

Highlands Newspaper

FREE Every Thursday

Volume 11, Number 44

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

Thurs., Oct. 30, 2014

Through-Sat., Nov. 1

• One Stop Voting is 9a-5p weekdays and 9a-1p Saturdays at the Highlands Rec Park.

Thurs., Oct. 30

• Halloween "Enchanted Forest" Nature Trail at the Highlands Nature Center. Group tours leave every 15 minutes from 6:30 - 7:30 pm. Bring a flashlight to go early trick-or-treating along the Botanical Garden trails. Encounter friendly forest creatures. \$1 per person. Call 526-2623 for more info.

Fri.-Thurs., Oct. 31-Nov 14

• St. Vincent. 2, 5 & 8p. No movies on Tues. & Wed.

Fri., Oct. 31

• Coffee with the Mayor at the Hudson Library at 11 a.m.
• Annual Highlands Trick or Treating on Main Street, 6-8 p.

Sat., Nov. 1

• Live in HD Series at PAC feature MET Opera's production of "Carmen" at 12:55pm and a pre-opera discussion lead by Beverly Pittman beginning at 12:30pm. Tickets are available online: highlandspac.org or by calling 828.526.9047. Tickets: \$24 or for PAC or MET Members: \$20.40.

Sun., Nov. 2

• At PAC, "The Legend of Love," Sunday at 12:55pm. Tickets are available online: highlandspac.org or by calling 828.526.9047 Tickets: Adults \$20 Students: \$17.

Starting Tues., Nov. 4

• At Hudson Library, Tuesday Night Movie Series starting November 4th

Tues., Nov. 4

• Election Day. Polls open at 6:30a and close at 7:30a.

Candidates Tate and Rogers speak out

By Brittany Raby

With early voting wrapping up on Saturday, the majority of voters will take to the polls next Tuesday to cast their votes in the November midterm election. The District I seat on the Macon

County Board of Commissioners is on the ballot, with two candidates vying for the spot.

Incumbent James Tate, who was first elected to the commission in 2011, is facing off against newcomer, Michael Rogers.

Tate: A native of Macon County, after graduating high school, Tate attended the University of Georgia where he received a Bachelor of Landscape Architecture degree. He then South-

• See CANDIDATES page 6

MC BOC expands landfill, issues grants

By Brittany Raby

After months of work with Macon County's Solid Waste Director Chris Stahl, commissioners made the final vote during the October meeting of the board to secure land adjacent to the current landfill to expand the facility, which is nearing capacity.

Stahl informed commissioners that the current landfill has an approximate two-year lifespan left, and the need to make a move toward a future of the facility was dire. As an enterprise agency, the Macon County Solid Waste Department is self-sufficient and will only require approval from the commission for purchase, no funds will be used.

County commissioners agreed to enter into two purchase agreements of real property with Charles Terry and Wendy Dalton

• See MC BOC page 27

Halloween Highlands style



Families come from miles around to experience Highlands' unique Halloween in the downtown where merchants join the fun decked out in costumes while they dole out candy. Festivities are 6-8p.m. Main Street and a portion of S.4th St. will be closed to vehicular traffic from 5:30-8:30p. Photo by Jim Lewicki

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Substation may spur Jackson Cty to pay for fire protection

By Brittany Raby

Earlier this year, a group of homeowner associations purchased a parcel of property on Cherrywood Lane in Macon County to build a fire substation to be managed by the Highlands Fire and Rescue Department.

The homeowners, many located in Jackson County, are geographically closer to services such as fire and rescue provided by Highlands in Macon County.

In September, the town of Highlands approved the contract for the new fire substation and a ground breaking date for Nov. 6 at 2 p.m. has been set.

With plans moving forward for the substation, Commissioner James Tate facilitated a meeting with those involved at

• See SUBSTATION page 30

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• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• MAYOR ON DUTY •

Come chat with me about zoning

Since taking office last December, I have been holding a town meeting at the Hudson Library on the last Friday of each month. Karen Hawk and the library staff have done a wonderful job in coordinating this public, community event. I also want to thank all the community organizations and individuals that have provided refreshments for the Mayor's Coffee Hour this past year. They are: Highlands Dialogue, Mountain Garden Club, Mountain Top Rotary, Highlands Rotary Club, Appalachian Humanist Group, Highlands Roadrunners Club, Art Your Way Studio, the Shiraz Family, Highlands Plateau Audubon Society and the Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust.

The last session for the year will be tomorrow morning, Friday, October 31. It will be Halloween, but you do not have to dress in costume. Come as you are to the library meeting room at 11 am to enjoy good coffee, pastries and interesting dialogue about town issues.

For the past several months I have invited town staff members to the sessions to discuss their areas of responsibility. Bob Frye, our town manager, came and answered questions about town administration and budgeting. Chief Bill Harrell came to discuss police matters, and Lamar Nix was at the last meeting to talk about public works projects.

At tomorrow's session Josh Ward, director of planning and code enforcement, will join us to discuss zoning. While Josh may not be at liberty to discuss specific zoning cases that may have legal implications, he will be happy to answer questions about general concerns and issues about zoning and town ordinances.

When we resume the Mayor's Coffee Hour schedule after the holidays, I want to have Lester Norris, our parks and recreation director, come give an update on programs and future plans for recreation. Also, in the coming months I will invite county officials and other leaders for coffee to discuss common concerns and issues.

The Hospital Foundation held a very productive public event recently featuring Dr. Ronald Paulus of the Mission Health-



Highlands Mayor
Patrick Taylor

care System. Dr. Paulus is the CEO of Mission and provided an informative presentation about the critical issues facing health-care in Western Carolina, including the future of our hospital as a part of the Mission System. I hope representatives of our hospital can come to a coffee session to provide follow up information early next year.

I believe public discourse is vital for community development. So, if you have an idea for a future "coffee talk," please let me know. I hope there will be a good turnout for tomorrow's coffee hour. If you can't join us, please plan on attending future sessions in the coming year.

Please don't forget to vote by Tuesday, November 4. A Strong turnout on the plateau gets the attention of elected officials.

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.

Highlands Newspaper LLC

"Our Community Service - A Free Local Newspaper"

FREE every Thursday on the street and on the web;

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

Adobe PDF version at www.HighlandsInfo.com

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

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• LETTERS •

Town has faulty power equipment

Dear Editor,

On or about February 7, 2014, I experienced a temporary overvoltage at my law office. A temporary overvoltage is different from a regular power surge. A power surge is a brief overvoltage which only lasts a few seconds. A temporary overvoltage is an increase in power voltage which lasts a longer period of time.

The Town of Highlands runs a public utility for the residents and businesses of Highlands which traditionally has been more expensive than other power providers and from what I can tell by the numerous brownouts, has substandard equipment compared to other providers.

Back in February, the neutral wire located in the Town of Highlands' transformer, came loose and instead of providing my office a steady flow of 110 volts, the voltage was double, or approximately 220 volts. Every piece of equipment in my

office was damaged as a result, including all of my computers, phone system, lighting, and my printer/copier. When I first became aware of a problem, I called the Town of Highlands with no response. After 24 hours I was able to get an electrician to investigate the issue. That is when I was told of the dangerous power levels coming from the Town of Highlands' equipment.

It was only when my electrician drove me to the "town shed" that I was able to get someone from the Town of Highlands to remedy the problem.

As a result of the overvoltage of the Town's equipment, it has cost me over \$10,000 to repair or replace my damaged equipment.

The Town of Highlands owes a duty to its electrical customers to provide safe power, which unfortunately they have been unable to do in the past, as evidenced by the numerous brownouts and the temporary overvoltages.

Furthermore, when someone has been damaged by the Town of Highlands' power delivery, the Town is liable to its customers for said damage.

It should be noted that most insurance carriers (including mine) exclude this type of loss, and so when a customer of the Town is faced with this type of loss, they must either absorb the loss themselves, or look to the wrongful party (the Town of Highlands) for reimbursement for their loss.

It is my belief that since the Town of Highlands cannot deliver safe power to its customers, it should get out of the electric business and leave it to the bigger utilities which properly maintain their equipment, and provide the same service, for less money.

Scott Neumann
Attorney at Law
Highlands

About zoning and taxpayers' money

Dear Editor,

I am writing in response to the article in the Oct. 23 edition of Highlands Newspaper entitled "Shearl wins latest appeal against town."

I have known John Shearl since he



Emily Gabbard, Highlands School Valedictorian Class of 2014, on a day trip to Chan Chan, the largest Pre-Columbian city in South America. Chan Chan is an archaeological site in the Peruvian region of La Libertad, five km west of Trujillo where Emily is stationed. Chan Chan was constructed by the Chimor (the kingdom of the Chimú), a late intermediate period civilization which grew out of the remnants of the Moche civilization. The adobe city of Chan Chan, the largest in the world, was built around AD 850 and lasted until its conquest by the Inca Empire in AD 1470. It was the imperial capital where 30,000 people lived.

Gap student experiences a year without fall and much, much more

The breath taking colors, the stunning mountains, and the crisp cool air makes fall my favorite season in Highlands, North Carolina. I love my hometown. I miss going to Buck's coffee house and getting a chai tea, going to the 909 church service at the Methodist church, and I miss Halloween on Main Street. I miss fall.

I left Highlands on September 22nd and jumped on a plane for Peru. I left summer in the mountains for winter at the beach. Although I must say that the winter weather here is much different than Highlands. The weather is dry and warm every day. I see pictures of people back at home wearing scarves and jackets while I am wearing shorts and t-shirts. Also, it has not rained the entire time that I have been here! This is something that I am definitely not used to coming from Highlands.

