

Highlands Newspaper

FREE Every Thursday

Volume 11, Number 21

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Thurs., May 22, 2014

May 22-May 25

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

Friday, May 23

• At The Hen House on Main Street, a tasting of Sallie's Famous Gourmet Jams & Cheese Toppers, from 10a to 3p.

Sat. & Sun., May 24-25

• The 6th Annual Spring Cashiers Arts and Crafts Show at the Cashiers Village Green 10am to 5pm both days rain or shine.

Sat., May 24

• At Greenleaf Gallery, artist Robert Tino will be painting from noon to 3p.

• At Cliffside Lake, Live Birds of Prey at 11 a.m. No pets allowed \$4 per vehicle. Please arrive 15 minutes prior to program.

• The Mountain Garden Club annual Plant Sale at 9 a.m. Saturday at the Town ball field.

• The Scaly Mountain Women's Club Pancake Breakfast at the Community Center at the NC 106 and Buck Knob Road from 7:30 to 10:30 a.m. Adults \$5.50, and Children \$3.50.

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.

• Church in the Wildwood hymn-sing from 7-8 p.m. begins and continues each Sunday.

Mon., May 26

• At the Highlands Biological Garden, a free Rhododendron Pruning Workshop for adults.

• Free Community Table dinner at the Community Building at 6 p.m.

Wed., May 28

• The H-C Hospital health screening. To register call (828) 526-1435 or go to www.highlandscashiershospital.org

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Town still says 'no' to free utilities

At the third and final 2014-'15 budget worksession Thursday, May 15, commissioners finalized inclusions and exclusions to the budget and held fast to their decision to retract the free utility policy enacted last year for

the ABC Store, the Chamber of Commerce and the Highlands Playhouse.

Members and staff of the Highlands Playhouse were at the meeting, but the board didn't take comments from the audience.

Instead, discussion revolved around The Performing Art Center (PAC) and its lease which exempts the center from paying utilities until 2020 when the lease is up.

• See UTILITIES page 9

County Manager cites revaluation as cause for tax increase

By Brittany Burns

While presenting his proposed budget to commissioners last week, Macon County Manager Derek Roland emphasized the importance of holding the line on taxes and decreasing the overall budget in order to put the county in the best feasible position when preparing for the 2015 property tax revaluation.

"In January of the coming fiscal year, property owners in Macon County will receive revaluation notices based on the value of their real and personal property," said Roland. "If we were in 'normal' economic times, the real property tax base would increase after a reappraisal, usually between 20 to 40 percent depending on how long it has been since the county's last reappraisal. But as you all know, these are not normal economic times, and for the first time ever, multiple counties across the state, including Macon County, are experiencing decreases in their tax bases after reappraisals."

Early estimates and predictions into the revaluation process, put Macon County's total tax base revenue loss at an estimated \$2

• See REVAL page 4

Should we be afraid of bears?



A study of black bear attacks in North America from 1900 to 2009 showed that attacks are extremely rare. However, bears may become "habituated" or accustomed to people around homes or along popular hiking trails, making them less fearful. If such a bear comes near you it is most likely curious and relatively harmless. Always remember, however, that bears are wild animals with instincts that make it unsafe to approach them, to pet them or to feed them. This is how most injuries occur.

Photo by B.E.A.R. Task Force Chair Cynthia Strain.

2nd Macon Middle School staff member is arrested

By Brittany Burns

By last Friday afternoon, the Macon County Sheriff's Department had compiled enough information to arrest Macon Middle School Secretary Paula Anglin for disseminating obscene materials to a minor, a felony.

Anglin is the second Macon Middle School staff person to be arrested for crimes against chil-

dren in the last week.

Forty-three-year-old Anglin was first suspended indefinitely from her position last week pending the outcome of an investigation, but during Monday night's board of education meeting, she was terminated.

This is not Anglin's first run-in with the law while being em-

• See ARRESTED page 8

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Fate of teacher tenure still unsure

By Brittany Burns

Despite a ruling last Friday by North Carolina Superior Court Judge Robert Hobgood deeming the new teacher tenure law changes unconstitutional, Macon County is moving forward with the random selection process.

Friday afternoon, Hobgood sided with the North Carolina Association of Educators in ruling that stripping veteran teachers of their right to due process under the state's historic teacher tenure laws was unconstitutional. He issued a state-wide injunction into the new law, which seemingly would stop local districts from needing to move forward with the selection process. An active member of the NCAE and history teacher at Franklin High School, John deVile, was one of the plaintiffs in the lawsuit that resulted in the injunction.

• See TENURE page 5

Memorial Weekend Bash

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• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• MAYOR ON DUTY •



2014-'15 budget to be the main issue at Town Board meeting

The major agenda item for tonight's Town Board meeting will be the presentation of the town budget for the new fiscal year. The budget process began with the town retreat in February. The board and staff conducted an overview of the needs and concerns for the forthcoming budget. Since the retreat, three workshop sessions have been held where budget lines were identified and prioritized.

Town Manager, Bob Frye, will present the proposed budget to the Town Board at tonight's meeting. By North Carolina statute the manager has to submit a balanced budget, and any approved budget must be balanced. After the budget presentation, I will invite brief public comments concerning any item in the budget.

At the June board meeting, a formal public hearing concerning the budget will be held. The final budget will need to be approved by July 1st, the beginning of the new fiscal year.

I have had several folks ask me if the town's finances are similar to some of the big cities like Detroit. My response is absolutely no. We carry minimal debt that could easily be paid off from reserve funds. The town still operates in a "pay as you go model."

I also want to comment about town funding of the arts.

In my view, over the years an inconsistent method for funding the arts has evolved. In particular, I have concerns about free utilities. I do not want to eliminate support for the arts, indeed there are long-term economic, cultural and educational benefits in having a vibrant arts community. On the other hand, there needs to be stewardship by all stakeholders in the management of town resources.

After the proposed budget is ap-

proved, I would like to see the town explore the possible creation of an arts commission or committee. Such a group of community citizens would be charged with making recommendations on how to effectively manage resources and support the arts. One view concerning the current arts situation may be that everything is great and things should remain the same. On the other hand, while we have a strong arts community, there is always room for improvement and ways to build stronger programs.

At tonight's meeting representatives of the Founders Park Coalition will present final plans for completing the park. Also on the agenda will be the appointment of a member to the ABC Board.

The meeting starts at 7 p.m. at the Highlands Conference Center next to the baseball field.

• LETTERS •

Thanks to Art & Angela Williams for park donation

Dear editor,

Over a number of years Art and Angela Williams have demonstrated their love and support for many organizations throughout our community. Most recently their generosity has focused on improving the recreational opportunities available here in Highlands, by funding major improvements to the new pool and the existing gymnasium, and also by providing a substantial gift that will allow us all to realize the full potential of Kelsey-Hutchinson Park.

The Kelsey-Hutchinson Founders Park Coalition wishes to express its profound thanks to the Williams and Old Edwards Inn and Spa for placing the park at the top of

their list for projects they wished to support this year. Their gift of \$390,000, along with support from other individuals and civic organizations, means that the Coalition is now in a position to begin construction on many of the improvements to the main park area. We hope to begin construction early this fall, as soon as scheduled activities in the park are over.

Donations continue to come in, and funds are still needed to realize all of the improvements needed at the park, including a new main entrance/restroom facility. We hope others will join the Williams in helping make Kelsey-Hutchinson Park a place that will be enjoyed by both groups and families for generations to come.

Nicholas G. Bazan
Chairman of the Founders Park Coalition

Nuclear Power

Dear Editor,

Although we have poured tax money into expensive alternative energy, with some companies already having gone broke, the only results we have seen is killing millions of birds, including eagles and more expensive electrical power.

There is an alternative and that alternative is nuclear power and ultimately, is what eventually will have to be our source of electric power. We have no choice.

Throughout recent history, we have always had those who live in fear of nuclear power but these are the same folks who live in fear of eating a hamburger at a fast food joint and who refuse to have their kids inoculated against diseases. They point to the Chernobyl disaster in Russia and Fukushima disaster in Japan as examples of what can go wrong. Both are lousy examples, however. Russian nuclear technology was extremely backward when they built the Chernobyl nuclear power plant some 60 years ago. The Fukushima disaster in Japan was a fool's game because they built it on the edge of a seaciff, subject to earthquakes.

From initial planning to completion, it takes about 20 years or more to bring a nuclear power plant on line and you can't imagine the red tape that the design must pass through to insure safety.

The problem we have now is that we are 20 years behind in building nuclear power plants at a time when countries like France obtain 80% of their electric power from nuclear plants and sell excess to other countries. We are, in short, behind the eight ball while mired down in failing

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 •

George Clisby Clarke

George Clisby Clarke died May 11, 2014 at his second home in Highlands, NC. He was born on October 14, 1941, the son of Joseph Ransom Clarke and Katherine Dean Lowe Clarke in Marshallville, GA.

