

Highlands Newspaper

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Thurs., May 12, 2016

State senators working to expand access to overdose drug

Sen. Jim Davis co-sponsors it; Highlands Police Chief Bill Harrell and MC Commissioner Beale weigh in

By Kirk Ross

State senators took the first step in approving legislation authorizing the state health director to issue a statewide prescription

allowing broader access to the overdose drug naloxone – a drug that blocks the effects of opioids.

The bill, co-sponsored by Sen. Jim Davis, R-Macon, was

approved last week by the Senate Health Care Committee.

State Health Director Dr. Randall Williams called the move essential in preventing the rapidly

rising number of overdose deaths in the state.

“The issue we’re looking at today is the public health crisis of

• See **OVERDOSE** page 6

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Mountain Findings to expand onto lot next door

It won't be a pretty building architecturally speaking, but it will serve a critical purpose – the need for more storage and sales space at Mountain Findings Thrift Store.

At the April Planning Board meeting, Tom Hill, the face behind the wheel of the Mountain Findings truck and president, said the purpose of the 40,131 sq. ft. storage building to be built on the vacant lot next to the Mountain Finding building at 432 Spruce Street is to consolidate stock which is currently stored in six storage units around town – not counting the basement of the previous funeral home next door.

“I don't think the number of people visiting Mountain Findings will increase, we are just trying to get rid of all the storage units and have everything in one place,” he said.

• See **EXPAND** page 19

Highlands School Class of 2016 Valedictorian and Salutatorian announced



Highlands School Class of 2016 Valedictorian and Salutatorian are Colin Weller and Cole Drummond, respectively. Above from left is Drummond, Highlands School Principal Brian Jetter and Weller. In the fall, Weller will be attending Clemson University and majoring in Psychology and Drummond is attending NC State and will enlist in Exploratory Studies. The Highlands School graduation ceremony is Saturday, May 28 at 7 p.m. in the new gym at the school.

Feds threaten to flush funds over HB2

Macon County Schools Superintendent and MC Commissioners respond

By Frank Taylor

Musicians, film productions, sporting events and major employers have said they will stop doing business in North Carolina over House Bill HB2, a measure that state lawmakers passed in special session this year that restricts transgender use of bathrooms and blocks local governments from enacting their own anti-discrimination laws.

Now the federal government is threatening to boycott the state as well.

The U.S. Department of Justice issued letters to NC Gov. Patrick McCrory and state university leaders last week warning that HB2 violates the U.S. Civil Rights Act. The letters threaten to withhold federal funding for education starting this week if

• See **HB2** page 12

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• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• MAYOR ON DUTY •

• FORUM •

Funding Altitude Broadband high on budget list

Our next town Budget Workshop is on Thursday, May 12, beginning at 3 pm at the Conference Center. The Board and staff continue to review funding priorities for the forthcoming budget.

One major topic of discussion will be the status and future funding of Altitude Broadband, the town's newly created department. Let me give a brief update.

This past January the Town Board appropriated funds to create a community based broadband system. One new technician was hired and a WIFI broadband system was deployed throughout the town. Since the first of the year we have been connecting customers to the system, but there has been a backlog of installations. On average it takes about seven weeks for a customer to be connected to the system.

At the last budget workshop, Commissioner Amy Patterson raised the concern we did not have adequate staffing to provide timely service to potential customers. She proposed we use existing funds to hire two additional technicians in order to speed up the process, with the understanding that these new positions would remain in next



Highlands Mayor
Patrick Taylor

year's budget.

I believe Commissioner's Patterson's proposal was an innovative way to quickly improve the service. Once the new technicians are on board, the town should be able to complete the WIFI mesh of the system very soon.

The next step in developing Altitude Broadband will be to deploy the fiber optic network that will provide total broadband access to residents and businesses. Altitude will begin this phase with the

development of a fiber node in the downtown area. Once this area is operational, the plan will be to buildout additional nodes as fast as possible into our neighborhoods.

After the fiber network is in place within the city limits, consideration will be given to expanding the network, but this expansion could be years away. Meanwhile folks living beyond the town limits could continue to use the existing WIFI system. The network will continue to operate both wireless and fiber optic components.

So, as we plan the budget for the coming year, the appropriation of funds to move to the next phase will be under review. The expansion of the broadband network will be accomplished without a tax increase. As I have said in the past, world-class broadband is essential for the future of the town. The time to act is now. We cannot wait for external market forces to address this pressing need down the road. Small, isolated communities across the nation are taking similar initiatives.

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Toll Free FAX: 866-212-8913

Phone: (828) 200-1371

Email:

HighlandsEditor@aol.com

Publisher/Editor: Kim Lewicki

Copy Editor: Glenda Bell

Digital Media - Jim Lewicki

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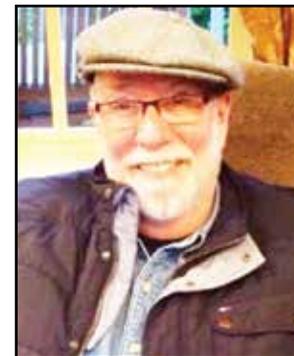
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Letter Policy:

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.

Election 2016



Bud Katz

For several years I've mostly avoided public political comment. I found out, the hard way, that some of my family, friends and acquaintances who disagreed did so with such vehemence that they stopped engaging with me.

Since relationships are ALWAYS more important to me than winning a point, or "being right" about something, I've kept my feelings and opinions to myself. Besides, no individual really ever changes anyone else's mind, either through reasoned and unemotional discussion or via pithy memes and bumper stickers.

That said, I feel a need to express an opinion with regard to the upcoming national election. I can't and won't speak for anyone else, but for me this political season is a horror.

Politics in America has become like a sport that has more in common with football than with matters of public policy or, literally, life and death. The focus has been reduced to which team one plays for or uniform one wears. And, even within the teams, there is a strain of demagoguery and ad hominem attack that overshadows any attempt at honest discourse on complex issues of real importance.

How have we managed to turn elections into this game of "I don't care who the star of my team is, or what he/she says, or what he/she does, as long as he/she is on my team, and as long as my team wins?" Suffice it to say, it's

not in the national interest to elect our representatives or president for that matter based on what "uniform" he or she wears or what team he or she plays for. And while we're on that subject, when did the political conversation change from "he/she has bad ideas," to "he/she is a bad person?"

I've seen the bumper sticker, the medium of choice for the expression of individual public opinion, promoting a "None of the Above" ballot line, or an "Anyone but (insert name here)." Neither of these philosophies advances an American agenda, and both, if followed, inevitably lead to bad choices from an uninformed, often apathetic electorate, based on the emotion of the moment as opposed to any real examination of the candidates and their positions on issues.

Wealthy individuals and powerful interests interested in only the issue that matters to them are funding political campaigns without a shred of regard for what is in the best interest and general welfare of the American people.

I haven't watched a single minute of a single televised debate as of yet. To me, they're meaningless until we have the two candidates who are really going to be competing for my vote. I'm registered NPA because I believe that neither major political party stands for much, other than winning. Governing? What's that?

When the election itself comes into focus, and this year the conventions might matter in terms of deciding what our choices will be, I promise to be engaged and fully present because from the top of the ballot on down this stuff is important.

Our democratic republic is still relatively young. In many ways we're an adolescent nation trying to make sense of the mysteries involving a life filled with both stretches of paved open highway and bumpy dirt roads filled with potholes.

Then again, nobody promised it would be easy. The best any of us can do is to get informed, get involved, and, for God's sake, think before you vote!

• WEEKEND WEATHER •



For real-time weather and the extended forecast go to www.highlandsinfo.com and click on Weather

• OBITUARY •

Johanna Becker Runken

Johanna Becker Runken, 85, passed away peacefully at her home on Saturday, May 7, 2016.

Mrs. Runken was born December 14, 1930 in Darmstadt, Germany to the late Henrich and Johanna D. Becker.

She was a bookkeeper for many years and loved entertaining friends and family in her home. Mrs. Runken was a past member of the Scaly Mountain Women's Club enjoying her time there.

She was preceded in death by her husband of 52 years, Roy G. Runken.

Survivors include her three sons, Frederick B. Runken of Scaly Mountain, Michael Chris Runken and wife, Becki of Raleigh and Highlands, NC, and Jeffrey R.



Runken and wife, Michaelle of Franklin, NC; five grandchildren; ten great-grandchildren; and two great-great grandchildren.

A Celebration of Life Service will be held 2 P.M. Wednesday, May 11, 2016 at the Morrison Presbyterian Church with the Rev. Noah McIntee and Rev. Gene Price officiating.

The family will greet friends following the service

at the church.

In lieu of flowers memorials can be made to the Morrison Presbyterian Church 16 Serenity Ridge Dr. Franklin, NC 28734.

