

Highlands Newspaper

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Thurs., Jan. 29, 2015

Group unveils way to access Satulah Mountain Trail

Public access to the Satulah Mountain Trail via Worley Road was halted July 2013 when a homeowner at the end of the road decided to enforce the private road status on that part of Worley Road.

In doing so, people were no longer allowed to drive to the top of Worley Road and park at the town's turnaround and continue on foot to the trail.

Instead they had to walk from town to the top of the mountain –

foot traffic on the private portion of the road is allowed just not vehicular traffic.

Obviously, this became a bone of contention since a comfortable arrangement appeared to be working for years and was the

last hope for hikers since access to the trail had been cut off on other fronts in the past.

But now the Highlands Plateau Greenway has come to the rescue – at least it is very close to

• See SATULAH page 5

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County and Board of Ed struggle to meet school system's needs

School district faces major shortfalls; A quarter of a cent sales tax increase devoted to schools is suggested

By Merritt N. Shaw

Every year there is a struggle to prioritize and to cut corners to all the county's departments.

When the Macon County Commissioners met for the worksession on Tuesday, Jan. 20, they learned that in the big scheme of things Macon County is staying on budget and holding steady in every department, but one. Of all the requests received, there was one major topic that the commissioners agreed was a priority-- the ever pressing issue of financing for Macon County Schools.

A presentation by MC Finance Director Lori Hall showed that Macon County's total debt in 2015 is \$5,060,883 and \$4,137,302 of that is school debt.

The majority of revenue sources for school debt for the fiscal year 2015-2016 are the schools capital reserve

(\$1,594,699) and a transfer from the general fund (\$1,191,569). The other sources are \$431,366 from Iotla Valley subsidy, \$59,110 from Nantahala subsidy and \$306,000 from lottery funds.

Currently in the budget is a request to be considered for QZAB funds – a low- to no-interest loan for capital projects – is the renovation of the high school wing of the Highlands School at \$1,250,000 and Union School at \$1,250,000.

Commissioner Ronnie Beale told commissioners that he will be meeting with North Carolina Congressman Mark Meadows to discuss goals for Macon County in the coming year. One of the goals will be to lobby for the return of lottery funds to help fund the schools. "North Carolina received 17 percent return on lottery funds this year. We should be getting up

• See SCHOOL page 6



Photo by Jim Lewicki

Pipe under US 64 gives way; causes portion of road to collapse

Late afternoon Monday, a 50+ year-old rusted metal culvert pipe underneath US 64 west at Big Creek gave way causing a portion of the road to collapse. Traffic was delayed while NC-DOT made a temporary patch.

According to Town Engineer Lamar Nix, the problem with the pipe was due to age and rust. "When we lowered the lake it exposed the pipe and a rusted hole that contributed to its weakening. No one knew for sure that the pipe existed. I had been told years ago there was a metal culvert there, but it was only confirmed when we lowered the lake. We notified NC-DOT and they responded immediately."

NCDOT will make repairs more permanent in the near future.

– Kim Lewicki

Highlands School ranked in state's top 100

By Merritt Shaw

Highlands High School did it again! According to Niche Rankings, Highlands High School has been ranked in the Top 100 best high schools in North Carolina for two years in a row.

This year Highlands High School was ranked 46 and Macon Early College High School was ranked 69 out of 100 in NC. In 2014 Highlands High School was ranked 49 and MEC was ranked 69.

Several Western North Carolina high schools were ranked in the top 100, but Highlands High School and Macon Early College High School were the only two schools in the Macon County District that made the top 100.

Principal for Highlands High School Brian Jetter said he is proud to be listed in the rankings and was very complimen-

• See TOP 100 page 4

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• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• MAYOR ON DUTY •

Update on Hydro Power Plant

Late Friday of last week, the town's Washington based FERC (Federal Energy Regulatory Commission) consultants advised us that FERC had approved the preliminary application submitted by Advance Hydro to begin the process required to secure a FERC license for the operation of a hydroelectric generating plant on the Cullasaja River.



Highlands Mayor
Patrick Taylor

This plant would be on Forest Service property and incorporate the old, no longer used Highlands Power Plant which was abandoned by the town in 1968.

While some may ask why the town didn't immediately stop the application, our consultants told us it would have been difficult, if impossible, to stop it at this initial stage. Advanced Hydro submitted a complete application meeting all the requirements as required under Federal law.

To be clear, this approval by FERC is not a green light for Advanced Hydro to begin construction and operation. It is simply permission for them to submit a formal application for a FERC license. They will now be required to prove that this project has no adverse effects on the

Cullasaja River.

This process is estimated to take 3 to 5 years to complete.

In granting this initial permission, FERC acknowledged the letter sent to them by the town and stated that the time for the town and its citizens to make their concerns known will be during the upcoming actual permitting process.

With that being said, I plan to send a letter to Advance

Hydro emphasizing that the town, community groups and citizens have concerns that must be addressed in this next phase. We need to be continuously informed of their actions and plans, and not through the legal notices section of the Franklin Press, as was done initially.

I believe Highlands has several options to pursue. The question is what is the consensus?

The town could attempt to intervene by taking the position we will rebuild and operate the power plant that Highlands funded and built in the late 1920s. With that option FERC would require a good faith effort on the part of Highlands. The problem is the town would have to invest around 4 million dollars, or more, to resume generating maybe a megawatt of power, about 1/12th what we normally require. Is the long term investment worth it? Our engineering consultants presented to the Town Board a report concerning the construction of a refurbished power plant in 2013. Their cost estimates are in line with those of Advanced Hydro. No further action was ever taken.

The town and community groups could contest the construction of the power plant on environmental and historical grounds. Studies that have to be done prior to FERC issuing an operator's license may

• See MAYOR page 11

• LETTERS •

There is a big difference between opinions and facts

Dear Editor,

Well now, for the space of five paragraphs I thought Bob Wilson was actually on the right track regarding his article on freedom of the press that ran in the Jan. 15 edition of this paper.

We all agree that we are a freedom loving nation. We believe in our basic right to free speech – for ourselves and others. However, Mr. Wilson, true to form, continued on in several following paragraphs to display the obtuse views from the crevasses of his apparently dimpled and circuitous thought processes.

In no way, none, not at all, did commentary on his writings support left, right, or centrist, views of any political party. They only expressed the wish that, though he has a right to his opinion, he needs to clearly state that it is only his opinion – it is not fact, and therefore not necessarily truth. He has a penchant for sharing twisted or partial facts and leaps between creat-

ing his own fiction out of whole-cloth or sharing whatever bits, pieces, and portions he pursues from non-credible sources, and then, while claiming to be impartial, declaring them as true.

