

Highlands Newspaper

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Thursday, March 28, 2013

Town Board OK's changes to CUD zone, 4-1

The Highlands Town Place Condominium saga has come to an end and so has the perpetuity of a Conditional Use District (CUD).

At the Thursday, March 21 Town Board meeting, commissioners voted 4 to 1 to allow

changes to the CUD plat of 2006, to ensure the defunct housing project will be completed, no longer be an eyesore and will potentially be sold out.

The changes, which the Planning Board recommended to the Town Board, involve changing the

placement of the multi-family structures on the property as well as the style of the buildings.

During the public hearing portion of the meeting, Zac Shamburg with Mesa Highlands Investors of Atlanta, GA, reiterated what he has said since November 2012

– that they want to put the project on a firm foundation for success; preserve The Stewart House; and make the project a viable, sustainable community for existing and potential homeowners and the Highlands community.

•See CUD page 14

• Inside •

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Directors of NC libraries travel to Raleigh to oppose state funding cuts for public libraries

Hudson Library represented

Governor Pat McCrory has released his proposed budget for 2013-15, and it calls for a cut of 4.8% in state spending on public libraries. Total state funding is currently at just over \$13 million spread among all public libraries in North Carolina. Since 1998, per capita state funding has dropped steadily from \$2.24 to less than \$1.40 today. The proposed cut would drop it lower.

"Libraries throughout western North Carolina will be hard-hit by a nearly 5% reduction in state monies," according to Karen Wallace, Director of Fontana Regional Library. Even before the proposed cuts were announced, the North Carolina Public Library Director's Association was active in spear-head-

ing a statewide effort to protect and promote library funding.

Part of that effort was Library Legislative Day, held in Raleigh on March 26th and which was designed to bring attention to the value of libraries in the budget process. Library supporters visited state legislators and advocated in favor of library funding.

Locally, Fontana Regional Library was using Library Legislative Day as a kick-off to a public awareness campaign about the importance of state funding for libraries.

Fontana Regional Library, which comprises the six libraries in Macon, Jackson, and Swain Counties, is asking patrons to contact local and state elected officials to voice support for public spending on libraries.

"We are beginning with a petition drive," said Wallace. "If patrons would like to show their support, they can do so by signing a petition that will be available at all our member libraries. Of course, we also encourage them to contact legislators directly."

In a service area with a com-

•See LIBRARIES page 3

Easter's living cross at HUMC



A tradition started by Gay Kattel some years ago continues at Highlands United Methodist Church where a "living cross" is created with greenery and flowers. Kattel will adorn the cross with greenery on Saturday and Sarah Knight will attach live flowers Easter morning. People are encouraged to bring a flower and add it to the creation.

Photo by Kim Lewicki

Highlands joins municipalities against state takeover of water

According to Save Our Waters WNC, North Carolina's General Assembly (NCGA) is about to take the unprecedented step of seizing a municipal-run water system.

Members of the NCGA have

signaled their intention to introduce legislation early in 2013 that would force the City of Asheville to turn over not only its water distribution system, but control of its

•See WATER page 22

Summer concerts in K-H Park a go

Last Thursday night, the Town Board OK'd a summer concert series in Kelsey-Hutchinson Park on Pine Street.

Dubbed the "Chamber of Commerce community focused, not-for-profit, summer music series" and beginning Saturday, June 15 and each Saturday through August there will be a free concert in the park from 6-8 p.m.

Citizens will be encouraged to bring a picnic dinner and will be allowed to brown bag beer or wine, or they can purchase food and beverages from participating vendors.

According to Tami Clifton, director of the permit & product compliance division of the NC ABC Commission, as long as an

•See CONCERTS page 17

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• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• LETTERS •

Attack on Mayor Wilkes was unwarranted

Dear Editor,
I am responding to the letter-to-the-editor in the March 21 edition entitled "Highlands doesn't need leaders like Wilkes and Drake."

If the author Robert Turner has regime change in mind I would not choose to begin the attack on the Mayor for something he said at a public retreat.

This open and well reported event allows city officials to raise issues they hear about with various departments without seeming to threaten the departments in another forum like a Town Hall meeting.

Accusing the Mayor of immaturity based on one article seems quick to judge. In fact he is well over 50 years old and quite mature.

Mr. Turner may mean the mayor is not a life-long politician because those types usually have no comment on the difficult topics so they can be re-elected. I'll take the less experienced politician every time.

I found the subjects raised in the article to be valid and I am pleased that our leaders are thinking about them.

William Hanley
Highlands

An OSIP he's not

Dear Editor,
I'd like to thank my friend Pat Taylor for his comments about my comments concerning previous comments about Fred's comments in his weekly newspaper column. That's a lot of commentary.

No way is Pat an OSIP; he's a courageous, upright, concerned citizen, resident and person who not only stands up for what he believes, but is willing to do it publicly, a quality I admire unequivocally. Most of us have a lot of strong opinions across our kitchen tables, but don't dare to actually say them out loud in a public forum for fear of being judged, even shunned. Among the many things that separate Pat from the OSIPs are his sense of humor and his sense of irony. The OS-

School jelly bean winners!



Lynn Vinson, Highlands School Cafeteria Manager, sponsored the annual Jelly Bean Contest where students guess how many jelly beans are in a jar. The winners for this year are First Place, Yasmin Jarquin-Colmenares, Second Place, Savannah Bozeman, Third Place, April Moss, and Fourth Place, Rylee Rivers

Photo by Carol Bowen

LETTERS-TO-THE EDITOR-POLICY

We reserve the right to reject or edit submissions.

NO ANONYMOUS LETTERS WILL BE ACCEPTED.

Views expressed are not necessarily those of Highlands Newspaper.
Please EMAIL letters by Sunday at 5 p.m. There is a 500-word limit without prior approval.

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IPs have neither.

Of course, in this particular matter, the joke's on us; nothing ole Fred likes better than being the source and center of a controversy. That's his raison d'être, after all, and I, for one, am glad to accommodate. A boiling pot is more compelling and more interesting than one simmering on the back burner

Alice Nelson
Highlands

• OBITUARIES •



James "Jimmy" William Beck, Jr

James "Jimmy" William Beck Jr, age 78, of Highlands died Friday, March 22, 2013. Born in Macon County, he was the son of the late James William Beck, Sr. and Beulah Henry Beck. He retired from the U.S. Forest Service where he had worked in maintenance. Jimmy liked fishing and being outdoors and was of the Baptist faith.

Jimmy is survived by five brothers; Sammy Beck of Marianna, FL, Henry "Jake" and Gilbert Beck of Highlands, and John and Butch Beck of Scaly Mtn. Several nieces and nephews also survive.

Funeral services were held Monday, March 25, at 2:00 pm in the Chapel of Bryant Grant Funeral Home. Oliver Rice officiated. Burial was in Highlands Memorial Park. Pallbearers were Lamar Beck, Scott Beck, James Beck, Charles Hensley, Robbie Forrester, John Shaheen and Kenneth Forrester.

Bryant-Grant Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

• MILESTONE •

McCall excelling in gymnastics



Kedra McCall, daughter of Bert and Stephanie McCall of Highlands, finished her gymnastics season at The Courtney Kupets Pink Invitational in Savannah, GA, March 8 with a 1st place win on the uneven bars with a 9.7 score.

Her season started in October at Level 6 USAG in Hickory, NC where she qualified for state. Then it was on to Atlanta, GA, where she placed 1st on bars; then on to Rock Hill, SC, and State at Winston-Salem, NC. From there she moved to USAG Excel Gold level and traveled to Knoxville, TN, to win 1st on bars and second place AA with a 35.925. Next it was to the Little John Coliseum at Clemson, SC, with a 1st on bars 3rd on vault and 4th AA with a 35.950.

She spends 16 to 18 hours a week at New Vision Gymnastics in Franklin where she has a great time with her coaches and teammates. She is planning on competing next season at Level 7. She has been participating in gymnastics since she was three years old.

... LIBRARIES continued from page 1

bined total population of more than 88,000, according to the 2010 census, Fontana had nearly half a million visits to its member libraries in the 2011-12 fiscal year. In addition, there were more than 92,000 computer use sessions during that same time. According to Wallace,

"Our data shows that we provide computer and high-speed internet access to many people who do not have these resources at home. In addition, we have staff available to offer help when needed."

Any resident wishing to sign a petition in support of library funding may do so at their local library. The petition reads,

"I believe that the public library is the heart of my community. It enriches my life and inspires my future. For these reasons, I support the funding of public libraries with my tax dollars."

For more information about the variety of services and programs offered by Fontana Regional Library, please contact

the Hudson Library at 828-526-3031 or visit www.fontanalib.org.

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Bridal Veil Falls closed to through traffic



Freezing and thawing has dislodged another piece of the rock face of Bridal Veil Falls on US 64 west. Ten years ago a larger piece broke off left of the "cave." Mike Wilkins USFS Ranger for the Nantahala District said though road maintenance funds are extremely tight, he vowed to find funds to get the rock removed and so Bridal Veil Falls can be reopened.

