

Highlands Newspaper

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Thurs., April 30, 2015

Town property tax to increase from 15.5 cents to 16.9 cents

There are two unknowns the Town Board and staff have to deal with while working on the 2015-'16 budget – the property revaluation in Macon County and the possibility of losing sales tax proceeds.

At the first 2015-'16 budget worksession last Thursday, Town Manager Bob Frye outlined a grim scenario.

According to Frye, though originally property valuations were estimated to decrease by 4.7% due

to property appeals, that number has fallen to 7.5%.

However, according to MC Tax Department Director Richard Lightner that's not the complete story.

"Appeals are always a factor

in valuations since counties do not have one-on-one contact with the taxpayers, but that's not the reason the percentage has changed," he said. "The push by all stakeholders for early values resulted in the

•See TAX page 10

DirecTV's decision to sue Bond in civil court is pending

Though zero to six months jail time was in the cards, Nin Bond, majority owner of Highlands Cable Group, dodged a bullet last week when his sentence in federal court on Thursday, April 16 hit him in the pocketbook instead.

Judge Martin Reidinger sentenced Bond to probation for two, consecutive, 3-year terms for each count – one for mail fraud and one for wire fraud – a \$200 assessment, a \$10,000 fine and a forfeiture money judgment of \$149,697.89.

Almost two years ago, on Thursday, Aug. 1, 2013, Bond pleaded guilty before U.S. Magistrate Judge Dennis L. Howell, in Bryson City, NC federal court, to wire fraud and mail fraud charges for fraudulently acquiring and unlawfully rebroadcasting DirecTV satellite television programming to the customers of Highlands Cable Group.

Bond has been released on bond since May 2013 and it took 1 ½ years for him to be sentenced.

"Just because I have given a probationary sentence should not be misconstrued as a belief that this was not a serious offense, said Judge Reidinger in the court transcript. "But this offense involves what is at the bottom a breach of contract – a purposeful breach of contract for gain. The evidence here was very clear that the defendant entered into the contract with the clear intent to breach and that is serious. It's also serious and it is clear that the defendant gained by having committed this fraud. My calculation which apparently is close to the calculation of the parties on both sides is just short of \$150,000 that Highlands Cable Group managed to obtain by this fraud."

But Judge Reidinger's sentence may not be the end of the story.

On Thursday, April 23, a spokesperson from DirecTV whose headquarters are in El Segundo, CA, said no decisions have been made on whether they will pursue a civil case against Bond.

•See DIRECTV page 16



Emily Gabbard on the island of Nusa Penida, a 45-minute boat ride from Bali.

From Nepal to Bali ... the journey continues

"Every generation has the obligation to free men's minds for a look at the new world... to look out from a higher plateau than the last generation."

– Ellison S. Onizaka

By Emily Gabbard
UNC - Gap Student

About a month ago I left everything I knew in Nepal for my new adventure in Bali.

Leaving is never easy, no mat-

ter how much I prepare. Once I arrived in the Kathmandu airport getting ready for my flight to Bali, I was already alone; I was leaving all the friendships I had made over

•See JOURNEY page 5

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Beale leads NCACC historic meet in county

Highlands' mayor weighs in

Macon County Commissioner Ronnie Beale made state political history last week as the President of the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners. For the first time in the organization's 100-year history, Beale arranged for the association's board of directors to hold its strategic planning meeting in Western North Carolina.

More than 50 county commissioners from across North Carolina traveled to Macon County for the meeting.

In addition to making history by holding the first meeting of its kind this side of Asheville, the association made history because for the first time in more than 100 years, the group established and defined a mission statement.

•See HISTORIC page 21

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• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• MAYOR ON DUTY •

Parking restrictions will be enforced



Highlands Mayor
Patrick Taylor

From what I gather our parking situation improved this past season. Merchants and employees, for the most part, parked on off site areas so visitors and shoppers could park on Main Street.

Also, last season large trucks started using designated loading docks instead of unloading on Main Street all times of the day. Under the current ordinance trucks can unload on Main Street before 10 am and after 5pm. During the business day they have to make deliveries in back street loading areas.

When our policemen observe a parking violation, usually it is complaint driven. The officer handling the complaint makes a thorough investigation before issuing a parking citation. When a citation is issued, the person receiving the violation can pay the fine at town hall within 15 days. For example, Parking in a Prohibited Zone is a \$10.00 fine.

If a person feels the citation was a mistake, they can contact the Police Chief and he will be happy to answer any questions. The mayor or town manager will not supersede law enforcement and void a ticket. That kind of practice makes for inconsistency, and suggests some folks are entitled to special consideration that compromises the process.

If a citation is not paid within the 15 day period, further action will be taken by law enforcement. On the back of the citation envelope is the statement, "If not paid within 15 days a criminal summons will be issued and could affect your driver's license." A criminal summons means that the failure to pay the citation has been sent to the state district court as a violation of a municipal ordinance. A conviction in district court results in court costs of \$188. Failure to appear in court will trigger an

• See MAYOR page 11

• LETTERS •

The General Assembly's moves affecting day-to-day lives of working people

Dear Editor

The people have been told for years, particularly by Republican candidates running for the General Assembly: "We will cut your taxes."

They have cut your taxes if you made over \$88,000 per year. If you have made less than that you have seen no cut and in most cases, have seen your taxes raised. You may not have a raise in income tax but you will probably pay much more every day for sales tax.

They have imposed sales taxes on electricity, natural gas, entertainment and movies. They have increased tax rates from 2% to 4.75% on mobile homes and manufactured homes (Mobile homes) and taken off the cap on the maximum tax.

You will also be paying sales tax for your dentist, doctor, mechanic, electrician, plumber and for work done on service contracts. You will now pay sales tax on farm equipment and if you gross less than \$10,000 per year, you will lose your farm deduction.

They have eliminated all personal exemptions and repealed the \$50,000 business income deduction. They have eliminated the \$4,000 deduction for most government retirement income and the \$2,000 deduction for private retirement.

They have also eliminated deductions for premiums paid on long-term care insurance, medical expenses, earned income Tax Credit and cost of meal plans at colleges.

Who wins from these tax bills? Corporations have been paying 6.9%. This drops the tax rate to 6% for 2014 and to 5% for 2015. Individuals have been paying 7.5%, 7% and 6% and will now pay 5.8%. Figure this tax advantage for those making millions.

Calculate how much more you will pay and remember it when you vote for members of the General Assembly in 2016.

Clayton Ramsey
Franklin

• MILESTONE •

Highlands' newest Eagle Scout

At a ceremony on Saturday, April 25th, Highlands Boy Scout Troop 207 awarded Philip Murphy his Eagle Scout Award. Philip lives in Highlands and is a Senior at Highlands School.



Highlands Newspaper

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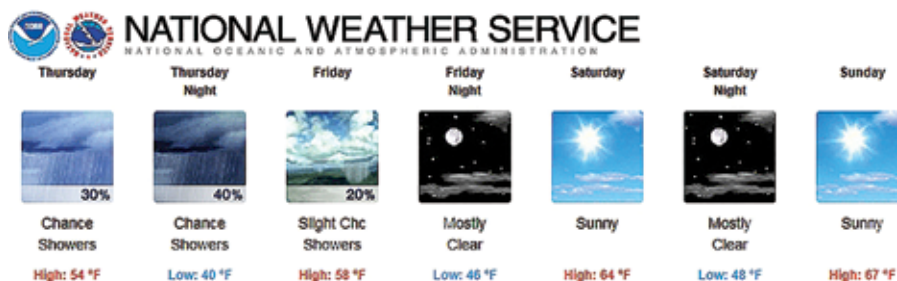
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Letter Policy:

We reserve the right to reject or edit letters-to-the-editor. No anonymous letters will be accepted. Views expressed are not necessarily those of Highlands Newspaper.



Who took the AWESOME
prom photographs?
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• OBITUARIES •

Martha Ingaborg Nordin Barber Wiltcher

Martha Ingaborg Nordin Barber Wiltcher, age 100 years, of Highlands, NC, passed away peacefully surrounded by her loving children and their spouses on Saturday, April 11, 2015. A resident of the Eckerd Living Center, born December 28, 1914 in Bethlehem, PA to the late Ingaborg Nordin and Fritz Nordin of Sweden.



Martha grew up in Asbury Park, New Jersey, married Gordon Norman Barber. They served together as Gordon was the Pastor of the Salvation Army Church. In 1945 they moved to Miami, FL for health reasons and raised their four children there. In 1957 they divorced.