Thus he was urged to learn how to "follow the dots," otherwise known as facts. Apparently he hasn't practiced enough, so let me say, try again. Opinion is opinion – facts are facts. Once you master quoting or backing true circumstances, by all means, ask 'the hard questions of our leaders'. Our country, the one we ALL care about, has so much of great importance that needs to be done in support of the interest of us ALL.

No one is offended. We just require that you don't mislead those who are as easily led and as misinformed (purposefully?) as you appear. My opinion.

Shirl Ches
Franklin

Thanks for supporting our school, Highlands!

Dear Editor,

Highlands School Parent Teacher Organization sincerely thanks the Highlands community for their faithful support of Highlands School. This academic year, parents, teachers, businesses and other individuals from this community have generously donated funds to Highlands School PTO in excess of \$12,000. What a tremendous show of support!

With the donated funds, the PTO has already been able to provide financial assistance to Highlands School in various ways. We purchased bulletin board paper and toner for the copiers. We assisted in the renewal of the Accelerated Reader program for the school. We provided teachers with funds to help offset their expense for classroom needs. We purchased a classroom

set of novels for the fifth grade class. We purchased new lacrosse equipment for the physical education department. And with the success of our annual Fall Festival, we will be able to purchase caps and gowns for our graduating seniors. Also through partnering with the Macon County Academic Foundation, the PTO assisted with the purchase of a set of guided reading materials for the first grade class, an ABC rug for the second grade class, and a chemistry freezer for the high school science lab.

Other community organizations have shown their support of our local school as well. The Interact Club sponsored by the Highlands Rotary Club provided new mouse pads for every computer in the school. Bel Canto donated funds to support our music department. The Bascom Arts Center provides classroom space and staff at their facility for our high school art class each day. The Performing Arts Center and Dr. Ronnie Spilton host our high school students allowing them the opportunity to earn high school credit for theatre classes.

And local churches support our school too. In August the churches came together to hold a Service of Blessing where

• See LETTERS page 11

Highlands Newspaper

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Letter Policy:

We reserve the right to reject or edit letters-to-the-editor. No anonymous letters will be accepted. Views expressed are not necessarily those of Highlands Newspaper.



County plans to enter into a mutual aid agreement with Sky Valley, GA

By Merritt N. Shaw

Emergency Management Director, Warren Cabe recently presented a Mutual Aid Agreement between Macon County and Sky Valley, GA to the MC Board of Commission.. The agreement outlines what emergency services each entity will provide and who is responsible in such cases.

Highway NC 106 runs in and out of Macon County, NC and Sky Valley, GA, and is in a unique geographical location where emergency personnel from one jurisdiction can respond more rapidly and easily to the areas of the other jurisdiction. This agreement is an official way to help facilitate these emergency services.

"It will be vetted by all parties involved. We need to work on the Georgia side to see if they agree," Cabe said. Commissioner Gary Shields asked if the agreement would cover or pertain to the police department or the telephone routing access.

Cabe said the agreement did not involve police services and that there was a provision in the agreement that covered the telephone routing services that says that Macon County and Sky Valley both recognize calls that could possibly be inadvertently routed to the wrong jurisdiction.

Chairman Kevin Corbin summed up the nature of the relationship saying, "I'll help you, you help us," but Commissioner Ronnie Beale asked who would have authority at the scene if both parties respond.

The agreement states that each party

(Macon County and Sky Valley) has the primary responsibility in their respective jurisdictions and are in no way obligated to provide services to the other. Before they render aid in emergency services they agree to immediately contact and inform the authorized representatives which is Warren Cabe in Macon County and in Sky Valley is the Chief of Police.

Furthermore, the agreement provides that each party will not be required to pay any of the costs incurred for the assistance, except for the costs associated with their own crew.

Neither party would be liable for the death of or injury to persons, or for damage to the property as a result of any such activity, except in cases of willful misconduct, gross negligence, or bad faith.

The agreement only pertains to specific geographical areas of Sky Valley and Macon County and the emergency aid is limited to emergency situations for a period of 12 hours or less, per incident.

In addition, each party will hold the other party harmless from all claims and will bear the risk of its own actions as it does with day-to-day operations.

The agreement will be renewed annually, automatically, unless either party gives 30 day written notice of cancellation. This does not affect the liability of either party.

The resolution passed unanimously and Kevin Corbin, Chairman signed the agreement. The next steps include having Sky Valley officials sign the agreement and ultimately must be approved by Governor Pat McCrory to become official.

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the store. He said the constant opening and closing of the entrance and exit doors strains the cooling and heating system in the building

The vestibule consists of glass panels extending from the vestibule ceiling to about 30 inches from the ground with the bottom portion of the structure constructed of plywood. The vestibule will extend over the current walkway and will be entered through doorways on the sides - left or right - not from the front.

The board also approved a 12' x 20' wooden storage building with a metal roof to be erected behind the store in the area directly behind the Country Club Properties office at the end of the building.

• See **CHANGES** page 14

Zoning Board OK's exterior changes to Mountain Fresh Grocery

Diners and cashiers at Mountain Fresh Grocery will soon be eating and working in comfort with weather held at bay.

At the December Planning Board meeting and at last week's Zoning Board meeting, members unanimously OK'd plans to build a glass and wood-paneled vestibule to enclose the entrance and exit of the store between the two poles on the walkway in front of the market. A storage building behind the complex was also OK'd and the Zoning Board issued the required Special Use Permit.

Owner, JT Fields said in the winter his cashiers and patrons are cold and in the summer they are hot; the vestibule will keep the temperature constant inside

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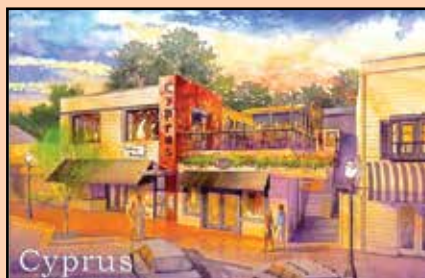
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...TOP 100 continued from page 1

tary of his staff and of the community that supports the school.

