

Highlands Newspaper

FREE Every Thursday

Volume 11, Number 45

Real-Time News, Weather & WebCams: HighlandsInfo.com

Thurs., Nov. 6, 2014

Through Nov. 14

• Movie at The Playhouse: St. Vincent. Showtimes, Fri., Sat., Sun., Mon. & Thurs. 2p, 5p and 8p. No movies on Tuesday and Wednesday.

Thurs.-Sun., Nov. 6-9

• The Culinary Weekend Visit www.highlandsculinary-weekend.com for all the details and links to purchase tickets

Sat., Nov 8

• At PAC, National Theatre of London's "Live in HD" thrilling broadcast of Frankenstein at 2p and 7p. Tickets are available online: highlandspac.org or by calling 828.526.9047. Martin Lipscomb Performing Arts Center, 507 Chestnut Street, Highlands.

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate 4.5-mile hike on a forest service road with several ups and downs to ascend Round Mountain near Cashiers for view of SC and Lake Jocassee. Call leaders Mike and Susan Kettles, 828-743-1079, for reservations.

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate 3-mile hike, elevation change 500 ft., along the Horse Pasture River to see several falls including Rainbow Falls in Gorges State Park near Sapphire Valley NC. Call leader Joyce Jacques, 410-852-7510, for reservations.

Sun., Nov 9

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take an easy 2-mile hike to 20 ft.-high Big Laurel Falls, in Standing Indian area, elevation change 250 ft. Call leaders Diana Otero/Rudolph Buchholz, 765-318-9981, for reservations.

Mon., Nov 10

State and county 2014 election winners

Off year or not, this year's election was a passionate one with 44% of North Carolina voters turning out statewide – 2,916,429 of 6,627,862 registered voters.

In Macon County, 47.26% of its 25,081 registered voters turned

out – 11,853.

Early One-Stop Voting accounted for 5,332 ballots cast – 4,796 in Franklin and 534 in Highlands – pretty good for a mid-term election with the new one-stop site in Highlands, said Director

of the Macon County Board of Elections, Debbie George.

Republican Thom Tillis won a close US Senate race against incumbent Democrat Kay Hagen. Tillis got 48.88% of the vote –

• See **ELECTION** page 6

Construction of K-H Park to begin

Submitted Press Release

Schmitt Building Contractors of Highlands has been awarded the overall contract for construction of Kelsey-Hutchinson Founders Park, and Tate Landscaping Services, also of Highlands, will be the subcontractor for the hardscapes and plantings.

Schmitt was the lowest bidder for the project, with a bid submitted of \$651,000. All of the bids came in much higher than park and town leaders had hoped, but Nick Bazan, chairman of the Founders Park Coalition, said the group has spent the past two weeks working with the low bidder, the architect and the landscape architect to reduce the overall cost of the project while insuring a quality finished project. The amount of the final contract was just over \$582,000.

Work on the park is slated to begin immediately.

"We were disappointed that both of the bids we received were

• See **K-H PARK** page 7



New volunteer Lea Dallmann with HF&R Chief Ryan Gearhardt.

First female firefighter joins Highlands F&R

It's been a long time coming, but finally, Highlands Fire & Rescue has a woman on its force.

At Tuesday night's Highlands Fire & Rescue (HF&R) business meeting, Lea Dallmann, 30, was voted on the 30-person volunteer force and Lea couldn't be happier.

A couple of years back she tried to join the force – began the

required training and waited the result of the majority rule vote after the six-month probationary period but she didn't make it.

"It was crushing," she said, but she didn't give up. After the required time away, she returned in May of this year to try again and she has now completed her

• See **HF&R** page 4

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Board of Ed adopts budget

State & county desperate for bus drivers

Brittany Raby

During their October board meeting, the Macon County Board of Education put the finishing touches on the 2014-'15 school year budget. At a total of \$40,794,232.59, the current year's beginning budget sits at \$400,482.59 more than last year's, with the greatest increase coming from the budget's state allocation.

The \$1 million increase in state funds from last year to this year can be attributed to the state's teaching salary increase.

The budget, which was presented by School Finance Officer Angie Cook is balanced and identifies the appropriated amounts for five different categories and what funds are used to meet those amounts. The five categories are: local current expense funds, state public school fund, federal grant funds, capital outlay, and food service funds.

Local Current Expense

In the budget, which was unanimously adopted by school board members last month, the total local current expense fund appropriation for 2014-'15 is \$9,136,971.68. Last year's current expense was slightly less at

• See **BOARD OF ED** page 3

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• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• MAYOR ON DUTY •

In reference to the claim that the 'town has faulty power equipment'

I have served as mayor for nearly a year. During my campaign I promised open communication by providing a continuous flow of information to residents. I have a weekly column in the newspapers and a radio program. Each month the library hosts a coffee hour where citizens can ask me questions. So when I read a letter-to-the-editor in Highlands Newspaper last week about problems in the town electric department, I reviewed the concerns, and I believe it is my duty to respond.

The letter writer stated that the town maintains an unsafe electrical system that has frequent brownouts. The implication was that a larger provider could serve the town more effectively and operate a safer system. I disagree.

The main issue expressed by the writer was that a neutral wire on a town transformer had come loose and caused damage to his office equipment. He was distressed that insurance, both his and the town's policy, would not pay the claim. Insurers do not pay these types of claims if they determine no negligence was involved. In this case, insurers viewed the claim as an accident caused by the forces of nature. If the town electric department had made a mistake, like incorrectly wiring a customer's service, the town would certainly have paid for damages.

On this plateau there are strong winds, ice, snow and rain, especially in February when this problem occurred. Just as a car manufacturer cannot guarantee a tire will never blowout, providers in the area, Duke Energy, Hayward EMC and our electric department, cannot guarantee equipment will always work as designed. Transformers will blow and wires will occasionally work loose, especially when under assault from extreme weather.

As for the claim of frequent brownouts because Highlands operates an out-of-date and unsafe system, our electrical outages are caused by high winds, falling trees and ice buildup, not failures in a faulty system.

Two decades ago the case could have been made that the town had on a routine basis avoidable power failures, but those problems were corrected years ago with a planned program of tree trimming and system maintenance. Yes, our electric

crews could be more aggressive and use chemicals, like other utilities do, to remove vegetation near power lines, rather doing selective, minimal trimming but we try to strike a balance between consistent service and environmental concerns.

As for safety, an outside agency conducts mandatory safety training for our department every month. Our employees have the same high level of training as those from other utilities. In fact, many of our linemen were recruited from other large utility companies a number of years ago. In recent years, Highlands has invested several million dollars in updating and maintaining the reliability of the system.

As I wrote in an article several weeks ago, after a major storm, I will put up our



Highlands Mayor
Patrick Taylor

response times to electrical outages against any utility on the plateau, including Duke. Also, when a customer calls to report a problem with service or a bill, they talk with a real person, not an automated system.

Finally, our business administration of the electrical system employs many of the same practices as Duke and other EMCs. A few years ago the town used a more informal approach to collecting bills only to realize losses of around \$250,000. We now

have policies, like other utilities, to where failure to pay bills results in loss of service. The town no longer allows customers to carry large delinquent bills, or open multiple accounts without paying money previously owed. Even with these new policies, our reconnect fees for delinquent accounts

are not as stringent as other utilities.

I will continue to work with the Town Board and the Town Manager to make sure our electrical system is operated as safely and efficiently as possible. If mistakes are made, I want corrective action.

