

Highlands Newspaper

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Thurs., May 14, 2015

Town Board considering tax and fee increase scenarios while finalizing the 2015-'16 budget

Though the final word on the property valuations isn't expected until June, the town is moving forward with its budget

deliberations based on the worst-case scenario of 7.5% decrease in value – hence a decrease in property tax returns.

To maintain a revenue neutral budget – that is, getting as much revenue from property taxes prior to the reval – a 1.4 cent property

tax increase will be levied – 16.9 cents per \$100 valuation which is up from the current 15.5 cents

•See SCENARIOS page 14

• INSIDE •

Mayor on Duty.....	2
Letters.....	2
The Fredster	5
Events.....	11
Investing at 4118 ft	15
Spiritually Speaking	18
Fire & Police	19
Classifieds	21

Beale, Roland represented Macon County at County Assembly Day

Leaders push for return of Lottery funds and status of Sales Tax bills

Macon County Commissioner Ronnie Beale and County Manager Derek Roland joined around 300 commissioners from across North Carolina in Raleigh last week for County Assembly Day.

"We were fortunate to have the opportunity to meet with our state elected officials and talk about pending legislations that could have adverse impacts on Macon County," said Roland.

Organized by the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners, (NCACC) County Assembly Day is billed as an opportunity for local officials to meet legislative leaders and members of their own delegations.

"It was interesting to watch Macon County Commissioner Ronnie Beale introduce Governor Pat McCrory, and other leaders like the Speaker of the House,"

said Roland. "As President of the Association, Commissioner Beale has done a tremendous job marketing Macon County to not just county commissioners across the state, but also to the leaders in Raleigh."

Commissioner Beale informed his fellow board members Tuesday night during their May meeting, that after Governor McCrory announced a \$400 million budget surplus, county leaders quickly asked that those funds be returned to the state lottery funds.

"Today, counties are getting about 17.9 percent of the revenue generated through the lottery, and when it was sold to citizens, it was promised that 40 percent would return to the county," said Beale.

"After the announcement of the budget surplus, we immediately asked for the money to be restored, but I am afraid that fell on

•See BEALE page 8



Photo by Cynthia Strain

Stranded cub is rescued

Following days of plaintive cries, the crew of All Seasons Landscape heeded the call and rescued a tiny bear cub they found in a tree in the Highgate commu-

nity of Highlands.

The week of Thursday, April 23, the crew, which was working at a home across from Summit Trail,

•See CUB page 9

Thanks to tourism, Maconians pay less in taxes

When industries are still fighting to recover from the great recession, tourism stands as one of the few industries that continues to thrive. Based on a study conducted by Steve Morse's tourism course at Western Carolina University, tourism continues to be a driving economic incentive for much of Western North Carolina, including Macon County.

Looking at figures from 2013, tourism related spending increased by \$27 million from 2009 to 2013. In 2013, spending hit \$141 million, continuing the yearly trend of growth in the tourism industry.

"Tourism continues to have a major impact on the Highlands economy," said Bob Kieltyka, President of the Highlands Chamber of Commerce. "From the beginning, Highlands was built and mar-

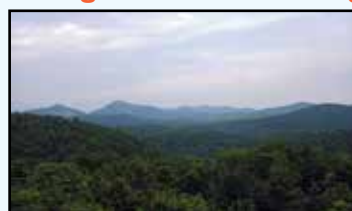
•See TOURISM page 3

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• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• MAYOR ON DUTY •

Capital project countdown

By Mayor Pat Taylor

Numerous town construction projects began this past winter. All are or nearly complete. Here is an update.

One big project has been literally hidden from sight and underground. Yes, the town intentionally hid it, that is the new six-inch waterline on NC 26. It is now installed and provides better water pressure and fire protection for area neighborhoods.

The culvert replacement project for Spruce, Laurel and 5th Streets was completed in mid-April. The project creates better water drainage of this critical flood plain area. The clear span culverts minimize the trapping of vegetative debris causing water back up, as did the old, small metal culverts.

The ball field facility is finished and play began this week. The new complex has larger bathrooms, a better concession area, and more covered space for viewing the games. Also, it looks great from US 64.

The first phase of Kelsey Hutchinson Founders Park will have a grand opening on Saturday, May 30. Festivities begin with



a 5k Race at 8 am and will continue all day. Phase 2, the development of the old Sossoman property, should get underway later this year. The town funded the restrooms, and funds for other construction was secured by the Park Coalition.

The 3rd Street wall project was completed in February. Paving next to the wall and parts of Oak Street were completed on May 1st.

The Dam and Water Intake project on Lake Sequoyah is on schedule, despite some weather delays over the last few months. The critical installation of the gate valve at the bottom of the dam and the water intake on the far side of the lake are now complete. Workers are finishing up repairs on the backside of the dam facing the river. The waterline installation from the lake going down US 64 to Hickory Hill is wrapping up. Contrary to rumors of the lake being empty all summer, within the next few days it will start to return to full pool. A good "gully washer" will fill it up before June 1st. The installation of the pump house will continue for several more months. Repaving of US 64 where the pipe was installed will be completed before June, weather permitting.

This past weekend a major bridge tournament was held on the new gym floor at the Civic Center. The floor was covered with a special carpet roll for protection from 400 players engaged in intense play. New bathrooms on the first floor were thankfully operational too.

• See MAYOR page 3

• LETTERS •

Summit Charter finances misrepresented

Dear Editor,

A headline on the front page of your May 7th issue is not factual. Summit Charter School's budget is not four times greater than Macon County. The article stated that Summit's budget is \$196 million annually, also not factual.

Summit's actual budget for 2014/15 was \$1.96 million, of which \$7,259 per student came from local, state and federal taxes. Macon County School district received \$8,889 per student from local, state and federal taxes. (\$40 million divided by 4,500 students),

North Carolina law requires that the money follow the student.

Macon County School District compensates Summit for the students who attend Summit, just as Jackson and Transylvania counties compensate Macon County School District for their students who attend Highlands High School. The money follows the student.

If the Macon County students who are now attending Summit decided to attend a Macon County School instead, they would no longer have to send Summit the per child allowances but they would have to send it to the school in which the students enrolled. No savings. No pennies pinched. The money follows the student.

Summit Charter School is a public school. Like all North Carolina public schools, there are financial challenges. Since Summit receives only approximately 80% of what non-charter schools receive, we must rely on generous businesses and individuals to bridge the gap.

This article has numerous errors and misstatements.

Dr. Jack Talmadge
Director
Summit Charter School

Police Dept. was disrespectful to ex-police officer

To the People of Highlands,

As your former Chief of Police, I am writing to you to ask for your help.

On April 18, 2015, Officer Todd Ensley passed away. He served in the Highlands Police Department as Captain of Detectives for 25 years, before being terminated for medical reasons that later took his life.

Officer Ensley's family called the Highlands Police Department and requested that an Honor Guard from their department be at Todd's funeral since Todd had requested this upon his death. The family was told that this request would have to go before the Town Board.