Photo by Jim Lewicki

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• BEST OF FRED •

Frumpy Stiltskin and the three bears

I have just finished my first children's book, specially designed for those very savvy, streetwise three-to-five year-olds who are bored with the current Ya da, Ya da stuff they're currently dishing out. City slicker kids are thirsting for some real action.

"Lil Buckeys," children who visit Highlands from Buckhead, will love this book as will Highlands' children. It's about three very cool bears.

Read the story out loud, using your very best singsong voice, like when you talk to toddlers, or old people, like

me.

Once upon a time, there were three bears, Papa bear, Mamma bear, and the very lovable, but extremely obese (that means grossly fat) Baby bear. The bears were tooling around Highlands in their brand new Jaguar convertible when they happened upon the home of Frumpy Stiltskin. He is the third cousin, twice removed by several marriages and divorces, of Rumble, a grouchy old guy with one leg and bad breath. (But that's another story)

Looking in the window, the bears see that Frumpy isn't home, so Papa bear, using his latest state of the art burglary tools, breaks into the house. (In the original version, a little girl named Goldilocks commits the burglary.) As your parents have already taught you, breaking and entering of an unoccupied dwelling during daylight hours is a third degree felony. You are not afraid for baby bear be-



Fred Wooldridge

cause you have read my publication, "Modern Treatment for Child Criminals," and know that, if caught, baby bear will only get timeout.

Once inside the house, the bears head straight for the liquor cabinet. Papa bear tastes the Jamaican rum. "This rum is too strong," Mamma bear then tastes the Grand Marnier. "This is too weak." Baby bear breaks the seal on a bottle of Louie XIV brandy and says, "This brandy is just right," and drinks it alllllll up.

(Here, a picture of a very happy Baby bear holding a brandy snifter bigger than his head.)

Next, off to the kitchen where they find three bowls of paella on the table. Paella is a delicious Cuban dish. Frumpy's third marriage was to Adriana Rosa Macedo Rodriguez who loves to cook. She is also a delicious Cuban dish. Tasting from the first bowl, Papa bear says, "This paella is too spicy." Mamma bear samples the second bowl. "This is too mild." Baby bear, now having trouble with his motor control from drinking the brandy, struggles to sip from the third bowl.

"This is just right" he slurs, eating it all up. Then Baby bear announces "I am very sleepy" (who wouldn't be) and the three head for the bedrooms. Papa bear finds his bed too hard: Mamma bear announces hers is too soft and Baby bear couldn't care less about comfort and just wants to lay down and get some sleep.

While the bears sleep, Frumpy comes home and sees that his house has been broken into. He finds the empty bottle of Louie XIV as well as the empty paella bowls. He screams out in anger, reaching for his .357 Magnum revolver. (Here, a picture of grumpy Frumpy brandishing a scary gun. Hold child close and read on.)

Frumpy's scream awakens Mamma and Papa bear but they are unable to wake up Baby bear as he is too blitzed on brandy to budge. Leaving him, they leap out

• See WOOLDRIDGE page 5

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• LEGISLATIVE UPDATE ... IN THEIR WORDS •

• In this weekly series, legislators will inform constituents of their dealings in Washington, Raleigh and Macon County – in their own words.

Focusing on a balanced budget

By Senator Jim Davis
NC District 50
Jim.Davis@ncleg.net

The North Carolina Legislature's principal order of business for the 2013 Long Session is to pass another balanced budget. This month Governor Pat McCrory gave us his Recommended Budget for 2013-2015 (available at <http://osbm.nc.gov/the-budget>). The Governor has structured his budget around three main priorities – the economy, education, efficiency and transformation in State Government. He presents a budget that 1) maintains and enhances reserves in excess of \$900 million, 2) allows North Carolina to continue to be one of only eight states to hold the Triple A bond rating from all three rating agencies, and 3) leaves \$131 million unspent in FY 2013-14 and \$332 million unspent in FY 2014-15.

The Governor's budget authorizes no new debt and no tax increases. He budgets 9% less per capita than the budget did five years ago, while the state population has grown by 560,000. His budget grows responsibly, is consistent with inflation of 1.5% and below the overall economic growth anticipated for FY 2013-2014.

Also this month, the Governor sent a Memorandum to his Council of State, Cabinet Secretaries and Agency Heads regarding budget management issues. Of particular concern is that the state is again facing expenditures for Medicaid greater than the authorized state General Fund budget. Administration staff is estimating that the state will overspend state funds by \$70 - \$130 million in Medicaid.

"In addition," states the Governor, "as previously reported by State Auditor Beth Wood, the Division of Medical Assistance held \$132 million due the Federal government in June of 2012, repaying it in July 2012. Because of this deferral and other liabilities that were not accounted for during the Perdue administration, there was a shortfall at the beginning of this Fiscal Year. Wood's audit re-



port is available on the North Carolina Office of the State Auditor website.

This beginning General Fund shortfall of \$132 million, plus this year's spending \$70 - \$130 million over budget, means that the state is facing a General Fund excess spending of \$200 - \$262 million that must be addressed."

The General Assembly passed a prudent budget for this Fiscal Year 2012-2013. That budget put North Carolina in a sound financial state. However,

the state still must deal with Medicaid spending millions higher than budgeted.

We applaud the Governor's efforts to present to us a balanced budget. Considering Governor McCrory and his team had only about eight weeks to put together their budget recommendations, they did a remarkable job. Now the Legislature's job is to identify its priorities, recognize areas of agreement and disagreement, and to adjust the budget accordingly. We expect to deliver a completed budget in late May or early June 2013. We are gathering information from state departments in order to make informed budget decisions. This process will continue for several more weeks. The resulting budget will represent the second consecutive legislative session under Republican leadership that North Carolina government refuses to spend money it does not have to spend. This sets our state on a path toward fiscal solvency. North Carolina's citizens deserve no less.

US Senators from NC
Richard Burr (Rep)
Kay Hagan (Dem)

US Congressman from NC District 11
Mark Meadows (Rep)

NC Senator District 50
Jim Davis (Rep)

NC House of Representative District 120
Roger West (Rep)

• POLICE & FIRE •

Highlands PD log entries from Feb. 23 Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor, or public officials have been used.

Feb. 23

• At 5:11 a.m., the dept. responded to a call about criminal damage to property at Main Street Pharmacy Feb. 28

• At 12:30 p.m., Kaylea Gail-Lynn Cannon, 18, of Clayton, GA, was arrested for shoplifting and forgery. She was issued a secured bond of \$4,000. Her court date is April 4, 2013.

March 1

• At 9:06 p.m., Eitan Michael Pearl, 33 of Highlands, was arrested for DWI on S. 4th Street. His court date is April 17, 2013.

• At 6:24 p.m., Zachery Robert Downs, 29, of Franklin, was arrested for possessing counterfeit currency, for altering, stealing and destroying criminal evidence and resisting arrest. He was issued at \$7,000 secured bond. His trial date was March 7, 2013.

March 3

• At 4:35 p.m., \$250 was reported stolen from the Farmers Market at NC 106 and Main Street.

March 9

• At 12:02 p.m., officers responded to a burglary without forced entry at the Highlands Playhouse Lodge on Spruce Street.

March 16

• At 10:50 p.m. officers responded to a breaking and

• See POLICE & FIRE page 22

... WOOLDRIDGE continued from 4

the bedroom window. Again, do not become alarmed. Baby bear has read my handbook, "How to Escape the Child Welfare Department Without Getting Killed." He will be OK.

After doing the "Someone has been sleeping in my bed" bit twice, Frumpy finds Baby bear, still zonked out, and decides to call the police. While he is away, Baby bear awakens, finds his parents gone and heads for the bedroom window but is too fat to fit through the window opening and gets stuck. (Here, an inside picture of Baby bear's great big fanny stuck in the window. Point and laugh, please.)

Meanwhile, Frumpy is so relieved that the bears didn't find his hidden moonshine stash, he decides to let baby bear go. They are all eventually reunited and live happily ever after. (Here, a big sigh.)

No more burglaries for Baby bear until he loses some weight and completes the 12 step program. And I always like to leave parents who buy my books with a statement of moral logic, like "Never leave the house with a bear behind."

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• **JUST HERS** •

Lessons Maman taught me

Im sure most of us feel that our mothers were extraordinary. Mine certainly was. While she is no longer with us, I am fortunate to remember many of her unforgettable quotes. Some have proved accurate, some not. In any case, however, they were, as she was, witty and memorable. Here are just a few:

As you can imagine, my French mother had a lot to say about food.

- Never take the last cookie.
- Many savory dishes would be even better with the addition of either shallots or Dijon mustard, or both. Few desserts couldn't be improved on with a hint of Grand Marnier. On the other hand, beware of dishes which must be flambéed. There is a difference between elegance, and your kitchen or dining room looking like they've just been sprayed with napalm.