He graduated from Fort Valley High School in 1959 and graduated from the University of Georgia with a Bachelor's Degree in Business, and went on to graduate studies at the University of Illinois and began his career in advertising at Proctor and Gamble. Clisby worked in advertising and marketing for 37 years. He joined McCann-Erickson in 1972 and served as Executive Vice President and General Manager for the last 12 years before his retirement in 1999.

He was an ardent supporter of the University of Georgia Bulldogs and penned, composed and performed two well-known Georgia fight songs "Bulldog Bite" (1980) and "Let the Big Dog Eat" (1981). Clisby was the Chairman of the Board of the Atlanta Business Hospitality Network Foundation. The Foundation is raising funds to benefit the Shepherd Center of Atlanta to aid wounded veterans with brain and spinal injuries.

Clisby enjoyed almost 50 years of marriage to Bunny Heyward Clarke of Macon. He is survived by Bunny, his two daughters: Katherine Clarke Buckner, her husband James and Caroline Clarke Boggs and husband Chris. Clisby has five beloved grandchildren: Lucy and Clarke Buckner and Charlie, Sammy and Kendall Boggs.

A Memorial Service was held at Peachtree Road United Methodist Church on Thursday, May 15, with Dr. Don Harp officiating. A reception celebrating Clisby's life followed the service at Capital City Country Club, Brookhaven, GA. The family suggests any memorials be sent to the Shepherd Center and the American Heart Association. Bryant-Grant Funeral Home is in charge of local arrangements.

• See OBITUARIES page 24



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...LETTERS continued from page 2

alternative systems that will never be able to provide the energy America needs, many of those companies financed with taxpayer money and some now broke and out of business.

All new technologies go through learning curves. It took a while to perfect airplanes, it took a while to learn how to do heart by-pass surgery and like all technologies we have learned how to safely operate a nuclear power plant, Jane Fonda's dramatic movie aside. Indeed, some of what

we have learned has come from failures in other countries. An American company (Babcock-Wilcox) is working on a nuclear power plant the size of a cottage capable of powering a small city and perfectly safe. Government has always favored the use of uranium because they use it to build nuclear weapons and that's why we have stuck with it all these years but we can use thorium based fuel which is far safer and more stable than uranium.

Our coal, oil and gas sup-

plies, even though adequate for now, are not finite and eventually will run out. In the meantime, China and other Asian countries will continue to pollute our atmosphere here in America while we erect windmills made in China.

We need to quit playing games with our future and recognize that nuclear power must be a part of our future. Windmills and solar is an impractical dream and simply won't meet our needs.

**Bob Wilson
Franklin, NC**

• See LETTERS page 6

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...REVAL continued from page 1

billion. As the county stands today, the total of real and personal property tax in Macon County accounts for a total value of \$9,360,000,000. The current tax rate is .279 per \$100 of assessed value, which equates to what should be \$26,114,400 to be collected and applied to the county's operating budget. With the county's tax collection rate being 96.51 percent, the county gains \$25,203,007 in revenue annually from property tax.

After factoring in the 21 percent decline of \$2 billion that the Macon County Tax Department has estimated will occur due to the revaluation, the decrease will yield a new tax base of \$7,360,000,000.

For the county to be able to generate a revenue neutral tax base – meaning despite the overall decrease of property taxes, the county continues to generate the same level of revenue from property tax – the new tax rate will need to be .355 per \$100 of assessed value. The new tax rate reflects that with a tax base of \$7,360,000,000, so the

county will be able to continue generating \$25,216,133 annually for operations.

During reappraisal years, the state requires that county governments submit a revenue neutral tax rate in the proposed budget for comparison purposes.

What does this mean for taxpayers?

The revenue-neutral aspect of the tax rate refers to the aggregate tax burden for the entire county, which is predicted to be 21 percent. According to Roland, if a taxpayer's real property depreciated in value less than the county's (21 percent) then that taxpayer can anticipate a tax bill that will increase if the revenue neutral budget is adopted.

For example, if a taxpayer received a home appraisal in 2007 of \$235,000 at the .279 tax rate, a total of \$655.65 was paid in taxes. After the revaluation process, in 2015 the home would appraise for about \$218,000. At the proposed .355 tax rate, the taxpayer can anticipate paying \$733.90 in taxes, an increase of \$118.25. Since the taxpayer experienced a decrease in his home value of \$17,000 and the 7 percent decrease is less than the county's 21 percent de-

crease, his taxes increased.

Example 2: If a taxpayer received a home appraisal of \$1,500,000 in 2007 at a tax rate of .279, he was paying about \$4,185 in taxes. With the revaluation in 2015, the taxpayer's new appraisal would be around \$860,000. At the .355 tax rate, the adjusted taxes would decrease by \$1,132 and now be \$3,053. The adjusted appraisal decreased by \$640,000, which was a 42 percent decrease. With the new appraisal being a larger decrease than that of the aggregate of the county, his taxes decreased.

"In Macon County, the majority of taxpayers will fall into scenarios similar to example 1," explained Roland. "With that being said, in order to maintain a revenue neutral tax base, the majority of taxpayers are going to see an increase."

Roland explained that with the uncertainty surrounding the revaluation process, it was more important than ever for the county to assess all funds being spent and prepare for uncertain financial times in the coming years.

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...TENURE continued from page 1

Despite the ruling, the Macon County Board of Education met in Executive Session Monday night in Nantahala to let a computer randomly select 25 percent of the remaining eligible teachers.

"At this time, we just are not really sure what the ruling means for districts across the state," explained Macon County Schools attorney John Henning, Jr. "I wasn't sure why the original ruling that was given to Guilford and Durham county schools didn't apply statewide, so I am not sure how this will affect us either."

Henning said the district has yet to receive any sort of written notification regarding proceeding with the selection process. Without a written ruling or change in the procedure, Macon County is operating under the assumption that teacher contracts must be offered and accepted or rejected no later than June 30.

Although Macon County is scheduled to hold its regularly scheduled June meeting on the 16th, Terry Bell,

Director of Human Resources said that the district will wait until June 30 to hear if teachers accepted or rejected the contracts. "We want to wait as long as possible to give the state time to sort everything out," Bell said Monday night.

Bell said he believes that North Carolina will look to change teacher tenure the same way they did tenure for administrators and principals years ago. "When I was a principal years ago, the state moved to phase out tenure for administrators. For us veteran principals, we were kind of grandfathered in, and new incoming administrators just didn't have the option of achieving tenure status. When Gary Shields retired from Franklin High School, he was the last man standing in Macon County to have been granted tenure. I gave up my tenure status when I left my principal position to move to work at the central office."

Henning stated that he has not seen anything that would prevent the state from moving toward a phase-out option for teachers like they did years ago from administrators. In fact, Hobgood's ruling didn't necessarily deem the

entire law unconstitutional, just the portion that applied to veteran teachers. In his ruling, Hobgood stated that abolishing teacher tenure "was not reasonable and necessary to serve an important public purpose."

Last summer, state legislators voted to eliminate teacher tenure and the protections that came along with it, with the intent of improving classroom performance. Under the law, teachers who haven't worked the four years needed to qualify for tenure status are to be offered one-year contracts, with those who are considered tenured, to be narrowed to 25 percent of teachers. They will receive a 4-year contract and a cumulative \$5,000 bonus over the life of the contract. Regardless, the entire teacher tenure process, even for those identified as the top 25 percent, was slated to disappear completely by 2018.

Macon County has a total of 272 teachers that are eligible for consideration of the 25 percent, which would

• See **TENURE** page 8

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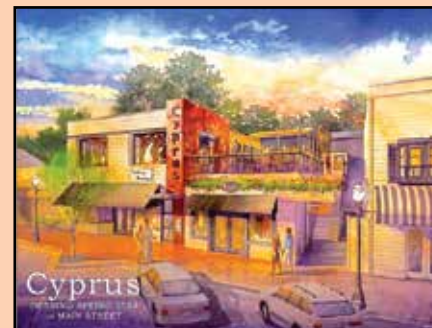
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• THE FREDSTER •

The Philistines are coming... The Philistines are coming!

Highlanders should be very, very afraid. Hide the women and children 'cause the Philistines are on their way to Highlands. These scary, barbaric people, better known as the "sea people," come from faraway foreign lands like...Florida. Please note there are three types of Philistines.

First, there are your basic, run-of-the-mill east coast Philistine sea people from Miami, Palm Beach, Daytona, and sweaty places like that. The second types are known as the west coast Philistines and they are less insidious. These folks arrive from smelly places like Tampa and Naples where dead sponges stink up the whole area. You can smell these Philistines from far away as they all stink of dead sponges. Thirdly, (Is thirdly a word?) there's a vast area known as the Panhandle where redneck type Philistines love to pick their feet, break wind and scratch their privates....fun stuff like that! They're as disgusting as the sponge Philistines but smell totally different.

All of these sea people, known as Floridians, have one thing in common. They bring bundles and bundles of thousand dollar bills with them (Oh....yeah!) and drink from long stem wine glasses. (Oh....yeah again!) They're arrogant and demanding and will send a steak back in a Miami minute if not cooked to their liking. They're pushy, trust no one and use money to get what they want. Even worse, they all drive with their heads up their....well, you know. Note: Philistines drive snail speed on the curves.