"The things that the teachers do in Highlands School that help them stand out are first our teachers don't get distracted with the latest education 'cure-all'. They do a great job of staying focused on the state standards and acquiring the materials that will best help their students learn those standards. That singular focus, powered by the willingness to work hard at improving their students' achievement, is at the core of this school's success. I do know that our teachers resist the urge to spend time looking for a 'silver bullet' that will somehow replace the hard work they must do," he said.

He also credits the parents of Highlands School students with its success.

"Walk our halls any day, at any time, and you will see parents in the halls and in the classrooms volunteering and working with teachers. In addition, look at our PTO. We are a small school with a strong PTO that does things all year to help our school, teachers, and students," he said.

He also feels support from the community is a factor.

"Our whole community should be proud because of the community's strong support of this school and its teachers – that's a very big reason this community's children do well. Strong schools have strong parent and community support," he said.

Jetter also noted the 46 certified personnel and classroom teachers with higher level educational degrees in the school (37 with bachelor's degrees, six with master's degrees, three specialists). He feels that this is instrumental in terms of their knowledge base, factual and instructional breadth and depth.

According to the Nich.com website Highlands School has 360 students in grades K-12. According to state standards, 84% of students at this school are considered proficient in math and/or reading. There have been 11 reviews written and they have been mostly positive. It has a 90 percent graduation rate, math proficiency of 92 percent and 77 percent reading proficiency.

The rankings are based on key statistics from governmental and public data sources as well as factoring in opinions from students and parents. The list also includes magnet, charter and online schools.

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...SATULAH continued from page 1

finding a solution to the problem.

At Monday night's Planning Board meeting, Ran Shaffner and Hillrie Quin of the Greenway, informed the Planning Board of upcoming Greenway projects to be included in the town's updated comprehensive plan. One project being the acquisition of two lots at the end of the lower gravel portion of Satulah Ridge Road. The lots will serve as a trail head and give the Greenway access to the Satulah Mountain Trail and summit, thereby bypassing Worley Road completely – as well as provide an area for parking.

If all goes as planned, hikers will be able to drive to the lots on a cul-de-sac at

the end of Satulah Ridge Road where a space for up to eight vehicles will be available. From there, hikers can proceed on foot to the Satulah Mountain Trail.

The new trail leading to the Satulah Mountain summit traverses Land Trust property of which the Satulah Mountain Trail and summit is part.

As part of its due diligence process, the Greenway has sent a letter to 42 property owners in the Satulah Ridge subdivision to inform them of the plan.

"We wanted you to be the first to know that Highlands Plateau Greenway is working to create a Greenway walking

• See **GREENWAY** page 11



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...SCHOOL continued from page 1

to 40 percent," he said.

Commissioner Vice Chair Jim Tate said to him it's important that the county take care of its schools and buildings.

"I'm just going to throw this out, I think it would be a good idea to take a look at or investigate and take advantage of doing a quarter of a cent sales tax increase. Put it on a referendum vote next year and maybe dedicate that money to our schools, 100 percent of it. If this board is ready to talk about it, at some point, well, I'm ready."

Coincidentally, Hall said the county budget was enhanced this year due to Amazon having to pay sales tax to North Carolina for online sales.

State law requires a portion of sales tax revenue be allocated to the capital outlay fund for public schools and the re-

mainder to be put in the general fund for the county.

"I and some others in Highlands have been able to collect about \$300,000 in donations to improve the school track and softball field. Hopefully, it will be on our agenda for next month. I'm hoping the county will be stepping in to help with that improvement project as well," said Tate.

Commissioner Paul Higdon suggested the board be frugal because the commission is dealing with hard earned money.

"Even though all the economic indicators say that the economy is on the rebound, I think we need to be very cautious in how we allocate tax dollars. You did a good job last year, Derek and we are looking to you to lead us through this," he said.

Tate gave some suggestions for County Manager Derek Roland as he takes on

the task of creating a budget – mainly paying special attention to remaining revenue neutral.

"Perhaps look into any monies left over from capital projects that may have been or could be closed out and see what kind of funds are left over from them," suggested Tate.

And to magnify the severity of the situation, in a budget summary, at the Board of Education meeting on Monday night, Angie Cook, Finance Officer for Macon County Schools said that there is an anticipated \$368,000 short-fall in the budget for this school year.

Superintendent of Macon County Schools, Dr. Chris Baldwin said \$100,000 was used from the fund balance to close out the year.

"In addition to the cuts mentioned, we also reduced our teacher positions by seven and our teacher assistant positions by five. And that doesn't take into account increase in enrollment," said Baldwin.

Cook said there will be a 25% reduction in assistant teachers for the 2015-'16 school year and projected funding for the 2015-'16 school year, is to have one teacher's assistant for every 54 students.

Cook gave another example. "If the

teacher assistant allocation is reduced by 25% next year it will only pay for 26 teacher assistant positions. We currently have 35, K-1 classrooms."

Current allocation for teacher's assistants is \$772.07 per ADM (Average Daily Membership) in grades from kindergarten through 3rd grade, which means that a class of 21 students would generate \$15,441.40. The total cost of an Assistant Teacher with benefits is \$31,227.19.

Cook informed the Board of other funding issues they will face next year,

"An additional raise for teachers next year which will mean \$109,000 for us. We will be losing the Timber Frame money. That's about \$150,000. If we lose the driver's education money, that's around \$75,000. And that's not including things we don't know about like the non-certified raises with benefits," she said.

"So let me get this straight. Even if we hold steady and the commissioners are good to us, we will still have to come up with \$368, 000 based on current projects with no good (revenue) source for those funds?" asked BOE Board Chair Jim Breedlove,

In a state of disbelief, he said, "I have no words."



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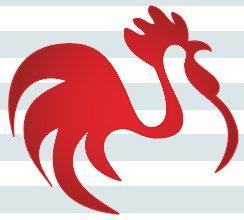
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A LARGE SELECTION OF TAKE-AWAY ITEMS FULLY PREPARED, READY TO TAKE HOME INCLUDING GRILLED PORK LOINS, HOME MADE MAC & CHEESE, MASHED POTATOES, HERB RUBBED CHICKEN, MADE IN HOUSE BBQ, CHICKEN SALAD DELI SALADS & MUCH MORE

DINNER TO GO

A DIFFERENT FULL DINNER EVERY NIGHT. SERVES FOUR SERVING MONDAY THROUGH SATURDAY FROM 4.30 UNTIL WE SELL OUT - CALL AHEAD TO RESERVE...