Online condolences can be left at www.bryantgrantfuneralhome.com.

Bryant-Grant Funeral Home and Crematory is serving the Runken family.

• LETTER •

Article misconstrues type of rifles

Dear Editor,

The article "Delinquent accounts, Mirror Lake, rifles and more," in the April 28 edition of Highlands Newspaper is grossly in error regarding the part on "rifles." Specifically the statement: "These rifles are not fully automatic like most assailants use," quoted from Highlands Police Chief Bill Harrell.

Fully automatic weapons are at best very rare in civilian hands, as they are illegal by federal gun laws and without special and stringent exceptions are not available through any means for even the worst of criminals to obtain, legally or illegally.

Fully automatic weapons are only manufactured for military and authorized civilian law enforcement, and are strictly controlled by the federal government. Chief Harrell's statement perpetuates the use of this term by the avid anti-gun element to purposely or un-purposely misinform the public on guns in the U.S.

Yes, the term (automatic) has been used for over 100 years to describe weapons that are in fact semi-automatic and require the pulling of the trigger to fire each

round just as the AR-15 semi-automatic rifles the police are obtaining.

This is a very important point to law abiding gun enthusiast, and all residents of Highlands. The issue evokes emotional images and erroneous conclusions by unknowledgeable members of the public. People in Highlands and everywhere should not be concerned with "fully" automatic weapons in the U.S., and they should know the facts. Terrorists do get them from military associates in the Third world. However, I am not aware of any terrorist or mass killing, e.g., Boston, Connecticut, or anywhere else in the U.S. since Al Capone and before Federal Laws were enacted, that used a fully automatic weapon to further their criminal or terrorist activities.

While I am only a six-month carpet-bagger in NC, I go out of my way to obtain and read a copy of your excellent weekly publication to keep up with Highlands and surroundings going on. Keep up the good work.

**Richard Leckey
Sapphire, NC**

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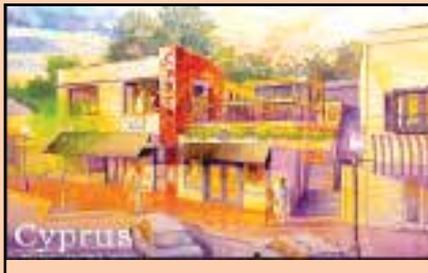


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HCP presents 'The Game's Afoot' beginning Thurs., May 19 at PAC

At last it's May and the game's afoot! at Highlands Performing Arts Center. Opening Thursday, May 19, the Highlands Cashiers Players (HCP) present Ken Ludwig's comedy mystery "The Game's Afoot," with a plot based on the real life person, William Gillette, the actor who played the role of Sherlock Holmes for 30 years on the stages of America and Britain. Director Michael Lanzilotta has assembled a cast of eight experienced and talented actors from local and nearby areas--Highlands, Sky Valley, Franklin, Scaly Mountain, and Sapphire. Stuart Armor will be portraying the main character William Gillette.

As the final play of the Players' 2015-2016 season, "The Game's Afoot" provides a great climax to the year with lots of laughs, clever dialogue, and a puzzling murder mystery for audiences to figure out who done it. The play runs Thursday, May 19 through Sunday, May 22, and Thursday, May 26 through Sunday May 29, evenings at 7:30 p.m., Sunday matinees at 2:30.

The HCP box office opens Thursday and Friday, May 12 and 13, for season subscribers to make their reservations, and opens for general tickets beginning Saturday, May 14. Call 526-8084 and leave a message for a call-back if operator is not on duty. Individual tickets are also available on line, highlandscashiersplays.org.

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...OVERDOSE continued from page 1

our time," Williams told senators at the hearing.

He said one in four autopsies conducted in the state are for overdoses. The new law would allow him to issue a prescription

under a 2013 state law that allowed family members or others in a position to react to an overdose to anonymously obtain and administer the drug.

The change, Williams said,

would greatly expand access to the drug and allow people to have it on hand in the event of an overdose if that person has good faith belief that a family member, friend or other person may be at risk of an overdose.

"This will save lives," he said.

Alongside this legislation, the House and Senate have introduced study bills addressing drug abuse. H987 and S788 (Study Opioid Abuse/Incapacity to Proceed) which would direct the Governor's Mental Health Task Force to continue exploring the reasons for the rising epidemic of heroin and prescription opioid abuse.

NCACC Past-President and Macon County Commissioner Ronnie Beale served on the Governor's Mental Health Task Force and has focused attention on substance abuse and behavioral health issues by initiating the NCACC's Mental Health Engagement Task Force. S734 will go to the Senate Judiciary I committee next and, if approved, would go to the Senate floor.

Senator Davis, who described the addiction problem as a "modern-day plague," said he is working on additional bills. He said another measure would improve efforts to

deal with prescription drug abuse.

"Most of these heroin abusers, about 80 percent, get started with prescription drugs," he said. "So, we're going to try and go further upstream and attack the problem there as well. The impact it's having on our society is so incredible we need to do everything we can. Few people are not impacted by this."

In fact, according to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, North Carolina's mountainous counties, which includes Macon County, have the state's highest overdose rate. In Appalachia the overdose mortality rate is 18 per 100,000 residents.

Highlands Police Chief Bill Harrell said he fully supports the bill.

"Our department received training and has been carrying Naloxone since the spring of 2015. Like most tools we carry, I hope we should never have to use it, but the inevitable is that people are not going to stop using narcotics and if we can administer one more recourse to save lives, we should," he said.

— Carolina Public Press and Kim Lewicki



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- The Utopian Communities..... Thursday, May 26

COMPUTERS & TECHNOLOGY

- iPad – Delving Deeper..... Thursday, May 19
- Digital Currency..... Friday, May 27

SCIENCE

- Drug Development, Drug Costs, and “Oops” Moments..... Thursday, May 26

CURRENT AFFAIRS

- U.S. Asylum Law and Human Rights.. Wednesday, May 25
- Islamism & Islamist Terrorism 101..... Tuesday, May 31
- Changing Boundaries in the Middle East..... Tuesday, May 31

2016 TRIPS

- Exploring the Wines of Oregon’s Willamette Valley..... September 13-17, 2016 - SOLD OUT!
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Discover Center for Life Enrichment this season and join us in the pure fun and adventure of learning. We invite you to renew your membership or become a member. To learn more about membership benefits, please call us at 828-526-8811 or stop by our office located at 348 South Fifth Street, in the Peggy Crosby Center in Highlands.

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• INVESTING AT 4,118 FT. •

Real Estate Bargains Involve Knowledge

Your key to finding real estate bargains involves having knowledge of the market. Bargains are rare, truly few and far between, but every buyer would love to have one. The reality is that what seems to be a low price, may not truly be a bargain. What may appear to be a bargain could potentially be a money pit, or is priced low because it is not in a sellable location.

Although the Highlands area has had fewer foreclosures than most markets, some of the best bargains out there have foreclosure written all over them. One of the myths I have experienced in making offers on foreclosed properties is that it is rare for lenders to accept offers way below their asking prices. In most cases the lenders have already reduced their list prices far below market value when they are placed on the market. Also, the majority of lenders require proof of funds from the buyer when making the offer and usually allow only 10 days for all inspections.

The biggest problem with foreclosures is that they are in the lender’s hands and more often than not the lender is not looking after the property, at all. In cold winter climates this could mean frozen pipes and water damage. In general foreclosure prop-



Lynn Kimball
828-421-8193

erties are sold “as is” and the lender will be not putting money toward fixing anything. Air quality problems that may arise from mold, radon, gas leaks, will not be mitigated. Lead paint will not be replaced nor will asbestos be removed.

Another aspect to finding a bargain in the Highlands market is to have an experienced Realtor who will keep watching properties which have been on the market for a long period of

time where sellers are continually reducing their list price. Many sellers who are no longer able to enjoy their second homes may be simply ready to sell and often at bargain prices.

When looking for the “best buy,” it is important to understand that contracts contingent upon the sale of the buyer’s property, lengthy closing dates and owner financing with low down payments usually do not work. There are so many factors involved with buying a home and a bargain can often be achieved simply by offering cash or a quick closing.

If you have your heart set on a foreclosed or bargain property, contact an experienced Realtor® to get a sales history on the house. Doing your homework

• See **INVESTING** page 9

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...INVESTING continued from page 8

could result in a better outcome. Allow your Realtor® to do the legwork in determining if the property has the potential that meets with your financial requirements and the best location for your needs and/or potential resale value.

An experienced Realtor is your greatest resource for finding the best real estate bargain available at any given time. A Realtor® has access to the latest listings as well as to a database of contacts to locate the best bang for your buck in the market. A Realtor® can also help you decipher if a seeming bargain is truly a bargain.