I am a Global Gap Year Fellow at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. I am one of seven people in this fellowship. I am taking a gap year, a year off between high school and college, and vol-

unteering around the world. I will be traveling to Peru, Nepal, and Indonesia to help with various volunteer projects.

A gap year through UNC-Chapel Hill is a period of time when students take a break from formal classroom-based education to travel, volunteer, intern, or work. Typically, it is taken between high school graduation and entry into college, and it presents a wonderful opportunity for students to gain real-world experience, life skills, independence, and personal growth.

I am currently in Trujillo, Peru teaching English classes. I teach English class five hours a day, five days a week. I spend the rest of my time preparing for class and then cooking meals, eating meals, and finally cleaning meals, which makes me very grateful for my mother back at home. Oh how I miss her cooking!

I volunteer and live at the Horizon School. It's very easy to wake up and walk out of my bedroom and into my classroom. The students I teach are wonderful because they are eager to learn. Most of

• See GAP page 22



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...LETTERS from page 2

was a youngster mowing my lawn. He is now a grown man, hardworking, honest and trying to provide for his family. He is a well-respected businessman.

It is time for the Town of Highlands to get off his back after years of legal battles over a tiny "scratchy" piece of land behind his building on the Walhalla Road.

This small patch of ground in question is of absolutely no use to anyone but him – only sizeable enough to park his landscaping truck.

If the folks of Highlands had followed this ongoing saga as I have, they would also wonder why the town has maintained years of legal battle and huge cost to pursue John Shearl and the questionable zoning of this small property. I continue to wonder why this issue has not been easily resolved and it needs to stop now.

S. T. Collier
Highlands

Spiritually Speaking is read 'religiously'

Dear Editor,

Yes, my wife and I read "Spiritually Speaking" every time we're in Highlands.

Pastor Kerhoulas bravely called our attention this week to the appalling divisions in our country presently, urging us to vote in a couple of weeks. Sadness over those divisions is one of the forces that impels me to read this column, hoping that something in it would serve as an antidote to the near seditious extremism and ill-disguised racism we often find on other pages.

The division in our country has a religious basis. As a nation we do not believe in the forgiveness of sin. We enjoy catching those who disagree with us with their pants down, knowing our population won't forgive them.

Nor do we think we're forgivable. If we thought we

• See LETTERS page 21

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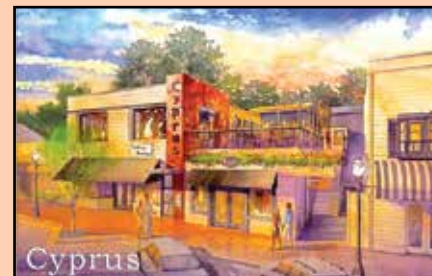
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...CANDIDATES continued from page 1

western Community College where he studied to become an Emergency Medical Technician. Tate started his own business in Highlands and is the owner and President of Tate Landscaping Services, Inc.

He has served as an officer of the Highlands Fire and Rescue for 15 years and is currently a Rescue Lieutenant. For 14 years he worked as an EMT-I for the Emergency Medical Services Department of Macon County and is a member of the Highlands United Methodist Church.

He has served the community in various capacities including, the Highlands Cashiers Land Trust as a past member of the Board of Directors, a present member of the Highlands Rotary Club, and has served as past chairman of the Highlands Zoning Board of Adjustment, Highlands Planning Board, Highlands Appearance Commission and Highlands Land Use Committee. Tate was past vice-chairman of the Macon County Republican Party, and is a past member and current liaison to the Macon County Planning Board.

"I am running for office again because I simply have a calling to serve our community and the best possible way that I can currently do this is by applying my talents and knowledge to our local government," said Tate. "I want to see our county be all that it can be by striving to ensure that our county provides the services that we all deserve and expect in as efficient manner as possible."

During a recent League of Women voters forum, candidates were asked if they supported the state's practice of fracking, and if elected, would they consider passing a resolution discouraging the practice in western North Carolina.

Tate, who explained that the Macon County Board of Commissioners



Jim Tate



Michael "Bud" Rogers

has decided that as a whole, the board will not take up the issue although neighboring counties such as Jackson have passed resolutions against the measure or citing the importance of upholding the county's natural resources, said personally, he supports the energy producing practice.

"Personally, am I for fracking," Tate said, "Yes I am. But am I for fracking in Macon County? No I am not. In my opinion, tourism is our best industry here and that is something we need to protect. I do not think tourism and fracking go hand in hand so I do not support it. If Rutherford County or one of these other counties in the state support it and think that is what

• See CANDIDATES page 18



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• THE FREDSTER •

Paddlin' Madeleine Home!

It's time for me to fold my tent, gather my pickle balls and head south for the winter. Most of the migratory birds have already left and New Yorkers, God forbid, are pouring into South Florida by the zillions.

I spent the entire summer NOT poking fun at anything political. As some have told me, "it ain't funny anymore." I had to break two fingers on my right hand not to write political stuff this season.

I just can't stand it that everyone is poking fun at our beloved president and I'm not writing about it. Don't they see he's a person of color and needs special handling? Hey, what do they expect from a community organizer who came from the most corrupt city in America? Surely they didn't expect excellence, did they? And since a large majority of Americans voted him into office...twice, we should be over-the-top thrilled with his performance...right? Will everyone please stop bitchin'?

And stop blaming our president for getting caught flat-footed on the invasion of ISIL. He had absolutely nothing to do with any of that. When that invasion started, he was on the golf course. How can anyone expect him to know everything while playing golf? Leave the guy alone! And the cutting off a woman's head in an American wholesale store doesn't mean ISIL has arrived in America. Talk about making a big deal out of nothing. HELLO! The killer was just an irate woman-hating Republican store clerk. Lighten up, folks and ignore other acts of terror in New York and Great Briton!

And do you really think the President



Fred Wooldridge

of the United States would use an upstanding and reputable organization like the IRS for political gain? That's ridiculous and over the top thinking. Unheard of! Our president held the honorable title of "Community Organizer" in Chicago and is not capable of such dastardly behavior. His job was to find money for special interest organizations for the Democratic Party...like Acorn...who has an impeccable reputation and has helped so many of our downtrodden.

None of this is his fault. Repeat: None of this is his fault. Hey, I'm blaming George Bush!

And just because an armed criminal was able to jump the fence at the White House, run across the front lawn, walk in the White House front door and get all the way to the Green Room before being stopped for questioning, has nothing to do with lack of security.

He was stopped for not presenting his green card. Everyone knows you can't visit the Green Room without your green card. And you already know our president has an open door policy for wayward criminals so ease up and lay off the guy.

Oh, and here's some good news to make you feel better. There is some truth to the rumor that, by executive order, the president may be able to serve a third term. Let's hope so 'cause things are going so well for our country. Why stop now?

And finally, does anyone remember way, way back when I often poked fun at George Bush? Funny, I didn't get too many complaints back then. Anyway, see ya next year if my car starts, I'm not fired and our country is still intact.

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• TELL TALES •

An interview with Elmer Schmidlap

Bob, were you about to knock or were you just standing at my door?"

Uh, I forget. Actually, I wanted to get an opinion from our world's greatest philosopher and couldn't make up my mind to knock on the door or go away.

"Well heck, sonny, come on in. I've got some of those great Bill Clinton \$600.00 cigars again. What's on your little mind today?"

Well, I'm sure you read where that Leftist politician has called for a revolution.

He believes that the poor could just take what they want of successful people's money and give it to the government. Any thoughts on that?

"Not sure what it would accomplish, sonny. With no rich folks to invest, industry would grind to a halt. Kinda like killing the Golden Goose."

I've heard rumors that there might be an old folk's revolution. Have you heard that?

"Yep. Someone got to hollering about the price of bacon and started a small group of angry retirees and pensioners to talking amongst themselves. They came up with the idea of invading Washington and blocking traffic so much that the politicians couldn't get to their capitol dining room and the president would have to stay on one of his golf courses."

Do you really think that a few hundred old goats could be effective?

"Sonny, don't you know nuttin? There are over 40 million retired folks. These are the folks who saved their nickels and dimes for retirement and are now seeing it evaporate before their eyes because of inflation."

Wow, yeah, 40 million in DC would be a lot.

"Some smart entrepreneur could make some big bucks in DC renting crutches, wheelchair, walkers and canes?"

Maybe that should be my next investment?

"Don't jump too soon, sonny. There's now some talk about just converging on the capitol of each state."

That would save a lot of travel expenses and if I did my math right, that could still be almost a million old folks picketing state capitols.

"They could really put up a fuss pounding their walkers and canes on the road and blocking traffic."



Bob Wilson

If you think about it, veterans of WW-1 did something similar to collect their military bonuses and even some farmers have done it. This time, however, it would be millions of old farts, madder'n hell."

We've discussed this before and you explained that inflation is caused by wage increases, and government printing more money which deflates the value of the dollar but where does it all end?

"It can't end as long as government won't tighten its belt and control its spending. We're trapped in a form of government that lavishes money on some segments of society just to get their votes. It's that simple."

Surely there are other reasons for inflation? For instance you pay more at the grocery store because shipping costs are higher due to high oil prices. If the Keystone Pipeline were approved and more drilling allowed, we could become energy independent and not be at the mercy OPEC.

