

Highlands Newspaper

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Thurs., Oct. 27, 2016

Commissioners agree to pay \$10,000 to help fight Duke

Starting the next billing cycle, Highlands' utility customers will see a slight increase in their electric bills as once again Duke moves to recover costs.

The coal ash cleanup and Duke's efforts to pass that cost

on to its customers still looms, but the increase that will show up in Highlands next utility bill and will continue for another 11 months has to do with Duke's green renewable energy responsibilities.

At the Oct. 20 Town Board

meeting, Kevin O'Donnell of Nova Energy Consultants, Inc., – Highlands' Duke liaison – explained that Duke is required by law to charge and change the rate for its renewable energy portfolio once a year. So the fee will increase

from 70 cents to \$1.26 a month for residential customers and from \$4.60 to \$5.80 for commercial customers.

Duke is required to either generate or buy green renew-

•See DUKE page 12

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Expansion at 200 Main points to need

20 more rooms planned

Long before Old Edwards Hospitality Group purchased the Mountain High Lodge property at 200 Main Street there were plans to someday add more buildings.

So said John Lupoli, of Lupoli Construction and Real Estate, the company that built the original lodge years ago.

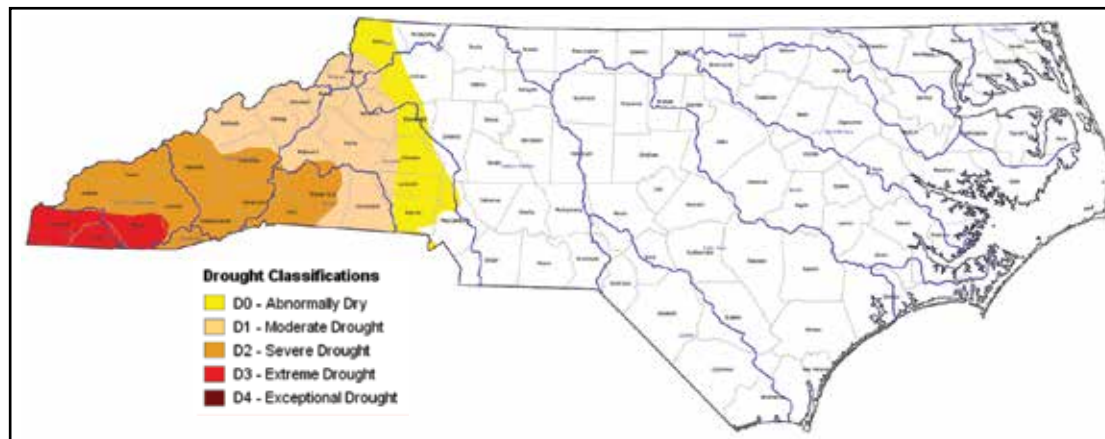
Now that day has come.

At the Oct. 24 Planning Board meeting, board members got a first look at the expansion planned for the vacant portions of OEI's 200 Main 2.84-acre motel complex bordered by Main, 2nd and Oak streets.

The existing facility includes three buildings with a total of 49 motel units. The expansion which is proposed to be erected on the vacant land on the west-

•See 200 MAIN page 14

US Drought Monitor of North Carolina



It's official: Macon County/Highlands is in an 'Extreme' drought

When Bridal Veil Falls ceases to be a "waterfall" it usually means Highlands hasn't gotten rain in a while.

As of October 20, it's official – Macon, Cherokee and Clay counties – the three far west counties in the state are experiencing Extreme Drought Conditions.

The North Carolina Drought Advisory issued by the Drought Management Advisory Council

weekly reflects drought conditions.

Until further notice, the NCDMAC strongly urges the implementation of drought response actions for all water users located in or dependent on water resources from the areas of the state experiencing the following drought conditions:

(D3) Extreme drought conditions – Macon, Cherokee and Clay (D2) Severe drought condi-

tions.

(D1) Moderate drought conditions.

(D0) Impending drought conditions (abnormally dry conditions).

At the Oct. 20 Town Board meeting, Acting Town Manager and Public Service Administrator Lamar Nix said despite the drought and the influx of people

•See DROUGHT page 6

Hurricanes finish 2nd at the 'Fall Fun Invitational'

On Saturday, Oct. 15, the Highlands Hurricanes Swim Team traveled to Murphy, NC to participate in the "Fall Fun Invitational." Four teams were invited -- Highlands Hurricanes, Cherokee County Aquatic Club, Jackson County Swim team, and North Georgia Rapids. The Hurricanes continue to excel. At the invitational, the young team finished second.

In addition, the Hurricanes set nine team records and the 19 Highlands swimmers set 48 personal best times. All 19 swimmers scored at least four points to lift the Hurricanes over the rapids.

Leading the team and winning four races, setting three team records and scoring 28 points was Elias McKim. Chase Kenter won three races, set two team records, and scored 26.5 points. Setting

•See HURRICANES page 7

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• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• MAYOR ON DUTY •

We all have common goals and common woes

I attended the North Carolina League of Municipalities Annual Conference earlier this week in Raleigh. It was a long, yet productive trip.

The NC League of Municipalities is the advocate for over 500 towns and cities concerning legislative issues. It also provides consulting and support services to member municipalities regardless of whether it is little Highlands or mighty Charlotte.

I met a number of mayors and council members from cities and towns across the state. I sat at a table of mayors at the beginning of the conference where the hot topic was downtown parking. I felt right at home.

The consensus of this distinguished group was that everyone wants to park on the main street and nowhere else. Hum, that sounds familiar. Some towns have no meters and no limit on visitor parking on their main streets. Other towns have a two-hour parking limit. Like I said, sounds familiar, not long ago Highlands had a two-hour limit.

Several mayors expressed frustration that store owners and their employees in-



Mayor Pat Taylor

sisted on parking right in front of their stores. One resort community mayor said he couldn't reason with his business folks that it was in their interest to let visitors, their potential customers, park in front of their stores. Wow!

The other common issue for the mayors around the table was to build, or not to build parking decks. Some residents believe parking decks would easily solve the problem. The mayors all had similar accounts. Folks guaranteed that everyone would use the parking decks in lieu of parking on crowded main streets. The decks would simply pay for themselves through charging parking fees. Many of the mayors had researched the issue and were very skeptical about the proclaimed benefits of parking decks and garages. Like I say, I felt really at home. My take away? Parking is a universal problem entailing difficult solutions.

The conference identified a number of goals for the next legislative session. The League will work with legislators in the hope these concerns can be addressed. Let me highlight just a few.

First, the League supports federal and state legislation to require sales tax be collected on internet purchases from such companies as Amazon and Google. Now I know some folks may not agree, but I side with our local merchants who are required to collect state sales tax. It is simply a matter of fairness for Internet purchases to be on a level playing field with retail sales.

Another League goal will be to seek legislation that allows room occupancy tax revenues to be used to fund municipal service and infrastructure costs in order to support travel and tourism. Currently, the greater part of these tax revenues are earmarked for advertising and marketing for more tourism. Resort communities are pressed to fund support services as the number of tourists increase.

Another goal will be to support legislation that recognizes management of a public utility is best determined by the local government owning it. In recent years, there have been efforts by the state legislature to take away control of utilities like the Asheville water system. The residents in towns that paid the taxes and fees to build the utility should have control of their utili-

ties through elected representatives.

Another goal that was adopted was to seek legislation that provides for municipal elections to be determined by local municipal authority. In the upcoming legislative session, a bill will be introduced to require municipal elections to be held on the even number years of congressional and presidential elections. Granted there are credible arguments on both sides of the issue, but the League believes that local governments should make the decision on when they hold their elections.

Now, I could cover many other issues, but time and space are limited. Nevertheless, thriving towns and cities are critical to our state. About 80% of the jobs in North

Carolina are connected to towns and cities. Around 70% of the population live in incorporated communities. I came away from this conference realizing that local elected officials want to work with our state legislators in making sure communities -- our home towns -- prosper.

One last note.

Our fellow citizens on the eastern part of the state suffered a major blow from Hurricane Matthew. At the conference, I heard countless stories of elected officials, first-responders and volunteers doing extraordinary acts of courage and sacrifice in service to their communities. Sometimes, even in disastrous moments, our faith in humanity is affirmed.

• THANK YOU •

Thanks for beautifying our neighborhood!

A huge thank you to our mayor, Pat Taylor, in having the derelict house owned by the town of Highlands removed from Many Road. The only critters who were unhappy were the rodents who lived there. Highlands....and Many Road, look a lot cleaner.

Fred Wooldridge
Highlands and North Palm Beach, FL.

Need help staying warm this winter?

The Highlands Emergency Council will be accepting applications requesting financial help for the cost of propane gas, fuel oil, and wood for those in need. Applications will be accepted on Thursday, October 27th and Friday, October 28th from 10 am to 2 pm at the HEC office on Poplar Street (next to Wilson gas). Proof of income is required. No applications will be accepted after these dates. Applications must be filled out in person, no applications will be taken over the phone.