• Lynn Kimball has over 42 years of real estate experience, with 31 years serving the Highlands Cashiers area. She has gained Emeritus Status with the National

Association of Realtors and previously served as a Director and 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. Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Meadows Mountain Realty has three locations, at 41 Church Street in the Old Edwards Inn complex, at 488 Main Street 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

Captain America Choir to Sing in Highlands

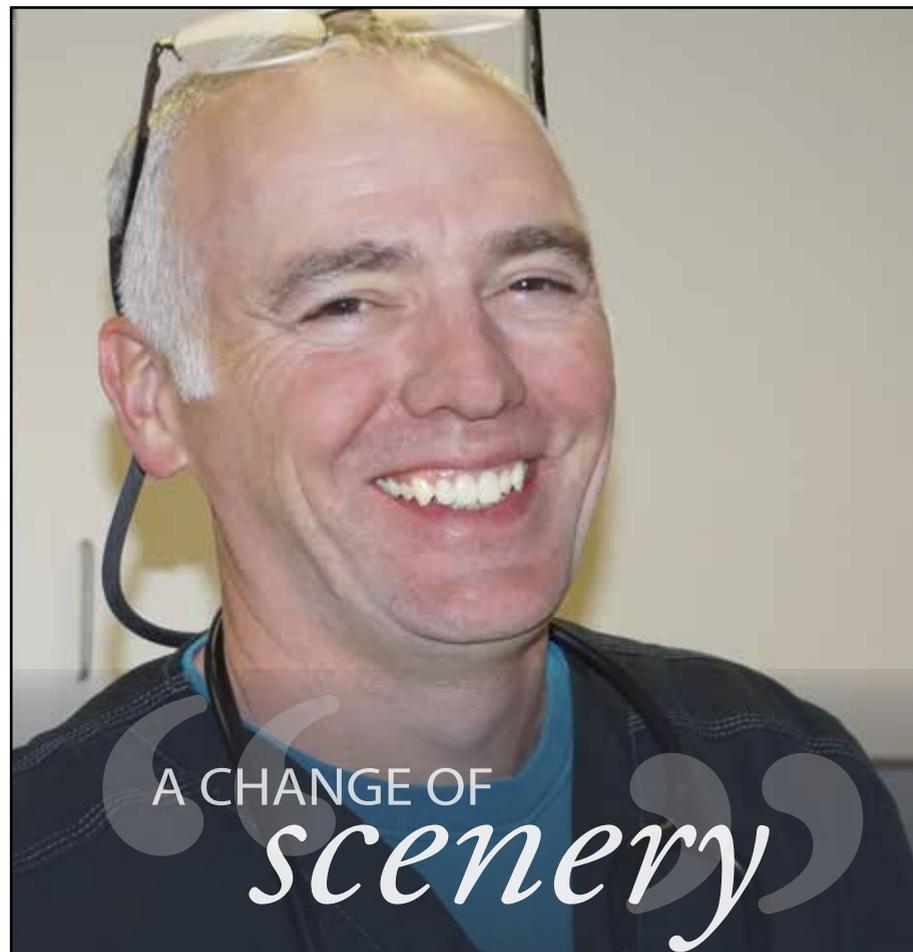
The Atlanta Boy Choir now being featured in one of the highest grossing films of all times will give a concert at the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation on Sunday Afternoon May 22 at 5 O'clock pm. This choir which was chosen by Walt Disney Productions for this film Captain America: Civil War will be heard throughout the world in this highly acclaimed motion picture.

directed by Maestro Fletcher Wolfe will include boys and men who sing throughout the world and each year come to The Church of the Incarnation preceding their international tour which this year will be to British Columbia.

Their longtime accompanist and mentored by Maestro Wolfe for most of his amazing concert career will be Dr. Robert Henry, organist and Choirmaster of

This year's performance in Highlands

• See **CHOIR** page 22



Greg Demonet discovered his love for exploring the natural world around him in Bryson City after taking a wilderness leadership course in his twenties. There, he built his foundation, and then moved to Colorado for a season, but he soon found himself back in the beautiful mountain town in North Carolina guiding people down the river, gliding on zip lines across the forests and biking or hiking the Great Smoky Mountains. Now a nurse at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital, Greg finds joy in guiding people on a journey of health and healing.

Becoming a nurse wasn't in Greg's plans, but his knack of caring for others revealed itself when he got his EMT certification to help care for people at the wilderness center. After nearly twenty years with the wilderness center, he decided it was time for a mid-life change. He took his EMT certification a few steps further, graduated from nursing school in July 2014 and landed a job one month later with Mission Health at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital.

The small community hospital has been the perfect place for Greg to transition and develop his skills from the wilderness to the emergency department. He recognized there was much he didn't know as a new nurse, and the supportive environment and kind staff have embraced his eagerness to learn and seek positive outcomes.

Greg loves that he can experience life in the beautiful region of Highlands and Cashiers, while maintaining the life he cherishes with his family in Bryson City, about an hour away. He knows that's possible because of resources like housing and online education that are available through Mission Health. Greg looks forward to growing in his practice by becoming a certified emergency nurse and earning his BSN.

From the rope courses to the emergency department at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital, Greg has thrived in the change of scenery, exploring new ways to empower others to pursue a life well-lived.

There's a place for you in the mountains.

Explore more stories like Greg's and learn how you can find yourself at Mission Health, at mission-health.org/OurNursingStory



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• HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

Ongoing

• Highlands Hurricanes Swim Team is open to all levels of swimmers ages 6-18. To sign up contact Coach Steve Hott at 828-421-2121.

Mondays

• Shortoff Baptist Church non-denominational Men's Meeting at 7 pm first Mondays.
• High Cardio Zumba Fitness with Certified Instructor Tiffany Austin at 5:25 p.m.

Mon. & Wed.

• Zumba with Mary K. Barbour at the Rec Park from noon to 1p. For more information, call 828.342.2498.

Mon., Wed., Fri.

• Heart Healthy Exercise Class 8:30am-

Winter Pool Schedule

Through May 26, 2016

LAP SWIM – ADULTS ONLY

Monday thru Friday

7 – 10 am, 6 lanes

AND Monday thru Thursday

5 – 6 pm, 1 or 2 lanes

Sharing pool with water aerobics @ 5:15 on

Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays

PUBLIC SWIM

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday
3 – 5 pm

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday

6 – 8 pm

Saturday 11 am – 6 pm

Sunday 1 – 5 pm

WATER AEROBICS

Monday-Friday

10:15 am

Monday - Thursday 5:15

(Sharing pool for public swim)

Saturday 11:15

(Sharing pool for public swim)

Fee: \$4 per class or

\$30 for 12 classes

POOL PARTIES

Pool available on

Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays

6 – 8 pm

Fee: \$75 / \$50 deposit required

\$50 non-refundable deposit if party is cancelled or a no show less than 2 days before

1st Wednesday of the month—

Kayak Clinic

2nd Wednesday of the month—

Youth Night

3rd Wednesday of the month—

Water Volleyball

4th Wednesday of the month—

Senior Night

6:00 – 7:30 pm

Call us about membership fees

9:30am at the Rec Park.

• Aerobics with Tina Rogers 8-9a.

First Tuesdays

• The monthly family support group for those with family members, friends, or loved ones living with the challenge of mental illness meets at 7 p.m. at Memorial United Methodist Church, 4668 Old Murphy Road, Franklin. For info call 828 369-7385.

Tuesdays

• The Humanist Discussion Group meets every Tuesday morning from 10:30-11:30a in the Meeting Room in the back of Hudson Library,

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

• The Beyond the Walls Book discussion group meets at 4 PM at The Ugly Dog Public

House. Each week a short story discussed.

2nd and 4th Tuesdays

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

Every 3rd Tuesday

• The Macon County Poultry club in Franklin meets at 7 pm at the Cooperative extension office on Thomas Heights Road. For more information call 369-3916.

Tuesday and Thursdays

• Zumba with Connie at the Rec Park 8:15 a.m. \$5.

• Pickle ball is played from 11:30a to 1p in the gym at the Rec Park.

Wednesdays

• 499ers at the Rec Park at 8:45 a.m. Be

seated by 8:30.

• Open Duplicate Bridge at 1 p.m. Be seated by 12:45 a.m.

1st Wednesdays

• Family Movies at the Hudson Library at 3:30pm. Call 828-526-3031 for titles.

3rd Wednesdays

• Recently released movies at Hudson Library at 2pm. Call 828-526-3031 for titles.

Thursdays

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

• Weight Watchers support group meets every Thursday at 5 pm at Christ Church of the Valley 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. as First United Methodist Church Out Reach Center on West Main Street beside Bryant's Funnel Home and across the street from the Lazy Hiker Brewery Call Donita for more info (828) 526-9510.