MONDAY: JAMES BEARD AWARDED CHEF, LOUIS OSTEEN'S LOW COUNTRY LOBSTER / SHRIMP BOIL MAINE LOBSTER TAILS, WILD CAUGHT LARGE SHRIMP, RED BLISS POTATOES, SUMMER CORN, HOUSE MADE SAUSAGE, ALL STEEPED IN LOUIS' PROPRIETARY SEASONING. SERVED WITH DRAWN BUTTER AND COCKTAIL SAUCE. \$33.95 SERVES TWO.

TUESDAY: OVEN OFF NIGHT TWO NATURAL CHICKEN BREASTS GRILLED WITH OUR TUSCAN HERB INFUSED OLIVE OIL, SERVED ON A BED OF GREENS WITH STUFFED BRIE, SPICED PECANS, OUR EXTRA VIRGIN OLIVE OIL AND BALSAMIC VINEGAR ON THE SIDE WITH TWO CUPS OF HOMEMADE GAZPACHO AND A BAGUETTE FROM OUR BAKERY. \$23.95 SERVES TWO

WEDNESDAY: PRIME RIB WITH BAKED POTATOES AND SALAD PREMIUM ANGUS STANDING RIB ROAST, COOKED MEDIUM RARE WITH RED WINE AU JUS, TWO BAKED POTATOES AND A LARGE CAESAR SALAD. \$32.95 SERVES TWO

THURSDAY: TWO RACKS OF BABY BACK RIBS - COOKED UNTIL FALL-OFF-THE-BONE-TENDER. SERVED WITH HOUSE MADE BACON/APPLE BAKED BEANS AND POTATO SALAD. \$24.95 SERVES TWO

FRIDAY: WILD CAUGHT SHRIMP; FRIED OR STEAMED WILD CAUGHT NORTH CAROLINA SHRIMP EITHER LIGHTLY BREADED IN OUR SEASONED CORN FLOUR MIXTURE, AND THEN PROPERLY FRIED IN PEANUT OIL AND SERVED

WITH HUSH PUPPIES; OR STEAMED TO ORDER IN OUR LOW COUNTRY SEASONING. BOTH COME WITH COLESLAW AND ROSEMARY SEA SALT BROILED RED POTATOES, TARTAR AND COCKTAIL SAUCE. \$25.95 SERVES TWO

SATURDAY: IN-HOUSE SMOKED BBQ HAND RUBBED PORK BUTT, PIT-SMOKED OVERNIGHT AND HAND PULLED TO ORDER. COMES WITH COLESLAW, APPLE AND BACON BAKED BEANS, AND YEAST ROLLS \$22.95 SERVES TWO

WINE MARKET

AN EXCELLENT, COMPREHENSIVE SELECTION OF WINE WITH THE BEST PRICES IN TOWN, AND RUN BY A KNOWLEDGEABLE STAFF. BEER AND WINE AVAILABLE BY THE GLASS WHILE YOU SHOP AND DINE.

BUTCHER

WE SELL ONLY 100% PREMIUM ANGUS BEEF, HAND CUT IN HOUSE. STOCK UP FOR THE WEEKEND EVERY THURSDAY WITH 35% ALL STEAKS AND GROUND BEEF. THEN STOP BY THE TAKE OUT CASE TO COMPLETE YOUR DINNER WITH TWICE BAKED POTATOES, FRESH SALADS AND MORE.

ARTISAN OIL AND VINEGAR

OVER 40 EXTRA VIRGIN OLIVE OILS AND VINEGARS TO CHOOSE FROM - ALL AVAILABLE TO SAMPLE.

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DOZENS OF CHEESES, TAPENADES, OLIVES AND SPECIALTY ITEMS TO CHOOSE FROM INCLUDING OUR MADE IN HOUSE CRACKERS.

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• HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

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

Monday

• 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

• Reading dog "Beebles" will be at Hudson Library every Tuesday at 3:30pm. Please call (828)526-3031 to register.
• Free Community Table Dinner at the Community Bldg. at 6p.

• Zumba at the Rec Park at 8:05a. \$5.

Starting Tues., Feb. 24

• 12-week NAMI Program to educate families dealing with mental illness, 6:30 to 8:30p. The course has the dual focus of education, and understanding the experience of living with mental illness. Confidentiality is maintained. Class size is limited and pre-registration required. Contact: Ann 369-7385 or Linda 369-9838

Mon., Wed., Fri.

• Heart Healthy Exercise Class Monday, Wednesday and Friday 8:30am-9:30am

• Aerobics with Tina Rogers 8-9a.

• Zumba at the Rec Park at 9:05a. \$5

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. 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 4 p.m. 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 Writers' 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.

• 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.

Last Fri. of each month

• Weight Watchers support group meets every Thursday at 6pm at the Cashiers Community Center. Questions? Call

Lisa 828-506-3555.

• Community Coffee with Mayor Pat Taylor from 11a to noon at The Hudson Library.

Sundays

• At the Mountain Laurel Tennis Club at 4:30 pm. Multi-denominational, Interactive Bible Study and Fellowship. Open to all.

Thurs., Jan. 29

• First meeting of the ICI Fund, at the Art Glass Cottage at 260 US 64 west at 6:30. The ICI Fund is offering scholarships to those in the Highlands community who would like to pursue their creative aspirations. For more information email Susie deVillie at susie@iCreativityi.com or call (828) 371-2079.

Friday, Jan. 30

• Community Coffee with Mayor Pat Taylor is held on the last Friday of each month at the Hudson Library in the Meeting Room from 11am 'til noon. This month's subject: Town Board issues and upcoming retreat.

Sat., Jan. 31

• The MET Opera this Saturday at the Highlands Performing Arts Center. Les Contes D'Hoffmann begins at 12:55pm with a pre-opera discussion at 12:30pm lead by Beverly Pittman. Les Contes D'Hoffmann tells the story of the poet Hoffmann's comic trials, tribulations, adventures, dalliances and loves. Tickets are available online: highlandspac.org or by calling 828.3526.9047. Adults: \$24 Members \$20.40 507 Chestnut Street, Highlands

• At the Satolah Fire Dept., chili, music and more. Eating begins at 5p: \$6 plate includes chili, cornbread and a drink. Take out available. Music begins at 6p. Oliver Rice and Mark Visage. Auction items. Cake Auction. All money raised goes to the Clear Creek Baptist Church to help with its furnace replacement cost.

Wed., Feb. 4

• At the Center for Plastic Surgery, get the skinny on Zeronia fat removal from 10a to 4p at Dr. Robert Buchanan's office at 209 Hospital Drive. For more information, call 526-3783.