• LETTERS •

Weather didn't hinder Halloween festivities

Dear Editor,

On a stiff north wind and beneath a threatening wintry sky rode ghouls, ghosts, and goblins, witches and warlocks, superheroes and princesses and the unknown in an unending procession of characters making their annual pilgrimage to celebrate Halloween in Highlands.

Neither wind, nor cold nor the threat of snow could lessen the elation as hordes of costumed children, adults and pets made Highlands home for an evening of partying, dancing and overindulgence of hot dogs, soft drinks and, of course, chocolate aplenty available throughout the night from local merchants.

Many who visited kept warm by moving to the sounds of the season that permeated the air from the music tent in the center of Main Street.

It was a great time enjoyed by all and the Sponsoring Chamber of Commerce & Visitor Center is grateful to everyone who made this fun filled evening possible.

A warm thank you to the Town of Highlands and Mayor Patrick Taylor, Highlands Police Department, Highlands two outstanding Rotary Clubs – The Rotary Club of Highlands and The Rotary Club of Highlands/Mountaintop and a most special thank you to all the businesses and merchants who dug deep into their pockets to give sweet offerings to our special guests well into the night hours.

Hope to see everyone same time next year!

Bob Kiltyka
Executive Director
Highlands Area Chamber of
Commerce
& Visitor Center

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.

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Circulation 10,000

Toll Free FAX: 866-212-8913 • (828) 200-1371

Email: HighlandsEditor@aol.com

Publisher/Editor: Kim Lewicki; Reporter: Brittany Raby

Copy Editor: Glenda Bell; Digital Media - Jim Lewicki

Locally owned and operated by Kim & Jim Lewicki

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265 Oak St.; P.O. Box 2703, Highlands, N.C., 28741

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• OBITUARIES •

Jimmy Ray Waller

Jimmy Ray Waller, age 74, of Highlands, NC died Friday, October 24, 2014 at his residence. He was a native of Macon County, the son of the late Albert Alvin and Ruth Shipman Waller. He was a veteran of the US Navy and was a member of Highlands United Methodist Church. He was a painter, liked to golf and was a diehard Carolina Tar Heel fan.

He is survived by his sisters, Margie Walcavich of Maryland and Anne Calloway of Clayton, GA. Several nieces and nephews also survive. He was preceded in death by a sister, Eileen Moore and brothers, Kenny Waller, Joe Waller, Lendal Waller and Billy Waller.

Memorial services will be held at a later date. Bryant-Grant Funeral Home is in of arrangements.

Thomas L. Coffeen

Thomas L. Coffeen, 83, of Highlands, died Monday, November 3, 2014. Born in Miami, FL he was the son of the late Wellington and Hattie Lund Coffeen. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife, Betty Jane Coffeen who died May 2, 2009. He is survived by his three children, Daniel, Debra and Diane; seven grandchildren, Jesse, Lee, Britany, Robby, Ashlie, Adam and Ally and two great grandchildren, Benjamin and Emmie. A private service will be held at a later date. Memorial donations can be made to Four Seasons Hospice or Highlands EMT. Macon Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements. Online condolences can be made at maconfuneralhome.com

...BOARD of ED continued from page 1

\$9,060,628. The bulk of the local current expense funds is the cost of the county's regular instructional services. Other day-to-day operational services such as special populations' services, school leadership services, and technology support services are some of the few that make up the total category amount.

To fund the local current expense category, the school system utilizes a state allocation of \$230,700, a federal allocation of \$260,000, local revenue dollars totaling \$1,052,523, a county appropriation of \$7,338,330 and \$255,418.68 from the district's fund balance.

State Public School Fund

Utilizing the state allocation of \$25,381,650.58, the state public school fund covers the bulk of the district regular instructional and operational services.

Last year's state appropriation for Macon County was \$24,361,401, and the slight increase can be attributed to the teaching salary increases that were issued on the state level.

Federal Grant Fund

Macon County will receive just under \$3 million in federal grants for things such as vocational education, improving teacher quality, and language acquisition. With the category totaling \$2,874,467.46, Macon County's 2014-'15 federal allocation is \$174,339.98 more than last year's funds. The increase can be attributed to slight increases in recurring grants as well as new federal grants being secured.

Child Nutrition Fund

The state, federal and local revenue

sources complete the county's child nutrition fund, all of which decreased this year, with the federal allocation seeing the largest decrease at \$99,000.

The 2014-'15 budget category for child nutrition totals \$2,592,500 with \$10,500 from state, \$1,805,000 from federal and \$777,000 from local revenue sources. Last year's budget category came in at \$2,798,420.

Capital Outlay Fund

Macon County Schools capital outlay fund are funds designated to the improvement and needed repairs for the district's infrastructure. Each year, the school district presents capital outlay needs to county commissioners at which point commissioners prioritize the list and supply funds accordingly, resulting in county dollars making up the bulk of the school district's funds for this category.

This year's Capital Outlay budget of \$808,642.87 is significantly less than last year's \$1,473,174. The allocation varies each year based on need and available county funds.

Macon County Schools' capital outlay fund total is comprised of \$309,835.47 in state funds, \$275,000 in county funds for technology, \$12,800 in county funds for athletics, \$199,035 in county funds for designated projects, and \$11,972.40 in fund balance appropriation.

Budget Crunch

Across the state, county budgets struggle with balancing the annual budget and keeping the schools up and running.

• See BOARD of ED page 4



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...HF&R continued from page 1

six-month probation.

"This is something I've been wanting to do," she said. "I want to be able to help people and this is something that makes me happy, even with the possibility of helping being under drastic and dire circumstances."

Lea currently works for Tate Landscaping and her boss Jim Tate, who has been an officer on the HF&R team for 15 years, has encouraged her.

"I always try to encourage my work team to give back to our community, and presently six of our employees are volunteer firemen," said Tate.

He said Lea has been an outstanding asset to his company and thus he had no problem recommending her as a volunteer for the HF&R Department.

"Lea has the opportunity and interest to be HF&R's first female fireman because she definitely has the physical abilities and mental stamina to do the job," said Tate.

Being a volunteer firefighter and hopefully a future first-responder is a perfect extension of who Lea is - a Certified Nursing Assistant, and a Medical Technician.

One important component of being on the HF&R force is being comfortable working with the other 29 male volunteers ... and she is. "I feel like I have been accepted pretty well. They treat me like one of the guys and they have helped me get used to everything," she said. "They push me to see what I can do, but not in a mean way."

Initially, she was understandably nervous but the guys encouraged her to relax and take the necessary time to get used to everything. "They have helped me learn how to do everything right," she said.

"For instance, there are steps you have to remember when putting the gear on - my jacket, pants, air-pack - which you have to be able to do in two minutes, so in the beginning it's hard."

Physically, Lea said she is up for the job. She has always had strong upper body strength and is working on building up her lower body strength.

"I can swing a 50-ft hose over my shoulder and keep on going," she said laughing.

So far the only real action she's seen was at a live controlled burn on Big Bear Pen, but she's ready for all of it.

"I like every aspect of what it means to be a firefighter and rescuer," she said.

Once she passes her first-responder class she can go on first-responder calls which is when the HF&R goes to the scene prior to EMS. She also intends to take the swift-water class when it comes up again.

Volunteers don't have to respond to every call - but since her mother lives with her and her two girls ages 8 and 11, responding day or night is no problem.

"But either way there is no negativity if someone can't go on a call. We all have jobs, families and kids. They all understand," she said.

Lea has lived in Highlands for 27 years and her girls go to Highlands School and they think what their mom is doing is pretty cool.

"They are proud of me and like to brag about it," she said.

She says the HF&R guys do an excellent job. "They are there for the community and for the Town of Highlands. It's a big family and these guys put out a lot of love every day."

