled Fewer Footprints and More Tears commemorating the 175th anniversary of the Trail of Tears (1838-1839) at 4 p.m.

Thurs., May 22-Sun., May 25

• HCP's Mama Won't Fly" at the Performing Arts Center on Chestnut Steet in High-

lands. Show times are 7:30p and 2:30p on Sunday. Call 526-8084 for tickets.

Sat. & Sun., May 24-25

• The 6th Annual Spring Cashiers Arts and Crafts Show at the Cashiers Village Green 10am to 5pm both Saturday and Sunday; rain or shine. While admission is free, a donation will be accepted to help benefit local community service efforts.

HCP's 'Mama Won't Fly' opens May 22 at PAC



Cast members: Seated, Megan McLean Standing, Faye Siegel, Ellen Agee. Photo: Credit Cynthia Strain.

Highlands Cashiers Players' "Mama Won't Fly" is a road-trip romp that brings to life the story of Mama, her daughter Savannah and future daughter-in-law Hayley. Thrown into the mix: a passel of characters you're not likely to forget.

Mama, Norleen Sprunt, is played by Faye Siegel, veteran of many HCP shows most recently, "Love Loss and What I Wore". She also had key roles in "Dearly Departed" and "Simon Suites". Siegel brings to the stage her keen powers of observation, her love of the South, and the joy she finds in working with the cast and crew.

Playing Mama's beleaguered daughter, Savannah, Megan McLean has been seen on stage

in Warner Robbins and Macon, Georgia but most recently in Highlands with the Highlands Cashiers Players productions, "Almost Maine," and "Murder Among Friends."

Ellen Agee as Hayley, has performed in some plays for children and teens in a library setting but "Almost Maine" was her stage debut. Ellen works in Teen Services at Macon County Library in Franklin.

"Mama Won't Fly" opens May 22nd at the Highlands Performing Arts Center on Chestnut Street. The box office opens for season subscribers May 15 and for non-subscribers May 17 and may be reached at 828-526-8084.

Sat., May 24

• Audubon's weekly bird spotting trip. Carpool from the parking area behind the Highlands Town Hall, unless otherwise noted. All walks will start at 7:30 AM. Bring binoculars if you have them, good walking shoes, a water bottle, and wet weather gear. Joint trip with the Franklin Bird Club to the neighborhood of Ellen and Jim Shelton, where last year the group saw a Red-headed Woodpecker, not a common bird in Western NC, along with numerous Scarlet Tanagers, many warblers and other species. Ellen and Jim will lead. If questions, call Michelle at 828-743-9670.

• The Mountain Garden Club in Highlands is gearing up for their 32nd annual Plant Sale, featuring many varieties of native plants, dahlias, and more. Gates

open at 9 A.M. Saturday at the Town ball field at the corner of Cashiers Highway (Hwy.64) and Hickory. If rained out on Saturday, the sale will be Sunday May 25, 1-4P.M. Proceeds benefit horticulture scholarships and other community projects.

• The Scaly Mountain Women's Club will host a Pancake Breakfast at the Scaly Mountain Community Center at the Corner of NC 106 and Buck Knob Road from 7:30 A.M. to 10:30 A.M. on Saturday. Adults \$5.50, and Children \$ 3.50. Proceeds benefit scholarships for area students and human service's agencies.

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take an easy-to-moderate 5.7 mile hike, with elevation change of 900 ft., from Rock Gap to Long Branch Trail on the Appalachian Trail with

car shuttle. Meet at Westgate Plaza in Franklin at 9 am, drive 30 miles round trip. Call leader Mary Stone, 369-7352, for reservations. Visitors, children, and friendly dogs (on leash) are welcome.