2nd Thursdays

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

3rd Thursdays

• Kidney Smart Classes in Franklin: from 4:30-6pm, Angel Medical Center, Video Conference Room, 3rd Floor, 120 Riverview Street, Contact Majestic 828-369-9474

• Kidney Smart Classes in Sylva: from, 7:30am-9am, DaVita Sylva Dialysis Center, 655 Asheville Highway, Contact Sue 828-631-0430

Fridays - Tuesdays

• Movies at The Highlands Playhouse, 3 and 7 p.m.

Fridays

• 199ers at the Rec Park at 9 a.m. Be seated by 8:45 a.m.

• Open Duplicate Bridge at 1p.m. Be seated by 12:45 a.m.

Every 3rd Friday

• Senior Dinners are at noon November through April.

Every 2nd Saturday

• A group that will meet every 2nd Saturday of the month at Highlands Hudson Library at 10am. Group will have speakers, videos, recipes, health tips, and more to educate people about any health issues. Group is a non-profit. Contact Kelly Woods 828-421-3520 or live4above@aol.com

Saturdays

• Zumba with Connie at the Rec Park at 10 a.m.. \$5.

• At The Bascom, Pottery Sale in the barn from 10a to 5p.

• Highlands Marketplace at K-H Park 8a to noon.

Sundays through May 29

• Change Your Money, Change your Life. Applying God's word to your money. This 9-week class will show you how to get rid

Butterfly Ambassadors



6th grade group shot.jpg: 6th grade teacher Joy Archer and her students in the Butterfly Garden at Highlands School. Photo by Ursula Long

Last week Mrs. Archer's 6th grade students at Highlands School potted butterfly host plants for the upcoming Mountain Garden Club Plant Sale on May 28.

"By doing this, students help create habitat for Monarchs and other butterflies," said Dr. Becky Schilling of the Mountain Garden Club. "It's a fun learning activity we've done for five years."

Students potted swamp milkweed (*Asclepias incarnata*), a highly desirable plant for Monarchs.

In the caterpillar stage, Monarchs eat only milkweed leaves, and swamp milkweed is a great addition to any sunny garden with moist soil. It usually grows 3-4' tall, has fragrant pink or white flowers that adult butterflies love for nectar, and is not invasive.

This year students also potted parsley and rue (*Ruta graveolens*), favorite lunch items for Swallowtail butterfly caterpillars.

Find these and other great plants for butterfly gardens at the 34th annual Mountain Garden Club Plant Sale, May 28, 9 a.m. to noon, at the baseball park on Highway 64 E, Corner of N 4th & Hickory. See you there!

• HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

of debt, manage your money, spend and save wisely and more. 3pm-5pm at the Highlands Rec. Park. To sign up go to: www.daveramsey.com/fpu/classes/1017675. For more information contact Emily Chastain at [\(828\) 200-6277](mailto:eh.chastain86@gmail.com)

Sat., May 14

• Rabies Clinic at Highlands Conference Center 9-10:30 am with Highlands Cashiers Animal Clinic for cats, dogs 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. Call 349-2490 for any questions.

Sat., May 14

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a very strenuous 11-mile hike, elevation gain 3000 ft, to Black Rock—Pinnacle Loop near Sylva with spectacular views and wildflowers. Meet at Dillsboro Huddle House at 8 a.m., drive 10 miles round trip. Call leader Don O'Neal, 586-5723, for reservations. Able visitors welcome, no dogs.

Wed., May 18

• At Wolfgang's Restaurant & Bistro, a 5-course dinner & wine starting at 7 p.m. \$125 per person. Featuring Venge Vineyards. Reserve seating. 526-3807.

Thurs.-Sun., May 19-21

• At The Bascom, Collective Spirits.

Thurs., May 19-Sun., May 22

• HCP presents "The Game's Afoot, 7:30 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. Sunday matinee. Call 526-8084 for tickets.

Sat., May 21

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take moderate-to-strenuous 5-mile hike to Windy Falls on the Horse Pasture River. Trail begins in Gorges State Park with an elevation change of 700 ft. The rarely visited waterfall has several drops, rock outcrops, and small cave nearby. Meet at Cashiers Rec Park at 10 am, drive 40 miles round trip. Call leader Mike Kettles, 743-1079, for reservations. Visitors welcome, no dogs please.

• Craft Fair and Auto Show at the Memorial United Methodist Church at 4668 Old Murphy Road in Franklin. 10a to 2p. Profits from food and the bake sale will go to fund Cartoogechaye Christian Fellowship community projects. Artists and crafters and antique auto enthusiasts who want to participate should call 828-369-5834. No booth fees. Crafters and artists keep 100% of profits.

Thurs., May 19-Sun., May 22

• HCP presents "The Game's Afoot, 7:30 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. Sunday matinee. Call 526-8084 for tickets.

Sat., May 28

• "Run for the Park 5K begins at 9 a.m. For more information, call Ski Taylor at 526-4280, or email stmas4280@gmail.com. Proceeds go to the K-H Founders Park and local athletic scholarships.

• Mountain Garden Club Plant Sale at the ballfield 9a to noon.

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate 6-mile hike, elevation change 600 ft, to Park Creek – Park Ridge, along the Nantahala River and up Park Creek to the Connector trail to Park Ridge with one stream crossing requiring a hiking stick. Azaleas may be blooming. Meet at Westgate Plaza in Franklin at 9 a.m., drive 35 miles round trip. Call leader Mary Stone, 369-7352, for reservations. Visitors welcome, no dogs please.

Tues., May 31

• Village Nature Lecture Series. Dig deeper and learn more about our natural and cultural heritage at these free family friendly programs, at The Village Green Commons in Cashiers. Programs begin at 5:30 PM, rain or shine. No reservations required. Masters of the Sky- Meet the Raptors and Discover What Makes Them Unique with Michael Skinner.

Sun., June 5

• At the Episcopal Church, "Inquirers Class.." Adults 9-10 a.m. and youth following the 10:30 a.m. service.

Mon., June 6

• The Plateau Fly Fishing Club will meet at the Albert Carlton-Cashiers Library in Cashiers, NC at 6 p.m. After the presentation a raffle will be held

Thurs.-Sun., June 9-12

• At K-H Founders Park, Highlands Motoring Festival.

Sat. & Sun., June 18 & 19:

• Highlands Village Square Art & Craft Show. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. New location at Highlands (Bryson's) Plaza on Hwy. 106. Regional art & crafts, live music. Sponsored by Macon County Art Assn. FREE! For info call (828) 787-2021.

Sat., June 18

• At HUMC, tea and crumpets with Mary Kay Andrews, shares the story from her latest book, "The Weekenders." She is known for her mysteries, as well as her novels. This fun-filled afternoon is a fund-raiser for the Highlands United Methodist Church's new Faith & Fellowship Center. Tickets are \$20. Call 828-526-3376 or 828-526-2746.

• At CLE, POLITICAL ECONOMY OF GLOBAL MARKETS 10a to noon.

Tues., June 21

• Guided adventures led by experts in their field. Reservations required. \$35 donation for new friends includes the guided hike, lunch on the trail and a one year membership to HCLT, \$10 for HCLT members. Contact Julie at julie.hitrust@earthlink.net or 526-1111. Balsam Mountain Preserve Expedition- Our visit will include a hike through the renowned landscape that some call a living laboratory for scientific research and exploration as well as a visit to their on-site nature center to meet the wildlife that reside there.

Wed., June 22

• At CLE, BEES, PLEASE: Native Bee Diversity in Your Garden and Beyond, 2-4 p.m.

Thurs., June 23

• At CLE, HIGHLIGHTS OF NC MUSEUM OF ART. 10a to noon.

Sun., June 25

• The LIFE-Saving ministry is having its 4th Annual Bloemsma Barn Event. Mountain Faith Band from Sylva will be performing in Franklin's 1st ever Amphitheater Style Concert. They were Semifinalists on America's Got Talent this past season. Smoky Mountain Pregnancy Care Center has two free medical clinics serving WNC and upper NE GA.

Tues., June 28

• Village Nature Series. Dig deeper and learn more about our natural and cultural heritage at these free family friendly programs, the final Tuesday of the month from May through September at The Village Green Commons in

Cashiers. Programs begin at 5:30 PM, rain or shine. No reservations required, everyone welcome. If Fossils Could Talk- Discover the History of the Earth Through Fossils and Local Geology with Dr. Frank Forcino.