In 1965 Martha married Pleasy L. Wiltcher, who unfortunately passed away that same year. She remained a widow for the remainder of her life, living near her beloved children.

Martha successfully managed her own rental properties until her retirement. Martha had a deep and abiding faith in her Saviour, her Lord Jesus Christ, now she is finally home in heaven.

She is survived by her children, Elaine E. Watts of Ft. Lauderdale, FL, E.. June

Thomas and husband Carl of Maysville, Georgia, Bill G. Barber and wife Melinda of Highlands, NC, as well as her cherished grandchildren, Timothy Thomas, Stephen Thomas and wife Denese, Michael Sahlgren and wife Lisa, Cindee Carmichael and husband Michael, Cheree Murray and husband Joe, Leif Sahlgren and wife Erica, Julie Nichols and husband Robert,

Jenene Rouse and husband Jim, Larry Barber, Jeramie Barber and wife Kelly, Kimberly Kravits and husband Alex, Jonathan Barber, Joshua Barber and wife Rayne; also 19 great-grandchildren and three great-great-grandchildren.

A memorial service will be held Saturday, May 2, 2015 at 2:00 pm at Community Bible Church, 3645 Cashiers Road, Highlands, NC 28741, Phone Number: 828-526-4685. There will be a short reception after the service.

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

Frank Harris Holloway, Jr.

Frank Harris Holloway, Jr., 91, of Highlands, NC passed away Thursday, April 23, 2015. Born in Ocala, FL, he was the son of the late Frank Harris and Gladys Brooks Holloway. He was married for 59 years to Hattie Tyler Holloway, who preceded him in death.

Mr. Holloway worked in the plumbing business with his father and brother; was a deputy sheriff in Marion County, FL, and traveled the county for Bechtel Corporation in large construction. He was a member of Highlands First Baptist Church where he sang in the choir. He loved woodworking, baking cakes and music.

He is survived by two daughters, Lisa Maselli and husband John of Evans, GA and Carol Scott and husband Jay of Florida; four sons, Rick Holloway and wife Carolyn of Tomball, TX, Frank H. Holloway III, and Mike Holloway and his wife Mary all of Florida, and Lamar Brown and wife Malinda of Hampton, SC; one sister, Mamie Davis of Ocala, FL and grandchildren, Tyler Holloway, Anthony Maselli, Angela Ballantyne, Leigh Anna Brown, Frank Holloway IV, Robert Holloway, Mike Holloway, Sara Holloway and Anna Scott. Five great-grandchildren also survive.

Funeral service will be held Saturday, May 2, 2015 at 10:00 am at Highlands First Baptist Church with Dr. Mark Ford officiating. Burial will be in Highlands Memorial Park. Pallbearers will be Rick Holloway, Tyler Holloway, Anthony Maselli, John Maselli, Mitchell Ballantyne and Lamar Brown. The family will receive friends Friday evening, May 1st, from 5:00 - 7:00 pm at Highlands First Baptist Church.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Highlands First Baptist Church, PO Box 625, Highlands, NC 28741.

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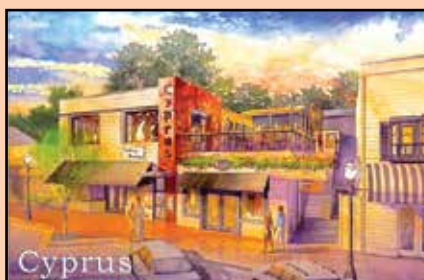
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...JOURNEY continued from page 1

the past 9 weeks. I love meeting these amazing people that come and go through my life, like water slipping through hands.

I recently received an email from the founder of Nepal Orphans Home. He sent me a letter that one of my favorite students had written for me. This letter brought feelings from immense joy to that awful feeling of "I miss this." This is what my gap year is made up of: inspirational and heartfelt moments.

Although I have met some great people along the way,

it's always nice to have my friends and family with me every step of my journey. I am blessed with the continual support and encouragement from my hometown. It also makes coming home a little more exciting.

I am currently living on a remote island that is a 45-minute boat ride from Bali, Indonesia called Nusa Penida. My days are filled with feeding turtles, cleaning turtle tanks, catching crabs and collecting seaweed for the turtles.

• See JOURNEY page 6



Feeding the turtles seaweed delicacies.

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...JOURNEY continued from page 5

Living on a remote island with basically nothing else besides the beach is pretty amazing.

A typical day for me begins at 9am when I go to the turtle center and feed the turtles. I reach into my little tin of fish guts and give

the turtles their breakfast. After all the turtles have been fed we begin to clean the tanks. Algae, fish guts, and turtle poop cover my body as I get on all fours and scrub the tanks.

Once I've finished cleaning

the tanks, I feel accomplished putting the turtles back into their clean home. After all the turtles are back into their tanks I go down to the beach and collect seaweed for the turtles to eat.

There are three different types of seaweed: green, brown, and white. The green is the healthiest, the brown is the next best, and then the white seaweed is their junk food. I make sure to get plenty of white seaweed for my little turtle friends.

Then I have free time before and after lunch to go to the beach and relax.

In the afternoon it's time to get back to work. Each afternoon is different. It varies from catching crabs for the turtles, picking up trash on the beach, and teaching the native children English.

My favorite part would be the releasing process that happens every two weeks. This is what the program is all about: raising the turtles until they are healthy and big enough to survive on their own.

I have really enjoyed my time on Nusa Penida.

Here are some highlights of the island life:

- I live with a variety of wild-life: rats, geckos, spiders, coach roaches, roosters, and stray dogs. These animals also like to wake up very early.

- I always feel dirty. My clothes are covered in a fish smell that is

hard to escape.

- It is a rare moment when I am absolutely dry. I am sweating because it's so hot. Drenched because I'm cleaning turtle tanks. Or

I am swimming in the ocean. My skin is always wet.

- I have been parasailing,

• See JOURNEY page 8



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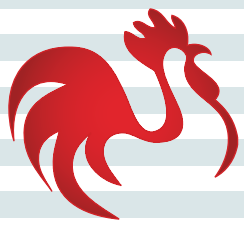
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...JOURNEY continued from page 6

surfing, snorkeling, and diving all for the first time here!

• Living a simple life on the island away from civilization with no other tourists is quite invigorating. It's an easy escape from my addiction to connect with other people- Facebook, Instagram, emails.

I have only one month left in my gap year.

One more month to make deep, meaningful friendships. The kind of friendships that make a person want to cry at the airport because they know they probably will never see those people again.

One more month to explore my interests and connect my experiences back to UNC-Chapel Hill.

One more month to live completely on my own, growing my values and beliefs while becoming the person I desire to be.

These past six months have been an amazing journey. I can see a subtle change in myself, a change that will continue to grow throughout my life. This journey has given me the ability to realize I am capable of more than I thought.

I have felt emotions that I have never felt before; from feeling extremely



Emily with one of her little friends.

alone when arriving at a new place, to having my heart filled completely with love and joy, and finally the feeling when it's time to leave a place and the heart-aching pain of saying goodbye.

I will be coming home in a few weeks. I'm both extremely excited and sad that my gap year will be coming to an end. I'm excited to see my family and friends and get back to my life in Highlands, but at the same time I will miss everything about my gap year.

This is Emily's last leg of her journey as a UNC-Chapel Hill GAP student

She has lived in three countries over the 2014-2015 school year.

During the first leg she was in Trujillo, Peru then Nepal and finally Nusa Penida, near Bali in Indonesia.

A gap year through UNC-Chapel Hill is when students take a break from formal classroom-based education to travel, volunteer, intern, or work.

Buckle Up, Baby event secures lives



Highlands Police Officer Ronnie Castle checks an infant car seat at Sunday's second annual Buckle Up, Baby event. In a joint effort between Highlands Police Department, Franklin Police Department, Macon County Sheriff's Office, and Safe Kids of Jackson County, local law enforcement checked about 60 car seats at Sunday's Buckle Up, Baby safety clinic. Out of the seats checked, about 60% were found to be improperly installed. 80% of the families who attended the event, which was held at the Fun Factory on Franklin, said they had never had their seat checked before. This is the second time this event has been held in Macon County, and according to registration, families from three counties utilized the safety check. To have your car seat checked, call the Highlands Police Department at 828-526-9431.



COLLECTIVE SPIRITS FANTASTIC FRIDAY

May 15

am

FIRST OFF, join six winemakers/owners and Master Sommelier Andrea Robinson for the WOMEN of WINE Fashion Show & Luncheon at Highlands Country Club.