Since Todd's funeral was only two days away, the family contacted me and asked if

• See LETTERS page 3

• CORRECTION •

**Summit's
budget 4x
greater than
MC Schools'**

In the May 7 edition of Highlands Newspaper, Summit Charter School's budget figure was wrong. We wrote: Summit Charter School, whose website has a lengthy list of "partnerships" associated with the financial backing of the facility, has a current enrollment of 197 students, and an annual budget of \$196 million.

The annual budget figure should have been \$1.96 million.

We regret the error and are happy to set the record straight.

Highlands Newspaper

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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.



...MAYOR continued from page 2

The swimming pool cover is being completed as I write this piece. Upon its arrival in the next week or so, it will take installers two weeks to erect the covering. Swimming will begin early in June.

So what will I do as all these projects

...LETTERS continued from page 2

I could do anything to help in this matter. The next morning I drove to Highlands and met with the Mayor and the Town Manager. I was given a list of directives to follow in order for the Highlands Police Department to supply an Honor Guard for Officer Ensley's funeral. I told the Mayor and the Town Manager that what they requested would be taken care of immediately. But by the time I drove back to Franklin, the Chief of Police had called the funeral home and advised them that due to one officer being on vacation and another being in school, an Honor Guard from his department could not be present at the funeral.

As your former Chief of Police, I was in charge of the officers that served under me and the day-to-day operation of the Highlands Police Department. I can think of no excuse for what was done to the Ensley family.

Highlands' Police Department's lack of

end? Since January I have been visiting every one of them on a daily basis. More projects will be scheduled for the coming year, but not as many and not on the scale as some of the current ones.

respect for this family hurt them deeply. This shows us that honor and respect are missing in your police department today.

I have contacted the town of Highlands and asked to be placed on the agenda for the next Town Board meeting. That request is pending at this time. However, I will be at the next Town Board meeting on May 28 and I will ask the board to take the necessary action that something like this may never happen again.

If you agree with me, I'm asking you as citizens of Highlands to come to this meeting and stand with me against the lack of honor and respect shown to Officer Ensley and the Ensley family.

Jerry Cook
Retired Highlands Police Chief

...TOURISM continued from page 1

keted as a resort town, and that has remained a successful mission of the town."

The annual amount of revenue generated from room occupancy tax has grown steadily over the last 30 years in Highlands, and is on track to exceed last year's number in 2015.

For 2013, Highlands collected \$316,088.86 in tourism dollars. Last year, that number rose to \$363,538.41, and with five more months before the books are closed out this year, Highlands has already collected \$304,532.

In fact, for July through January – the months the chamber has numbers so far in 2015 – each month shows an increase over 2014. If the months of February through June collect the same room occupancy tax as 2014, with no increase at all, 2015 will finish out the fiscal year with a total of \$414,699 in room tax collected.

In 2013, the Franklin area collected \$99,276.88 in room occupancy taxes.

WCU's study shows the same growth ex-

perienced in Highlands, throughout western North Carolina.

The report indicated that on an average day in 2013 tourism spending generated more than \$47,000 in state and local tax revenues and created about \$65,000 daily in worker paychecks.

In addition to the levels of local taxes collected, the study showed that in 2013, Macon County tourism produced almost \$24 million in worker income and paychecks, generated 1,180 jobs and created more than \$11 million in local county tax revenues.

Demonstrating the impact the budding industry has for local taxpayers, WCU's study noted that the industry actually provides a tax relief for Maconians. The study said that if tourism did not exist, each household would have to pay \$686 more in state and local taxes.



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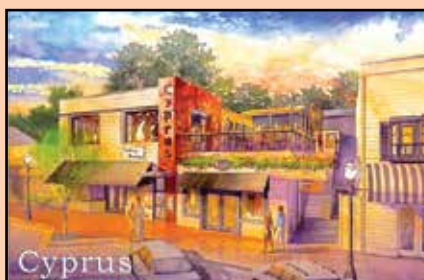
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A snow job

I arrived in Highlands on Mother's Day and learned our town elite finally had the common sense and courage to prohibit sledding on Monkey Hill by clearing the street of snow. We all know that children having fun is something Highlands frowns upon. We are about tourism and making money. (Where are those summer people with their fat wallets?) Children having fun does nothing to put money in the town's pocketbook.



Fred Wooldridge

And what if the town gets sued because two sledders crashed together and were gleefully sent tumbling down in the snow? A child could be hurt and the town would be libel! I don't blame the town fathers for clearing the snow. The law suits must have been piling up and who needs that? Maybe the town should pass an ordinance prohibiting snow all together. The Mayor should look into prohibiting snow! Wait...I take it back. Before the ink dried on this column the town's not so elite changed their minds and caved in on children having fun, giving new meaning to the term "wishy-washy."

Now that we have taken care of those dastardly fun loving sledders, it's waaaay past due that we close that dangerous dog park behind the Rec. Park. It's at this location that animals are turned loose and allowed to roam free, biting whomever they wish. I know of one man who reached down to pet a lady's Schnauzer and was severely bitten. Can you imagine the consequences if this incident had happened on snowy Monkey Hill? I say close that park before someone falls on fresh slippery dog poop, hits their head on the town's bench provided inside the park and sues us for negligence. That law suit could take a real bite out of the town's budget.

And another way to make our town a safer place to visit and not have fun is to do away with the stupid games of tennis and pickle ball. Are you aware of how hard a plastic wiffle ball is? I was once struck right in my face and the pain was at least six figures. And I'll tell you the first thing that came to my mind was how much I can sue the town for. I would have followed up on the law suit idea but an hour later the redness and pain were gone and I had no proof of injury. Darn; next time I'll take pictures and call my lawyer.

Tennis is even more dangerous then pickle ball because the ball crosses the net at a high rate of speed. If you're near the net you could be injured on town property. I mean how many law suits can the town handle?

If the town fathers decide, in their infinite wisdom, that tennis and pickle ball should continue because it brings in a few bucks, then I suggest NFL helmets, hockey masks and knee pads while playing. This way the town would be able to prove to the judge that it did what it could to prevent injury, lessening the amount the town would have to pay. The pile of lawsuits involving Monkey Hill, dog bites, tennis and pickle ball must be enormous.

Well I have to go now. I'm headed over to the dog park to see if I can find some dog poop to slip and fall on. Wish me luck. My lawyer is on standby.

The town should stop monkeying around and take action.