"That too, sonny. Think about government regulations squeezing farmers and cattle ranchers causing food prices go to up."

Yeah, I know, industry pays more in compliances costs than in taxes.

"You probably don't know about this but there was a time when the average blue collar worker could own an airplane. The average rich can only barely afford one now. Eventually, inflation will kill many industries because people can't afford to buy anything."

I understand.

"Lots of old farts are afraid to organize after witnessing what the IRS did to the Tea Party folks, which, by the way, was made up of lots of angry old geezers too."

There's something different this time. Now days there's instant mass communication.

"That's right, sonny, all the old folks I know have iPhones, use twitter, facebook, email and all sorts of ways they can organize themselves. Heck, they probably don't need a Tea Party thing to organize. They can just spread the word that they're taking their canes, walkers and wheelchairs off to Washington."

Nuttin scarier than a bunch of pissed off old folks, is there? Raises the hair on

• HS SPORTS •

Senior Night for Volleyball seniors



Traditionally, at the last home game, seniors of each team are honored. Last week it was Girls Volleyball. From left: Kassie Vinson, Desiray Schmitt, April Moss, and McKinley Moseley.

This week in sports

VARSITY SOCCER:

Wednesday October 2nd, Highlands traveled to Blue Ridge for their last away game. Blue Ridge came out scoring first but Highlands quickly came back to tie the game with a goal from Austin Nichols in the first half. In the second half of the game, Highlands took the lead with a goal from Max Renfro. Highlands went on to

win with a score of 2-1.

On Thursday October 23rd Highlands hosted Murphy for the last regular season game. Highlands came out strong and at halftime had a 5-0 lead with Kenan Lewis scoring 2 goals. Also scoring goals were Colin Weller, Austin Nichols and Benjamin Miller.

In the second half Remy Adrian

scored the first goal quickly followed by by a score from Andy Marquez. Another goal was scored by Phillip Murphy and Highlands took the win 8-0 to end the regular season.

On Wednesday October 29th, High-

lands will host the first round of state playoffs against Atkins.

Details of the game will be available in next weeks issue.

– Sierra Nylund

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• HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

Ongoing

• The Cub and Boy Scouts of America have three drop offs for worn and tattered flags. The 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 li-

censed 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

• Fall Market Place in Highlands Village Square at the corner of Oak and 5th streets. Local pro-

Nature Center's 'Enchanted Forest' Trail is all about Halloween



The "Enchanted Forest" Nature Trail is set for the evening of Thursday, October 30.

Nature Center staff and volunteers will lead small groups on an evening stroll through the Botanical Garden. Bring your flashlights and enjoy early trick-or-treating along the trails where you will encounter a variety of friendly forest creatures, portrayed by students from the UNC Institute for the Environment Program at the Highlands Biological Station. Learn about wildlife as each animal you meet shares entertaining and interesting nature facts about themselves!

Group tours will leave the Nature Center every 15 minutes from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Each tour will last approximately one-half hour. This event is not scary and is appropriate for all ages. Admission is only \$1 per person. For more information, please call 526-2623 or visit highlandsbiological.org.

Big bird box real estate boom!

The demand for real estate for birds that nest in boxes or holes in trees has never been higher! As dead wood is trimmed from trees, and as we continue to decrease the number of trees in developed areas, cavity-nesting birds have fewer naturally occurring potential nest sites. The resurgence of the Eastern Blue Bird, as a direct consequence of installing Blue Bird boxes all over the eastern U.S., is 'proof of concept' for the significant difference that providing suitable nesting boxes can make to the well-being of a bird species. It is now estimated that there are as many or more Eastern Blue Birds as at any time in history!

The Highlands Plateau Audubon Society (HPAS), in combination with local schools, public areas, and otherwise interested folks, has embarked on an experiment with bird box real estate! We know for a fact that bird boxes work well for Blue Birds when the boxes have entrance holes 1 1/2 " in diameter, and this is the size of almost all bird box entrances today. We suspect that some of our smaller cavity-nesting birds might actually

nest more successfully in boxes that have smaller entrance holes (e.g., 1 1/8" in diameter). Smaller holes should preclude some of the larger bird species from competing for the same nest site and driving away the smaller bird species... but is this actually the case or not? To find out, HPAS, with a partial grant from the Mountain Garden Club, is providing pairs of bird boxes, one box with a large hole (suitable for example for Blue Birds) and one box with a smaller entrance (suitable for example for Chickadees) to test whether providing two sizes of entrance holes enhances nesting success for local cavity-nesting birds. The boxes are going up all around the community this fall so cavity-nesting birds can check out and compare their potential digs well in advance of next spring. The boxes will be carefully monitored through next summer.

So keep an eye out for pairs of the new nest boxes around public areas such as our local schools, the Hudson Library, the Highlands Biological Station, The Bascom, the Peggy Crosby Center, Cowee Mounds, and your neighbors' yards. Hint: most of the HPAS boxes are attached to metal poles, are about 5

feet off the ground, and at least 50 feet distant from the other box of the same pair. If you find a box, carefully observe which size entrance hole that box represents, and then perhaps search for the other box of that same pair. Time will tell whether "one size fits all" in the world of bird box real estate or whether the "not so big house" concept is attractive to some birds as it is to many humans. Next fall we hope to publish the results in this newspaper. Contact the Highlands Plateau Audubon Society at 828-743-9670 if you would like to be a bird box real estate agent in the future!



Above: Nest Box Participant, Lynn Miller and Russ Regnery, President, Highlands Plateau Audubon Society relax after installing a pair of boxes at the Millers' home in Highlands. Like all of the participants, the Millers will be monitoring their boxes and reporting facts and results to HPAS for the next year.

•HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS•

duce, vendors and crafters. 9-1ish until weather goes south. For information, call Debbie at Fressers at 828-526-8847.

• 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-Sat., Nov. 1

• One Stop Voting begins at 9a-1p Saturdays and at the Highlands Rec Park 9a-5p weekdays and 9a-1p Saturdays and at the courthouse in Franklin 1a-6p weekdays.

Thurs., Oct. 30

• NC SENATE 50 debate at 7p at SCC between Senator Jim Davis and challenger Jane Hips at the Burrell Conference Center

• Halloween "Enchanted Forest" Nature Trail at the Highlands Nature Center. Group tours leave every 15 minutes from 6:30 - 7:30 pm. Bring a flashlight to go early trick-or-treating along the Botanical Garden trails. Encounter friendly forest creatures (portrayed by students of the UNC Institute for the Environment) and learn interesting nature facts about each one! For all ages; cost is only \$1 per person. Please call 526-2623 for more information.

Fri., Oct. 31

• Coffee with the Mayor at the

Hudson Library at 11 a.m.

• Annual Highlands Trick or Treating on Main Street, 6-8 p.

The High Mountain Squares will host their "Halloween Dance," Friday night, at the Macon County Community Building, GA Road (441 South), Franklin NC from 6:30-9 PM. Randy Ramsey from Suwanee, GA will be the caller. We dance Western Style Square Dancing, main/stream and plus levels. New dancers lessons will begin in January. Everyone is welcome. For information call 828-371-4946, 828-342-1560, 828-332-0001

Sat., Nov. 1

• Live in HD Series at PAC feature MET Opera's production of "Carmen" at 12:55pm and a pre-opera discussion lead by Beverly Pittman beginning at 12:30pm. Tickets are available online: highlandspac.org or by calling 828.526.9047. Tickets: \$24 or for PAC or MET Members: \$20.40. Check out highlandspac.org for a complete description and schedule. 507 Chestnut Street, Highlands NC Sun., Nov. 2

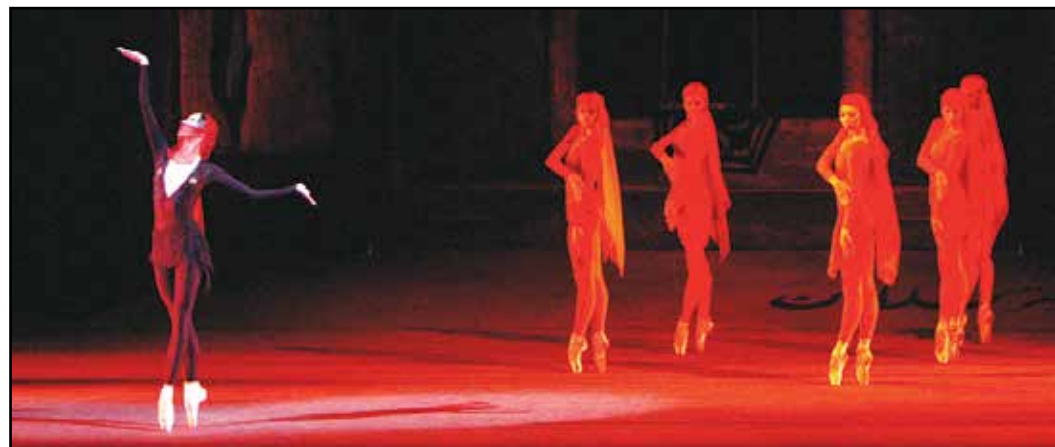
• At PAC, "The Legend of Love," Sunday at 12:55pm. Tickets are available online: highlandspac.org or by calling 828.526.9047 Tickets: Adults \$20 Students: \$17. ML Performing Arts Center: 507 Chestnut Street, Highlands NC. Check out highlandspac.org for a