11:30 AM

\$100 per person

Featuring a Champagne Laurent- Perrier reception followed by an informal viewing of spring's finest fashions from Acorns Boutique while tasting wines and lunching with the owners/winemakers of six extraordinary properties.



Sip champagne and save 10% when you shop at Acorns after the fashion show.



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CELLARS



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PERRY

GRASSI

retour
WINERY

GABRIELLE
COLLECTION



Special guest of honor Master Sommelier Andrea Robinson of the Delta Air Lines Culinary Team will be on hand to guide guests through winery selections to pair with Chef Bryant Withers' delectable lunch menu.

pm

AND...later that evening, join us on the Terrace at the Bascom for the "Stock Your Cellar" Wine Tasting & Market with more than 15 winery principals or winemakers and their finest vintages.

6:00 PM

\$150 per person

Purchase wines to get your cellar in shape for the Season with proceeds going to the Bascom.

Then after tasting, indulge in a little barbecue and bluegrass.



Chef Chris Hall of Atlanta's Local Three will present an old fashioned barbecue with all the fixin's while WellStrung offers the musical centerpiece for a perfectly delicious evening!

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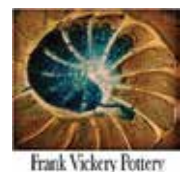


For tickets, contact Events at The Bascom 828.787.2896 or purchase www.CollectiveSpirits.com.

We hope you'll join us!

To be added to the invitation list, or for additional information about becoming a sponsor for Collective Spirits, please email events@TheBascom.org.

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OR MODERN INTERPRETATIONS:

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BBQ CILANTRO CHICKEN: PULLED CHICKEN, BBQ SAUCE, GRANDE MOZZARELLA, RED & GREEN ONION, FRESH CILANTRO.

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10 INCH \$10.95 / 16 INCH \$19.95

CHOOSE YOUR SAUCE:

ITALIAN RED TOMATO, ITALIAN WHITE CREAM, PESTO BASIL, OR BARBECUE

CHOOSE UP TO 5 TOPPINGS:

PEPPERONI, ITALIAN SAUSAGE, GROUND BEEF, HAM, BACON, CHICKEN, CARAMELIZED ONION, FRESH ONION, ROASTED RED PEPPERS, GREEN PEPPERS, BANANA PEPPERS, OLIVES, MUSHROOMS, PINEAPPLE, SPINACH, EGGPLANT, ARTICHOKE, ANCHOVIES, GRANDE MOZZARELLA, GORGONZOLA, PROVOLONE, FETA, AND PARMESAN

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LEMON ROSEMARY SAUTÉED CHICKEN, CRISPY CHICKEN FRITTE, ITALIAN SAUSAGE OR MEDITERRANEAN STEAK

ADD YOUR SAUCE: POMODORO, PESTO BASIL, ITALIAN WHITE CREAM, CREAMY PESTO

THEN IT'S ALL SAUTÉED WITH FRESH ANGEL HAIR PASTA, TOPPED WITH PARMAGIANO & SERVED WITH FRESH BAKED PIADINA

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...TAX continued from page 1

release of inflated numbers. The true numbers won't be in until all the computations are finalized. So, the final values will not be complete until all appeals are finalized which would be early June."

Lightner said the original numbers the county was looking at in January were raw numbers that did not include tax exemptions, elderly exemptions, and did not have any appeals figured in.

"When we figure the amount to reserve for appeals, we do it for the entire county not by townships," said Lightner. "During the appeals, some districts have more appeals than others. Historically, Highlands has always filed the majority of the appeals (35-50%). Each appeal in Highlands is worth 2-3 appeals elsewhere, so adjustments add up quickly."

In any case, there will be repercussions due to the recent property revaluation.

"To keep our budget revenue neutral and still offer the same services, we will need to raise taxes," said Frye. "Can we survive if we don't do a revenue neutral budget and don't raise taxes? Yes, but it will be stressful."

Based on the town's 95% to 98.2% collection rate per year, if the town wants to provide the same level of services, then it needs the same amount of money. If the property valuation drops, then the tax mileage has to increase to get the same amount of money as previously.

Frye said throughout his career he has been involved with cutting mileage rates because property values have always gone up -- higher property values require less mileage, particularly if following the revenue neutral philosophy.

Revenue neutral means getting only the amount of money needed to sustain services

rather than making money off the tax rate.

Mayor Pat Taylor said this year the town is faced with the cumulative effect of getting the sales tax hit and the decreased property values.

The only decision the commissioners made during the worksession, which is primarily a discussion about budget priorities, was to adjust the tax rate so the town will pull in money equal to what was collected last year. Last year the tax rate was 15.5 cents per \$100 valuation but it will be increased to 16.9 cents per \$100 valuation.

Commissioner Amy Patterson reminded the board that though the tax rate is revenue neutral to the municipality, to the individual taxpayer it isn't revenue neutral, it's a tax increase.

By now everyone knows that NC state legislators are considering disbursing sales tax based on the per capita year-round population basis rather than returning a percentage of it back to the municipalities based on who raised it.

"The biggest question mark is SB 369 -- The Fair Tax Sales Tax Fairness Act -- which is basically changing the sales tax disbursement from an ad valorem distribution to a per capita distribution," said Frye.

He said the town is probably OK for this coming budget year, but if the bill passes and the program is phased in over three years as suggested, Highlands would lose more than \$200,000 a year beginning with the 2016-'17 budget year.

"The only good thing is that if it is phased in, we can absorb the \$200,000 loss per year easier than the whole amount at one time which is \$628,104," he said.

"From what I understand, Macon County

•See TAX page 11

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Mon-Sat 10a to 5:30p

...TAX continued from page 10

stands to lose \$1.1 million.”

Commissioner Brian Stiehler said he spoke to the Governor and Lt. Governor while in Raleigh at a work-related conference and he said they both told him they were against redistributing the sales tax.

However, Frye said the Speaker of the House Thom Tillis is for it and he has said that “some form of this will pass.”

Other items under consideration while formulating the budget for 2015-'16 were capital projects, the fire department budget and the fee for services and utilities. The fire department budget was based on an increase in the fire tax from .009 to .010 due

to the decrease in property values.

The cost of residential services – water, electricity, sewer and garbage -- are slated to remain the same.

Commissioners are still considering which capital projects to include in the budget. The cost of projects on the “wish list” is \$930,000 in the Street Dept.; \$208,000 in the Sanitation Dept.; \$810,000 in the Water Dept.; \$580,000 in the Water Treatment Dept.; \$80,000 in the Wastewater Treatment Dept.; \$86,200 in the Police Dept.; \$362,500 in the MIS/GIS Dept.; and \$625,500 in the Parks and Recreation Dept.

– Kim Lewicki

...MAYOR continued from page 2

order for arrest by the district court judge.

Now some may say this process is harsh and over the top, not what we do in Highlands. But, in the past many people receiving parking citations simply ignored them, and violation of the parking ordinances had no consequences.

It goes back to Commissioner Callo-

way's point, are we going to have consistent parking enforcement or not? Conversely, if the majority of citizens do not want parking ordinances, well so be it. In the meantime, downtown parking ordinances will go back into effect in May. The police have been contacting merchants in April to review parking restrictions.

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• HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

• **NOTE:** The Recreation Department is now accepting application for Lifeguards for the Summer. We will be offering a Lifeguard course in late April and early May.

• **NOTE:** Anyone interested in putting together a softball team in the Highlands Spring League needs to contact Lester Norris at 828-526-3556 by Thursday, April 23rd before 4:30pm.

Ongoing

• Church of the Incarnation and the First Presbyterian

Church are collecting food items for the Highlands Emergency Council and the Food Pantry. Drop off boxes are in the Ravenel Room at First Presbyterian and in the downstairs lobby at the Church of the Incarnation. Monetary donations also accepted. Make checks out to Highlands MountainTop Rotary.

• The Cub and Boy Scouts of America have three drop offs for worn and tattered flags. They properly retire them. Drop offs at Highlands Doors and Windows 2242 Dillard Road, the Highlands

Fire Station or Highlands United Methodist Church office. Contact Phil Potts for more information 828 526-3719

Thurs.-Sun.

• Movies at the Playhouse: Thurs-Sunday. 2, 5 & 8 p.m. Call 526-2685 for weekly movie.