Tues., July 5

• Guided adventures led by experts in their field. Reservations required. \$35 donation for new friends includes the guided hike, lunch on the trail and a one year membership to HCLT, \$10 for HCLT members. Contact Julie at julie.hitrust@earthlink.net or 526-1111. A Walk through Time- Sargent to Sunset- Visit the historic Sargent property, HCLT's first conservation easement and home to a number of rare plants then trek up to Sunset Rock, one of HCLT's oldest owned properties.

Village Nature Series begins with raptors, Tues., May 31



Michael Skinner of the Balsam Mountain Trust with an eagle.

Have you ever watched a bird make graceful circles high in the sky and thought, "if only I could do that?" Chances are you were admiring the effortless flight of true masters of the sky, the group of agile and powerful avian hunters known as raptors.

These magnificent birds will be featured at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 31 at The Village Green Commons in Cashiers as part of the Village Nature Series (VNS). "Raptor" is not a scientific classification but a catchall term used to refer to eagles, hawks, falcons, kites and owls. Michael Skinner, of the Balsam Mountain Trust, will bring his feathered ambassadors from Balsam Mountain Trust that can no longer effectively hunt and therefore cannot live in the wild. Their range of injuries are numerous but usually are the result of accidents.

The Trust rehabilitates them and once they are acclimated to their surroundings and handlers they are utilized for educational programs like the Village Nature Series. Skinner observes, "I have a distinct honor and privilege to be able to work with these magnificent birds and provide opportunities for the public to get up close and personal with species most people only see from a distance."

The Village Nature Series is sponsored by the Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust and The Village Green as part of their shared mission to protect and preserve the land and natural resources. The monthly presentations provide educational opportunities to learn about distinctive features of the area as well as offer cultural enrichment for residents and visitors to the Highlands-Cashiers community.

The programs are the last Tuesday of each month from May through September at The Village Green Commons on Frank Allen Road near the Cashiers post office. Save the date for these other free VNS programs: June 28 If Fossils Could Talk - Discover the History of the Earth through Fossils and Local Geology; July 26 Go Green with Moss - Exploring the Green Advantages of Mosses in Sustainable Landscapes and Traditional Gardens; August 30 Mother Nature's Secret Garden- Gleaning and Cooking From a Harvest You Didn't Plant; September 27 TBD.

WELCOME BACK DR. FARROW

*“I’ve always felt this is where
I was supposed to be.”*

Every time Julie Farrow, MD, visited the Highlands and Cashiers communities she always left with a heavy heart knowing that this beautiful mountain treasure was where she believed she was supposed to be.

Throughout her career as a physician, Dr. Farrow has had the honor of helping her patients improve their health and return them back to the active lives they love and missed. Hearing their stories each day always reminded Dr. Farrow of her love for the Highlands and Cashiers communities and her desire to return to the area to do what she loves most as a doctor in a place that holds a special place in her heart.

Returning as a permanent member of the community, Dr. Farrow has joined Mission Community Primary Care – Highlands. In addition to seeing new patients and offering exceptional gynecologic care to women in the community, Dr. Farrow enjoys spending time with her dog, Lily, traveling down to her garden to pick fresh veggies, reconnecting with the people of Highlands and Cashiers and basking in the beauty of her surroundings.

To make an appointment with Dr. Farrow or to speak with Mission Community Primary Care – Highlands, call (828) 526-5045



...HB2 continued from page 1

the governor doesn't promise not to attempt to uphold HB2.

That threat, which potentially endangers tens of millions in federal dollars for schools, drew a mixed reaction from politicians and activists across the state, including in Western North Carolina.

GOP noncommittal defiance

Rep. Chris Whitmire, R-Transylvania, who was among HB2's co-sponsors, supports a defiant stance taken by House Speaker Tim Moore, R-Cleveland.

"The letters serve to give notice that President Obama intends to sue the State of North Carolina unless we yield to his views," Moore said in a statement. "They are not court decrees or automatic declarations of law and the issues raised in his letters are far from being decided. President Obama's interpretation of Title VII and Title IX would radically change all universally accepted protections of privacy and safety that are based on the anatomical differences between the sexes."

Governor McCrory's remarks were similarly defiant.

"The Obama administration has not only staked out its position for North Carolina, but for all states, universities and most employers in the U.S.," the governor said in a statement. "The right and expectation of privacy in one of the most private areas in our personal lives is now in jeopardy."

Over the weekend, Governor McCrory and NC's secretary of public safety sued the federal government for its "radical reinterpretation" of federal civil rights law in federal district court in North Carolina.

The law, which went into effect in March, requires transgender people to use public bathrooms corresponding to the sex on their birth certificate.

Macon County Commission Chair Kevin Corbin said he is not aware of a single problem that has arisen by folks being confused or discriminated against for choosing a certain restroom or bathroom facility.

"The action taken by the Charlotte City Council [from which this stems] appears unnecessary to me. When they passed that action, the legislature simply reacted by clarifying that you should choose the restroom of your birth sex. I don't think that is unreasonable," he said. "Also, the NC action only applies to public buildings, schools, rest areas; it does not impact private business."

NC Attorney General Roy Cooper, who is challenging McCrory's bid for reelection in November, said he would not defend the state in this matter.

Cooper issued a statement calling for the governor and legislators to back down.

"Enough is enough," Cooper said. "It's time for the Governor to put our schools and economy first and work to repeal this devastating law."

However, U.S. Representative Mark Meadows said the federal government is being a bully because other states have similar laws.

Corbin said the action from the Department of Justice is purely political.

Monday morning numerous national companies said they would not do business in North Carolina if House Bill HB2 isn't repealed and economic experts say this will have a trickle down effect which will damage Mom and Pop businesses across the state.

Corbin disagrees.

"In the end, I do not believe this will impact federal funding at all. In addition, NC has the 9th largest economy in the US and has had the fastest growing economy in the USA. Those on the far left have tried to make this a sexual discrimination issue and it does not appear that way to me. I have not heard anyone involved in this indicate that they were for discrimination of any kind," he said.

Meanwhile, Democrats had strong ideas, very different from Republican leaders, about what the state's next steps ought to be.

Democrats react

Sen. Terry Van Duyn, D-Buncombe, said undoing what she sees as harm from HB2 will take action from North Carolina leaders and not just federal intervention.

"Although I am grateful for this first step by the Department of Justice, it will not fix the most serious problems created by HB2," Van Duyn said.

"North Carolina's reputation as a wonderful place to live and work will not be restored until we repeal the entire law. The Legislature created this mess, and they need to fix it by saying, once and for all, that North Carolina does not discriminate. We are open for business to all. We can disagree and still treat each other with respect."

Van Duyn also noted that the federal move shouldn't have come as a surprise to state lawmakers. "The question of the potential loss of federal education funding came up during the special session debate and was dismissed," she said.

Rep. John Ager, D-Buncombe, said the state could face a costly legal morass if it tries to fight the federal government.

"I voted against HB2 and believe that a full repeal is necessary to end the furor over this ill-conceived bill," Ager said.

...HB2 continued from page 12

"If the Department of Justice determination provides an avenue for repeal, then it will prove to have been a timely and effective remedy. If on the other hand, it creates an expensive legal battle, North Carolina will pay dearly in dollars and loss of jobs for months and years to come."

Also concerned about the economic impact of continued boycotts is Rep. Brian Turner, D-Buncombe.

"HB2 has already cost Buncombe County 500 jobs and millions of dollars in tourism revenue," said Turner. "Now the leadership in Raleigh's refusal to repeal this discriminatory bill will cost North Carolina public schools hundreds of millions of dollars. North Carolina can't afford this."

Macon County Schools Superintendent Dr. Chris Baldwin said the Macon County School system is cautiously monitoring the news coming from Raleigh and Washington D.C.

"We are confident that this issue will eventually be worked out and our students will receive the full federal allotment for their education," he said.

During the current school year, state public schools received \$861 million. In 2014-2015, the University of North Carolina system got \$1.4 billion.

The Rev. Jasmine Beach-Ferrara, an Asheville Democrat serving on the Buncombe County Board of Commissioners and as executive director of the Campaign

for Southern Equality, also applauded the federal move.

"This letter from the Department of Justice confirms what was clear from the start, HB2 is discriminatory and unconstitutional. We continue to call for the immediate repeal of HB2. We also call for the North Carolina General Assembly to pass full legal protections for the LGBT North Carolinians," he said.

HB2 was passed in an acrimonious special session, which saw Democrats walk out of the Senate rather than participate in the final vote.

Eleven Democrats in the House joined with most Republicans in supporting the bill, supposedly due to concerns that a Charlotte ordinance could have put young girls at risk from sexual predators who would falsely claim to be transgender in order to hang around women's restrooms.

Since its passage, some of those lawmakers have expressed regret, especially as provisions in HB2 that stripped away other anti-discrimination protections under state law have come to light.