Also, The Highlands Emergency Council will be accepting Christmas Program applications requesting help for those in need with children. Applications will be accepted

•See HELP page 9

• WEEKEND WEATHER •

FRIDAY OCT 28	SATURDAY OCT 29	SUNDAY OCT 30
		
69°/44°	71°/47°	73°/45°

For real-time weather and the extended forecast go to
www.highlandinfo.com and click on Weather

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.

• OBITUARY •

Luther Odell Stewart



Luther Odell Stewart, 86, passed away Friday, October 21, 2016 at his residence surrounded by his family. Mr. Stewart was born November 23, 1929 in Jackson County to the late John Luther Stewart and Ollie Mae Moss Stewart. Mr. Stewart served his country as a U.S. Army veteran during the Korean Conflict from 1952-1954 making it to the rank of corporal. He was a timber dealer and a farmer. During his free time he loved to hunt, fish, and go to flea markets. He was also a member of the Yellow Mountain Baptist Church.

Survivors include his wife, Lola Mae Stewart of the home; a son, Jay (Laura) Stewart of Cashiers; two grandchildren, Julie Stewart Bennett (Christopher) and Karl Stewart (Malori); eight great-grandchildren, Jordin Dominique, James Maddox, Marisa Cole, Justine Dominique, Evan Pressley, Maddox Stewart, Garett Stewart and Evelyn Bennett.

A funeral service was held Wednesday, October 26, 2016 at the Yellow Mountain Baptist Church with the Rev. Rick Potts officiating. Burial followed in the Evitt Cemetery. Pallbearers were Roger

Stewart, Jim Mull, Dwaine Stewart, Keith Stewart, Brian Stewart and Darren Stiwinter.

Online condolences can be left at bryantgrantfuneralhome.com

Bryant-Grant Funeral Home and Crematory served the Stewart family.

Donations coming in to fund fireplace memorial at K-H Founders Park

Families invited to unite in memory of children lost

Highlands co-founder Truman Kelsey's monument at the Kelsey-Hutchinson Founders Park has taken on new meaning.

At the site, a plaque has been designed to list children lost to area families.

The monument is under construction and will cost \$45,000.

For Highlands families who have lost a child and make a donation in his or her memory, the name of their child will be included on a plaque in the fireplace area in the park.

The plaque is 11 inches wide and 14 inches deep and there is room for 20 names.

To make a tax deductible donation to remember the child, make checks payable to **Friends of the Park and mail it to PO Box 1703, Highlands, NC, 28741.** Please include the name of the child you would like to honor so it can be included on the plaque. Space is limited.

Names will be listed as per donation received NOT based on the amount donated.



For more information, please contact Nick Bazan at nicholas.bazan@gmail.com or 828-371-2653.



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M F G R O . C O M

...DROUGHT continued from page 1

to the plateau, "Right now we are OK."

"The water treatment plant is producing 500,000 to 600,000 gallons per day even on weekends and even with the required cold water release, we still have positive flow over the Lake Sequoyah dam," he said.

Drought Classification and Response Actions

D3-Extreme Drought

The NCDMAC urgently advises all water users in the counties that are indicated on the US Drought Monitor Map of North Carolina as suffering from Extreme Drought (D3) conditions to participate in regional and local coordination

for the management of water resources.

Reduce socially and economically important water uses to ensure the availability of water for critical needs (e.g. firefighting, health and safety, etc.).

Even though Highlands isn't facing a shortage of water, Nix suggests people conserve, somewhat.

"I would like to see people to voluntarily stop irrigation. With the temperatures dropping and the changing of the seasons, it is time to do that anyway," he said.

On October 13, the US Forest Service warned that the danger of fire was increasing in Western NC.

"The persistent drought over the last few months has resulted in dry conditions and "fuels" in the forest will readily burn if ignited. Fire danger is predicted to remain high for the rest of October and into December," read its warning. "Use caution in any outdoor burning. Even when burn-bans are not in effect, conditions may not be advisable for outdoor fires. The public is discouraged from burning yard waste or building campfires during periods of low humidity or high winds."

According to Highlands Fire & Rescue Chief Ryan Gearhart, as of Monday, Oct. 24, the USFS has not issued a burning ban.

"However," said Gearhart, "given the high winds and dry conditions, starting a fire would be dangerous for sure."

— Kim Lewicki

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...HURRICANES continued from page 1



Hurricanes team member Elias McKim getting ready to start at the Fall Fun Invitational held in Murphy Oct. 15.

three team records, winning one race and scoring 24 points was Vivi Geren, while Conner Hughes set one team record and scored 22.5 points.

In her first swim meet ever, Savannah Byrd won two races and also scored 22.5 points.

Jelehna McKim won two races and scored 22 points.

Penelope Hilson won three races while scoring 20 points.

La-Donna Dallmann won one race and scored 18.5 points, while Andre and Dasha Halldin both won one race and scored 16.5 points.

Vivianne Kennedy also won one race and scored 13.5 points.

New swimmer Hayden BySura won one race and scored 11.5 points.

Ben Halldin won two events and scored 10.5 points

Fen Hilson won a race and scored 9.5 points, while Mia Kaylor and Ellie BySura both won one race and scored 8.5 points.

Jackson Gagne won a race and scored eight points; Peyton Kaylor scored eight points and Blake Kenter scored four points.

The Highlands Hurricanes are a Highlands Recreation Park Swim Team that practices at the Highlands Rec Park Pool in the evenings during the week and on Satur-

day mornings. Attendance at all practices is not required. The only requirement to join is that you can to swim 25 yards (one pool length) unassisted.

For more information please call Steve Hott, Head Coach @ 828.421.4121 or the Highlands Rec Park Pool at 828.526.1595.

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Do you have questions about affordable health insurance for 2017?

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The fourth year of Marketplace Open Enrollment starts November 1, 2016 and lasts until January 31, 2017. Now is your chance to learn about affordable insurance plans in your area, get enrolled, re-enroll, or even apply for an exemption from the fine for not having health insurance.

In 2017 the fine for not having health insurance will be \$695 or 2.5% of your income, whichever is higher.

This year many consumers may be confused if they received a notice that their health insurance company is leaving the Marketplace. The good news is, Mountain Projects, Inc. is here to help! We encourage consumers to come in during November, update your income, explore plan options and make sure your financial help continues as well as your insurance coverage. New plans and new prices are available every year!

Financial help may be available to make the plans even more affordable. Last year 9 out of 10 North Carolina enrollees received financial help! Having health coverage gives people the peace of mind of knowing that in the event of an unexpected illness or medical emergency, they would be covered.

Affordable Care Act plans cover all essential health benefits, from emergency hospitalization, prescriptions, maternity, pediatric care and much more! Those with pre-existing conditions like asthma, diabetes or even cancer can no longer be denied coverage. Many free preventive care services (such as wellness visits, flu shots, blood pressure and diabetes screenings and a long list of other services) are also available to all Marketplace policy holders - even before you've met your deductible!

Call now to schedule a free local in-person appointment with a Certified Marketplace Navigator (enrollment assister) at Mountain Projects, Inc. You can call locally at 400-4177 or toll free 1-800-627-1548.

...HELP continued from page 3

on Thursday, October 27th and Friday, October 28th from 10 am to 2 pm at the HEC office on Poplar Street (next to Wilson gas). Proof of income is required. No

applications will be accepted after these dates. Applications must be filled out in person, no applications will be taken over the phone.



• BIZ/ORG NEWS •

Rotary Bingo benefits Cub Scouts Pack 207



On Thursday, October 6, the Rotary Club of Highlands partnered with Highlands Cub Scout pack 207 to sponsor Bingo. All net proceeds benefit Highlands local Cub Scouts. The photo above shows the final Super Bingo game winner Brayden Hahn with Rotarian Bill Edwards.



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• HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

ONGOING

- Movies at the Highlands Playhouse: Friday - Tuesday: 2, 5, and 8 pm.
- Highlands Hurricanes Swim Team is open to all levels of swimmers ages 6-18. Contact Coach Steve Hott at 828-421-2121.

First Mondays

Bluegrass at PAC, Sat., Oct. 29



The Highlands Performing Arts Center proudly presents Bluegrass at its finest on Saturday, October 29 with Michael Cleveland and Flamekeeper.

Michael Cleveland is considered one of the premier bluegrass fiddlers of his generation; Mike picked up a fiddle at age four, and his talent was recognized early.

In 1993 he was chosen to be part of the Bluegrass Youth All Stars at the IBMA's award show. Later that year Mike made his Grand Ole Opry debut as a guest of Alison Krauss.