Sun., May 25

• The Atlanta Boy Choir will perform at the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation on Sunday at 4 p.m. The concert is free but donations will be accepted to help fund the trip the choir will take on May 29 to honor Pope John Paul II being made a saint. To reserve a seat for this concert call 404-378-0064 or email the choir at info@atlantaboychoir.org

• Church in the Wildwood hymn-sing from 7-8 p.m. begins and continues each Sunday. For information, call 743-5009.

Mon., May 26

Rhododendron Pruning Workshop



On May 26 from 2-4 pm, the Highlands Botanical Garden is holding a free Rhododendron Pruning Workshop for adults. Rhododendron is everywhere, and regular pruning is critical for the long-term health of your rhododendron. The Botanical Garden's two horticulturists will go over two major pruning techniques, help you avoid common mistakes, and guide you with practice on rhododendron in the Botanical Garden.

The Highlands Botanical

Garden is located on the campus of the Highlands

Biological Station, 265 N. 6th St., Highlands, NC 28741. For more information and to R.S.V.P., contact Ezra Gardiner (egardiner@email.wcu.edu) and Kelder Monar (keldermonar@gmail.com). You can also reach them at (828) 526-0188. Please leave a message as they are rarely at their desks! For more information about this and other events, visit www.highlandsbiological.org.

Hymn-sing set for May 17



First Presbyterian Church will host an old fashioned Hymn Sing at 5pm on Saturday, May 17. Those attending may choose a hymn they wish to sing from the 1938 Cokesbury Hymnal. Song leader will be Stell Huie with Angie Jenkins at the piano. Everyone is cordially invited to attend. The church is located at the corner of Main and Fifth Streets. Handicap entrances are located on Church Street and on Fifth Street.

•HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS•

• At the Highlands Biological Garden, a free Rhododendron Pruning Workshop for adults. RSVP to 526-0188.

Wed., May 28

• The Highlands-Cashiers Annual screening will take place in Highlands on the first floor of the Jane Woodruff Clinic Wednesday. 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

Thurs., May 29 to Sun., June 1

• HCP's Mama Won't Fly" at the Performing Arts Center on Chestnut Street in Highlands. Show times are 7:30p and 2:30p on Sunday. Call 526-8084 for tickets.

Fri. May 30

• At the Highlands Na-

ture Center, "Know Your Frogs" workshop at the Highlands Nature Center. 8:30 – 9:30 pm, ages 6 – adult. Learn about frog biology and how to identify regional species visually and by their calls. Bring a flashlight to search for frogs in the wild. Advanced registration required due to limited space. Call 526-2623 or visit www.highlandsbiological.org for more information.

Sat., May 31

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate-to-strenuous 4-mile hike with elevation change of 767 ft. to the historic Wesser Fire Tower, which was restored with the club's help, for a 360 degree view of Cheoah Bald and other northern mts. Meet at BiLo parking lot in Franklin at 9 am, drive 40 miles round trip. Call leader Nancy Falkenstein, 369-9052, for reservations. Visitors welcome, but no

pets please.

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate-to-strenuous 6-mile hike along a cascading stream with many wildflowers to Big East Fork in Shining Rock Wilderness with an elevation change of 1200 ft. Meet at Ingles in Waynesville at 9 am, drive 40 miles round trip. Call leader Keith Patton, 456-8895, for reservations. Visitors welcome, but no dogs please.

• Audubon's weekly bird spotting trip. Carpool from the parking area behind the Highlands Town Hall, unless otherwise noted. All walks will start at 7:30 AM. Bring binoculars if you have them, good walking shoes, a water bottle, and wet weather gear. HPAS will join the Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust Eco Tour to High Hampton Resort in Cashiers. Highlands's participants will carpool as usual while Cashiers residents and others may gather in the parking area of the New Cashiers Rec Center where the Highlands group will rendezvous with them. NOTE: HCLT members are free of charge; others may either join HCLT or pay a minimal fee for this one walk. Watch the web site or call Julie, at 526-1111 for specifics. All participants must register in advance with HCLT so that lunches can be properly planned.