In addition, though one thing has little to do with the other, the transgender bill also allows the state to have control over minimum wage rates, meaning local governments can't set their own.

The portion of the bill doesn't change

• See HB2 page 22

Sign up now for HHS's free Kelsey Kids Camp June 13-17



Pictured above are children who have enjoyed the "history lesson" associated with Kelsey Kids. The week-long camp is for youth ages 8-11 years and it's free! It includes field trips, delicious meals and a real taste of the way early Highlanders used to live. This year's camp is from June 13 to 17. All applications can be filled out from the hcc website or can be picked up at Highlands Historical Society on Friday and Saturday from 10a to 4p.

Bryson's

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Wine Tastings with food pairings prepared by Mike Thompson with recipes every Friday!

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

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- Smells & Odors
- Loss of Storage Space
- Radon Gas
- Rising Energy Costs

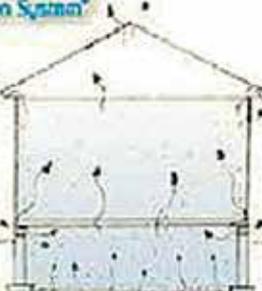


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The earth in your dirt crawl space is the major source of moisture in your home! This moisture is carried up into your house from the natural upward air flow created from rising heat. CleanSpace® is the answer.

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• BIZ/ORG NEWS •

Rotary Golf Tourney Winners



On Monday, May 2, the Rotary Club of Highlands played its 27th golf tournament, this year at Highlands Country Club. All the money raised by the tournament entrance fees and the silent and live auction helps fund Rotary Club of Highlands projects. Pictured from left are Dabs Potts, Butch Waller, Donnie Calloway and Ronnie Waller.

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BUSINESS / ORGANIZATION NEWS



Front from left: English Teacher and Advisor Cathy McIntyre-Ross, Carter Potts, Jesus Damian Clemente, Karla Barranco, Trinity Dendy, and Highlands School Counselor Nicole Lui; Middle row from left: Chance Gilbert, Alexis Healey, Abby Olvera, Tristan Castro, Blakely Moore, Montana McElroy, Hayley Hawkins, Rotarian and Interact Advisory Cynthia Dendy; Back Row from left: Rotarian Chris Wilkes, Sawyer Wofford, Drew Chalker, Max Renfro, and Remy Adrian.

Highlands School Interact Club takes over Highlands Rotary meeting

Rotary Club of Highlands members were greeted by a fleet of students from Highlands School when the Interact Club took over the April 26 meeting. Interact President Carter Potts took over Rotary President Christy Kelly's duties; Sawyer Wofford took on Robin Phillips' Sergeant at Arms duties; Blakely Moore gave the devotional and 16 Interact members attended the meeting and reported on the following Interact projects:

- Distribution of dictionaries to all Highlands School third graders

- Allocation of Halloween candy to merchants and distribution of books from the Literacy Council during the Halloween trick or treat celebration (300 books were given out in less than one hour!)

- Purchase of and delivery of playground supplies, including soccer balls, jump ropes, chalk and checkerboards to all of the Elementary school classrooms

- Administration of the "Christmas Cards to Soldiers" project that successfully recruited K-12 students to write more than 400 cards to our active service members

- Preparation and mailing Alumni Care packages to former Highlands Interact School

students who are now attending college. Contents included chocolates from Kilwins.

- Acknowledging the dedicated work done by Highlands' school bus drivers, cafeteria staff and janitors by providing \$20 Christmas checks

• See INTERACT page 21

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

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4144 Cashiers Road, Highlands, NC 28741



Introducing our "Inquirers Classes"

Have you wanted to know more about the Episcopal Church, its traditions and doctrines?

•

Are you interested in being confirmed as a member of the Episcopal Church or in reaffirming your confirmation?

•

Have you wanted to be received by the Bishop during the confirmation and reception service?

**Inquirers Classes begin
Sunday, June 5
at Church of the Incarnation**

**Adult classes will be held from
9-10 am**

**Youth classes will follow the
10:30 am service.**

**For more information or to sign up,
call 828-526-2968 or email
incarnation@incarnationwnc.org.**

• TOWN OF HIGHLANDS JOB ANNOUNCEMENT • FINANCE DIRECTOR – Grade 31 – Salary Pay Range: \$55,790 - \$83,685

The Town of Highlands is accepting applications for the position of Finance Director. This position performs professional and supervisory work in planning, organizing, and executing the accounting functions for the Town of Highlands government, annual budget of approximately 13 million dollars. The Finance Director is responsible for interpretation of local, state, and federal policies, statutes, and procedures and insures overall compliance, adherence, and accuracy in all financial activities.

- Must have a thorough knowledge of North Carolina General Statutes and of local ordinances governing municipal financial practices and procedures.

- Knowledge of paraprofessional GASB and GAP protocols of accounting principles and practices.

- Assists the auditor during the annual audit of Town financial records; follows up on findings to improve financial systems.

- Directs and supervises the Town's utility billing system and reconciles the customer deposit balance to the General Ledger after each monthly final billing cycle.

- Serves as a town liaison to the Macon and Jackson County Tax Departments and DMV for billing and collection regarding town taxes.

- Accounts for and manages receipt of Town revenues and makes deposits appropriately. Insures proper insurance coverage for all Town properties and equipment.

- Reconciles monthly receivable and reserve accounts, completes state required cash reports and prepares and makes daily deposits in the absence of the Administrative Assistant.

- Files annual NC Sales Tax refund requests.

- Manages and is responsible for bank accounts and enters all cash and billing transactions into computer system, as well as performs reconciliation of bank accounts.

- Oversees the processing invoices and weekly Accounts Payable checks and maintains all Accounts Payable records.

- As Finance Administrator, ensures the maintenance of a central double entry journal accounting system; prepares monthly financial statements and monitors budget; amends the budget in accordance with the Town's budget ordinance.

- Must be able to evaluate financial systems, formulate and install accounting methods, procedures, forms, and records.

- Must be able to apply information technology and office technology systems to an ongoing maintenance of official town financial documents.

- Responsible for finance procedures and policies for all town purchasing transactions.

- Considerable knowledge of the principles, practices and operation of automated financial systems and their use in a municipal environment.

- Must apply knowledge of the principles and practices of public finance administration, including principles and practices of municipal accounting and investments.

- Must be able to make budget projections by applying relevant data to appropriate computer programs. Oversees the Town's, purchasing, and budgeting policies and procedures.

- Responsible for maintaining a general accounting systems including software for the town. Responsible for maintaining financial records for each town department.

- Responsible for maintaining separate accounts for items of appropriation in the budget.

- Reviews and monitors ongoing administration of the budget, including monitoring revenues and expenditures. Must be able to interact with a wide range of contacts with courtesy and patience.

- Administers cash investments in concert with town manager.

- Advises the Town Manager on fiscal issues including assisting the town manager in developing the annual town budget.

- Work is performed under the supervision of the Town Manager. FLSA Status: Exempt – Executive

Qualifications

- Position requires a bachelor degree preferably in accounting, finance or business administration plus two to five years of experience in a financial institution cashier or accounts receivable function, or an equivalent combination of work experience and education. Experience in North Carolina governmental budget, finance and accounting procedures required. Additional education may substitute for some experience. Expectation is for the finance director to hold, or will hold, North Carolina Finance Certification within a year to 18 months.

- Salary will be commensurate with experience and qualifications. The Town of Highlands provides a competitive benefits package, which includes participation in NC Government Employees Retirement System membership and benefits in health, dental, life, vision, long term disability insurance; optional life and auxiliary coverages; 401K and 457 deferred compensation plans; paid holidays; and annual and sick leave. This is an exempt position. The successful applicant is subject to a criminal background check, a pre-employment drug screening and passing a physical examination.

Applications are available at Town Hall or downloaded from the Town's website at www.highlandsc.org under Employment. Resumes may be submitted in addition to applications. All completed and signed employment applications may be submitted in person to Sonjia Gibson, HR Director, at the Town Hall, 210 N. Fourth Street, Highlands, NC, by email to sonjia.gibson@highlandsc.org, by fax to 828-526-2595 or by U.S. Mail to the attention of Sonjia Gibson, HR Director, at PO Box 460, Highlands, NC 28741. This position has a closing date of May 19, 2016, and applications will be reviewed as received. Only candidates selected for an interview will be contacted. The Town of Highlands is an Equal Opportunity/Drug-Free Employer.

5/12/2016

• TOWN OF HIGHLANDS JOB ANNOUNCEMENT •

BROADBAND TECHNICIAN I – Grade: 20 – Salary Range: \$32,552.00 - \$48,817.60

The Town of Highlands is accepting applications for the position of Broadband Technician I. This position is responsible for performing specialized technical duties in the repair, maintenance and installation of the town's broadband network. This position reports to the Lead Broadband Field Technician.