'Carmen' this Saturday, Nov. 1 Live in HD at PAC



Richard Eyre's mesmerizing production of Bizet's steamy melodrama returns with mezzo-soprano Anita Rachvelishvili singing her signature role of the ill-fated gypsy temptress. Aleksandrs Antonenko plays her desperate lover, the soldier Don José, and Ildar Abdrazakov is the swaggering bullfighter, Escamillo, who comes between them. Pablo Heras-Casado conducts the irresistible score, which features one beloved and instantly recognizable melody after another. Saturday, November 1 at 12:55pm and a pre-opera discussion lead by Beverly Pittman beginning at 12:30pm. Tickets are available online: highlandspac.org or by calling 828.526.9047. tickets: \$24 or for PAC or MET Members: \$20.40. Check out highlandspac.org for a complete description and schedule. 507 Chestnut Street, Highlands NC

The Bolshoi Ballet in HD this Sunday, Nov. 2 at PAC



This splendid tale of forbidden love, self-sacrifice, jealousy and suffering returns to the Bolshoi stage after a 10-year absence. "The Legend of Love" is one of Russian master Yuri Grigorovich's earliest choreographic works, and its storyline explores the conflict between love and duty through its two heroines. The royal apartments of Queen Mekhmene Banu are plunged into mourning - her young sister, Princess

Shyrin, is dying. The Princess will only be saved if the Queen gives Shyrin her beauty. The Queen decides to sacrifice herself, but later regrets her action when she is disfigured and Shyrin falls in love with the Queen's own lover, the painter Ferkha.

Featuring dance movements, sets and costumes inspired by the Middle East, this stunning ballet, which uses pure dance to tell the story, is further enriched by the talent of the Bolshoi troupe.

Music: Arif Melikov, Libretto: Nâzım Hikmet, Original choreography: Yuri Grigorovich.

The Legend of Love, Sunday, November 2 at 12:55pm. Tickets are available online: highlandspac.org or by calling 828.526.9047 Tickets: Adults \$20 Students: \$17. ML Performing Arts Center: 507 Chestnut Street, Highlands NC. Check out highlandspac.org for a complete description and schedule

Watch out for ghouls on Halloween this Friday night!



Families come from miles around to experience Highlands' unique Halloween in the downtown where merchants join the fun decked out in costumes while they dole out candy. Festivities are 6-8p.m. Main Street and a portion of S.4th St. will be closed to vehicular traffic from 5:30-8:30p.

Photo by Kim Lewicki

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WED	CHICKEN OR STEAK POT PIE AND A LARGE SALAD	\$19.95 <i>serves 4</i>
THURS	ROASTED MEATLOAF WITH MASHED POTATOES, GRAVY AND A LARGE SALAD	\$19.95 <i>serves 4</i>
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Mama and cubs doing fine

The picture above ran on the front page of the May 29, 2014 edition of Highlands Newspaper. A litter of two or three cubs is most common in the eastern US. This picture was submitted by Pat Patterson. She took it from the deck of her residence on Cowee Ridge Road.

The picture below was taken October 18 of this year and was submitted by the Hutzel family who lives in the Wildwood Mountain subdivision, which as the crow flies or the bear walks, is in the vicinity of Cowee Ridge.

It is likely that this is the same family – mama with her four cubs, since four cubs aren't common.

The Hutzels have seen this bear family on many occasions this summer and fall – sometimes three times a day. They have a trail cam and said it's not often they catch all four cubs and mama in a frame ... until now.

"I thought your readers would enjoy a follow up – this family is alive and healthy," he said. Cubs stay with their mother for two years. Hutzel said this is obviously a prolific mom -- her last litter was three cubs and she followed the same path and schedule during the two years they were with her.

– Kim Lewicki





Dry Falls was recently renovated to accommodate the thousands of visitors who stop to see the falls.

Photo by Linda Barden

US forest lands drive tourism

By Price Baker

No one can deny the importance of the Nantahala National Forest. The State Park drives tourism and economic growth in Western Carolina. In an economic impact study of the Nantahala Outdoor Center conducted in 2009, researchers discovered that over 60% of visitors came to the Carolina Smokies primarily to visit the Nantahala River Gorge.

North Carolina is divided into eight different Ranger Districts. The Nantahala State Forest is divided into three – one of which covers Jackson, Macon, and Swain counties. This district has over 260,000 acres of forest that is overseen by Mike Wilkins, the Nantahala District Ranger.

The trails and attractions in our district of the State Forest are numerous and include amenities such as Whiteside Mountain, Whitewater Falls, the Appletree Campground, a 27 mile ATV/Motorcycle trail, 2 shooting ranges, Balsam Lodge, and Dry Falls. The district maintains its funding by collecting money at some of the attractions. Wilkins estimates that about 5% of visitor donations are missed, but most of the time, everyone who visits gives money to help maintain the quality of the parks.

Although Dry Falls does not collect money per visit since they reopened a few years back after massive renovations (Wilkins assures there aren't plans to collect money again at this time), around \$100,000 – \$110,000 annually is collected from Whiteside Mountain, Whitewater Falls, the two shooting ranges, Appletree Campground, and Balsam lodge. Despite those collections, the State Forest recently received a \$75,000 grant with some

matching funds to install steps at Whiteside Mountain where it gets wet, freezes, and becomes a safety hazard. Wilkins also says that they will use the funds to move the last mile of the Yellow Mountain trail off of private property near the top of the trail. They also plan to use that money to replace the water lines from the Whiteside Mountain restroom. \$17,000 out of the total collection money will be used as matching funds for the steps renovation at Whiteside Mountain.

As of right now, Wilkins' guess is that Whiteside Mountain has over 40,000 visitors annually, and they collect around \$25,000 annually.

Although upgrading the parks and subsequent construction can be costly, maintaining the parks as they are seems to mainly fall to a blend of volunteers and professionals. Whiteside Mountain relies on the group "Friends of Whiteside" who help maintain the quality of the park and trail. Whitewater Falls has a volunteer trailer site that allows a volunteer to live on the property for 1 to 2 months at a time. A contractor cleans and picks up trash at various intervals throughout the year depending on the season at Whiteside Mountain, Whitewater Falls and Cliffside Lake.

The Nantahala State Forest and its subsequent parks helps drive Macon, Jackson, and Swain county's economies. As long as people continue being willing to give back a few dollars for each visit to help maintain and improve the parks and trails they have come to love, the Forest Rangers will be equipped to continue doing their job of keeping Western North Carolina on the map.

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Nature's pagentry this Autumn of



From left counterclockwise: Cullasaja Falls, Harris Lake, Lake Sequoyah, Bust Your Butt Falls, Lake Glenville, a barn in Cashiers, sculpture on the Cashiers Village Green, Lake Glenville in the mist, and farm on Pine Creek Road.

– Photos by Linda Barden



An eight-legged engineering genius

From AWAKE magazine, 2000

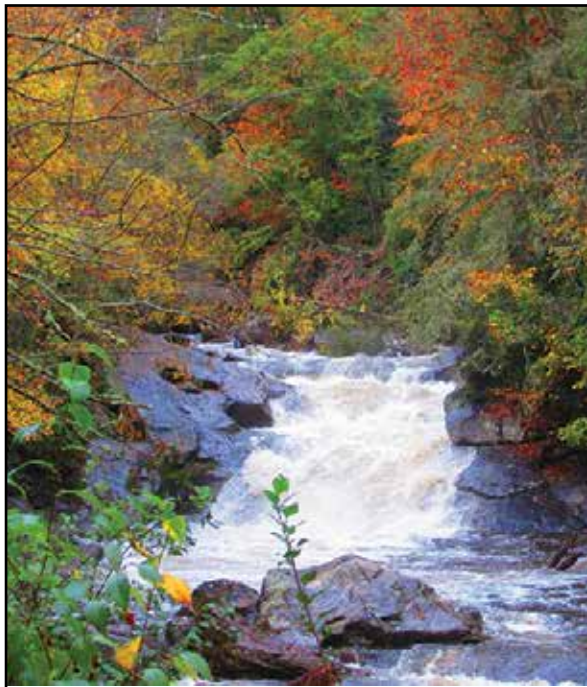
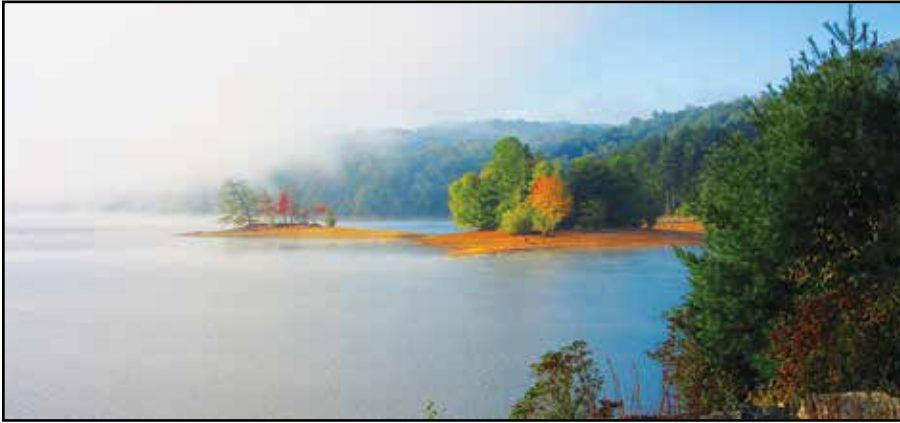
In recent years scientists have also been looking very closely at the spider. They are keen to understand how it manufactures spider silk, which is also a composite. True, a broad range of insects produce silk, yet spider silk is special. One of the strongest materials on earth, it “is the stuff that dreams are made of,” said one science writer. Spider silk is so outstanding that a list of its amazing properties would seem unbelievable.

