Appearance meeting a bumpy one

It's been a long time since the Appearance Commission has met on a regular basis - and it showed Monday night.

The combination of a lack of continuity, new commission members and an absence of institutional memory made for a contentious meeting.

First up was an application from Fred and Carla Bowers - the prerequisite for a Special Use Permit (SUP) to open an ice cream shop in the spot previously held by Carolina Eyes in the old Texaco Station parking lot.

The “appearance” part of the procedure dealt with an outdoor deck which will actually be the expansion of the existing deck to 15 feet by 20 feet — large enough to accommodate several umbrella tables with chairs.

Carla Bowers, who represented the project, said that existing green trim on the building would be painted beige and initially said the deck, which would be faced with lattices, would be left natural.

Playhouse and PAC leases in limbo

Ordinances and more also discussed at TB meeting

Wednesday night's Town Board meeting was long with ordinances, lease agreements, and contracts discussed at length.

The non-habitable structure ordinance was passed and includes comments and concerns made by planning board and Town Board members - most notably Commissioner Buzz Dotson's suggestion to change the name of Non-Habitable Structures from Abandoned Structures which actually follows the intent of the state's model ordinance.

The board was ensured labeling a structure Non-Habitable which could then lead to demolition or condemnation is a very slow process and can't even start without five complaints.

The Ordinance Banning Dogs from the Ball Park was passed unanimously once commissioners understood that disobeying the ordinance constitutes a misdemeanor punishable in accordance with the town's code.

Town Manager Jim Fatland also said that bag dispensers for pet owners will be installed on Main Street at the Methodist Church and at Harris Lake Park.

Easter in Highlands is a community affair

The town's annual Easter Egg Hunt at the Rec Park attracts people from far and wide. To see how else Highlands celebrates Easter, see page 18.

Photo by Kim Lewicki

ARRA funds to upgrade NC forest recreation

North Carolina's national forests will get recreation upgrades, thanks to the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, legislation designed to put people back to work.

More than $15 million in economic recovery funds will pay private contractors and partners to complete a variety of projects in North Carolina's four national forests, which spread from the mountains to the sea. Most jobs will be finished by spring 2011.

Contract crews will repair more than 200 miles of trail, restore historic fire towers and shelters, and replace worn-out restroom facilities. Fire specialists will eliminate excess layers of leaves and underbrush - the primary fuels that start wildfires in forests.

Many structures built by Civilian Conservation Corps workers in the 1930s will also be repaired.

At Nantahala Ranger District, architects and preservation specialists will restore historic towers at Wayah Bald, Cowee Bald, Albert Mountain and Yellow Mountain. This represents a huge effort and will likely take a year to complete. The estimated start date is April 24, 2010.

Beginning June 14, at Whiteside Mountain, crews will improve a two-mile loop trail and replace the overlook deck on the mountain’s north side. It will be completed by Oct. 14 of this year.

At Glen Falls, crews will do trail work and construct steps on steep sections of the trail.
... LEASES continued from page 1

The public hearing on the new Stormwater Ordinance was tabled after an extensive discussion because commissioners want to require a performance bond at 325% of the job included in the ordinance and also requested information about a maintenance bond.

They were also concerned that a violation of the ordinance doesn't constitute a misdemeanor or infraction punishable under the criminal laws of North Carolina, though civil laws may apply.

Town Planner Joe Cooley said many municipalities write ordinances that way because a violation is a misdemeanor, penalties collected go to the state not the municipality. “That makes it a disincentive to criminalize,” he said.

However, Town Attorney Bill Coward questioned that thought process and was asked to look into the details of criminal or civil penalties as they apply to stormwater violations.

The issue will be heard again at the April 21 Town Board meeting.

Two 10-year lease agreements were presented – one for the Performing Arts Center and one for the Highlands Playhouse. Both leases are up and on a month-to-month basis right now.

Commissioner Amy Patterson suggested new verbiage in the PAC lease saying that since the facility is partially supported by public funds in that the town pays the utilities and maintenance costs, the public should be allowed to use the facility and its assets at established rental rates. Also, no policy or practice that limits or denies the public access within constraints of reasonable scheduling should be allowed.