His list of guest appearances over the years is a who's who of bluegrass legends including Bill Monroe, Jim and Jesse, Ralph Stanley, Mac Wiseman, Doc Watson, Larry Sparks, Doyle Lawson, and J.D. Crowe.

After high school Mike briefly toured with then-named Dale Ann Bradley and Coon Creek before joining Rhonda Vincent and The Range in 2000. At the 2001 IBMA awards, Mike

took his first Fiddle Player of the Year award, and shared the title of Entertainer of the Year with Rhonda Vincent and the Range. Michael Cleveland broke records on Thursday, October 1, 2015 when he was once again named the

Mondays

• At the Rec Park, High Cardio Zumba Fitness with Certified Instructor Tiffany Austin at 5:25 p.m.

Mon. & Wed.

• Zumba with Mary K. Bar-

Bluegrass at PAC, Sat., Oct. 29



bour at the Rec Park from noon to 1p. For more information, call 828.342.2498.

Mon. & Thurs.

• The Joy Program at HUMC from 11:30a to 1:30p. Includes a free lunch and a variety of programs and games. All seniors are welcome. For more information, call Tricia Smith at 828-338-8167.

Mon., Wed., Fri.

• Heart Healthy Exercise Class 8:30am-9:30am at the Rec Park.

• Aerobics with Tina Rogers 8-9a.

Tuesdays

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

• The Beyond the Walls Book discussion group meets at 4 PM at The Ugly Dog Public House. Each week a short story discussed.

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

First Tuesdays

• The monthly family support group for those with family members, friends, or loved ones living with the challenge of mental illness meets at 7 p.m. at Memorial United Methodist Church, 4668 Old Murphy Road, Franklin. For info call 369-7385.

2nd and 4th Tuesdays

• OccupyWNC meets at the Jackson County Justice Center. For more information, visit www.occupywnc.org or call 828.331.1524

Third Tuesday

• The Macon County Poultry Club meets in Franklin on the third Tuesday of each month at 7pm. Meetings are open to the public of all ages. The meetings are held at the NC Cooperative extension office located at 193 Thomas Heights rd. For information call 828-369-3916.

Tuesday and Thursdays

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

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

Wednesdays

• 49ers Bridge Club at the Rec Park at 8:45 a.m. Be seated by 8:30.

• Open Duplicate Bridge at 1 p.m. Be seated by 12:45 a.m.

1st Wednesdays

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

3rd Wednesdays

• Recently released movies at Hudson Library at 2pm. Call 828-526-3031 for titles.

Thursdays

• Storytime with Miss Deanna at Hudson Library 10:40 am. Open to the public.

• Zahner Lecture Series at 6:30 p.m. at the Nature Center. Free

• Weight Watchers support group meets every Thursday at 5 pm at Christ Church of the Valley. Call Lisa 828-506-3555.

• NAMI Support Group for individuals dealing with mental illness: depression, bipolar, schizophrenia, etc., and the family members of individuals dealing with these challenges from 7 – 8:15 pm. at First United Methodist Church Out Reach Center on West Main Street beside Bryant's Funnel Home. Call Donita for more info (828) 526-9510.

2nd Thursdays

• Sapphire Valley Needlepoint Guild meets at the Highlands Rec Park at 10 a.m.

3rd Thursdays

• Kidney Smart Classes in Franklin: from 4:30-6pm, Angel Medical Center, Video Conference Room, 3rd Floor, 120 Riverview St. Contact Majestic 828-369-9474

• Kidney Smart Classes in Sylva: from, 7:30am-9am, DaVita Sylva Dialysis Center, 655 Asheville Highway, Contact Sue 828-631-0430

Fridays

• 99ers Bridge Club at the Rec Park at 9 a.m. Be seated by 8:45 a.m.

• Open Duplicate Bridge at 1 p.m. Be seated by 12:45 a.m.

• Friday Night Live, 6-8pm in Town Square. Live music. Free

Saturdays

• At MountainTop Wine Shoppe on Main Street, free wine tastings from 1-3 p.m.

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

• Highlands Marketplace at K-H Park 8a to noon.

• The Bascom Knitters on the Terrace at The Bascom from 10 am until noon. In event of cold/rain, meet downstairs in The Bascom Library room.

Thurs., Oct. 27

• The Bascom Book Club meets on the 4th Thursday of the month. Meetings are held in the downstairs conference area at the Bascom. The meeting time is 3– 5p. .Euphoria by Lily King

• Art on the Hill at Chestnut Hill from 4-5:30 p.m. in the clubhouse. The photography of Peter Ray will be featured.

Fri., Oct. 28

• At the Highlands Nature Center, the Halloween Enchanted Forest from 6-7:30 p.m. \$1 per person.

• The last Community Coffee with Mayor Pat Taylor for 2016. The toopic is "Priorities for the Coming Year." 11 a.m. until noon. Refreshments will be served.

Fri. & Sat., Oct. 28-29

• A free conference for young ladies and women on "Discovering how to revive the beauty of Biblical womanhood" will be held Friday & Saturday at South Macon Baptist Church, Clarks Chapel Road, in Franklin, NC. To register, please go to www.tomorrowsofathers.com/store/conferenceregistration. Registration deadline is Saturday, October 22.

Sat. Oct. 29

• At PAC, Bluegrass: Michael Cleveland & Flamekeeper at 8 p.m. Call 828-526-9047.

• At the Playhouse, The Rocky Horror Picture Show, one show only at 10 p.m. Props for sale - \$5. Costumes are encouraged. 828-2526-2695.

Sun., Oct. 30

• Internationally acclaimed

• HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

performer-composer Brad Richter will appear Sunday at 3 p.m., in the central hall of the Macon County Public Library. Former International Fingerstyle Guitar Champion and winner of the International Composers Guild Competition, Richter is widely known for his particular brand of cross-genre chamber music, drawing on the diverse traditions of world music and Native American indigenous music, as well as pop and classical music.

• At PAC, the Bolshoi Ballet LIVE via satellite at 1 p.m. Tickets available online: highlandspac.org, at the door or by calling: 828.526.9047 507 Chestnut Street, Highlands NC

Mon., Oct. 31

• Annual Trick or Treating on Main Street in Highlands. Festivities begin at 6:30 p.m.

Thurs., Nov. 3

• Bingo at the Community Building to benefit the High-

lands Literacy Council at 6:30 p.m. There are 15 games at \$1 per card, creating a night of entertainment for only \$15 per person.

Thurs.-Sun., Nov. 10-13

• Highlands Food & Wine. Thurs., 7p Grand Tasting at The Bascom; Fri., 11a to 3p, Truckin' Old Creek Circle, Highlands. 11a to 4p, Sip & Stroll at various retail locations; 6p Wine Dinners at various restaurants; Sun., 11a-12p, Gospel Brunch at 5th Street at Carolina Way; 6p, Rockwood Rocks at Rockwood Lodge. For ticket and festival information, visit www.highlandsfoodandwine.com

Thurs., Nov. 10

• The November meeting of the Western North Carolina Woodturners Club, Inc. will be on Thursday at 6PM at the Blue Ridge School in Glenville, NC. The School is located at 95 Bobcat Drive, Cashers NC. This is the last meeting for 2016.



Events in Franklin

Week Long collections

- New Coats Drive
- New Shoes Drive (vouchers or gift cards please we don't know what sizes we need)
- Food Drive
- sponsorships for 'a night in my shoes'
- donations of money
- volunteers needed.

All proceeds will be split between local organizations providing for homelessness

Schedule of events

11/12/16 kickoff 2 pm county forum area (courthouse)

11/13/16 The Homeless stretch (walk) Hardee's parking lot-JC park in town, Dinner 5 PM, Advocates 6:30 PM

11/14/16 Dinner 6:30 pm on the square (courthouse forum grounds)

11/15/16 Info day, help us hand out info about hunger and homelessness in Macon county. Raffles and ticket sales for (community cares day at Bloemsma Farms)

11/16/16 Lunch on Me Day, skip lunch and donate what you would have spent to the cause. Benefit dinner 5:00 pm Bear park in town with The voice of Homelessness speakers

11/17/16 Hearts for Homeless (Community building) 10 am -5 pm

11/18/16 A Night in my shoes Sleep outside with us to raise awareness 7:00 pm- 7:00 am

11/19/16 Our community Cares Day, live music all day, kids fun, lunch and dinner offered, raffles, cake walk, giveaways.

11/20/16 3:00 pm prayer, 4:00 pm volunteer input meeting

Celebrate Halloween the natural way with the Halloween Enchanted Forest on Friday, October 28th from 6-7:30pm! Guided tours of the Botanical Garden will lead you trick-or-treating around the trail to meet some native animal characters offering candy and facts about themselves. Beware the forest in the last half hour as it will turn from enchanted to haunted and the animals will definitely be more "trick" than "treat." After it's fun activities, in the Nature Center. Admission is \$1 per person. For more information on this event call (828) 526-2623 or visit our website at www.highlandsbiological.org.