Why do scientists use superlatives when describing spider silk? Besides being five times stronger than steel, it is also highly elastic—a rare combination in materials. Spider silk stretches 30 percent farther than the most elastic nylon. Yet, it does not bounce like a trampoline and so throw the spider's meal into the air. “On the human scale,” says Science News, “a web resembling a fishing net could catch a passenger plane.”

If we could copy the spider's chemical wizardry—two species even produce seven varieties of silk—imagine how it could be put to use! In vastly improved seat belts as well as in sutures, artificial ligaments, lightweight lines and cables, and bulletproof fabrics, to name just a few possibilities. Scientists are also trying to understand how the spider makes silk so efficiently—and without the use of toxic chemicals. (From an AWAKE mag. 2000)

This little guy built his “trap” right outside the Hodgsons’ dining room window here in Highlands. The web is so intricate in detail, they studied it for hours in amazement.

2014 in Highlands and Cashiers



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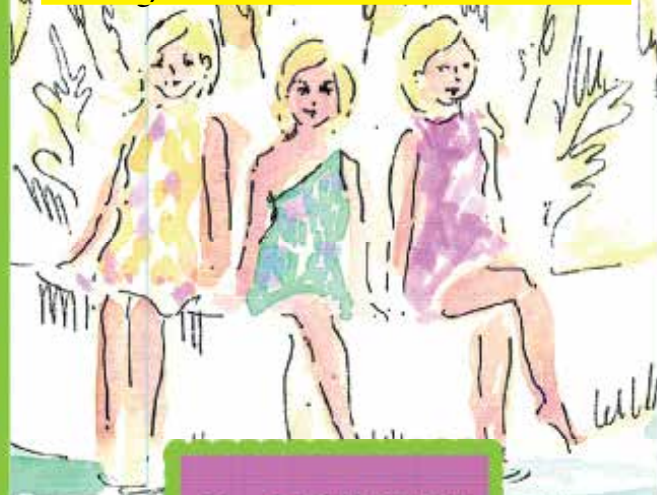
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...CANDIDATES continued from page 6

is best for their county, then I support them, but it is not what we need here.”

When asked about the county’s decision to focus on projects that would be

beneficial to Macon County as a whole rather than specific projects in the municipalities, Tate said, “My recollection and understanding, is that we decided to follow

the Planning Board’s recommendation of not assisting the municipalities in expanding their current systems at this time; but, instead will ‘possibly’ consider aiding with repairs to their existing systems,” said Tate.

“The county is not in the water or sewer business like the municipalities, so any improvements or expansions that the county wishes to make, will require the approval of the respective town. As a Commissioner, I do not have a problem with expanding our current systems as long as the addition is for the greater good of Ma-

con County.”

As a current member of the commission, Tate notes that he takes each day to speak to constituents and uses that opportunity to learn what the good and bad things that are happening in the county and where the commission should focus; which he believes should be the tax re-valuation.

“In my opinion, the current biggest obstacle is going to be the upcoming tax re-valuation,” said Tate. “Based upon the

• See CANDIDATES page 23

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Committed to Highlands

- Worked to secure new soccer field at Highlands High School
- Supported the acquisition of property for future expansion of Zachary Park
- Instrumental in the agreement of Macon County and Hudson Library

I look forward to working on the many other important projects for the residents of Highlands.

I need your help and your vote in the upcoming general election. We must never take our freedom and liberty for granted. Exercise your constitutional right and together let's keep Macon County moving forward. I appreciate your past support and look forward to serving you, the citizens of Macon County, as your District 2 County Commissioner.

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Remembering William McKee: 1951-2014



Susie de Ville
White Oak Realty
828-371-2079

I had this week's column all ready to submit, when a broker in my office shocked us all with the news of the sudden passing of William McKee, Founder and President of McKee Properties in Cashiers.

I just stared at my colleague, blinking, and tried to absorb the news – my mind was reeling. I could not (cannot) fathom that the intensity of the light that was William McKee was no longer shining.

The column I had planned to write, therefore, would not be the column I would ultimately write.

In addition to being a supremely talented real estate professional, William McKee was an inspiring, determined visionary and civic leader who worked diligently to bring his ideas into reality.

McKee was founder of the Cashiers Community Fund, and most recently, he and Andy Roddick founded the Mountain Challenge, a tennis exhibition to fund the Boys and Girls Club of the Plateau.

Among his many, notable, real estate achievements, McKee referred both Buyers who vied for purchasing the Sagee Manor estate, which sold for \$12.545 million.

Bradley S. Klein of Golfweek.com wrote a winning quote about McKee: "It's amazing how lucky smart people can

be." Klein was referencing McKee's successful development of the Wade Hampton Golf Club, in partnership with his sister, Ann McKee Austin. Wade Hampton is routinely (and is currently) Golfweek's No. 1 ranked residential golf course. This quote speaks volumes about McKee's success, and

how he created it through steadfast persistence in pursuing his vision.

Klein's words are also great instructions to the rest of us: each of us possesses the ability to do great work, positively impact our communities, live fully, embrace our families and friends, and enjoy untold success. You can, after all, create your own luck.

As I remember William McKee, the following words come to mind: family, community, philanthropist, adventurer, bicycling enthusiast, energy, developer, golf, and, of course, real estate.

The White Oak Realty Group family extends our deepest sympathies to our friends and colleagues at McKee Properties and to the entire McKee family. We deeply hope that they may find comfort in this very trying time.

I understand that the McKee family has asked that those wishing to honor William McKee's memory may make a donation to the Boys & Girls Club of the Plateau, POB 1812, Cashiers, NC 28717.

Let's write two checks today – one to the Boys & Girls Club

in honor of William McKee, and one to a charity of your choice in honor of your living your best life every single day.

Arthur William Dills McKee

• Arthur William Dills McKee, 62, of Cashiers, died unex-

pectedly on Saturday, October 25, 2014. He was on his way to a bicycle ride with friends.

He is survived by his wife, Anne Woodward McKee, and two children, Cristin Anne McKee of King City, California, and

Woodward Hampton McKee of Asheville, and also by his sister Ann McKee Austin of Cashiers and brother and sister-in-law Ernest Lyndon McKee III and Jennifer of the Pine Creek Community.

• REAL ESTATE SNAPSHOTS •

Adorable Streamfront Cottage



Can you say completely adorable? Nestled amongst a magical forest of rhododendron and hemlocks (treated), this sweet getaway features lovely waterfall and stream views. 2BR/2BA with a sleeping loft for children. Open living, kitchen and dining area that flows to an expansive, open deck (overlooking the stream). Priced right so you may make your own updates/renovations. Furnished down to the pots and pans!

Offered at \$168,000. MLS #77322

Tony Highlands Townhouse



Looking for rustic elegance with easy access to Highlands' Main Street? Warm & inviting, this renovated 3BR/3BA townhome features wood flooring, updated kitchen w/granite counter tops and stainless steel appliances, gorgeous fireplace w/gas logs & rustic mantle, expansive master suite w/office area & bay window, and open decking overlooking the beautiful common area grounds. Situated at the end of a cul-de-sac w/easy walk to the tennis courts. Great rental history and offered furnished!

Offered at \$298,000. MLS #78393.



Susie de Ville,
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Offered at \$250,000. MLS #69634.

Perfect Cabin in the Woods



Unbelievably charming cabin w/locust log external walls, situated on a lush lot in the Mirror Lake area. Features include pine floors, knotty white pine paneling, stone wood-burning fireplace, breakfast bar, tray ceiling & spacious, screened front porch. Easy access off Cullasaja Dr, w/extra parking off Mirror Lake Rd. Extensively renovated from 2011-13 with many touches that make this a stellar, year-round, mountain getaway! Most furniture included.

Offered at \$349,900. MLS #77945.

Contact
Susie deVille at
(828) 371-2079.

...TELL TALES continued from page 8

your neck.

"Yep, once 40 million retirees understand what's happening to their savings, look out."

Elmer, Thanks again for the interview.

"That's OK, sonny, but next time knock on the door instead of just standing there like a wooden Indian."

* Bob has a habit of asking all the politically incorrect questions and keeps his liberal acquaintances off guard, sometimes fuming. Bob boasts that he still has one reader but his editor can't confirm it.

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Gentlemen's estate features main house, party shed, guesthouse, pasture, pond, and waterfall! Main house has living room with fireplace, large covered porch, master bedroom and bath, loft, kitchen, dining, greatroom and porch. Lower level has 2 BR, den and bath. Guest house 1BD/1BA. Offered at \$ 645,000. mls #73087



12.06 ACRES on the top of a flat knoll, several acres cleared, perfect for a small horse farm or family enclave. 1960 brick Ranch ready for renovations. Views of Little Yellow and Whiteside Mountain. Offered at \$995,000. mls #72885



Commercial building with great highway frontage, live and work with retail upstairs and apartment on the lower level, Great location near the The Bascom. Offered at \$415,000. mls #80640



Multi-space commercial with excellent rental history. 4 main floor retail spaces, 3 res/apt Great Main Street frontage and high visibility. Reserved parking on Oak Street. Offered at \$1,895,000. mls #80035



This 3BD/3BA in Highlands Country Club. Spacious open plan all on one level, stone fireplace, hardwood floors, handicap accessibility, covered parking. Views on 1.51 acres. Golf membership available subject to approval/payment of fees. Priced to sell at \$975K. MLS# 75598.