PAC board members Ron Leslie and Stuart Mann were totally against the inclusion in the new lease as were commissioners Gary Drake and Dennis DeWolf.

Leslie said no one has been denied use of the facility this year. Mann said the PAC board didn’t want another theater group or chamber music group to come in and basically compete with the core groups already in place at PAC – mainly Highlands-Cashiers Players and Highlands-Cashiers Chamber Music.

Commissioner Patterson was firm. “You can't exclude an entity just because they want to put something similar in to what you already have,” she said, referring to the Instant Theater group.

But Mann and Leslie said they didn't want to have control taken away from them in any way.

Patterson reminded them that the initial reason PAC came into existence was because performing arts groups in town couldn't use the Playhouse. “Now you want to be just as exclusive as they were,” she said.

Leslie said PAC was going to offer more small stage and black box performances, similar to productions previously put on by the Instant Theater group, and they were putting on Papa's Angels in honor of Scott and Colleen Paxton.

The vote was called to leave the lease as written, without Patterson’s addition, but it failed 3-2 with Commissioners Patterson, Buzz Dotson and Larry Rogers voting “no.”

The decision to renew the Playhouse lease was tabled because commissioners couldn’t agree on whether the town should begin paying the Playhouse utilities as it does for PAC.

Mayor David Wilkes and Commissioner Gary Drake said all the leases concerning town building operated by separate entities should be the same and since the town pays PAC utilities it should pay the Playhouse utilities.

Commissioner Patterson said that was like comparing apples to oranges.

“PAC raised over a million dollars to purchase the building and then gifted it to the town. We’ve always owned the Playhouse, this is very different.”

In the end, the board agreed to look at perhaps charging the Playhouse wholesale utility rates instead of the current retail rate, or perhaps only charging the five months it is in operation instead of all year.

Fatland was asked to bring the whole sales story to the next meeting.

In other business, the town agreed to cancel the architectural services of Cooper, Stuart and Newell, the company working on the ABC store conversion for the Police Department, and to use local architects and construction companies.

Commissioners also OK’d curb cuts on Oak Street behind the Royal Scott and Nancy’s Fancyproprietary owners of those properties can access their lots.

Five public parking spaces will be lost but four private spaces will be had by the property owners who said they are the ones who have been using the public spots, anyway.

Kim Lewicki

Registered Nurse scholarships available

The Judy Moore Memorial Scholarship Endowment Committee is accepting scholarship applications for the 2010 year.

The Scholarship Program for Nurses was established in 1997 to honor Judy Moore, RN who was killed in a tragic accident in 1996.

A resident of Macon County, Judy was an inspiration to both nurses and patients in her role as a Community Health Nurse III and as an OB-GYN Nurse Practitioner.

Up to $1,000 in scholarship funds will be made available for the 2010 year.

The application deadline is May 6, 2010 for both undergraduate and graduate scholarships.

Applicants must have completed their first semester in the Nursing Program and meet other eligibility requirements.
Obituaries

Lucille Louise Ivester
Lucille Louise Ivester, age 79, of Icenhower Drive, Franklin, NC died Monday, April 5, 2010 at the Fidelia-Eckerd Living Center in Highlands, NC. She was a native of Macon County, the daughter of the late William Judson and Emma Lakey Icenhower. She was married to James M. Ivester who died in 1998. She was a homemaker and a member of Oak Grove Baptist Church.

She is survived by her daughter, Linda Edwards and her husband, Donnie of Highlands, NC; three sons, William Ammons and his wife Debbie of Winston-Salem, NC, Rev. Neil Ammons and his wife Sherry of Franklin, NC and Gary Ammons of Highands, NC; one sister, Floy Jean McGraw of Morrisboro, NC; two brothers, Jasper L. Icenhower of Statesville, NC and Manuel Judson Icenhower of Winston-Salem, NC. Seven grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren also survive. She was preceded in death by a sister, Helen Clark and a brother, Clarence Icenhower.