Sun., June 1

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take an easy-to-moderate 3-mile loop trail, elevation change 400 ft., on the Tennessee Rock Trail in Black Rock Mt. State Park, GA, with lots of spring wildflowers and super view at the top. Meet at the Smoky Mtn. Visitor Center in Otto at 2 pm, drive 36 miles round trip. Call leader Joyce Jacques, (410) 852-7510, for reservations. Share \$3 car parking fee. Visitors welcome, not pets please.

Thursday, June 5

• Taize service at Highlands United Methodist Church at

• See EVENTS page 14

Road Construction and Maintenance Workshop for Landowners is June 3



Local engineer Philip Moore leads participants in the field during the 2013 Road Construction and Maintenance Workshop for Landowners. This workshop will be offered again June 3, 2014 at the Coweeta Hydrologic Laboratory in Otto, NC (registration required) call (828)258-3387.

Program commemorating the 175th anniversary of the Trail of Tears coming to Hudson Library



Dr. R. Michael Abram will present a lecture entitled Fewer Footprints and More Tears commemorating the 175th anniversary of the Trail of Tears (1838-1839) at 4 p.m., May 20, 2014 in the Hudson Library. The program will focus on the history and culture of the Cherokee as it relates to the Trail of Tears. The slide presentation consists of the Cherokee Artistic Expressions of the Trail of Tears by members of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians in Cherokee, NC and Cherokee Nation of Tahlequah, OK. This lecture is in conjunction with traveling exhibits currently touring the Fontana Library System. These are free to the public and presented by the Cherokee Heritage Museum and Gallery and the North Carolina Chapter of the Trail of Tears Association. For more information, call 828-526-3031.



**ROTARY CLUB OF
CASHIERS VALLEY**

PRESENTS

Cashiers Arts & Crafts Show

May 24 & 25

ON THE VILLAGE GREEN

A Donation of \$3-\$5 per Adult is Encouraged

10AM to 5PM both days

www.cashiersrotary.org
Donations Support Rotary & Local Charities
See any Rotarian for details

• HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

5:30 p.m.

Sat., June 7

• Audubon's weekly bird spotting trip. Carpool from the parking area behind the Highlands Town Hall, unless otherwise noted. All walks will start at 7:30 AM. Bring binoculars, good walking shoes, a water bottle, and wet weather gear. Beginners' Walk to the Highlands Biological Station with Brock Hutchins leading. If questions, call Michelle at 828-743-9670.

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate 4-mile hike, elevation change 800 ft., on the Appalachian Trail from Wayah Crest to Siler Bald, an open area with tremendous views. Meet at Westgate Plaza in Franklin at 9 am, drive 25 miles round trip. Call leader Mary Stone,

Don't miss the Mountain Garden Club Plant Sale on Sat., May 24!



The Highlands Ball Park will be transformed into a 'field of greens' on May 24 when the gates open at 9 a.m. for the annual Mountain Garden Club plant sale.

One of the featured plants is the beautiful celandine poppy (*Styllophorum diphyllum*). Also called golden woodland poppy, this plant is a staple in the woodland forest, loving the dappled shade of the deciduous trees and rich organic soil. The beautiful golden yellow flowers so prevalent in early spring are a welcome treat for gardeners and are a great complement for bluebells, columbines, woodland phlox and trilliums, which will also be for sale on May 24.

After flowers fade on the celandine poppy, fruits form and produce a green, hairy seedpod. As the pods dry, they pop open, distributing the seeds to the soil below. The next spring you will find new plants growing around the mother plant and over several years you will find your patch of poppies expanding.

See you at the Mountain Garden Club plant sale, Saturday, May 24 from 9 a.m. until noon at the Highlands Ball Park on Highway 64 and Hickory. Rain date May 25, 1 to 4 p.m.

369-7352, for reservations. Visitors welcome, but no pet please.