Fully renovated cabin. Cathedral ceiling in the living room with fireplace, screened porch with a mountain view, custom kitchen, new hardwood floors, HVAC, generator, great master suite with 2 guest areas. Offered at \$445,000. mls #66120



Almost new quality built spacious 4BD/3BA home on one level. Sits on 2.58+/- acres. Wood floors, central heat and air, large master, eat in kitchen and formal dining room. Covered front portch. 2BD/1BA guest house. Offered at \$499,000. MLS #76709



On large lot on Bowery Road with gentle low maintenance yard. 3BD/3.5BA in main house. Guest area/studio and bath above the 2 car garage. Living room is vaulted, with stone fireplace. Custom kitchen. Offered at \$1,145,000. mls #79510



Log cabin with rock fireplace. Open great room, dining room, kitchen, hardwood floors and split floor plan. Large open back deck with winter views 1-car garage, wheel chair accessibility, all on one level. 17-acre community Lake Osage. MLS# 67737, Offered at \$335,000.



Spectacular Top of the Mountain Estate features utilities installed for 7 lots, a center park area, Tower Gazebo, Oriental Style Main Dwelling ready to update. Caretaker or guesthouse. Views. Buy all or a single home site for your dream home. Offered at \$2,950,000. mls #75599



Walk to town. Great setting with this 3BD/2BA with some view of Harris Lake. Recent updates to kitchen and baths. Nice yard. Covered porch! Offered at \$425,000. mls #80643



Over 4 acres with southern exposure, very private, inside Highlands town limits. Amazing views of Blue Valley and the lakes of SC. 2 BR/2.5 BA, stone fireplace and wood floors. Septic permitted for 4 more homes. Property adjoins Highlands Conservancy land on Satulah Mountain. Offered at \$599,000. mls #68828



Walk to town unit, move in ready and furnished. Nice kitchen, covered deck, tennis courts, 3BD/2.5BA. Offered at \$399,000. MLS #73486



Historic home built around 1940 on 5 acres of terraced gardens with stunning views of Blue Valley, Rabun Bald, and SC and GA. Main floor bedroom and bath with 2 guest bedrooms upstairs. Garage. Offered at \$1,200,000. mls #78884



On one of the largest and most private lots in Highlands Falls Country Club. This 4BD/4.5BA is loaded with custom features. Multiple fireplaces, Living room, great room, formal dining, den, offices, 2-car garage. Offered at \$1,595,000. mls #74164



Trillium Place 3BD/2.5BA townhouse with the master bedroom on the main floor. Recently upgraded. New and expanded, HVAC. Some wood floors and a gas fireplace. Offered at \$399,000 with a furniture package available outside of closing. mls #79739



2BD/2BA in town log cabin built in 1947. Wood floors and walls. Upgraded kitchen and new large covered screened-in porch. Offered at \$369,000. MLS#76874



2BD/2BA cottage. Cathedral wood ceilings, wood floors and walls throughout. Granite counters in upscale kitchen. Great room w/ wood-burning fireplace. Tile baths. Covered screened porch. Terraced landscaping. Single carport. MLS #80382. Offered at \$295,000.



In Highlands Country Club, with stunning Views in two directions. Porches, huge living porch with grill and views of Whiteside, Short-off, Cowee, and the vistas beyond. 4BD/4.5BA. Offered at \$2,600,000. mls #80639

... LETTERS from page 4

could be forgiven for several centuries of racism right down to the present day (we -- the largely well-off white folks who read the paper) we could admit that it violates the divine will and the best of human aspirations. Then we could quit pretending it "wasn't all that bad," or that something about "those people" makes them deserve it. We could quit pretending we're the victims, quit blaming the real victims.

That would be something like the New Testament calls "Good News;" Gospel, in effect.

Isn't this the page on which we'd expect to find it?

Gray Temple

The Nature Center is great

Dear Editor,

My family and I would like to second the comments of Mary L. Johnson in her letter in the October 16th issue.

Highlands Nature Center is probably the best place in all of Highlands for families to visit.

We have been coming for many years and each summer the museum keeps getting better and better. I would also like to acknowledge that nearly all of the successes of the Nature Center may be attributed to its director, Patrick Brannon. His efforts have transformed the place into something of which the community can truly be proud. We regularly attend many of his summer programs such as animal feeding, and we learn something new each time. My children have attended his camps since age 4 and absolutely adore "Mr. Patrick." Not only do they have fun, they come home telling us all that they have learned each day.

Next year they are excited because they will finally graduate to the hiking and science camps for older children. We ask that everyone make a point of letting Mr. Brannon know how much his work is appreciated.

Gavin Brown
Aiken, SC



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Reduced from \$418,000! Beautifully maintained, lightly updated, this quintessential Highlands cottage has 4 BR/2BA, a classic stone fireplace, large rooms, including the kitchen, all in an oasis garden setting that includes grassy space where croquet has been played for years - no white ever allowed! Garage & gardening shed complete the peaceful setting enjoyed generation to generation. A short walk to Mirror Lake completes the experience of old world Highlands!



The Pride of Highlands \$12,800,000 • MLS# 80527

Highlands Plaza, the original shopping center for the plateau, is the destination for meeting the area's basic shopping/restaurant needs. Not an "old dog." Instead, this treasure has been beautifully maintained, with the most recent improvement the re-structuring and re-landscaping of the parking area (240+ spaces.) 9.6 acres, almost 54,000 approximate, rentable sq. ft., further development possible. With the largest grocery store, the only ABC store, dry cleaners, car wash, traditional Mexican, Chinese & Subway restaurants on the plateau, you can't come to Highlands w/out going to the Plaza!



Beats Money in the Bank!

\$724,000 • MLS 80237

Don't miss this opportunity to invest in a commercial property on Highland's Rodeo Drive! Located on S. 4th Street, within a short block of Main St & within Highlands main business district. Across from Old Edwards Inn, a resort & spa. Great street presence with 27.15 ft of road frontage. In pristine condition & leased to a great tenant. Real estate investments of this caliber don't come up often. Grab it!

Commercial Dream...Greystone \$1,180,000 • MLS# 80526

One block from Highlands' Main Street & sitting across the pond from Mitchell's Lodge, Greystone gets its name from the locally quarried granite used to construct it. Sitting on 2.376 acres and commercially zoned B-3, the possibilities are endless. A family home for generations, the original matriarch thought it would one day make a great restaurant. Indeed it would!



Profitable Oasis for 75 Years! \$3,480,000 • MLS# 80525

Mitchell's Lodge is "Highlands" for the many who return to it year after year! Walk to Main, profitable, and updated, this bit of paradise is located on 4.617 acres with 28 unique accommodations (Almost 70% have fireplaces) ranging from 1 and 2 bedroom "mountain" cabins to 1 bedroom suites with kitchenettes to the original 9 classic bedrooms that helped build the success story year after year! Come, sit, BUY!



Long Range Views Plus Shadow of the Bear!

\$348,000 • MLS # 80662

Many lots in Highlands have multi-ranged, long, panoramic views. Few include two famous natural phenomena: Whiteside Mountain and "Shadow of the Bear!" Well this one does. Shadow of the Bear" is a bear's shadow cast as the sun shines across Whiteside mountain, visible mid-October through early November. This, combined with two acres, an easy building site, power to the lot line, previous septic approval and spectacular views of the Cashiers Valley make this lot beyond just special. Unique really.



\$498,000 • MLS 80602


The cachet of Old Edwards Club & Highlands Cove, an elevation of 4500 & views of which most simply dream. Long/multi-range mountains, peek-a-boo glimpse of emerald green fairways and frosty-white traps of the Old Edwards Club make this lot beyond special. On a cul-de-sac with renowned Ogilvie estate, beautiful gardens & grounds, make for prestige & complete escape. Gated, guarded, dreamy.



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Two lots sold this winter and a year round home is being built ... New cottage section opening soon!

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828-508-9952.

...GAP continued from page 3

the students have aspiring dreams of becoming a doctor or changing the world in some great way. These students feel like they need English in order to accomplish these goals.

I have learned so much already in the short month that I have been living here. I learned that everyone uses the metric system. One of my roommates, Caroline, asked me how tall I was. I replied "5'8", she said "I have no clue what that means." Also, I am the only one living in the house that did not learn English as a second language. The other volunteers know two, three, or four languages! I can barely keep up with only English and Spanish! I also find it strange that my housemates have never tried macaroni and cheese, a Big Mac from McDonald's, and they don't even know what Hershey's chocolate is!

I have learned a lot about myself throughout this first month of my gap year. I have learned how to live on my own, travel by myself, and speak enough Spanish to have a taxi take me to the grocery store and back home, one of my biggest accomplishments I must say. I have learned so much that it is almost unexplainable. I am beyond thankful for everyone back at home. I feel like I have one huge family supporting me in each step of my journey.

*Photos from top:
This is the Horizon School
and Volunteer House, where
Emily and the other volunteers
live and teach
English classes.*

*Emily on the job in her
English classroom.*

*This is the street right out-
side the Horizon School
Volunteer House.*

*"Some days I miss the lush
green vegetation back at home in
Highlands," she says.*



...CANDIDATES continued from page 18

knowledge that I currently have, there are going to be some very happy people when they receive a tax decrease, and there are going to be some very upset people when they get a tax increase. And, as a commissioner, I know that it is extremely important to be out in front of this potential problem by educating the taxpayers about the re-valuation and why and how it is happening and what the process is for remediation if you feel the county is not being fair with the new assessments.