Funeral services were held at Oak Grove Baptist Church Wednesday, April 7 at 11 a.m. with Rev. Morris Tippett, Rev. Kenneth Carver and Rev. Judson Hall officiating. Burial was at Oak Grove Baptist Church Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made in Lucille’s memory to the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital or to Fidelia-Eckerd Living Center, PO Box 190, Highlands, NC 28741.

Online condolences may be made by visiting www.bryantgrantfuneralhome.com.

Bryant-Grant Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Milestone

Bryson wins first race of the season

Ryan Bryson of Bryson Motorsports celebrated in Victory Lane Saturday, March 20 after the first race of the season at Toccoa Motor Speedway in Toccoa, GA. He qualified on poll and led all the laps to make this his first win of the season. Thanks go out to his friends and family and to his sponsors: Appalachian Tree, B&S Haulers, Highlands Construction, Sam’s Grading, Steves Grading and Bryson Grading and Trucking.

Kenneth Eugene “Sid” Johnson
Kenneth Eugene “Sid” Johnson, age 79, of Tamassee, SC, died Monday, April 5, 2010 at Oconee Medical Center. He was a native of Macon County, the son of the late Grover Cleveland Johnson and Ada Nix Johnson. He was a construction worker and of the Baptist faith. He was a US Army Veteran having served during the Korean War, and was a former member of the American Legion. He loved to hunt, fish and was a tinkerer.

He is survived by a daughter, Tina Coleen Raynor and husband Kelly of Dunn, NC; a son, Mark Johnson and wife Jodi of Fletcher, NC; a sister, Kathleen Wilson and husband Neville of Highlands, NC; a brother, John Willard Johnson and wife Evelyn, of Tamassee, SC; four grandchildren and two great-grandchildren also survive. He was preceded in death by seven brothers and sisters.

Funeral services were held Wednesday, April 7th at 2 p.m. in the Chapel of Bryant-Grant Funeral Home in Highlands, with Rev. John Rogers officiating. Burial was at Highlands Memorial Park Cemetery. Nephews will serve as pallbearers, Howard Brown, Paul Johnson, Bud Lamb, Clyde Wilson, Kenneth Wilson, Terry Wilson and Wade Wilson.

The Franklin VFW Post #739 and American Legion Post #808 will conduct complete military graveside rites.

Bryant-Grant Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. Online condolences may be made at www.bryantgrantfuneralhome.com.

... APPEARANCE from page 1

... APPEARANCE from page 2

... LETTER from page 2

for providers raising rates, and shifting the uncompensated cost to private payers and insurance companies. This obviously results in higher insurance premiums. The government is just as guilty of rationing health care as the insurance companies and there will be increased rationing in the future. They just under $1.0 trillion quoted cost of the bill was based only on drastic cuts in future Medicare and Medicaid reimbursements. It was clearly a political move to get votes. The chances of Congress actually making these cuts is very questionable, thus the actual cost of the bill will likely be much higher, possibly double as is typical of most government projections.

Another legitimate issue is just how much of our lives should be controlled by big government, which undermines personal responsibility. Social Security is a classic example of unintended consequences of well intended government programs. The program falsely encouraged most workers to rely solely on that entitlement to support their retirement. An obviously serious mistake that resulted in additional, more expensive government support for retirees - Medicare and prescription drug entitlements. Social Security will pay out more in benefits than received from payroll taxes for the first time this year and will soon require an increased in taxes or adding to the already unsustainable federal deficit. That program does not provide security, and workers should be encouraged to take more responsibility for their retirement, and not depend on government.

A final point is that the bill does not address underlying reasons for high health care cost. Most experts agree up to 70% of health care cost are the result of the sedentary American lifestyle, smoking, diet, obesity, generally poor physical fitness, etc. An example is that the average European annually walks some 20 plus times more than the average American. This demonstrates why it is unrealistic to compare US health cost with other countries. Unless these primary causes are addressed, actual cost will continue to go up. Congress should have taken time to address the primary health issues, not just political issues.