MAJOR DUTIES:

- Performs installation of Fixed Wireless antenna at customer premise, completes in-premise cabling, installs router. This includes cabling in crawl spaces, fishing walls, placing cut-in box in customer walls, and all other duties related to customer install.
- Aids in construction, splicing, installation of ONT units at customer's homes and places of business.
- Performs installation of transmitters on new tower sites, including cabling and positioning of transmitters, setup of enclosures for transmitting equipment.
- Aids in construction, splicing, and distribution changes of the OSP fiber optic cables.
- Performs tower climbs to install and maintain tower and tank-based fixed wireless transmitters.
- Assures network is functioning properly before leaving customer site.
- Assists in maintaining inventory and notifies appropriate personnel when OSP materials need to be ordered.
- Attends safety and OSHA compliance meetings; attends training sessions as required.
- Will be trained to complete fusion splices of fiber optic drop, mounts splice closures and ONT's or fixed wireless customer premise equipment, installs routers, Wi-Fi equipment, set top boxes, ATA's and other devices in customer's homes and businesses as necessary to provide all services, current and future, that Town of Highlands may offer.
- Installs cabling, (fiber, COAX, CAT5), and other data / communications cables as required by the service / trouble ticket orders or as assigned by the supervisor.
- Provides customer education on all services and equipment that Town of Highlands offers during the time of installation or during service calls.
- Performs other OSP functions as directed by the OSP Operations Supervisor.
- Responds to emergency and non-emergency repair calls regarding all aspects of the town's broadband network.
- This position will be subject to call outs to meet service requirements and stand on call duty. Weekend and holiday work may be required as service demands dictate.
- Performs other related duties as assigned.

KNOWLEDGE REQUIRED BY THE POSITION:

- Knowledge of the standards, materials, techniques and equipment used in the installation, maintenance, and repair of OSP fiber optic equipment.
- Knowledge of PON networks and fiber optic transmission.
- Knowledge of fixed wireless equipment, transmission and frequencies.
- Knowledge of department and town policies and procedures and relevant federal, state, and local laws and regulations.
- Skill in the operation of specialized maintenance, test and fusion splicing equipment.
- Skill in operating specialized test equipment and ability to interpret test results. Knowledge in taking and understanding loss measurements. Documents all splicing information and provides to appropriate town personnel.
- Skill in oral and written communication.
- Skill in working with the public, both at customer's homes and in large corporate settings.
- Skill in reading and interpreting engineering drawings for fiber optic and fixed wireless networks.

SUPERVISORY CONTROLS: The Lead Broadband Technician assigns work in terms of general instructions. The supervisor spot-checks completed work for compliance with procedures, accuracy, and the nature and propriety of the final results.

GUIDELINES: Guidelines include department standard operating procedures, state and local laws, town, state, and federal laws, and regulations. Understands fiber optic construction, fixed wireless construction and maintenance procedures as well as PON network installation. These guidelines are generally clear and specific, but may require some interpretation in application.

COMPLEXITY: The work consists of related technical duties and is considered complex. Fiber optic construction and splicing can be complex and skills should be kept up to date. Fixed wireless speeds change with many factors, including tree growth, and other obstructions. Skills to troubleshoot these issues are critical. This position is considered an entry level position.

SCOPE AND EFFECT: The purpose of this position is to perform specialized technical duties in the repair, maintenance, construction and splicing of the town's fiber optic network, installation of the PON equipment and services as it relates to OSP as well as the town's fixed wireless infrastructure. Successful performance results in a highly reliable broadband communication network for employees and citizens.

PERSONAL CONTACTS: Contacts are typically with co-workers, other town employees, vendors, contractors, and the general public.

PURPOSE OF CONTACTS: Contacts are typically to give or exchange information, resolve problems, provide services and install services and equipment for the public, both at their homes and businesses.

PHYSICAL DEMANDS: The work is typically performed while intermittently sitting, standing, stooping, bending, crouching, crawling, climbing or walking. The employee frequently lifts light and heavy objects, climbs ladders and towers, uses tools or equipment requiring a high degree of dexterity, and must distinguish between shades of color. This position requires work on both aerial and buried facilities. Hand digging to install or repair buried cables or replace vaults will be required.

WORK ENVIRONMENT: The work is typically performed outdoors, possibly in cold or inclement weather but indoor work will also be required. The employee may be exposed to noise, dust, dirt, grease, irritating chemicals or other substances. Installation of the network services will require working from heights, both ladders, bucket trucks and towers, and in confined spaces such as in crawl spaces under homes, businesses as well as attic spaces or small equipment rooms / closets. Splicing fiber optic cable may be performed in a confined splice trailer or other space. The work will often be performed near busy town, state or federal streets and highways. The work requires the use of protective devices such as masks, goggles, and gloves.

SUPERVISORY AND MANAGEMENT RESPONSIBILITY: None.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

Ability to read, write and perform mathematical calculations at a level commonly associated with the completion of high school or equivalent.

Sufficient experience to understand the basic principles relevant to the major duties of the position usually associated with the completion of an apprenticeship/internship or having had a similar position for one to two years.

Possession of or ability to readily obtain a valid driver's license issued by the State of North Carolina for the type of vehicle or equipment operated

Ability to work comfortably and effectively with the public is a must.

FLSA STATUS: Non-Exempt (eligible for overtime or equivalent compensatory time at 1 1/2 times the employee's regular weekly rate).

Salary will be commensurate with experience and qualifications. The Town of Highlands provides a competitive benefits package, which includes participation in NC Government Employees Retirement System membership and benefits in health, dental, life, vision, long term disability insurance; optional life and auxiliary coverages; 401K and 457 deferred compensation plans; paid holidays; and annual and sick leave. The successful applicant is subject to a criminal background check, a pre-employment drug screening and passing a physical examination.

Applications are available at Town Hall or downloaded from the Town's website at www.highlandsc.org under Employment. Resumes may be submitted in addition to applications. All completed and signed employment applications may be submitted in person to Sonjia Gibson, HR Director, at the Town Hall, 210 N. Fourth Street, Highlands, NC, by email to sonjia.gibson@highlandsc.org, by fax to 828-526-2595 or by U.S. Mail to the attention of Sonjia Gibson, HR Director, at PO Box 460, Highlands, NC 28741. This position has a closing date of May 20, 2016 and applications will be reviewed as received. Only candidates selected for an interview will be contacted. The Town of Highlands is an Equal Opportunity/Drug-Free Employer.

– May 12, 2016

• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

Power to fulfill Jesus' heart-cry



The Rev'd Jim Murphy,
Christ Anglican
Church

I'd like to begin by making a confession: pastors and ministers in the institutional church have, historically and generally, done an inadequate job in regards to explaining Pentecost and the Holy Spirit. It's a sensitive subject that many do not understand and are at least a little bit afraid of speaking about in a definitive sense. I admit to avoiding discussions on the Spirit from time to time so as to steer clear of reactionary angst. No more. The world is crumbling around us. It's time for Christians to rise up and activate the Spirit within us. Like an untapped and limitless artesian well, there is an infinite supply of power and grace within the life of all who believe to bring salvation, healing and peace to the world.

On the night before Jesus gave his life for us, he prayed for all those who would eventually receive him as Lord and Savior, for people who desire real, eternal life. In part the Son of God prayed, "I do not pray for these (the disciples) alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; that all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent me. And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one: I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me." (John 17:20-23, NKJV)

Prior to that portion of his prayer but on the same evening, Jesus told his followers that he was preparing to leave them and go to the Father. However, God would not leave them (us) as helpless orphans. His heavenly Father would send his Holy Spirit, who was with them in Jesus, to then be in them by the Spirit of Truth. (cf. John 14) Almighty God fulfilled that promise on Pentecost as he poured out his Spirit, baptizing and anointing his disciples, outside in and inside out. The limitless supply of power and grace, of God's power and grace, was now in Christian believers. Salvation, healing and peace was now a possibility.

The cry of Jesus' heart, to which he gave voice on the night before his death, was made available to every believer. God's presence in the world had, if you will, morphed from Emmanuel, God with us, to the Holy Spirit, God in us. We can now be one—Christ in us and we in

• See SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING page 19

Proverbs 3:5

• PLACES TO WORSHIP •

John 3:16

BLUEVALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH

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

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

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

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

BUCK CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

828-269-3546 • Rev. Jamie Passmore, Pastor

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

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

8:30 a.m. 1928 Prayer Book Service (no music); 9:30a

Sunday School; 10:30a Worship Service w/ Music

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: 7p.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 Rite I, (chapel) 8 a.m.