Halloween Enchanted Forest, Friday, Oct. 28



The Bolshoi Ballet LIVE via satellite at PAC, Sun., Oct. 30

The Highlands Performing Arts Center will present The Bolshoi Ballet, Live via Satellite from Moscow, production of The Golden Age. Music by Dmitri Shostakovich, Choreography by Yuri Grigorovich.

In a seaside town where business and mafia are flourishing, The Golden Age cabaret is the favorite nightly haunt of dancers, bandits and young revelers, where the young fisherman Boris falls in love with Rita, a beautiful dancer, but also the friend of a local gangster.

A satire of Europe during the Roaring '20s, The Golden Age makes for an original, colorful, and dazzling show with its jazzy score and music hall atmosphere. This ballet that can only be seen at the Bolshoi has everything to it: mad rhythms,



vigorous chase scenes, and decadent cabaret numbers.

With its passionate love story featuring beautiful duets between Boris and Rita, the Bolshoi dancers plunge into every stylized step and gesture magnificently. Sunday,

October 30 at 1pm.

Tickets available online: highlandspac.org, at the door or by calling: 828.526.9047 507 Chestnut Street, Highlands NC

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...DUKE continued from page 1

able energy so it passes the cost to do this onto its customers and Highlands is one of its wholesale customers.

Having no choice in the matter, commissioners voted unanimously to accept O'Donnell's recommendation.

He also discussed at length his plan to minimize the impact of Duke's planned rate increase to offset its coal ash cleanup and management strategy costs.

Duke wants its customers to pay for expenses it incurred cleaning up the Feb. 2014 coal ash spill in the Dan River. It also wants its customers to pay for the now mandated Coal Ash Management plan that requires it to close its existing coal ash ponds and to convert from wet ash to dry ash handling.

The NC Legislation passed the Coal Ash Management Act (CAMA) in Sept. 2014 in response to the spill.

Stockholders paid for the spill cleanup but Duke wants to recoup those costs and is hoping the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) will allow it to do so by changing its wholesale customer con-

tracts.

O'Donnell contends that from January 1, 2012, Duke Energy Carolinas and Duke Energy Business Services failed to properly maintain and inspect the two stormwater pipes underneath the primary coal ash basin at the Dan River Steam Station in Eden, NC. So, on February 2, 2014, one of those pipes failed, resulting in the discharge of approximately 27 million gallons of coal ash wastewater and between 30,000 and 39,000 tons of coal ash into the Dan River.

Duke Energy Progress and Duke Energy Business Services also failed to maintain the riser structures in two of the coal ash basins at the Cape Fear Steam Electric Plant, resulting in the unauthorized discharges of leaking coal ash wastewater into the Cape Fear River, he said.

Additionally, Duke Energy Carolinas and Duke Energy Progress's coal combustion facilities throughout North Carolina allowed unauthorized discharges of pollutants from coal ash basins via "seeps" into

• See DUKE page 13



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...DUKE continued from page 12

adjacent waters of the United States.

"This means that Duke violated the Federal Water Control Act – the Clean Water Act," he said.

Next, on Dec. 19, 2014, the EPA issued Coal Combustion Residual (CCR) standards that provided minimum national criteria for CCR landfills, CCR surface impoundments, and lateral expansion of coal-fired units.

For O'Donnell the critical question is the costs of CCR standards versus CAMA requirements.

Using the CAMA scenario, Duke in the Carolinas – Duke Energy Progress and Duke Energy Carolina – pay asset retirement obligations of \$2,188 and \$2,161, respectively.

However, using the CCR scenario other utility companies in Georgia, Kentucky, Indiana and Ohio pay a minimum of \$94 to a maximum of \$700.

O'Donnell contends that CCR standards cost substantially less than CAMA standards and there is no reason why customers in the Carolinas should have to pay CAMA fees rather than fees calculated through CCR, when CAMA was initiated due to Duke's wrongdoing in the first place.

Meanwhile, Duke wants its money back and it wants its customers – not its stockholders – to pay the bill.

Duke has served notice to NOVA that it intends to seek a change in its contracts at the FERC to allow coal ash recovery.

"I think we should intervene as a group [his seven wholesale clients] in the upcoming Duke accounting filings and its upcoming cost recovery case," said O'Donnell. "Duke has some responsibility and they need to pick up some of the costs for this. It shouldn't get a free ride."

Estimated cost for coal ash cleanup to Highlands alone will be about \$1 million and Duke's plan is to recover the majority of the cost over the next 15 years.

O'Donnell asked the commissioners to join his other six energy wholesalers and set aside \$10,000 to retain an attorney to investigate the legal aspect of the case.

The legal counsel would then intervene in the upcoming Duke accounting filing and intervene in the upcoming Duke cost-recovery case.

"Basically, we are buying a legal voice as Duke goes to FERC so we can oppose at least part of what they want," said O'Donnell.

He contends that his clients could pay the CCR costs which are substantially less than the proposed CAMA costs. "The stockholders should shoulder most of this, not customers," he said.

The board agreed to set aside the money, but Commissioner John Dotson asked O'Donnell to make sure he gets the best price from the lawyer.

"We want to get the most bang for our buck and use the smallest buck we can," he said. He said it may be that the lawyer wouldn't require \$70,000.

O'Donnell reminded the board that Duke has to get approval from FERC to change its wholesale contracts to recoup its money.

"This doesn't mean we are going to fight against everything, but we want to separate the cost between the CAMA fees and the CCR fees," he said.

Mayor Pat Taylor said it's like a poker game. "We have to ante up to have a voice."

– Kim Lewicki

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• LIFE LESSONS FROM THE GAME OF GOLF •

Appreciating the seasons of your life

Golf is the closest game to the game we call life. You get bad breaks from good shots; you get good breaks from bad shots - but you have to play the ball where it lies – Bobby Jones

In Highlands, we are currently enjoying the beauty of the weather and the changing of the leaves, but we are preparing for winter. Fortunately, Highlands has four distinctive seasons...spring, summer, fall and winter. While Highlands is known for three of its seasons,



Davis Picklesimer
Mountain Top Wine

our few months of winter are often avoided.

Is there still beauty even in the winter months? Can there be a full appreciation of spring, summer and fall if winter is avoided?

Bobby Jones understood this at an early age when he made the above statement but he would live out this belief later in life. On August 18, 1948 one of the greatest golfers, Bobby Jones, played his last round of golf at the age of

• See SEASONS page 15

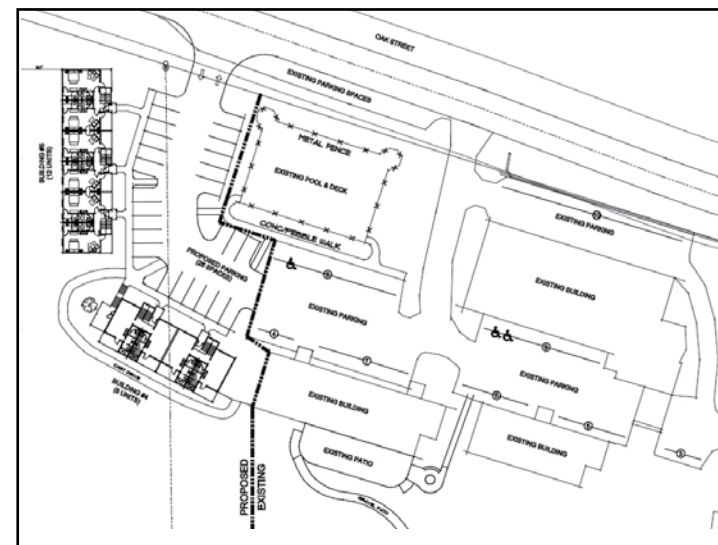
...200 MAIN continued from page 1

ern end of the complex will include two, two-story buildings with a total of 20 rooms. The building along the Main Street side will have eight units. The building bordering the residential lots to the west will house 12 units. All told there will be 69 units in the complex.

The new units are actually suites each with a fireplace and a sitting area, bath and bed.

The site is technically two parcels – the parcel on which existing buildings stand and the vacant parcel. The two will be combined and the two new buildings are to be architecturally compatible with

• See 200 MAIN page 19





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...SEASONS continued from page 14

46. He was later diagnosed with Syringomyelia (a crippling disorder that destroys the spinal cord). As a man who achieved success both on and off the golf course, Jones would now be tested in life to "play the ball as it lies" -- his winter was approaching. In my opinion, Jones' greatness was displayed off the golf course in how he embraced his failing health.

No longer able to play golf with his friends, Jones took up fishing. This allowed him to continue in the friendships he had formed over the years. How do we know about his attitude in this season? A story describes this best while Jones was fishing in Homosassa Springs, FL with a friend -- the crippled Jones was being lowered into the boat with the help of others; two men across the inlet were observing.