And check this out. Those year-round Highlanders who don't depend on the Philistine's thousand dollar bills to make a living during the summer usually call these people "Floridiots." Ha, how disrespectful is that? Are you writing this down?

Searching through ancient scrolls, I've found the best definition of a Philistine is, and I quote, "a people guided by materialism and usually disdainful of intellectual or artistic values." Sound familiar? Philistines are uncircumcised (oy!) and play card games called Bridge where weak minded Philistines (duh....like me!) are continuously clobbered by those more intellectually fortunate. NOTE: One can easily spot a Philistine at a bridge game 'cause they're either rude, smell



Fred Wooldridge

bad or are scratching something.

And finally, here's a piece of history our Town Board might want to chew on when pondering Philistines. In 1144 BC, a ruthless Rameses III, king of Egypt, rounded up the Philistines, swiped their thousand dollar bills, broke their pagan wine mugs and booted them out. Could this be when they headed for Florida?

Anyway, I think there should be a town board meeting to decide a course of action to deal with these disgusting invaders. But I'll leave this to the brilliance of our board leaders.

Or....on second thought, I'm thinkin' Highlanders just might be hungry for some of those thousand dollar bills. I say hire a Mohel and let 'em roam. Wadayathink?

• Note: Ya gotta read Fred's books, I'm Moving Back to Mars and Deceived.

...LETTERS continued from page 3

Above and beyond the call of duty

Dear Editor,

Last Thursday morning about 1 a.m., we had an incident at Shelby Place. Lightning struck a Tulip Poplar, the tree exploded and the upper part of the truck fell on a house. The occupant of the house, who had been asleep, was of course awakened. She call Highlands Fire & Rescue for assistance and assist they did.

In the middle of the storm, Fire and Rescue removed the tree from the roof and installed a tarp to cover the large hole, all in the dark and rain. It is the concerted opinion of the owner of the house and everyone else in Shelby Place that the Highlands Fire & Rescue Department went beyond the call of duty.

On behalf of the individual concerned and the entire Shelby Place community, i would like to not only thank the Fire & Rescue Department but also praise it for what it did. Only in Highlads!

**Michael F. Little
 Highlands**



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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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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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...TENURE continued from page 1

mean out of the entire pool of teachers, only 68 would receive contracts. According to Bell, when the district randomly selected teachers Monday night, the 272 number had been sliced in half due to about 50 percent of eligible teachers participating in the opt-out option. "We had about half of eligible teachers selecting to opt out of the entire process and just didn't want anything to do with it," he said.

North Carolina State Senate leader Phil Berger anticipates the ruling will be appealed, "Today a single Wake County judge suppressed the will of voters statewide who elected representatives to improve public education and reward our best teachers with raises. This is a classic case of judicial activism," Berger said in a statement on Friday.

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...ARRESTED continued from page 1

played for the school system. On October 19, 2010, Anglin was arrested and charged with Driving While Intoxicated.

The investigation into Anglin began after a student at MMS informed her parents that an inappropriate photo of Anglin was being distributed amongst students. Staff members reported the photos to authorities. MCSO Juvenile Detectives conducted several interviews with both students at the school and adults surrounding the incident. Several items such as cell phones, were seized during the investigation.

"It is my opinion thus far that Mrs. Anglin violated the trust of her co-workers, the students, and the community as a whole," said Sheriff Rob-



Paula Anglin

ert Holland. "Mrs. Anglin was one of the members of our community who should have been looking out for the best interest of the students and who was responsible for keeping them safe. By her own admission, Anglin was involved with inappropriate activities that were detrimental to those she was responsible for protecting."


During Monday night's board of education meeting in Nantahala, board chair Jim Breedlove informed the public that while the district is cooperating in the investigation, because it is a personnel matter, there would be no further comments at this time.

The Macon County School System and the staff at Macon Middle School have been very cooperative with the investigation and have provided substantial assistance to the sheriff's department. "School officials have assisted from the onset of both investigations and are devastated by what has been uncovered," said Holland. "Nothing we have found leads us to believe that any school officials knew what was happening just as nothing we have found leads us to believe any parent did either."

With Anglin being the second MMS employee in a week's time to be arrested for crimes involving children, Holland is urging parents to become more involved in their children's lives. "I encourage everyone to 'Parent UP' and know who and what your kids are doing on the Internet and who they are doing it with," said Holland. "Don't wait until your child becomes a victim to educate yourselves because chances are someone is already surfing the Internet and looking for their next victim... and it could be in your own home and right under a parent's nose."

Holland also stated that Anglin's arrest is separate from Jeff Rousselle, who was arrested last week and charged with one felony count indecent liberties with a student and one felony count with indecent liberties with a child. Both investigations are ongoing and additional charges are expected to be forthcoming, said Holland.

Following her arrest, Anglin was released on a \$15,000 bond. She is scheduled to make her first court appearance on Thursday, May 22.


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...UTILITIES continued from page 1

Paying PAC's utilities costs the town \$14,400 to \$18,000 per year not including propane which costs \$5,000 year.

"The question isn't whether the town can afford to continue to provide free utilities, but rather is it fair," said Town Manager Bob Frye. The town is increasing utility rates 3% July 1, 2014 to offset wholesale increases from Duke Power.

All tolled free utilities cost the town \$45,000 to \$57,000 per year. Figures show utility costs for the Chamber of Commerce to be \$6,000-\$8,000; the ABC Store, \$6,000-\$8,000; and the Playhouse, \$14,400 to \$18,000.

At the previous budget worksession, commissioners asked Town Attorney J.K. Coward to go over the lease to see if there was a way the town could get out of it – at least the part about free utilities.

Attorney Coward said the town could request to renegotiate the contract with PAC anytime it wants.

"But that doesn't mean you are going to be successful. If you invite them to renegotiate this they should at least in good faith talk to you."

But according to Manager Frye, that request fell on deaf ears.

Though according to Coward, PAC hasn't breached its contract with the town, an annual review of utility use has not been performed by either party, which is required in the lease.

"This is where the landlord determines whether the tenant has tried to conserve energy and if not the town and PAC should talk to see if they can agree on a limit," he said.

If the parties can't agree to a limit, PAC is free to exercise an option to take title of the property with the purchase price of \$1. Coward said if PAC doesn't come to the table to discuss utility use then that could constitute a breach of contract.

"Furthermore, if failure to conserve utilities is regarded as a default, then the town could exercise the severe remedy whereby the tenant would have no right to purchase the property at all – which would probably be a decision made by a judge," he said.

Long story short, commissioners agreed to honor the contract with PAC but to put them on notice that in six years there will be no more free utilities. An annual meeting to determine utility use will also be conducted to make sure PAC is conserving as much energy as possible.

"They need to start reducing their energy costs to the town," said Commissioner Eric Pierson. He also said this is a prime reason why the town should have standard contracts with all its tenants.

As to the other three entities, Pierson said It's clear citizens don't want the town to give free utilities to anyone.

Commissioner Amy Patterson said if no one gets free utilities everyone is on an equal playing field.

Commissioner Brian Stiehler said there is a lot of value the organizations give to the town, but Commissioner Patterson said there are a lot of organizations who give to the town. "How are you going to quantify that? How do you pick and choose

• See UTILITIES page 11

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OVEN OFF NIGHT
2 FRESH CHICKEN BREASTS, GRILLED
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COOKED FALL-OFF-THE-BONE-TENDER.
SERVED WITH HOUSE MADE
BACON/APPLE BAKED BEANS, AND
POTATO SALAD.

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TWO

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SHRIMP; FRIED OR STEAMED
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LIGHTLY BREADED IN OUR SEASONED
CORN FLOUR MIXTURE, AND THEN PROP-
ERLY FRIED IN PEANUT OIL AND SERVED
WITH HUSH PUPPIES; OR STEAMED TO
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Boy Choir sings Sunday at the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation

The Spectacular concert free and open to the public of 40 men and 30 boys will take place this Sunday afternoon in Highlands at the Episcopal church of the incarnation at 4pm.

This world famous singing group under the direction of Maestro Fletcher Wolfe will preview the concerts which they will give in Poland the next week to honor Pope John Paul II becoming a Saint.

They have been invited to honor the new Saint because in past years they performed with him officiating many times in Rome at St. Peter's Basilica. He always referred to the choir as his "Angels of Song."

Several featured performers on this program will include renowned cellist, James Waldo, who recently concertized in Highlands to great acclaim.

Also on this program, Michael Postell, distinguished African American Soprano from Atlanta and the famous Jewish actress, Mira Hirsch narrating "I Never Saw Another Butterfly."

This much anticipated Highlands annual event usually draws an overflow house so several rows in the front of the church are reserved for those wishing to become a patron of the choir for a one hundred dollar tax deductible contribution. These monies go to help young boys in the choir who come from needy families and who are talented young singers.

For those wishing to get special seating for this event you may call the choir at 404.378.0064 or email them at info@atlantaboychoir.org

Mountain Garden Club plant sale is Saturday

By early morning on Saturday, the Highlands Ball Park will be transformed into a spectacular 'Field of Greens' for the 32nd annual Mountain Garden Club plant sale.