Monday

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

First Tuesdays

• FAMILY and Caregiver Support Group Meets: for Individuals that have a friend, family member or loved one living with mental illness. Learn how peers deal with stress and emotional overload. First Tuesday of Every Month 7-8 pm. Call Ann for more info (828) 369-7385

2nd and 4th Tuesdays

• OccupyWNC meets at the Jackson County Justice Center. For more information, visit www.occupywno.org or call 828.331.1524 Tuesdays

• Free Community Table Dinner at the Community Bldg. at 6p.

• Zumba at the Rec Park at 8:05a. \$5.

Mon., Wed., Fri.

• Heart Healthy Exercise Class Monday, Wednesday and Friday 8:30am-9:30am

• Aerobics with Tina Rogers 8-9a.

• Zumba at the Rec Park at 9:05a. \$5

Wed. through June 3

• At The Bascom: After School Art Adventure, 3:15-4:30p. To register, call Anna Alig at 787-2865.

1st Wednesdays

• Family Movies at the Hudson Library at 3:15pm. Call 828-526-3031 for titles.

3rd Wednesdays

• General Audience Movies at Hudson Library at 2pm. Call 828-526-3031 for titles.

Thursdays

• Yoga at the Rec Park 8:15 a.m. \$6 per class.

• Storytimes with Miss Deanna at Hudson Library 10:40am. Open to the public.

• Weight Watchers support

group meets every Thursday at 6pm at the Cashiers Community Center. Questions? Call Lisa 828-506-3555.

• NAMI Support Group for individuals dealing with mental illness: depression, bipolar, schizophrenia, etc. and the family members of individuals dealing with these challenges from 7 - 8:15 pm. Call Donita for more info (828) 526-9510.

2nd Thursdays

• Sapphire Valley Needlepoint Guild meets at the Highlands Rec Park at 10 a.m. Newcomers welcomed.

3rd Thursdays

• Kidney Smart Classes in

Franklin: Every 3rd Thursday of month, 4:30pm-6pm, Angel Medical Center; Video Conference Room, 3rd Floor, 120 Riverview Street, Contact Majestic 828-369-9474

• Kidney Smart Classes in Sylva: Every 3rd Thursday of month, 7:30am-9am, DaVita Sylva Dialysis Center, 655 Asheville Highway, Contact Sue 828-631-0430

Last Fri. of each month

• Community Coffee with Mayor Pat Taylor from 11a to noon at The Hudson Library.

Saturdays

• Highlands Marketplace in the vacant lot next to K-H

'Wildflower Whimsy' set for May 8 & 9



diverse southern Appalachian environment. The Station is part of a network of biological stations across the country that are dedicated to understanding and protecting the environment.

The 3rd Annual Wildflower Whimsy, an event to benefit the Highlands Biological Foundation, will take place this May 8 and 9 at the Highlands Biological Station. Proceeds from the event will go towards the care and expansion of the Botanical Garden's plant collection, improvements to the exhibits and programs of the Nature Center, and support for research and education conducted through the Biological Station.

Wildflower Whimsy will begin at 5:30pm on Friday, May 8 with a lecture by Nancy Adamson of the Xerces Society on protecting pollinators. Native plant auctions, a wine reception with heavy hors d'oeuvres and live music will follow. On Saturday, May 9, we will go on a wildflower walk from 10am-2pm. Participants can choose their favorite walk from five carefully selected walks when they purchase their tickets.

The Highlands Biological Station was founded by a group of amateur biologists and concerned citizens in 1927 to foster research and education focused on the rich and

They are the places that scientists go to conduct their research, offering immediate access to the environment, and the facilities that they need to process their data. The Highlands Biological Station is unique in that the community has always played a critical role in its development, resulting in a natural history museum (the nature center) and a 12-acre botanical garden. Proceeds from Wildflower Whimsy will help guarantee that we can continue to maintain and improve these invaluable community assets.

Education is an important component of the event, with an emphasis on celebrating and learning about the spectacular spring ephemeral wildflowers of the southern Appalachian Mountains.

Tickets for both days are \$75 for members and \$100 for non-members. For more information, visit www.highlandsbiological.org/wildflower-whimsy/ or call (828) 526-2221.

Corbitt Brothers at Lost Hiker Fri., May 1 at 9p



Raw, fierce, God given talent to create and perform music is what best describes The Corbitt Brothers. "Simply put, The Corbitt Brothers jam! They have a killer, hard-driving, southern rock sound with a well-rounded sound of bluesy rock, gritty southern country, and a classic flavored edge to great timeless tunes." Their original music comes from the heart and is relevant to the times we live in. The Corbitt Brothers' passion for playing music and entertaining is second to none. They engage a crowd with explosive energy, amazing talent and magnetism from the first song to the always requested encore.

Another major bullet in their arsenal is Isaac Corbitt on the harmonica. He has been recognized as one of the best harmonica artists in the country sharing the stage with legends like John Popper of Blues Traveler. When he lets it rip on the harmonica, crowds are electrified with the sound.

These young, self-taught musicians will be playing live at The Lost Hiker this Friday May 1st. The Show starts at 9pm and there is no cover charge. Experience their electrifying sound this weekend, and you're sure to be a fan.

• HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

Founders Park on Pine Street from 8a to noon.

Sat. through May 30

• At the Bascom: Kids' Creation Station. 10a to noon. \$5. To register, call Anna Alig at 787-2865.

Sundays

• At the Mountain Laurel Tennis Club at 4:30 pm. Multi-denominational, Interactive Bible Study and Fellowship.

Thurs., April 30

• Jo Clare Wilson, Community Educator for Four Seasons Hospice, will present "Having Your Own Say about Living and Dying: Getting the Care you Want" Thursday at 4:30 pm in the Clubhouse Dining Room at Chestnut Hill of Highlands. A graduate of Vanderbilt University School of Theology, Ms. Wilson has extensive experience in both pastoral care settings as well as in medical settings helping health care providers to become more sensitive to the end of life needs and concerns of their patients in such areas as pain management as well as other end of life issues. This talk will be especially valuable for those who question the relevance of having an advance care directive, and have not yet made one as well as those who have questions about an existing directive. For questions or directions to Chestnut Hill, contact Mary Bean at 828-787-2114.

• Highlands School "Rising Stars" Talent Show, and silent auction. Dinner and auction is from 5-6:30p and the show begins at 6:30p in the old gym.

• Dining Out for Life Benefit Cyprus, On the Veranda, The Ugly Dog and the Doghouse will contribute 20% of your bill to support WNCAP, the AIDS Service organization for WNC.

Through, Sat., May 8

• The Highlands Cub Scout Pack 207 will be collecting items for the Appalachian Animal Rescue Center. Drop items off at the Highlands United Methodist Church on Main Street. For a list of items needed, call 828-200-9753.

Friday, May 1

• At The Lost Hiker, on

Carolina Way, Highlands, the Corbitt Brothers at 9 p.m. No cover.

Saturday, May 2

• Macon County Public Health will hold several Rabies Vaccination Clinics in the Highlands area on Saturday. Veterinarians will vaccinate dogs, cats, and ferrets over 4 months of age, as required by NC state law. The cost is \$10 (cash only) per pet and all pets should be kept in vehicles, on leashes, or in carriers. In Highlands: Highlands Conference Center 9am – 10:30 am Highlands Cashiers Animal Clinic. In Scaly Mountain: At the Post Office 11 am – noon Highlands Cashiers Animal Clinic.

Monday, May 4

• The Rotary Club of Highlands will sponsor their 26th Annual Rotary Golf Tournament at historic Highlands County Club.

Entrance fee is \$150, with lunch and refreshments, as well as numerous prizes. All golfers are welcome for a day of golf and fun. Contact Joyce Baillargeon at (828) 526-0501 or Slocum Howland at (828) 526-9097 for an application. All proceeds support community Rotary programs.

Wed., May 6

• At the Center for Plastic Surgery with Dr. Robert Buchanan, SkinMedica from 10a to 4p. Featuring Vitalize Peel that can take years off aging. Call 828-526-3873 for information. Special Pricing for Attendees.

• Kilwins Highlands will be hosting a fundraiser for the sophomore class to benefit prom and graduation. Kilwins will donate a generous percentage of all sales made on Wednesday, between 5 and 9 P.M., to the

sophomore class of Highlands School.

Fri. & Sat., May 8-9

• Wildflower Whimsy at the Highlands Biological Station.