Julian Franklin
Highlands
Dear Mr. President:

I'm trying really, really hard not to make fun of you but you keep feeding me material I can't pass up. Please, Mr. Obama, stop doing stupid, silly stuff all the time because, as a satire writer, I can't resist your antics. I thought ex-president George Bush gave me material, but he's a wienie compared to you.

For example, what's going on with all this bowing to everyone? Have you forgotten you're the president of the most powerful and prestigious country in the world? Don't you know that? Ever wonder why foreigners are constantly sneaking in here with fake birth certificates? They love this place and want a piece of the action. So please, stop bowing and apologizing to everyone for being an American. You are an American, right? And did you see the shock on the Tampa mayor's face when you bowed and humbled yourself before her? I just can't figure you out. Makes me wanna believe you're full of it. Are you full of it?

Now that I know you'll even bow to mayors, I would like you to come to our humble little town called Highlands and bow to our mayor. He's a great guy. He might be just a tiny, tiny bit too conservative for you. Some what? Most of the people you have bowed to so far are not big fans of yours ... except maybe the mayor of Tampa and she's still in shock.

I used to make fun of ole George when he would get that silly smirk on his face, bobble his head and look around as if to say, you're all a bunch of jerks. I'll never forget that swagger and stupid look. It came easy for him. On the other hand, you don't have a stupid look; you have a look of great arrogance. What's with that pose you have with your nose in the air? One moment you're arrogant and snooty, the next moment you're humble bowing to some third world leader who may even be a terrorist. I can't get a handle on you. Actually, America can't get a handle on you. I'm that why you're so unpopular?

I recently took a long voyage on the Queen Mary 2 and the ship was full of snooty rich Brits. They have the exact same look as you when they speak, their noses held high in the air and arrogantly looking down at me. Once, I told a Brit, "I think you have something foreign in your right nostril." You should have been there. You would've been right at home.

And will you please, please, please buy another teleprompter for a front view of your snooty look? You look snooty left and right, then you look snooty right and read but you never look out at the people and read. Are you aware you look less snooty when looking straight ahead?

Write the that down and buy another teleprompter already. Oh, by the way, you do read well.

At this point, I see little difference between you and your bone-headed predecessor, "The Great Uniter." George was going to give us a more fair tax system and overhaul Social Security, making it more healthy. (That's like more better only ... more better.)

George also said he would work across the aisle and bring the Democrats on board on policy making. Remember all that bull? What we got instead was two wars and over-the-top spending.

You, on the other hand, Mr. President, promised Americans there would not be a "business as usual" attitude in Washington. (Hah! You promised transparency, honesty and fairness. You promised to brounce the lobbyists. You promised, you promised, you promised, Areweduped again?)

While our forefathers did a great job in forming our Constitution, they may have goofed up when designing the criteria to become president. Are you aware the criteria to get a job at McDonalds is tougher than running for president of the United States? To work at McDonalds, applicants must not smoke and must pass a lie detector and urinetest for drugs. To be president you only had to prove you're 35 and a citizen of the U.S. You are a citizen of the U.S., right?

Could you pass a lie detector test, Mr. President? Do the drapes at the White House smell of smoke? Would we be better off if we took employees from McDonalds to run for president? They wouldn't be as smart as you but they wouldn't have lied their way into the job. Now that's what I call real change.
Nick Rockecharlie and I were best friends in 1987 as we watched Indiana beat Syracuse in the NCAA championship game. I'm an Indiana alum and Nick graduated from school with a hack of a lacrosse team. Nick never talked about basketball team. If Loyola had one, it didn't merit discussion. Without a horse in the race, Nick had no trouble cheering for my Hoosiers.

In the game's tense final minutes, I was sitting on a couch, my arm hanging at my side. I was so nervous I was shaking my hand, like people with carpal tunnel syndrome trying to shake the feeling back into the hand. I was too engrossed in the game to see Nick's friends. Nick was one of them. We called it “Boy's Town,” despite the pregnant secretary. I was the house physician for Boy's Town, but nothing as involved as delivering babies.