The first man stated, "They say he was a great athlete."

Second man responded, "I don't see how!"

With the men being upwind from Jones and their voices carrying across the water, Jones turned his head and responded, "Takes a lot of practice."

Bobby Jones faced his winter with friends with a positive attitude. Many of his letters encouraging others came from the time period of his failing health. Bobby Jones didn't see a winter for his life but the beauty that still remained. By playing the "ball as it lies," Jones had more victories off the golf course than during his record setting amateur golf season.

If you haven't made a trip to Highlands during the winter, invite a friend and come and enjoy the beauty of a warm fire, endless views through the barren trees, crispness of the morning, ice skating at K-H Founder's Park, finally finishing the book you started and meeting locals while watching a Highlander basketball game. We will have the hot chocolate ready for you.

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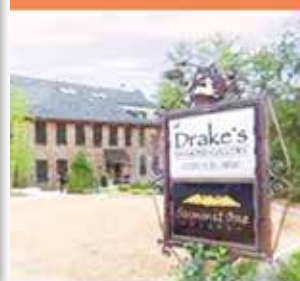
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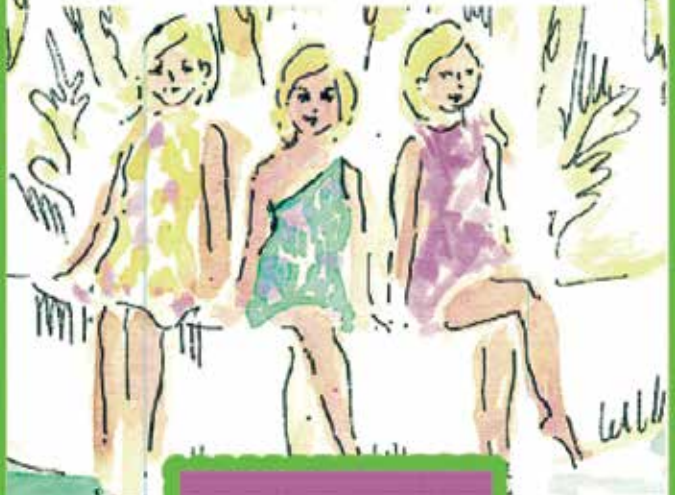
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...200 MAIN continued from page 14

the existing buildings which OEI extensively renovated when it purchased the property a few years ago.

The two new buildings will be accessed by a new driveway adjacent to the west side of the existing pool. The off-site parking on Oak Street will be modified to allow for the secondary entrance into the complex. Therefore, there will be two driveways off Oak Street and one off 2nd Street.

A natural tree and shrubbery buffer exists along the westerly border of the property which is home to the chamber of commerce and two residences. The minimum setback requirement is 20 feet, but Lupoli opted to extend the setback to 30 feet so the natural buffer can remain between the complex and the residents to the west.

In addition, the new buildings will be situated so that parking, entrances and porches all face the middle of the complex rather than the properties to the west. This means privacy will be maximized and noise will be minimized for the residential neighbors.

OEI General Manager Jack Austin said lodging expansions such as that at 200 Main bodes well for Highlands.

"This summer we had 90-plus percentage occupancy with a significant waiting list so this expansion points to our needs but to Highlands' needs, too," he said. "We wouldn't do this unless Highlands could support it."

He said there have even been concerns about available, affordable rooms for the crowds expected for the upcoming Highlands Food and Wine Festival set

• See 200 MAIN page 23



Historical

375 Granddaddy Still Rd, in
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Great Views in Old Edwards Club

Perched above the clouds in Highlands Cove at the Old Edwards Club, this Timber Frame beauty with vista views of mountain ranges and a lake leaves nothing to be desired! The wood walls, gleaming floors and soaring ceilings frame a huge stone fireplace. An expansive outdoor living area has 2 fireplaces and a large hot tub. Four large bedrooms, private baths and a bonus room with fireplace and wine cellar complete the pretty picture. **Offered for \$1,950,000. MLS 84684**



Luxury Living at the Old Edwards Club

This straight walk in unit has wonderful mountain views and a high elevation to assure mountain breezes. With 10 ft ceilings and lots of light-filled windows, this 3BR/3BA is a real beauty! An open floor plan with hardwood floors and stone fireplace opens to a screened porch with fireplace for entertaining and outdoor dining. Two master suites and a lower family room allow for privacy. **Offered for \$545,000. MLS 84570**



The Grande Dame of Satulah Mountain!

This grand lodge sits perched above downtown Highlands with mesmerizing mountain views. Custom built with Montana logs that give rise to soaring ceilings and walls, this is a one-of-a-kind home. The large master suite features a fireplace and lavish baths of slate and tiles. The upper and lower levels feature huge bedrooms, private baths, storage areas and a large garage. **Offered for \$3,600,000. MLS 84638**



Grand Highlands Estate on 12 Acres!

Gated privacy on 12 acres close to downtown Highlands. Soaring tongue and groove ceilings, 3 fireplaces-one in the over-sized master suite - and antique heart pine floors throughout the ENTIRE home add to the rustic feel. A private and gated entry with a long and winding driveway leads to a 3-car garage. A massive man cave, complete with copper bar allows for poker and football games. **Offered for \$1,295,000. MLS 79641**



Julie Osborn
Broker
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MLS# 83119 \$730,000

Former physician's office, could be almost anything. Easy 'walk in' access on two levels- great parking!



MLS#83168 - \$559,000

3 BR/ 3 baths - On the 16th hole at Highlands Falls Country Club! All on one level, garage, renovated kitchen, established perennial garden.



MLS #83342 - \$785,000

4 BR/ 3 baths, 2 half baths Located just outside the gates of HFCC. Three fireplaces, garage, wood floors, Established perennial gardens



MLS # 79672 - \$499,000.

3 BR/ 3 baths - Cold Springs Saddle & Tennis Club. Wood floors, 10' ceilings, screened porch, Private/bordered by USFS



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Reduced \$100,000! Lovely 4br, 3 1/2ba home with beautiful mature landscaping located 1/2 mile from Downtown Highlands. Wood floors in the main living area and vaulted ceilings and expands to the lower level with a family room & 2nd full kitchen & bedrooms. \$495,000. MLS # 84361



Woodland Hills. Well maintained mountain home close to town, 5br/3 ba. Large open deck off main level, lower level covered deck and a wonderful rear yard. Walk to community lake. \$495,000. MLS #84874



Flat Mountain with long mountain views from this 3br/2ba home featuring floor to ceiling stone fireplace, vaulted ceilings and a private setting. \$494,500. MLS #84634



Highlands Mountain Club. Great mountain view from this 2br/2ba condo. Both open and covered porches. \$209,000. MLS #84913



Scaly Mountain...3br/3ba located on a wonderful knoll alongside a babbling spring. So sweet and peaceful. \$426,000. MLS #84912



Little Bearpen Mountain. This 3br/3b has old cabin charm and just 3 minutes to Main Street! Updated kitchen and baths, double carport. \$697,000. MLS #84941



Close to town this 3br/3ba home with decks and porches galore and a hot tub. There are three master suites and a Summer kitchen on lower porch. \$475,000. MLS #84133



Highlands Country Club with long range mountain views. Timeless mountain estate with 6br/7 1/2ba featured in House Beautiful. This country French retreat has magnificent grounds with endless gardens, stone paths, waterfall & pond. \$3,950,000. MLS #84860



Wildwood Mountain beauty! Well maintained 3br/3ba home in a popular neighborhood with hardwood floors, granite countertops and large covered and screened back deck. \$439,000. MLS #84283



Highlands Country Club with Expanded and architecturally redesigned by acclaimed Atlanta architect, Norman Askins. This 4br/4ba home features wrap around decks and mountain views! \$895,000. MLS #84686



Highlands Falls Country Club located along the 4th fairway. Great one level home with 3br/3ba (two master suites plus another guest room). Remodeled and stylish. \$449,000. MLS #84601



Highlands Falls Country Club 3br/3ba condo with a great fairway view and in great condition. Two master suites, stone fireplace, sunroom and vaulted ceilings. \$295,000. MLS #73808



Exceptional long range views with 2br/2ba updated log cabin on over 10 acres. Drive to the top and see wonderful flat building sites with even better long range views. Enjoy the extreme privacy or develop additional homesites. Short drive to town. \$700,000. MLS #84525



Big Bearpen Mountain in Highlands City limits with 3 br/3ba. Meticulously maintained log home offers all the warmth of Old Highlands Charm, yet it is bright and open bringing in natural sun light. \$850,000. MLS # 83797



Whiteside Estates. This furnished 4br/3ba home features beautiful hardwood floors and pine wood walls with vaulted ceilings, attached garage with an office/bonus room above. \$299,500. MLS #82461



Cullasaja Club. Great view of Whiteside Mountain from the 5 br/5ba and remodeled throughout with new kitchen and baths. \$1,050,000. MLS #79794



Lovely and immaculately maintained 3 br, a bonus guest room and 4 baths located in Highlands Falls Country Club. Wood floors in the main living area and vaulted ceilings. Lower level family room with gas fireplace, and 2nd full kitchen....great for guests or mother-in-law suite. \$590,000. MLS #84161



Flat Mountain beauty with 3br/3ba plus 2 half baths. Mountain views, lots of glass, outdoor fireplace, two master suites with lower level family room with fireplace, garage has guest quarters. \$795,000. MLS #81533



Rocky Knob with long range mountain views. 3br/2ba with guest kitchenette in a great gated community with a private 17 acre lake. \$355,000. MLS #81329



Highlands Falls Country Club. Very attractive private 3br/3 1/2ba with raised ceilings in the upstairs living areas, a 3 car garage plus golf cart storage and the possibility of a great golf course view make this a fantastic opportunity. \$777,000. MLS #81880



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School board approves merit-based bonus plan

North Carolina leaders voted to approve merit-based bonuses for classified non-certified employees in schools across the state during last year's budget cycle. Macon County Schools was awarded \$59,000 to award classified employees -- those in non-teaching positions and those that don't require a teaching credential -- bus drivers, custodians, and clerical staff.