Anxious shoppers will gather long before the gates of the ball field swing open at 9 A.M.

Shoppers come for sun- and shade-loving plants, for advice from fellow gardeners, for the chance to be part of a Highlands tradition.

Native plants available this year include cinnamon ferns, celandine poppies, woodland phlox, Cranesbill geraniums, Jack in the Pulpit, trilliums, Joe Pye weed, and for the first time in the history of the sale-- water lilies (Nympha odorata).

Gardeners interested in creating fairy gardens will find several suitable plants, including mini hostas, creeping Jenny, native ginger, sedums, rattlesnake plantain, and sweet woodruff.

For dahlia lovers, there is a designated dahlia tent where you can purchase plants and tubers and receive expert advice on growing them.

Beautiful botanical photo notecards debuted at the sale last year, and a new series with

never-before-seen photos is available this year. Shoppers will also find the popular specialty 'Vicious' shovels that have been in demand each year.

Proceeds from the sale provide funds for college scholarships and the club's many community projects.

Since 1996, area students pursuing degrees in the fields of horticulture, environmental science, landscape design, forestry management, and golf course management have been awarded scholarships funded through the plant sale. This fall, Parker Sims will start his second year at Tri-County Technical College, thanks in part to a Dorothy Wertzler Memorial Scholarship from the Mountain Garden Club.

Be part of this great Highlands tradition.

Come to the Mountain Garden Club plant sale, this 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. Bring your own cart, wagon, or sled to make shopping easier. There will be helpers to assist in loading your cars. Cash or checks only please.

...UTILITIES

continued from page 9

who gets free utilities?"

Commissioner John Dotson said there is also a lot of value in the structures these organizations occupy for which the town doesn't charge rent.

Commissioner Donnie Calloway, Mayor Pro Tem for the meeting, said if it wasn't for the contract with PAC, it wouldn't get free utilities, either.

Commissioner Pierson suggested phasing out free utilities for the three entities since the town gave them a false sense of security.

Commissioner Patterson said they should have already expected this. "This isn't such a big town that they haven't seen the writing on the wall."

So, the Chamber of Commerce, the ABC Store and the Highlands Playhouse will begin paying utilities as of the first billing cycle in July 2014.

Commissioners agreed to the 1.5% tax rate increase which will sunset after three years. That money – \$270,000 annually – will be earmarked for the Parks and Recreation Dept. which will give the town time to understand what it costs to operate and maintain the new pool.

They also agreed to fund up to \$161,000 for the new restrooms at K-H Park. The current restrooms on the Town Hall complex will eventually be turned into a building to house Internet infrastructure.

Commissioner Stiehler said if the town can afford it, since the park coalition plans to finish the park, the bathrooms should be done at the same time. "Let's knock it out and get it done all at once."

Commissioner Calloway said he is a proponent of the park, but felt the town has spent enough money there and said there are a lot of other areas in town that need "prettying up."

"I think the ball park is one of them. I'd rather see the money go there."

Commissioner Patterson said initially she was against funding the park restrooms, but now thinks it will be good for that end of town.

Commissioners also agreed to budget \$50,000 for new Christmas decorations.

The final version of the 2014-'15 budget will be discussed at Thursday's May 22 Town Board meeting at 7 p.m. in the Community Building.

The budget will be officially adopted following a public hearing at the June Town Board meeting.

– Kim Lewicki

HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS

Thurs., May 22-Sun., May 25

• 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.

Friday, May 23

• At The Hen House on Main Street, a tasting of Sallie's Famous Gourmet Jams & Cheese Toppers, Friday from 10a to 3p.

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.

Sat., May 24

• At Greenleaf Gallery, artist Robert Tino will be painting from noon to 3p.

• At Cliffside Lake, Live Birds of Prey at 11 a.m. No pets allowed Free admission but \$4 per vehicle. Please arrive 15 minutes prior to program.

• 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

• At the Highlands Biological Garden,

• See EVENTS page 12

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

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Setting Up a Facebook Business Page: Tue., May 20 6-8pm, \$35/\$50
Marketing Your Business with Facebook: Tue., May 27 6-8pm, \$35/\$50
Emotions: Thur., May 29 5-6pm, \$10 *This program is in conjunction with the Bascom's exhibit Wesley Wofford: Beneath the Surface*
***Cooking at Home with Ease, with Holly Roberts has been rescheduled!**
Take advantage of this new date and time to sign up for a fabulous cooking event in one of Highland's private kitchens.
New Date & Time: Monday, June 2 10:30-1:30, \$40/\$50
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Concert Series



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Balsam Range

Friday, June 20 8pm



SOLD OUT

Retro Rock:

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Saturday, June 28 8pm

Highlands PAC

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828.526.9047

•HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS•

a free Rhododendron Pruning Workshop for adults. RSVP to 526-0188.

Tues., May 27

• Community Table dinner at the Community Building at 6 p.m. It's free.

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 Nature 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. 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 13

HCP's 'Mama Won't Fly' opens tonight at PAC!



In The Highlands Cashiers Players production of "Mama Won't Fly," you'll see both novice and veteran actors - all local folks who have decided to conquer their fears and get on stage. Why do they do it? You'll have to ask but, as the play comes together, a bond forms within the cast that enriches all who participate.

"Mama Won't Fly," written by the same team who wrote "Dearly Departed" and "The Dixie Swim Club," offers up a host of bigger than life Southern characters that allow the actors to stretch their boundaries and have fun with personality development.

Cast members include Donna Cochran (Mirror Lake Antiques); Chris Hess (Highland Hiker); Pat Allen and Julie Osborn (Pat Allen Realty Group) and Lance Trudel (Oak Leaf Flower & Garden). You'll also find Michael Lancilotta, Michelle Hott, Barbara Werder, Ken Knight, Kevin Murphy, Marsha Shmalo and Vangie Rich creating roles that make "Mama Won't Fly" a ferociously funny and family-friendly play.

Directed by Bonnie Cushman Earman and Assistant Director Kevin Murphy, "Mama Won't Fly" open Thursday, May 22 and runs through Sunday, May 25 and again Thursday, May 29 through Sunday, June 1. All shows are the Martin Lipscomb Performing Arts Center on Chestnut Street and tickets may be purchased at the box office or by calling 828-526-8084.

Photo: Credit Cynthia Strain.

•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, 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 moderate-to-strenuous five-mile hike with elevation change of 1400 ft. and a possible stream crossing with boots off, beginning at Deep Gap trail head, descending to the Tallulah River trail head. Meet at Westgate Plaza in Franklin at 9 am, drive 40 miles round trip. Call leaders Bill and Sharon Van Horn, 369-1983, for reservations. Visitors, older children, and dogs (on leash) are welcome.

Thurs., June 12

• The annual Owl Prowl in cooperation with the Highlands

Nature Center starts at 7:30 pm. Donations to the Carolina Raptor Rehab Center will be appreciated but not required. Bring a flashlight and plan to stay after dark as we hunt for owls in the area. If questions, call Michelle at 828-743-9670.

Sat. & Sun. June 14 & 15

• Highlands Village Square Arts & Craft Show 10a to 5p. in Kelsey-Huethcinson Park on Pine Street. Rain or shine.

Sat., June 14

• Audubon's weekly bird spotting trip. Bring binoculars if you have them, good walking shoes, a water bottle, and wet weather gear. Back by popular demand, an outing to Lonesome Valley in Sapphire, with Romney Bathurst leading. This is a beautiful wooded canyon being sensitively developed by the Jennings family with conservation interests high on the priority list. Carpool from the parking area of the new Cashiers Rec. Center at 7:30 AM sharp. Questions, call Michelle at 828-743-9670.

• Highlands School Graduation at 7p in the new gym.

• Live Birds of Prey at Cliffside Lake at 11 a.m., \$4 per vehicle. No pets. Arrive 15 minutes prior to.

Through June 15

• At The Bascom Out of the Ordinary, which runs through June 15. The show includes pieces by eight internationally recognized artists who use worn and often discarded materials as the building blocks of their creations. To register, call 828-526-4949.

Wed., June 18

• The Highlands Health Screening will take place at Blue Ridge School on 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., June 19

• The Town of Highlands Scholarship Golf Tournament is at Wildcat Cliffs CC. 9am Shotgun start. Anyone interested, please contact co-chairs, Rebecca Shuler at 526-2118 or Brian Stiehler at 787-2778. Cost is \$150/player.

• Taize service at the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation at 5:30 p.m.

Friday, June 20

• At PAC, the International Bluegrass Music Award (IBMA) 2014 Album of the Year winner, Balsam Range. PAC Memberships are available with five levels of benefits. For tickets call PAC: 828.526.9047.

Call today, most of the concerts last year were sold out. Highlands PAC 507 Chestnut Street, Highlands www.highlandspac.org.

Sat., June 21

• 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. If questions, call Michelle at 828-743-9670.