5:30-8:30p on Friday and 10a to 2p on Saturday. This is an annual fundraiser for the Highlands Biological Station, the umbrella

• See EVENTS page 14

'Front Porch' interviews to be shown at MC Public Library May 6 & 21, June 4 & 17

The Folk Heritage Association of Macon County is pleased to announce that in May and June 2015, a few of the interviews conducted on the 'Front Porch' at previous Franklin Folk Festivals will be shown at the Macon County Public Library in the meeting room. These interviews, collected since 2007, have included many members of our Community and are treasures to be shared that reflect the heritage of our area. We hope to continue to show more of these collections in the future.

The schedule for showing on each of the four days listed below includes a 2pm and repeated 6pm session so plan to attend either. The combined time to view the interviews on each of these days is just over an hour.

Wednesday, May 6 three interviews will be shared:

• Bruce Bryant was a merchant in the hardware business (Macon County Supply) and was known for knowledge and recollection about the people and history of Macon County.

• Dorothy Corbin Seagle was born and raised in the Holly Springs Community and was active in the Community Development Club there. For 20 years she worked as a teacher assistant with the Macon County Schools.

• Arnold 'Smoky' Burnett says he was born near the Smoky Mountains so friends called him "Smoky". You will be entertained in his interview with guitar playing while hearing a couple of familiar tunes.

Thursday, May 21 two interviews will be shown

• Sue Waldroop has a great interest in genealogy and preservation of family heritage. She is a fifth generation Macon County native as her great-great grandfather brought his wife and children to Macon County and built a home on Matlock Creek in the Cowee area in 1832.

• Fred Stiles moved from Rabun County to Macon in 1948. In his interview, he refers to the memory of such events as his daughter getting the polio vaccine on a sugar cube and chores like stacking hay and churning milk.

Thursday, June 4 these interviews will be featured:

• Lloyd Allen lived most of his life in the Cowee Community. In his interview, he shares some of his experiences working in the ruby mines and the timber industry.

• Lara Sanders Chew is a great storyteller. Come listen to her stories that include how things were the same for almost a hundred years, and then two significant changes occurred - dying of chestnut trees and the railroad almost coming to Clayton.

Wednesday, June 17 will offer these interviews:

• Merritt Fouts was Principal at Cartoogechaye School for many years. He is well known for his historical newspaper – *The Burningtown News*, and his family has been in the cane syrup business for over 100 years.

• Margaret Ramsey has been the inspiration for the Folk Heritage Association of Macon County and the Franklin Folk Festival. Margaret was married to the late Albert L. Ramsey for 62 years. She has been an active partner in the operation of the family farm in Iotla valley for most of her life.

Mountain Garden Club Plant Sale is Saturday, May 23



One of the many native plants to be found at the Mountain Garden Club plant sale this year is Phlox divaricata, also called woodland phlox. Often found in open woods and along streams, Phlox divaricata blooms in early spring with delicate 1.5 inch lavender flowers. This native plant requires little or no maintenance and is perfect for a shade garden border or the base of a large tree. Given moist, humus-rich, well-drained soil and high open shade, Phlox divaricata will naturalize, spreading as a ground cover. The attractive, fragrant flowers attract butterflies and hummingbirds. Come early to buy this highly desirable native plant and its cousin, Phlox stolonifera, at the annual Mountain Garden Club plant sale on Saturday, May 23, Highlands Ball Park on Highway 64 from 9 a.m. until noon.

• HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

organization for the Botanical Garden and Nature Center. Tickets are \$75 for members and \$100 for non-members. Available at highlandsbiological.org/wild-flower-whimsy/

Fri.-Sun., May 8-10

- Love Letters at The Highlands Playhouse at 2 p.m. each day. Tickets are \$25. Call 828-526-2695.

Tues. & Thurs., May 12- 14

- At CLE, iPad Basics from 6-8 p.m. Cost is \$70 members/\$80 for nonmembers. To register, call 828-526-8811 or email clehighlands@yahoo.com

Thurs., May 14

- Donors with all blood types are needed, especially those with types O negative, A negative and B negative. Whole blood can be donated every 56 days, and double red cells may be donated every 112 days, up to three times per year. Keller Williams Realty from 1-5p. For more information or to schedule an appointment please call (828) 524-0100.

- The Macon County League of Women Voters is sponsoring a Forum on Mental Health, at the Franklin, NC Town Hall at 6:30 PM. The forum participants will be Officer Steve Stewart, who represents the Detention Center of the Macon County Sheriff's Department, Mr. Ronnie Beale, chairman of the Mental Health Task Force, representatives from both the National Alliance on Mental Illness and from Smoky Mountain Center, and Cindy Solesbee, navigator for the Affordable Care Act. This will be an opportunity for the public to learn more about the impact of mental illness in our community, where to turn for help, what treatment is available, crisis services, and current changes in our state's mental health system. There will be an opportunity for questions from the audience.

Friday, May 15

- Collective Spirits celebration at The Bascom. Women of Wine Fashion Show and Luncheon at Highlands Country Club

at 11:30 a.m. \$100 per person. Featuring a champagne reception followed by an informal viewing of spring's finest fashions from Acorns Boutique while tasting wines and lunching with the owners of six extraordinary properties. At 6 p.m., Stock Your Cellar Wine Tasting and Market on the terrace at The Bascom. Tickets are \$150 per person. The purchase of wines will benefit The Bascom. After the tasting it's BBQ and Bluegrass with Chef Christ Hall of Atlanta's Local Three. Tickets are available by phone at 828-787-2895 or at www.CollectiveSpirits.com

Tues. & Thurs., May 19 -21

- At CLE, iPad Advanced from 6-8 p.m. Cost is \$70 members/\$80 for nonmembers. To register, call 828-526-8811 or email clehighlands@yahoo.com

Tues., May 19

- Donors with all blood types are needed, especially those with types O negative, A negative and B negative. Whole blood can be donated every 56 days, and double red cells may be donated every 112 days, up to three times

per year. Mountain View Intermediate School 2-6p.m. For more information or to schedule an appointment please call (828) 349-1325.

Thurs., May 21

- Donors with all blood types are needed, especially those with types O negative, A negative and B negative. Whole blood can be donated every 56 days, and double red cells may be donated every 112 days, up to three times per year. First Baptist Church, Franklin 12:30 to 5p.m. For more information or to schedule an appointment please call (828) 369-9559.

Fri., May 22

- Donors with all blood types are needed, especially those with types O negative, A negative and B negative. Whole blood can be donated every 56 days, and double red cells may be donated every 112 days, up to three times per year. Lowe's on Georgia Hwy 9:30a to 2p. For more information or to schedule an appointment please call (828) 349-4654.

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• MILESTONE •

Registering for 'big school'



The kindergarten students of the class of 2028 and their parents visited Highlands School on Thursday, April 23, for the kindergarten registration. During the meeting, parents learned about the requirements to attend public school in North Carolina. Students enjoyed riding a school bus for the first time and also ate lunch with their parents in the school cafeteria. The photograph shows students visiting one of the K-1 classrooms.

– Photo by Ann Porter

• INVESTING AT 4,118 Ft. •

The Healing Power of Real Estate

"We are now in the mountains and they are in us, kindling enthusiasm, making every nerve quiver, filling every pore and cell of us."

— John Muir

In 1968, my grandparents built a home on top of Whiteside Mountain, using native Highlands fieldstone and California redwood. The design brings to mind the work of Frank Lloyd Wright, and even though the interior is very retro chic, the home remains supremely comfortable. The wormy chestnut interior, reclaimed from a nearby 100-year-old log cabin, gives the house sublime warmth and is a continual reminder of the early settlers on that mountaintop.

One may sit on the stone patio and gaze out across the mountains to Georgia and South Carolina. Lakes sparkle in the distance like mica on a mountain trail. The view of the purple and blue mountain layers recalls the peaceful, expansive view of the open sea meeting the horizon, stretching as far as the eye can see. Peregrine falcons catch thermals rising from the valley floor and soar overhead. Looking up to the summit, you can see an old-growth red oak forest; trunks twisted by strong winds and years of ice storms. Incredible flora abounds: wild sarsaparilla, white wood aster, serviceberry, Carolina rhododendron, and spikemoss.

Regardless of the time of year, the air has a crisp note – clean and sweet. Like the fresh water coming from the kitchen faucet, you cannot get your fill. Other than the chorus of birds and the occasional rustling of leaves from breezes or small animals, there is an absolute silence. The majestic setting wraps around your shoulders like a handmade shawl, full of the love from the hand and heart of the creator.

