

Highlands Newspaper

Remember those who have served

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Volume 14, Number 21

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Thurs., May 25, 2017

FY '17-'18 budget; Art in the Park; subdivisions; Chief Harrell & Planning Director on the forefront

At the May 18 Town Board meeting, commissioners got the final word on the FY 2017-'18 budget. It has revenues and expenditures totaling \$16,462,457.

Town Manager Josh Ward said to balance the budget it was necessary to appropriate \$703,439 from the undesignated General Fund Balance and \$782,770 from

the electric reserve fund for a combined total of \$1,486,209.

These funds will be used to offset capital project deficits within the Recreation Department and

the Water Fund as well as providing funding for the new Fiber Section of the MIS/GIS Department, replacing the former Broadband

•See **FOREFRONT** page 12

\$900,000 is in county's FY '17-'18 budget for Highlands

Macon County Manager Derek Roland unveiled his proposed \$49,587,927 budget last week, which is nearly a \$2 million increase over the current year's budget.

The \$1,891,178 increase was possible without an ad valorem tax increase; and according to Roland, was made possible due to an increase in sales tax revenue and debt obligations continuing to decrease.

Roland's budget proposal is the first step in the county's planning process which will continue on Thursday, June 8 with a budget worksession with department heads.

An increase in spending to the Town of Highlands was one

•See **RECREATION** page 8

Highlands School Class of 2017



Erica Barnes, Karla Barranco, Amanda Clark, Emily Crowe, Brandon Dorau, Austin Forrester, Hayley Hawkins, Wesley Hedden, Ryan Houser, Kyle Iezzi, Eden Ingate, Tucker Johnson, Jackson Leitch, Danielle Mathis, Emily Mathis, Randall McCall, Montana McElroy, Dillan Medlin, Benjamin Miller, Katlin Moss, John Murphy, Alexa Reese, Amber Reese, Sarah Rogers, Reid Russell, Seth Satterwhite, Madison Schandolph, Bethany Shuler, Jody Thorske, Megan Vinson, Daniel Whatley, Stella Wilson, Wai Yin Wong and Mascots First-graders Rome Tucci-Caselli and Mims Henderson. The graduation ceremony is Saturday, May 27 at 5 p.m. in the new gym at the school.

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New legislation could be good for MC schools

by Sarah Ovaska-Few
Carolina Public Press

Macon County is home to two of the three North Carolina public schools that educate students from kindergarten to high school.

Nantahala School in Macon County is one of two K-12 schools in the district. Only three such schools exist statewide.

That distinction comes with a cost, however, with local taxpayers ponying up the extra money needed to run the schools that serve rural and geographically-isolated populations.

Macon County school officials are optimistic they'll be in line for financial relief this year, if a legislative proposal to aid geo-

•See **LEGISLATION** page 5

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• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• MAYOR ON DUTY •

Please heed 'work after hour' ordinances

As folks return to Highlands in the spring, calls about noise and work being done after hours increase. During this period, where the town has large numbers of visitors and seasonal residents, requests for construction and landscape work increases.

The town has ordinances and policies intended to regulate these activities. The overarching concept behind these rules is that Highlands is a resort and retreat community, therefore regulated and appropriate work hours are necessary.

For example, major construction projects that disrupt traffic and pedestrian flow are not permitted on weekends during the season from May through December. The last thing merchants want is an obstruction of commerce during peak periods.

If repair and maintenance projects have to be made during this time, the town can issue a permit for work to be done during the first of the week where traffic and commerce are less.

Another town ordinance deals with



Highlands Mayor
Patrick Taylor

work being done after hours, on weekends and on official holidays. The rationale is that folks come to Highlands, especially on weekend visits, to get away from loud noise and intrusive construction projects that one may experience in cities like Atlanta. Our ordinance states commercial construction and landscaping cannot be done on Saturdays and Sundays. Also, during the week such work can only be done between 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m., unless there is a waiver issued by the town because of a pressing need or an emergency.

So, if one is awakened on a weekend morning to lawn mowers, chain saws or leaf blowers being operated by commercial lawn service companies, that company is in violation of the town ordinance. The ordinance applies to holidays also.

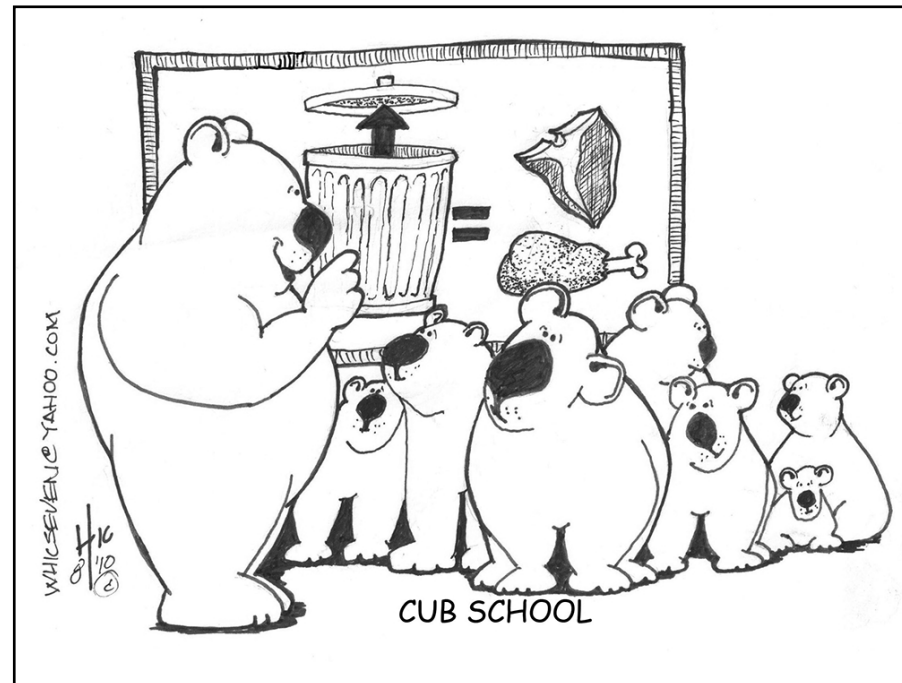
One Thanksgiving at 1:30 pm I heard a leaf blower without a muffler in operation in the neighborhood. The operator was a commercial employee, not the resident of the home. I thought the work was out of line since several families in the neighborhood were either having or about to have Thanksgiving dinner. I asked the worker to stop. My point is there are times when the commerce of work needs to be curtailed so folks can enjoy this wonderful place.

We have a voluntary system of compliance with several practical exceptions. For instance, if a contractor is doing inside work on a building, such as trim work or painting that is not creating a disturbance, there should be no problem. If a homeowner is doing yard work on weekends, like cutting grass, doing home repair, etc. the work restriction would be problematic to enforce.

The ordinance is primarily complaint driven. If a resident calls in a complaint the police will respond. If there is commercial work creating a disturbance, the officer will request the work be stopped and resumed during the permitted hours. If voluntary compliance fails, further action can be taken.

Work noise complaints during these periods can be reported by calling 526-4131, the non emergency dispatch number. Have a peaceful Memorial Day.

• HIC'S VIEW



• LETTERS •

Praise For Our Park (and a little criticism)

Dear Editor,

I think our park is great. It is in a perfect location. The restrooms, while large, were much needed and are convenient to everyone enjoying our town. The pavilion is wonderful and so are the picnic tables and benches. It is nice to see people enjoying lunch in our park as well as community events and concerts. To me, the adults and children playing in the park are the best decoration with their colorful clothes under a blue sky and green grass.

But here comes the criticism. The park is getting full of man-made stuff that needs to be maintained. Pavers need to be leveled. Fountains need to be worked on. Gas fireplaces require attention. I thought we tore down a house to get more land, but it seems almost the entire park has something on it. We have two water features. Children love to play in water, but they are not for children to play in. The nice patio/ice skating rink already has to be fixed. I would rather have taken the paved street up and planted grass and not had to pay our police force to waste their time blocking the road at every event, but at least, on the

•See LETTERS page 6

• WEEKEND WEATHER •



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Highlands Newspaper

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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.

• OBITUARIES •

Dr. Patrick George Allen

Dr. Patrick George Allen, of Highlands, North Carolina, passed away suddenly on May 15, 2017. He was in the arms of his loving wife, Patricia Flewellyn Allen, who shared his love for 33 years.

He was born in Jackson, Mississippi, and attended Millsaps College, where he earned a double Bachelor of Science degree in chemistry and physics and a minor degree in biology. He then attended the University of Tennessee, Memphis, dental school where he earned a Doctor of Dental Science degree. He was then commissioned to the United States Air Force as a dentist and served as a Colonel at Aviano Air Force Base in Italy. He enjoyed traveling throughout Italy and Germany during his time in Europe. He returned to the US and practiced dentistry in Atlanta for a short time before furthering his career as an oral surgeon. He trained in oral surgery as a fellow at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota, where he also received a Master of Science degree. He then was recruited to Macon, Georgia, where he practiced for almost 30 years.

He was a member of the American



Society of Oral Surgeons, American Dental Association and served as president of the Georgia Dental Association. His compassion for his patients was felt by all.

He lived in Highlands, NC for 23 years where he and his wife opened the Morning Star Inn and operated it for 7 years before

retiring. He lived a full life and enjoyed traveling the world, scuba diving, theater, classical music and reading.

He is survived by his wife, Patricia (Pat) Allen, children Julie Johnson Osborn, Henry Lee Johnson, III, Kevin Drew Allen, Stephanie Lynn Allen, Jennifer Allen Johannessen and six grandchildren.

He was the epitome of a fine southern gentleman and his kindness and loving spirit will be missed by all who were fortunate to have known him.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Cashiers-Highlands Humane Society, PO Box 638, Cashiers, NC, 28717 in honor of Miss Lucy, who brought so much joy to Patrick's life or to Pat Allen at PO Box 809, Highlands, NC 28741 for distribution.

A private Celebration of his Life will be held at a future date.

Gladys Neely Chastain Nix

Gladys Neely Chastain Nix, faithful servant, went home to be with her Lord on May 19, 2017. Gladys was born on March 27, 1927, in Macon County, NC. She was the daughter of the late Preston Neely and Hester Hicks Barnes Neely. Gladys was first married to the late James Earl (Buck) Chastain who passed away in 1971 and then to the late Dewey Nix who passed away in 2001.

In addition to her parents and her husbands, she was predeceased by two sisters, Alma Barnes Henry, Etta Caroline Neely; a brother, Haskell Barnes, and a step-son, Bruce Nix.

Gladys was a loving step-mother to Lucille Wilson and Christine (Bill) Lowe. She was grandmother to several step-grand and great-grandchildren. She was a special aunt to many nieces and nephews. She was a friend to so many and loved by all.

Mrs. Neely was a member of Clear



Creek Baptist Church. She loved her church and she continued to be an encourager and supporter even when she was no longer able to attend.

Funeral services were at the Clear Creek Baptist Church with Rev. Everett Wilson, Rev. Mike Wilson, and Rev. Zane Talley officiating. Burial was at Clear Creek Cemetery.