Sun.-Thurs, June 22-26

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

PAC expands Live in HD Series

With the introduction last year of the Metropolitan Opera Live in HD opera audiences have enjoyed ten operas broadcast LIVE from the MET. Now because the technology is in place PAC will now expand their Live in HD Series to include the National Theatre of London and in the fall, the Bolshoi Ballet.

This June PAC will screen the MET Opera Encore performances of Rigoletto and La Rondine. Rigoletto will be shown on Wednesday, June 18 at 7:30pm and La Rondine on Wednesday, June 25 at 7:30. As usual there will be a Pre-Opera Discussion lead by Beverly Pittman beginning at

7pm and the opera beginning at 7:30pm.

June will also premiere (in Highlands) the National Theatre of London with the presentation of King Lear on Thursday, June 5, 7pm. The next week, on Thursday, June 12 the production of A Small Family Business will be shown.

In September there will be two more MET Opera Encore productions, Otello and The Enchanted Island; and one more play from the National Theatre, Media.

The fall and winter also brings the Bolshoi Ballet Live in HD to PAC. The Legend of Love, Pharaoh's Daughter, La Bayadere, The Nutcracker, Swan Lake, Romeo & Juliet, and Ivan the Terrible. Watch for dates and times.

Cashiers Rotary Arts & Crafts Fair ushers in summer!

This Memorial Day weekend sees the return of one of the area's most notable events - The Cashiers Rotary Arts & Crafts Show. For two days, the Village Green at the crossroads in Cashiers, NC, comes alive with the sights and sounds as local and regional artisans showcase their talents at one of the largest events of this kind on the plateau.

This year's Arts & Crafts Show takes place May 24 - 25, from 10am to 5pm both days, rain or shine. On display are some returning favorites from past festivals, as well as some new faces making their debut this year. From unique ironwork and woodcraft to hand-thrown pottery, hand-stitched textiles and homemade cakes, pies, jellies and jams, there's something to please every artistic palate and tempt even the finickiest of tastes.

As an added bonus for this year, the Cashiers Rotary Arts and Crafts Show is now free to attend, though donations will be encouraged and greatly appreciated. All donations benefit the Cashiers Rotary Club Charities fund, which supports area charities that perform good works and advocate on the behalf of the under-served and underprivileged within our community.

Also making its debut this year is the first ever Online Artisan Directory, which can be found on the brand new website of the Rotary Club of Cashiers Valley. Featuring a full listing of more than 601 participating artisans by category, the Online Artisan Directory serves as a guide to this year's festival, with descriptions, photos, links and more. To visit the online directory, go to www.cashiersrotary.org/artisan-directory.

Join us as we welcome in summer with fine art, custom crafts, good food and family fun at the Cashiers Rotary Arts & Crafts Show on May 24 and 25 at the Village Green in Cashiers, NC. Visit www.cashiersrotary.org for more information on events, participating artisans or last-minute artisan registrations.



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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

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Daily Nature Center programs are for all ages

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No matter what day of the week, there is something going on at The Highlands Nature Center. Regular weekly programming will begin on Monday, May 26. These programs will continue weekly until August 16 with the exception of Monday Botanical Garden tours which are scheduled through September 22.

On **Mondays** from 10:30-11:30am, all ages are welcome to join us for guided, themed walks along the Highlands Botanical Garden trails to learn more about the beautiful native flowers and plants of the southern Appalachians. These tours are free and rotate the following themes weekly: plant names, wildflowers and their pollinators, historically significant plants, carnivorous plants, deadly plants, and how to use native plants in your home garden.

On **Tuesdays** from 3-4pm, we will have family nature activities for ages 4 and older. These activities vary weekly but may include critter searches,

discovery walks, nature studies and games, or crafts. The cost is only \$1 per person.

On **Wednesdays** from 2:30-3pm, come to the Nature Center for a nature lesson based around a children's storybook. The Storybook Science Program is free and open to all ages.

On **Fridays** from 11-11:30am, all ages are invited to come and observe what each of the Nature Center's animals eat and learn how they feed.

On **Saturdays** from 11:30am-noon, learn more about one of the Nature Center's live animals up close through our Featured Creature program. This program is free and appropriate for all ages.

For more information about these and other programs at the Highlands Nature Center, visit www.highland-sbiological.org or call the Nature Center at (828) 526-2623. We hope to see you this summer!

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Wildcat Cliffs Country Club. Open floorplan. 2BR/2BA. Fireplace in Great Room. Covered porch with spectacular views of the Club lake, golf course, and mountains in the distance. A stellar buy at \$389,000. MLS #79439



Enjoy magnificent long range views in this once-outstanding mountain residence. Needs some repairs and upgrades. Near the summit of King Mountain. Two sets of architectural plans for improvements are available. \$285,000. MLS #78386.



Almost new 4BR, 4.5BA French Country home near 5 minutes from town. Wood plank ceilings and elegant stone fireplace in Great Room. Kitchen has granite and stainless steel and baths have granite counters. Furnishings negotiable. Offered at \$885,000. MLS# 77211.



Wildcat Cliffs Country Club - 2BR/2BA with renovated kitchen and baths. Split floor plan with 2 masters. Large open kitchen/dining and cathedral living room with fireplace. Covered porch and deck. Views of the golf course and mountains. Offered at \$340,000. MLS #78623



Located within the bounds of Wildcat Cliffs Country Club. Lovely condo in one of the best locations. 3BR/3BA, large covered porch. Soaring cathedral ceilings, kitchen has granite and stainless steel. Offered at \$595,000. MLS #79242



Historic Highlands Home - Walk to town from this circa 1937 3BR/2.5 BA home at the base of Satulah Mountain on 1.53 acres. Clear chestnut paneling and a granite stone fireplace. Detailed craftsmanship throughout, loads of storage, and an artist's studio. Paved access, one-car garage, and a spring fed pond. MLS# 76313 Offered at \$975,000.



Mountain Cottage on Wingina Place in town. Wood floors, 3BR/3BA, wood burning fireplace in living room, formal dining room. Attached carport. Quiet dead end street. A short walk to Mirror Lake. Offered at \$299,000. MLS# 77292



On a private lane in Cold Springs. Large room sizes, open plan, great deck two fireplaces and walk to the lake! Main Floor 2BR/2BA lower level family room with fireplace, bedroom, bath and large workshop. Offered at \$399,900. MLS#69909



Old Brushy Face - Panoramic Views. 4BR/4BA on the main level, guest quarters on lower level. Huge living room has wormy chestnut paneling and real stone fireplace. Offered at \$1,895,000. MLS #79214



Highlands Country Club - Long-range views atop Sassafras Knob on quiet cul-de-sac. 4BR/4.5BA, stone fireplace, hardwood floors, vaulted ceilings, huge deck, dining porch, 2-car garage, and loads of storage. Furnishings negotiable. Offered at \$1,295,000. MLS# 74694.



Wildcat Cliffs Country Club. Great bones in this fixer upper. 3BR/2BA,, bonus room, stone fireplace, Carport and cart garage with workshop. Huge deck; very close to the Wildcat Clubhouse. Offered at \$299,000. MLS #74849



Horse Cove. Farmhouse on almost 5 acres with view of Black Rock and Sagee Mountains. Heart pine floors, masonry fireplaces, covered porches. Abuts a common park area and connects trails into the National Forest lands. Offered at \$1,900,000 MLS# 72825



Apple Mountain. Spacious ranch charmer on 2.5 lots with privacy and future building sites, many upgrades and impeccably maintained. 3BR/2BA, 2 car-carport. Some furnishing can be purchased. Offered at \$595,000. mls #79249



Old Highlands charm throughout this recently reconstructed mountain cabin with separate guest house (1/1) across stream. Secluded on Hicks Rd. near Flat Mountain Rd. Indoor and outdoor stone fireplaces, stainless steel appliances. Stream flows through property Offered at \$599,000. MLS #76809



Walk to town! Great Laurel Street location with a level lot! 3BR/3BA, a large open deck, covered and screened porch; two living areas with fireplaces and a large family kitchen. \$349,000. MLS #77937



On pastoral lot in town. This great 3BR/3BA on pastoral lot in town is all on one floor. Vaulted ceiling, wood floors, HVAC walk-in closets. Partially covered and screened deck. Updated baths and kitchen. Offered at \$395,000. MLS #75793



3BD/2.5BA. True walking distance to town with an exceptional view. Cathedral ceiling, exposed beams and a wood burning stone fireplace in Great Room. Screened porch. Offered at \$409,000. MLS #78844



Located atop Moon Mountain this 3BR/3BA home has a lovely screened porch with a nice mountain view. Livable as is but would shine with cosmetic updates. Offered at \$389,000. MLS #78606



This is a very warm and cozy 3BR/2BA home owned by a man and wife who took great care of it. Completely furnished and owner will finance with 10% down. It has a 2-car garage and nice decks. Offers at \$389,000. MLS# 75653.



3BR/2BA private year-round home with 180 degree mountain view on low maintenance lot. One level living and three screened porches for relaxing and entertaining. Some upgrades needed, but otherwise a solid house - move in and enjoy. Offered at \$129,000. mls #79176

• INVESTING AT 4.118 FT. •

Goldilocks and the Three Homes

Once upon a time, there was a young woman named Goldilocks. Now, Goldilocks wanted a home in Highlands very, very much. She told everyone she met how much she wanted a home in Highlands. She didn't really care if her home was a rental house or a home she could call her very own, but she knew she wanted 28741 as her return address.