When I am in this setting – at this house – I am a million miles from the every day. The clamor of schedules, over doing, obligations, and robust interaction with clients and colleagues simply slips away from my soul and lands in a soft heap at my ankles. It is here that I think with a fresh mind, find perspective, recharge, and receive divine downloads. No matter the quandary, I can ascend to the Whiteside house with the confidence that clarity is already in escrow, waiting for me to claim it.

I am continually mesmerized by similar stories from clients who have made Highlands their seasonal or full-time residence. Stories of childhoods spent in family summer homes in these mountains with parents and grandparents. Stories of



Susie deVille
Owner/Broker-in-charge
White Oak Realty Group

endless afternoons spent salamander and crawfish hunting, heavenly nights on sleeping porches, misty mornings on fern-laden trails, native azalea on golf fairways, bare feet across the lawn, and a freedom afforded to explore and discover. As adults, they now

share those experiences with their own children and as children themselves, anew. The clock turns back not only in memory, but also in both spirit and body. And no matter how long it has been since one were here, the rejuvenation is immediate and complete as if one were here only yesterday.

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

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Falling Waters... is a newer well maintained 52 acre community just 2.8 miles from Main St. Highlands. Secluded but not remote, no road noise, no thru traffic...peaceful, quiet and private.



The land is well forested and gentle, easy building sites and a pleasant place to walk. Two waterfalls and several creeks add charm and interest to many home sites. Paved roads, Underground utilities & Gated.

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Entrance is on the R

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...DIRECTV continued from page 1

According to the court transcripts, Judge Reidinger said what is unusual about this case is that gain does not seem to have a commensurate loss on the other side of the ledger.

"In other words, the loss to DirecTV, it is clear, is nowhere near that \$150,000 and that plays into the seriousness of the offense, but it is important that the defendant and any others under-

stand that you are merely being too clever by half to try to figure out a scheme whereby you gain unjustly even though the person from whom you gain is not suffering a loss. This is nonetheless a fraud," he said.

Judge Reidinger didn't demand restitution to DirecTV, but through the civil courts DirecTV could attempt to recoup money it believes it lost through Bond's scheme.

Bond entered into a contract with DirecTV for several residential accounts to acquire specific stations and then sold his customers the viewing package from 2003 to 2011.

In other words, instead of entering into a commercial contract with DirecTV, he opened residential accounts which are substantially less expensive and then profited by reselling the stations to his clients in the Highlands area.

The DirecTV spokesperson said fraudulently retransmitting TV signals is a matter that is taken very seriously by both DirecTV and the federal courts, as indicated by the severity of the penalties imposed in this case.

"An analysis of the seriousness shows that this is serious. It is serious enough to be a basis for causing the defendant to forfeit and disgorge his profit, \$149,697.89, and to impose upon the defendant a fine; to place him on probation to make certain that he does not do something like this

ever again," said Judge Reidinger in the transcript. "I believe that all of those factors are sufficient to deter — to deter not only this defendant but to deter anyone else who may contemplate this sort of scheme. Any profit that you get, even though it may not be at the expense of another, if it is an unjust enrichment it will be disgorged. Not only will it be disgorged but there will be something layered on top of that in the form of a fine and you will have somebody looking over your shoulder very carefully for quite a while. I hope that is a sufficient deterrence."

DirecTV said this sort of fraudulent activity will not be tolerated.

"We will continue to work with local, state and federal authorities to pursue anyone who may be broadcasting DirecTV signals without our authorization," they said in an email to Highlands Newspaper.

Probation is the suspension of a jail sentence that allows a person convicted of a crime a chance to remain in the community, instead of going to jail. Probation requires that certain court-ordered rules and conditions are followed under the supervision of a probation officer.

As stated in the probation document, "Bond shall comply with the standard conditions that have been adopted by this court and any additional conditions ordered reads the terms."

Bond's probation conditions follow:

1. The defendant shall not commit another federal, state, or local crime.
2. The defendant shall refrain from possessing a firearm, destructive device, or other dangerous weapon.
3. The defendant shall pay any financial obligation imposed by this judgment remaining unpaid as of the commencement of the sentence of probation or the term of supervised release on a schedule to be established by the Court.
4. The defendant shall provide access to any personal or business financial information as requested by the probation officer.

5. The defendant shall not acquire any new lines of credit unless authorized to do so in advance by the probation officer.

6. The defendant shall not leave the Western District of North Carolina without the permission of the Court or probation officer.

7. The defendant shall report to the probation officer in a manner and frequency directed by the court or probation officer.

8. A defendant on supervised release shall report in person to the probation officer in the district to which he or she is released within 72 hours of release from custody of the Bureau of Prisons.

9. The defendant shall answer truthfully all inquiries by the probation officer and follow the instructions of the probation officer.

10. The defendant shall support his or her dependents and meet other family responsibilities.

11. The defendant shall work regularly at a lawful occupation unless excused by the probation officer for schooling, training, or other activities authorized by the probation officer.

12. The defendant shall notify the probation officer within 72 hours of any change in residence or employment.

13. The defendant shall refrain from excessive use of alcohol and shall not unlawfully purchase, possess, use, distribute or administer any narcotic or other controlled substance, or any paraphernalia related to such substances, except as duly prescribed by a licensed physician.

14. The defendant shall participate in a program of testing and treatment or both for substance abuse if directed to do so by the probation officer, until such time as the defendant is released from the program by the probation officer; provided, however, that defendant shall submit to a drug test within 15 days of release on probation or supervised release and at least two periodic drug tests thereafter for use of any controlled substance, subject to the provisions of 18:3563(a) (5) or 18:3583(d), respectively; The defendant shall refrain from obstructing or attempting to obstruct or tamper, in any fashion,

with the efficiency and accuracy of any prohibited substance testing or monitoring which is (are) required as a condition of supervision.

15. The defendant shall not frequent places where controlled substances are illegally sold, used, distributed, or administered.

16. The defendant shall not associate with any persons engaged in criminal activity, and shall not associate with any person convicted of a felony unless granted permission to do so by the probation officer.

17. The defendant shall submit his person, residence, office, vehicle and/or any computer system including computer data storage media, or any electronic device capable of storing, retrieving, and/or accessing data to which they have access or control, to a search, from time to time, conducted by any U.S. Probation Officer and such other law enforcement personnel as the probation officer may deem advisable, without a warrant. The defendant shall warn other residents or occupants that such premises or vehicle may be subject to searches pursuant to this condition.

18. The defendant shall permit a probation officer to visit him or her at any time at home or elsewhere and shall permit confiscation of any contraband observed by the probation officer.

19. The defendant shall notify the probation officer within 72 hours of defendant's being arrested or questioned by a law enforcement officer.

20. The defendant shall not enter into any agreement to act as an informer or a special agent of a law enforcement agency without the permission of the Court.

21. As directed by the probation officer, the defendant shall notify third parties of risks that may be occasioned by the defendant's criminal record or personal history or characteristics, and shall permit the probation officer to make such notifications and to confirm the defendant's compliance with such notification requirement.

22. If the instant of-
• See DIRECTV page 19



Ex. Director of the NCACC Kevin Leonard presented NCACC President and MC Commissioner Ronnie Beale with a plaque recognizing the historical NCACC meeting held last Thursday in Franklin. From left are County Manager Derek Roland, Beale, Leonard, and MC Commissioners Jim Tate and Gary Shields. See full story on page 1.

Tate says 'yes' to Sunday hunting

Growing up, Commissioner Jim Tate would go to church with his family on Sunday morning, then break away into the Georgia forest to hunt. Because of his rooted cultural connection and fond memories of the practice, Tate cast the only opposing vote on the board of commissioners last week to send a letter to state representatives asking them not to pass a bill that would allow hunting on Sunday throughout the state.

"I personally believe that Sunday hunting should be allowed," said Commissioner Tate. "In my opinion, it is an activity and personal property right just like playing golf or shooting skeet is. I do not understand how you can be allowed to do either of these activities or many others on a Sunday, but you are not allowed to hunt? There is also the argument that can be made that if you have a regular work week (Monday through Friday), then it only allows you one day to hunt."

House Bill 640, also known as the Outdoor Heritage Act, would allow private landowners to open their properties for hunting on Sundays. Currently, Sunday hunting is allowed only during bow season and for falconry in the state.

"This is big money down east coming in from renting of private land to do three-day hunts. If it ever comes on public lands, then we're going to have these same guided hunts on land here in the mountains on Sunday. It's risk-managed hunting," Commissioner Paul Hidgon said during last

week's meeting. Hidgon brought the legislation before the board and led the charge in sending a letter to representatives opposing the bill.