I had lost money investing in one of Nick's schemes. The idea of a fertilizer paper genus who could develop inexpensive lab tests made of engineered paper actually seemed reasonable, but everything seemed possible then. The blush had already left the boom by the time I got to Houston in 1983, but only the really smart guys knew it.

My buddies were all on the make, wearing Hermes ties and three button suits. In a town more comfortable in boots and cowboy hats, they did OK for a while. Everyone, and I mean everyone, was doing deals. The guy who pumped my gas in Post Oak tried to sell me a deal. I offered to get financing for a hair dresser's invention, which was a portable salon that he pushed around a hospital, and provided haircuts, styling, and, coloring for patients. He asked Dr. Denton Cooley, the famous Houston heart surgeon, as an investor. I met the hair dresser because his wife had had an anesthetic complication while under my care. There was no quid pro quo when I told him I was confident my friend, Nick Rockecharlie, could raise oodles of money for any project endorsed by Denton.

Feedback is encouraged.
email: hsalzarulo@aol.com
from the history guy ...  
April 8

Draw A Bird Day began in the mid 1940s. In post war Britain, various moral boosting measures were introduced, often by force. Draw a Bird Day was one such measure, drawings birds having been deemed nice and cheery to look at.

To Help us overcome our mental contusion, the powers that be have come to a conclusion, could be impressionistic or maybe stricter, “Falls on Main” post war Britain, various moral boosting could be impressionistic or maybe stricter, “Falls on Main” post war Britain, various moral boosting.

To stop us from all our kvetching when you imagine something fowl. Could be impressionistic or maybe stricter, “Falls on Main” post war Britain, various moral boosting.

To Help us overcome our mental contusion, the powers that be have come to a conclusion, could be impressionistic or maybe stricter, “Falls on Main” post war Britain, various moral boosting.

How about the image of a bunny? Could be impressionistic or maybe stricter, “Falls on Main” post war Britain, various moral boosting.

The Reverend Jim Murphy, Rector  
(252) 671-4011 or (828) 743-1701  
www.christanglicanchurch.com

**SALONS & SPAS**

“Falls on Main”  
549 Main Street – Upper Level

Creative Concepts Salon  
Hours:  
Tuesday-Friday • 9-5  
Saturday • 9-2  
526-3939

Taylor Barnes  
Spa & Salon

Images Unlimited  
Hair Care ~ Nail Care  
Skin Care ~ Waxing ~ Weddings  
225 Spring Street • Highlands

All Seasons Salon  
Signature Hair Designs for Men & Women  
Razor Cuts • Color • Perms  
Off the Alley Behind Wolfgang’s Oak & Fifth Streets  
Barbara & Van • 526-0349 • Open Mon - Sat

Since you didn’t ask, part 2

By Michele A. Mead-Armor  
Michelle Mead-Armor & John Armor  
michiemead@aol.com  
John_Armor@aya.yale.edu

**His & Hers**

Until I moved to Paris in 1980, I had no idea how vastly different it is to talk about your derrière – not Molière, but me. I grew up speaking “family talk,” that odd mix of words and expressions developed over time – a language so unique that it makes no sense to outsiders.

It was only in my senior year at Goucher that I realized every family does this – I’d thought mine was particularly strange. Professor Walker, my history teacher, loved to tell us stories about his childhood. In his family, the word for toilet paper was “mileage” (????). When he was very young, he was sent to the local general store of his small Midwestern town to buy toilet paper.

He walked up to the counter, where a kindly old man asked him what he would like. “Mileage,” he replied. “What?” said the old man. “Mileage” repeated the little boy. And the conversation continued on like this, with the old man becoming increasingly exasperated, and the little boy more frustrated. Finally, spying the item in question, the little boy stood on his tiptoes, and pointed. “Mileage,” he cried out, pointing to the roll of toilet paper.

This is the sort of thing which happened to me when I moved to France. I knew the common words and expressions for the body and its functions, but I was disturbingly ignorant of French “doctor speak” – the euphemistic terms by which the medical profession makes a mystery of the human body. This had already plagued me in America. The first time a doctor asked me if I had moved my bowels that day, I looked apologetic, and said I was sorry. I hadn’t realized that they had been in the way. I knew the family expression for the activity in mind, of course, but it sure wasn’t the one the doctor used.