Assistant Fire Chief Robbie Forrester said Lea isn't the first woman to aspire to be on the force but she is the

first to make it.

"It's a matter of being the right person for the job. There are things a woman can do just as well as a man and there are some things a bigger person can do. But women tend to be more detail-oriented than men and that's a good thing, too," he said.

Forrester said Lea fits right in - "she's just like one of the guys," he said.

Though the HF&R By-Laws can be changed, right now the maximum allowed on the roster is 30. With Lea, they have that. "This is the first time in a while we have a full roster," said Forrester.

According to the NC Fire Association HF&R has to have 28 members - 20 at the main station and eight at a substation. Highlands by-laws require more.

Tate said in regards to volunteering on the HF&R he believes everyone deserves the chance.

"If they enjoy it, are benefiting the community and are good at it, they will remain. Those who do not, will undoubtedly give up the effort. The fire department seems to self-cleanse itself," he said

- Kim Lewicki

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...BOARD of ED from page 3

with less than ideal pay and with no apparent solution, budget restrictions have resulted in a statewide school bus driver shortage.

Macon County Superintendent Dr. Chris Baldwin said due to the shortage, Macon County has had to park school buses and change routes to get students to and from school.

"For some time now, principals and assistant principals have been filling in," said Baldwin. "This pulls administrators away from campus during some of the most important times of the day in terms of security and parental support. Recently, the situation has worsened so there isn't a bus for a route. This means longer rides and crowded conditions for our students."

School bus drivers make \$11.42 an hour if full-time, and substitutes make \$11.22 per hour. On average, bus routes vary from three to six hours per day with most taking about four hours to complete.

According to Terry Bell, the lack of drivers in Macon

• See BOARD of ED page 6

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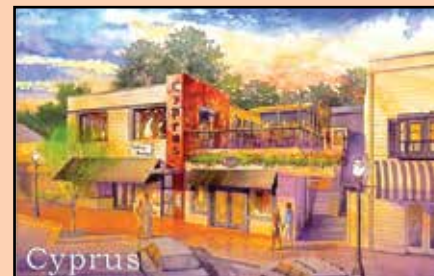
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...BOARD of ED from page 4

County can mostly be attributed to the fact that the routes only take a couple of hours a day which is a part-time job, when most people are seeking full-time employment.

"We have parked a bus two times in the Franklin area," said Bell. "The principal had other buses take parts of the route, but this affects getting to school on time."

Bell said although Highlands has not had to park a

bus yet, it is using teachers with bus licenses to handle the shortage. But when teachers have to drive a bus route, they lose valuable planning time in their classrooms.

Macon County employs 52 bus drivers, and is in desperate need of two more drivers. The training to become a bus driver takes four days, which includes three days in a classroom and one day behind the wheel. Linda Higdon at the central office is the contact person for those interested in applying.

Although Macon County is currently struggling with the shortage, it is better off than other areas in the state. Wake County is in need of 60 drivers but due to the low pay and bad student behavior, are having a hard time getting the 908 buses needed to transport the county's 75,000 students who rely on buses to get to school.

...ELECTION from page 1

1,413,228; Hagen got 47.20% - 1,364,727 votes.

The US House of Representatives District 11 17-county race ended with incumbent Republican Mark Meadows beating Democrat Tom Hill 62.93% with 143,833 votes to Hill's 37.07% - 84,723 votes.

Closer to home in the NC State Senate District 50 7-county race incumbent Republican Jim Davis beat Democrat Jane Hipps with 33,620 to her 28,774 votes; 53.88% to 46.12%, respectively.

The District Attorney 7-county race for District 30 was won by Republican Ashley Welch who got 60.48% of the vote to Democrat Jim Moore's 39.51%; 37,010 to 24,173 votes, respectively.

Incumbent Jim Tate retained the District 1 seat on the Macon County Board of Commission against Michael Rogers with 67.28% of the vote - 7,665 votes to Rogers' 32.72% and 3,728 votes.

The two winners in the Macon County Board of Commissioners District 2 race were newcomer Gary Shields and incumbent Ronnie Beale.

Shields got 39.71% of the vote with 7,647 votes and Beale got 31.37% with 6,041 votes. Republican Ron Haven got 21.92% with 4,221 votes and Libertarian John Martin got 7% with 1,349 votes.

Incumbent Tommy Cabe retained his District 2 seat

•See ELECTION page 14



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...K-H PARK continued from page 1

well over what we had budgeted, but that seems to be the trend for municipal projects at the moment. The town has seen a similar situation,” said Bazan. “With the end of the recession, as construction has begun to pick back up, costs appear to be going up as well,” said Bazan.

There were two bidders on the park project: in addition to Schmitt, Beale Construction of Franklin submitted a proposal.

“We had hoped to have several more bidders, but we had several prospective bidders withdraw from the process because they were simply too busy with other projects. That’s good for the overall local economy, but unfortunate for projects such as this,” he added.

So far the coalition has raised just over \$600,000 for building out the main park, but it must pay for design and architectural fees that are not part of the construction contract.

“We have had very productive discussions among all the parties in the last couple of weeks,” Bazan said of the value-engineering process, “and I’d like to thank the building architect Paul Schmitt, the landscape architect Hank Ross, Jim Tate of Tate Landscaping, and George and Seth Schmitt of Schmitt Construction for working in a very public spirited way to help reduce costs and make this project happen.

“Both Schmitt Contractors and Tate Landscaping enjoy very strong reputations for providing quality construction,” Bazan added. “And we are very pleased that they are willing to undertake the challenge of our time schedule. We have a very short window for construction. We want to see the main park completed by spring, so the new facilities can be enjoyed

throughout next summer and for many, many years to come.”

While the group substantially reduced projected costs for a number of elements of the project, part of the savings in the new contract came from postponing construction of the historical plaza, originally planned for the back southwest corner of the park. That area is located immediately adjacent to the new tract of land recently purchased by the coalition for an expansion of the existing park. In light of that acquisition, Bazan said the coalition was considering delaying construction of the historical plaza while it considers incorporating all or part of those elements into the new section of the park.

The contract signed last week covers construction of new public restrooms and entrance structure, a new performance pavilion that will double as covered picnic area, a commemorative stone Kelsey-Hutchinson “x”, an interactive fountain for kids, a chess/checkers area, walkways, benches, lighting, and landscaping.

While construction is under way on the main park, the coalition will be focusing its efforts on the newest addition to Kelsey-Hutchinson Founders Park, a half-acre tract immediately adjacent to the main park that was formerly a law office. That tract, which coalition leaders are calling Phase II of the park project, was purchased earlier this month from donations from two major donors and is being held in temporary ownership by the Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust. The coalition hopes to eventually transfer title to the Town of Highlands, once it has been developed.

“Our immediate focus is to clean up the property and most likely remove the existing structure,” Bazan said. “But we are

• See K-H PARK page 22

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• TELL TALES •

More from Elmer Schmidlap

In order to keep getting interviews with Elmer Schmidlap, the world's greatest philosopher, Bob had a habit of showing up where ever Elmer was, this time in a local pub frequented by a few town drunks.

"OK, sonny, whaddaya want to talk about this time? I give up. You somehow find me no matter what."

Well, I keep hearing a few people talking about our needing a dictatorship and that dictatorships are more efficient than our form of government.

"Well, for sure, democracy is messy and that's the way it was planned to be. In America it's the Democrats against the Republicans. But that's what our founding fathers believed would result in a just and free society."