MET Opera this Sat. at PAC

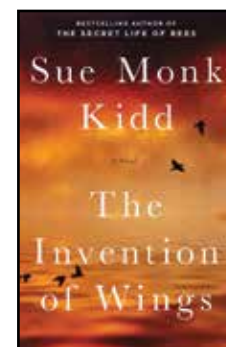


The MET Opera this Saturday (Jan.31) at the Highlands Performing Arts Center. Les Contes D'Hoffmann begins at 12:55pm with a pre-opera discussion at 12:30pm lead by Beverly Pittman. Les Contes D'Hoffmann tells the story of the poet Hoffmann's comic trials, tribulations, adventures, dalliances and loves. Get tickets online at highlandspac.org or call 828.3526.9047. Adults: \$24 Members \$20.40.

Hudson Library Book Club begins in Feb.

Each month the library will announce a *Topic of the Month*. Staff will provide collections of recommended Fiction, Nonfiction, Young Adult titles, and scholarly articles in the library and on our website. Staff will select one book relating to the topic that will be read by the Hudson Library Book Club. Genres may vary each month.

In February the *Topic of the Month* will be "Discrimination in America" and the book club selection will be Sue Monk Kidd's esteemed novel *The Invention of Wings*. A community discussion will be held on the last Tuesday of each month at 10:30 am. The main focus of the discussion will be the Book of the Month, but all who are interested in the topic are welcome to attend. Please call the library at (828)526-3031 or visit www.fontanalib.org for more information.





Highlands Playhouse



NOW SHOWING:

Imitation Game

PG-13 1hr 54min

Showtimes: Jan 30, 31 & Feb 5 @ 2, 5 & 8
Feb 1 @ 2 & 5

No movies Mon-Wed during the winter

highlandspayhouse.org



Follow us on Facebook!
Check your favorite
showtime app for up to date showtimes



362 Oak St

(828) 526-2695

• HS SPORTS •

Middle School – Girls

Tuesday, Jan. 13, the Lady Highlanders travelled to Cullowhee. They played a very close game, but lost 28 to 24.

Thursday, Jan. 15, they played Victory Christian where they won with an impressive score of 43 to 7.

Thursday, Jan. 22, they travelled to Rabun Gap and won a close game 18 to 16.

On Monday, Jan. 26, they travelled to Tamassee-Salem for the first round of tournaments. Unfortunately, they lost 31 to 11.

Middle School – Boys

The Middle School Highlanders also travelled to Cullowhee on Tuesday, Jan. 13. They lost 72 to 26.

On Thursday, Jan. 15, they played at home against Summit Charter and won 38 to 29.

On Thursday, Jan. 22, they travelled to Rabun Gap, but lost 54 to 17 finishing their regular season in third place.

On Monday, Jan. 26, they played Tallulah Falls in the first round of tournaments. They played a really good game, but lost 65 to 46.

Varsity

On Jan. 23, the teams travelled to Nantahala School. The girls came out with an impressive win 67 to 29. The boys lost 72 to 59.

On Monday the 26th, the teams were supposed to travel to Murphy but the game was rescheduled due to weather and was played Wednesday, Jan. 28.

Tuesday's home game against Cherokee was also cancelled and rescheduled for Saturday, Jan. 31.

– Sierra Nylund



Live in HD Series

The Metropolitan Opera **HD Live**

Les Contes D'Hoffmann

Saturday, January 31
12:55pm
Pre-Opera Discussion
12:30pm
Lead by Beverly Pittman
Adults: \$24 Members \$20.40

Highlands Performing Arts Center 507 Chestnut Street
Tickets available online: highlandspac.org or by calling 828.526.9047



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Organic Fresh Juices & Smoothies and Salads To Go!
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WINTER SALE
25% - 75% Off
Open Everyday!

On the
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3rd &
Spring

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PIZZA & ITALIAN STREET FOOD AT MOUNTAIN FRESH GROCERY



NEAPOLITAN PIZZAS

AUTHENTIC THIN CRUST PIZZAS WITH FRESH HAND-CUT INGREDIENTS \$11.95

CHOOSE CLASSICS LIKE:

RED MARGHERITA: FRESH MOZZARELLA, CRUSHED TOMATO & FRESH BASIL

PANCETTA: PANCETTA, ROASTED RED PEPPERS, MUSHROOMS, CRUSHED TOMATO & GRANDE MOZZARELLA

PROSCIUTTO ARUGULA: PROSCIUTTO DE PARMA, MUSHROOMS, GARLIC INFUSED EVVO, PECORINO, & FRESH ARUGULA TOSSED WITH EVVO

OR MODERN INTERPRETATIONS:

FIG & PIG: FIGS, PANCETTA, GRANDE MOZZARELLA, CRUSHED TOMATO, GORGONZOLA, TOPPED WITH ARUGULA TOSSED IN EVVO.

BBQ CILANTRO CHICKEN: PULLED CHICKEN, BBQ SAUCE, GRANDE MOZZARELLA, RED & GREEN ONION, FRESH CILANTRO.

...OR BUILD YOUR OWN.

N.Y. DECK OVEN PIZZAS

10 INCH \$10.95 / 16 INCH \$19.95

CHOOSE YOUR SAUCE:

ITALIAN RED TOMATO, ITALIAN WHITE CREAM, PESTO BASIL, OR BARBECUE

CHOOSE UP TO 5 TOPPINGS:

PEPPERONI, ITALIAN SAUSAGE, GROUND BEEF, HAM, BACON, CHICKEN, CARAMELIZED ONION, FRESH ONION, ROASTED RED PEPPERS, GREEN PEPPERS, BANANA PEPPERS, OLIVES, MUSHROOMS, PINEAPPLE, SPINACH, EGGPLANT, ARTICHOKE, ANCHOVIES, GRANDE MOZZARELLA, GORGONZOLA, PROVOLONE, FETA, AND PARMESAN

ITALIAN STREET FOOD \$10.95

LEMON ROSEMARY SAUTÉED CHICKEN, CRISPY CHICKEN FRITTE, ITALIAN SAUSAGE OR MEDITERRANEAN STEAK

ADD YOUR SAUCE: POMODORO, PESTO BASIL, ITALIAN WHITE CREAM, CREAMY PESTO

THEN IT'S ALL SAUTÉED WITH FRESH ANGEL HAIR PASTA, TOPPED WITH PARMAGIANO & SERVED WITH FRESH BAKED PIADINA

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• **SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING** •

That which divides, He who unites us

The Rev'd Jim Murphy
Christ Anglican Church

Watching the President's State of the Union address last week, caused me to reflect on the whole idea of "union."