While on a walk one day, she came upon three homes. One was for sale, one was for rent, and one was neither for sale nor for rent. As she walked up to the first home, she noticed a sign in the yard. 'For Sale- Contact Bobby Bear', so she called up Bobby Bear and after taking a very long look inside, found out the home had been on the market for almost two years! She told Bobby Bear, "There must be something really wrong with this home, but I am looking for a good deal. I will make an offer of half of what they're asking." Bobby Bear tried to tell Goldilocks that just because the house had been on the market a long time didn't tell the whole story. "Every home has a story Goldi, and this one...." And he proceeded to tell her about the improvements that have been done while the property was listed - even during the economic downturn. "You see, the value is actually going up, while the price is going down." But Goldilocks was not impressed and told the broker she wouldn't spend a dime over her original offer. While Bobby Bear was writing up her ridiculously lowball offer, she continued walking down the street.

She saw that the second home was for rent. Again, there was a sign in the yard, "For Rent- Contact Betty Bear". Goldilocks thought to herself, "Now, what harm would it do to find out about renting this



Jeannie Chambers
Chamber Realty &
Vacation Rentals

home for awhile until I can find my perfect place? So, she called Betty Bear, and viewed the rental house. She loved it; it had almost everything in a house she could want. She told Betty Bear she wanted it, but she had to wait a day or so to see if another house she had looked would pan out, but then she added, 'But you can mark me 'PAID', and tell the owners they will have a great tenant. I always treat a rental home as if it were my own, Oh, and while you're at it, tell the owners I may want to rent the whole year, so I don't think I should pay the asking price, and besides, they'll love me.' So, Betty Bear scrambled off to call the owners to tell them they had a tentative reservation - they would be so happy!

Meanwhile, Goldilocks walked on further down the street and came to the house on the corner. 'Hmmm', she thought, 'Well, isn't this an interesting little cottage?' Just then a lady came out the door. The lady saw Goldilocks looking intently at her home. The lady spoke up, 'Could I help you with something?' To which Goldilocks replied, 'I was just admiring your home.' The lady turned to look at her abode with a big smile and said, 'Yes, we have loved our time here in Highlands. This home has been perfect for us.' Then the lady turned around and her smile had turned upside down, 'but now it's just me, and it's too big and too much for me. I'm thinking about selling and just the thought of going through all of that is very distressing.' Goldilocks walked up to the lady, and put her arm around her and said, 'Oh, I'm so sorry, maybe I can help you with your dilemma. We need to talk. My name is Goldilocks, what's your name Sweetie?' And talk they did. Goldilocks learned the lady's name was Mrs.

• See INVESTING page 22

• REAL ESTATE SNAPSHOTS •

Best Golf Condo at HFCC



A fantastic golf course condo in HFCC, offered fully furnished! Gorgeous, light and bright living spaces with hardwood flooring, spacious eat-in kitchen, with golf course views, HVAC, covered back deck with views of the 13th fairway. In topnotch condition, and priced to SELL! *Seller agrees to pay 2014 HOA fees for the Buyer.* Offered at \$245,900. MLS #79361. Contact Susie deVille at (828) 371-2079.

A Deal to Steal!



Pristine 64+ acres with broad flat pasture land and several hundred feet along Highway 28 complete with a skeleton antique original home. Property gently rolls to the top of a ridge with flat area, at an elevation over 4000 feet. The view is 360 degrees and feels like having the mountains at your dinner table. Next to a spring-fed pond and rushing water is a small, usable two bedroom home waiting for updating. Offered at \$548,000. MLS #78943. Contact Mal Phillips at (828) 200-2642.



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This get-a-way or year round home, renovated and expanded 3BD/2BA charmer has soaring stone fireplace, open floor plan with vaulted ceilings leading to an inviting deck with winter ridge line views and the probability of year round views. One floor living with large rooms, huge master closet, workroom/gym, and whole house generator. All the furnishings included! Offered at \$374,000. MLS #78488. Contact Mal Phillips at (828) 200-2642.

The Best in Elegant Mountain Living



An easy walk to Highlands' Main Street. This custom home features three fireplaces (all wood burning), slate wet bar, soaring ceilings, a grand porch offering expansive outdoor living space, mountain views, gentle topography & easy access, triple attached garage, and privacy. Beautiful estate approach. Subdividing is possible, and there is plenty of room to add a guest house, if desired. Unleash your creative spirit in the artist's nook/studio! Offered at \$1,100,000. MLS #78956. Contact Susie deVille at (828) 371-2079.



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Lake House in Heatherstone



Seven miles from Highlands. 5 bedroom, 3 bath. Large Rec Room plus Bonus Room. Priced for immediate sale. \$299,000 -- By Owner 706-746-3046. Won't Last Long!

Exquisite Lakefront home



Walls of windows, soaring ceilings, stone fireplaces, gleaming hardwood floors and double decks that overlook a terraced yard that leads to the lake. Enjoy 4 spacious bedrooms, 4.5 baths, gorgeous kitchen and separate living area downstairs with mini-kitchen and fireplace. Enjoy long walks on the private road. Meticulously maintained and quality throughout! Offered for \$975,000. MLS#78549.

Relax and enjoy it all!



Fantastic buy in Wildcat Cliffs Country Club! Beautiful 2BR/2BA cottage with loft that overlooks serene pond and two waterfalls. Walls of windows and contemporary accents add to the cozy feel of this cottage. Amazing covered porch leads to pond and waterfalls. Hardwood floors, stacked stone fireplace and open floor plan. Walk to fitness and tennis center. WCCC is by invitation. Offered for \$469,000. MLS#79279.

Share Everything Plan...Almost!



Unique property in downtown Highlands! Three separate cottages for independent living/rentals or family compound. Newly appointed with hardwoods, kitchens, granite, updated baths and fireplaces or wood stove. Each unit is finished in luxury style! Rent 2 and live in the main cottage or enjoy family gatherings in the GREAT outdoor porch. This is a must-see property. Furnishings are negotiable. Adjoining lot available. Offered for \$435,000. MLS#78461.

Southern Elegance in Town



Beautiful old home full of details that gave homes so much character in the 1930s. Hardwood floors, built-in bookshelves, high ceilings, window seat and chunky granite fireplace add to the historical feel of this home. Renovated kitchen and bathrooms, master on main suite. Spectacular large, flat back yard with fire pit and plenty of space for a garden. Two car detached garage. A tremendous value in a premier location. Offered for \$695,000. MLS#79268.



Pat Allen
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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.

• REAL ESTATE SNAPSHOTS •



Holt Cottage. Cute cottage with private setting, 2 master suites, loft and screened porch. \$387,900. MLS# 79299.



Flat Mountain Estates. 3BR/4.5BA mountain home, cathedral ceiling, floor to ceiling fireplace, wood floors and walls. Excellent condition. \$497,000. MLS# 79177



MountainTop Golf Club – Designed by Keith Summerour on 1.8 acres adjacent to a conservation easement of 6 acres. 5/4.5 with 3 fireplaces. MLS# 68782 \$2,295,000



Highlands Falls CC – located at the end of a cul de sac with National Forest on two sides. 3/3 with beautiful, easy care landscaping. MLS#67817 \$795,000



King Mountain Club. 3/3 home with loft. Mountain view, cathedral ceiling, stone fireplace and hardwood floors. \$219,900. MLS# 78789



Highlands Falls CC condo. 2/2 with fabulous view of the golf course! Eat-in kitchen, stone fireplace, 2 porches. \$249,900. MLS# 79399.



Highlands Falls CC – Mountain Contemporary home with Whiteside Mtn views. Multiple living areas. Stone patio next to a stream. 3/3/2 MLS#76535 \$1,350,000



Big Bearpen Mountain – Old Highlands Charm with a mountain view. Vaulted living room ceiling with pine walls – pens to screened porch and sun room. 4/4 MLS#71520 \$699,000



Shortoff area. Overlooks beautiful pond! 3BR/3.5BA, privacy, open floor plan and wood floors. Foreclosure opportunity! \$419,900. MLS# 78989.



English cottage in The Cotswolds. 3BR/3.5BA, very private with long winding driveway, lovely landscaping and views. \$774,000. MLS# 75521



Highlands Falls CC – Oversized deck with Whiteside Mtn. Lots of glass, open floor plan, lower level family room, workshop. 5/4 MLS# 73335 \$950,000



In Town - This charming updated cottage is situated down a lovely garden path bordered by lush ivy and pachysandra and a small stream 2/2 Move in ready. MLS#78186 \$435,000



Highlands Falls CC Golf Villa. 3BR/2BA, lovely mountain view, vaulted ceiling, stone fireplace and golf cart storage, fully furnished. \$295,000. MLS# 79071.