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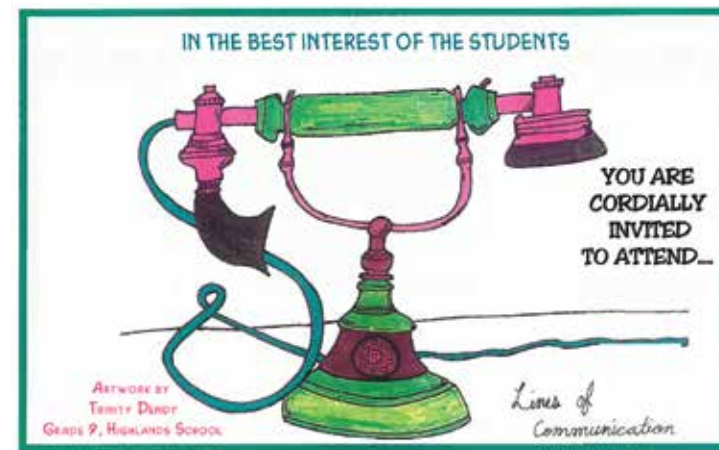
U.S. News & World Report, ranked Highlands School 24th in North Carolina and 1,115 in the nation.

Students have the opportunity to take Advanced Placement® course work and exams and the AP® participation rate at Highlands School is 53 percent.

The student body makeup is 49 percent male and 51 percent female, and the total minority enrollment is 17 percent.

Highlands School is 1 of 5 high schools in the Macon County school system.

The Student/Teacher ratio is 10:1, and the school is ranked 36.8 in college readiness.



Highlands School student Trinity Dendy's artwork was chosen to be used on the school system's annual invitation and posters for the students' artwork exhibit, Sunday, May 17 from 1 to 3 p.m., at the Macon County Public Library on Siler Road in Franklin.

There are 341 students and 34 teachers.

"We are honored to be considered one of 'US News and World Reports' highly ranked schools in both North Carolina and in the United States," said Highlands School Principal Brian Jetter. "It is an honor of which our students, parents, all our Highlands School employees, Rotary, PTO, all the business supporters, and our Town of Highlands can be proud. It just shows you what can be achieved when all those groups work together."

However, Jetter said the school, staff and students don't intend to sit back on their haunches.

"We'll continue to work to-

gether because instead of being the 24th ranked school (out of 1,084 schools) in the state of North Carolina, we want to be in the top 10. And instead of being the 1,155 ranked school out of over 21,000 schools in the United States, we want to be in the top 100. And, instead of being a Silver Medal winner, which is given to the top 10% of schools in the United States, we want to gain a Gold Medal. Everyone pulling together will get us to those goals. Then, for all those people in the East that think we're just some little ole K-12 school up on a mountain, that plays futbol, instead of football, they'll realize 'there's something really special up in them thar hills!'

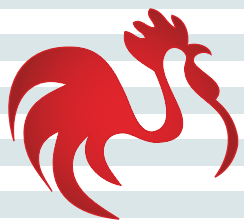
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...BEALE continued from page 1



President of the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners and MC Commissioner Ronnie Beale, addressed leaders during County Assembly Day in Raleigh.

deaf ears.”

According to Roland, one of the main focuses for the NCACC, as well as Macon leaders, was meeting with state representatives regarding the potential legislation that would change the way sales tax is distributed throughout the state.

“There are two bills currently in the legislation that look at new formulas for redistributing the sales tax,” said Roland. “Both bills suggest that sales tax be redistributed based on a per capita formula rather than based on where the sales tax is generated.”

Roland explained that Macon County, with a significant portion of the local economy coming from tourism dollars, stands to lose over one million dollars if the legis-

lation was to pass.

Commissioner Beale said that after meeting with Phil Berger, President Pro Tem of the Senate, he learned that the sales tax legislation is moving slowly and would likely not be taken up this year.

“Being able to shake hands with and talk to our state leaders is invaluable,” said Roland. “As a county, we are fortunate to be a part of an association [NCACC] that facilitates these types of interactions, and are even more fortunate that our own county commissioner serves as president.”

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...CUB continued from page 1

kept hearing a cub crying and noticed a mama bear and another cub camped out in the yard next door.

"After a while – after hearing this from 8 in the morning until 5 at night and watching the mama, who was obviously distraught, walk back and forth on the road – we wondered what was going on? We finally located the cub 25-35 feet up a tree," said Ben Rich of All Seasons Landscape.

The cub was stuck and the mama bear couldn't get to it or coax it down because it was tangled in plastic mesh used to cover a root ball. The mesh was around its neck and arms and had snared it in the branches.

Such plastic mesh is used to keep tree root balls intact prior to transplanting.

"I think the two cubs probably climbed up the tree when the mama went foraging – which is what they do – but this one climbed up the tree after getting caught up in netting so it couldn't get down like the other cub when the mama returned and she couldn't figure out how to get him down," said Rich.

When the crew found the cub, one guy climbed up the tree to get the cub but as he approached, the cub went even higher.

"As he climbed higher, he untangled himself from the branches but then fell out of the tree into a rhododendron bush where the netting caught him. At that point, it was easy to get him because he was about 12 feet up," said Rich.

When they cut the netting off the cub, they realized it had been there a long time because it was already callused over in places.

"We put him in the woods so the mama could go get him, but he kept crossing the road and coming back our way; the mama just paced the road but wouldn't come near. The cub was very, very weak; he'd been up there for days; so that night I took him home," he said.

Meanwhile, a nearby homeowner contacted Cynthia Strain, director of the B.E.A.R. Taskforce who contacted the only licensed bear rehabilitator in North Carolina and she told her how to care for and feed the cub. Strain relayed the information to Rich and he and co-workers bottle-fed the cub with a milk supplement for puppies.

Rich said they felt obliged to do take the cub home since the mama wouldn't come to it and he was weak and hungry.

"He was very cuddly, friendly and play-

•See CUB page 10

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...CUB continued from page 9

ful,” he said. “He got up on the couch and even held on to our legs to go for a ride when he was tired of walking.”

The next day, Rich and his crew returned with the bear and put him within five feet of the mother, but she just picked up the other cub and took off when they set the rescued cub near her.

After that final encounter, they took the cub, who was estimated to be between four and six months old and weighed

six pounds, home again and after three to four days he got his strength back, however it took bottle-feeding him every two hours.

Mike Carroway, Wildlife Biologist with NC Wildlife Resource Commission, was contacted and Wildlife Resource officers arrived at Rich’s house to take the cub to a rehabilitator.

“The cub was extremely habituated to people and to survive, it needed to get its ‘wildness’ back,” said Carroway.

The cub was taken to the only rehabilitation facility in North Carolina where it will be nursed and raised with other cubs and once its weaned will be put in an area with bigger bears. Eventually, it will be released into the wild – probably the summer of 2016.

“The cub was in great shape, but had more contact with multiple people (and the family dog) than is ideal,” said Strain. “However, the rehabilitator told me that with a lot of hard work, he ought to be fine.”



Photo by Cynthia Strain

The rehabilitator has had great success with her techniques and in her setting he will have other cubs to play with prior to being moved to a “wild” area with virtually no human contact. In this area, the bears are fed with automatic machines so they can forage

in the huge “pen.”

Carroway said cubs are orphaned for various reasons but suggests that people leave them alone for between 24 to 48 hours before intervening.

“If there are people in the vicinity, the mama bear won’t return until she feels safe. You have to give the mama a chance to come out; at least 24-48 hours to come back,” he said.