Pallbearers were Mickey Henry, Eddie Henry, Harold Neely, Kevin Nix, Curt Lane, Bill Lowe and Lester Norris.

Honorary escorts were Jerri Crowe, Wilma Gordon, Clara Nix, Betty Henry, Michelle Lane and Judy Messner.

Memorials may be made to Clear Creek Baptist Church, c/o Marsha Chastain, PO Box 1717, Highlands, NC 28741 or to the Clear Creek Cemetery Fund.

Bryant-Grant Funeral Home and Crematory is serving the Nix family. Online condolences may be made at bryantgrantfuneralhome.com.

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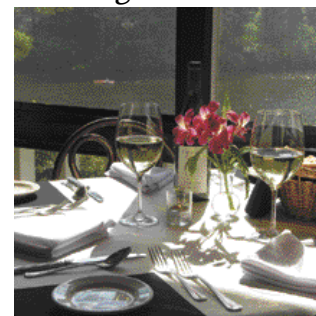
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...LEGISLATION from page 1

graphically isolated schools is adopted in the state's final budget.

"We're very hopeful that it will come through," said Chris Baldwin, the superintendent of the Macon County public schools. "It'll be a huge benefit for our school system."

The two K-12 Macon County schools — Highlands and Nantahala — both pull their populations from mountain communities isolated by large swaths of national forestland and mountain passes that make reaching the areas difficult.

Class sizes fluctuate from year to year, and rarely are there enough children in each class to pull down adequate state funding to pay for a teacher in each class, said Republican state Sen. Jim Davis, a Franklin orthodontist that represents Macon County.

•See LEGISLATION page 10

...LETTERS from page 2

old paving, people could dance and clog in the street. The expensive pavers look nice, but they aren't as user friendly. The fireplace is a nice addition, but it is taking up a large area where grass could be planted. In upscale communities like Aspen or Palmetto Bluff, I have seen fire pits with chairs around them that are great for storytelling and roasting marshmallows. We spent a lot of money to make a replica of an old fireplace. Haven't we given Kelsey and Hutchinson enough credit as founders of this town?

I know much of the fireplace area is dedicated to children who have died and I'm all for that. I have lost a child myself, but we still need to be conscious of the amount of space we have in our small park.

You might wonder what has gotten me on this tear? Recently, the Highlands Writers Group wanted to have a book signing in the park, serve a little wine and food, and if it rained, be able to use the covered pavilion. We met some of

the criteria. Money would be donated to the library. The Recreation Center could not have been nicer, but after they explained all the rules of where we could be (we couldn't be under the pavilion if it poured rain), I decided it would be easier to hold the small event at The Ugly Dog Pub where rain would not be an issue. After all, Highlands has lots of rain.

Then, last week I read in the mayor's column that Friends of the Park wanted to discuss a possible sculpture. I love sculptures in parks. The park in Cashiers has some nice ones, but they have lots of land in that park. We need land for parks, not more stuff.

I moved to Highlands over 15 years ago and I can't remember a time when there were not plans and money being raised for the park. Do we have an endless supply of money for the park? We certainly don't have an endless amount of land over there. We all know we can pave paradise. Often a decorator/designer will suggest living with something for a while before buying or adding anything else. Since the park has turned in to more of an outside room, maybe we should take that advice. The sculpture or any other addition might be just the thing in a year or two.

**Lee Lyons
Highlands**

Chamber of Commerce decision is a bad one

Dear Editor:

A short while ago, the Highlands Chamber of Commerce made what to my mind was a peculiar and questionable decision. The Chamber decided to eliminate the position of Director of the Visitor Center. As a result Jennifer Cunningham's current job in that position has been eliminated and will be replaced with two, yes, TWO, full time positions. As far as I know, there was no dissatisfaction expressed about her job performance, nor was any reason given for their decision,

I find it strange that in this time of corporate and business job cutting to eliminate overhead, our Chamber has decided to replace one job with two. It is even stranger because Jennifer has, for the past seven years, fulfilled more than adequately, every skill listed in the job descriptions required for the two new positions.

During her employment at the Chamber, Jennifer has performed not only her job; over time she has taken on several of the functions of the Chamber itself. For instance, she has kept up the Chamber membership roles and done mailings to the membership for all Chamber events including Business After Hours events; she coordinates Chamber events, including the annual Trash Pickup, the Business After Hours social gatherings, the Spring Fling and helps significantly with such programs as the November Food and Wine Tasting events and the arrangements for the events surrounding the solar eclipse which will occur in August.

Jennifer is the face of the Chamber and the Visitor Center as well as its heart and soul. Thanks to her, the Visitor Center is a warm, friendly environment, welcoming to all. She is well-liked by business owners and the public alike. Jennifer is the person nearly everyone comes to with questions, requests, and needs. I personally have heard staff members of other Chambers of Commerce comment on how active our Chamber is and how attractive they find our Visitor Center to be.

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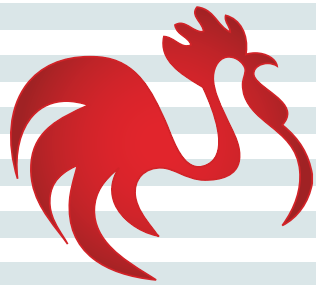
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...LETTERS continued from page 6

I have been a volunteer at the Chamber of Commerce for more than five years. I have observed Jennifer, and all that is stated in the above paragraphs is true as far as I know or have seen. The fact that the Chamber thinks it necessary to replace her with two full time people says a great deal for Jennifer's work ethic, that she has been so successful both as an employee and as the openhearted, welcoming person that she is. Regardless of the Chamber's opinion of her, Jennifer has been a great asset to Highlands and she will undoubtedly be missed by all those who are familiar with the Highlands Visitor Center and Chamber of Commerce.

**Tracey Strain
Highlands**

Praise for the Play

Dear Editor,

Laughter is the best medicine and in spite of what ails you, the play, Don't Cry for Me Margaret Mitchell, is bound to put you in a better mood. These are some of the comments I heard after the play on opening night. "I have never left a play feeling so good. The actors could be on Broadway. I laughed so hard I cried."



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Donna Cochran, Highlands veteran director, saw this play in Charleston a couple of years ago and knew she had to produce it in Highlands. The cast is perfect in every role. Marsha Schmalo is the perfectly shaped and dressed Miss Peabody. Lance Trudel, Rick Siegel, and David Spivey even look like the real people they are portraying. The play is based on an actual event. Three men are sequestered in an office to write the screenplay for Gone With The Wind, even though one of them has never read the novel. While the clock ticks, they live off bananas and peanuts. Trust me, you will never look at a banana the same way. The play also gives an interesting look at how times have changed with words that were once not allowed in the movies.

The backstage crew, tech team, set designers, and a list of community volunteers have all worked together to make this a GOOD PLAY WELL DONE.

Do yourself a favor. Don't miss this play. May 25-28th. Thurs.-Sat at 7:30. Sun. matinee at 2:30. Martin Lipscomb Performing Arts Center on Chestnut Street. 828 526-8084.

**Lee Lyons
Highlands**

Fake scandals just as harmless as fake news

Among whoever remains of the aging liberal media, the failed aim of fake news seems now to have morphed into a new effort one might refer to as 'fake scandals.' This is the left's strange rebound of the laughable Russian hacking theories from which no evidence was ever presented.

As in the groundless hacking claims, no one cares about who was fired or about any meaningless memos. This is not the first time faked memos have been aimed to try and slow proven progress. Many still remember when this was tried in October of 2002 and only led to the forced removal of the CBS tarnished news anchor.

Instead of trying to create harmless fake scandals, the shallow liberals can just look briefly in-ward to reflect on real ones. Bible Nation; formerly the Bible belt, and those voluminous red states can all remember the democrat's scandal-ridden campaign. Further there seemed to be a different scandal every other week and those were real scandals not fake ones. The shallow aim is such an odd level of hypocrisy among the left or as some now say; left-field.

Trump is just so cleanly-conservative such as all those voters of his mass mandate. If the short-sighted strategy is to replace Trump so as to continue today's level of proven progress under Pence this also makes littler sense knowing Pence is equally as brilliant as Trump himself.

Perhaps the aim of the liberals to just waste time creating fake scandals for the next eight years. Odd teamwork? Why else try to errantly impede the agenda that has already fixed everything? Trump is still that over-achiever having been the first to actually keep all campaign promises and in record time such as ending TPP, drained the swamp, started the wall, restored the constitution, quickly replaced Scalia, replaced & expanded health-care and immediately augmented the once languishing U.S. economy.

Plus America has reaped all those ranging bonuses such as the Carrier jobs saved, the lowest ever unemployment rate since 1988 and all punctuated by that impressive biggest day ever for the stock market on the heels of those impressive first 100 days earlier this month; May.

This week's first-ever one-of-kind and historical progress achieved in Saudi Arabia is not at all surprising from such an over-achiever as Trump. Still Glad America's Great Again, Folks!

**Jim Douglass
A Reader from Centerville, OH 45458**

...RECREATION continued from page 1

of the budget highlights proposed by Roland last week. The Town of Highlands is entering its fifth year of a multi-year renovation of Highlands Recreation facilities.

Since FY '13-14' the Town of Highlands has spent \$1,631,699 on a gym renovation, new swimming pool construction, ballfield renovation, construction of a dog park and numerous downtown improvements.

Moving forward, the town has a number of additional recreational improvements to complete including a skate park, new lighting on the ballfield and improvements to the

lower parking lot and sidewalks leading to the civic center.

"In FY '17-18' the Town of Highlands will complete the civic center renovation which will include a complete main level rehab as well as a main level stage area and lower level multi-use area renovation," said Roland. "The estimates for the construction costs of this renovation are approximately \$700,000 and \$350,000 has been included in the Macon County FY '17-18' recommended budget to assist the Town of

•See RECREATION page 11

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...LEGISLATION continued from page 5

The state funds teachers based on a strict formula, and provides a teacher salary for every 16 to 28 students enrolled in a school district with the ratio varying from grade to grade.

That puts K-12 schools like the two in Macon County at a disadvantage, because the numbers of students frequently fluctuate but the school still needs to employ a teacher even if there are only a handful of students in the class.

"Sometimes, they will not have enough students to max out a class size," Davis said.

This past year at Highlands School, there were 24 kindergartners, Baldwin said. With too many students for a single class, the school district needed to have two separate classes but only received enough state funding to pay for one of the teacher salaries.

The county has to make up the difference in funding.

"In order for us to make this work, we need to fund a number of those positions out of local funds," Baldwin said.

Highlands School and Nantahala School are the two K-12 schools in the district.

The county spent \$728,000 this year to fund 15 teaching positions in the two schools, said Baldwin.

Educating each student at the Nantahala and Highlands schools ends up costing as much as \$2,000 more each year than it does in the other Macon County schools. Davis said he thinks the state should pick up the cost.