But this time, things seem to be different. We have an element that preaches hatred of small as well as big business and recently, we found that there are tens of thousands of illegal aliens voting when they aren't even citizens. The Liberals seem bent on using any method to stuff the ballot boxes, illegal or not. Isn't this a form of treason?

"It probably is treason and I understand your point, sonny, but you've got to remember that many of the illegal aliens came from dictatorships and the Liberals figure they will vote for whoever offers them the most freebies. Many of them came here to work but many of them came here for no other reason than to deal drugs. Voting in Los Angeles has become a joke because illegal aliens have been voting by the tens of thousands."

You're saying that the Liberals don't believe in democracy and want some sort of central control over our lives where everything we do and everything we think is under control of a dictatorial government?

"You said it, sonny. We have some pretty kooky people out there. We are now catering to a lot of neurotic twits. Just look at that school that fined a junior football team \$500 for allowing an 8-year-old football player to make a touchdown. Presumably, the Liberals believe that it would be better for the 8-year-old to cheat and throw the game."

So are you saying that the Liberals are trying to level the playing field by punishing anyone who might be a threat by being a winner? How does that help them win elections?



Bob Wilson

"Liberals don't like winners except for Liberals who win elections. Winning elections is different. They just don't want the type of winners that might go on to establish businesses and hire people. The Liberals feel that only the government should provide jobs."

And, of course, that leads to a one party system which in turn, always led to a dictatorship. Do you think the recent rise in SWAT teams busting

into homes and shooting people is what lies in store for us? Note that the Pentagon has been giving some heavy armor to various SWAT teams across the country. Could that be in preparation for a government takeover by a dictatorship?

"Who knows? But don't let your imagination run wild, sonny. We've got enough conspiracy theorists already roaming around the country trying to convince folks that doomsday is almost here. There was a program on television about Domsday Preppers and they're so paranoid they're digging caves to live in. We don't need to be adding to the problem. By the way, what got your spring wound up so tight, sonny?"

I dunno, Elmer, I suppose I just got a belly full of the lies, dishonesty, distortions, in the recent election campaign. It made me sick at my stomach. How can we ever trust someone we know lied to win the election?

"Well, although not enforced, we have a "truth in advertising law" so maybe what we need is a truth in political campaign laws. Make each candidate responsible for any lies and distortions that are made in the media. If you lie and tell voters you are going to fix the federal deficit, hold them accountable and subject them to a recall if they don't keep their word."

Sad to say, winning an election continues to be dependent on who has the most money. Funny how the teacher's union was complaining about the Koch Brothers donating money to a candidate when they donated 10 times as much to their candidate.

"Maybe someday we'll have only money allocated to each candidate paid for by taxpayers and who knows, maybe someday we'll also get a law passed to make candidates responsible for any lies told by them or their sponsors."

That'll be the day but maybe we'll then get around to a true democracy. Elmer, the next beer is on me.

"Thanks, sonny. I know you'll be bugging me again."



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• HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

FRANKENSTEIN: Special TWO Screenings on Sat., Nov. 8th at the Performing Arts Center



National Theatre of London's "Live in HD" thrilling broadcast of Frankenstein in cinemas for a limited time, due to unprecedented audience demand.

Directed by Academy Award®-winner Danny Boyle (Trainspotting, Slumdog Millionaire) Frankenstein features Benedict Cumberbatch (12 Years a Slave, Star Trek, August Osage County, War Horse and won an Emmy Award for Sherlock) and Jonny Lee Miller (Trainspotting, Mansfield Park, Hackers, Dracula 2000, Dark Shadows and plays Sherlock in Elementary) alternating roles as Victor Frankenstein and his creation. The production was a sell-out hit at the National Theatre in 2011, and the broadcast has since become an international sensation, experienced by almost half a million people in cinemas around the world.

Childlike in his innocence but grotesque in form, Frankenstein's bewildered Creature is cast out into a hostile universe by his horror-struck maker. Meeting with cruelty wherever he goes, the friendless Creature, increasingly desperate and vengeful, determines to track down his creator and strike a terrifying deal. Urgent concerns of scientific responsibility, parental neglect, cognitive development and the nature of good and evil are embedded within this thrilling and disturbing classic gothic tale of mutual desires.

The Performing Arts Center is offering two screenings on Saturday, November 8th, 2pm starring Jonny Lee Miller as the Creature and at 7pm starring Benedict Cumberbatch as the Creature. Adults: \$18, PAC Members \$15.30, Students: \$15 for both screenings with a student ID. Tickets are available online: highlandspac.org or by calling 828.526.9047. Martin Lipscomb Performing Arts Center, 507 Chestnut Street, Highlands.

Ongoing

- The Cub and Boy Scouts of America have three drop offs for worn and tattered flags. They properly retire them. Drop offs at Highlands Doors and Windows 2242 Dillard Road, the Highlands Fire Station or Highlands United Methodist Church office. Contact Phil Potts for more information 828 526-3719

Through Dec. 16

- Fruit sale by the HS Junior Class. Mondays Oranges, Small juice oranges, Grapefruit, Tangelos, and Tangerines. And it is \$20 per box. The pick up for the fruit will be Tuesday, December 16 at Highlands school between 3:30 and 5!

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

Tuesdays

- Free Community Table Dinner at the Community Bldg. at 6p.
- Zumba at the Rec Park at 8:05a. \$5.

Mon., Wed., Fri.

- Aerobics with Tina Rogers 8-9a.

- Zumba at the Rec Park at 9:05a. \$5

Mon.-Sat.

- Nantahala Tennis Club meets 9a-12 noon, at Highlands Civic Center, tennis courts. \$2 per person, and all visitors are welcome!

Wednesdays

- First Baptist Church is happy to present a new season of X-treme Games at the Highlands Rec. Park. The games will be held Wednesday nights from 6 to 7:15 pm, starting September 10th. For more information or to pre-register your k - 6th grade child, please call 526-4153.

1st Wednesdays

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

3rd Wednesdays

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

1st & 3rd Thursdays

- Free local ongoing support group for caregivers. Are you involved with the care of a loved one who is physically or mentally facing challenges? Sponsored by The Counseling and Psychotherapy Center of Highlands and the Highlands United Methodist Church, this group meets at 4PM at Room 203

at the Peggy Crosby Center. Facilitated by Bonnie Gramlich, a licensed professional. Drop in or call for further info, 828.342.0546.

Thursdays

- Storytimes with Miss Carol at Hudson Library 10:40am. Open to the public.

- Highlands Writer's Group meets every Thursday from 1-3:30 pm at Hudson Library. Writers of all genres welcome. For info call 526-8009 or 526-2295.

- Weight Watchers support group meets every Thursday at 6pm at the Cashiers Community Center. Questions? Call Lisa 828-506-3555 Last Fri. of each month.

- Free wine tastings from 5-7p at MountainTop Wine Shoppe.

- NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) offers a peer support group for individuals that are dealing with depression, anxiety, PTSD, bipolar, schizophrenia, etc. and the family members or friends of loved ones dealing with these challenges. Join us in a safe, confidential environment to share concerns and gain insight. Join us for our Weekly Support Group from 7 - 8:15 pm @ 14 West Palmer Street in Franklin NC, email dcwithnami@yahoo.com, Donita (828) 526-9510.

2nd Thursdays

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

Fri.-Sun.

- Hal Phillips on the piano at Skyline Lodge during dinner and Sunday brunch.

Fri. & Sat.

- The Historical Society Museum is open.

Saturdays

- Free wine tastings at MountainTop Wine Shoppe from 1-3p.