Though Carroway believes the mama would have eventually returned, he said rehabilitation works. “But it only takes a cub 48 hours to become habituated to people,” he said.

He said they have had to rescue a number of orphaned cubs this year.

“Cubs are usually born in January and there is a bumper crop of bear cubs this year due to the excellent mast crop last year so the bears went into their dens healthy. This typically happens every other year and it seems all the bears are synced to have cubs this year,” he said.

Carroway’s advice for anyone who comes across a cub. “Leave it alone 24-48 hours and the mama will come back.”

Those who harbor cubs can be levied stiff penalties and fees because it’s illegal to keep bear cubs in North Carolina.

– Kim Lewicki



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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

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. The camp is June 15-19

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

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.occupywnc.org or call 828.331.1524

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

Tuesday and Thursdays

• Zumba with Connie at the Rec Park at 8a. \$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 Deana 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 Founders Park on Pine Street from 8a to 2p.

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., 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.

• The May meeting of The Western North Carolina Woodturners, Inc. will meet on Thursday at 6 PM at the Blue Ridge School, in Glenville, N.C. Located at 95 Bobcat Drive, Cashiers, N.C. Drive to the back of the school to the woodworking shop. Visitors are always welcomed. The club meets every second Thursday at 6:00 P.M., March through November.

Friday, May 15

• **Essential Oil & Wellness Expo** at the Highlands Community Center from 2-4 p.m. Wellness Workshop from 5:30-6:30 p.m. Free to the public. Sponsored by Whole Life Market. For more information, call 828-526-5999.

• **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.

Old Fashioned Hymn Sing at First Presbyterian on May 17



First Presbyterian Church will host an old fashioned Hymn Sing at 5pm on Sunday, May 17 at the church. Those in attendance will have the opportunity to choose a hymn they wish to sing from the 1938 Cokesbury hymnal. Stell Huie will be song leader with Angie Jenkins at the piano. The FPC Men's Quartet will also sing several favorites. Members of the group from left are Bob Wright, Wayne Coleman, Farrel Zehr and Stell Huie. Please come and join us for an enjoyable time of music and Christian fellowship. The church is located at the corner of Main and Fifth Streets. Handicapped accessible entrances are located on Church Street and on Fifth Street.

• HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

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

- The High Mountain Squares will host their "All Singing Call Dance." Friday night at the Macon County Community Building, GA Road (441 South), Franklin NC from 6:30 to 9:00 PM. Dr. Jim Duncan from Otto, NC will be the caller. We dance Western Style Square Dancing, main/stream and plus levels. Everyone is welcome. For information call 828-371-4946, 828-342-1560, 828-332-0001

Sat., May 16

- The Highlands Plateau Greenway will conduct its monthly work day from 9a0 – noon this Saturday. If you are interested in participating, please email Ran Shaffner at highlandsgreenway@nctv.com or leave a message at 828-526-5622. We'll meet at the

large upper parking lot (near the pool entrance) in the Recreation Park at 9 AM for a brief orientation session, and you will be furnished with the necessary tools and safety equipment.

- Gorge Road Cleanup. 9a to 2p. Meet at the Highlands Chamber of Commerce.

- Windy Gap Baptist Church will have a Relay for Life Yard Sale Saturday from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m. in the parking lot across from the church on Windy Gap Road in Franklin.

- Two land conservation organizations, Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust and the Land Trust for the Little Tennessee (LTLT) will co-sponsor a float trip down the Little Tennessee River in Franklin. A limited number of canoes and of kayaks will be available for a 4.5-mile trip down the river to the 4,800-acre Needmore Game Lands, LTLT's flagship conservation project. Along the way we will see Cherokee cultural sites, stream

restoration sites, and wildlife which may include bald eagles and river otters. The cost of participating in this float trip is \$35. For details, contact HCLT at 526-1111.

- Plans for the genealogy workshop to be held in Macon County on Saturday have been finalized. It will be held at the Macon County Public Library at 149 Siler Road in Franklin, NC and will be from 1 PM to 4 PM. There will be time for questions and discussion following the workshop. Each attendee will receive a packet of information and a set of handouts. Sponsored by the Battle of Sugartown Chapter of the NSDAR, the workshop is free of charge. However, it is wise to reserve a seat to insure a set of handouts as well as a seat. Topics to be covered include: how to begin researching, using public records and sources, using the internet to your advantage, DNA and genealogy, getting past brick walls, and much more. There will be a number of drawings for valuable door prizes which have been provided by various vendors of genealogical items such as books, software, subscriptions, etc. For more information, directions or to reserve a seat, call 828-369-8030 or e-mail wncgen@yahoo.com
- Highlands Plateau Audubon.

A walk on the Weih and Peterkin properties, Glenville area, led by Romney Bathurst with Michelle Styring assisting. Meet at 7:30 a.m. at the Highlands Town Hall parking lot to explore these lovely private properties and help add to their "yard lists" as we search for wood warblers and much more.

Sun., May 17

- At First Presbyterian Church, an old fashion hymn sing at 5 p.m.

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.

- Highlands Plateau Audubon. Birds and Beer led by Romney Bathurst. Meet outside the Ugly Dog Pub in Highlands at 5:00 p.m. to look for local birds including owls around Harris Lake and

enjoying beer and bird talk with those attending.

Thurs.-Sun., May 21-24

- HCP's "Welcome to Mitford," at PAC. For tickets and further information contact the Highlands Cashiers Players at 828 526 8084.

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.

- At Cliffside Lake, Live Birds of Prey with Michael Skinner with the Balsam Mountain Trust at 11 a.m. Program on the patio at Cliffside Lake. No pets allowed. Please arrive 15 minutes prior to program. Free by \$4/vehicle admission to recreation area.

- Open House & Franklin Chamber Mingle at Franklin Health & Fitness Center from 5-7p at Franklin Health & Fitness Center 1214 East Main Street. Great door prizes, hor'devours, drinks, membership specials, complimentary massages and great networking.

Don't miss this awesome event! RSVP requested to 828-524-3161.

Fri., May 22

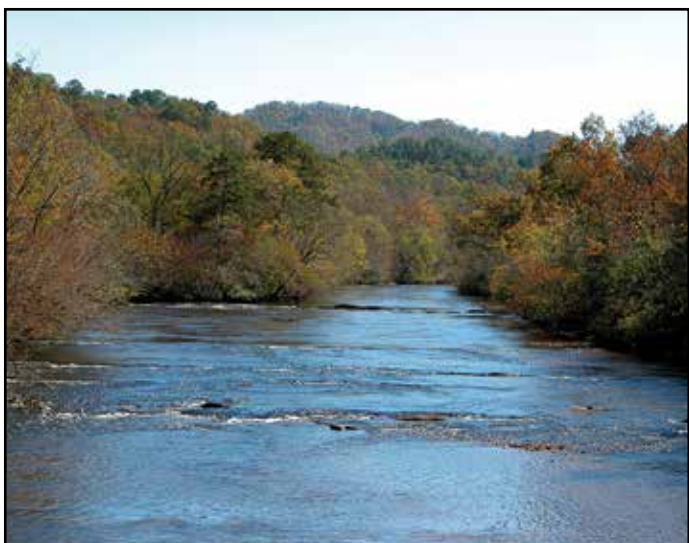
- Donors with all blood types are needed, especially those with types O negative, A negative and B negative. Whole blood can be donated every 56 days, and double red cells may be donated every 112 days, up to three times per year. Lowe's on Georgia Hwy 9:30a to 2p. For more information or to schedule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

Sat., May 23

- 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 Plateau Audubon. Birding in Gorges State Park with Curtis Smalling leading and Michelle Styring assisting. Curtis,

HCLT and LTLT Invite you to float down the Little T!