Like Julia Child, my mother was not a fan of raw vegetables. She liked her veggies cooked al dente, and tossed in butter, and salted. I was with my mother when she was presented with a platter of raw vegetables and a dip. The hostess explained to her that it was a French dish - "Crudités" - which she pronounced "crud - ites." Maman looked with dismay at the dish, and whispered to me, "In my country, we feed that to a rabbit, and then we eat the rabbit." In her defense, in the 14 years I lived in France, I was never served raw vegetables in a French home.

Maman was horrified at the huge portions people are served in restaurants. "If they eat like this, no wonder they get fat!" There are no doggie bags in many countries in Europe. You eat what's on your plate, and that's it. Portions are smaller, since meals are served in courses. My mother was particularly grossed out by meat served by weight, 14 oz. or 16 oz. steaks being prime (no pun intended) examples. When she would see a huge piece of meat arriving on a plate, she would shake her head, and say "Feeding time at the zoo," referring to those huge carcasses they throw to lions and tigers.

As a teenager, I had a bad habit of bringing home the occasional skinny young man with sad eyes. My mother would shake



Michelle Mead-Armor
michiamead@aol.com

her head and say, "Don't feed him, and he'll go home." Alas, I usually fed them.

• If you are the host or hostess of a dinner or party, always take the broken piece of pie or the smallest and least attractive portions for yourself. Should your best made plans go wrong, and food is running low, do without.

• Don't eat as if every meal is going to be your last. There was only one Last Supper.

Maman loved nice clothes, and shoes, in particular. She despaired at having a tall, gangling daughter who felt more at home in jeans and t-shirts than in elegant, tailored clothing.

• There is no such thing as bad weather, only inappropriate clothing. Maman almost always wore a scarf and gloves, and frequently, a hat. Since I moved to Highlands, I have often been teased because I carry an umbrella, and frequently wear a heavy jacket, boots, gloves, and a scarf. On the other hand, I am never cold, and seldom get wet. This is the difference between people who dress to be out in the elements, and people who dress to ride around in cars.

• Never be the most casually dressed person, especially at a party. I am always wary of people who say, "Oh, it's just a little get-together! Come as you are." You do, and find that the rest of the women are dressed to the nines, and you look like you are going to fix someone's carburetor.

• Remember that a dress size 5 woman can look good in a gunny sack, but if you are not one of those fortunate ladies, take particular care in how you dress. Not everyone can look like they have been dressed by Coco Chanel, but it's better than looking like you buy your clothes from Omar the Tentmaker.

• Dressing well and practicing good grooming are marks of respect you show to the people who have to look at you. On the other hand, nice underwear is something you do for yourself.

• Don't wear lots of noisy jewelry, especially if you are attending a concert or a committee meeting. The only person

• COACH'S CORNER •

Random thoughts from March Madness



Ryan Potts
tryanpotts@hotmail.com

game before winning two more games on the way to the Sweet 16 to set up a matchup with fellow mid-major Wichita State. I look for the Shockers to win the game, but LaSalle has put itself back on the basketball map after their performance.

While the Big 10 has 4 teams in the Sweet 16, two of those squads owe a lot of their place to favorable officiating. Both IU and Ohio State received the benefit of some generous officiating to help assist in their path to the Sweet 16. The refs badly blew a charge call in favor of Aaron Craft that would have put Iowa State up 4 with 90 seconds to play, which was so bad that even Charles Barkley called it turrible. In the Indiana-Temple game, a brilliant performance from Khalif Wyatt went to waste as Temple outplayed IU in every facet of the game but lost when the Hoosiers rode the FT line train to victory.

Quick Final Four picks for the weekend. Louisville, Florida, Ohio State and Marquette.

good fortune.

Kansas put up one of the best defensive performances I have seen all year in the second half against North Carolina. Jeff Withey dominated the paint single-handedly, and the Jayhawks choked off UNC's formidable perimeter game. I don't think that KU has the offense to get it done this year, but they will be in every game left in their season because of their stout defense.

LaSalle would be the story of the tournament if not for the aforementioned appearance of Dunk City. The Explorers won a play-in

First and foremost, I am now a Dunk City convert. Florida Gulf Coast is now my new favorite team, thanks to their incredible display of athleticism, hustle and what the young folks call "swag." FGCU lobbed their way into a lot of hearts this past weekend. Having watched them play Duke early in the season, I was impressed at that point with the fact that the Eagles were not intimidated by Cameron Indoor at all and Sherwood Brown was an athletic specimen. Despite those initial impressions, even I would have never suspected that FGCU would end up in the Sweet 16.

Marquette has the look of a team of destiny after stunning Davidson (and ruining one of my upset picks) in the final minute and then pulling out another stunner against Butler to head to the Sweet 16. The Golden Eagles have the athleticism to hang with Miami, and without Reggie Johnson, the Hurricanes may be hard pressed to overcome a team that looks to be riding a wave of

• BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NEWS •

Bingo big win for Literacy



On Thursday, March 14, the Rotary Club of Highlands partnered with the Literacy Council to sponsor Bingo. All proceeds went to support literacy for children and adults in our community. Pictured are Judy Joyner and Tonya Hensley, directors of the Literacy Council, Rotary President and Literacy Council President Brian Stiehler, his daughter Anna, with winners of the Super Bingo game Jeannie Chambers and Jodie Cook.

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King Mountain Club. Lovely one-level home with 3 bedrooms, 3 baths with airy living space, move-in condition. 2-car garage, generator. Nicely landscaped grounds. Furnishings are available at additional cost. Offered at \$595,000. mls #76655



Great old Highlands estate between Highlands and Cashiers on Cowee Gap Lane. House and guest house on over 13 acres. Spectacular views of Whiteside, Rock, Sheepcliff mountains and valley panorama. Guesthouse has 2 bedrooms and 1 bath. Offered at \$1,295,000. mls #76606



Custom built Craig & Craig home features soaring, spacious rooms. 3 bedrooms, den, loft, and wine cellar, 3 1/2 baths in the main house, plus a 1 bed/1bath garage apt. Covered outdoor living room with fireplace, huge 2-tiered deck space and spectacular views. Offered at \$3,995,000. mls #76417



Lovely family home in pristine condition with cutting edge features. 4 bedrooms, 4 1/2 baths, 2 living rooms, storage galore, 2-car garage. Spacious patio. Great mountain view from the gentle knoll. Offered at \$1,385,000. mls #74420



Darling log cabin on a large private lot on Blackberry Lane. Move in condition and ready to enjoy. 2 bedrooms, 2 baths, loft, workshop. Glassed-in porch overlooks private wooded area. Storage and workshop downstairs. Offered mostly furnished at \$410,000. mls #76607



Live on one level with master suite, office, sunroom, great room, dining room and kitchen. Every amenity for family and guests. Golf course and lake views. Decks, porches and creek side living area. Owner will purchase Cullasaja Membership for qualified buyer. 2-car garage plus golf cart storage. Offered at \$1,495,000. mls #76404



End of the road privacy in renovated 3 bedroom, 2 bath home with large office and 2-car garage. Easy living on one level, great sunroom, 2 large decks, hot tub, sauna, exercise room. Open great room, custom kitchen, wood floors, fireplace. Waterfall in backyard and additional lot. Offered at \$895,000. mls #76442



Close to town in a great small subdivision. 5 bedrooms, 5 baths, den, 2-car garage. Kitchen has Aga stove, commercial stainless hood with Wolfe gas cook top. Subzero refrigerator, 2 freezer drawers, wine cooler and more. Offered at \$1,995,000 MLS# 71452

• RE SNAPSHOTS •



Custom 5 bedroom with triple garage, antique hardwood floors, 3 fireplaces, huge master suite and Texas-size closet. Unbelievable kitchen and sunroom. Offered at \$2,195,000. MLS# 74841.



Wonderful family compound! Two great Joe Webb cabins on almost 4 acres with panoramic views, lovely grounds and gardens. Hiking trails that lead to the top of Bridal Veil Falls. Private yet only 3 miles to downtown! Offered at \$1,850,000. MLS# 76707



Broker Associate
Andrea Gabbard
828-200-6165

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HFCC masterpiece with incredible waterfall, mountain and golf course views! Master and study on main, lovely dining porch with views. Private and close to town. Offered at \$1,400,000 MLS 76138.



Old Edwards Club at Highlands Cove. Four spacious bedrooms – 2 on main level, soaring fireplace in open great room, dramatic kitchen, screened porch, wired for TV and 2-car garage. Offered at \$1,250,000. MLS# 74643.



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Spring cleaning ... and more

As spring arrives - albeit it still cold - we have already been busy with buyers and had lots of calls from sellers wanting to list. It's that time of year to "spruce-up."