Sundays

- At Highlands Inn, Sequoyah Room at 4:30 pm. Multi-denominational, Interactive Bible Study and Fellowship. Open to all.

Through Nov. 14

- Movie at The Playhouse: St. Vincent. Showtimes, Fri., Sat., Sun., Mon. & Thurs. 2p, 5p and 8p. No movies on Tuesday and Wednesday.

Thurs.-Sun., Nov. 6-9

- The Culinary Weekend Website is up and running and tickets are on sale! Visit www.highlandsculinaryweekend.com for all the details and links to purchase tickets

Sat., Nov 8

- At PAC, National Theatre of London's "Live in HD" thrilling broadcast of Frankenstein at 2p and 7p. Adults: \$18, PAC Members \$15.30, Students: \$15 for both screenings with a student ID. Tickets are available online: highlandspac.org or by calling 828.526.9047. Martin Lipscomb Performing Arts Center, 507 Chestnut Street, Highlands.

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate 4.5-mile hike on a forest service road with several ups and downs to ascend Round Mountain near Cashiers for view of SC and Lake Jocassee. Meet at Cashiers Recreation Park at 10:00 am. Drive 12 miles round trip. Call leaders Mike and Susan Kettles, 828-743-1079, for reservations.

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate 3-mile hike, elevation change 500 ft., along the Horse Pasture River to see several falls including Rainbow Falls in Gorges State Park near Sapphire Valley NC. Meet in Franklin in Bi-Lo parking area at 11 am. Wear sturdy shoes, bring lunch and water, drive 75 miles round trip. Call leader Joyce Jacques, 410-852-7510, for reservations. Visitors welcome, no dogs please.

Sun., Nov 9

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take an easy 2-mile hike to 20 ft.-high Big Laurel Falls, in Standing Indian area, elevation change 250 ft. Meet in Franklin at Westgate Plaza at 2 pm, drive 44 miles round trip. Call leaders Diana Otero/Rudolph Buchholz, 765-318-9981, for reservations. Visitors, families and children welcome, but no dogs please.

Mon., Nov 10

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate-to-strenuous 9.6-mile hike, elevation change 1300, from Winding Stair to 5216 ft. high Siler Bald, with 360 degree views and a large grassy area for picnic lunches. Meet in Franklin at Westgate Plaza at 8:30 am, drive 22 miles round trip. Call leaders Diana Otero/Rudolph Buchholz, 765-318-9981, for reservations. Visitors welcome, no dogs please.

- The Battle of Sugartown Chapter of the North Carolina Society, Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), will hold its monthly luncheon meeting at 11:30

• HIGHLANDS EVENTS •

on in the Boiler Room Restaurant at 1024 Georgia Road in Franklin. All DAR members and prospective members are welcome. Contact 828-369-3136 or 828-524-2673.

Thurs., Nov. 13

• The Macon County Cancer Support Group will meet Thursday, November 13, at 7 p.m. in the cafeteria of Angel Medical Center, Riverview Street, Franklin. The meeting this month will focus on Lung Cancer Awareness. Donna Drake, Lung Cancer Survivor, will be the guest speaker. Everyone, especially lung cancer survivors are invited to come share their stories. Light refreshments will be served and a \$50 door prize.

• The League of Women Voters of Macon County will host County Manager Derek Roland, speaking on the state of the county, on November 13 at noon at Tartan Hall in Franklin. With elections over and a line-up of new officials soon to take office, Mr. Roland will talk about

upcoming issues and projects, the budget, needs and accomplishments in our county. Attendees will have an opportunity to ask questions and present concerns. The meeting will begin at noon and last about an hour. The public is welcome and those attending may bring bag lunches if they wish.

Sat. Nov. 15

• At The Bascom, Giving Trees decorated by local nonprofits, Nog Off Competition and WCU exhibition: What? Draw? What We Draw.

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate 6-mile hike, elevation change 500 ft., from Park Creek to Park Ridge in Standing Indian area, from the Back Country parking lot, along the Nantahala River to Park Creek, returning on Park Ridge Trail. Meet in Franklin at Westgate Plaza at 9:00 am, drive 40 miles roundtrip. Call leader Mary Stone, 369-7352, for reservations.

• Live in HD at the Performing Arts Center, The National Theatre

of London presents Bill Nighy (Love Actually, The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel) and Carey Mulligan (Inside Llewyn Davis, The Great Gatsby) in the highly-anticipated production of David Hare's Skylight, directed by Stephen Daldry (The Audience), captured live from the West End by National Theatre Live. 7pm. Tickets (\$18) are available online: highlandspac.org or by calling 828.526.9047

Sun., Nov 16

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate 2.5-mile hike, elevation change, 430 ft., to Glen Falls near Highlands, descending on a newly repaired trail to the bottom of the falls to view two or more levels of the falls. Call leader Joyce Jacques, 410-852-7510, for reservations or alternate meeting place if coming from Highlands

• The Highlands Cashiers Players will hold auditions for their winter play Sunday, November 16 from 3 to 5 p.m. at the Highlands Performing Arts Center, 507 Chestnut Street. The play will be a murder mystery dinner theater presentation entitled "Murder Not Prohibited." Performance dates are scheduled February 19-22, February 27-March 1. The cast includes three women, and four men. Ages vary from young to older. Scripts are available to read in the Cashiers or Hudson libraries. Dean Zuch, 526-4904, is coordinating the production with the assistance of Virginia Talbot.

Sat., Nov 22

• The Nantahala will take a moderate-to-strenuous 8-mile hike, elevation change 800 ft., to the "great wall" in Panthertown Valley, near Cashiers, descending into the valley, passing Granny Burrell Falls to climb the wall on steps cut into the granite rock. Meet in Franklin in Bi-Lo parking area at 8:30 am, drive 60 miles round trip. Call leader: Gail Lehman, 524-5298, for reservations.

• MET Opera Live in HD to present the Barber of Seville at the Performing Arts Center on Saturday. The Met's production of Il Barbiere di Siviglia, is Rossini's classic comedy with some of the most recognizable melodies in all of opera. It begins at 12:55pm and the Pre-opera discussion, lead by Beverly Pittman, begins at 12:30pm. Tickets (\$24 Adults & \$20.40 for PAC and MET Members) are available online: highlandspac.org or call 828-526-9047. Performing Arts Center, 507 Chestnut Street.

Live in HD at the Performing Arts Center, Sat., Nov. 15



The National Theatre of London presents Bill Nighy (Love Actually, The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel) and Carey Mulligan (Inside Llewyn Davis, The Great Gatsby) in the highly-anticipated production of David Hare's Skylight, directed by Stephen Daldry (The Audience), captured live from the West End by National Theatre Live.

On a bitterly cold London evening, schoolteacher Kyra Hollis (Carey Mulligan) receives an unexpected visit from her former lover, Tom Sergeant (Bill Nighy), a successful and charismatic restaurateur whose wife has recently died. As the evening progresses, the two attempt to rekindle their once passionate relationship only to find themselves locked in a dangerous battle of opposing ideologies and mutual desires.

Performing Arts Center, Saturday, November 15, 7pm. Tickets (\$18) are available online: highlandspac.org or by calling 828.526.9047

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VARSITY SOCCER

On Wednesday October 29th, Highlands hosted Atkins in the first round of state playoffs. In first half with 1 minute left to go Kenan Lewis came out to score. In the second half after 6 minutes, Austin Nichols scores. Then with an assist from Kenan Lewis, Phillip Murphy scores giving us a win with a score of 3-0

On Monday November 3rd, Highlands hosted Lincoln Charter. Highlands came out to score first with a goal from Kenan Lewis with an assist from Colin Weller. Lincoln came back to score in the first half leaving both teams tied 1-1. In the second half of the game, Dylan Vinson comes out early with an assist from Austin Nichols to score a goal taking the game with a score of 2-1.