On Saturday afternoon, May 16th, two land conservation organizations, Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust and the Land Trust for the Little Tennessee (LTLT) will co-sponsor a float trip down the Little Tennessee River in Franklin. A limited number of canoes and of kayaks will be available for a 4.5-mile trip down the river to the 4,800-acre Needmore Game Lands, LTLT's flagship conservation project. Along the way we will see Cherokee cultural sites, stream restoration sites, and wildlife which may include bald eagles and river otters. The cost of participating in this float trip is \$35. For details, contact HCLT at 526-1111.

HCP's 'Welcome to Mitford' begins May 21



Community Theater—Where closeness is relative: If one family member gets involved in a local production, often they enlist their relatives to join in. This is the case with many couples acting in the upcoming production of Robert Inman's "Welcome to Mitford" playing at PAC starting May 21. Pictured above are Jackie and son Jordan Powell, Jason and wife Samantha Moore, Ken and Sarah Knight with stepson Lance Trudel, Ron Leslie and wife Kathryn Buckley, and (of course) Stan and director Donna Cochran.

• HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

a fun and skilled leader, is the state Audubon Director of Land Bird Conservation. Gorges S. P. offers possibilities for sighting Swainson's and Worm-eating Warblers among many others. Meet at 7:30 a.m. at the Highlands Town hall parking lot or at 8 a.m. at the new Cashiers Rec Center parking lot.

Tues., May 26

- At Hudson Library, Book Club at 10 a.m., to discuss "Unbroken."
- Highlands Plateau Audubon. Wings to Soar multimedia program on raptors with live birds. This event, co-sponsored by Mountain Wildlife Days, offers a wonderful presentation that is free and welcomes families and children of all ages.

Tues. & Thurs., May 26 -28

- At CLE, A Fun Guide to the Best Applications for iPad & iPhone 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 28

- Retirement Celebration for R.L. Forrester from the Highlands Police Dept. from 6-7 p.m. at the Highlands Community Building, 869 N. 4th Street, next to the ball field. Light refreshments will be provided. At 7 p.m., at the Highlands Town Board meeting, Captain Forrester will be recognized for his years of distinguished service.

Fri., May 29

- 12th Annual "Salamander Meander" at 9 pm at the Highlands Nature Center. Bring a flashlight and go on a short night hike to search for salamanders along the Garden trails. Ages are 6 and up; cost is \$5 per person. Advanced registration is required; please call Patrick Brannon at 526-4123 to sign up or for more information.

Sat., May 30

- Highlands Plateau Audubon. Car trip along Rich Gap Road led by Brock Hutchins. This is easy, roadside birding at one of our local "hot spots" featuring Scarlet Tanagers,

possible Red-tailed Hawks, Black-throated Green Warblers and much more.

Sat., June 6

- Kids Fishing Day at Cliffside Park from 9a to 1p. Free for children 12 and under. Adults must accompany children. Bring your pole, though some will be provided along with bait.

Sun., June 7

- The Highlands Community fund will be hosting 'Rise and Shine for the Highlands Community Fund' at the Bascom on Sunday at 6:30. Tickets to this event are \$75 and the dress is mountain casual. For more information contact the Highlands Community Fund Board member, Gayle Cummings, at 828-526-0247 or gayle.cummings@me.com.

Thurs.-Sun., June 11-14

- Highlands Motoring Festival. Go to www.HighlandsMotoringFestival.org for complete list of events.

Sat. June 13

- At Cliffside Lake, Live Birds of Prey with Michael Skinner with the Balsam Mountain Trust at 11 a.m. Program on the patio at Cliffside Lake. No pets allowed. Please arrive 15 minutes prior to program. Free by \$4/vehicle admission to recreation area

Mon.-Fri., June 15-19

- Kelsey Kids Camp for kids 8 to 11 years old at the Highlands Historical Village. 9a to 3p. It's free and includes lunch. To register go to www.highlandshistory.com or email Linda David at lindawd@hcgexpress.net

Sat.-Sun., June 20 & 21

- Highlands Village Square Art & Craft Show. Regional artisans, music, food. 10 - 5 in Kelsey-Hutchinson Park on Pine Street, downtown Highlands, NC. Admission free. Sponsored by Macon County Art Assn..

'Rise and Shine' for the Highlands Community Fund

Mark your calendars for an evening of cocktails, Barbeque and dancing music.

The Highlands Community fund will be hosting 'Rise and Shine for the Highlands Community Fund' at the Bascom on June 7th at 6:30. Tickets to this event are \$75.00 and the dress is mountain casual. For more information contact the Highlands Community Fund Board member, Gayle Cummings, at 828-526-0247 or gayle.cummings@me.com.

There will be an evening of enjoyment starting with cocktails, then a delicious Barbeque dinner catered by Lovie's of Atlanta. There will be a time to kick up your heels with dancing music provided by the Caribbean Cowboys.

This is an evening of pure enjoyment and a time to get to know the Highlands Community Fund Board and the wonderful support it does for the Highlands community.

Since 1966, the Highlands Community fund has raised permanent endowment funds for our community. Each year, the earnings from these funds are used to make grants to nonprofits serving Highlands. In partnership with The Community Foundation of Western North Carolina, the Highlands Community Fund since inception, made 97 grants to 28 organizations totaling more than \$580,000.00.



Recent grants have supported projects at The Literacy Council of Highlands, Hudson Library, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Highlands, the Middle School Courtyard Project at the Highlands School, the Bascom, the Martin-Lipscomb Performing Arts Center, the Gordon Center for Children, Highlands Community Child Development Center, Blue Ridge Mountain Health Project, Highlands Cashiers Land Trust, the Peggy Crosby Community Service Center and the Highlands Emergency Council.

So Rise and Shine for the Highlands Community Fund and come enjoy a night of great food, entertainment. Tickets to this event are \$75 and the dress is mountain casual.

For more information contact the Highlands Community Fund Board member, Gayle Cummings, at 828-526-0247 or gayle.cummings@me.com.

**Please join us in celebrating the retirement of
Captain R.L. Forrester
of the Highlands Police Department**

**on
May 28, 2015
from
6-7 p.m.
at the**

**Highlands Community Building
869 N. 4th Street
Highlands, NC
(Next to the Ballfield)**

Light Refreshments will be provided.