Macon County Schools has 233 classified employees. When the state legislature passed the law regarding the bonuses, they left it up to local districts to decide what criteria to use to award the bonuses with only two mandates from the state -- employees must be classified employees and employees must be paid with state dollars.

Out of the 233 classified employees in the school system, 142 employees are paid using state dollars and will be eligible for bonuses under the school board's proposal.

Based on the school board's plan, which was sent to the state

for approval after unanimously being approved at Monday night's school board meeting, it lists additional requirements of eligibility.

Position requirements state that employees must be state-funded and be either a bus driver or a full-time, non-certified employee. Macon County Schools also requires that to be eligible, employees must have been an active employee from January 1, 2016 until September 1, 2016. Teachers and instructional personnel paid on the teacher salary schedule are not eligible.

Performance requirements mandate that employees have at least one year of employment with the school system, have regular attendance, and have received an at-standard evaluation on their most recent evaluation.

While attendance is required to be eligible for a full bonus, employees who have missed five or more days are still eligible for the bonus, but \$50 will be deducted.

The amount of the bonus will be based on years of ser-

• See MERIT page 29

• REAL ESTATE SNAPSHOTS •

In-Town, Log Cabin Luxury



This Appalachian-style, circa 1840s log cabin on 1.18 +/- acres with 2 BR/2 BA. A stream runs through the private, lush setting. Includes sliding barn door of wormy chestnut; shiplap siding and beadboard walls; laurel-trimmed wooden staircase; huge soaking tub; lush gardens and fenced yard. One mile from Main St.

Offered at \$570,000. MLS #84738.

Contact Susie (828) 371-2079.

Walk to Main Street + Views!



This 3BR/2.5BA getaway is on two lots, for a total of .57 +/- acres. There is expansive decking, hardwood flooring; stone, wood-burning fireplace in the living room; spacious kitchen; single garage; fenced yard; and paved access. Easy walk to Main Street. Most furnishings are negotiable (art work excluded).

Offered at \$425,000. MLS #84467.

Contact Susie deVille (828) 371-2079.

Hand Hewn Log Cabin w. Mountain Views



On 4.83 +/- acres, this 4BR/3.5BA log cabin has mountain views from the expansive decks. Features include hardwood floors; granite counter tops in the kitchen; two stone, wood burning fireplaces; storage shed. Additional lot with separate well included in the acreage could be held or sold.

Offered at \$335,000. MLS #81490.

Contact Susie (828) 371-2079.

Beautiful Building Lot, In-Town!



Beautiful 1.03 +/- acre building lot situated on one of Highlands' most popular, walk-to-town quiet lanes. Paved, easy access and adjoins the Bascom Campus (you are just a few steps from the Bascom's Sculpture Trail that leads from Oak Lane to the Bascom's main building). Tuck your home amongst the trees for privacy, while enjoying proximity to all of Highlands' Main Street offerings.

Offered at \$187,500. MLS #82512

Contact Susie deVille (828) 371-2079.



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Big Pine Lodge • Reduced to \$1,999,999 • MLS #82905



Big Pine Lodge is custom built 6BD/7 1/2 BA log home on 5.85 acres with GREAT Whiteside Mountain Views. The home boasts a wine room, exercise room, loft overlooking the expansive great room, rock patio, outside built in BBQ, 2 rock fireplaces, sauna room, butler's pantry, and individual private decks for each of the 6 bedrooms. Home features all the details you would expect in a structure of this stature. The home is being sold furnished. Access to private common lake pavilion for lake access and boat storage on Lake Sequoyah. Terrific value!

Call Cathy Garren • 828-226-5870 • Highlands Sotheby's International Realty • www.highlandssir.com

• REAL ESTATE SNAPSHOTS •

Main Street COUNTRY CLUB PROPERTIES Mtn. Fresh

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3BD/2BA log home on over an acre of land. Open floor plan with hardwood floors, rock fireplace. Recently upgraded bathrooms including granite countertops. Offered at \$235,000. mls #84920



Bear Creek Farm is situated on 37.81 acres with breathtaking mountain views as well as views of the Christmas tree farm and pond. Offered at \$1,900,000. mls #83716



3BD/2BA with great room, screened porch and large deck. Offered at \$345,000. mls #83217



Hansel and Gretel log home with pond and spectacular view of Rocky Knob Lake. 3BD with large covered porch. Offered at \$560,000. mls #82517



Bowery Road home on over 3 acres with a water feature and manicured grounds. Massive decks and great views. Offered at \$2,200,000. mls #84268



3BD/2BA with large updated kitchen, wood burning fireplace, large outdoor porch, vaulted ceiling, knotty pine walls and wood floors throughout. Offered at \$374,900. mls #84868



This 4BD/4 1/2BA is on a large private lot. Designer finishes throughout, with great room spaces. Offered at \$1,695,000. mls #80040



Attractive and spacious one-level 4BR/3BA home. Also included is an adorable, updated 2BR/1BA guest cottage with fireplace. Offered at \$375,000. mls #83714



90 acres flanked partially by USFS land. The main house has 3BD/2.5 BA with wormy chestnut floors, painted paneling, huge stone fireplace and a wonderful view of the front pasture and Blackrock Mountain. Offered at \$5,500,000. mls #81843



Charming cottage with hardwood floors, large living room with stone fireplace and gas logs, 3BD/2BA. Single carport and utility room. Priced at \$225,000.00. MLS # 81411



This 2BD/2BA rondette is waiting for a new owner. Don't miss this one at an exceptional price! Offered at \$160,000. mls #84899



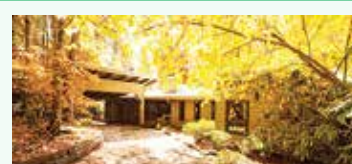
An English cottage in the woods on a small lake, with all modern amenities close to town. Master on main opens to the screened porch. Has large walk thru closet with Jacuzzi tub and tile shower. Offered at \$1,295,000. mls #92146



4BD/4BA and another 2 1/2BA. Highrocks features gated access to a large private 3.6 acre lot with stunning views of Whiteside, and the valley beyond. Offered at \$4,999,000. mls #83614



3BD/3BA home. Great mountain views of Shortoff and surrounding mountains. Open floor plan with master and guest bedroom on the main level. Offered at \$619,000. mls #83337



3BD/3BA the Mirrmont Subdivision. Half circle drive. House is open & airy and in move in condition. Offered at \$595,000. mls #84907



One of the highest points at Highlands Country Club, with stunning Views in two directions. 4BD/4 1/2 BA. Offered at \$1,850,000. mls #83447



Just outside Highlands town limits are three beautifully designed and decorated dwellings. Offered at \$700,000. mls # 82474



Bowery home which features kitchen and baths designed by Atlanta interior designer, Jackie Naylor. Offered at \$995,000. mls #81413



3BD/3BA on 1.7 +/- acres on Randall Lake. A great location for a great home. Offered at \$895,000. MLS # 81984



This 3BD/3BA is loaded with custom features. Living room with fireplace, opens to a large screened porch. 2-car carport & pond house. Offered at \$1,150,000. mls #84779



An historic house in town on flat lot to restore or just start over. Sidewalk in front and only 4 blocks to downtown. Offered at \$450,000. mls #78627



3BD/3BA plus office. Deck that runs the front of the home and looks over 1.2 +/- acres of wooded lot bordering the Nantahala National Forest. Price \$489,000, mls # 82491



Views of multiple mountains! House is open and bright! Large Great Room with cathedral ceilings, eat-in kitchen. Three spacious bedroom suites. Offered at \$1,295,000. MLS #74948

...200 MAIN continued from page 19

for Nov. 10-13. From a business point of view, having to worry about having available rooms in November is a pretty good thing, he said

"We are basically full every weekend of the year; even in the winter, though the weekdays are slow, the weekends are full. The need is there and I think events like the Highlands Food and Wine Festival point to the potential of 'off season' business."