Imagine my dismay when faced with my first physical in France. Docteur Frade had made small talk to put me at ease, and then began to ask the usual question. When he got to the one I just mentioned, I gave him a blank stare. “Pardon?” I murmured. He repeated the question, more slowly this time, as if he was talking to a small child. Alas, I didn’t understand him any better. Realizing he had a difficult case of Anglo-Saxon incomprehension, he proceeded to pantomime the activity in question. “Oh, poop!” I cried out. “Madame,” he tortured, his manner suddenly prim and serious. “A lady does not poop!” On the way home, I repeated the new expression over and over to myself. I might have read all of Molière’s plays but one, but I didn’t know the expression for the most basic of human functions. I had honestly thought the doctor was asking me if I had been horseback riding.

It wasn’t just the vocabulary that was different – it was the whole attitude toward medicine. My doctor was kind and thoughtful man, but he was definitively in charge. “Which one of us went to medical school?” he would reply, the first few times I suggested an alternative treatment or questioned a decision.

Staying healthy in France was a lesson in itself. No big shopping trips for the week or month, with lots of processed food in the cupboards. I went shopping for fresh food almost every day, developing a personal relationship with the various shopkeepers. In time, they got to know what products I liked. “Madame,” the fruit seller would call out. “The strawberries are in!”

This was a big deal, since eating products in season was also the norm. We get many fruits and vegetables all year ‘round here, but in France, fresh food is usually local and seasonal. We waited with anticipation for the first tomatoes, the first peaches, the first asparagus. Of course, I did this shopping on foot, and often came home laden with heavy bags of produce. I didn’t need to go to the gym to lift weights, or to run on a treadmill. Just shopping was enough exercise for me!

There is also a big emphasis on preventing health problems before they develop into something more serious and expensive to cure. Since health care is more affordable, you don’t want to go to the doctor. Each region has a way of deciding how much a particular procedure should cost (this is by region, since it’s obviously more expensive to see a doctor in Paris than in a rural area). Say they decide to visit the doctor should cost $100. It is up to you to find a doctor who will charge $100 for a visit. You decide to go to a doctor who charges $120? Fine. The government pays $100, and you pay the difference. When you leave the doctor’s office, you take with you a paper which includes his bill, his comments on your condition, and his prescriptions, if any. You take the paper to the pharmacy, which fills out your prescription.

Oddly enough, the pharmacists don’t fill little bottles with the exact amount of tablets you need, as they do in America. You receive pre-packaged boxes of medicine, and...
Black Rock Granite & Marble

A large selection of Unique Slabs of Granite, Marble, Travertine, Soapstone, and Quartz...on site! Experienced in Custom Granite Fabrication, Custom Cabinetry, Hardware, Sinks, Faucets...with Design Services to put it all together!

"Our attention to detail makes the difference."

Eliminate Mold, Mildew, & Radon Immediately! FREE Radon Testing • Call 828-743-0900

www.drycrawlspaces.com

DryCrawlSpaces
Crawl Space Encapsulation System®

Larry Rogers Construction Company, Inc.
Serving Highlands and Cashiers from over 25 years
Excavating • Grading • Trucking Trackhoe
Backhoe • Blasting • Utilities
(828) 526-2874
776 Dillard Road • Highlands

Located at 2543 Cashiers Rd. across from Highlands Lawn & Garden
828-787-1100

A large selection of Unique Slabs of Granite, Marble, Travertine, Soapstone, and Quartz...on site! Experienced in Custom Granite Fabrication, Custom Cabinetry, Hardware, Sinks, Faucets...with Design Services to put it all together!

"Our attention to detail makes the difference."

Eliminate Mold, Mildew, & Radon Immediately! FREE Radon Testing • Call 828-743-0900

www.drycrawlspaces.com

DryCrawlSpaces
Crawl Space Encapsulation System®

American Upholstery
Residential or Commercial
Over 40 Years Experience • Fast & Dependable
Free Estimates • Free Pick-up & Delivery
Open: 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Thursday
(864) 638-9661

Mountain Granite, Inc.