**At 7 p.m., prior to dismissing guests, the
Highlands Town Board meeting will begin,
recognizing Captain Forrester for years of
distinguished service.**

PIZZA & ITALIAN STREET FOOD AT MOUNTAIN FRESH GROCERY



NEAPOLITAN PIZZAS

**AUTHENTIC THIN CRUST PIZZAS WITH FRESH
HAND-CUT INGREDIENTS \$11.95**

CHOOSE CLASSICS LIKE:

RED MARGHERITA: FRESH MOZZARELLA, CRUSHED TOMATO & FRESH BASIL

PANCETTA: PANCETTA, ROASTED RED PEPPERS, MUSHROOMS, CRUSHED TOMATO & GRANDE MOZZARELLA

PROSCIUTTO ARUGULA: PROSCIUTTO DE PARMA, MUSHROOMS, GARLIC INFUSED EVVO, PECORINO, & FRESH ARUGULA
TOSSED WITH EVVO

OR MODERN INTERPRETATIONS:

FIG & PIG: FIGS, PANCETTA, GRANDE MOZZARELLA, CRUSHED TOMATO, GORGONZOLA, TOPPED WITH ARUGULA TOSSED IN EVVO.

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

...OR BUILD YOUR OWN.

N.Y. DECK OVEN PIZZAS

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

ITALIAN STREET FOOD \$10.95

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

**PIZZA AVAILABLE FROM 11AM UNTIL CLOSE
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...SCENARIOS continued from page 1

per \$100 valuation.

Coupled with the possibility of losing about \$625,000 in sales tax proceeds, during the 2016-'17 budget year, the Town Board is considering what capital improvement projects it should budget in 2015-'16 and which to shelve until a later date.

However, usually delaying projects like paving, water lines, equipment purchases and updates to the water treatment plant, ends up costing more because typically the cost of projects and goods rise as the years march on.

At the second budget worksession meeting last Thursday, commissioners learned that there is \$3,682,200 in capital project requests across departments.

Expenditures across departments is \$11,974,269 with projected revenues from the town's enterprise funds at \$12,861,655.

If all the capital project requests were

funded with monies from the enterprise funds, the town would be in the hole \$2,794,814.

So, does the town cut projects, delay projects or fund them through the undesignated fund balances at its disposal – which the town has.

Currently \$2.5 million sits in the undesignated General Fund Balance and \$2.7 million sits in the undesignated Enterprise Fund Balances.

Recently, the town has spent money from its undesignated fund balances so the undesignated fund balance is now 38% of the budget rather than 42% as in the past.

Healthy municipalities don't like to go below 25% even though only an 8% undesignated fund balance is required by law.

However one catastrophe – a hurri-

• See SCENARIOS page 21

Altitudes Restaurant at Skyline Lodge



*Fine Dining with a View!
Full Bar, wine & beer*

**Open for Dinner
Fri. & Sat. and Brunch on Sunday**

Appetizers

Fried Calamari w/lemon garlic aioli • \$12

Beef Tenderloin Crostini w/roasted pepper & onion • \$15

Maple bacon wrapped shrimp • \$15

Friday Specials

Poached Salmon w/creamy dill sauce with asparagus and rice pilaf • \$20

Cajun Chicken pasta with andouille in light cream sauce • \$20

Saturday Specials

Herb Stuffed Pork Tenderloin w/whipped potatoes and asparagus • \$22

New York Strip w/compound butter, whipped potatoes and asparagus • \$24

Prepared to order by Chef Kirtis

Reservations recommended but not required

470 Skyline Lodge Drive • 828-526-2121

Call about our wedding & event packages

• INVESTING AT 4,118 Ft. •

Focus On Outdoor Spaces and Surroundings

By Lynn Kimball
Meadows Mountain Realty

From walls of windows to spacious decks, and expansive patios to lush gardens, the focus of many homes capitalizes on the fabulous outdoor lifestyle our area offers. There are many trends that are being seen around the nation that are prevalent right here.

Covered decks that offer comfortable outdoor living spaces, including seating that could fit just as well inside plus outdoor fireplaces are common in luxury homes in Highlands. Likewise the outdoor kitchen has made its mark, expanding outdoor entertaining to capitalize on the fresh mountain air and views. Beautifully landscaped gardens also add value to homes in our area and our lifestyle, enhancing the natural beauty surrounding us.

Whether you are planning to sell your home or simply want to enhance its value, it is important to remember what draws people to our area in the first place. If your home boasts great views, a beautiful lawn or a wonderful spot to enjoy the sunshine and fresh air, take the time to make improvements to enhance your surroundings.

Making landscaping improvements around your home adds to your home's curb appeal, and curb appeal is what



makes your home attractive to potential buyers. Spring has arrived and now is a great time to weed your flower beds, prune your trees and shrubs, and plan what you want to plant for the growing season. We live in a spectacular area, ripe with natural flora and fauna and a place where flowers flourish. There is no time like the present to make improvements to your property.

Spring is the time of year when many second home buyers are thinking about summer and where they like to spend their time. As we approach the busiest time of year for real estate in Highlands, all signs are pointing to a busy summer. The vacation home market is on a rebound, great news for our area. More and more people

are feeling financial confidence which is translating into spending more money and making real estate investments. Vacation home markets around the nation are showing signs of strength and the Highlands area is no different.

Lynn Kimball has over 41 years of real estate experience, with 30 years serving the Highlands area. She has gained Emeritus Status with the National Association of Realtors and is currently serving as Vice President for the Highlands Cashiers Board of Realtors. Whether you are interested in searching properties or comprehensive information about our area, you are invited to visit her user friendly website at www.signatureproperties-nc.com. Meadows Mountain Realty has two locations, at 41 Church Street in the Old Edwards Inn complex or visit Lynn at her 2334 Cashiers Road location across from Highlands Falls Country Club. Lynn Kimball may be reached at 828-421-8193 or by email at Lynn@MeadowsMtnRealty.com.

Falling Waters



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.

Would love to build BUT.....

Neil & Paula Van Hoogen (the developers) can help. We are knowledgeable, experienced and love the building process. We can assist with the many decisions, choices and options. In your absence, we will be your eyes and ears watching out for your best interest. Let's explore the possibilities!

Welcome...Come Visit.

GPS Address:

**78 Black Bear Trace
Highlands, NC 28741**

From Main St. take NC 106 toward Dillard. 1.8 miles turn R on Mt. Laurel Dr., 3 tenths mile, turn L on Moonlight.