• Celebrating 50 years of the Wilderness Act, the Nantahala Hiking Club will take Wilderness Hike #3, a

Everything you need to know about growing dahlias!

Ready, set, dig! It's that time of year to begin planting and dahlias are a fantastic flower to have in your garden.

Allen Haas, a long time dahlia grower will share the secrets of growing these beautiful flowers with aspiring dahlia growers in the class Everything You Need to Know About Growing Beautiful Dahlias offered by the Center for Life Enrichment. Allen currently grows over 300 different varieties of dahlias. He has chaired several local dahlia shows, been president of the Carolina Dahlia Society and second vice president and accredited judge of the American Dahlia Society. Dahlias come in a variety of sizes and colors and are wonderful for cut flower arrangements. The class is Friday, May 16 Time- 1-3pm Cost \$25/\$35

Enjoy an afternoon in the kitchen of one Highlands private homes in the cooking class Cooking at Home with Ease. Holly Roberts owner of The Kitchen CarryAway Catering will be preparing a menu with recipes to help ease you into summer entertaining. Participants will also have the pleasure of dining on the finished product. Monday, May 19 Time- 11:30-1:30pm Cost \$40/\$50

Register now for hospital's free health screening

Spots still remain for Highlands-Cashiers Hospital's free health screening for residents of the Highlands and Scaly Mountain communities coming up Wednesday, May 28th at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital's Jane Woodruff Clinic, Level One.

The screening, beginning at 7:15am, is completely free, but preregistration is required. There is still time to sign up, and those interested in taking advantage of the event can call (828) 526-1435 during regular business hours, or sign up on the hospital's website at www.highlandscashiershospital.org.

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 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 screening.

...LESS continued from page 9

used to purchase half of the equipment needed to maintain the new recreation facility at Parker Meadows," said Roland. "Although, the park is not scheduled to open in the coming fiscal year, by purchasing half of the equipment now enables us to distribute the \$45,000 over a two-year period."

Although Macon County Schools requested \$297,000 for capital outlay expenditures within the school system, Roland's budget includes \$99,035, which is \$35 more than what the district was given this fiscal year. Though requesting a \$500,000 increase in operating costs from the county, the Macon County School System's county allocation remains the same in Roland's proposed budget. Roland explained that with uncertainties from the state, the county needed to prepare for additional costs in the future surrounding the county's obligation to the school system.

Despite decreasing the overall budget, Roland explained that two full-time positions were added to the budget. "I think it is important to note that most departments requested new vehicles this year, but due to our financial state, those requests were denied," said Roland. "With the anticipated increase in vehicle maintenance that will occur, we think that more than justifies hiring a new mechanic at the county garage."

The budget includes \$40,248 in salary and benefits to fund the new mechanic at the garage. It also includes a total cost for a full year \$34,191 for a grounds keeper at Parker Meadows.

Despite decreasing the funding and maintaining the county's level of service, the greatest challenge that Roland presented the board with was information regarding stopping the county's current cost of living increase plan.

Previously, the county conducted a compensation study through Springsted, Inc, that reviewed the salaries and benefits of all county employees compared to similar governments in the state. The study showed that Macon County employees were grossly underpaid.

The county originally voted to take Springsted's recommendation to bring all county employees up to the minimum salary based on the market rate for each position, and gave all other employees a 2 percent salary increase. The cost for the first year of the plan, which went into effect May 2013, was \$814,549.88. To finish Springsted's pay plan recommendations, which includes the portion that rewards employees for longevity pay for their current positions, would cost the county an additional \$500,000, a cost Roland informed commissioners he did not fund in his budget.