Davis sponsored legislation in the Senate, SB 15, to allow for additional state funding for schools with populations that draw from areas with less than 1.5 students

every square mile, or in counties with more than 150,000 of national forests. Three North Carolina schools fall under those definitions, the two in Macon County and the state's other K-12 school on Ocracoke Island.

A companion bill in the House of Representatives, HB 23, was filed by Republican state Rep. Kevin Corbin, a Franklin insurance agent.

Davis has tried to secure funding for several years, and thinks the funding will come through during this year's budget negotiations.

He has reason to be hopeful.

When the Republican-led Senate passed its \$22.9 million budget last week, it included funding to help geographically-isolated schools.

The Senate budget, which was \$600 million less than Democratic Gov. Roy Cooper's suggested spending plan, included \$1.6 million over the next two years to pay for one teacher for every grade level in the three schools.

Davis was successful securing the funding in the Senate, but will have to wait to see if his Republican colleagues in the House want to allocate extra funding for the schools.

The House is expected to release its budget soon.

Ocracoke received help earlier

On the southern tip of the Outer Banks, Ocracoke has faced many of the same challenges as the mountain schools and is home to the state's only other K-12 public school.

Ocracoke, however, had its teacher funding provided years ago when its local lawmaker, then-Senate leader Marc Basnight, was in power, Davis said.

Davis said Macon County schools should receive the same benefits as the island community.

"They just want to be treated fairly," Davis said about his Macon County constituents.

While Ocracoke is surrounded by ocean, the Macon County

schools are isolated by large swaths of national forest. Winding roads making it impossible for the school district to cut down costs and consolidate the schools with others in the school district, he said.

In other areas, rural school districts can combine schools, or shift students from one school to another. That's not an option in the mountainous area.

"The problem with these schools is that they're so isolated that they can't consolidate them," Davis said.

In addition, both schools serve communities reached by mountain passes which can be treacherous in foul weather, Baldwin said.

"Both roads are steep, winding mountain roads that can be very treacherous, especially in January and February," Baldwin said. "It would be a long bus ride and, more importantly, a very dangerous bus ride."



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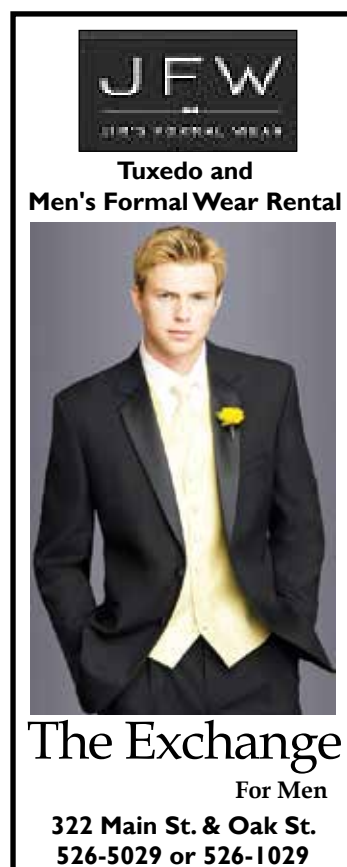
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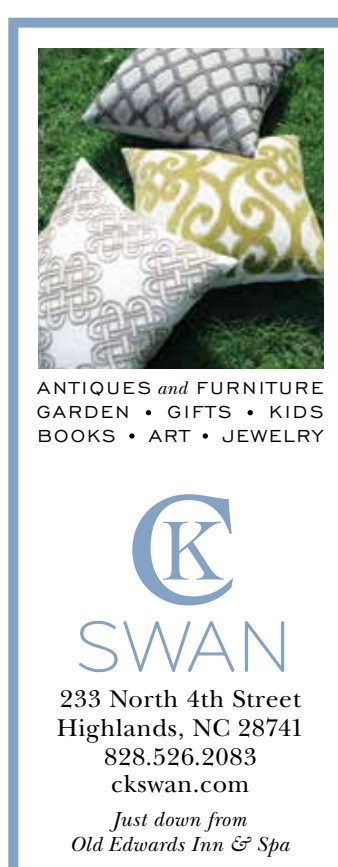
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...RECREATION continued from page 8

Highlands with these renovation costs.”

This expenditure will increase the county's annual recreation appropriation to the Town of Highlands to \$900,000 in the coming fiscal year.

“This one-time appropriation was the primary contributor to the \$340,199 increase to the Culture/Recreation function in the FY ‘17-18’ Recommended Budget,” said Roland.

The town of Highlands had a tax increase three years ago that was earmarked for capital improvements for the recreation department. Just under a million dollars in town taxes have gone to upgrades in recreation since the tax increase.

“Our proposed budget includes a continuation of this recreation tax for three more years,” said Mayor Taylor. “It was scheduled to sunset this year. This continuation will help the town recover capital costs already incurred that went beyond the revenue generated from the first three years.”

There are over \$700,000 in additional improvements that need funding. The town will fund about \$400,000 of these improvements this year.

“The county contribution of \$350,000 will help complete this capital improvement cycle. I am delighted that the county commissioners were willing to contribute to these upgrades,” said Taylor. “Over half of the folks using the Highlands recreation facilities live outside town limits in the county. Town residents pay both municipal and county taxes. The county contribution makes for an equitable funding of these improvements that benefit everyone.”

Education remains a priority in the county manager's budget proposal sitting at 19 percent of the overall county budget. With debt obligations, technology, capital improvements, and general operating funds,

Roland is proposing allocating \$9,200,861 to Macon County Schools next year.

While the school system asked for an increase in general operating expenses, of \$7,338,330 compared to the \$7,138,330 that was allocated this school year, Roland noted that the ever-changing legislation has helped ease the financial burden locally.

The school system requested \$7,338,330 in local funding for FY ‘17-18’ operating expenses.

When the school budget was submitted, the \$200,000 increase in funding from FY ‘16-17’ was proposed to accomplish the following:

Adding six new teachers to comply with the state mandated K-3 class-size requirement which would eliminate class-size flexibility. The estimated cost of these positions according to the school system would total approximately \$350,000.

Funding in full for two new teachers would be lost resulting from the elimination of Federal Title II funding. The estimated cost of these positions according to the school system would total approximately \$104,000.

Moving three teachers from state to local funding

Add one Digital Resource Facilitator Position at an estimated cost of \$67,950.

A 5% salary increase for teachers and a 2% increase for non-certified personnel totaling approximately \$176,000.

After the board of education submitted its budget, North Carolina legislation changed eliminating the need for some of the additional funding.

Session Law 2017-9, better known as House Bill 13, which was signed by the Governor on April 27, 2017 will continue to allow flexibility in regards to class-size requirements for FY ‘17-18’.

• See RECREATION page 14

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...FOREFRONT continued from page 1

Fund.

The current General Fund Reserve Balance is approximately \$3,000,000 and the current Electric Reserve Fund Balance is approximately \$2,800,000.

The ad valorem tax rate will remain at \$.0164 per \$100 valuation. However, the tax rate does include a 3-year extension of the .015 earmarked for recreation capital projects, which was to sunset June 30th of 2020.

"I would like to point out, the town will fund, up front, two of the three phases of the civic center renovation in FY 2017-'18. This funding will be regenerated over the next three years with the continuance of the

1.5 cent ad valorem property tax earmarked for recreation capital projects," said Ward.

The current Highlands Volunteer Fire Department tax rate of .01 per \$100 valuation remains unchanged.

The current Town of Highlands charges for electrical service remain unchanged.

The water rates for outside city limits customers will be double that of inside rates in all regards effective July 1, 2017.

The sewer rates for inside and outside town limits customers will increase from the current 95.75% of water used, to 100% of water used, effective July 1, 2017.

Long Term Outlook

Ward said the financial outlook for the Town of Highlands remains strong. He said the town's undesignated General Fund Balance remains strong and all Enterprise Funds are stable and covering all of their operating costs.

Aside from using some of the undesignated general fund reserves, the new fiber section of the MIS/GIS department will potentially be funded by leasing fiber, if the town decides to fund the fiber infrastructure build in the future.

The Electric Fund is relatively stable and continues to provide the capital necessary to offset other funds' capital project costs.

"However, the electric fund revenue slowly declines each year as Duke Energy continues to raise wholesale rates," said Ward. "Given the extent to which the Town depends upon the Electric Fund to finance significant portions of its capital improvement program; it is critical for the town to closely monitor the rate increase estimates provided each year by Duke Energy and adjust its rates accordingly so as to avoid a very large rate increase in the future."

He said due to the ability to transfer funds from the Electric Reserve, the town has been fortunate to keep its long-term debt extremely low.

Before the FY 2017-'18 budget is adopted there will be a public hearing held at the June 15 Town Board meeting.

Art in the Park

Nick Bazan, president of Friends of Founders Park, said K-H Founders is nearing completion after 44 months of work. Now a Public Arts Action Committee has been formed to consider displaying works of art in the park – sculptures, mainly – possibly on a two-year rotation basis.

Two areas in the park have been identified as possible locations – the wall of the restroom building adjacent to the interactive water feature and the triangular grass area near the plaza.

Artwork by the interactive fountain would sport a children's theme

Two alcoves sporting stone benches in a welcoming arm configuration, are monuments to Kelsey and Hutchinson, the founders of Highlands and for whom the park is named.

A replica of Kelsey's fireplace and chimney which still stands behind Falls on Main has been constructed in his area and will also feature a plaque with the names of children who have died.

A circa 1885 wagon wheel will be erected in the Hutchinson alcove area as a symbol of the pioneers who settled Highlands and Hutchinson in particular who it is said arrived here in a covered wagon.

A call to potentially 200 artists will be made for pieces to be exhibited in the chil-

dren's area and near the plaza.

"We don't want to put a lot of stuff in the park; we don't want to junk up the park and we don't want to put anything in the middle of the lawns. But we feel displaying art is an appropriate thing for our town," said Bazan. "We're not suggesting changing anything basic to the park, but we want to add some artistic elements."

Commissioner Amy Patterson said in her view parks and recreation can include art, not just sports, so she didn't have a problem with art being incorporated but said she wants the majority of the area to be park

"You've made a nice big open space and we don't want to suddenly not have this big open space," she said.

Bazan said the purpose is to attract people to the park, not to take up a lot of space.

"As long as we approve those two areas, then we and everyone else have assurances that in 20 years it's not going to become a park that you can't do anything in because it's become a sculpture park," said Patterson.

The board unanimously agreed to designate the wagon wheel for Hutchinson alcove which will be a permanent structure and the two other areas as places for rotating artwork.

Subdivisions

The board OK'd two new subdivisions – one on Bowery Road and one in Highlands Plaza. The Bowery Road subdivision owned by Chandler Highlands, LLC will have three lots.

The Highlands Plaza subdivision will now simply be marketed as a subdivided parcel separate from the rest of the plaza.

Police Chief Bill Harrell

Chief Harrell has returned to work after being involved in the horrific traffic accident on the Sylva Road in Franklin on May 12.

According to Mayor Taylor, the NC Highway Patrol is doing an analysis of electronic equipment involved in the accident as a part of the investigation. This analysis may take several days or weeks before being complete. The final report will follow.