Currently, North Carolina is one of 11 states in the country that prohibits Sunday hunting, something Tate would like to see changed.

"Sunday hunting is presently allowed in all, but 11 states with the majority being in the Northeast," said Tate. "I think it would be great if Sunday hunting was allowed; it would be beneficial to Macon County."

Senator Jim Davis, who is facing the vote on Senate Bill 658, which calls for Sunday hunting to be allowed throughout the state, without lifting the ban for just private landowners, said when and if the vote is called for in the Senate, he would be falling in line with commissioners in opposing the bill.

The North Carolina Wildlife Commission has come out in support of the house bill, citing economic benefits for the state and increased opportunities to enjoy North Carolina's rich outdoor heritage.

In the commissioners' letter sent to both Senator Davis and Rep. Roger West, the board says, "In short, the Macon County Commissioners do not believe that Sunday hunting is in the best interests of the citizens of Macon County or the State of North Carolina."

Tuesday night the bill passed in the House 83-35. It now moves to the Senate.

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MON

**JAMES BEARD AWARD-WINNING CHEF,
LOUIS OSTEEN'S LOW COUNTRY
LOBSTER/SHRIMP BOIL FOR TWO**
LOBSTER TAILS, WILD CAUGHT LARGE SHRIMP, RED BLISS POTATOES, SUMMER CORN, HOUSE MADE SAUSAGE, ALL STEEPED IN LOUIS'S PROPRIETARY SEASONING. SERVED WITH DRAWN BUTTER AND COCKTAIL SAUCE.

\$33.95
SERVES TWO

TUES

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

\$23.95
SERVES TWO

WED

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

\$33.95
SERVES TWO

THURS

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

\$25.95
SERVES TWO

FRI

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

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• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •



The definition of sin has changed

Pastor Dr. Mark Ford
First Baptist Church of Highlands

The concept of sin has not completely disappeared from our culture, but the actions that are considered sinful have changed, and the definition of sin is changing. Americans still talk about evil and sin – and some of these are very important. But in our transformation of what sin is, we are on the verge of losing a real sense of personal sin. Sadly, sin is often thought of in terms of “what the other side believes” politically or on the conservative-liberal social spectrum. Ross Douthat, columnist for the New York Times introduced four ways that sin has changed in our present culture, and I will comment on each.

First, there has occurred a “structuralization of ideas of sin.” On many campuses today and in the media you hear talk of structural evils that affect society as a whole, such as racism, sexism, homophobia, human trafficking, the “pornification” of culture, etc. These issues have religious and constitutional roots, and are important. But they have given rise to a “hyper scrutiny of language” and “political correctness.” Any nuanced disagreement from the acceptable public discourse as well as the new guidelines of tolerance and progressive definitions of sin will quickly get you marginalized as bigot, racist, homophobic, or a sexist “Bible thumper.” Refuse to give ground on the Biblical ideas of marriage, the beginning of life, and justice, and suddenly you are the sinner. You are the great evil plaguing our world!

Second, Douthat has noted that sin has changed to concerns about physical health, spiritual health and overall human flourishing. Today, we actually hear people talking about diet, physical health and mental well-being in a moralistic way. Governments are actually getting into the business of trying to right the evils of society like obesity, proper diets, unwanted pregnancies, and guarding our emotional well-being by passing laws that are for our best and will keep us from sin and our bad choices – at least as the government defines it.

They are being “moral” without being guided by the foundation of our morals and absolutes – the Word of God. They are transforming the definitions of sin.

Third, sin has become a public issue – only those things that most of us can agree upon. Simply, we have democratized sin and formed a consensus on those things that we can commonly agree upon to be outraged by while ignoring our own personal, interpersonal and everyday sins. This way, sin doesn’t touch us – it’s out there. ISIS is evil – and they are! But my own greed, lust, and hypocrisy hurt no one, and are therefore less than sinful.

And last, Douthat feels that we have lost not so much a sense of sin, but possibly a sense of penance. Citing theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer’s notion of “cheap

Proverbs 3:5

BLUE VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH

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

BUCK CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

828-269-3546 • Rev. Jamie Passmore, Pastor
Sundays: School: 10 a.m.; Worship: 11

CHAPEL OF SKY VALLEY

Sky Valley, GA • 706-746-2999
Sundays: 10 a.m.: Worship
Holy Communion 1st Sunday of the month
Wednesdays: 9 a.m. Healing and Prayer w/Holy Communion

CHRIST ANGLICAN CHURCH

Rector: Jim Murphy, 252-671-4011
464 US Hwy 64 east, Cashiers
Sun.: 8:30a Traditional (Quiet) 1928 Prayer Book Service;
9:30a Sunday School; 10:30a Family Service w/ Music
Mon.: Bible Study & Supper at homes - 6 p.m.

CHRIST CHURCH OF THE VALLEY, CASHIERS

Pastor Steve Kerhoulas • 743-5470
Sun. 10:45am, S.S 9:30am. Wed. 6pm supper and teaching.
Tues. Guys study 8am, Gals 10am.

CLEAR CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Jim Kinard
Sundays: School: 10 a.m.; Worship: 11 a.m.
1st & 3rd Sunday night Service: 7 p.m.
Wednesdays – Supper at 6 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: Child. 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

828-526-4153 • www.fbchighlands.org
Dr. Mark Ford, Pastor
220 Main Street, Highlands NC 28741
Sun.: Worship 10:45 am; Sun.: Bible Study 9:30 am
Wed.: Men’s Bible Study 8:30 am; Prayer Mtg 6:15 pm;
Choir 5 pm

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Curtis Fussell & Emily Wilmarth, pastors
526-3175 • fpchighlands.org
Sun.: Worship: 11 a.m.; School: 9:30
Mondays: 8 a.m.: Men’s Prayer Group & Breakfast
Wednesdays: Choir: 5:30p

GOLDMINE BAPTIST CHURCH

(Off Franklin/Highlands Rd) • Rev. Carson Gibson
Sunday School: 10 am, Worship Service: 11 am
Bible Study: 6 pm

GRACE COMMUNITY CHURCH OF CASHIERS

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

Services: Sundays 10am - Wed. - 7pm; Dinner - Wed. 6pm
HAMBURG BAPTIST CHURCH

• PLACES TO WORSHIP •

John 3:16

Hwy 107N. • Glenville, Nc • 743-2729

Pastor Nathan Johnson
Sunday: School 9:45a, Worship 11a & 7p, Bible Study 6p
Wed. Kidsquest 6p.; Worship 7p.

HIGHLANDS ASSEMBLY OF GOD

Randy Reed, Pastor 828-421-9172 • 165 S. Sixth Street
Sundays: Worship: 11

HIGHLANDS CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Dan Robinson
670 N. 4th Street (next to the Highlands Civic Center)
Sun.: Morning Worship 10:45 a., Evening Worship, 6:30 p.
Wednesday: Prayer Service, 6:30 p.

HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Pastor Paul Christy 526-3376
Sun: School 9:45a.; Worship 9:09, 10:50.; Youth 5:30 p.
Wed: Supper: 5:15; youth, & adults activities: 6; Handbell rehearsal, 6:15; Choir Rehearsal 7. (nursery provided);
7pm Intercessory Prayer Ministry

HOLY FAMILY LUTHERAN CHURCH: ELCA

Chaplain Margaret Howell • 2152 Dillard Road • 526-9741

Sun: 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

at St. Cyprian’s Episcopal Church, Franklin
828-524-9463

MOUNTAIN BIBLE CHURCH

743-2583 • Independent Bible Church
Sun: 10:30 a.m. at Big Ridge Baptist Church,
4224 Big Ridge Road (4.5 miles from NC 107)
Weds: Bible Study 6:30 p.m.; Youth Group 6 p.m.

OUR LADY OF THE MOUNTAINS CATHOLIC CHURCH

Parish office (Father Francis): 526-2418
Mass: Sun: 11 a.m.; Sat. at 4p

SCALY MOUNTAIN BAPTIST CHURCH

Rev. Marty Kilby
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 Jerry David Hall • 526-3212
Sun.: School: 10 a.m.; Worship: 10:45 a.m.; Worship: 6 p.m.

SHORTOFF BAPTIST CHURCH

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

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1448 Highway 107 South, Office: 743-2359
Rev. Douglas E. Remer

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June-Sept: Sunday Services: Rite I, 8a, Rite II, 9:15 & 11a

Nursery available for Rite II services
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Thursday: Noon Healing Service with Eucharist.