Highlands will play round three in state playoffs Wednesday November 5th. The details of the game will be in next weeks issue.

CROSS COUNTRY

Blakely Moore, a Sophomore at Highlands School, finished 8th overall in the Girls 1A Cross Country State Championship this past weekend.

In addition, Blakely's brother, Davis Moore, a Senior at Highlands School, finished 3rd overall in the Boys 1A Cross Country Championship.

— Sierra Nylund

...ELECTION continued from page 6

on the Macon County Board of Education against Bill Taylor. Cabe got 58.07% of the vote with 5,698 votes; Taylor got 41.60% with 4,082 votes.

The Macon County Board of Education District 4 seat was won by Fred Goldsmith with 62.01% of the vote, 6,170 votes, to Carroll Poindexter's 3,755 votes or 37.74% of the vote.

Incumbent Todd Raby retained the Register of Deeds position with 56.11% of

the vote, 6,430 votes to Jamie Cochran's 5,029 votes — 43.89%.

The NC Constitutional Amendment providing that a person accused of any criminal offense for which the State is not seeking a sentence of death in superior court may, in writing or on the record in court and with the consent of the trial judge, waive the person's right to a trial by jury passed with 59.36% of the vote.

— Kim Lewicki

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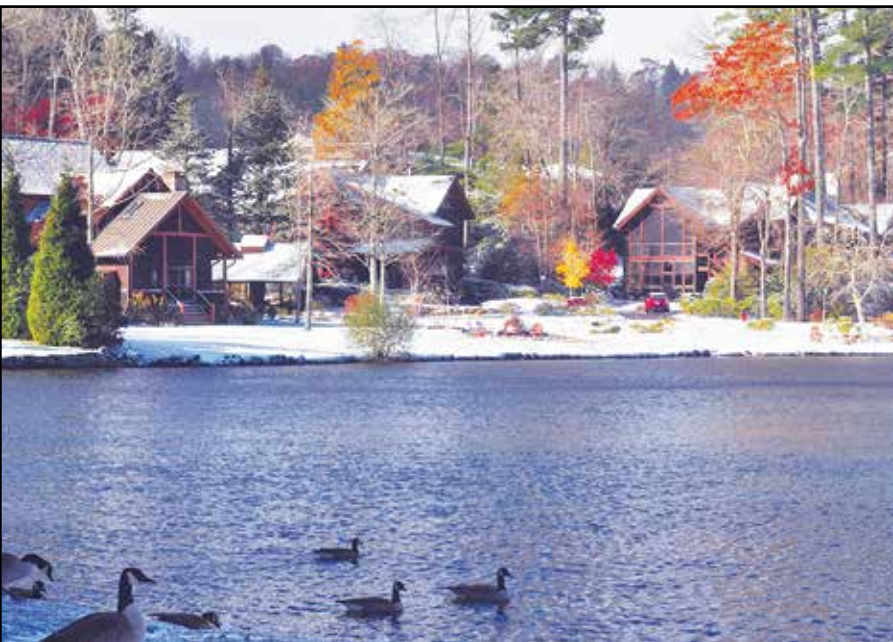
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Flames in the snow

Winter came suddenly during the early morning hours of Saturday, Nov. 1 when spring like temperatures the previous week began to fall, fall, fall, until 20-something degree weather blew in about 2 inches of snow. Fall wasn't ready to give up her colors though and took a striking stand against the snow around Harris Lake and elsewhere in town.

Photo by Jim Lewicki



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• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

Politics of division or prayer for unity

By Jim Murphy
Christ Anglican Church
Cashiers

Who did you vote for? You did vote, didn't you? As Americans we have the distinct and collective privilege of voting or having a say in our government. You may not know this but we are in the minority of the countries of the world that have such a treasured privilege. There are countless billions of citizens around the globe who long for such an honor as voting, having input. Some have gone as far as to die in an effort to secure the blessing of participating in the electoral process, to be "free" to do so.

In the election just completed, the negativity of ads and platforms was deafening. One candidate after another divided themselves from the other candidates and most often, through the views they espoused or the policies that they said they would support, they divided their constituencies (us) into opposing camps. It was more of the "Politics of Division" that we experience from the very highest elected offices, down through the ranks.

The current presidential administration campaigned (twice) on bringing the various interest groups and parties together. They pledged to "reach across the aisle" in an effort to find common ground where we could all move forward together. Of course, as it so often goes in politics, it was a promise un-kept. You might describe it as deception for the sake of election. Unilateral decisions became the norm without any consideration of propriety or of majority preference. So called "Executive Orders," policies and decisions were regularly made so as to divide and conquer the electorate (us), thus protecting their elite ideology and ensuring the continuance of their jobs.

This is a far cry from the prayer of our Savior, Jesus. On the night before he died to secure our "freedom," through blood, sweat and tears, he prayed for a unity that would be enduring and peaceful, the only unity that could make the world one. "My prayer is not for them (the disciples) alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you," prayed Jesus. The Lord was pleading with his Father on our behalf. He continued, "I in them and you in me. May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me." (John 17:20, 21, 23 [NIV], italics mine)

Unity, what a novel idea. But it's a unity that cannot and never will come from government. The unity that Jesus prayed for comes only through one thing: the Truth. Read all of John 17 or read all of John and the entire Word of God. Unity is impossible unless and until we all agree in Truth, in Jesus. Agreeing on anything short of that may be a cute little and temporary coming together, but it cannot endure.

We can make political and personal pronouncements and promises until our dying breath, but it won't ever bring unity and true freedom. The Founding Fathers of America understood this principle, that's why we've made it this far. Be that as it may, it seems like the Politics of Division is continuing to gain ground in our day.

Make it your pledge to vote for the Truth: Jesus, Son

• See SPIRITUALLY page 19

Proverbs 3:5

• PLACES TO WORSHIP •

John 3:16

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Tues. Guys study 8am, Gals 10am.

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

Wednesdays - 7 p.m.

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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 University

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Sundays: Eucharist Rite I 8a in chapel; Education

and choir rehearsal, 9 am, Holy Eucharist Rite II, (sanctuary), 10:30

Wednesday: 10 a.m., Morning Prayer

Thursdays: Holy Eucharist, (chapel), 10 am

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH HIGHLANDS

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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; Choir 5 pm

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Sun.: Worship: 8:30 & 11 a.m.; School: 9:30

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

Wednesdays: Choir: 7

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Bible Study: 6 pm

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Pastor Nathan Johnson

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

Wed. Kidsquest 6p.; Worship 7p.

HIGHLANDS ASSEMBLY OF GOD

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Sundays: Worship: 11

HIGHLANDS CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Dan Robinson

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

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

Wednesday: Prayer Service, 6:30 p.

HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Pastor Paul Christy 526-3376

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

Wed: Supper: 5:15; youth, & adults activities: 6; Handbell rehearsal, 6:15; Choir Rehearsal 7. (nursery provided)

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Worship/Communion: 10:30

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

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Wednesdays: Prayer Mtg.: 7 p.m.

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Sun.: School: 10 a.m.; Worship: 10:45 a.m.; Worship: 6 p.m.

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

SHORTOFF BAPTIST CHURCH

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

Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study: 7

THE CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

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

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Thursday: Noon Healing Service with Eucharist.