"I have been very proactive with speaking engagements and with ensuring that the county is mailing information to all taxpayers, and I will continue to be very open with these communications. After all, clear and informative communication is without a doubt, one of the most important things that I can do as a commissioner," he said.

Rogers, a native Highlander, believes the most pressing issue facing Highlands is the town's plans for water.

"The town of Highlands is getting ready install an intake valve near the Lake Sequoyah Dam. This will be where the Town will be getting its drinking water. This is the lowest area in the Highlands Plateau. There are two major sewer plants; the runoff from four golf courses; everything from the entire town runs to this lowest point in Highlands.

According to Rogers, his passion for the town's water project comes from watching his father deal with a similar issue when he served on the commission. "Long story short when my father, Larry Rogers, was commissioner he talked to the Skyline Lodge people and they wanted to give the dam to the town of Highlands," said Rogers. "We priced rebuilding the dam and dredging out Skyline Lodge Lake at a cost of \$250,000 at that time. The town is going to have to fix the dam -- it has to there is no getting out of it.

"Why didn't we take the 2.5 million dollars and go up stream to the source and get the cleanest water available? No nitrogen, no herbicides, no pesticides, no grey

discharge water, just good quality water. The cleaner it is in the beginning the better off we will be. Our health is important. I guess to the town money is more important than our health.

"Even if we get the grey water removed from the Cullasaja River from the sewer discharge plant we will still get the entire run off from the Town of Highlands and the run off from four golf courses that run through Lake Sequoyah.

"On a scale from one to 10, 10 being the worst water quality, it is definitely a 10. I am personally disappointed in the town of Highlands commissioners and the town engineer. Installing another intake valve near the Lake Sequoyah Dam was a bad decision. It is easy to waste someone else's money, that being the taxpayers."

Rogers graduated from Highlands School before beginning a life-long career in construction. Rogers has served on the Highlands Appearance Commission and the Zoning Board.

When asked about the county's role in aiding in projects in the municipalities, Rogers said what is good for one, is good for all.

"The Parker Meadows Park will primarily benefit Franklin," said Rogers. "But I am for the park as it will be a major asset to the county and is needed by Franklin. Government is in place to help all the taxpayers as a whole. It is not about me, it is about the people, the environment, and our ability to work together as a unified body to help make our county one of the best in North Carolina.

"This is what I am all about, unity and bringing jobs and bringing the people who want to spend money here. My wife and I love the people of Franklin and want to build a working relationship among all of us (countywide). I would like to see us take this unity to the State and Federal level to obtain the money needed to get the Cullasaja River and the Little Tennessee River water quality back to what it should be."

According to Rogers, the county government needs to work in solidarity with the municipalities. "We need to pull together as a whole (Town of Franklin, Town of Highlands and County Com-

missioners) we need to direct our full attention to sewer infrastructure and water infrastructure," said Rogers. "This will help the entire county as a whole."

"What I would like to see is the county buy sewer/water taps from the towns of Franklin and Highlands. The county then would expand the service outside of the Franklin/Highland city limits. Funding coming from grants and other environmental funds that are out there. Once the infrastructure is in place and up and running, the county will get the money back from the

businesses, clubs and residences that hook up to the service. This needs to be affordable and not overpriced. Remember government is there to provide a service for the people. The county will be responsible for the upkeep -- making taps, repairs, etc., to the lines. This will mean more jobs for the people of Macon County. Macon County can install the lines at a reasonable rate by hiring experienced people right here in Macon County and pay a decent wage. These infrastructures will last 75 years. I do not intend to raise taxes to get this done -- there is a

way to do this. I look after the people, not myself.

"Listen to me, our water is important and we need to clean it up. Our sewer plant needs to get rid of the grey water by evaporation not by dumping it into our creeks, rivers and streams. Our lakes need to be dredged -- Mirror Lake/Lake Sequoyah and Lake Emory. Recreation is vital to our economy, we need fishing to be at its best as well as swimming, canoeing, etc. Clean water is important!"

Rogers cited his experience

• See CANDIDATES pg 25



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• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

Where are you living: past, present or future?

By Pastor Gary Hewins
Community Bible Church

Eric Hoffer, longshoreman and philosopher said the following concerning the relationship between our past and our future: "In the first half of our lives we spend our health looking for wealth and in the last half of our lives we spend our wealth looking for health". We definitely need to be careful that we don't get "out of whack" when it comes to experiencing a healthy and balanced relationship between our past, present and future.

For some the "past is prince". Some people live too much in the past. It isn't all that difficult to romanticize the past and make it more than it actually was. If we are not careful, our past can define us in the present, restrict us in the moment, keep us from living in the now and remind us of a defeat, or a hurt, or worse yet a betrayal or an abuse that wants to rob us of life today, here in the now. Some never move on from events of the past. Bitter people live in the past. Unforgiving people live in the past. Some physical illnesses experienced today originated in a past with condemnation and without forgiveness. People riddled with shame live too much in the past. Shame is a grotesque ugly killer of the present.

We should certainly celebrate our successes and be grateful for many things in the past, but all you have today is the moment you are in. Is your past calling too many shots in your present? Do previous failures, hurts and losses overly define you today? In extreme cases, some people living today actually died years ago.

Sometimes we live too much in the future. The positive spin on the future is called appropriate preparation or planning. The negative reality is called anxiety. Are you anxious often? If so, you probably live in the "not yet" more than you live in the present moment. People who live in what they think will take place are often robbed of the present moment where solutions live. "Future dwellers" never really live, they worry. The voices they hear in their heart are those of concern over outcomes for which they have little to no control. Physical illnesses experienced today are sometimes attributed to living in tomorrow where worry rules. "Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to your life?" (Luke 12:25)

So then, how are we to live an abundant, fruitful, meaningful life? We should stay balanced when it comes to relating to our past and our future while enjoying life in the moment. Most people miss Christ because he can only be found in the moment. He cannot be heard in the moment if the voices of the past are overwhelming or the concern over the future is paramount. The One True God works on a daily basis. He provides fresh mercy every morning and fresh daily bread to meet our present emotional, relational, spiritual and physical needs. Time doesn't actually heal all wounds; if it did the eldest among us would be the healthiest on all fronts. Christ heals wounds, not time. Christ knows where you have been and what you have done and what you neglected to do and what you refused to do and he loves you anyway. The Lord has ordained your steps and he knows when you come in and when you go out. What he wants most is to live in you in the moment. All you and I have right now, is right now. He speaks only in the present moment. He is presently accessible. Access him today. He will heal the not yet healed wounds of your past while preparing you and providing for you in your future. Speak to him today. Ask him questions today. Read his word that never passes away today (like John chapter 3). Exalt and magnify

• See SPIRITUALLY page 25

Proverbs 3:5

• PLACES TO WORSHIP •

John 3:16

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

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

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Mon.: Bible Study & Supper at homes - 6 p.m.

Wed.: Men's Bible Study -8:30 a.m., First Baptist Church

CHRIST CHURCH OF THE VALLEY, CASHIERS

Pastor Steve Kerhoulas • 743-5470

Sun. 10:45am, S.S 9:30am. Wed. 6pm supper and teaching.

Tues. Guys study 8am, Gals 10am.

CLEAR CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Jim Kinard

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

Wednesdays -7 p.m.

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Sun.: 9:30am: Sunday School

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10:45am: Worship Service

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

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

Wednesday: 10 a.m., Morning Prayer

Thursdays: Holy Eucharist, (chapel), 10 am

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH HIGHLANDS

828-526-4153 • www.fbchighlands.org

Dr. Mark Ford, Pastor

220 Main Street, Highlands NC 28741

Sun.: Worship 10:45 am; Sun.: Bible Study 9:30 am

Wed.: Men's Bible Study 8:30 am; Prayer Mtg 6:15 pm;

Choir 5 pm

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Curtis Fussell & Emily Wilmarth, pastors

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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

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

Sundays: Worship: 11

HIGHLANDS CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Dan Robinson

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

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

Wednesday: Prayer Service, 6:30 p.

HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Pastor Paul Christy 526-3376

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

Wed: Supper: 5:15; youth, & adults activities: 6; Handbell

rehearsal, 6:15; Choir Rehearsal 7. (nursery provided)

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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.

SCALY MOUNTAIN CHURCH OF GOD

290 Buck Knob Road; Pastor Alfred Sizemore • 526-3212

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

Pastor Rev. Andy Cloer

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

Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study: 7

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

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WHITESIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Rev. Sam Forrester/Cashiers

Sunday School: 10 am, Worship Service: 11 am

• POLICE & FIRE REPORTS •

Highlands Police Log entries from Sept. 25 Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor or public officials have been used.

Sept. 25

• At 5 p.m., officers responded to a call of vandalism at a home on Zermatt Circle.

Oct. 8

• At 7:50 p.m., someone found a homemade dope pipe on the playground at the Rec Park and called the police.

Oct. 9

• At 11:54 a.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident on NC 28.

Oct. 10

• At 8:20 p.m., officers responded to a one-vehicle accident on N. 2nd. Street.

Oct. 11

• At 8 p.m., officers responded to a one-vehicle accident in Highlands Plaza.