Austin said happily the "in-season" and "off-season" are beginning to blur.

"What people call the 'off-season' is

getting briefer and briefer as the shoulder seasons grow. And it's never off-season on weekends," he said. "Expansion at 200 Main will make sure there are affordable rooms so people can come to Highlands and enjoy it anytime during the year."

The project will next be considered by the Zoning Board of Adjustment on Wednesday, Nov. 9, where a Special Use Permit will be requested.

If it is granted, the project in the B3 zone is a go.

— Kim Lewicki



Rendition of proposed motel expansion at 200 Main.

"We have a responsibility to get involved and try to make our communities a better place to live"

For 25 years I served my community and my country as an Officer in the U.S. Submarine Force. When I retired, I came home to serve my community as a teacher and football coach. 40 years of service have taught me that accomplishing worthwhile goals requires teamwork, cooperation, and compromise. For four years as your Commissioner I was proud to put this philosophy into action. I met with and listened to citizens like yourself and worked with officials of both political parties, and together we were able to make meaningful improvements in our county in the areas of infrastructure, school construction and technology, economic development, and recreation facilities.

I would welcome the opportunity to serve you again on the Board of Commissioners. Just as I did in my first term, I promise to work hard every day with you and the other Commissioners to make our county a better place to live. But I can't do it alone — I need your help! Please stand with me for Macon County!

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• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

A sacred grief

Pastor Dan Robinson
Highlands Central Baptist Church



There is such a thing as sacred grief. Normally we only think of grief in terms of death. Someone dies and we grieve. But grief can be multiple in its expressions. One of these expressions is separation. A husband and wife can be separated by virtue of sickness, war, business responsibilities and so on. That separation causes a grief. This is what I mean when I talk about sacred grief. The Christian is physically separated from his/her Lord. The church/Bride-Elect is physically separated from her Groom, the Lord Jesus Christ. Because of this, there is a sacred grief. This leads me, then, to a definition: Sacred grief is the result of a partially fulfilled longing for Jesus Christ accompanied by all sufficient grace to keep on pursuing Him until totally fulfilled in Heaven

Some may find it difficult to reconcile the idea of partial fulfillment with the doctrine of the fullness of the Holy Spirit. The two ideas, at first glance, seem incompatible. But, really, not at all.

It was Moses who asked the Lord to "teach him His ways so that he could continue to know Him." (Exodus 33:13). After seeking and finding God, Moses realized there was still so much more. The fulfillment of partial longing led to a heart pursuit for more. It was Count Zinzendorf, founder of the Moravian Brethren, who said, "I have One Passion. It is He."

I believe, then, this sacred grief is normal for the Christian. Still, at times, it seems conspicuous by its absence. Topics of conversational interest on a given Sunday morning may range all the way from banal chit-chat to religious sloganisms. Being awestricken by the Son of God sounds archaic in our techy world. This sort of ecclesiastical waltz has become the weekly norm, and remains almost universally unquestioned. We are wed to routine and don't seem to know it. We think the Christian faith is primarily about doing rather than about a deepening intimacy with and passion for Him. Living in this sort of passive dullness obviates my critical need for Him. Still, He is ever faithful. He will not leave this situation unaddressed. The door upon which He was knocking in Revelation 3:20 was the door of the Church! Jesus will not leave His Bride alone. When she drifts, He knocks. When she is lukewarm, wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked, He knocks. He counsels, loves, rebukes and disciplines. If we will hear Him and open our heart's door, He will make Himself at home in us. And He will make us at home in Himself. Then and there the longing is so deeply satisfied. Bride and Groom. Holy intimacy. Surprising rapport. The heart made by Him now fully occupied with Him. He has become everything He has promised. And this continues on right up to our Wedding Day!

I hope you are experiencing this sacred grief. A longing for the lover of your soul. Do this and you won't be disappointed. With our brother, George Mueller, we say, "in Him I found everything I needed and I desired nothing else."

Proverbs 3:5

BLUE VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH

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

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

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

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Wednesdays - Supper at 6 p.m.

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10:45am: Worship Service

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

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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

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

Wednesdays: Choir: 5:30p

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Bible Study: 6 pm

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Pastor Nathan Johnson

• PLACES TO WORSHIP •

John 3:16

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Wed. Kidsquest 6p.; Worship 7p.

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

Sundays: Worship: 11

HIGHLANDS CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Dan Robinson

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

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

Wednesday: Prayer Service, 6:30 p.

HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Pastor Randy Lucas 526-3376

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

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

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

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

Worship/Communion: 10:30

HEALING SERVICE on the 5th Sunday of the month.

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Pastor Troy Nicholson, (828) 526-8425

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

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

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at St. Cyprian's Episcopal Church, Franklin

828-524-9463

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.

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Rev. Marty Kilby

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

Wednesdays: Prayer Mtg.: 7 p.m.

SCALY MOUNTAIN CHURCH OF GOD

290 Buck Knob Road; Pastor Jerry David Hall • 526-3212

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

SHORTOFF BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Rev. Andy Cloer

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

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

THE CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

1448 Highway 107 South, Office: 743-2359

Rev. Rob Wood

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

Thursday: Noon Healing Service with Eucharist.

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Horse Cove - Kay Ward 743-5009

Old-Fashioned hymn-sing Sunday 7-8p.

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Sunday Worship - 11 a.m.

WHITESIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Rev. Sam Forrester/Cashiers

Sunday School: 10 am, Worship Service: 11 am

• POLICE & FIRE REPORTS •

The Highlands Police log entries from Oct. 13 Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor or public officials have been used.

Oct. 13

• At 1:36 p.m., a driver ran his vehicle off the road and hit and broke a step rail at Memorial Park Drive.

Oct. 15

• At 1 p.m., Luis Alfredo Cerino, 26, of Franklin, was arrested for DWI and resisting arrest. He was issued a \$1,000 secured bon. His trial date is Dec. 28.

Oct. 17

• At 12:03, officers responded to a one-vehicle accident on the Bowery Road.

Oct. 20

• At 2:20 p.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident on south Third Street.

The Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. log from Oct. 19.

Oct. 19

• The dept. stood by at the hospital for the MAMA helicopter.

• The dept. was first-responders to a residence on Spruce Street.

• The dept. was first-responders to a residence on Whiteside Mountain Road when a medical alert alarm was activated.

Oct. 20

• The dept. was first-responders to a residence on Center Drive when an alarm was activated.

• The dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on Hospital Drive.

• The dept. was first-responders to a residence on Spring Street.

• The dept. was first-responders to a residence on Stoney Creek.

Oct. 22

• The dept. was first-responders to a residence on Flat Mountain Road.

Oct. 23

• The dept. was first-responders to a residence on Sassafras Gap Road.

• The dept. was first-responders to a residence on Cullasaja Drive.

A message from Chief Ryan Gearhart:

• Please remember to have your chimney cleaned prior to starting fires this season.



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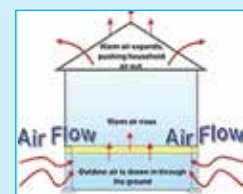


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• BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NEWS •



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someone special

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a little closer to serenity!

Using the theme of partnership with a focus on tourism, Bob Kieltyka, president of the Chamber talked about ways the Chamber is fulfilling its mission of promoting the town's economic development especially through travel and tourism at the Oct. 18 Rotary meeting.

He discussed the 3% occupancy tax which largely funds travel and tourism efforts. Today, the tax defrays what would be \$716 in taxes for every householder and insures that "we don't have to sacrifice culture or nature" for our town to thrive economically.

Kieltyka cited the concert series: Friday Nights Live, and Saturday Nights on Pine, as well as the newly imagined Highlands Food and Wine Festival (November 7-13) as examples of Chamber driven events that help to fuel travel and tourism to Highlands.

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From left: Bob Kieltyka Speaker on October 18th and Hank Ross, President of the Rotary Club of Highlands.

MOUNTAIN FINDINGS

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One-Stop early voting opens in Highlands Oct. 27; ongoing in Franklin

One-Stop Voting places – Macon County’s early voting options – are in Franklin and Highlands.

However, days and times are different at each location.

Highlands’ One-Stop voting starts Thursday, Oct. 27 at the Civic Center (Rec Park) at 600 N. 4th Street in Meeting Room

1.
One-Stop voting in Highlands is open weekdays 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and on Saturdays Oct. 29 and Nov 5, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Franklin’s One-Stop voting location opened last Thursday and will remain open -- as will Highlands -- until the Saturday before the election.