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Sunday Worship - 11 a.m.

WHITESIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Rev. Sam Forrester/Cashiers
Sunday School: 10 am, Worship Service: 11 am

• POLICE & FIRE REPORTS •

The Highlands Police log entries from April 12. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor or public officials have been used.

April 12

• At 12:40 p.m., officers responded to a call about a breaking and entering at an office on Carolina Way where someone entered the office and closed the blinds.

April 17

• At 7:30 a.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident on NC 106 near Munger Lane.

• At 8:50 a.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident on US 64 west near Holt Knob Road.

April 21

• At 11:05 a.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident on Horsecove Road near Gibson Road.

Sign up for Kelsey Kids Camp!

Kelsey Kids will once again gather to learn about the history and experiences of the early lives of Highlands's people beginning in 1875. Led by experienced and knowledgeable citizens of the town of Highlands, this promises to be an enriching summer experience. We will visit Foxfire, take a hike, make discoveries, experience music from a dulcimer and guitar, have a pioneer lunch, and make discoveries in the museum and other activities. You will receive a list of activities for the week before camp begins.

Ages 8 to 11 who are interested in learning about Highlands's history and can attend for the 5 days are welcome at NO CHARGE. Lunch is included.

Each day camp begins at 9 AM until 3pm Monday through Friday at the Historical Village Museum on the Cashiers Road.

Applications are available from the website: www.highlandshistory.com and at the Museum. Linda David will be glad to email an application and answer any questions to anyone who desires one. Her email address is: lindawd@hcgexpress.net

April 23

• At 10:55 a.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident on US 64 east near Pine Street.

April 24

• At 11:30 a.m., officers responded to a car about a bear attempting to break glass to gain entry into the garage at a residence on Sagee Drive.

April 26

• At 3 p.m., officers responded to a report of a larceny on the Highlands Greenway Trail off Bowery Road, where a chainsaws stuck in a tree were taken.

The Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. log entries from April 17.

April 17

• At 6:51 a.m., the dept. re-

sponded to a fire alarm at the Cul-lasaja Club.

• At 8:50 a.m., the dept. provided traffic control on US 64 west.

April 20

• At 8:14 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Mack Wilson Road.

April 21

• At 11:24 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at the Cul-lasaja Club.

• At 3:53 p.m. the dept. was first-responders to a residence on S. 5th. Street.

April 24

• At 9:53 a.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on US 64 west.

• At 10:48 a.m., the dept. was first-responders on Main Street.

...SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING continued from page 18

grace" – or forgiveness without repentance – many in the changing public square recognize that certain actions are wrong, but don't reach the depths of sinful, and therefore don't require repentance. I make mistakes or I have some flaws, but I'm not a really bad person. And under my new definition of sin, penance is rarely if ever required. I just need tolerance and acceptance from others.

Today's notions of sin have changed. But let us never forget, God's definition of sin and the standard by which we are judged has not and never will change. Sin is sin, always has been and always will be, because God changes not. What is so hard to accept as a Christian today is that to criticize sinful practices and lifestyle makes you the sinner. But let God be true, and all others liars.

...DIRECTV continued from page 16

fense was committed on or after 4/24/96, the defendant shall notify the probation officer of any material changes in defendant's economic circumstances which may affect the defendant's ability to pay any monetary penalty.

23. If home confinement (home detention, home incarceration or curfew) is included you may be required to pay all or part of the cost of the electronic monitoring or other location verification system program based upon your ability to pay as determined by the probation officer.

24. The defendant shall cooperate in the collection of DNA as directed by the probation officer.

25. The defendant shall participate in transitional support services under the guidance and supervision of the U.S. Probation Officer. The defendant shall remain in the services until satisfactorily discharged by the service provider and/or with the approval of the U.S. Probation Officer.

26. Throughout the period of supervision the probation officer shall monitor the defendant's economic circumstances and shall report to the court, with recommendations as warranted, any material changes that affect the defendant's ability to pay any court-ordered penalties.

– Kim Lewicki

• At 1:02 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Broadview Circle.

April 27

• At 1:31 p.m., the dept. was

first-responders on Main Street.

• At 9:38 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Paul Walden Way.

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...HISTORIC continued from page 1



More than 50 county commissioners from across North Carolina traveled to Macon County for the meeting. They are pictured outside the Macon Bank headquarters in Franklin.

While the final details and wording are still being worked out, the NCACC leaders developed a mission statement proclaiming the organization's intent of supporting and promoting the well-being of all North Carolina counties through advocacy, education, research, and member services.

Commissioners also hashed out the importance of establishing the association's strategic goals, which range from promoting the positive impacts county government has on the lives of citizens as well as the role the association plans in state politics, to promising to enhance leadership capabilities of county officials and to create development opportunities for state leaders.

Highlands Mayor Patrick Taylor was on hand to welcome the group to Macon County on Thursday.

"Meetings like this allow area elected officials to meet and network with other colleagues from across the state," said Taylor, who encouraged the group to come back and visit Highlands next chance they get. "It also promotes awareness of this beautiful part of North Carolina that is often overlooked because we are at the very western tip of a horizontally long state."

County Manager Derek Roland, who met with the association throughout the visit, not only touted the economic benefit the group had on the county, but expressed his gratitude for the work the leaders did for the state.

"I feel the greatest benefit for Macon County came in the work performed by the NCACC while it was here. Led by Commissioner Beale, the NCACC advocates for county government before the executive, legislative and judicial branches of state government," said County Manager Roland. "This organization is one of the most active and successful statewide organizations in the nation. What I find most impressive about this group is its ability to sit down and put partisanship aside when discussing solutions to real problems counties across the state are facing today."

Commissioner Jim Tate, who welcomed the association during a dinner Thursday night at Holly Springs Baptist Church, commended the group for its foresight and its leadership across the state.

"Communication is probably the most important aspect of governing, and with the NCACC being present in our

county, it allowed us to be vocal and to bring awareness of the problems and challenges that we face as commissioners in a mountain community, such as the travel time between our schools and the distance from the services that Raleigh can provide," Tate said. "Each of the members present was able to see firsthand that all North Carolina counties are not equal and that special provisions can and should be made when topography is a hindrance. We are very fortunate that Commissioner [Ronnie] Beale has taken the time to lead the NCACC and to bring awareness and support for not only Macon County, but for all of Western NC."

Congressman Mark Meadows agreed.

"The evening was a tremendous honor for western North Carolina, and a real delight for me personally," he said. "To be able to hear from elected officials from all over the state gave me firsthand knowledge of the challenges that so many of our county governments face each and every day. It was also a testimony to the leadership of our county elected officials."

"We were able to discuss the importance of supporting our law enforcement and first responders as well as our local schools -- something that is near and dear to my heart and a priority that I share with the Macon County board."

After remarks from Congressman Mark Meadows welcoming the commissioners to western North Carolina, Executive Director of the NCACC Kevin Leonard presented Commissioner Beale and the rest of the board with a plaque recognizing the historical meeting.

"At the reception, President Beale received a plaque commemorating the meeting as the 'farthest west the NCACC Board has ever met since the organization was founded in 1908,'" said County Manager Roland. "That really brought home to me how monumental this meeting was for Macon County. We are fortunate to have a sitting county commissioner serving as president of this organization. Long after his presidency is over, Macon County citizens can rest assured that every county across the state and every legislator in Raleigh will remember who we are. As County Manager of Macon County, I would like to personally thank Commissioner Beale for his hard work and dedication to the citizens of this great county."

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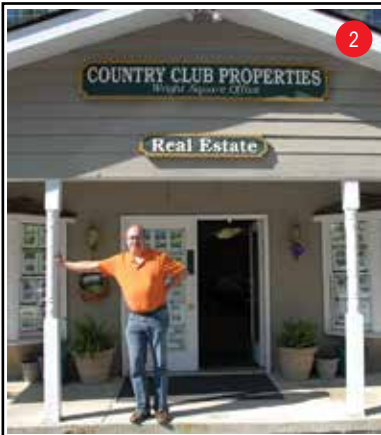
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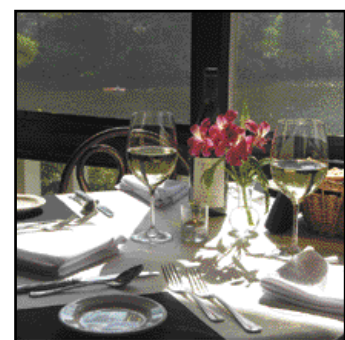
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