Walking into a cold house with a musty odor, dead bugs in the corners, water stains, winterized homes with "parts" sitting on the floor, branches in the yard and porches, mildew on the exterior wood - and the list goes on and on - is NOT a good showing!

This is the time to make your home picture perfect! We have been busier with lookers and buyers than ever so make sure YOU meet the challenge to find a buyer quickly.

I'm always asked, "How is the market and what is your prediction?" Relying on local and regional info available to brokers helps me answer that question

Mortgage rates have been at historic lows this year, so there's only one direction for them to go. The NAR predicts that rates will gradually rise to average 4% next year, up from about 3.5% in September of 2012.

The Urban Land Institute's 2013 Emerging Trends report, which surveys industry experts, concludes that "There's no way the low-interest-rate environment lasts; and your low-rate mortgage could be a 'huge future asset' as soon as interest rates begin to pop."

Greg McBride, senior financial analyst at Bankrate.com, agrees there could be minor increases in the coming year since the market drives rates.

The signs of a turnaround are hard to ignore. National home prices have been on the up-



Pat Allen
Broker-in-charge
828-200-9179

tick for eight straight months and jumped 6.3% year-over-year in October - the largest increase since June 2006, according to CoreLogic.

So my prediction is I see interest rates and home sales going up in 2013.

I had my best year ever in real estate last year and see an

increase in buyers for this year already. To be one of the "solds" you need to clean, paint, replace - whatever makes your home picture perfect. With over 1,500 homes for sale in Highlands and Cashiers your competition is enormous. If you're a player in the game always plan to WIN.

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Annual Rotary golf tourney set for May 4

Sign up now for the Monday, May 4 Rotary Club of Highland's Annual Golf Tournament at the Highlands Country Club.

Registration, the driving range and the practice green will open at 11 am with a noon shotgun start. Lunch at the turn and beverages on the course, and a HCC logo Tervis Tumbler.

There will be a closest to the pin and long drive competitions, raffles and Mulligans on sale for only \$5. Entry fee is \$150 per player and ALL proceeds benefit the Rotary Club of Highlands.

Sign up alone or as part of a foursome. To sign up contact Joyce Baillargeon at 526-0501 or email jbaillargeon@highlandscountryclub.com

• RE SNAPSHOTS •

Properties for Sale

Dream Lot on Ravenel



Remarkable estate-sized wooded lot (3.4 +/- acres) in the exclusive Ravenel community in the heart of Highlands. The unique in-town parcel lays beautifully with a level building site, a great winter ridgeline view, and gorgeous rock outcroppings. And this wonderful acreage is uniquely convenient to downtown's boutique shopping, the arts, and world-class restaurants. Offered at \$469,000.

Steps from The Bascom



Walk to town from this 5 BR/3.5 BA neat-as-a-pin, quality home. 2 separate living systems give you options galore (rent both, rent one & enjoy one, or enjoy both)! Gorgeous kitchen w/breakfast bar on main level & a second complete kitchen on the lower level. Enjoy the sound of Mill Creek from the decks or screened porch. Natural yard w/native plants & shrubs. Offered at \$579,000.

Commercial with 1BR/BA Apt.



Excellent opportunity to own commercial property in downtown Highlands. Zoned B-3 commercial. Commercial/retail/professional space on the main level w/office area, storage space, and full bathroom. Upper level is a charming one bedroom, one bath apt. w/ living/dining area & stacker in kitchenette. Offered at \$499,000. MLS #69631.

Highlands Historic Estate



Escape to this historic, 1920s Highlands estate and luxuriate in privacy on 7.27 +/- acres, with an easy walk to Main Street. 4 BR/3 BA main house features gorgeous woodwork, large stone fireplace in the living & dining rooms, large country kitchen, laundry/mud room, and library. The charming, 2 BR/1 BA guest house has wood floors, a claw foot tub/shower in bath, and a deck. Offered at \$2,650,000. MLS #75971.

Please contact Susie deVille at (828) 371-2079



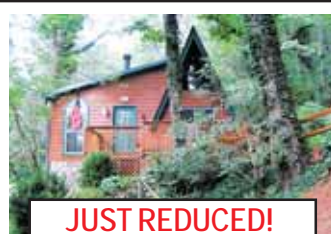
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Tammy Mobley, Broker
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Tammy Mobley, Broker
Highlands NC Realty
Cell: 770-337-1000



Rustic home in private gated lake community. 3 bed/2 baths, office, loft, access to hiking trails and pristine 17-acre mountain lake. \$525,000 MLS 75289. Broker Owned. Call Andrea Gabbard at The Pat Allen Realty Group 828.526.8784 or andrea.gabbard@gmail.com

• HEALTH MATTERS •

Making the tummy flat

Summer is on the way. Would you like a flatter abdomen and thinner waist to look better in those new outfits? Abdominoplasty (Tummy Tuck) helps do this by removing excess

fat and skin and tightening the stomach muscles. The best candidates are of normal weight and in good physical condition with localized fat and loose skin that have not responded well to diet and exercise. Abdominoplasty is especially useful if your skin and muscles stretched from pregnancy or weight loss. Ideally, if you are female, you should not plan to have any further children.

When I first started doing tummy tucks, it was the only procedure available to rejuvenate the abdomen. Therefore, we did them for excess fat as well as for excess skin. After the introduction of liposuction, however, indications changed to generally just excess skin, which was almost exclusively following pregnancy. However, particularly over the last 10 or 15 years, a more common reason for doing a tummy tuck is considerable excess skin remaining after weight loss. Today we not only see people who have lost significant weight from diet and exercise, but also those who have undergone surgical procedures for weight loss. Because of this, we are seeing more and more men needing this surgery.

The procedure consists of removing essentially all the fat and skin from below the umbilicus, stretching the skin from above it to cover the entire abdomen, and relocating the modified belly button to its proper location. While doing this, the underlying muscle is tightened to cinch the waist and also flatten the tummy. Localized bulges in the flanks or centrally are modified usually using liposuction. Although the scar is relatively long and extends from hip to hip, it can be modified so that it will hide under a very skimpy bi-



Dr. Robert Buchanan
www.PlasticSurgeryToday.com

kini or a French-cut swimsuit.

The procedure takes approximately three to four hours, using general anesthesia and can be done as an outpatient or with an overnight hospital stay. Recovery time ranges from two weeks to a month or longer.

Recovery takes as long as it does is because we put the skin together very tightly. We have found that if we simply remove what comes off easily and allow for simple closure in a flat position, the skin stretches and you have loose skin again in about six months to a year. By removing as much skin as possible, you will still be tight at a year and longer. The down side of this is that you walk around somewhat bent over for about a week, as it takes that long for the tissues to relax and for you to straighten totally. Although most discomfort from the surgery itself is gone in several days, until you are able to stand up straight it is the back that bothers you the most. With a balanced diet and

regular exercise, results are long lasting. In fact, many people even lose more weight after the procedure. We assume that this is because their brain's satiation center resets in response to their new svelte self.

Sometimes, by doing more liposuction (a mini-abdominoplasty), you can have a shorter scar if the only excess skin you have is in the lower abdomen. With this procedure, we can also tighten the upper abdominal muscles and thin the waist by using an endoscope (a lighted tube which projects the area under the skin to a TV screen) through a small incision within the umbilicus.

No matter what method is necessary to achieve a flat tummy, the procedure markedly changes the appearance of the abdomen and the way one fits in clothing. It can, in the case of markedly excess skin, also reduce rashes and irritation. In spite of the rather long recovery, I find an exceptionally high satisfaction rate with this procedure.

• Dr. Buchanan practices full time in Highlands. For more information, visit PlasticSurgeryToday.com.

Nominate your 'Public Health Hero' during Public Health month

April is Public Health Month and to raise awareness about the important role public health plays in our lives, Macon County Public Health will recognize a "Public Health Hero" in the month of April.

Citizens may nominate community volunteers for this award by completing the short nomination form found at <http://maconnc.org/public-notice.html>.

The health center wants to hear your stories about people who've made a difference in the health of our community, so nominate a deserving volunteer by April 8th.

Benefit for Tommy Houston at the Rec Park

On Saturday, April 20, there will be a benefit for Tommy Houston at Highlands Civic Center from 3:30-9:30p. Tommy has heart trouble and had to stay one in ICU at Mission Hospital. Tommy does not have any health insurance and has a lot of medical expenses. Come and enjoy a hot dog dinner, singing, and auction.

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• HIGHLANDS AREA UPCOMING EVENTS •

Mon., Wed., Fri.

• Step Aerobics with Tina Rogers 8-9a beginning April 1.

• Zumba at the Rec Park, 9:05a-10a. \$5 per class. First class free.