4BR/5BA home next to Highlands Falls Country Club with lower level family room, bonus room, 2 fireplaces, granite kitchen, wood floors. \$627,000. MLS# 76569



Historic home in walking distance to everything Highlands has to offer 4/4 in main house plus a 2/1 guest house. 1.5 acres, backs to Land Trust property. MLS# 77845 \$995,000



The perfect mountain cottage with 3BR/3BA. Wonderful one floor plan with a great screened porch with stone fireplace. Highlands Falls CC. \$875,000 MLS #79159



Beautifully maintained old Highlands charmer! 4BR/2BA wood floors, new kitchen, 2 car garage and lovely yard. \$387,000. MLS# 79149.



VZ Top. Million Dollar Views from this walk-in level 3/2 condo in excellent condition. Gated community. Incredible value at \$219,000. MLS# 75317.



Walhalla Road – On the National Historic Registry. Completely restored. Authentic finishes with modern conveniences. 5/3 MLS #76487 \$850,000



Walk to town or Mirror Lake. Located on a beautifully landscaped lot with firepit, fort and zip line for children. 2/2 with fabulous wraparound screened porch. \$467,000 MLS #79500

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MEADOWS
MOUNTAIN REALTY

...INVESTING continued from page 19

Pushover, and then Goldilocks went inside the home and oohed and ahhd and they struck a deal. They were both very happy. She left the lady's home and skipped up the street, so happy with her final choice. She was finally going to have a home in Highlands. Her skipping came to a halt when she saw Bobby Bear. He said "Well, Goldi, you're not going to believe this, but the Sellers have accepted your offer!" He was beaming at the thought

of making even a meager sale in the current economy. He thrust out his hand to congratulate her with a handshake, but Goldilocks was backing up one slow step at a time. She had a pale look on her face. She backed up right into the arms of Betty Bear. Now Betty hadn't heard the exchange with Bobby Bear, but saw him standing there with his outreached hand. Betty gave him a funny look, and noticed Bobby Bear was giving her a strange look in return. Betty

said to Goldilocks, "The owners of the home have agreed to rent to you for the whole year! Isn't that great?"

It was all Goldilocks could do to untangle herself from Betty Bear's embrace. Goldilocks' face now looking a little green, she managed to get to her feet and ran down the street, but she didn't get far before running smack dab into Mrs. Pushover. Goldilocks looked at Mrs. Pushover, then to Bobby Bear and Betty Bear. She ran. She ran as fast as she could and they never saw her again.

This 'fairy tale' is all very tongue in cheek, but some parts of it 'bear' a very close resemblance to real estate in Highlands. The moral of the real Goldilocks story is: Respect other's property and privacy. In the case of Goldilocks and the three homes, the moral may simply be: RESPECT OTHERS. Of course, this story can be revised to showcase any home life, school or work situation. Our 'season' is upon us in Highlands- I hope we all can get along and respect others in our daily activities. We are all so very

fortunate to be able to live in this beautiful area- let's welcome our guests and pay it forward when possible. Remember how it was the first time YOU came to Highlands, and if you're a 'native' - share what you know- your story is worth telling.

• Jeannie and Tucker Chambers are owners of Chambers Realty and Vacation Rentals located at 401 N. Fifth Street in Highlands. They can help you realize that having a home in Highlands isn't 'just a fairy tale' 828-526-3717.



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• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

The Jesus Movement ... a look back

by Steve Kerhoulas.

Christ Church of the Valley, Cashiers

Do you remember the "Jesus Movement" of the 1960-70s? Some of you were not born in the 60-70s. Those of us who lived through, what many think of as a "spiritual awakening" in America, remember just how big it was. Our nation was in the midst of "change" in epic proportions then seemingly out of no-where came a move of God. It was incredible! Thinking about it, and remembering "those days", brings great joy into my heart. I wish you could see the smile on my face.

I'm convinced, when "our" history is being written, it will include the amazing thing God did for a generation that was racing down a steep hill wearing blinders with no brakes. Boomers remember it well because so much was going on in the world plus it happened on our watch. Countless numbers of people, across denominational lines, came to know Jesus as their Lord and Savior. Thousand from around the country believed and were baptized. It was something.

As I look back, trying to figure out why we were "a most privileged generation", I cannot find the answer. All I know is it happened, and I was a part of it.

Someone has said that "nostalgia" is looking back with a bad memory. In this case it's not. God did something unusual and saved a generation for important reasons. Knowing all the answers is not possible. But one thing I am sure of ... it wasn't for nothing. And honestly by the looks of things we could sure use another one. Maybe this is why it happened people started to realize just how much they need God and God responded. Wouldn't it be something if it happened again? I may not know much but what I do know is a bunch of people going downhill, wearing blinders and without brakes, just passed me.

Proverbs 3:5

• PLACES TO WORSHIP • John 3:16

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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

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Bible Study 6p
Wed. Kidsquest 6p.; Worship 7p.

HIGHLANDS ASSEMBLY OF GOD
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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 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.

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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
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Sundays: School: 10 a.m.; Worship: 11
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...OBITUARIES continued from page 3

James Berrien Chidsey, III

James Berrien Chidsey, III, 57, of Highlands, NC, died May 14, 2014. He was born in Rome, GA, to the late James Berrien Chidsey, Jr. and Jeannette Brown Chidsey Trott. In addition to his mother and her husband, Allen Trott, he is survived by his sons, James Berrien Chidsey, IV; Devin Bishop Chidsey; and their mother, Meredith Chidsey Cole. He is also survived by his siblings, Charles Truman Chidsey, Mary Jeannette Chidsey and Sallie Chidsey Taylor. Berrien was an Eagle Scout and held a Bachelor of Science degree in geology from the University of Georgia. He worked as a geologist for Precision

Well Logging in Houston, TX, before succumbing to multiple sclerosis. He was well cared for by the staff and volunteers of the Fidelia Eckerd Living Center; his family and friends. He loved hunting, fishing, camping, and the Georgia Bulldogs. There will be a graveside service at Myrtle Cemetery, Rome, GA, Saturday, May 24 at 11am.

In lieu of flowers, the family is requesting that donations in honor of Berrien be made to the Fidelia Eckerd Living Center, Highlands, NC.

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

• BIZ/ORG NEWS •

Rotary Club of Highlands sponsors annual Highlands School Athletic Banquet



On May 19 the Rotary Club of Highlands continued its long tradition of support for the Highlands School by sponsoring the high school athletic banquet. Rotary members decorated the rec center gym and served supper for the students, their families and their coaches. Varsity soccer players Bella Lupoli and Ellie Cate Beavers are shown with soccer coach Jeff Weller.

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• HEALTH MATTERS •

Special Enrollment for Affordable Care Act open for citizens in Macon County

As navigators, Mountain Projects, Inc., a community action agency is assisting people with applying for insurance during Special Enrollment Periods and applying for exemptions from the Individual Responsibility Penalty regarding the Affordable Care Act.

Special Enrollment Period

Even though the open enrollment was closed March 31, 2014, a person may still have options to get health insurance coverage. There are many and include:

1. Buying a private insurance plan through the Marketplace if a person qualifies for a Special Enrollment Period (SEP). A SEP occurs when a person experiences a life event, for example, losing employer sponsored health care, moving outside your insurer's coverage area, losing Medicaid, getting married, having a baby, adopting a child or placing a child for adoption or in foster care, children aging off medicaid, leaving incarceration, gaining citizenship or legal residency, and a member of a federally recognized tribe.

2. Applying for Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) which can be done anytime of the year at your local Department of Social Services.

Exemptions

Under certain circumstances, a person may be eligible for an exemption from paying the Individual Shared Responsibility Penalty. (The Affordable Care Act requires everyone to have health insurance or pay the penalty)

Types of exemptions are:

1. Hardship exemption - homeless or evicted in the last 6 months, facing foreclosure, received shut-off notice, or filed for bankruptcy in last 6 months.
2. Other exemptions - income is so low you don't have a filing requirement, you didn't have health insurance for less than 3 months in a row, or you

are a member of a federally recognized tribe.

If anyone thinks they may qualify for a special enrollment period or exemption, and they need assistance or have questions, they can call Cynthia Solesbee at 828-400-4177, who is the local Health Care Navigator covering Macon County. Or they can complete a Marketplace Application on www.healthcare.gov.

The complete list follows:

Exemption from Individual Shared Responsibility Penalty

The Affordable Care Act (ACA) requires that all individuals and families have health insurance coverage in 2014 or face an "individual shared responsibility payment" penalty of:

- \$95/ person or 1% of yearly income, whichever is higher
- \$47.50/child with the maximum amount a family would pay is \$285.

The penalty is due in 2015 when you file your taxes.

Keep in mind that in 2016, this fee will increase to \$695/person or 2.5% of yearly income, whichever is higher.