The primary part of Webster's definition of "union" has to do with the uniting or the joining of two into one, especially as that may regard two separate political units. If Webster is right, then I'm confused. How can the "United" States be considered a "union" when there is so much rancor that divides us? How can someone who campaigned on "reaching across the aisle" and speaks of "we" when referring to the nation, say and do so much to set one side against the other?

Many of us remember with fondness the words of then President Ronald Reagan when he spoke to his counterpart in the old Soviet Union, "Gorbachev, tear down this wall!" He was, of course, referring to the "Berlin Wall" which had been erected decades earlier to divide and separate one city, one nation into two.

In a manner of speaking, the ministry of Jesus Christ was to do the very same thing, to tear down a wall. However, he came to tear down the spiritual wall that had separated us from God's abiding presence for better than two millennia. Jesus, as the apostle Paul said about the Lord, "[H]e himself is our peace, ... [he] has broken down... the dividing wall of hostility." (Ephesians 2:14, ESV) Instead of simply calling for peace, ala Reagan, Jesus was (is) Peace—the only portal through the dividing wall.

In the beginning of time, as the Book of Genesis describes it, the world was created in perfect peace. There was a one to one, personal relationship with God. There was no separation between God and mankind. Indeed, unbroken peace was the rule of the day everyday, the rule of the whole world. Hostility was unthinkable. Imagine a world such as that. No death, no pain, no war, no lack—for anyone or anything!

Hostility was unthinkable, that is, until sin entered the world. Invited and embraced by humanity, sin became the dividing wall between God and us. By definition, Holiness (God) and un-holiness (sinful humanity) cannot inhabit the same space. It's as when an odd number is added to an even number, the one changes the other. Sinfulness or unrighteousness would ruin the perfection of God. That being the case, a wall of separation was put in place for us and by us. When Adam and Eve were expelled from the Garden of Eden, a holy place, the angelic guards who were posted at the entrance came to represent that wall of hostility that we had erected.

What were we to do? A barrier guarded by the power of God himself, how could that be breached? It seemed as though we blew our one and only opportunity for godly, abiding peace. From our perspective, the wall could not and cannot be overcome. A divine initiative was called for.

Thanks be to God! He had a backup plan for us—Love does things like that. His plan was to provide a perfect offering for our sin, an entry way back into God's peace-filled, holy presence. Our almighty Father gave us His Son, Jesus Christ. He became the peace for everyone who was

• See **SPIRITUALLY** page 11

Proverbs 3:5

BLUE VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH

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

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

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

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

BUCK CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

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

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

CHAPEL OF SKY VALLEY

Sky Valley, GA • 706-746-2999

Sundays: 10 a.m.: Worship

Holy Communion 1st Sunday of the month

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

Communion

CHRIST ANGLICAN CHURCH

Rector: Jim Murphy, 252-671-4011

464 US Hwy 64 east, Cashiers

Sun.: 9:15a Christian Education at Buck's Coffee Cashiers

Crossroads; 10:30a Faithful, Family Service w/ Music &

Communion.

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

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.

COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH

www.cbchighlands.com • 526-4685

3645 Cashiers Rd, Highlands, NC

Senior Pastor Gary Hewins

Sun.: 9:30am: Sunday School

10:30am: Middle & High School; 10:45am: Child. Program,

10: 45am: Worship Service

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

University

EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE INCARNATION

Rev. Bruce Walker • 526-2968

Sundays: 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

828-526-4153 • www.fbchighlands.org

Dr. Mark Ford, Pastor

220 Main Street, Highlands NC 28741

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

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

Choir 5 pm

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Curtis Fussell & Emily Wilmarth, pastors

526-3175 • fpchighlands.org

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

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

Wednesdays: Choir: 5:30p

GOLDMINE BAPTIST CHURCH

(Off Franklin/Highlands Rd) • Rev. Carson Gibson

Sunday School: 10 am, Worship Service: 11 am

Bible Study: 6 pm

GRACE COMMUNITY CHURCH OF CASHIERS

Non-Denominational-Contemporary Worship

242 Hwy 107N, 1/4 miles from Crossroads in Cashiers

www.gracecashiers.com • Pastor Steve Doerter: 743-

9814

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

• PLACES TO WORSHIP •

John 3:16

HAMBURG BAPTIST CHURCH

Hwy 107N. • Glenville, Nc • 743-2729

Pastor Nathan Johnson

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

Wed. Kidsquest 6p.; Worship 7p.

HIGHLANDS ASSEMBLY OF GOD

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

Sundays: Worship: 11

HIGHLANDS CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Dan Robinson

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

Sun.: Morning Worship 10:45 a., Evening Worship, 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)

HOLY FAMILY LUTHERAN CHURCH: ELCA

Chaplain Margaret Howell • 2152 Dillard Road • 526-

9741

Sun: School and Adult discussion group 9:30 a.m.;

Worship/Communion: 10:30

HEALING SERVICE on the 5th Sunday of the month.

MACEDONIA BAPTIST CHURCH

8 miles south of Highlands on N.C. 28 S in Satolah

Pastor Troy Nicholson, (828) 526-8425

Sundays: School: 10 a.m.; Worship: 11, Choir: 6 p.m.

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

MOUNTAIN SYNAGOGUE

St. Cyprian's Episcopal Church, Franklin

828-369-9270 or 828-293-5197

MOUNTAIN BIBLE CHURCH

743-2583 • Independent Bible Church

Sun: 10:30 a.m. at Big Ridge Baptist Church,

4224 Big Ridge Road (4.5 miles from NC 107)

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

OUR LADY OF THE MOUNTAINS CATHOLIC

CHURCH

Parish office (Father Francis): 526-2418

Mass: Sun: 11 a.m.; Sat. at 4p

SCALY MOUNTAIN BAPTIST CHURCH

Rev. Marty Kilby

Sundays: School - 10 a.m.; Worship - 11 a.m. & 7

Wednesdays: Prayer Mtg.: 7 p.m.

SCALY MOUNTAIN CHURCH OF GOD

290 Buck Knob Road; Pastor 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

THE CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

1448 Highway 107 South, Office: 743-2359

Rev. Dr. Virginia Monroe

Oct-May: Sunday Services: Rite I, 8a Rite II, 10:30

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

Nursery available for Rite II services

Sept 7- Oct 26- Informal Evening Eucharist: 5:30 p.m.