Planning Director

In a closed session, commissioners discussed the potential employment of a Planning Director. According to Mayor Taylor an offer has been accepted for the town planner position.

"We are waiting for the standard drug test results and have given the person time to announce his decision to his current employer. After these two steps are complete the town manager will issue a formal announcement," said Taylor.

– Kim Lewicki



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• THE INK PEN •

On this Memorial Day, remember, reflect and honor those who have given their all

When holidays like Memorial Day and Veterans Day roll around each year, I can't help but recall the awe-inspiring sights I saw in 2014 while bicycling Normandy with my husband.

The Omaha Beach Memorial was the most memorable and solemn experience for me, but coming in a close second was the Utah Beach D-day Museum and our visit to Sainte Marie du Mont. I have to agree with Rick Steves when he writes, "This is the best museum on the D-Day beaches... thorough yet manageable... [with] a series of fascinating exhibits and displays."

As we cycled a pleasant ten-mile route along the coast to reach the museum, we marvelled at the stunning Channel view occasionally interrupted by the remains of German bunkers. We wondered aloud what the lives of the Normans had been like during the occupation--a question answered for us when we toured the museum.

Like the Omaha Beach Memorial, this museum includes viewing rooms with films plus explanatory panels of photos, stories, and quotes. The museum has grown over the years, and its 2011 expansion added oral histories of American soldiers and Norman civilians alike, plus a B-26 Marauder and an original Higgins Boat landing craft.

We heard tales of the civilian population going hungry and secretly slaughtering dairy cows to feed their families. A quote from the museum founder explained, "We had a miserable life, a life that became increasingly harder and more miserable as time went by."

One story that caught our attention was that of Major David Dewhurst, an Army Air Force squad commander who flew the "final bombing run on the German stronghold WN5, moments before the Allied landing at Utah Beach," only to die in an auto wreck not long after returning home to Texas. I discovered later that his sons had only discovered their father's



Kathy Manos Penn

story upon visiting Utah Beach in 2007 and seeing his name and photo.

From Utah Beach, we cycled past a statue of Major Dick Winters, whose story you may recall from "Band of Brothers," and headed to Sainte Marie du Mont. There we stumbled on a Museum housed in a small shop. The proprietor explained that his shop had been German Headquarters for four years and Allied Headquarters for six months. With his little bit of English, he showed us the rooms where the Germans had drawn pictures on the walls, and then he cranked up a German siren, giving me cold chills. If you've ever seen a WWII movie, you know the sound.

We wandered the town square reading plaques that described the exploits of the soldiers who liberated the town. One plaque told the story of Paratrooper Ambrose Allie who was about to be executed when a US squad shot the Germans aiming at him. Another told of a "High Noon" scenario in the square. Yet another described a soldier, seemingly older than most, who hid behind a water pump with his rifle cradled in the crook of his arm. From there, he calmly picked off Germans as they ventured into the square. We imagined him as an old country boy who hunted back home.

It's these personal stories that brought the Normandy Invasion to life for me. The people of Normandy have neither forgotten their WWII ordeal nor the debt they owe to the many who fought to free them. On this Memorial Day, let us all "remember, reflect and honor those who have given their all" in service to our country throughout the years.

• *Kathy Manos Penn is a Sandy Springs resident now happily retired from a corporate career in communications. Find her book, "The Ink Penn: Celebrating the Magic in the Everyday," at The Molly Grace in Highlands, at Books Unlimited in Franklin, or on Kathy's website at www.theinkpenn.com. Contact her at inkpenn119@gmail.com. Join her at the Molly Grace on the corner of Oak and N. 4th St. in Highlands June 17th, 11 am - 2 pm for a book signing.*

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• BIZ/ORG NEWS •



Rotary distributes scholarships to Class of 2017 graduates

Rotary Club of Highlands held its annual scholarship presentation lunch on May 9, 2017. Rotary supports Highlands' local students in many ways, one of which consists of scholarships of \$2000 given to five outstanding graduating seniors chosen by Rotary's Scholarship Committee chaired by Sue Blair. Rotary Club of Highlands has given scholarships since 1983. These awards are to help with tuition costs of either a four-year college or two-year technical college. This year's recipients are Emily Crowe, Joyce Wong, John Murphy, Benjamin Miller, and Katy Potts.

...RECREATION continued from page 11

"While President Trump has proposed eliminating the \$2.3 billion Title II program, the likelihood of this proposal going through remains highly unlikely as the money goes out to almost every congressional district," said Roland. "This funding however, could be reduced as panels in both the House and Senate approved modest cuts to Title II funding last year. Those spending bills which never made it to the president's desk would have reduced Title II funding to \$2 billion. While 5% has been budgeted for teacher salary increases, 3.7% has been proposed by the Senate at the time of this budget message. Negotiations will continue and be finalized with the passage of the state budget. Due to the aforementioned changes which have occurred following submittal of the school system budget, I am recommending local operating funding to remain at the FY '16-17' level of \$7,138,330."

Roland also noted that due to a bill sponsored by Representative Kevin Corbin in the House of Representatives and Senator Jim Davis in the Senate, Macon County Schools could see additional funding this school year. (See story on page 1.)

"In addition to these changes, it is important to note that Senate Bill 15/ House

Bill 23 which is titled "An Act to Provide for Teacher Allotments for Geographically Isolated K-12 Schools" could potentially yield additional funding in the State Budget," said Roland. "This bill if enacted could add up to six teaching positions in the Macon County School System. The bill was referred to the House Rules Committee on April 27, 2017."

The proposed legislation provides specific funding to counties that operate schools such as Highlands and Nantahala, which cost the district triple what other schools in the district cost.

In addition to the general operating budget, Roland proposed allocating \$600,000 in the school system's capital outlay budget.

He proposed capital outlay being split \$300,000 for improvements to school infrastructure and \$300,000 being earmarked for technology needs. The \$300,000 for technology comes from a previously utilized debt service payment that was paid in full this budget year. Rather than eliminating the line item, the county agreed to begin allocating \$300,000 to the school system to help establish a replacement plan for school technology.

.BIZ/ORG .

Chamber eliminats Visitor Center Director; Clarifies Vision & Refines Focus

For the past year, the Highlands Chamber of Commerce and Visitors Center has held several strategic planning sessions with Chuck Ewart, President of The Ewart Group dedicated to helping businesses and organizations meet the needs of their customers.

Goals are:

- Educating and equipping business owners with services and resources to create and sustain a profitable business model;

- Energizing the destination marketing program around the Highlands brand and culture to foster economic development and community growth in a way that supports Highlands' special character;

- Increasing community engagement and enhancing year-round quality of life by supporting events, activities and culture in and around the downtown area.

When these three initiatives are highly functioning and synergized, they form a powerful model for creating and sustaining a successful community for citizens, business owners and visitors.

1. How to run a sustainable and beneficial destination marketing organization (DMO) and chamber of commerce (COC) in a town whose chief industry is tourism.

2. How to help businesses/members succeed in a seasonal market.

3. How to enhance quality of life for year-round residents and engage them around businesses, services, arts and culture, events and activities.

4. How to engage and be relevant to upcoming generations to ensure Highlands meets their needs and desires as a place to make a home, raise a family and start a business.

The result of that study uncovered the need for two positions operating under the Executive Director position: A Marketing Director and an Events/Volunteer Coordinator.

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www.WhiteHarvestLiving.com

Big Pine Lodge \$1,999,999



Big Pine Lodge is a Lake Sequoyah log estate with amazing Whiteside Mountain views. Features include a wine room, sauna, exercise room, a loft overlooking the expansive great room and perfectly flat yard. Each of the six bedrooms has its own private deck. At the heart of the home, the great room has custom lighting, a soaring two-story ceiling and an oversized stone fireplace. Antique heart pine floors flow throughout the home, which is being sold furnished with a few exceptions. This home is in a gated community which has the only private lake pavilion on Lake Sequoyah and features private lake access and canoe storage. Set amid 5.85+/- lush acres, it is perfectly situated to take advantage of the never-ending views and is convenient to the Highlands Country Club and The Farm at Old Edwards Inn.

**Contact Cathy Garren at
Highlands Sotheby's International
Realty
114 N. 4th Street,
828-226-5870 (cell)**

...INVESTING continued from page 21

even trim lines but your prospective buyer may feel differently. A poor paint job may leave the buyer wondering where else you may have skimped.

Take the time to do a necessary repair or project right the first time around. Choosing a contractor, material, or project

simply for its bottom line could end up costing you far more in the end. This expense could get in the way of how much you are offered for your home or simply in redoing what you just did.

Odor control is another necessity. Every detail counts when people are walking

through your home with an eye on buying it. Look beyond the obvious aesthetics and get into the details when preparing your home and you won't be disappointed. You will see that preparation pays off when the offers start rolling in.

Locating smells in a home may be easy, getting rid of them can be tricky. The hardest odor to remove might be cigarette smoke, especially in a home where years of indoor smoking has occurred. In this instance you may need to hire a professional because simply opening the windows won't do the trick. Smoke gets into the carpet, the walls, the curtains and the furniture. Other smells could be those associated with pets, a musty basement, or an area where you keep garbage. While some odors will go away with a simple cleaning, others will involve a little work.

• *Lynn Kimball has over 43 years of real estate experience, with 32 years serving the Highlands Cashiers area. She has gained Emeritus Status with the National Association of Realtors and previously served as 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*

Highlands – 5BR/3BA • MLS#85976 • \$489,000



Large bonus room on 1.5 level acres. Private, adjacent to National Forest. Renovated, hardwood floors, open kitchen, fireplace. Unfinished partial basement with workshop, sink, deep freezer, Generac.