The polling place is in the courthouse in Franklin – 5 W. Main Street -- in the Board of Elections Office on the first floor basement level in room 127B.

It is open weekdays 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and on Saturdays Oct. 29 and Nov. 5 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.



One-Stop voting ends at both loca-

tions, Saturday, Nov. 5 at 1 p.m. Any registered voter of Macon County may vote at either One-Stop voting location.

Remember, the PROPOSED NC Voter ID requirements are NOT in effect. If you are registered to vote, you DO NOT need special identification to exercise your right to vote.

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Sample Ballot Macon County, North Carolina November 8, 2016				G001 	
BALLOT MARKING INSTRUCTIONS: A. With the marking device provided or a black ball point pen, completely fill in the oval to the left of each candidate or selection of your choice as shown. B. Where authorized, you may write in a candidate by filling in the oval and writing the name on the Write-in line. C. If you tear, deface or wrongly mark this ballot, return it to request a replacement.					
					
PARTISAN OFFICES		NC Attorney General (You may vote for ONE)		NC Treasurer (You may vote for ONE)	
President and Vice President of the United States (You may vote for ONE)		<input type="radio"/> Buck Newton Republican <input type="radio"/> Josh Stein Democrat		<input type="radio"/> Dale R. Folwell Republican <input type="radio"/> Dan Blue III Democrat	
<input type="radio"/> Donald J. Trump Michael R. Pence Republican <input type="radio"/> Hillary Clinton Tim Kaine Democrat <input type="radio"/> Gary Johnson William Weld Libertarian <input type="radio"/> Write-in		NC Auditor (You may vote for ONE) <input type="radio"/> Chuck Stuber Republican <input type="radio"/> Beth A. Wood Democrat		NC State Senate District 50 (You may vote for ONE) <input type="radio"/> Jim Davis Republican <input type="radio"/> Jane Hipps Democrat	
US Senate (You may vote for ONE)		NC Commissioner of Agriculture (You may vote for ONE) <input type="radio"/> Steve Troxler Republican <input type="radio"/> Walter Smith Democrat		NC House of Representatives District 120 (You may vote for ONE) <input type="radio"/> Kevin Corbin Republican <input type="radio"/> Randy Hogsed Democrat	
<input type="radio"/> Richard Burr Republican <input type="radio"/> Deborah K. Ross Democrat <input type="radio"/> Sean Haugh Libertarian		NC Commissioner of Insurance (You may vote for ONE) <input type="radio"/> Mike Causey Republican <input type="radio"/> Wayne Goodwin Democrat <input type="radio"/> Write-in		Board of Commissioners District 2 (You may vote for ONE) <input type="radio"/> Karl E. Gillespie Republican <input type="radio"/> Charlie Leatherman Democrat	
US House of Representatives District 11 (You may vote for ONE)		NC Commissioner of Labor (You may vote for ONE) <input type="radio"/> Cherie Berry Republican <input type="radio"/> Charles Meeker Democrat <input type="radio"/> Write-in		Board of Commissioners District 3 (You may vote for ONE) <input type="radio"/> Paul Higdon Republican <input type="radio"/> Bobby Kupperts Democrat	
NC Governor (You may vote for ONE)		NC Secretary of State (You may vote for ONE)		NONPARTISAN OFFICES	
<input type="radio"/> Pat McCrory Republican <input type="radio"/> Roy Cooper Democrat <input type="radio"/> Lon Cecil Libertarian		<input type="radio"/> Michael LaPaglia Republican <input type="radio"/> Elaine Marshall Democrat		NC Supreme Court Associate Justice (You may vote for ONE)	
NC Lieutenant Governor (You may vote for ONE)		NC Superintendent of Public Instruction (You may vote for ONE) <input type="radio"/> Mark Johnson Republican <input type="radio"/> June Atkinson Democrat		<input type="radio"/> Michael R. (Mike) Morgan <input type="radio"/> Robert H. (Bob) Edmunds	
<input type="radio"/> Dan Forest Republican <input type="radio"/> Linda Coleman Democrat <input type="radio"/> Jacki Cole Libertarian				Continue voting next side →	
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		North Carolina		G0001	
-- VOTE BOTH SIDES --					

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NC Court of Appeals Judge (You may vote for ONE)		Board of Education District 3 (You may vote for ONE)			
<input type="radio"/> Phil Berger, Jr. Republican <input type="radio"/> Linda Stephens Democrat		<input type="radio"/> Melissa Bateman Evans <input type="radio"/> Write-in			
NC Court of Appeals Judge (You may vote for ONE)		Board of Education District 4 (You may vote for ONE)			
<input type="radio"/> Hunter Murphy Republican <input type="radio"/> Margaret Eagles Democrat <input type="radio"/> Donald Ray Buie Unaffiliated		<input type="radio"/> Jim Breedlove <input type="radio"/> Write-in			
NC Court of Appeals Judge (You may vote for ONE)		Soil and Water Conservation District Supervisor (You may vote for ONE)			
<input type="radio"/> Bob Hunter Republican <input type="radio"/> Abe Jones Democrat		<input type="radio"/> Jonathan D. Anderson <input type="radio"/> Matt Mason <input type="radio"/> Write-in			
NC Court of Appeals Judge (You may vote for ONE)		End of Ballot			
<input type="radio"/> Richard Dietz Republican <input type="radio"/> Vince Rozier Democrat					
NC Court of Appeals Judge (You may vote for ONE)					
<input type="radio"/> Valerie Zachary Republican <input type="radio"/> Rickye McKoy-Mitchell Democrat					
NC District Court Judge District 30 (You may vote for ONE)					
<input type="radio"/> Monica Hayes Leslie					
NC District Court Judge District 30 (You may vote for ONE)					
<input type="radio"/> Tessa Shelton Sellers <input type="radio"/> Kimberly N. Carpenter					
NC District Court Judge District 30 (You may vote for ONE)					
<input type="radio"/> Richard K. Walker					
Board of Education District 1 (You may vote for ONE)					
<input type="radio"/> Stephanie Stiles McCall <input type="radio"/> Write-in					
D		E		F	
		North Carolina			
-- VOTE BOTH SIDES --					

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**...MERIT continued from page 21**

vice to the district. Employees with 30 or more years are eligible for the largest bonus of \$1,000. Employees who have served 21-29 years of satisfactory evaluations and are at standard or above on their most recent evaluation will receive a bonus of \$750.

Qualifying state-paid employees with 11-20 years of employment will receive \$500, and employees with 1-10 years will receive a one-time, merit-based bonus of \$250.

School board members expressed concern surrounding the 91 employees who are classified employees, but aren't paid using state dollars. Employees don't have any say in what funding sources they are paid out of, and often times, it is completely at random who is paid using which funds. Because of that, school board members noted they would like to see a way to either provide the bonus to the other employees locally, or petition the state to change that requirement in the law.

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HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH is seeking a part time Financial Secretary. Salary DOE. Must be proficient in Quick Books. Send Resume including references to Highlands UMC, PO Box 1959 Highlands NC 28741 (st. 10/20)

RESTAURANT MANAGER needed for a very busy lunch and dinner restaurant in Highlands, NC. Experience Required. Send resume to info@mainstreet-inn.com (st. 9/1)

CHURCH OF THE INCARNATION IN HIGHLANDS is looking for a Nursery Attendant for the 10:30AM Sunday Service three Sundays a month for approximately 2.5 hours. Experience working with children 0-5 years old is required. Please contact the church office by phone 828-526-2968 or email at incarnation@incarnation-wnc.org (st. 8/25)

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF HIGHLANDS, NC, is seeking a part-time director of music, salary DOE. Musical training and experience required. Resumes, including references, may be sent to FBC Highlands, POB 625, Highlands, NC 28741 or emailed to info@fbchighlands.org. 828-526-4153 (st. 8/4)

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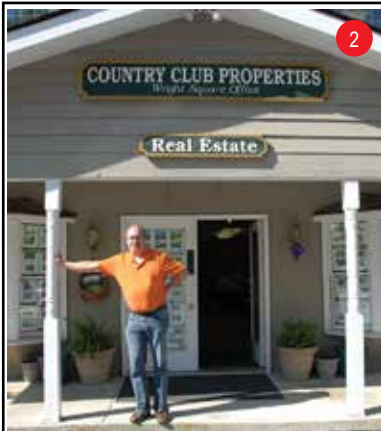


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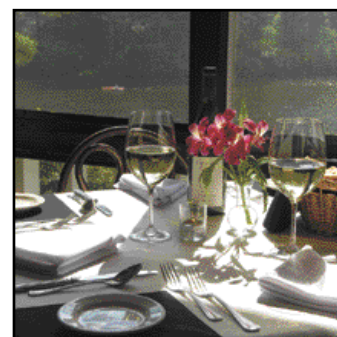
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