Entrance is on the R

www.highlandsnchomesites.com

828-508-9952

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TICKETS: \$20. Visit our website to order your tickets

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Thirty-third Mountain Garden Club

Plant Sale

May 23

9 am to noon
Highlands NC

Cash or checks

Baseball Park on Hwy 64
N 4th & Hickory
Rain date May 24, 1-4 pm

• BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NEWS •

Rotary hears about the Martin-Lipscomb Performing Arts Center

Mary Adair Leslie, Director of the Martin-Lipscomb Performing Arts Center (PAC), defined the relationship of the PAC with other 501(c)3 organizations, primarily (but not exclusively), the Highlands-Cashiers Players and the Chamber Music Festival. These latter two organizations are separate non-profit organizations which rent space from the PAC. The Performing Arts Center presents six live concert performances as well as live streaming opera, ballet, and national theater plays. Seven volunteers are needed for each performance. Each volunteer receives a free ticket as a thank-you. To volunteer, contact Mary Adair Leslie at 828-526-9047. For more information, please visit the Rotary Club of Highlands website at highlandsrotary.org.

Rotary's Annual Golf Tournament and Celebration of the Club's 70th Anniversary



Rotary President Peter Ray, Rotary Assistant District Governor Ken Nicholson and President-Elect Christy Kelly enjoy the anniversary party.

On May 4 Highlands Country Club hosted the annual Rotary Club of Highlands golf tournament. Players enjoyed golf on the historic course, as well as lunch, beverages and prizes. All money raised by this tournament helps fund the many projects of the Rotary Club of Highlands. After the golf tournament, Rotary members and their guests celebrated the 70th anniversary of the Rotary Club of Highlands. The club was started in 1945 and over the years has sponsored and supported numerous local, national and international projects.



April Rotary Scholars of the Month

The Rotary Club of Highlands honored its April Highlands School Scholars of the Month at its May 5 meeting. Pictured with Nicole Lui, School Counselor, and Peter Ray, club President, are: Logan Petrone, middle school winner, Grace Brassard, high school winner and Nicole Taylor, elementary school winner.



From left: guest speaker Mary Adair Leslie, PAC Chairman of the Board Bud Pittman, and Rotary President Peter Ray

Have you Fixed Your Dirt Crawl Space?

Dry Crawl Spaces

Crawl Space Encapsulation System®

There are three things that destroy materials in general and wood in particular: water, heat, and ultra-violet radiation, of these, water is by far the most destructive!

Protect your home from:

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- ☒ Bugs
- ☒ Structural Damage
- ☒ Smells & Odors
- ☒ Loss of Storage Space
- ☒ Radon Gas
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• BIZ/ORG NEWS •

Mayor briefs MtnTop Rotary on capital projects in town

Mayor Patrick Taylor explained the capital projects going on in town. He is pictured with club president Bill Zoellner. The Mountaintop Rotary Club meets every Wednesday morning at 7:30 am at the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital lower level Dining Room



323 Franklin Road
Highlands, NC 28741
828-526-4949
www.thebascom.org

STEPHEN KNAPP

NEW LIGHTPAINTINGS

ARTIST TALK AND RECEPTION:
MAY 23, 5 - 7 PM



MOUNTAIN FRESH GROCERY DINNERS-TO-GO SUMMER MENU 2015

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.

\$26.95
SERVES TWO

SAT

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

\$22.95
SERVES TWO

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• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

God's goodness surrounds us

By Emily Wilmarth
First Presbyterian Church

My husband and I have been watching Ken Burns' fantastic documentary The National Parks: America's Best Idea over the past few weeks. (You can find it on Netflix.) The six-episode series documents the birth and evolution of the national parks, and encompasses first-hand interviews, records and early accounts of the first parks, and of course, stunning cinematography. I highly recommend it.

I have loved learning about John Muir, one of the key figures and early advocates for setting aside the land for our national parks. A Scotsman (and son of a Presbyterian pastor) who immigrated to the United States with his family in 1849, Muir was a keen observer of the natural world and a lover of nature. His words are often quoted throughout the documentary. They demonstrate Muir's profound faith in the God of creation. Clearly, this man found in nature proof of God's existence and holiness.

"All the wild world is beautiful, and it matters but little where we go, to highlands or lowlands, woods or plains, on the sea or land or down among the crystals of waves or high in a balloon in the sky; through all the climates, hot or cold, storms and calms, everywhere and always we are in God's eternal beauty and love. So universally true is this, the spot where we chance to be always seems the best." (John of the Mountains: The Unpublished Journals of John Muir (1938), page 299.)

Living in Highlands, where one day alone can bring a cool morning mist, a torrential hailstorm, a peaceful glowing sunset, and a visit from a bear and her sprightly cubs, it's hard not to agree with Muir. Standing in the midst of our beautiful surroundings, we can get a sense that we are part of something much greater than ourselves. The grandeur of nature reminds us that God's powerful works are far greater than anything humans can accomplish. Surrounded by this holy goodness day in and day out is both humbling and satisfying; it draws out of me words of gratitude to God each and every day. "Everybody needs beauty as well as bread, places to play in and pray in, where nature may heal and give strength to body and soul alike." (The Yosemite (1912), page 256.) I have found that place here.

Yet, I know that God's goodness is not limited to mountain vistas or peaceful woods. I have found God's profound, creative, powerful presence in the midst of a crowded urban spaces as well. Walking through the streets of New York City at rush hour, I have been amazed by the sheer volume and diversity of God's creation. Sitting down to share a meal with men and women experiencing hunger and homelessness at a shelter in downtown Atlanta, I have been humbled by the ways people in life's toughest conditions can still find joy. Working alongside volunteers from near and far to clean up after Hurricane Sandy struck my then home-state of New Jersey, I was overwhelmed by the generosity of strangers who simply wanted to do something to help.

Wherever you are, the beauty of God's creation is there, too. Keep your eyes open. Take it all in. "God never made an ugly landscape," indeed. (Muir quoted by Samuel Hall Young in Alaska Days with John Muir (1915), Chapter 7.)

• All quotes found at http://vault.sierraclub.org/john_muir_exhibit/writings/favorite_quotes.aspx.

Proverbs 3:5

BLUEVALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH
Rev. Oliver Rice, Pastor (706) 782-3965
Sundays: School: 10 a.m., Worship: 11
Sunday night services every 2nd & 4th Sunday at 7
Wednesdays: Mid-week prayer meeting: 7 p.m.
BUCK CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH
828-269-3546 • Rev. Jamie Passmore, Pastor
Sundays: School: 10 a.m.; Worship: 11
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: Holy Eucharist (chapel) at 8 a.m.
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 • fpcchighlands.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
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Services: Sundays 10am - Wed. - 7pm; Dinner - Wed. 6pm
HAMBURG BAPTIST CHURCH
Hwy 107N. • Glenville, Nc • 743-2729

John 3:16

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
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Mass: Sun: 11 a.m.; Sat. at 4p
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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
THE CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD
1448 Highway 107 South, Office: 743-2359
Rev. Douglas E. Remer
Oct-May: Sunday Services: Rite I, 8a Rite II, 10:30
June-Sept: Sunday Services: Rite I, 8a, Rite II, 9:15 & 11a
Nursery available for Rite II services
Sept 6-Oct 25- Informal Evening Eucharist- 5:30 p.m.
Thursday: Noon Healing Service with Eucharist.
LITTLE CHURCH IN THE WILDWOOD
Beginning Memorial Day weekend
Horse Cove - Kay Ward 743-5009
Old-Fashion hymn-sing Sunday 7-8p.
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP
85 Sierra Drive • 828-524-6777
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 May 4. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor or public officials have been used.