**Anchor All Realty
Tammy Mobley, BIC
770-337-1000**

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Wright Sq. 828-526-2520 | www.ccphighlandsnc.com | ccp4info@frontier.com



Great family home with spacious layout. Open kitchen and living area w/fireplace. Porch and patio. Large master suite with huge bath. Lower level family room, bedroom & bath. Offered at \$389,000. mls #85367



Majestic mountain views from every room in this home on Lower Brushy Face Circle. Large great room with cathedral ceilings. Formal dining. Eat-in, over-sized kitchen. Three spacious bedroom suites. Both living areas feature wood burning rock fireplaces. Wet bar, butler pantry on main. Wide covered and open decks. Offered at \$1,295,000. MLS# 74948



Wonderful views and over 4 acres of privacy with this charming mountain cottage. Main floor master with bath. 2 BD upstairs with shared bath. Huge deck. Offered at \$395,000. mls #80351



5 floor to ceiling fireplaces, media room and game room. The Cha-teau has one of the best 30-mile view with a spectacular look at Whiteside Mountain. Offered at \$2,468,000. mls #76453,



3 BD, 4.5 BA with Whiteside, Bearpen mountain views. Custom kitchen, wood floors and vaulted ceilings. Covered porch, screened porch and patio. Guest suite with living room, laundry. Stonework clads the exterior of this custom home. 2-car garage. Offered at \$1,050,000. mls #85152



See all the way to the Blue Ridge Parkway from almost every room. 6 BD, 6 BA and 2 half baths. Large stone fireplace. Main floor has two guest suites. Elevator to the lower level goes to movie theatre, family room, wine cellar, workout room, kitchen plus two-car garage and workshop. Extra lot. Offered at \$2,995,000. mls #80315



Cozy 3 bed 2 bath log home on over an acre of land. Open floor plan with hardwood floors, rock fireplace, skylights. Recently upgraded bathrooms. Open deck and screened porch with woods and mountain views. 10 minutes to town. Offered at \$225,000. mls #84920



2 BD 2 BA villa has exceptional view of the 6th & 3rd Fairways, Clubhouse lake and mountain view. Recently renovated kitchen & bathrooms. Covered porch & open deck. Offered at \$269,000. mls #85535



3 bed, 3 baths and a loft. Views of Whiteside, Shortoff, the Fish Hawks, Billy Cabin and Flat Mountain. Stunning. Being sold furnished except for a few things. In town on Little Bear Pen Mountain. Huge deck Offered at \$495,000. mls #85411



Exquisite home on gentle lot with high scales, huge room sizes. Living room with fireplace, opens on to a large deck and screened porch. Master suite on main level with ensuite bath. 2-car garage. Upstairs has 2 BD, Gallery/media room. In town living! \$575,000. mls #79670



Mill Creek Village! Total remodel and walk to town! 3BD 3BA home. One level living with a split floor plan. Living room has vaulted ceiling and stone fireplace. Fully updated kitchen and separate dining area. Covered porch overlooks small private yard. 2-car garage. Offered at \$595,000. mls #85272



1 BR 2 BA historic real log cabin with barn on almost 3.5 acres. Stone fireplace, wood floors, tile bath, laundry hook up. Offered at \$250,000. MLS #75551



3 bed plus den 4 baths. Exceptional mountain view. Beautifully landscaped yard. Old mountain charm on 4.71 acres with pond and great gardens. Offered at \$1,150,000. mls #85028



4 BD, 2 BA home with great charm. Updated kitchen and great covered porch. Large private lot with plenty of parking, small stream below the house. Offered at \$489,000. mls #79147



Own a piece of history in Joe Webb's original farmhouse. Lovely grounds. Pasture and stable. Farmhouse has many upgrades. 3BD, 3BA, study, screened porch with root cellar. Offered at \$649,000. mls #84955



Close to town, in the woods, charming and comfortable. 3 BD with fireplace in the master bedroom. mls# 85883. Offered at \$365,000.



Charming cabin with Whiteside Mtn. view needs some love but is comfortable and functional with 4 BD and 3 BA. Good parking; woodburning fireplace. Walls of glass. Offered at \$885,000. mls #78695



5 BD, 4 BA, not your plain Jane ranch. Very unique with heavy logs, lots of stone and wood. Lovingly restored with central heat and air and meticulously maintained by the current Owner. Offered at \$875,000. mls #81152



Great family home just off a paved, state maintained road with a nice yard and recreation court for outdoor living plus 2-car garage. Huge living room with stone fireplace and bath, powder room, laundry room, huge master suite. Upper level features 3 bedrooms, office, large bath. Crow's nest features large room with built ins and a full bath. Offered at \$479,000. mls #85176



5 bed 5 bath home in Highlands Country Club. Seller has golf membership. 45 KW Generator. Sophisticated irrigation system which allows full property irrigation. Offered at \$1,495,000. mls #85242



No expense was spared in the quality of materials and craftsmanship, from the beautiful landscaping to the stone porches and terrace to exquisite finishes at every turn. 6bd/5.5ba Scottish Style Manor at the top of Highlands Country Club is sure to impress. Views of Satulah, Whiteside and Shortoff Mountains. 2 story stone fireplace adorns the greatroom. Stone terrace with outdoor kitchen, hidden waterfall and another stone fireplace is perfect for entertaining guests. Gourmet kitchen with walk-in pantry, 2 gracious master suites with spa style baths and home theater are just a few more favorites in this luxury manor. \$5,595,000 MLS #85997



If a luxury mountain retreat is what you seek, look no further than this magnificent custom built home located in the private, gated community of HeatherStone Tops. 5bd/6ba/2 half bath estate on over 4 acres with sweeping mountain and golf course views. \$2,395,000 MLS #85624



3bd/3ba less than 5 minutes to town. Master on main, upper level loft and lower level complete with 2 large recreation rooms, kitchenette, 2 bonus rooms and bath. Enjoy a walk to Apple Lake for fishing or canoeing, deede lake access. Perfect large family retreat or rental opportunity. \$495,000 MLS #85617



3bd/2.5ba move-in ready home in Scaly Mtn. Beautifully landscaped on 1 acre, enjoy this quiet and peaceful neighborhood. Open concept kitchen/dining/living is perfect for entertaining. \$209,000 MLS #86003



This is a must see 4bd/4ba meticulously maintained home located on a cul-de-sac with nice views in Highlands Falls CC. Possibility of 2 separate living areas including 2 decks. Wood floors, tile baths, cathedral ceilings, and jacuzzi tubs add to the desirability of this great property. \$525,000 MLS #85453

LOT LISTING

This gently sloping .7 acre wooded property has several building locations. Safe and quiet Ideals Acres community. Great investment lot. \$20,000 MLS #84820



One level living in a quiet, well maintained neighborhood. Move-in ready 3bd/2.5ba. This home would be a great year round home or rental property. Located between Highlands and Cashiers. \$279,000 MLS #85477

LOT LISTING

12.46 acre lot with direct views of pastures, a pond and vineyards. Located in the Scaly Mtn. area. \$279,900 MLS #82604



Located in Sky Valley, GA inside the gated community of Heatherstone Tops. Elegant custom home offers 3bd/4.5 ba with large office, two living rooms and a huge bonus room. Sits on 1.13 acre lot with breathtaking views. \$674,900 MLS #85362



3bd/3ba farmhouse on 4.74 acres is a must see property. Enjoy country living in privacy. Additional "Pond House" set on Golden Pond made from old barn wood is perfect for entertaining guests. \$395,000 MLS #84081



Prestigious Old Brushy Face neighborhood. 3bd/3.5ba with large timbers that accent the living areas. Kitchen, living room and master suite open to oversized screen porch where you can take in the long range mountain views. Master on main level with ensuite. \$1,500,945 MLS #83836



Highlands Falls CC - 4bd/4ba main home and full 2bd/2ba guest house. Views of Eyebrow Ridge and distant mountain ranges. \$856,000 MLS #79792



Overlook tee boxes on the 4th fairway at Highlands Falls CC. Lovely 3bd/3ba with wood flooring and stone fireplace in living room. Terrace level with large family room and 1 car garage. Offered fully furnished and move in ready. \$400,000 MLS #83403



Cozy rustic mountain home with 3bd/2ba. Light and bright with wrap around deck to take in the sounds of nature. Low maintenance landscaping and level area to add garage. \$335,000 MLS #85539



Bright, light, open floorplan makes this home live large. 3bd/3ba one level home with soaring ceilings and stone fireplace in greatroom that opens to large screened porch. Open kitchen plan, master suite with soaking tub and 2 guest suites complete this great home in gated community. \$587,000 MLS #82248



BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY
HomeServices

Meadows Mountain Realty

41 Church Street
488 Main Street
2334 Cashiers Road
Highlands, NC 28741
828.526.1717

www.MeadowsMountainRealty.com

• INVESTING AT 4,118 Ft. •

Preparing your house for selling

Preparation is required when you are ready to sell your home. It is absolutely necessary to examine your home through a fresh set of eyes in order to ready it for its first showings. While you realize your home needs to be clean you may not realize that some of your personal effects may not be as charming to others as they are to you. In addition, if things look worn you may want to have them repaired or replaced. Putting your best foot forward when selling your home is essen-

tial.

A great place to start when preparing your home is with the walls and floors. If your paint is stained or worn you may want to have the interior walls painted. If your hardwood floors are scratched you may want to have them refinished. It is important to realize that putting in the effort to prepare your home for sale can be the difference between it languishing on the market or selling in a timely manner.

Don't always go

the least expensive route when making repairs. Skimping in certain areas does not always pay off in the long run. One great example can be a "do it yourself" project. Many people think painting is

easy. In theory painting is easy. It involves paint and a brush. Unfortunately the reality is quite different. Painting involves preparation and patience, two things that do not come easy to everyone.

Taking the time to paint a room in an effort to save money may result in sloppy lines and an unsightly mess in the end. You may be ok with a few small un-

• See **INVESTING** page 18



Lynn Kimball, Broker
Berkshire Hathaway
HomeServices
Meadows Mountain
Realty
828-421-8193



OPEN HOUSE
MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND
SATURDAY & SUNDAY 1:00 - 4:00 PM

ONE LEVEL LIVING IN A NICE, QUIET, WELL MAINTAINED NEIGHBORHOOD. LARGE ROOMS. IMMACULATE. MOVE-IN READY. LIKE NEW PAVED CIRCULAR DRIVEWAY. THIS HOME WOULD BE A GREAT YEAR ROUND HOME OR RENTAL PROPERTY. LARGE UNFINISHED BASEMENT. GREAT EXPANSION POTENTIAL. CONVENIENTLY LOCATED HALFWAY IN BETWEEN HIGHLANDS AND CASHIERS IN THE WILDWOOD MOUNTAIN COMMUNITY.

From Highlands take 64 East towards Cashiers about 5 miles. Turn Left on Shortoff Lane at the 1st Wildwood Mountain entrance. Turn Right at stop sign. Turn left onto to Hemlock Woods Drive. Homes are on the left.

Andrea Gabbard

828.200.6742

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Merritt Shaw

828.421.7593

merritt@bhhsmmr.com

www.MeadowsMountainRealty.com

BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY

HomeServices

Meadows Mountain Realty

• RE SNAPSHOTS •

Cottage in Downtown Highlands w/Mtn Views!



In town, mountain views, cute & UPDATED cottage featuring a main with a wall of windows & wood-burning fireplace. An open floor plan boasts beautiful hardwood floors, a lovely sunroom and a dining room with a view. Two bedroom suites on the main level with the master bedroom opening to a screened porch. An updated kitchen with stainless appliances and new countertops. A lower den features a vintage mini-kitchen and a bedroom suite with a screened porch.

Offered for \$585,000. MLS 85498

Cottage Plus Guest House In Town Highlands!



This redone vintage home combines old with new for a comfortable and charming home within 1 mile of downtown Highlands! Hardwood floors, updated kitchen with granite and stainless, fireplace in large great room, a 2 car garage and carport and a lovely front deck. A self-contained guest house would make a great rental for investors.

Offered for \$595,000. MLS 85060

Fantastic Joe Webb Cabin...Lovingly Restored



This pristine Joe Webb Log Cabin has been renovated from top to bottom! New tile and luxurious baths, designer kitchen with newly upgraded appliances, custom cabinets, gorgeous granite, gleaming hardwood floors, beautiful screened porch, courtyard dining area with fireplace. A winding path leads to a stream-side gazebo. The home is nicely sited on a low maintenance level lot with natural beauty and rhododendrons.