Thursday: Noon Healing Service with Eucharist.

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP

85 Sierra Drive • 828-524-6777

Sunday Worship - 11 a.m. Child Care - 10:30a - 12:30p

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

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

WHITESIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Rev. Sam Forrester/Cashiers

Sunday School: 10 am, Worship Service: 11 am

...SATULAH continued from page 5

trail leading from your subdivision to the Satulah Mountain summit. Two lots, #53 and #54 at the southern end of the Satulah Ridge subdivision, will be converted to green space with a trail leading through them to the summit. If needed, the plan also includes the creation of a small parking area on the property for about eight cars at the trailhead. The project is undertaken with the support of the Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust that holds the summit property. It will give Satulah Ridge homeowners and other Highlanders convenient access through over 26 acres of protected green space to the top of Satulah Mountain," reads the letter.

The trail has been partially blazed and is marked with red

flags tied to trees to mark the way just until a proper trail is constructed.

"The people of Highlands contributed funds to buy the summit of Satulah in 1909. They placed it in a trust to be 'used and enjoyed' by the public 'forever.' In the recent past access to this public park has been a problem. So the Greenway is hoping to provide a convenient trail to Satulah's summit for the benefit of all Highlanders," said president of the Greenway Ran Shaffner.

Since communication makes for good neighbors, the Greenway has invited the homeowners and all Highlands citizens to its board meeting Monday, March 2 from 4-5:30 p.m. at the Recreation to learn more about the trail.

Those who can't attend the

March meeting are urged to email or write the Greenway with questions and thoughts. The email address is highlandsgreenway@nctv.com and the mailing address in PO Box 2608, Highlands, NC 28741.

Satulah Ridge Road is a public road and there aren't covenants or a homeowners' association preventing the Greenway from purchasing the lots or allowing public access either by foot or by vehicle to the lower cul-de-sac area on Satulah Ridge Road.

According to Quin, commercial uses on the lots aren't allowed but trails are OK.

Other projects in the works for the Greenway include continued work on the Sled Run Trail and the gazebo which will be a trail head onto the Greenway. A ramp and rock steps will be incor-

porated there.

The next project will be an extension to the Coker Rhododendron Trail which is part of the Nature Center trail system.

A land swap has enabled the re-directing of the trail away from

a residence and out to Bowery Road.

Shaffner and Quin also discussed the possible resurrection of the boardwalk system planned for the marsh area of Mirror Lake.

— Kim Lewicki

...LETTERS continued from page 2

they presented the teachers with donated school supplies from their congregations. Highlands United Methodist Church provided a welcome back breakfast for the staff. The Episcopal Church of the Incarnation gave teachers money for them to use for classroom supplies. And the First Baptist Church of Highlands, the First Presbyterian Church of Highlands and the Community

Bible Church have joined with HUMC, Incarnation and PTO to provide teachers with snacks for each faculty meeting.

These examples are just a few ways that the businesses, community organizations and individuals are supporting our local school. I apologize for not being able to name each and every business, group or person that has helped us this year but know that

your support is greatly appreciated!

A mere thank you doesn't seem to be enough to express our gratitude for the outpouring support this community gives to Highlands School. But it is a heartfelt thank you we offer to the many people who are helping to ensure the very best for our school, our teachers and our students!

Allison Tate,
HS PTO President

...MAYOR continued from page 2

just support these concerns. The old power plant has long ago been cited as a possible historical site, but it was never placed on a historic register. Instead, it has fallen into disrepair over the decades.

Another option would be to form some kind of a partnership

with Advanced Hydro that would constructively address all the concerns that have been raised. We have yet to meet the folks from Advanced Hydro, but I am certain that is not far away.

So the next months, and for that matter the coming years, will be a time of discussion, analysis

and planning over this proposed project. While I appreciate some folks' sense of urgency, there is no a simple and quick resolution of the issue. Rest assured the town will continue to be engaged in the process. Our Washington consultants are experts in this legal area and are keeping us informed.

...SPIRITUALLY continued from page 10

tired of separation, forlorn by the absence of perfect peace. Jesus became the passport through the only portal in that hostile, dividing wall. Moreover, he gives us the blessed pleasure of participating in his wall-destroying mission.

As our loving God resolved to craft a way to bring us back to his perfect, holy peace, let us resolve in this New Year to accept that passport through the wall (Jesus) and to be about his mission of tearing down all of the walls in this world until there is Perfect Peace for everyone.

The "United" States of America can only be "united" by one person. And it's not the President, nor is it any president or human being. Only Jesus Christ can destroy the original "dividing wall of hostility."

We can be a true "Union" only as we reach across the aisle and accept our Jesus as Lord and Savior. Sin is that which divides us but Jesus is he who will unite all who accept him. Then we can all join together in his mission of tearing down all of the walls that separate us from him and each other.

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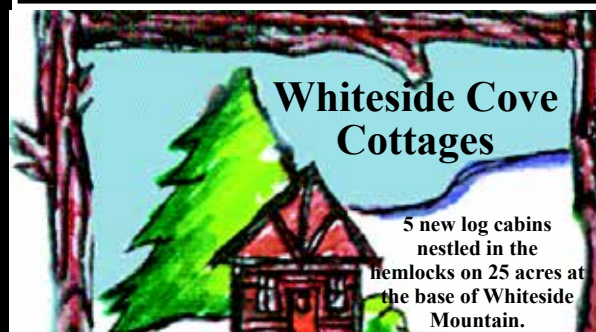
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Money Saving Tips – 1031 Exchanges – The Basics. Could this work for you?

By Wanda Klodosky
Landmark Realty Group

Ideally, when selling real estate your goal is to maximize your profits and minimize your taxes. Many people accomplish this through a tax deferred 1031 Property Exchange, also often referred to as a like-kind exchange or a Starker exchange (Starker is an international Intermediary company – basically like Coke or Xerox, the most known name in the business). Under Section 1031 of the Internal Revenue Code, the exchange of certain types of property may defer the recognition of capital gains (or losses) and any capital gains taxes that would be due. With capitals gains tax rates as high as 20% deferring those taxes until you realize a sale for cash can result in significant tax savings.