"It is with great regret that I am unable in this year's proposed budget to include the final portion of the Springsted Pay Plan," he said. "Cost estimates for implementing this portion of the pay study are approximately \$500,000 and currently cannot be absorbed in our operating budget. Our inability to implement this portion of the pay plan will result in our long serving employees continuing to fall behind suggested compensation levels as the remaining portion to be implemented recommends a 4 percent increase for those employees serving eight years in their current positions, and a .5 percent increase

•See LESS page 16

• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

The spirit of Highlands

By Father Bruce Walker

Episcopal Church of the Incarnation

Spring has sprung and summer is just around the corner, rejoice and be glad in it! What a wonderful time of year, school is nearly out, vacations are just around the corner for some and I trust others are searching out other means to refresh and renew their spirits. It's a great time to be in Highlands!

As we move though spring into summer, our community is on the move. The Mountain Garden Club is leading the way with their annual fund raising event this month. At the same time, I am hearing word of the Bascom sponsored, Mountains in Bloom event this July. The Church of the Incarnation will sponsor a garden tour in July as well. I have heard it said that April showers bring May flowers. In Highlands the showers bring flowers pretty much all summer long. This is a wonderful place to live.

The children and youth in our community are also blooming. A large youth group, mostly from the Methodist Church, just returned at Easter from a mission trip to Haiti. I asked the ones from Incarnation what was the most important thing about their experience. The answer came back, "we built relationships with the people there." They went on to say they built relationship through playing soccer and just generally "hanging out" with the people there.

Just "hanging out" sounds like something that happens a lot in Highlands, but we might not give it all the credit it deserves. It is a great way to build relationships and we share so many opportunities to engage in this simple practice.

If you have not heard, there is a new "hanging out" spot in Highlands. It can be found at six pm on Tuesday evenings at the Community Center. Various churches, local organizations, businesses and individuals are signing up to host community dinners in an effort to build a loving and lasting spirit of friendship among us.

It is a time set aside to renew old relationships and create new ones. New folks are showing up all the time and God is blessings all of us with all sorts of goodness. Spring and summer are about renewal, so come and be refreshed, come and refresh others. Allow the spirit Of Highlands to breathe life into your spirit through fellowship and service to others, it is happening now. Come join us!

So far the response has been incredible. People have come out in good numbers to share a meal, each other's company and just generally "hang out" together. Our church sponsored an evening a couple of weeks ago, and it really turned into a loaves and fishes situation. We planned for a certain number, more showed up than we had planned, but at the end of the evening, everyone who came was fed and by the smiles on the faces, left happy.

What could be better than that? We came, we shared and friendships grew!

The spirit of Highlands is marked by generous giving. The summer is known as a season filled with all sorts of fundraisers and events. In all the giving, if you find yourself in need of a little receiving, come to the Community Center on Tuesday evenings. You will be fed in body, mind and spirit!

Proverbs 3:5

• PLACES TO WORSHIP • John 3:16

BLUEVALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH

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

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

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

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

BUCK CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

828-269-3546

Rev. Jamie Passmore, Pastor

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

GRACE COMMUNITY CHURCH OF CASHIERS

Non-Denominational-Contemporary Worship
242 Hwy 107N, 1/4 miles from Crossroads in Cashiers
www.gracecashiers.com • Pastor Steve Doerter: 828-743-9814

Services: Sundays 10am - Wed. - 7pm

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

464 US Hwy 64 east, Cashiers

Sun.: 8:30a Traditional (said) 1928 Service, including Communion; 9:30a Christian Education (a.k.a., Sunday School); 10:30a Faithful, Family Service including Music & Communion.

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

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

CHRIST CHURCH OF THE VALLEY, CASHIERS

Pastor Steve Kerhoulas

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

Tue. Guys study 8am, Gals 10am.