Offered for \$845,000. MLS 85755

In Town Lock & Leave Luxury Condo!



Luxury condo in downtown Highlands. Rushing stream flows past screened porch. The BEST VIEW in Village Walk! A large great room with vaulted ceilings and wooden beams accents the stone fireplace and opens to the beautiful kitchen complete with stainless appliances and granite countertops. Three bedroom suites with 10 ft ceilings and private baths.

Offered for \$750,000. MLS 85936



Julie Osborn
Broker

Cell: 828-200-6165
Office: 828-526-8784

Pat Allen
REALTY GROUP

www.patallenrealtygroup.com

828-526-8784

295 Dillard Road, Highlands



Pat Allen
Broker-in-charge

Cell: 828-200-9179
Office: 828-526-8784

• HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

Ongoing

• Movies at the Highlands Playhouse: Friday - Tuesday: 2, 5, and 8 pm. Sundays 2 & 5 only.

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

• The Nature Center will be open Tuesday-Saturdays from 10am-5pm and from 12pm-5pm on Sundays. The Nature Center is closed on Mondays.

Mondays, May 29, July 3, and Aug. 7

• Botanical Garden Tour. 10:30 am - 11:30 am • Free. All ages. At the Highlands Botanical Garden. Learn to identify and remove non-native invasive species from your garden and the surrounding forest.

First Mondays

• Shortoff Baptist Church non-denominational Men's Meeting at 7 pm

Mondays

• At the Rec Park, 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. & Thurs.

• The Joy Program at HUMC from 11:30a to 1:30p. Includes a free lunch and a variety of programs and games. All seniors are welcome.

For more info, call Tricia Smith at 828-338-8167.

Mon., Wed., Fri.

• Heart Healthy Exercise Class Monday, Wednesday and Friday 8:30-9:30am. Contact Janet Avery at 828-200-7508 for more information. • Aerobics with Tina Rogers 8-9a.

Mon.-Fri.

• Lap Swim Monday-Friday 7am-10am 6 lanes and Monday -Thursday 5pm-6pm 1 or 2 lanes. Sharing pool with Water Aerobics @ 5:15.

• Water Aerobics Monday-Friday 10:15am-11:15am and Monday-Thursday 5:15pm-6pm (sharing pool with lap swimmers) and Saturday mornings from 11:15-noon.

Tuesdays

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

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

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 369-7385.

2nd and 4th Tuesdays

• OccupyWNC meets at the 7PM in the Sneak E. Squirrel Community Room (1314 Main St., Sylva. Visit www.occupywnc.org or call 828.331.1524

Third Tuesday

• The Macon County Poultry Club meets at the NC Cooperative extension office located at 193 Thomas Heights Rd., Franklin on the third Tuesday of each month at 7pm. Meetings are open to the public. Call 828-369-3916.

Tuesday and Thursdays

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

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

• Exercise Class with Tina Rogers are held Tuesday and Thursday at 5:15p.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.

• Indivisible Highlands, a non-partisan activist group meets weekly at the Hudson Library at 5p. For more information call 770-823-0601

• NAMI Support Group for individuals dealing with mental illness and the family members of individuals dealing with these challenges from 7 - 8:15 pm. at First United Methodist Church Out Reach Center on West Main Street beside Bryant's Funnel Home. 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 St. Contact Majestic 828-369-9474

Fridays & Saturdays

• Art's at the Lodge. Live Music 4-8 p.m.. Cocktails in Art's or on the lawn at the Lodge.

HCP's 'Don't Cry...' Thurs.-Sun. at PAC



DON'T MISS THIS PLAY! The side-splitting "Don't Cry For Me, Margaret Mitchell" closes this Sunday. It is the (somewhat) true story of the frantic re-writing of the screenplay for *Gone With The Wind*, hilariously portrayed in this scene by Marsha Shmalo and David Spivey. Other cast members are Lance Trudel and Ricky Siegel. Thursday-Sunday and Evening performances are at 7:30 and Sunday matinees are at 2:30. Tickets are available by calling the box office at 828 526 8084 or on line at highlandscashiersplayers.org.

Free Mozart's "Coronation Mass" Concert at Episcopal Church June 10-11



Mozart's "Coronation Mass" will be presented at the Church of the Incarnation on Saturday, June 10th, and Sunday June 11th, 2017, at 4:00 PM, by the Western North Carolina Singers. Grat L. Rosazza, Artistic Director and Conductor, organized the group of Singers from the plateau and surrounding areas. The program will consist of the Mass, opera selections, and some secular music. Bryan Heller will accompany the group, and Molly McKim, one of Incarnation's own, will be featured as one of the soloists. The concert is free and open to the public. All are welcome.

• HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

On Spring Street.

Saturdays

* Farmers Marketplace in K-H Founders Park from 8a-12:30p.

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

• Scrabble at Hudson Library from 1-4 p.m. Bring board if possible. All are welcome.

• The Bascom Knitters on the Terrace at The Bascom from 10 am until noon or downstairs in The Bascom Library room.

Thurs.-Sun., May 24-28

• Highlands Cashiers Players will present the fourth play of their 2016-2017 season, "Don't Cry for Me Margaret Mitchell" directed by Donna Cochran. This hilarious historical comedy about the writing of the screen play for Gone with the Wind will be performed at PAC Thursday-Sunday and Evening performances are at 7:30 and Sunday matinees are at 2:30 Tickets are available by calling the box office at 828 526 8084 or on line at highlandscashiersplayers.org.

Thur., May 25

• iOS Delving Deeper: More about the iPad & iPhone, 10:30-3:30 Cost \$75/\$85 Instructor: Nigel Sixsmith. To Register Call 526-8811 or www.clehighlands.com

Fri., May 26

• At the Nature Center, Salamander Meander - Ages 6-Adult • 9 pm - 10 pm • \$5. Join herpetologists on a night search to observe some of the area's salamanders in the wild. Reg-istration is required. Don't forget to bring your flashlight! For info, call 526-2221.

• At the Hudson Library in the Meeting Room Community Coffee with Mayor Pat Taylor 11 a.m. til Noon. "Review of the Proposed Town Budget."

Sat., May 27

• Highlands Plateau Audubon Society free spring outing on Saturday with two WCU professors. Be at the Cashiers Rec Center at 7 a.m. to carpool and caravan to the Blue Ridge Parkway. Loaner binoculars and expert guidance will be provided. Beginning birders are welcome. Bring water and a snack for lunch. This mostly roadside birding will require very little walking and promises to be easy and enjoyable.

• Highlands Mountain Top Rotary. Run For the Park 5K. Race and Walk at 8 a.m. Proceeds will benefit Kelsey-Hutchison Park and other projects of Mountain Top Rotary. To register, call 828-421-8224.

• Mountain Garden Club's plant sale 9-Noon Saturday at the town ballfield on N. 4th St.

• The Highlands Plateau Greenway will conduct a work day from 9a - noon on Saturday. If you're interested in participating, please email highlandsgreenway@nctv.com or leave a message at 828-482-1451. We'll meet at the large upper parking lot (near the

pool entrance) in the Recreation Park at 9:00 AM for a brief orientation session, and you'll be furnished with the necessary tools and safety equipment.

• J. McLaughlin's on Main Street will donate 15% of their proceeds from 1pm - 4pm HUMC Family & Fellowship Hall.

• Work hike with Bill Van Horn. Call 369-1983.

Sun., May 28

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a one-mile walk on a level path around a lake near Clayton GA, then drive up to the lookout in Black Rock Mtn. state park (car fee \$5.00) and visit a small museum and gift shop. Meet at the Smoky Mtn. Visitors Center in Otto NC at 2:00 p.m., drive 30 miles round trip. Call leader Kay Coriell, 369-6820 for reservations.

Tues.-Fri., May 30 - June 2

• Plants-a-Plenty Highlands Nature Center • 828-526-2623. Ages 4 - 6 • 9 am - 11 am daily • Cost \$75 per child. Highlands is a perfect place to investigate plant biodiversity. Campers will be exposed to plant and tree basics while exploring in the Highlands Botanical Garden. From flowers to ferns, the fun is never-ending!

Tues., May 30

• Village Nature Series: Hungry Like the Wolf - Learning About Endangered Red Wolves with Ben Prater. Co-hosted by Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust and The Village Green. 5:30 PM, rain or shine. For more information contact the land trust at 526-1111 or info. hitrust@earthlink.net.

Wed., May 31

• 100 Day Review of President Trump's Foreign Policy 10:00-12:00 Cost \$25/\$35 Presenter: Niall Michelsen. To Register Call 526-8811 or www.clehighlands.com

Sat., June 3

• Highlands Plateau Audubon Society. Birding for beginners and beyond at Cashiers Commons with Russ Regnery, President of HPAS. Meet at the Cashiers Rec Center at 7:30 AM. Easy walking; loaner binoculars available.

• Reviving and Reshaping North Carolina after the Civil War, 10:00-12:00 Cost \$25/\$35 Presenter: Stephen Nash. To Register Call 526-8811 or www.clehighlands.com

• Manna Food Bank's 2017 Blue Jean Ball. Travel by motor coach to Asheville. Depart from CLE at 4:45 Cost \$110 per person (age 21 and older). To Register Call 526-8811 or www.clehighlands.com

• "Brushy Face Grand Opening Celebration" Come celebrate the brand new public trail on National Trails Day/Land Trust Day at one of our newly conserved properties. Bring the kids and visit environmental education stations along the way. For the more adventurous, join us for a challenging hike from our newest public property, Brushy Face, to the summit of our first property that was protected in 1909, Satulah Preserve. To learn more about this free community event visit www.hicashlt.org.

Sun., June 4

• At the Nature Center, Birds of the World - All Ages • 7 pm • Free. In collaboration with the Highlands Plateau Audubon Society. Come for a presentation by the Carolina Raptor Center (CRC) featuring live raptors from across the globe. Contributions to CRC are appreciated. For in-fo, call 526-2221.

Mondays, June 5, 12, 19, 26 (4 sessions)

• Thinking Bridge: Play of the Hand (intermediate), 9:30-11:30 Cost \$80/\$90 Instructor: Duane Meeter. To Register Call 526-8811 or www.clehighlands.com

Mon., June 5

• Covert Actions of the CIA, 10:00-12:00 Cost \$25/\$35 Presenter: Ira Cooperman. To Register Call 526-8811 or www.clehighlands.com

Tues.-Fri., June 6 - 9

• Cycling Through Nature. Highlands Nature Center • 828-526-2623. Ages 6 - 9 • 9 am - 11 am daily • Cost \$110 per child. The natural world is very cyclical. From life cycles of plants and animals to the water cycle and even the seasons, things tend to happen in circular patterns. We will explore the richness of these cycles throughout the week.