There are several factors to consider when contemplating a 1031 exchange. First and foremost, it doesn't apply to real property held for personal use. The property must be business or investment property so you cannot swap your primary residence. Any real property will be considered "like-kind" so long as both the old and new properties are held by the owner for investment, for use in trade or business, or for the production of income, even if they differ in grade or quality and whether or not they are improved or unimproved.

The least complicated exchange involves a simultaneous exchange of one property for another. The odds of finding two parties with the exact properties the other wants are slim, so most exchanges are Delayed Exchanges. These are the Starker exchanges and require

that the taxpayer have a Qualified Intermediary to hold their proceeds after they sell one property and use them to buy the replacement property. The taxpayer cannot receive the proceeds from the sale of their property, nor have access or control over those funds or it no longer qualifies as a 1031 Exchange.

The key elements in a delayed exchange are the selection of the Qualified Intermediary, selling your property, identifying replacement property within 45 days, giving written notice within that 45 day period to your Intermediary specifying the replacement property (or properties) and closing on the purchase of the replacement property within six months of the date of the closing on your property. If you have cash left over after the Intermediary acquires the

replacement property it is referred to as "boot" and that will be taxed as partial sales proceeds. If you don't receive cash but your liability goes down, that too will be treated as income.

An important consideration for investors in our market is that, while tricky, you can turn your vacation home into a rental property and do a 1031 exchange. For example you can stop using your mountain home and rent it out for six months or a year and then exchange it for other real estate. You can't move into the newly acquired property right away but will need to rent it out for a period of time according to IRS rules. These properties cannot simply be held for rent, but must actually be rented in order to qualify. Good records are key and generally speaking the longer a property is rented, the better.

If considering a 1031 exchange you should consult with your tax advisor to assure your transaction qualifies for tax deferred status. Your local Realtor will be a valuable partner in this process and will assist you in selling your property and finding replacement property. Your Landmark Realtors have 1031 Exchange experience and will also be able to advise you in the selection of a Qualified Intermediary to facilitate the exchange. The Intermediary will coordinate with your tax advisor, real estate agent, attorney and lender to ensure smooth and accurate processing of your exchange. They will also act as the principal, by way of assignment, in your sale and purchase. Thereby assuring that you do not have actual receipt of the funds.

• BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NEWS •

Innovation & Creativity Institute Fund to provide scholarships

Susie deVille has established The Innovation & Creativity Institute Fund (ICI Fund) for the benefit of the Highlands community. An affiliate fund of the Community Foundation of Western North Carolina, the ICI Fund's purpose is to support the discovery and pursuit of creative expression.

"The ICI Fund will offer scholarships to those in the Highlands community who would like to pursue their creative aspirations," said Susie deVille. "It will also offer a community to creators of all stripes, including those who may be able to fund their own pursuits, but who want to join in the conversation and enjoy fellowship and support."

The first ICI Fund meeting will be held on Thursday, January 29th at 6:30pm at the



Art Glass Cottage at 260 Franklin Road. deVille will review the needs-based application process, as well as suggestions on where one may pursue courses. deVille said, "We will also foster the beginnings of our creative community, so please join us regardless if you plan to seek a scholarship or not."

deVille said, "It is my belief that we are all creators, some of us just have not had the training to learn how to tap into our innate gifts. Or, perhaps, somehow along the way, we 'learned' we were not creative (which, of course, is not

true) through harsh comments made when we showed our early work to the world."

"Regardless, many of us have arrived at now with a gnawing knowing that we have more within us to share with the world," said deVille. "And through the act of creating (whether that be through painting, sketching, music, writing, photography, dance, acting, etc.), we intuitively know we can better connect with our true selves and with those around us. We lack tools, training, and a creative community."

deVille said, "Your (re)connection to your creativity is vital. Vital to your well being, your happiness, and your contributions to your family, your community, and, yes, to the world."

For more information email Susie deVille at susie@iCreativityi.com or call (828) 371-2079.

Hicks named HCCDC Business Director

Effective December 1, Joan C. Hicks became the new business manager for the Highlands Community Child Development Center (HCCDC). She follows Bob Wright, who recently retired from the position.

Hicks, a native of Highlands, comes to the Center with over 30 years experience in similar positions with organizations in the Highlands area. She studied accounting at Southwestern Community College and is a North Carolina Notary Public.

Duties of the business manager include processing payroll, accounts payable and receivable, preparing financial reports for the board of directors, grant writing, and other related responsibilities.

The Highlands Community Child Development Center is a 501(c)(3) corporation whose mission is to provide affordable, high-quality preschool child care and early childhood education to promote optimal cognitive, physical, emotional, and social development in a safe and loving environ-



ment to young children and their families regardless of race, color, national origin, gender, age, disability, religion, or financial status.

The Center, which is open year-round, is licensed by the state of North Carolina to serve 66 preschool children, ages 3 months to 5 years, whose parents work or attend school in Macon and Jackson Counties.

For more information, contact Pat Hedden at 828-526-8905 or visit the Center at 89 Church Street, Highlands.

Tax Forms

Due to IRS cutbacks, the library will only have Tax Forms 1040, 1040A, and 1040EZ and one reference copy of Publication 17 (Tax Guide for 2014) available for in library use this year.

Call 1-800-829-3676 or visit IRS.gov/orderforms to request forms. To view and download forms directly, they can also visit IRS.gov/forms.

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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)

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...CHANGES continued from page 3

Fields said the back of the business is littered with pallets, tables and other paraphernalia that the business needs but is stacked in the back rather than put away.

"It just doesn't look good," he said. "We want to clean it up and want to use the building to store everything."

The Zoning Board asked that Fields follow the Planning Board's request and paint the storage building one of the colors OK'd by the town.

Though the SUP was issued, Fields said he is considering a temporary vestibule made of canvas rather than a permanent structure. Planning Director Josh Ward said if he decides to take that route, he will have to return to the Zoning Board.

Fields said work on the storage building and the vestibule would likely begin in March.

- Kim Lewicki

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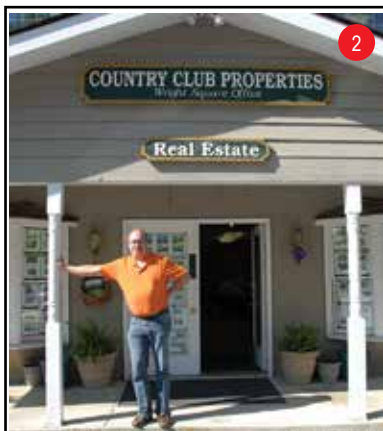
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