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: Education and choir rehearsal, 9 am, Holy

Eucharist Rite II, (sanctuary), 10:30

Wednesday: 10 a.m., Morning Prayer

Thursdays: Holy Eucharist, (chapel), 10 am

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH HIGHLANDS

www.fbchighlands.org

Dr. Mark Ford, Pastor

220 Main Street, Highlands NC 28741

828-526-4153

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

Wed.: Men's Bible Study 8:30 am; Prayer Meeting 6:15 pm; Choir 5 pm

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Dr. Lee Bowman, Pastor • 526-3175

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

HAMBURG BAPTIST CHURCH

Hwy 107N. • Glenville, Nc • 743-2729

Pastor Nathan Johnson

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

Bible Study 6p

Wed. Kidsquest 6p.; Worship 7p.

HIGHLANDS ASSEMBLY OF GOD

Randy Reed, Pastor

828-421-9172 • 165 S. Sixth Street

Sundays: Worship: 11

HIGHLANDS CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Dan Robinson

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

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

Wednesday: Prayer Service, 6:30 p.

HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Pastor Paul Christy 526-3376

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

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

studies; 6:15: Adult choir (nursery provided)

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

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

Pastor Troy Nicholson, (828) 526-8425

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

Choir: 6 p.m.

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

MOUNTAIN SYNAGOGUE

St. Cyprian's Episcopal Church, Franklin

828-369-9270 or 828-293-5197

MOUNTAIN BIBLE CHURCH

743-2583

Independent Bible Church

Sundays: 10:30 a.m. at Big Ridge Baptist Church, 4224 Big Ridge Road (4.5 miles from NC 107)

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

OUR LADY OF THE MOUNTAINS CATHOLIC CHURCH

Parish office: 526-2418

Mass: Sun: 10:30 a.m.; Thurs & Fri.: 9 a.; Sat., 4p

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

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

Pastor Rev. Andy Cloer

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

Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study: 7

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP

85 Sierra Drive • 828-524-6777

Sunday Worship - 11 a.m.

Child Care - 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Religious Education - 11 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

Youth 8th - 12th grade meets 2nd Sundays 5 - 7:30 p.m.

WHITESIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Rev. Sam Forrester/Cashiers

Sunday School: 10 am, Worship Service: 11 am



Open Daily • 10a to 5p

The SALE

You **DON'T** Want to **MISS!**

Thurs, May 22 thru Mon, May 26

SIDEWALK SALE

1/2 Priced Items!

- Outdoor Rugs
- Furnishings
- Select Lamps & Pillows
- Home Accents

526-3909

468 Carolina Way, Highlands

• BIZ/ORG NEWS •

Rotary Club of Highlands Golf Tournament Winners



On May 5 Highlands Country Club hosted the annual Rotary Club of Highlands golf tournament. Players enjoyed golf on the historic Donald Ross course, as well as lunch, beverages and prizes. All money raised by this tournament helps fund the many projects of the Rotary Club of Highlands. Above, is the winning foursome of Eric Redford, Steed Hord, Dave Warth and Seth Greenley.

...LESS continued from page 14

for years served beyond eight years.”

Roland's proposed budget does include the 1 percent annual bonus employees receive annually around the holidays as well as recommended 16 hours of paid leave for all employees.

“Since 2009, Macon County, like all counties in the state and nation, has operated in a fragile and recessed economy,” said Roland. “These economic conditions have forced county departments and outside agencies to constantly do more with less. With this demand however, the high quality of services we provide to our citizens has not been compromised.”

Tuesday night was the first look county commissioners had at Roland's budget. The next step in the process is for commissioners to review the county manager's recommendations and begin discussing the budget in depth at the May 31 meeting at Southwestern Community College.

After commissioners discuss the budget, there will also be a public hearing scheduled to seek further input from citizens.

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IN WITH
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• INVESTING AT 4,118 Ft. •

The importance of great design

"Design is not just what it looks like, it's how it feels" - Steve Jobs

It is always great fun to see a dramatic transformation of any kind.

We are drawn to the vast, varied array of "Before" and "After" images that populate our televisions, computers, magazines, and everyday experiences. Witnessing a metamorphosis sparks in us the reminder – the knowing – that, we, too, are capable of great change. We can shape something from nothing. Add color and form to a blank canvas. Recreate our lives, our thinking, and/or our bodies anew.