Tue., June 6

• The Movies of Burt Lancaster: An American Hero, 10:00-12:00 Cost \$25/\$35 Presenter: Ira Cooperman. To Register Call 526-8811 or www.clehighlands.com

• Highlands Plateau Audubon Society. Chapter Pot Luck Dinner at 6 PM followed by a presentation by NCAudubon's Curtis Smalling speaking about "How Our Local Birds are Doing: A Species Rollcall!" The presentation

• See EVENTS page 26

Nature Center Photo Contest now on



The first Highlands Nature Center Photo Contest is now accepting entries. Get out your camera and capture your favorite natural scene. This year's contest will feature photos capturing "Natural Wonders of the Highlands Plateau." Each entry costs \$10 with a maximum of 3 entries per person. Photos and release should be emailed to highlandsbiological@gmail.com by midnight, June 21, 2017.

The four categories, Mountains and Valleys, Waterways, Small Wonders and Winged Creatures, will each feature a winner in a youth and adult category. Following the submission deadline, images will be on display at the Highlands Nature Center this summer so plan your visit to see the work of our local photographers and cast your vote for the People's choice award. For a full list of the submission rules please visit our website: Highlandsbiological.org/photo-contest/.

Photographs will be evaluated on how well the photograph captures some aspect of the natural character and beauty of the Highlands Plateau, the uniqueness of the aspect of the subject captured by the photographer, and composition and technical expertise.

A celebration of all the photographers and their art will take place at the Highlands Nature Center on August 6th. Winners will receive a gift card from our sponsor the Highland Hiker, or an item from the Nature Center gift shop.



330 Dillard Road

Behind

Highlands Decorating Center

828-526-4192

Complete Hair Care

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Massage Therapy

Hand & Foot Treatments

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Pedicures &

Special Packages

'Oh, What a Night...' at the Highlands Performing Arts Center Announcing the 2017 Concert Season!

The 2017 Concert Season opens on Saturday, June 17 with the PAC GALA featuring **The HIT MEN 2.0**. All new show. The concert begins at 5pm and the GALA Dinner at 7pm at Highlands Falls Country Club. The HIT MEN: a supergroup— who either played, sang and performed with some of the biggest stars of the era, including *Who Loves You, Oh What a Night*, *The Loco-motion*, *Peace Train*, *Mony Mony*, *Joy to the World* and other songs in which they used their talents to spin wax into gold and platinum. Presented by Nancy & Charles Harrison, Tish & Dick McCarthy, Margie & Milton Ruben, Faye & Irwin Siegel, Cindy & Rick Trevathan, Sandy & John Barrow, and Dot & Dallis Champion.

Saturday, June 24, brings Bluegrass at its finest back to PAC with **Seldom Scene**, back by popular demand. On April 22, the longtime pillars of the bluegrass world debuted a new cd with the aptly titled *LONG TIME...SELDOM SCENE*. The new cd features 16 oft-requested tunes and is the band's first studio album since the GRAMMY nominated album *Scenechronized* in 2007.

Presented by Ray & Diane McPhail.

Saturday, July 1, features a fun filled evening of Comedy for the whole family with **Keith Alberstadt**. Introduced by our own Chris Wilkes,

with an Opening Act by Andy Forrester. Keith has worked with and written for *The Late Show with David Letterman* • *Late Night with Seth Meyers* • *Last Comic Standing* • *Saturday Night*

Live's Weekend Update (freelance contributor) • *Late Night with Jimmy Fallon* (freelance contributor) • *Comics Unleashed*. Presented by Old Edwards Inn & Spa.

Saturday, September 16, **Taylor 2** returns to the PAC. Taylor 2 is part of the Paul Taylor American Modern Dance Company (NYC-Lincoln Center). Paul Taylor was a principal dancer with Martha Graham and George Balanchine, and still creates two new works a year. The Taylor 2 company was created several years ago as an outreach program to be able to bring professional dance to communities with smaller stages. Presented by Sandy Cohn & Ruth Gershon, Ruth & Tom Claiborne, Geri & Wade Coleman, and Cathy & Michael Crosby.

Saturday, September 23, Broadway comes to the stage with **The Doo Wop Project**. These singers and dancers starred in *The Jersey Boys*, *Memphis* and *Motown: The Musical*. An electrifying and off the charts energetic performance. Presented by Geri & Wade Coleman, Nancy & Lyle Nichols, Nancy & John Ludwig, and Fran & Bill Mathews.

Saturday, September 30, all Beatles fans need to be here. The Billy McGuigan Band presents **Yesterday & Today: The Interactive Beatles Experience**. This is an all audience request concert. Not a "tribute" band, they don't sing with British accents or dress in Beatles attire. The band knows every song the Beatles ever wrote, the way it was written. Presented by Jane Webb & David LaCagnina and Amy & Cecil Conlee.

Last, but not least...Friday, November 24, the day after Thanksgiving our own regional super stars, the **Mountain Faith Band** will present *A Mountain Faith Christmas*. Mountain Faith Band was nominated by IBMA for *Emerging Artist of the Year* 2016 and Summer McMahan won the IBMA *Momentum Vocalist of the Year* 2015. The MFB has been very busy touring across the country, including singing at the Super Bowk this year.

Tickets and PAC Memberships are available now. Check out www.highlandspac.org or call 828.526.9047 for tickets or more information.



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bacon, sausage, ham, biscuits, muffins,
croissants. Espresso bar and coffee
roasted in-house.

LUNCH

*Grill - every day of the week
starting at 11:00 until close*

Fresh cut natural meats, homemade deli
salads, specialty sandwiches, homemade
potato chips, daily soup specials.

Deli - Serving all day

Fresh cut natural meats, homemade deli
salads, specialty sandwiches, homemade
potato chips, daily soup specials.

*Wood Fire Pizza Oven -
Every day from 11:00 to close*

Authentic Neapolitan pizza made from
scratch, fresh mozzarella, basil, crushed
tomatoes, homemade Italian sausage,
pancetta, and daily specials.

SUNDAY SOUTHERN BRUNCH BAR

Every Sunday from 11am - 3pm

Skillet fried chicken, country Angus steak,
skillet corn, biscuits & preserves, mashed
potatoes, veggies, cobbler, plus the entire
soup & salad bar.

\$12.95 (dine in) or
\$9.99 a pound (to go)

PREPARED FOODS

A large selection of take-away items fully
prepared and ready to take home. Grilled
pork loins, homemade mac & cheese,
mashed potatoes, herb rubbed chicken,
made in house bbq, chicken salad, deli
salads & much more.

DINNERS TO GO

*A different full dinner for two every night,
Monday-Saturday from 4:30 until we sell
out. Call ahead to reserve...*

Monday - Low Country Lobster / Shrimp

Boil - Maine lobster tails, wild caught
large shrimp, red bliss potatoes, summer
corn, house made sausage, all steeped in
our seasoning. Served with drawn butter
and cocktail sauce. **\$36.95 serves two**

Tuesday - Oven Off Night

Two natural chicken breasts grilled with
our Tuscan herb infused olive oil, served
on a bed of greens with stuffed brie,
spiced pecans, our extra virgin olive oil
and balsamic vinegar on the side with
two cups of homemade gazpacho and a
baguette from our bakery.
\$26.95 serves two

Wednesday - Prime Rib with Baked

Potatoes & Salad - Premium Angus
standing rib roast, cooked medium rare
w/ red wine au jus. Two baked potatoes
& a large Caesar salad. **\$35.95 serves two**

Thursday - Two Racks of Baby Back Ribs

- cooked until fall-off-the-bone-tender.
Served with house made bacon/apple
baked beans and potato salad.
\$27.95 serves two

Friday - Wild Caught Shrimp: fried or

steamed. Wild caught North Carolina
shrimp either lightly breaded in our
seasoned corn flour mixture, and then
properly fried in peanut oil & served w/
hush puppies; or steamed to order in our
low country seasoning. Both come with
coleslaw and rosemary sea salt broiled red
potatoes, tarter & cocktail sauce.
\$28.95 serves two

Saturday - In-House Smoked BBQ -

Hand rubbed pork butt, pit-smoked
over night and hand pulled to order.
Comes with coleslaw, apple bacon
baked beans, and yeast rolls
\$25.95 serves two

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• HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

will begin at 7:30 PM. Both events are at the Highlands Civic Center, 600 N 4th Street.

Tuesdays, June 6, 13, 20, 27

• Great American Short Novels (Novellas), 5:30-8:30 Cost \$110/\$120 Presenter: Brian Railsback. To Register Call 526-8811 or www.clehighlands.com

Wed., June 7

• Mexico's Drug Wars, 2:00-4:00 Cost \$25/\$35 Presenter: Erik Ching. To Register Call 526-8811 or www.clehighlands.com

• A Dining Extravaganza with Chef Johannes, Meet in the CLE parking lot and travel by van to the Library Kitchen and Bar in Sapphire, NC 6:00-? Cost \$95/\$110. To Register Call 526-8811 or www.clehighlands.com

Thur., June 8

• Race and War: Soldiers of Color on the Western Front, 2:00-4:00 Cost \$25/\$35 Presenter: John H. Morrow. To Register Call 526-8811 or www.clehighlands.com

• Highlands Plateau Audubon Society. Birding in Panthertown Valley with Brent Martin, Southern Appalachian Regional Director with The Wilderness Society. Meet at 7 AM at the Cashiers Rec Center. Bring water & your camera. Long uphill walk on return leg will be taken slowly!

• The Bascom's Collective Spirits Private Home Wine Dinners at 6 p.m. Call 828-526-4949.

Fri., June 9

• Checks But No Balance? The Role of the Supreme Court as a Policy Maker, 10:00-12:00 Cost \$25/\$35 Presenter: Todd Collins. To Register Call 526-8811 or www.clehighlands.com

• The Bascom's Collective Spirits Beer, wine and spirits Market. 5:30-7:30 p.m. Call 828-526-4949.

Sat., June 10

• At the Nature Center, World Oceans Day - All Ages • 11:30 am - 4:30 pm • Free The ocean

is integral to all life on Earth and no matter where we live, we all have an impact on our ocean. Celebrate the ocean and the link we share with it, from the Mountains to the Sea. Find out more about how the ocean affects us and what we can do to protect it! For info, call 526-2221

Mon. & Tue., June 12-13

• Build Your Own Garden Trough (2 Day Class: Mon. 10:00-4:00, Tue. 2:00-4:00) Cost \$75/\$85 Instructor: Mary Guy Gunn. To Register Call 526-8811 or www.clehighlands.com

• The Bascom's Collective Spirits Gala. Cocktails, dinner and dancing. Call 828-526-4949.

Mon., June 12

• Center for Life Enrichment Opening Party, 5:00-7:00 Beverages and Light Hors d'oeuvres. Please RSVP 526-8811. To Register Call 526-8811 or www.clehighlands.com

Tue.-Fri., Jun 13-16

• At The Bascom, Summer Camp: Session 1 - 9a-noon and 1-4p. This first session is FREE! Kids will explore drawing, painting, and other methods of making art in a lively creative environment. Space is limited so please register today. To register call 526-4949.

• Citizen Scientists. Highlands Nature Center • 828-526-2623. Ages 9 - 10 • 9 am - 1 pm daily. Cost \$110 per child. Ever dream of being a scientist? Now you can be one! This camp will focus on citizen science projects, where citizens help out scientists by collecting data. Bring your curiosity and investigation skills and prepare to science!