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Religious Education - 11 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

Youth 8th - 12th grade meets 2nd Sundays 5 - 7:30p

WHITESIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Happy Veterans' Day



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Veteran's Day is November 11th. Please take time to thank a Veteran for their service to our country. We take so much for granted. Freedom is not free- so thank a Veteran. Most of us don't have a clue who the veterans in our communities are; some may wear caps, others carry a title such as Colonel, or General, but for the most part, these men and women seem to disappear in the crowd. We should be treating them like royalty- much more so than the Hollywood celebrities.

A little history on this holiday: November 11th, 1918- World War I ended, and the following year, November 11, 1919 was the first Armistice Day, as proclaimed by President Woodrow Wilson who said. "Armistice Day will be filled with solemn pride in the heroism of those who died in the country's service and with gratitude for the victory..." Armistice Day was first meant to celebrate the ending of World War I and the original concept was to have a day observed with parades and public meetings and a brief suspension of business beginning at 11:00 a.m. In 1938, an act of Congress made November 11th of each year a legal holiday - still called Armistice Day. In 1954, the name was changed to Veteran's Day to signify the inclusion of veterans from ALL wars.

In 1968, the Uniform Holiday bill would change Veteran's Day to the closest Monday to the November 11th date in order

for all Federal workers to have a three-day weekend. One of the purposes of the Uniform Holiday bill was to encourage travel of Americans, but in 1975, President Ford returned the national

observance of Veteran's Day to November 11th, in order to restore the historical significance of

that date as well as encouraging Americans to focus on the Veteran's Day
• See **INVESTING** page 19

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Halloween Highlands Style - Oct. 31, 2014



Photos by Jim and Kim Lewicki



...INVESTING continued from page 17

erans, not just another three-day holiday. Since this IS a real estate column, I wanted to find a way to honor our Veterans while writing about a real estate topic as well, in this case - mortgage loans. I'm not a banker; for more in depth information, please see a professional lender.

In my first few years of selling real estate, a Buyer that wanted to get a VA loan approached me. It scared me a little, because I didn't know what to expect, but it all worked out in the end. In that particular case, the Seller accepted the Buyer's offer with a very low earnest money deposit, and paid the Buyer's closing costs. (The loan can't be higher than the VA appraisal, but if the appraisal is higher than the loan amount, the costs of closing can be rolled into the loan as well as the VA lending fee.)

I'm not sure why we don't have more VA loans in Highlands, with the exception that ours is primarily a second home market, and the VA loans have to be for your primary residence.

If you are a Veteran, and would like to buy a home, here are a few pointers for you.

1) Find a lender that participates in the VA program; the lender sets its own interest rates and discount points. This is a good time to ask the lender to pre-qualify you.

2) Get a COE (Certificate of Eligibility). To get one you must have an honorable discharge, or been in active duty, (and you will have to have records of military history)

3) Find a real estate broker (preferably a Realtor), find a home, make an offer.

4) Apply for a VA loan – easy if you've been pre-qualified. Then the process begins with the lender getting a VA appraisal.

The following are for EVERYONE that intends to try to qualify for a mortgage loan- including Veterans. A lender will look at your most recent history. Timing is everything.

1) Don't be late on any of your payments. Even if you can't afford to pay the whole amount, pay something. Pay your mortgage and rent payments FIRST.

2) Don't buy or lease a new/used car- those places will pull your credit report. You don't want your lender to pull your credit and find that ten others pulled your credit in the last month- red flag.

3) Avoid buying new furniture or new appliances –for the same reason as

a new car.

4) Avoid changing jobs- sometimes unavoidable, Lenders are looking for stability

5) Avoid moving or liquidating your assets. Again-stability. If you have a savings account, don't treat it like an ATM.

6) Don't search for Mlenders online.

Audition notice for HCP winter play

The Highlands Cashiers Players will hold auditions for their winter play Sunday, November 16 from 3 to 5 p.m. at the Highlands Performing Arts Center, 507 Chestnut Street.

The play will be a murder mystery dinner theater presentation entitled "Murder Not Prohibited." Performance dates are scheduled February 19-22, February 27-March 1.

The cast includes three women, and four men. Ages vary from young to older.

Scripts are available to read in the Cashiers or Hudson libraries. Dean Zuch,

Most of these may be fine, but it's best to look locally. Don't be afraid to ask others for referrals.

7) Avoid pulling your own credit report Every time your credit report is given out – an angel gets its wings (NO, that's

• See **INVESTING** page 22

526-4904, is coordinating the production with the assistance of Virginia Talbot.

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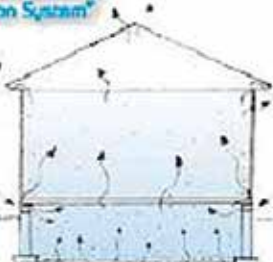
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Lake Sequoyah Intake and Dam Improvements Project – Lowering of Lake –

The Town of Highlands' contractor will be constructing a new raw water intake on Town property upstream of the dam at Lake Sequoyah and performing needed repairs to the concrete dam. The water level in the lake will be lowered significantly by the contractor in order to perform this work. Based on preliminary scheduling, it is expected that the lowering of the lake will begin in mid-December of this year. This schedule, the length of time needed to lower the lake water level and the extent to which the lake level will be lowered are dependent on weather conditions and other construction-related factors.

The contractor anticipates that the lake will be lowered to approximately 10 to 15 feet below normal to allow the construction activities to be completed.

The contractor plans to allow the lake to refill sometime during the period between mid- March and May 2015, depending on weather and construction progress. There is additional work that will continue after the lake is refilled. The construction of the overall project is expected to be completed by March 2016.

During the period that the lake level is drawn down, it will be necessary for pumps and other construction equipment to remain in operation 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

There may be other periods during the overall project when it will be necessary for construction activities to occur outside normal business hours (six days a week, 7am until 7pm in some cases). This is necessary due to the nature of the work, and the Town requests your patience and cooperation in allowing the contractor to complete the work as quickly as possible.

Be aware that the dates and timelines provided above are preliminary and are subject to change based on weather, material deliveries and other construction factors that are beyond the control of the Town of Highlands.

Each individual property owner is responsible for taking all necessary precautions and measures to secure private property and materials, including both permanent and floating items and structures that could be impacted by the lowering and subsequent refilling of the lake. The Town of Highlands will not be responsible for any damage to private property and materials.

In response to questions that the Town has received from property owners, the Town's consultant has provided the information below regarding work that can be performed by property owners while the lake level is drawn down. The following information is based on input received from the United States Army Corps of Engineers and is provided for informational purposes only. Neither the Town of Highlands nor its consultant are responsible for the accuracy of this information and the Town encourages each individual property owner to contact the Army Corps of Engineers Asheville office directly at (828)271-7980 with any questions and to confirm the information provided below.

Note that certain types of work require that the property owner obtain an appropriate permit from the Army Corps of Engineers before the work can begin. Other permits from other regulatory agencies may also be required and property owners are responsible for securing all required permits and complying with all applicable laws. Property owners are responsible for disposing of any debris or materials removed from the lake in accordance with all applicable laws, rules, ordinances and requirements.

Army Corps of Engineers Regulatory guidelines for work on private property:

Based on information provided by the Army Corps of Engineers, the following activities should be allowed without a permit:

- Manual debris removal by hand
- Very minor sediment removal by hand
- Mechanical removal of debris and maintenance sediment removal (not new excavation) only if equipment can be situated above the normal pool elevation with the bucket reaching out into the lake. This cannot be new excavation – only removal of sediment and debris that has settled.