May 4

• At 11:10 p.m., officers were requested involving an animal complaint at a residence on Mill Creek Lane.

May 5

• At 12:10 p.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident in Highlands Plaza.

May 6

• At 8:35 p.m., officers were requested at the Asia House restaurant where a patron was arguing with the owner.

May 7

• A little past midnight, officers received a call about a dog running a bear at a residence on Trillium Circle.

May 9

• At 5:30 p.m., officers received a report of a burglary without forced entry at a residence on Upper Lake Road, where \$200 in cash was taken.

May 10

• At 2:05 a.m., Jeremy G. Gould, 24, of New Hampshire, was arrested for DWI when he was stopped on US. 64 east for driving left of center.

May 10

• At 3:53 p.m., officers were requested at a residence on Hummingbird Lane where

someone was trespassing on the lake bed.

May 11

• At 3:15 p.m., officers responded to a one-vehicle accident on Paul Walden Road.

• At 3:35 p.m., officers were requested on NC 106 where people were yelling at each other on the side of the road.

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

May 7

• At 12:54 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Crescent Trail.

May 10

• At 2:42 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a resi-

dence on Whiteside Mountain Road.

May 11

• At 10:20 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on

Pierson Drive.

• At 3:20 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence in the Cullasaja Club.

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

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Join Us for a
Project Lazarus Community Forum & Workshop
 Wednesday, May 20 from noon to 2:30p
 at the
 Post and Beam Restaurant at The Golf Club at Mill Creek
 341 Country Club Drive, Franklin, NC.

Keynote speaker will be:

Fred Wells Brason, II, CEO of Project Lazarus

Topics include:

- Understand how the Project Lazarus Model works
- Identify what is needed for a successful community-based prescription overdose prevention program
- Describe the role of coalitions in overdose prevention and supporting people with chronic pain

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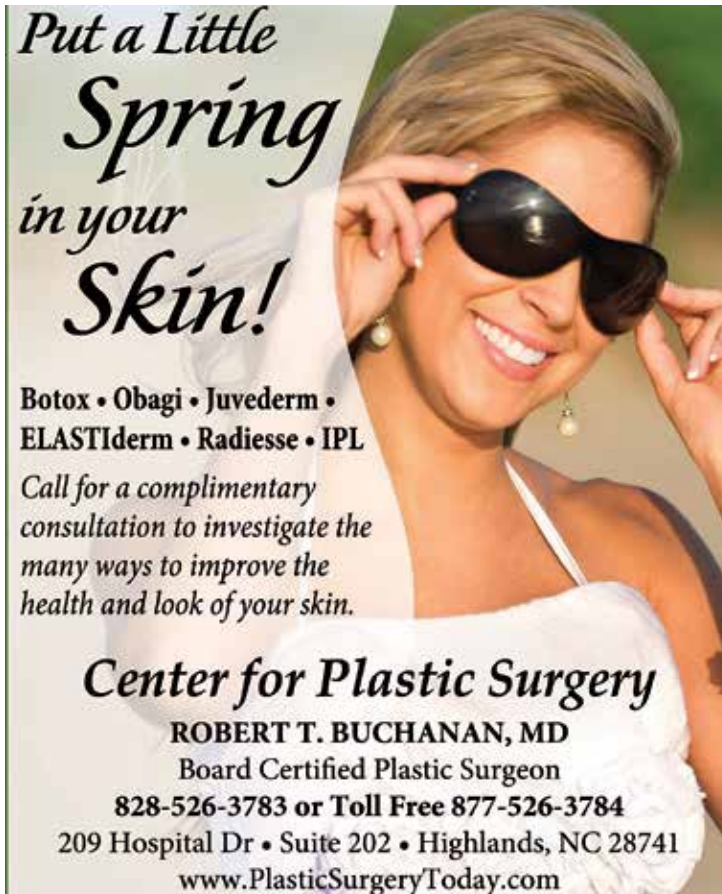
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...SCENARIOS continued from page 14

cane or winter storm – where a town has to foot the bill for repairs prior to any reimbursement – can quickly use up undesignated funds and put a town in financial straits.

The only thing the board decided on during the first budget meeting was to increase property taxes by 1.4 cents; the only thing it decided on at the second meeting was to pass a project ordinance for the Lake Sequoyah Project since it is crossing two budget years.

Town Manager Bob Frye said the town needs a free-standing ordinance to enable it to appropriate funds – which it has – to both finish out the 2014-'15 budget year and move into the 2015-'16 budget year.

Other than that, at Commissioner Amy Patterson's suggestion, Frye was asked to come up with several "budget scenarios" should the town not pursue a revenue neutral stance with the 1.4 cents tax increase or decide to raise fees – something Frye didn't think was necessary when he delivered the first 2015-'16 budget scenario.

"There was a lot of discussion over whether or not some projects I marked for potential elimination needed to be done this year so as to not get in a hole down the road, but a lot of things need fixing," said Frye. "In the end, they asked that I provide them some additional revenue figures for various fee increases and tax increases so they could see how much revenue would be generated."

If more revenue was generated, fewer capital project requests would have to be eliminated or delayed.

Frye said though he wasn't looking at any fee increases this year, fee increases would definitely have to happen in the 2016-'17 budget – specifically electrical and sanitation.

"I will have some figures at the next meeting – Thursday, May 21 at 3 p.m. – for potential sanitation fee increase as well as revenue generated by a .25 .50 .75 and 1.0 cent increase to the tax rate which would be beyond the revenue neutral rate of 1.4 cents," said Frye.



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HIRING FULL TIME DELIVERY, WAREHOUSE PERSON for retail store in Highlands. Must be able to lift and move furniture. Would prefer CDL. Send resume to shannon@dutchmansdesigns.com (st. 5/7)


VOLUNTEERS NEEDED Food Pantry, Highlands 1- 2 hours per month Sharon Giddens . 828482-0558

SALES ASSOCIATE FOR HIGH END RETAIL CLOTHING STORE IN HIGHLANDS, NC. full time. part-time and seasonal. Must be available to work weekends. Retail clothing sales experience preferred. Please call 828-200-0928 (st. 4/30)

MAIN STREET INN AND BISTRO now hiring servers, bussers and line cooks, experience required. Please call Robbie @ 828-526-2590. (st. 4/30)


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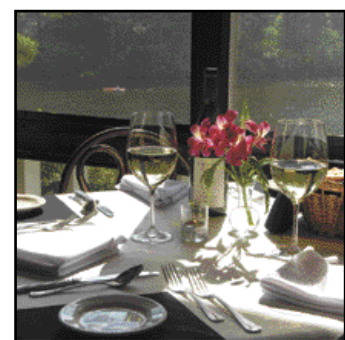
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