Tue., June 13

• Highlands Plateau Audubon Society The Charlotte Raptor Rehab Center presents "Birds of the World" at 7 PM at the Highlands Biological Station at 265 N 6th Street. This family-friendly program will feature exotic, non-native birds of prey from all over the world including one of the most elusive owls on the planet.

• Bugs Among Us, 10:00-12:00 Cost \$25/\$35 Presenter: Kefyn M. Cately. To Register Call 526-8811 or www.clehighlands.com

Wed., June 14

• Lakeside Cooking Demonstration and Lunch, 11:30-2:00 Cost \$65/\$75. To Register Call 526-8811 or www.clehighlands.com

• Who are the Mexicans? 2-4p Cost \$25/\$35 Presenter: Angélica Lozano-Alonso. To Register Call 526-8811 or www.clehighlands.com

Thur. & Fri., June 15-16

• Build Your Own Garden Trough (2 Day Class: Thur. 10a-4p, Fri. 2:00-4:00) Cost \$75/\$85 Instructor: Mary Guy Gunn. To Register Call 526-8811 or www.clehighlands.com

Thur., June 15

• Apple Music, 10:30-3:30 Cost \$75/\$85 Instructor: Nigel Sixsmith. To Register Call 526-8811 or www.clehighlands.com

Fri., June 16

• Decision Making Through Instinctive Thinking, 10:00-12:00 Cost \$25/\$35 Presenter: Hunter R. Hughes. To Register Call 526-8811 or www.clehighlands.com

Sat., June 17

• Meet Highlands Newspaper columnist Kathy Penn at her booksigning of Celebrating the Magic in the Everyday at The Molly Grace at Oak and N. 4th streets in Highlands from 11am - 2 pm..

• Birding with Brock Hutchins to Jones Gap and Turtle Pond Rd. Meet at Founders Park in Highlands at 7:30 AM. Moderate amount of easy hiking; loaner binoculars available.

Mon. & Wed. June 19, 21, 26, 28

• At The Bascom, Beginning Drawing Workshop, 1:00-4:00 Cost \$95/\$110 Instructor: Freddie Flynt. To Register Call 526-8811 or www.clehighlands.com

Tue.-Fri., Jun 20-23

• At The Bascom, Summer Camp: Session 2 - Drawing. 9a-noon and 1-4p. Start your summer by practicing an important skill for all creative exploration. Students will explore the many methods and materials for drawing. To register call 526-4949.

Tues.-Fri., June 20 - 23

• Eco-Trekkers: Round 1 Highlands Nature Center • 828-526-2623. Ages 11 - 14 • 9 am - 4 pm daily • Cost \$150 per child. Campers will travel off-campus to explore the wonder and beauty of the Blue Ridge through all-day hikes. Adventure awaits as we investigate natural habitats, reflect through journaling, and practice Leave No Trace ethics!

Tue., June 20

• Birds & Beer (or wine or tea) at the Ugly Dog in Highlands. Spirited discussion of birds and birding starting at 5:30 PM and continuing with sandwiches and other pub grub.

• SIRI, 10:30-3:30 Cost \$75/\$85 Instructor: Nigel Sixsmith. To Register Call 526-8811 or www.clehighlands.com

Wed., June 21

• The Inimitable Winston Churchill, 2:00-4:00 Cost \$25/\$35 Presenter: Dr. Elliott Engel. To Register Call 526-8811 or www.clehighlands.com

Thur., June 22

• iPad PRO, 10:30-3:30 Cost \$75/\$85 Instructor: Nigel Sixsmith. To Register Call 526-8811 or www.clehighlands.com

• The Carter Presidency, 2:00-4:00 Cost \$25/\$35 Presenter: Joseph Crespino. To Register Call 526-8811 or www.clehighlands.com

• At the Nature Center, Feelin' Froggy! - 6 - Adult • 8:30 pm - 9:30 pm • \$3. Learn about the different frogs in Highlands. A short presentation will help us learn how to identify them by sight and then we will travel outside to listen for their calls. Advanced registration is required as space is limited. Please bring a flashlight. For info, call 526-2221

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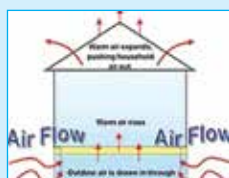
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• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

Seeing Is Believing

Pastor Steve Kerhoulas
Christ Church of the Valley
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I read something the other day that I thought you would enjoy. I know I did! During a difficult time in the Roman Empire, it had started to decay from within, a man by the name of Aristides, wrote something called "The Apology of Aristides". For much of his life he was not a Christian and was asked to report to the King an impression of those who were followers of Jesus. This is what he wrote.

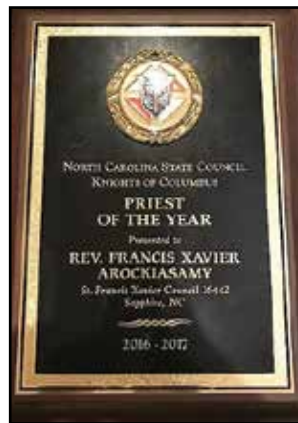
"But the Christians...show kindness to those near them; and whenever they are judges, they judge uprightly... They do good to their enemies...If one of them has a bondsman and bondswomen or children, through love towards them they persuade them to become Christians, and when they have done so, they call them brethren without distinction. They do not worship strange gods, and they go out of their way in all modesty and cheerfulness. Falsehood is not found among them; and they love one another...And he who has, gives to him who has not, without boasting. And when they see a stranger, they take him in to their homes and rejoice over him as a very brother...And if they hear one of their number is imprisoned or afflicted on account of the name of their Messiah, all of them anxiously minister to his necessity... And if there is any among them that is poor and needy, and they have no spare food, they fast two or three days in order to supply to the needy their lack of food...Such, O King... is their manner of life... And verily, this is a new people, and there is something divine in the midst of them."

That last statement spoke to me...there is something divine in the midst of them. By the way it was in the seeing of these things, in the lives of believers, that convinced Aristides to become a follower of Jesus Christ. Seeing is believing!

• BIZ/ORG NEWS •

Arockiasamy named 'Priest of the Year'

Our Lady of the Mountains Catholic Church in Highlands, and St. Jude Catholic Church in Sapphire Valley learned that their own Rev. Fr. Francis X. Arockiasamy has been awarded the designation of "Priest of the Year" by the NC Knights of Columbus, at the Knights annual awards ceremony on May 6th in Raleigh.



Proverbs 3:5

BLUE VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH

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

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

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

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

BUCK CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

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

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

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Sundays: 10 a.m.; Worship

Holy Communion 1st Sunday of the month

Wednesdays: 9 a.m. Healing and Prayer w/Communion

CHRIST ANGLICAN CHURCH

Rector: Jim Murphy, 252-671-4011

464 US Hwy 64 east, Cashiers

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

School; 10:30a Worship Service

Mon. 6p Bible Study & Supper at homes

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.

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE CHURCH

283 Spring Street

Sunday Service: 11 a.m.

Testimony Meeting: 5 p.m. on the 3rd Wed.

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

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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 U.

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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; Ch. 5p

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Curtis Fussell & Emily Wilmarth, pastors

526-3175 • fpchighlands.org

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

Mondays: 8 a.m.: Men's Prayer Group & Breakfast

Wednesdays: Choir: 5:30p

GOLDMINE BAPTIST CHURCH

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Sunday School: 10 am, Worship Service: 11 am

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

HAMBURG BAPTIST CHURCH

• PLACES TO WORSHIP •

John 3:16

Hwy 107N. • Glensville, Nc • 743-2729 • Pastor Nathan Johnson

Sunday: School 9:45a, Worship 11a & 7p, Bible Study 6p

Wed. Kidsquest 6p.; Worship 7p.

HIGHLANDS ASSEMBLY OF GOD

Randy Reed, Pastor 828-421-9172 • 165 S. Sixth Street

Sundays: Worship: 11

HIGHLANDS CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Dan Robinson

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

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

Wednesday: Prayer Service, 6:30 p.

HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Pastor Randy Lucas 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

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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

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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.

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MOUNTAIN BIBLE CHURCH

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4224 Big Ridge Road (4.5 miles from NC 107)

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

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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 a.m.

Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study: 6 p.m.

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Sept 6-Oct 25- Informal Evening Eucharist- 5:30 p.m.

Thursday: Noon Healing Service with Eucharist.

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• POLICE & FIRE REPORTS •

The Highlands Police log entries from May 8. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor or public officials have been used.

May 8

• At 1:45 p.m., officers were called to a home on Pierson Drive concerning a verbal argument.

May 10

• At 9:50 p.m., Steven C. Davis, 41, of Marietta, GA, was arrested for DWI when he ran a stop light on 5th Street. He was issued a \$1,200 unsecured bond. His trial date is June 14.

May 13

• At 2:30 a.m., Julio Alberto Bonilla, 49, of Highlands, was arrested for DWI when he was stopped on S. 4th. Street. He was issued a \$1,200 unsecured bond. His trial date is June 14.

May 17

• At 11:39 p.m., Matthew Joseph Ricke, 32 of Highlands, was arrested for DWI when he was stopped on US 64 east. He was issued a \$1,000 unsecured bond. His trial date is June 14.

May 19

• At 1:12 a.m., Eric James Rogers, 24, of Estero, FL, was arrested for DWI when he was stopped on US 64. He was issued a \$1,000 secured bond. His trial date is June 14.

The Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. log from May 16.

May 16

• The dept. responded to a structure fire on Bonnie Drive.

May 18

• The dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on the Dillard Road.

May 19

• The dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on N. 4th. Street.

• The dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on US 64 west.

• The dept. was first-responders to a location on Main Street.

May 20

• The dept. responded to an electrical fire at VZ Top.

• The dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Falls Drive West.

May 21

• The dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on US 64 east.

• The dept. was first-responders to a residence on Holly Tree Lane.

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MOUNTAIN FRESH GROCERY is hiring a full-time, experienced line cook. Also hiring a breakfast cook, prep and deli positions. Please come in person to 521 east Main Street in Highlands to apply or call 828-526-2400

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FURNITURE MAKERS/TRIM CARPENTERS/CABINET INSTALLERS for full-time work in High-end cabinet shop in Highlands, NC. Please send resume to: info@warthconstruction.com. (st. 3/2)

WOLFGANGS RESTAURANT looking for experienced wait-staff, bartender and bus person. Call Jacque at 828.526.3807 (st. 3/2)

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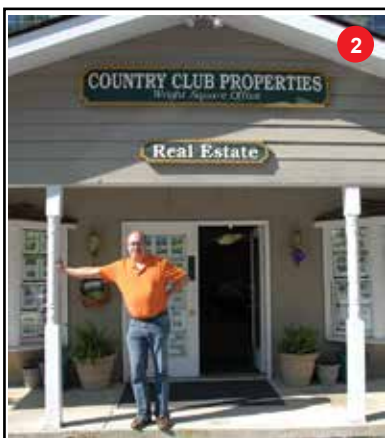
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