Monday & Wednesday

• Hatha Yoga – Body n' Soul. 7:45a at First Presbyterian Church. R.Y.T and Y.A. (828) 482-2128. (8/29)

Monday & Thursday

• Hatha Yoga – Body n' Soul. 10:45a at the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation. R.Y.T and Y.A. (828) 482-2128. (8/29)

Thurs., March 28

• Mary Ann Lalemand from Smokey Mountain Center is giving a presentation on the services offered for the community concerning mental illness. This will be informative. The support group meets after the presentation. 14 w Palmer st. in Franklin at 6:45 pm. For more info call Donita 526-9510.

Friday, March 29

• Community Good Friday Stations of the Cross.

Meet at noon on Good Friday at Our Lady of the Mountains RC Church in Highlands. The procession will move thru the town, stopping at each church for readings and a hymn. We end up at the first Baptist Church. ALL are welcome! Rain locale – Incarnation Episcopal.

• At CBC, Good Friday Service in the Family Room at 6 p.m.

Sat., March 30

• At the Highlands Civic Center, annual Easter Egg Hunt at 11 a.m.

• Community Bible Church's EggFest at the Highlands Softball field on Hickory Street, Eggfest! Food, games, bounce house and more! 11a to 1p.

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a 3-mile easy hike with elevation change of 500 ft., on the NC Bartram Trail at Wallace Branch to a loop trail with a pretty waterfall. Bring lunch. Meet in Franklin at Westgate Plaza at 10 am. Drive 6 miles round trip. Call leader Kathy Ratcliff, 349-3380, for reservations. Visitors are welcome, but no pets please.

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a 4-mile mod-

erate hike on the Bartram Trail from Jones Gap to Whitewick Mountain, elevation change of 400 ft, for a great view from the top of the mountain. Meet at the Blue Valley Overlook on Hwy. 106 at 10 am or at Jones Gap at 10:20 am. Bring lunch and water. Drive 10 miles round trip. Call leader Virginia Talbot, 526-4904 for reservations.

Sunday, March 31

• Sunrise Service at the amphitheater of The Nature Center on Horse Cove Road at 6:45 a.m. The rain location for the Sunrise Service will be in Incarnation Episcopal Chapel. Same time.

Wed., April 3

• Kindergarten registration at Highlands School for the 2013-'14 school year will begin, for parents, at 10 am in the school's media center, 10:30a for children. Please call the school office at (828) 526-2147 for more information.

Sunday, March 31

• Sunrise Service at the amphitheater of The Nature Center on Horse Cove Road at 6:45 a.m. The rain location for the Sunrise Service will be in Incarnation Episcopal Chapel. Same time.

Tues., April 2

• Highlands Dialogue at Hudson Library from 10-11:30a, "Drones: Ethics, Benefits and Liabilities of Their Increasing Use." Handout available at the Library (also e-mailed). Coordinator: Carole Light. For more information about the Highlands Dialogue or if you desire to be added to our mailing list, please e-mail John Gaston johngaston@aol.com or Karen Hawk hwkncrw@earthlink.net.

Thurs., April 4

• Taize at HUMC at 5:30p.

• The Rotary Club of Highlands and Boy Scout Troop 207 of Highlands will hold a Bingo night for Scout-ing 6:30p until 8:30p at the Community Building. Chick-A-filet sandwiches, baked beans, chips and soft drinks will be served for a nominal donation. Scout Bingo is a great way to assist the Troop 207 in continuing its programs, outings and equipment needs for the remainder of this year. Bingo is great fun for you and your friends. Sponsor tables are available. There will be 15 games played, with intermissions. Each Bingo card is \$1 per game and you may play single or multiple cards per game. The last game is the Big Game and that winner

• See EVENTS page 14

PAC Youth Theatre preparing for April performance



The PAC Youth Theater in the second week of rehearsals. The production of John Lennon & Me will open Thursday, April 25 at 7:30pm at the Highlands PAC. Students learn all aspects of Theater, including Directing. Daniel Long has been appointed Student Director this year. Pictured: Daniel Long, Raina Trent as Claudia; Abby Gilbert as Courtney; and Raven Westbrook as Star.

The FREE Annual Easter Egg Hunt at the Highlands Rec Park is Sat., March 30



'Are you gonna get that egg?'

Competition can be fierce at the town's annual Easter egg hunt at the Rec Park, but there are always plenty of eggs to go around. The hunt is divided into three age divisions – ages 0-9 – to ensure eggs for all. There will be a visit from the Easter bunny and prizes in each category. The fun starts at 11 a.m. Saturday, March 30.

Enjoy Easter Weekend Shopping Days!

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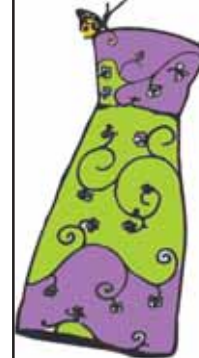
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• HIGHLANDS AREA UPCOMING EVENTS •



The Rotary Club of Highlands and the Highlands Boy Scouts will join forces to benefit a mutual goal: Scouting! Boy Scout Rotary Bingo to be held on Thursday, April 4th from 6:30 to 8:30 at the Highlands Community Building.

Help sponsor the Boy Scout mission and the youth of our community. Half of all Bingo card money will go to Boy Scouts and half will be awarded to lucky bingo players. Bingo is a great way to raise funds for this goal and have a fun evening with the thrill, entertainment and definitely a few laughs at Boy Scout Bingo.

Fifteen games will be played, with a brief intermission halfway through the evening. Each bingo card is \$1 per game, and you may play as many cards as you like. The last game of the evening is a full-card bingo with the winner getting a surprise jackpot.

The Boy Scout-Rotary Bingo is family-style bingo, is open to the community and refreshments are free, hot dogs to be offered for a small fee.

The Rotary Club of Highlands is licensed by the State of North Carolina to operate Bingo games.

will win the Grand Jackpot. Boy Scout Bingo is open to all is a great family night event. Come join in the fun! Please contact Bill Edwards 526-9594 for information.

Wed., April 17

- Free movie at the Hudson Library. "Arbitrage."

Rated R.

Thurs. April 18

- Taize at Holy Family Lutheran Church at 5:30p.

Sat., April 20

- A benefit for Tommy Houston at Highlands Civic Center from 3:30-9:30p. Tommy has heart trouble and had to stay one in ICU at Mission Hospital. Tommy does not have any health insurance and has a lot of medical expenses. Come and enjoy a hot dog dinner, singing, and auction.
- Earth Day and Summer volunteer opportunities at the Highlands Biological Garden. Work is needed on trails, near the garden entrance and fern and woodland loop trails from 10a to noon. If you wish to participate in the Earth Day Volunteer Celebration, or any of the monthly work-days, please let Horticultural Specialist Erika Selman know in advance, by calling (828) 526-0188 or e-mailing emselman@email.wcu.edu.

Thurs.-Sun., April 25-28

- The PAC Youth Theater presents "John Lennon

and Me" at the Performing Arts Center. Shows are at 7:30p and 2:30p Sunday matinee.

Thurs., May 2

- Taize at HUMC at 5:30p.

Monday, May 6

- Rotary Club of Highland's Annual Golf Tournament at the Highlands Country Club. Registration, the driving range and the practice green will open at 11 am with a noon shotgun start. Lunch at the turn and beverages on the course, and a HCC logo Tervis Tumbler. There will be a closest to the pin and long drive competitions, raffles and Mulligans on sale for only \$5. Entry fee is \$150 per player and ALL proceeds benefit the Rotary Club of Highlands. Sign up alone or as part of a four-some. To sign up contact Joyce Baillargeon at 828-526-0501 or email jbaillargeon@highlandscountryclub.com

Thurs.-Sat., May 16-18

- At The Bascom, Collective Spirits, a premier spring wine and food event. For additional information regarding events and participating chefs and vintners, please visit collectivespirits.com. For ticketing information, call the ticket office at 828-787-2896. For other Collective Spirits inquiries, contact Claire Cameron, Events Manager, at 828-787-2882 or ccameron@thebascom.org.

Community Bible Church presents the secular side of Easter at its annual EggFest at the town's ballfield Sat., March 30



Community Bible Church's FREE EggFest at the Highlands Softball field on Hickory Street, Eggfest! Food, games, bounce house and more! 11a to 1p.

... CUD continued from page 1

He said his company has tried to keep to the original R-3 CUD plat as much as possible – a point of contention between the Ham family which borders the project and Commissioner Amy Patterson.

Beside the disrepair the project has experienced since 2006, Realtor Pat Allen, who is both a resident on the site and the Realtor representing the units, said the "stacked" condominiums were not selling because people don't like to live on top of each other and buyers also want garages.

The new plan involves three, two-story townhouses per building with three buildings – a total of nine individual units.

The original plan called for the last unit in the string of buildings to be a single-family home because it sat closest to the residential neighborhood next door.

The new plan does away with the single-family home, moves the last multi-family building closer to the property line and repositions the roadway through the complex so it, too, is closer to the Ham property.

The Ham family never wanted the complex there but accepted the Town Board's 2006 R3-CUD because it made an effort to keep the area partially single-family by ensuring the preservation of The Stewart House and construction of the single-family home near their property.