Education for Adults, 9 a.m.

Holy Eucharist Rite II, (nave) 10:30 a.m.

Thursday

Healing services (chapel) 10 a.m.

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: 8:30a and 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

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, 6p.

Wednesday: Bible Study, 6:30p; Prayer Mtg., 7:30p.

HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Pastor Paul Christy 526-3376

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

Wed: Supper: 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

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.

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

...EXPAND continued from 1

For almost a quarter of a century Mountain Findings has been the go-to thrift store in the area – a place Hill says has been green long before green was in vogue,

“It is so rewarding to know that we can accept these items, and recycle them back to a loving home,” said Hill.

The store is operated by volunteers so all the money raised through sales goes to scores of nonprofits in the area. Throughout its lifetime Mountain Findings has given back hundreds of thousands of dollars to the community.

The half-acre vacant lot is zoned B4 which is light commercial and requires one parking space per 1,000 sq. ft.

It's not in the 100-year flood plain but there is a 25-ft. required buffer from the creek that runs along the property to the east and plans include augmenting the current buffer.

The structure will be a Morton Building whose exterior will be Hardi-Plank painted a light shade of gray to match the adjacent building and the metal roof will match the color of the roof on the Mountain Findings building as close as possible.

Customers will enter through double doors facing Spruce Street and furniture will be loaded and unloaded from the back loading dock.

The driveway will circle the building in a U shape entering and exiting on Spruce.

Though not an enthusiastic unanimous vote, the project did get the OK – the board had little to say about the project.

Hill will seek a special use permit from the Zoning Board at its meeting tonight, Wednesday, May 11 at 5:30 in the Community Building next to the ballfield.

– Kim Lewicki

Whole Life Market
Natural Products Store

Carrying a wide variety of natural products for your Mind, Body & Home.

NECTAR Juice Bar

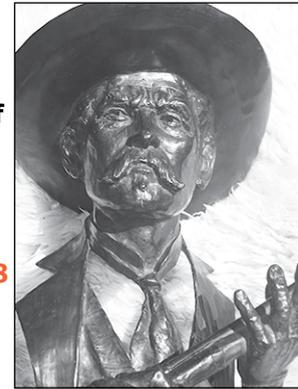
Organic Fresh Juices & Smoothies and Salads “On the Go!”

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Located at 680 N. 4th. St., Highlands
Open Mon-Sat 10a to 5p

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Objects d'art and Estate Consignments
Open Everyday!

On the corner of 3rd & Spring

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526-4818



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5,000 copies distributed each Thursday in Sapphire, Lake Glenville, Cashiers, Highlands, Scaly Mountain, Sky Valley, GA, Dillard, GA, Otto and Franklin.

The PDF version is uploaded to www.highlandsinfo.com each Thursday AM with 4,000-6,000 PDF downloads.

Email for advertising information: highlandseditor@aol.com

Highlands Marketplace is a Saturday affair



Home grown vegetables, fruits and flowers, baked goods and more are offered up every Saturday from 8a to noon at Kelsey-Hutchinson Founders Park on Pine Street.

...SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING continued from page 19

him and all in the Father. This, my friends, is the core Truth of Pentecost. God in us to effect his plan of salvation, healing and peace to all who would receive him.

That's the reality of Pentecost. It's also the potential of Pentecost. The visceral and spiritual unity for which Jesus prayed is within the souls of all Christian believers. God's infinite power is available 24/7. Yet too often, he remains just that, within and available. The power and gifts of the Holy Spirit remain unactuated, like that proverbial untapped artesian well. Consequently, the world crumbles around us as the Church of Jesus Christ, the Body of believers, hold the Spirit within. May that not be so any longer!

Our Savior's prayer was not only for the unity of believers in his day but more for "...those who will believe in me through their word." The Spirit has the power to engender belief and he is within us. Through our word (the Word) and his presence in us, unity along with salvation, healing and peace in the world is a true possibility. Church, let us unleash that potential for the sake of his kingdom.



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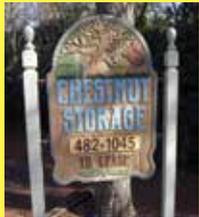
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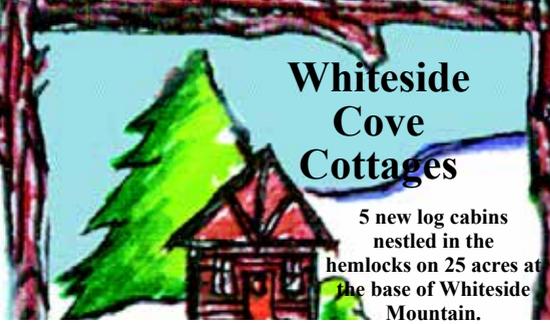
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• BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NEWS •

...INTERACT continued from page 15

- Shop with a Cop – Interact students assisted with helping deserving children shop for themselves and family members with funds (\$100 for each child) donated to the program.

- Angel Tree – children and families identified by the Emergency Council were “adopted” and helped by the Interact Club at Christmas with the purchase of clothing and toys

- Distribution of Rotary Club’s “Four Way Test Coloring Books” to all K-3rd graders

- Purchase and distribution of snacks for Highlands Faculty Meetings

- Along with Mrs. Cashion’s Teen Living class and Ms.

Garrett’s Art Class the Interact Club purchased stuffing and helped deliver over 100 handmade items to residents of the Eckerd Family Living Center, including neck pillows, wheelchair “carryalls,” catheter bag covers, quilted pillows and 15 paintings of birds.

- Stop Hunger Now – Interact members went to Sylva to help pack 10,151 meals in 1 hour and 50 minutes – this amazing work filled one pallet.

- Community Dinner – students helped serve dinner to the community at the April Community Dinner, hosted by the Rotary Club of Highlands.

- International Project: In a moving presentation at this meeting, Carter Potts, Blakely Moore and Chance Gilbert gave a check for \$400 to Rotarian Kenton David to benefit the South Asia Council for Community and Children in Crisis. In acknowledging this gift, Kenton said “at 1 am this morning I received a call from the South Asia Council telling me more funds were needed. This is an incredible and timely gift.”

As each group of Interact students presented their projects, the positive effect of volunteering was noticeable. Many service opportunities were Rotary projects and presenters thanked Rotarians for “allowing us to be a part of your work.” Interact student volunteer time donated in 2015-2016 school year is over 300 hours.



Rotary Club sponsors Dental Exam Day

On April 29, the Rotary Club of Highlands and the Highlands Mountaintop Rotary Club sponsored Dental Examination Day at Highlands School for students in grades K-5. Drs. Dyer and Stiefel volunteered their time and expertise to examine the students. After each student was examined, a form was completed and sent home to the parents indicating any potential dental problems. Students were also given a dental gift bag containing a toothbrush, dental floss and tooth paste.

In addition to the annual dental examination day, the two clubs jointly sponsor and fund a weekly fluoride rinse and a yearly dental education day for students in grades K-5.

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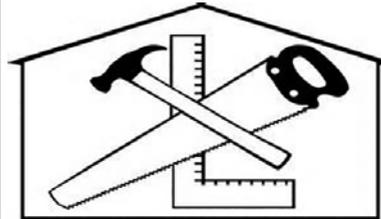
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FULL AND PART-TIME POSITIONS available at Nancy's Fancys. Saturdays a must. Come by 322 Main Street, Highlands. (st. 4/28)

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...CHOIR continued from page 9

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...HB2 continued from page 13

the minimum wage; it doesn't directly affect what people will make. What it does do is take away another option.

While no local municipalities in North Carolina have set different wages than the state, some wanted to make changes and now they can't.

Macon County Commissioner and NCACC past president Ronnie Beale said regardless of the stance on HB2 – for or against – the real story is the loss of local control.

"This shows how easily any local ordinance passed by locally elected officials can be totally decimated," he said. "As far as the economic impact HB2 could possibly have locally, I think we will have to wait and see but the Justice Department ruling could have a major impact if the federal funding is withheld from education."

– Carolina Public Press
and Kim Lewicki



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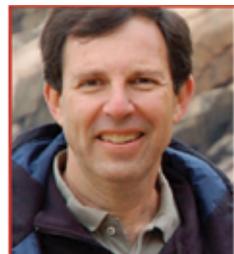
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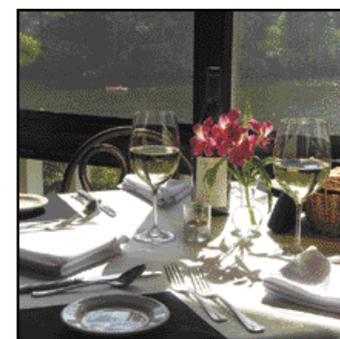
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