Under certain circumstances may be eligible for an exemption from paying the penalty. Types of exemptions are:

Hardship Exemption

- You were homeless and/or evicted in the past 6 months
- You were facing foreclosure
- You received a shut-off notice from a utility company
- You filed for bankruptcy in the last 6 months
- You had medical expenses you couldn't pay in the last 24 months
- You experienced unexpected increases in necessary expenses due to caring for an ill, disabled, or aging family member
- You recently experienced domestic violence
- You recently experienced the death of a close family member
- You experienced a fire, flood, or other natural or human-caused disaster that caused substantial damage to your property
- As a result of an eligibility appeals decision, you are eligible

for enrollment in a qualified health plan (QHP) through the marketplace, premium tax credits, or cost sharing reductions for a time period when you weren't enrolled in a QHP in the marketplace.

- Your income is below 138% of the federal poverty level and were

determined ineligible for Medicaid because your state didn't expand eligibility for Medicaid under the ACA.

- Your individual insurance plan was cancelled and insurance would cost more than 8% of your household income making it unaffordable.

- You expect to claim a child as a tax dependent who's been denied Medicaid coverage and CHIP, and another person is required by court order to give medical support to the child.

Other Exemptions

- Your income is low enough that you don't have to file taxes in 2015
- You did not have health insurance for less than 3 months in a row
- The lowest priced coverage available to you would cost 8% more than your annual household income

- You are a member of a federally recognized tribe

- You are a member of a recognized health care sharing ministry

- You are a member of a recognized religious sect with religious objections to insurance

- You are not lawfully present in the U.S.

- You are in jail or prison after a conviction

If you think you may qualify

for an exemption, complete an Exemption Application on www.healthcare.gov. This application may require you to provide documentation about the hardship you experienced.

If you need assistance in locating or completing this application, please call your Local Health Care Navigator at Mountain Projects, Inc. Cynthia Solesbee, Macon County (828) 400-4177.

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BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NEWS

Highlands Aerial Park is fun for the whole family

Highlands Aerial Park, the zip line family attraction in Scaly Mountain, has brought a whole new dimension to family recreation on the plateau. It is conveniently located 9.3 miles from the Highlands Post Office on the Dillard

Rd and 5 miles up the mountain from the Dillard turnoff.

Several things make this park different from the other zip lines that are being developed across the USA. Perhaps the most impor-

tant is the inclusion of a family obstacle course in the trees called the Brave Indian that allows children as young as 5 to participate with parents and grandparents. The Brave Indian was the idea of Karen Powell who told her husband George that the area needed an activity that would attract the children and offer a fun event to look forward to when visiting "Nana" and "Papa."

Another major difference is the ecological emphasis due to the setting on High Holly Mountain, the western most mountain on the Highlands Plateau. The "World Class" zip line course is the highest in elevation in the southeast. The result is the feel of the Alpine rope courses of Europe combined with the lush vegetation of Central America. This makes for a tree based botanical experience that has the exhilaration of the pole based amusement parks.

The signature "Squealing Mare," 1 of 15 elements, is a soaring run of over a quarter of a mile long with uninterrupted views of the mile high peaks of the Nantahala National Forest.

The zip line canopy tours are for 10 years old and up (the oldest to date is 93) with a minimum weight of 70 lbs and a maximum of 250 lbs. The more moderate "Mountain Course" is designed for those who aren't sure if they are ready for the full experience. But be aware, a high percentage who sign up for the shorter tour continue on. They say at the end of the mountain tour, they are "assured of the safety" and they "just have to do the long, high ones."

Another feature that makes HAP special is the series of Nature Trails that are included for all participants and those who accompany them

but choose not to "FLY."

With an emphasis on FAMILY, the park is designed for viewing the action from below. No one need stay home and miss the fun. There are observation platforms below the Brave Indian where proud family members watch the tentative first steps become bold feats of bravery.

The trails are rated moderate with a 150 ft. suspension bridge over a scenic waterfall easing much of the elevation change. There are over 100 wildflowers, shrubs, trees, fungi, lichens, and mosses identified with something in bloom from April thru frost.

There is an unique "IF YOU DON'T GO, YOU DON'T OWE" policy that has no penalty for cancellations. All they ask is that you notify them when your plans change.

Reservations are strongly recommended as tours are limited and operate on a strict time schedule. All guests are asked to be on site 1/2 hour prior to departure for both the Brave Indian and the Canopy Tours.

There are dual priorities at Highlands Aerial Park, FUN and SAFETY. The ACCT trained guides provide the safe environment with redundancy of gear and procedures while offering personal interaction with the guests. The Insurance industry has rated Zip Lines the "safest outdoor activity based on claim history."

For more information and to make a reservation, visit Highlandscanopytour.com or call 828-526-8773.

Don't forget to like us on Facebook for specials and events!

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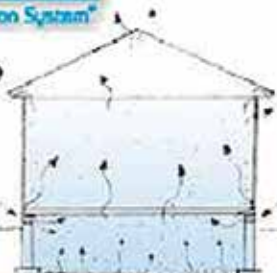
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• FIRE REPORTS •

The Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. log entries from May 7.

May 7

- At 11:55 a.m., the dept. responded to an oven fire at a residence on N. 5th Street.
- At 3:39 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to assist EMS at a residence on Highlands Walk.
- At 3:07, the dept. responded to a fire on Main Street.
- At 8:23 p.m., the dept. responded to a structure fire on Cottage Row.

May 8

- At 10:44 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Pierson Drive.
- At 11:23 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm set off by a water flow meter on Main Street.
- At 2:16 p.m. the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Pierson Drive.
- At 3:31 p.m., the dept. provided public assistance to a residence on Buena Vista Drive.

May 9

- At 10:59 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call at a residence on Lost Trail.
- At 11:17 a.m., the dept. set up for MAMA at the hospital.

May 10

- At 10:19 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call

at a residence on Arnold Road.

- At 9:32 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call on Main Street.

May 11

- At 10 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Moorewood Circle where a resident was found DOA.
- At 10:04 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Lost Trail. It was false.

May 12

- At 4:59 p.m., the dept. responded to a motorcycle accident on US 64 west. There were no injuries.

May 13

- At 7:38 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call at a residence on Cullasaja Drive.
- At 9:08 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call at a residence on Holly Tree Lane.
- At 9:32 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Wildwood Drive but the alarm was activated by mistake.
- At 10:27 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a Clubhouse Trail.
- At 10:48 a.m., the dept. set up for MAMA at the hospital.
- At 11:33 a.m., the dept. set up for MAMA at the hospital.

May 13

- At 3:46 p.m., the dept. provided mutual aid to Cashiers FD for a possible structure fire.

May 14

- At 8:31 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on S. 4th Street. EMS transported to the hospital.
- At 12:23 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Brookside Lane. EMS transported to the hospital.
- At 2:06 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Lower Brushy Face. It was false.
- At 8:31 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on S. 4th Street. EMS transported to the hospital.
- At 12:23 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Brookside Lane. EMS transported to the hospital.
- At 2:06 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Lower Brushy Face. It was false.

May 15

- At 1:13 a.m., the dept. responded to a possible structure fire at a residence in Shelby Place. There was damage due to the storm, but there was no fire.
- At 3:07 a.m., the dept. responded to a Co2 alarm at a residence on Horse Cove Road. It was false.
- At 5:58 a.m. and at 9:20 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at the hospital. It was false and due to a system problem.
- At 2:51 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Spring Street. It was false and due to a light fixture malfunction.
- At 7:58 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Country Club Drive. There was no transport.

May 16

- At 6:42 p.m., the dept. responded to a vehicle accident on NC 106. There were minor injuries.



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PUBLIC NOTIFICATION FOR FLOODWAY REVISION WITH FLOOD HAZARD CHANGES

The Town of Highlands Planning and Development Department, in accordance with National Flood Insurance Program regulation 65.7(b)(1), hereby gives notice of the Town of Highlands' intent to revise the floodway, generally located on Mill Creek between Spruce Street and North Fifth Street. Specifically, the Mill Creek floodway shall be revised from a point located 24 feet downstream of the Spruce Street crossing to a point located 30 feet upstream of the North Fifth Street crossing. The majority of the revisions will be a reduction in width, however as a result of the floodway revision the floodway will widen by 6.35 feet at cross section 7476.642 and by 2.95 feet at cross section 7359.084.

In addition, the 1% annual chance water-surface elevations and the 1% annual chance floodplain shall be revised, generally located on Mill Creek between Spruce Street and Village Walk. As a result of the revision, the 1% annual chance water surface elevations shall generally decrease, however as a result of the revision the 1% annual chance water surface elevation shall increase by 0.19 feet at cross section 6975.831. As a result of the revision, the 1% annual chance floodplain width shall decrease within the area of revision.

Maps and detailed analysis of the revision can be reviewed at the Town of Highlands Town Office at 210 North Fourth Street, Highlands, North Carolina 28741. Interested persons may call Josh Ward, Planning and Development Director at (828) 526-2118 for additional information. (May 22)

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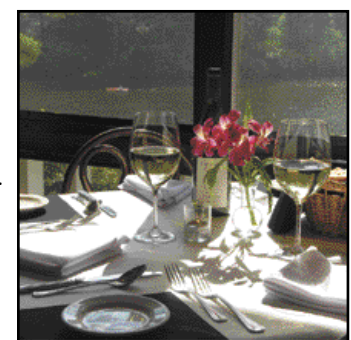
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