Oct. 12

• At 12:16 p.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident on NC 28.

Oct. 17

• At 6:16 p.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident on Main Street.

Oct. 19

• At 3:23 a.m., Taylor Thomas Earman, 39, of Highlands, was arrested for second degree trespassing and resisting arrest. He was taken to the Macon County Detention Center and held on a \$500 bond.

The Highlands Fire & Res-

cue Dept. log entries from Oct. 22

Oct. 22

• At 5:04 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm on Main St.

• At 7:37 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Saw Mill Road.

Oct. 23

• At 3:35 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Old Walhalla Road.

Oct. 24

• At 8:07 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Big Bear Pen Lane.

Oct. 25

• At 10:05 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire caused by a downed power line on Happoldt Dr.

Oct. 27

• At 11:57 a.m., the dept. responded to a CO2 alarm in a build-

ing on Smallwood Ave.

Oct. 28

• At 3:34 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Shelby Circle.

Note: when burning yard debris, please have a hose nearby.

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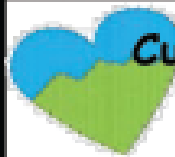
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...SPIRITUALLY from page 24

him over and above our past and future. His Presence is only experienced in your present. Make sure Christ doesn't become a future relationship that never materializes for one day your opportunities to accept his love and forgiveness for your sin will be no more. I wouldn't recommend that. Here is a closing statement that if internalized will bring you and me great comfort. "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty." Jesus.

...CANDIDATES from page 23

in the construction industry with drilling as being his basis for considering the state's fracking practice as a "major problem."

"It will destroy our water and when it happens, the damage is done," said Rogers about his stance against fracking in western North Carolina. "I am strictly against it. I do not support it and I think we need to shut it down right now.

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• BUSINESS NEWS •

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The Spa at Old Edwards Inn was named #1 Top Hotel in the South, #4 Top Hotel in the United States and the #45 Top Hotel in the World by Condé Nast Traveler Readers in their annual Readers' Poll.

Condé Nast Traveler website states "In a town 90 minutes southwest of Asheville, this European-style hotel offers understated elegance in the best summer getaway spot east of the Mississippi."

Old Edwards President, Richard Delany, says, "When our resort is recognized in readers' polls— particularly the caliber of Condé Nast, which caters to discriminating travelers— it is the best type of accolades we can receive. To realize that we are succeeding at delivering experiences that people remember as the best that they have had anywhere is truly remarkable. It shows that our guests really do notice those little touches that we strive so hard to deliver—as well as the larger ones like the quality of our facilities. I am very proud of our staff for achieving this recognition."

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...MC BOC continued from page 1

of Franklin in the amount of \$800,000 for approximately 8.4 acres and Donald Burling and Faye Fortune of Florida in the amount of \$730,000 for approximately 14.5 acres.

Stahl explained that while the expansion of the footprint will be almost totally on the Dalton property, by purchasing the Burling property and removing the house under construction from our buffer requirements, will allow the county to utilize all of the Dalton property for the expansion rather than approximately 30-40 percent of the property had the county not purchased the Burling property.

While gaining state approval to open a new portion of the facility can take more time than the county's landfill has left on the expectancy, Stahl told commissioners that work would begin immediately. "We have about six months to do two years' worth of work, so we better get moving," said Stahl.

County signs on to help Hospice House obtain grant

After the town of Franklin declined the Hospice House Foundation of WNC's request to be a partner agency to help procure a \$100,000 grant, the county stepped up to take on the liability to ensure the project sees fruition.

"My hats off to Michelle Alderson and these folks, who over ten long years, kept at it — and we'll make it. It's a good thing for Maconians and others in surrounding counties," said Commissioner Ronnie Beale. It's also just as much for the family as it is for the patient."

The Hospice House, although located within the Franklin city limits, will be a 12-patient facility available to all those who need it in western North Carolina. Four Seasons, which has recently taken over hospice operations at the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital, will be the managing agency for the facility.

The \$100k grant will get the Hospice House one step closer to raising the \$1 million needed to secure a \$1 million matching grant from the State Employees Credit Union for the development of the hospice facility, which is the only one of its kind west of Asheville.

The Hospice House Foundation will cover the administration cost associated with handling the grant on the county's end, as well as the application fees to the Department of Commerce, the agency which administers the grants.

Commissioner Ron Haven made the motion to approve the request and the

measure passed unanimously with Commissioner Kevin Corbin abstaining as he sits on the state committee responsible for deciding on the grant applications.

Parker Meadows on track and under budget

County Manger Derek Roland updated commissioners during the October meeting to inform them that despite having to revise the park's plans to accommodate Indian remains found on site, the project is on track for a Spring 2015 opening and likely to come in \$21,000 under budget.

According to Roland, the crew working on the project has found every cost saving measure possible to ensure that spending is limited and kept low to ensure the project's completion. To continue moving forward, commissioners unanimously appointed an advisory board to work under the county's recreation commission to develop a schedule and marketing vision

for the park. The group, which consists of community members who are familiar with local little league, travel ball teams, economic development, and county vision, will establish a plan for the park to present to the Recreation Commission.

County awards \$50,000 in grants to local non-profits

Each year the county's Community Funding Pool receives more than a dozen applications for a piece of the \$50,000 commissioners allocate in the budget for nonprofits.

Karen Wallace, who has served on the Community Funding Pool advisory group almost since its inception, pleaded with county commissioners last week to consider increasing the amount in the annual budget for local charities.

"In all my years serving on this board, the amount available to nonprofits has stayed the same, but the need and number of charities applying continues to grow,"

said Wallace. "As a board, we would like for you to consider increasing the amount the county sets aside for these nonprofits."

Wallace has asked commissioners to increase the amount allocated for the last couple of years, but so far, the amount has remained at \$50,000. This year, 15 agencies applied for funds through the county's funding pool with requests totaling \$94,500.

After reviewing the applications, Wallace and the other appointed members of the board selected 10 organizations in the county to split the \$50,000. KIDS Place and Reach of Macon County both requested \$10,000, and both received the full amount they requested. Other agencies to receive funding, although not the full amount requested, included, Angel Medical Center for the Ladies Night Out Program, Arts Council of Macon County,

• See MC BOC page 30

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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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...SUBSTATION continued from page 1

the Cullasaja Club with Jackson County officials to discuss the substation.

"The primary reason for the substation is to bring the residences into a five-mile fire district which will lower their insurance rating and thus their premiums," said Commissioner

Tate.

However, another aspect of this is to make sure Macon County and the Highlands Fire Department get fair compensation for the services they provide to residents of Jackson County, who actually consider Highlands "home."

"Jackson County Manager

Chuck Wooten and Jackson Commissioner Mark Jones have been great to work with and both parties are striving toward finding an agreeable solution to the problem," said Tate.

According to Tate, the new substation will service just under 200 residences but will be constructed in an area that has more than 300 properties.

Wooten explained that he will continue to work with Macon County Manager Derek Roland to discuss Jackson County providing financial support for other Macon County services that are provided to the Jackson County residents due to their proximity to Highlands.

"It appears Macon County provides these residences with services such as 911, EMS, police, trash and recreation," said Tate.

"The details for the financial support from Jackson County still need to be worked out," said

Wooten. "Macon County has a fire tax and Jackson County does not. Even though the Jackson residents don't pay a fire tax they want to see Highlands receive an amount comparable to what Highlands would receive if the Macon County fire tax was levied in Jackson County. I believe the Jackson County Commissioners will approve some amount of financial support in the next budget cycle; however, I do not believe it will be tied to the Macon County fire tax since Jackson County has no fire tax."

This year, Jackson County paid Highlands \$7,187 for fire protection for some Jackson County properties within the town limits.

However, based on Highlands' .009 cent fire tax per \$100 value and the current tax value of \$300 million for the Jackson County properties that are ser-

viced, the amount Highlands billed Jackson County this past year, and believes it is owed, was \$26,800.

Over the years, instead of paying the billed amount, Jackson County has relied on the country clubs and home owner associations serviced by Highlands Fire & Rescue to make donations.

With the completion of the new substation, Wooten said he is confident his board will take up the consideration of additional funding, something the town and the Highlands Fire & Rescue Department have been requesting for years.

Both counties are waiting for a state survey to determine the counties disputed border.

According to Tate, where the line lies means an initial projection of \$500,000,000 in appraisal tax value.

...MC BOC continued from page 27

Macon County CareNet, Community Care Clinic of Highlands/Cashiers, Highlands Community Child Development Center, Literacy Council of Highlands, Macon Program for Progress, and Mountain Medication Services.

Agencies who requested funds that were not approved by the board included the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital, the International Friendship Club, Smoky Mountain Pregnancy Care Center, Read2Me, and The Community Care Clinic of Franklin.

Although the Community Care Clinic of Franklin did not receive funding through the community funding pool, the county had previously established a fund within the general budget for the program.

Commissioners unanimously approved the recommendation put forth by the community funding pool advisory board. They did not address the request to increase the allocated amount in the fund.

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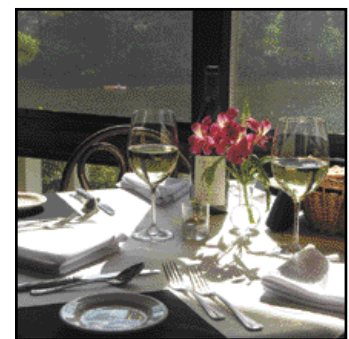
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