We can begin with a simple idea or intention for what it is we want to create. From there, the possibilities are endless, and we are limited only by the edges of what we can imagine.

The crucible in which the vision becomes manifest is one of great design. Regardless of any constraints (or perhaps because of them), a great design can bring to life new form that, as Steve Jobs would assert, elevates us, connects us, and makes us feel certain emotions. How a product, service, or space is designed has the power to positively impact how we feel, think, move, and interact with the world around us.

I recently had the pleasure of visiting a property that had undergone a total transformation – so much so, that the building was barely recognizable to me. Only the original exterior walls of the structure remained; every single other detail had been rethought, redesigned, and redone.

I stood in the doorway and felt my lower jaw sink. I stared, blinked rapidly, and tried to absorb and process what I was witnessing. Every square foot was sheer genius. Clever. Fresh.

Beautifully executed. When I looked at the gentleman's face while he told me the story of the design, I saw his pride and true enjoyment of the process and finished product.

Every inch, literally, represented a design challenge answered with grace and creativity.

What this gentleman had created was beyond an aesthetic experience; he had created a visceral reaction to form, function, color, texture, and lines. I wanted to touch the counter tops, place my bare feet on the flooring in the bathroom, and work under the light fixtures over table. I could see myself in front of the Zen fireplace, staring out the windows, and cooking in the kitchen.



Susie deVille,
Broker-in-Charge
(828) 371-2079

I felt a zingy energy in that space – with the conscious awareness of our own limitless potential to shape and be shaped by creativity and innovation.

Falling Waters is a 52 acre community just 2.5 miles from Main St. Secluded but not remote; peaceful, quiet and private. Mature hardwoods, giant Rhodies, Mountain Laurel and a plethora of wild flowers that take turns showing off thru the seasons. Two waterfalls & several creeks add charm & interest. Paved roads, underground utilities, newer homes built after 2000, no road noise, well maintained, a great place to take a walk!



Two lots sold this winter and a year round home is being built ... New cottage section opening soon!

Welcome...Come Visit.

GPS Address: 78 Black Bear Trace Highlands, NC 28741

From Main St., take Hwy. 106 (The Dillard Road) 1.8 miles just past the Glen Falls sign, turn right on Mt. Laurel Dr., go 3 tenths of a mile turn left on Moonlight. The entrance is on the right.

www.highlandsnchomesites.com

Contact (onsite owner) or your broker for plats, prices & a guided tour.

828-508-9952.

Take a moment, now, and look around the space where you work and live. How do you feel in that space? How does the design contribute to or detract from your experience? Is your energy boosted by the space? Do you feel a certain flow to your work or to your interaction with those who share the space?

If how you feel is the ultimate barometer of how well the design of the space suits you, and the mercury is at bottom, perhaps a redesign is in order. Reach out to the talented designers in our community and seek counsel. Get out your sketchbook and start re-thinking spaces.

Life spent immersed in great

design is life well spent.

• Susie deVille, ME, ABR, SFR, is Owner/Broker-in-Charge of White Oak Realty Group. Her areas of expertise include real estate investments, niche marketing, social media, and strategic property positioning. An expert in entrepreneurship and anthropology, Susie applies her acumen in human behavior toward negotiating and advocating on behalf of her clients. White Oak Realty Group's sales office is located at 125 South Fourth Street in the heart of the retail district in Highlands. For more information, visit WhiteOakRG.com or call (828) 526-8118.



You are invited!

Open House

481 Hickory Hill Road

**Friday, May 16 and Saturday, May 17
1-4 p.m.**

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• BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NEWS •

Highlands 5th Grade students graduate from D.A.R.E. program



Highlands School's 5th grade Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.) Graduation was held last Thursday, May 1. Highlands Police Officer Ronnie Castle is the DARE teacher and Christine Murphy is the students' 5th grade teacher. Throughout the year, students participated in exercises and wrote essays promoting the D.A.R.E. mission and vision.