The Army Corps of Engineers has indicated that the following activities require a permit:

- New excavation
- New fill
- New piers
- New docks
- Sediment or debris removal by mechanical means with equipment situated below the normal pool elevation

Please contact the Army Corps of Engineers directly at 828-271-7980 with any questions regarding the above information and related permit requirements.

The Town of Highlands appreciates your patience and cooperation during this construction project.

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SECRETARY with Quick Books experience needed full or part time. Black Bear Construction. 828-487-4248 (st.) ct 30)

MOUNTAIN FRESH

GROCERY IN HIGHLANDS is hiring full-time for positions on the grill. Contact Don at 828.526.2400

PART-TIME BOOKKEEPER POSITION

with Quickbooks experience needed at the Highlands ABC Store. Applications are available at the store in Highlands Plaza. 828-526-5470. (st. 10/9)

EXPERIENCED ELEC-

TRICIAN NEEDED. Edwards Electrical Services. 828-526-5147. (st. 10/2)

EARLY CHILDHOOD

EDUCATOR needed at Highlands Community Child Development Center. Must have NC credentials. Mail resume to PO Box 648, Highlands, NC 28741. (st. 10/2)

LEAD LINE COOK &

DISHWASHER needed at casual fine dining, up to \$13/hour or salary B.O.E. jasoncancilla2012@gmail.com (st. 6/19)

PART TIME SEASONAL

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY AVAILABLE. Prior wait staff experience required. 20 - 30 hours with weekend availability. Call 803-389-0199. (st. 6/12)

CNA, NURSES, CARE-

GIVERS needed for Home Care Agency serving Older Adults in Macon, Jackson and Transylvania counties. Call 828-200-9000. (st. 5/15)

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ING STORE IN HIGHLANDS, NC. full time, part-time and seasonal. Must be available to work weekends. Retail clothing sales experience preferred. Please call 828-200-1703. (st. 3/13)

RESIDENTIAL FOR RENT

TWO CHARMING MIRROR LAKE HOUSES FOR RENT. Both nicely furnished. Pets ok. 2/2 with fenced yard. \$1300/month. 4/3 with two decks. \$1700/month. Utilities not included. rentalhousehighlands@gmail.com. 904-403-8090. (st. 10/30)

DELIGHTFUL, CREEK-SIDE, SCALY MTN., HOME.

Partially furnished. 3/1, covered porch, well, W/D, microwave, dishwasher, baseboard heat, state maintained road. \$650/mth plus deposit. 828-526-5562. (10/30)

2 BR APT. IN TOWN. Walk to work, shop, eat. Unfurnished. \$675 + utilities. Cynthia (828) 526-9227. (st. 10/30)

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RESIDENTIAL FOR SALE

CABINS FOR SALE/RENT. Located on Sawmill Road in Clear Creek. 4.63 acres. Call 828-526-2720. Price Negotiable. (11/6)

CHARMING MIRROR LAKE DUPLEX FOR RENT.

Nicely furnished. Pets ok. Top floor 2/2 with porch and private deck. \$1000/month. Downstairs with private deck. 2/1 \$800. Utilities not included. Or, rent entire 4/3 house for \$1,600. rentalhousehighlands@gmail.com. 904-403-8090. (pd 11/6)

2BED/2BATH 1.20 AC. Fantastic views & Privacy \$88,999.00. Call 482.2050 706.782.9728. Cypresslanesale@facebook. (st. 8/7)

2BR/1BA HOME. Clear Creek Road. New exterior paint, inside paint, Brand new appliances, new flooring throughout. \$165,000. (828) 526 2288/ (828)482-2385. (st. 9/25)

SECURED, BUT JUST MINUTES TO TOWN. Adorable two Bedroom home with great views and outdoor living spaces. Call 828-421-4681. (st. 5/29)

LOTS/LAND FOR SALE

1.23 ACRES. SEPTIC SYSTEM. Located off Sassafras Gap to Hidden Sprints Road. Call 828-526-2720. Price Negotiable. (11/6)

LAND FOR SALE IN

CLEAR CREEK: 2.18 acre parcel has road frontage on Mack Wilson Rd. \$17,000. Any reasonable offers will

be considered. Call 828-526-2874. (st. 10/23)

FOR SALE BY OWNER - 3 building lots in the gated community of Rustic Falls. Macon County tax records value at \$51,000 each. Must sell due to health reasons. Asking \$15,000 each. Call owner at 803-640-6004. (St. 5/1)

MUST SELL 6+ acres at Lake Glenville. Lake and mountain views. \$130,000 or Best Offer. Call 706-348-3208. (st. 2/20)

1/2 ACRE KNOLL FOR

SALE Homesite is cleared for Camper or Cabin. Driveway in, 1000 gal Septic/Drainfield in, Well permit in hand. Scaly Mountain area near Highlands. No Restrictions and Very Beautiful. \$29,900 850-363-1436. (st. 8/28)

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CRICK 78" 5-PIECE DOOR BUCK LEVEL. Like New. \$150. 787-1564. (11/6)

5TH-WHEEL MOTOR

HOME. Wanderer by Thor. 27ft. w/10ft. slideout. 2ft. repair needed. \$2,500. 828-200-9143. (st. 10/30)

PIANOS FOR SALE

- 2 consoles, 1 spinet, 1 upright, 1 electric organ, \$150 each, all 5 for \$500. Call 526 4818 (st. 10/23)

FURNITURE. Lodge pole pine pedestal dining/breakfast table with stump base and 2 single/2 double half log benches; handcrafted in Franklin, NC; in excellent condition; slab is 45 1/4" x 36" x 3 1/4". Estimated retail value is \$2,000 and asking \$1,200. Please call 229-221-4080 or email janwadams49@gmail.com (10/30)

WORMY CHESTNUT FOR

SALE: Approximately 300 square feet of 3/4" wormy chestnut wainscot milled and finished. Board length 36"; width varies from 4" to 8". \$2800 lot price. 404-944-5298 (st. 3/20)

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HIGH COUNTRY PHOTO/KEVIN VINSON: scanning photos, slides & negatives to CD or DVD for easier viewing. Video transfer to DVD. Everything done in house. Leave message at 828-526-5208. (st. 10/23)

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- General, spring, construction References available 706-982-1504. (st. 8/7)

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...INVESTING continued from page 19

a savings account, don't treat it like an ATM.

6) Don't search for lenders online. Most of these may be fine, but it's best to look locally. Don't be afraid to ask others for referrals.

7) Avoid pulling your own credit report Every time your credit report is given out - an angel gets its wings (NO, that's NOT right) but it does alert your lender.

8) Avoid losing or delaying the process because you can't find important documents. If you know you're going to be asking for a loan, have documents ready like W2s, tax records, bank records, and other loan information.

9) Avoid well-meaning friends' advice. Listen but don't completely rely on their experiences.

10) Don't consolidate your loans - unless your lender suggests

you need to do that.

If you are a Veteran-THANK YOU! Your service is invaluable to the rest of us Americans.

• Jeannie and Tucker Chambers are owners of Chambers Realty & Vacation Rentals located at 401 N. Fifth Street, Highlands, NC www.chambersagency.net. They have both handled Veteran's sales transactions, and are happy to help other Veterans find their primary residence in Highlands.

...K-H PARK continued from page 7

still in need of funds to do that." The Mountain Garden Club stepped forward just last month in that regard, pledging \$10,000.

"We hope other groups and individuals will join the garden club to help provide funds we need right now to get the property cleaned up and stabilized," Bazan said.

Also in the next few months the coalition will also begin seeking public input on how the new tract could best be integrated into the overall park.

"These are definitely exciting times for the friends of Kelsey-Hutchinson Founders Park," he said.

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