Mesa Investors and its architect Paul Schmitt, worked closely with the Hams to

try to make the townhouse design as acceptable as possible, including moving the upstairs outside porches to the lower level of each townhouse so occupants on the porches couldn't look down into the Ham's yard.

At the last Planning Board meeting, which made the final recommendation to OK the changes to the Town Board, Ham said he felt the project needed to go ahead and be completed and thought it would be better than what is there now, however said "I'm not opposing it but I'm not supporting it either."

Though Beth Ham thanked Shamburg for changing the porch design as requested, she isn't happy with the new plan.

"I'm concerned about the light and the traffic and three families living next to me rather than one family in a single-family residence as well as the road that now goes all the way to the edge of the property," said Beth Ham. "I feel this is a precedent-setting situation and I feel we are being encroached upon."

She said the Planning Board and the Town Board haven't left much recourse for citizens. "There needs to be some recourse that our Town Board can do – to refuse and say what happens. You need to keep the power to make decisions your own rather than for money. There are people's

... CUD continued from page 14

lives involved. It's not just about money."

Commissioner Amy Patterson asked why the new townhouse buildings housing three, two-story townhomes each couldn't be kept along the property fronting US 64 east rather than shifting them closer to the Ham's property line.

"You have the option of building on the original site plan. You can put your three townhouse configurations on that. But you are asking us to change the rules of the zone so you can make more money. That is a really hard thing for a government to ethically do," she said."

She cited the zoning ordinance and how the Zoning Board of Adjustment works saying the Zoning Board can't give a variance to someone just so they can make more money. She said she hadn't seen anything that indicates the developer can't do what he needs to do without that last multi-family building, except that he wants to make more money.

Shamburg said that even if the last building was made into a single-family home rather than one of the townhouse buildings, it would still be closer to the property line.

But Patterson said "No, if you can't fit on the original site plan you don't fit on the original site plan."

She said it was made R3-CUD to give

an R2 (residential) feel with a single-family home near the property line. "A compromise was already made years ago. The developer wanted to change the split-zoned property to R3 from its original B3 along US 64 and R2 in the back. We agreed to R3 CUD with conditions," she said. "Now you want to start over. No one likes government because they say it bases all its decisions on money and I don't want to be accused of supporting a developer from Atlanta who wants to make more money and not considering my citizens. I am biased to my citizens."

Following the public hearing, Commissioner Gary Drake said he understood where Commissioner Patterson was coming from but thought this time around was no different than in 2006.

"Didn't you approve the original site plan so people could make money? That was the whole intent. People bought the property to develop it to make money," he said.

However, Commissioner Patterson voted against the R3-CUD zone back in 2006.

Mayor Pro Temp, Commissioner Eric Pierson said he considered the project a new project with a whole new concept and what happened in 2006 shouldn't apply to the current project.



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"If we base a zone on a previous zone where they can't change anything, then we run into the problem everywhere saying 'This was approved 20 years ago so you can't change now because it was approved then,'" he said.

Stiehler agreed. "I see this as a whole new project. I think you have gone out of your way to compromise," he said to Shamburg. "I don't have a problem with this. There is nothing here that concerns me. You've even redesigned the porches."

Patterson said the compromise was made six year ago. "When we changed the zone, we made those rules trying to be sensitive to the neighborhood and the neighbors. They wanted R3 and the neighbors wanted R2 so we met in the middle mak-

ing it R3-CUD with R2 concessions. So to me there's a loophole — wait five years and come back and ask us to change the rules so they can increase their profit margin."

Drake said he was leaning toward approving the request because the corner was an eyesore. "If we don't do this it will be stay ugly for a lot of years. I am for our citizens, but I am for beautifying the town."

Before the vote was taken Town Manager Bob Frye reminded the board that since this was a zoning matter the vote had to be a super majority of 4-1. If it was 3-2, a final vote would be taken at the next Town Board meeting.

— Kim Lewicki



First Presbyterian Church of Highlands Holy Week 2013

Thursday, March 28, 2013

5:00 p.m.

Maundy Thursday and Service of Tenebrae

A worship service of Remembrance of the final hours of Christ's life.

The service will include
Holy Communion.

Friday, March 29, 2013

12:00 noon

Stations of the Cross

Sponsored by the
churches of Highlands.
Meet at Our Lady of the
Mountain Catholic Church
Rain—Episcopal Church

Sunday, March 31, 2013

6:45 a.m.

Ecumenical Easter Sunrise Service

Sponsored by the
churches of Highlands.

Service held at the Highlands'
Biological Center Amphitheater.

11:00 a.m.

*Easter Sunday
Communion Service*

Sermon by
Rev. Dr. Lee Bowman

9:30 a.m. Sunday Church School - *All Ages Welcome*

Call 828-526-3175 for more information or visit www.fpchighlands.org

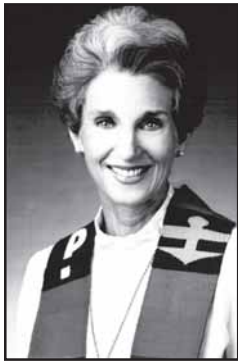


471 Main Street
PO Box 548
Highlands, NC 28741



Rev. Dr. Lee Bowman, Pastor

• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •



Marching Orders

Dr. Lee Bowman
First Presbyterian
Church

The days are circling down. If you have made a dramatic vow of asceticism during these 40 days of Lent, your time is almost up! For you it may have been giving up desserts, foregoing wine with dinner or perhaps taking on a particular spiritual discipline through service in the community, as we have in our congregation.

But the reason we have a Lenten discipline at all is that we are also mindful that the days were circling down for Jesus. As the crowds that shouted Hosanna were beginning to turn on him, Jesus took time in an extraordinary moment to focus on what he most wanted to say to his disciples.

The 13th chapter of John's gospel is a dramatic fleshing out of the meaning of discipleship. The chapter begins with Jesus' profound demonstration of love—the foot-washing—and closes with a commandment to love. These words are some of his final 'marching orders' for his disciples. As I read them recently, I imagined another kind of farewell scene—a mother saying goodbye to her children, lining them up in front of her, lips trembling as the light begins to flicker in her eyes.

Little children, you will look for me, but where I am going you cannot come.

Even the youngest senses that something is dreadfully wrong with his mother, and the tears begin to flow freely.

I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. The mother summons all her strength—of body and will—and says, "I won't be around to take care of you much longer. You will have to take care of each other. I want you to be good to each other now, you hear? Watch out for each other. You don't always have to be right but you should always be loving. Promise me you won't forget to love each other. Promise?"

By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another. We have so diluted the meaning of the word love that it's hard to know exactly what Jesus meant by it. We say we love God, but we also say we love ice cream, we love our pets, we love sunny days—and while all of that may be true, we have broadened the word to such an extent that we have robbed it of its power. But real love is not sweet and sentimental. It's something that pulls and stretches us, sometimes in such a way that we gain a new shape. It's what the Apostle Paul meant when he said, If anyone is in Christ (shaped by

• See SPIRITUALLY page 17

John 3:16

• PLACES TO WORSHIP •

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

Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11
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Catered dinner - Wed. 6pm

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

CHRIST ANGLICAN CHURCH

Rector: Jim Murphy, 252-671-4011
Worshipping at the facilities of Whiteside Presbyterian Church, Cashiers
Sun.: Holy Communion - 9 a.m.; Adult Forum - 10:45 at Buck's Coffee Cafe, Cashiers
Mon.: Bible Study & Supper at homes - 6 p.m.
Wed.: Men's Bible Study - 8:30 a.m., First Baptist Church
Thurs.: Women's Prayer Group - 10 a.m., Whiteside Presbyterian Church; Healing Service at noon

CLEAR CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Jim Kinard
Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11
Wednesdays – 7 p.m.

COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH

www.cbchighlands.com • 526-4685
3645 Cashiers Rd, Highlands, NC
Senior Pastor Gary Hewins
Sun.: 9:30am: Sunday School
10:30am: Middle & High School; 10:45am: Children's Program., 10: 45am: Worship Service

Wed.: 5pm Dinner (\$7 adult, \$2 child), 6pm CBC University

EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE INCARNATION

Rev. Bruce Walker • 526-2968
Sundays: Education and choir rehearsal, 9 am, Holy Eucharist Rite II, (sanctuary), 10:30 am

Thursdays: Holy Eucharist, (chapel), 10 am

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

Dr. Mark Ford, Pastor • 526-4153
Sun.: Worship 10:45 a.m.; School – 9:30 a.m.
Wed.: Men's Bible Study 8:30 a.m., Prayer Meeting – 6:15 p.m., Choir – 5 p.m.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Dr. Lee Bowman, Pastor • 526-3175
Sun.: Worship – 11 a.m.; Sun. 8:30a communion service June-Labor Day; School – 9:30
Mondays: 8 a.m. – Men's Prayer Group & Breakfast
Wednesdays – Choir – 7

GOLDMINE BAPTIST CHURCH

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

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)
Sunday: Morning Worship 10:45 a., Evening Worship, 6:30 p.
Wednesday: Prayer Service, 6:30 p.

HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Pastor Paul Christy 526-3376
Sun: School 9:45a.; Worship 9:09 & 10:50.; Youth Group 5:30 p.
Wed: Supper; 6; 7:15 – children, youth, & adults studies; 6:15 – Adult choir (nursery provided for Wed. p.m. activities)
Thurs:12:30 – Women's Bible Study (nursery)

HOLY FAMILY LUTHERAN CHURCH – ELCA

Chaplain Margaret Howell
2152 Dillard Road – 526-9741
Sundays: Sunday School and Adult discussion group 9:30 a.m.;
Worship/Communion – 10:30

HEALING SERVICE on the 5th Sunday of the month.

MACEDONIA BAPTIST CHURCH

8 miles south of Highlands on N.C. 28 S in Satolah
Pastor Roy Lowe, (828) 526-8425
Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11
Choir – 6 p.m.

Wed: Bible Study and Youth Mtg. – 7 p.m.

MOUNTAIN SYNAGOGUE

St. Cyprian's Episcopal Church, Franklin
828-369-9270 or 828-293-5197

MOUNTAIN BIBLE CHURCH

Pastor: Clayton Lopez • 828-743-9704
Independent Bible Church
Sundays:10:30 a.m. at Big Ridge Baptist Church, 4224 Big Ridge Road (4.5 miles from NC 107)
Weds: Bible Study 6:30 p.m.; Youth Group 6 p.m.

OUR LADY OF THE MOUNTAINS CATHOLIC CHURCH

Rev. Dean Cesa, pastor – Parish office: 526-2418
Mass: – Sun: 11 a.m.; Thurs & Fri.: 9 a.

SCALY MOUNTAIN BAPTIST CHURCH

Rev. Dwight Loggins
Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11 a.m. & 7
Wednesdays: Prayer Mtg. – 7 p.m.

SCALY MOUNTAIN CHURCH OF GOD

290 Buck Knob Road; Pastor Alfred Sizemore • 526-3212
Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 10:45 a.m.; Worship – 6 p.m.

Wed: Adult Bible Study & Youth – 7 p.m.

SHORTOFF BAPTIST CHURCH

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

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP

85 Sierra Drive • 828-524-6777
Sunday Worship - 11 a.m.
Child Care - 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Religious Education - 11 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.
Youth 8th - 12th grades meet the 2nd Sundays 5 - 7:30 p.m.

WHITESIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Cashiers, Rev. Sam Forrester, 743-2122
Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11

... **CONCERTS** continued from page 1

event is an "un" ticketed event where no money is involved, the person in charge of the property – in this case the town of Highlands – may give permission for people to bring onto the property, beer and unfortified wine for personal consumption. There is no permit needed to allow brown bagging of beer and unfortified wine, she said.

This all started during the public comment period of the January Town Board meeting when Thomas Craig presented the proposition of a summer concert series in the K-H Park similar to Cashiers' Groovin' on the Green.

The board said it was open to the idea and asked that he return when the concept was solidified.

As a Chamber of Commerce sanctioned event, the chamber will secure the necessary insurance whether it's a special event policy or covered by its standing liability insurance for events.

Craig said he expects the summer-long venture to cost around \$20,000 and will be seeking funds from area business sponsors. Since the town agreed to waive

all rental fees for the first year, all money will be spent on performers and port-a-potties. If by chance the series sees a profit, money will be ploughed back into the development of K-H Park as requested by Lila Howell with the Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust.

In January, Craig had asked the board to contribute \$5,000 the first year, but instead opted to request the waiver of rental fees for the summer which would have been about the same amount of money.

A list of possible bands include: Nitrograss (progressive bluegrass), Sanctum Sully (progressive bluegrass), The Lewis Brothers (rock, country and general hillbilly), Stevens Layne (female country vocals), Taylor Moore (southern rock, Americana), High 5 (local, Americana), Grits and Soul (Memphis soul, Americana), Carey Murdock (Nashville sound) and Southbound Turnaround (old school country).

A number of citizens spoke in favor of the venture including, Ginger Slaughter, Hank Ross, Pat Allen, Ray McPhail and Lila Howell. No one spoke against it.

Slaughter said concerts in the park are

exactly what the Land Use Plan called for in the park – cultural and recreational activities.

Ross said concerts in the park will make for a vibrant downtown. "This is something Highlands needs – after-business activities which add to the quality of life."

Allen said people need more to do in the evening and this is a viable thing for the town.

Commissioner Amy Patterson questioned the town's liability if someone left the park inebriated and got hurt. Craig said the chamber was the entity responsible and has liability insurance but said an entity isn't responsible for someone who leaves a function after drinking.

Police Chief Bill Harrell logged concerns about people leaving the park with open containers, but Craig said the off-duty police officers stationed at each end of Pine Street will advise people exiting of the law.

Craig said his hope is that shortly into the series the idea of concerts in the park will become a "non-issue for the police and for Highlands Recreation Director Lester Norris."

– **Kim Lewicki**

... **SPIRITUALLY** from 16

Christ's love) that one is a new creation.

C.S. Lewis talked about that dynamic love with an analogy that described our lives are like a quaint little cottage, small and comfortable. But what God has in mind for us is something else altogether. God rips out a wall here (and you can be sure that's going to hurt) and runs out a long hallway there, and then an enormous room and another floor and then another and then a turret.... And lo and behold when we step back and see the picture of what God has done with our lives, we see that God's intent, God's love, has shaped us into a castle, a castle fit for a king. We wanted just a comfortable little cottage, but God had glorious things in mind for the likes of us because we are the recipients of God's love. This is not some sweet, sentimental feeling but the tough, uncompromising stuff of which new creations are made.

I give you a new commandment—that you love one another. Remember that this is one of the last things Jesus wanted to say to us before he died. Our job is to listen—for the love of God.



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• BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NEWS •

H-C Land Trust acquires Bracken Bog at 6th Street

This past December Janice and James Carter donated 2.2 acres along Smallwood Avenue in Highlands to the Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust. This small tract is identified by the state of North Carolina as a Significant Natural Heritage Area and is home to a southern Appalachian Bog and three rare plant species.

A bog is a type of wetland with acid soils, few available nutrients, and as a result, they tend to accumulate peat. Many bogs are very small and because of this bogs have historically been drained and filled throughout the Appalachians. For example, most of Horse Cove was once a large bog estimated to be 4,500 years old but

was destroyed in the 20th century by draining.

The Carter's property was first purchased for protection by Helene Bracken and her sister Francis Tree back in 1997 to conserve the land and ensure that no one build on it. Helene was married to Dr. C. Franklin Bracken, Janice Carter's great uncle. Helene was a retired vice president of the Mobil Oil Company and both she and Francis were summer residents of Highlands. Helene bequeathed the property to Francis who in turned passed it on to Janice Carter. At Janice's request we have named this new acquisition "Bracken Bog at 6th Street".



From left: Francis Tree and sister Helen Bracken.



This tract has been added to an adjacent land donation made by Ernest and Joyce Franklin in 2007. Together these two tracts protect a rare Appalachian bog and provide green-space, wildlife habitat, and critical flood water storage for the town of Highlands.

Future plans for this small jewel are to open up the primary bog area by removing exotic plant species and encroaching pines which are shading out the more sun loving herbaceous wetland plants.

To learn more about Bracken Bog, help us with our restoration efforts, or learn how the Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust protects over 2400 acre of valuable land resources contact us at 828-526-1111 or visit www.hicashlt.org. Together we are saving mountains.

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Join us this Easter
celebrating the resurrection of Jesus
at HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
315 Main Street with Pastors: Paul Christy & Beth Bowser

Thursday, March 28 – MAUNDY THURSDAY

Please join us at 5:30 p.m. for our Maundy Thursday Seder Meal service.
Reservations Needed

FRIDAY, MARCH 29 - GOOD FRIDAY

Join us and other churches at noon

Beginning at the Catholic Church, we will walk through Highlands, stopping at various places to read an account of the walk Jesus made carrying his cross to Calvary. We carry a cross with us and sing familiar hymns as we go.

SUNDAY, MARCH 31 – EASTER SUNDAY

6:45 a.m. - Ecumenical Easter Sunrise Service

Join us and other churches at the amphitheater behind the Biological Research Center for our sunrise service.

WORSHIP SERVICES / THE LIVING CROSS

Join us as we celebrate at 8:30, 9:09, and 10:50 a.m.

Bring a flower from your garden or one purchased to place on the outside living cross before each service.

9:45 A.M. – EASTER COFFEE BREAK

Bring a coffee cake, muffins, bagels & cream cheese, croissants, or danish to share as we have fellowship time together.