The mission of the national D.A.R.E. program is : Teaching students good decision-making skills to help them lead safe and healthy lives.

Its vision is: A world in which students everywhere are empowered to respect others and choose to lead lives free from violence, substance abuse, and other dangerous behaviors.



To the left is the graduating class with Officer Castle. Above the graduates high-5 each other for a job well done.

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Teacher Christine Murphy and Officer Castle hand out certificates.

Photos by Carol Bowen.

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call 828-200-1371 or email: highlandseditor@aol.com

• BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NEWS •

Highlands Rotary elects new member

Left: On May 6, The Rotary Club of Highlands welcomed Rick Trevathan as its newest member. Photo shows Rick (far right) with Marc Pittman (left), his Rotary sponsor, and Rotary President Rick Reid (center).



...BUDGET continued from page 5

rates will continue to rise and with incremental raises to the Highlands citizens a likely thing, commissioners just couldn't justify giving free utilities to some and not others.

Last year, in a 3-2 vote commissioners agreed to give the ABC Store, the Chamber of Commerce, and the Highlands Playhouse free utilities. Commissioners Amy Patterson and John Dotson voted "no."

"As you know, Duke has been penalized for its Coal Ash dumps and will be spending substantial funds cleaning those up which it is passing on to its customers," said Frye. "Given the fact that our rates will continue to rise and the general discontent with the free utility policy, though some initially thought free utilities were given for good reason, the policy is now hard to justify."

Final touches will be made to the 2014-'15 budget at the May 15 budget worksession where items still on the elimination list will be considered once more. The budget is likely to come in at about \$13.3 million compared to last year's \$13.1 million – which was two million less than the previous year.

The final 2014-'15 budget will be presented at the May 22 Town Board meeting where a public hearing on the budget will be set for the Town Board meeting in June.

–Kim Lewicki

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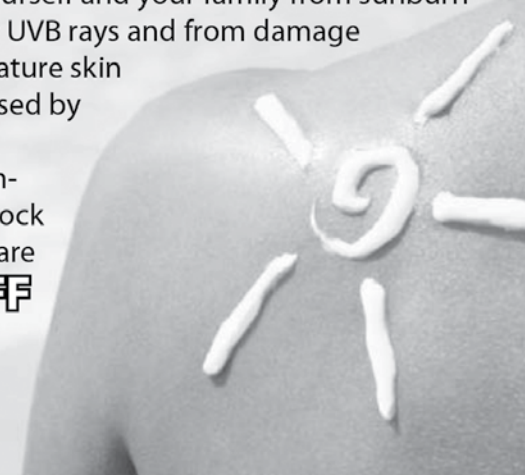
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WOLFGANGS RESTAURANT is looking for experienced servers and a part time host/hostess. Please call Robbie at 828.526.3807. (st. 5/15)

PIZZA PLACE NOW HIRING - All positions. Front of house and back of house. Stop by for an application. 365 Main Street. 828-526-5660.

PART-TIME RETAIL - Main Street, Highlands. 828-200-9106. (st. 4/14)

THE SPICE & TEA EXCHANGE has two part-time openings. One for sales and one in production. Call 828-482-1609. (st. 4/24)

Mountain Fresh Grocery is accepting applications for full-time experienced Grill/Line Cooks and the Pizza station. Contact Don at 828.526.2400

CREEKSIDE DINING is hiring a hostess, servers and kitchen help. Call 526-9822. (st. 4/3)

SALES ASSOCIATE FOR HIGH END RETAIL CLOTHING STORE IN HIGHLANDS, NC. full time, part-time and seasonal. Must be available to work weekends. Retail clothing sales experience preferred. Please call 828-200-1703. (st. 3/13)

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• See CLASSIFIEDS page 22

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