10:00 A.M. – CHILDREN'S EASTER EGG HUNT & STORYTIME

The children will be off to hunt eggs immediately after breakfast.

For more info...please call 828.526.3376

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• BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NEWS •

Unitarian Universalist named 'Recycler of the Month'



Macon Pride congratulates the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Franklin with high honors for its activities to "reduce, reuse, and recycle."

Pictured are the "green team" members seen enjoying refreshments served on real china and real utensils to be washed and reused. All leftover food is composted. No throwaways here! From left to right, members are Sue Ann Reisdorph, Bill Denton, Paul Chew, Sandi Erickson, Bonnie Gramlich, Don Erickson and Laura Loveless.

Macon Pride is compiling a list to highlight other churches, businesses and offices, clubs and school classrooms who reuse and recycle. Please call Shirley Ches at 524-9991 (chesbord@frontier.com) to add your group to the "we recycle here" listing. To find out more about the UU Fellowship's earth-friendly programs, please email Bonnie Gramlich at learner365@yahoo.com.

March Rotary Scholars of the month



The Rotary Club of Highlands honored the March Highlands School Scholars of the Month at its March 19 meeting. Pictured with Thomas Jessup, School Counselor and Brian Stiehler, club President are: Cristell Ruiz, high school winner, Samuel Hawkins, middle school winner and Maycie Leonard, elementary school winner.

... JUST HERS continued from page 6

whose arrival should be announced by the sound of jingling is Santa Claus.

Of course, Maman had plenty of advice to pass on about men.

- If your husband has a French maid fantasy, remind him that the typical French maid is short, has a moustache, and wears support hose.

- There's a reason they call them Bad Boys.

- Resist the temptation to bad mouth an ex, especially if he is the father of your children. Bad mouthing an ex often says more about you than it does about him. And while people may agree with you to your face, you'd be surprised the respect you get from people if you take the high road.

Miscellaneous

- Never humiliate people in front of others. People will never forgive you if you cause them to lose face.

- Be prepared to spend a little more for quality. If you pay peanuts, you get monkeys.

- To those of us to whom much has been given, much will be expected. Be gen-

erous with your greatest gifts – your time and your energy. Get your hands dirty. Any fool can write a check.

- Over a certain age, pretending that you don't know where babies come from is pretentious. It doesn't make you "sensitive" or "delicate." It makes you silly, especially if you are the mother of four.

- If your parents are helping you with your college tuition, they do not "owe you" an all expenses paid Spring Break booze up. You are attending college, after all. You are not working in a coal mine.

Yes, Maman may be gone, but her bons mots linger on. I can still hear her lovely voice, with that lilting French accent. "Stand up straight! Take off those darned glasses! Throw your shoulders back! Suck in that stomach! I don't know why you have such an inferiority complex!!!!"

- Michelle A. Mead is a writer and translator who was born in Key West, and grew up in a small town in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia. She has lived in Highlands since 2006. Michelle is extremely proud to be her mother's daughter.

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Stylist: Christa Hooper

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... OBITUARIES continued from page 2

Stanley Ford Rice

Stanley Ford Rice, 55, of Cashiers, NC, died on March 24, 2013 after a short battle with cancer. He is preceded in death by his father, Ford Rice.

He is survived by his mother, Shirley Rice; one brother Roger (Brenda) of Sylva; one sister Jeanette (Gil) of Port St. Lucie, FL, and two sisters Karen Gregory and Rita Rice both of Glenville. He also has several nieces and nephews that he enjoyed spending time with. Some of his hobbies were fishing, hunting for arrowheads and woodworking.

Funeral services were held on Wednesday, March 27, in the Chapel of Bryant-Grant Funeral Home in Highlands, NC. Burial was at Upper Zachary Cemetery in Cashiers. Pastors Scotty Patrick and Johnny Norris officiated. Pallbearers were Timothy Rice, Kevin Woodard, Darin Talley, Joel Rice, Wayne Rice and Rex Allen.



Bryant-Grant Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

Come for a free dinner and live entertainment every Thursday at 'The Gathering Table'

The Gathering Table provides fresh, nutritious dinners every Thursday evening from 5-7 PM to who anyone who wants to eat regardless of one's ability to pay. The Gathering Table serves fresh, locally grown organic food, much of it provided by the Blue Ridge Farmers Co-op. It serves the Cashiers, Glenville, Highlands and Sapphire areas. Started by a group of like-minded citizens in 2012, The Gathering Table has been operating for just over a year and has served approximately 4,500 dinners since opening in January 2012. In addition to sit-down dinners, take-out meals are available for shut-ins and families. The Community Center is located on Rt. 64 just west of the Crossroads next to the fire station in Cashiers. Live music is often provided. Volunteers are always needed to help at the dinner, and donations are gratefully accepted. Anyone interested in volunteering should come on Thursday evenings or call 828-743-9880.

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... POLICE & FIRE continued from page 5

entering at Main Street Pharmacy where a door latch was damaged.

• At 10 a.m., officers responded to a call about a vehicle being keyed in the parking lot of 473 Carolina Way. The damage is estimated at \$300.

March 18

• At 6:30 p.m., criminal damage to the town of Highlands property was reported on US 64 west where a fire hydrant was run over.

The Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. log entries from March 16.

March 16

• At 7:49 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to assist EMS at a residence on Cook Road.

March 17

• At 1:30 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call at a residence on Wild Pine Way. EMS transported to the hospital.

• At 4:53 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call at a residence on Cher-

okee Drive. EMS transported to the hospital.

March 19

• At 9:08 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Sherwood Drive. It was cancelled en route by the alarm company.

March 20

• At 5:15 p.m., the dept. responded to a mutual aid call to assist Cashiers-Glenville FD with a chimney fire. It was cancelled en route.

March 21

• At 6:49 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Chestnut Hill Drive. It was set off by the sprinkler system.

March 22

• At 3:11 p.m., the dept. responded to a minor vehicle accident on NC 106.

March 24

• At 6:47 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Woodland Ridge Dr.. It was false.

... WATER continued from page 1

20,000-acre watershed, to the Metropolitan Sewerage District of Buncombe County (MSD).

Since it appears that the State of North Carolina is on a path to privatize public infrastructure, the NC League of Municipalities, which is a nonpartisan association of municipalities in North Carolina whose mission is to enhance the quality of life in municipalities through excellent municipal governance, has asked municipalities to sign a resolution in opposition to the proposed legislation.

Last Thursday night, at the March 21 Town Board meeting, commissioners voted unanimously to join other municipalities across the state in opposition to the take-over.

"This seems to be a political fight between Asheville and some state legislators that have it in for Asheville," said Town Manager Bob Frye. "Does what they are trying to do make sense? Not really. Do they have the authority and the votes to make it happen? Yes."

According to the NC League of Municipalities, an unelected group called the Metropolitan Sewerage/Water System Committee, whose composition and authority is controlled by the NCGA, is pushing for this and the purpose runs counter to the principle of cities being left to determine how to manage their own enterprises.

"Any mandated merger clouds the respective roles of local government and the General Assembly sets a bad precedent for the future for all cities owning and operating any municipal water or sewer services," say representatives. "In addition, this move undermines the confidence of municipalities to move forward to make substantial and needed investments in their

systems, and calls into question the authority of the state legislature to arbitrarily transfer the assets of one unit of local government to another."

The League says the arguments being made, and the precedents being set in the NCGA to justify this non-compensated 'taking' of a municipal-run utility, could conceivably be used to seize the assets of any municipality in the state.

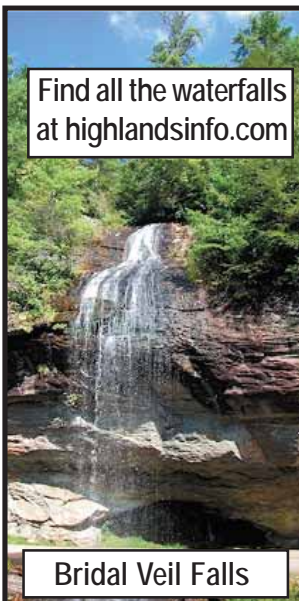
Control of assets like water and sewer infrastructure is vital to municipalities for many reasons.

In a nutshell the resolution signed supported by the Highlands Town Board says that the town is opposed to legislation that forces the transfer of any town's municipal water system to another entity; and that the town is convinced that local solution arrived at by an open, collaborative process is preferable to a legislative directed disposition of local government assets and the town is opposed to the forced taking of any local government infrastructure because such taking sets a dangerous precedent that will have a chilling effect on any local government investing in needed infrastructure in the future, thereby endangering business opportunities and economic stability in the state and resulting in job losses for citizens here and across the state.

Frye said it's unlikely that the state would have an interest in Highlands' water supply.

"But that does not mean legislators could not vote to take it over, if for some reason they decided to do so. Remember, they don't need a reason, only the votes to make it happen," he said.

- Kim Lewicki



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