Template • Fabrication
Installation
Marble • Travertine • Slate
Soapstone • SileStone
Cambria

Over 400 Slabs on site, All others available
5385 Hwy 107 North • Glenville, NC • 828-743-0200

Wolesale Down Comforters & More!
EVERYDAY SPECIALS:
White Goose Down Comforters, Flannel Sheets & Duvet Covers
526-4905
New Shipments Every Week
Mon.-Sat. 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
Next to Farmers Market on the Main Street side

Excavating • Grading • Trucking Trackhoe
Backhoe • Blasting • Utilities
(828) 526-2874
776 Dillard Road • Highlands

Located at 2543 Cashiers Rd. across from Highlands Lawn & Garden
828-787-1100

A large selection of Unique Slabs of Granite, Marble, Travertine, Soapstone, and Quartz...on site! Experienced in Custom Granite Fabrication, Custom Cabinetry, Hardware, Sinks, Faucets...with Design Services to put it all together!

"Our attention to detail makes the difference."

Eliminate Mold, Mildew, & Radon Immediately! FREE Radon Testing • Call 828-743-0900

www.drycrawlspaces.com

DryCrawlSpaces
Crawl Space Encapsulation System®

Larry Rogers Construction Company, Inc.
Serving Highlands and Cashiers from over 25 years
Excavating • Grading • Trucking Trackhoe
Backhoe • Blasting • Utilities
(828) 526-2874
776 Dillard Road • Highlands

Located at 2543 Cashiers Rd. across from Highlands Lawn & Garden
828-787-1100

A large selection of Unique Slabs of Granite, Marble, Travertine, Soapstone, and Quartz...on site! Experienced in Custom Granite Fabrication, Custom Cabinetry, Hardware, Sinks, Faucets...with Design Services to put it all together!

"Our attention to detail makes the difference."

Eliminate Mold, Mildew, & Radon Immediately! FREE Radon Testing • Call 828-743-0900

www.drycrawlspaces.com

DryCrawlSpaces
Crawl Space Encapsulation System®
When the cat’s away ....

You wanted change; you’re getting change. As for hope, not so much.

Something happened recently that signifies the trouble we’re in. Recession appointments are a method allowing the President to fill senior governmental positions while the Senate is in recess. This is infrequently used but not unheard of. George W. made a few, as I recall. The problem is the brazen arrogance exhibited by Obama in one of his appointments.

Card Check is a method for employees to organize into a labor union in which a majority of employees in a bargaining unit sign authorization forms, or cards, stating they wish to be represented by the union. The primary difference between proposed Card Check legislation and the current method of organizing is that, as opposed to the secret ballot system now in use, the new sign-up would be open for the world, including the union organizers, to see. Very intimidating. Great pressure, in various forms, would be applied to have the “not interested” voters rethink their position. Not the American way that I’m accustomed to.

Card Check legislation has been stalled in both houses in deference to the urgency of the health care issue, which is now more or less resolved, and the drumbeat to move on Card Check has been revived. The basic premise of doing away with privacy is abhorrent to a large (80%-+) portion of the population and to a significant majority of present union members as well. One wonders if legislators have a stomach for passing another unpopular bill as mid-term elections approach. Evidently, Obama is not above showing them further into the abyss. However, he may have found an alternative solution.

The National Labor Relations Board is an independent federal agency created by Congress in 1935 to administer the National Labor Relations Act, the primary law governing relations between unions and employers. The NLRB is governed by a five member board and a General Counsel, all of whom are appointed by the President and with the consent of the Senate. Not in this case, however.

The appointment Obama made recently was to name Craig Becker to the NLRB. From the Lexology (Association of Corporate Counsel) website: “Of Obama’s three Board nominations – to a full member Board – only Becker’s nomination was blocked. Sen. John McCain (R-AZ) led the effort to block Becker from being appointed to the NLRB. Recently, all 41 Republican Senators requested that Obama not use his recess appointment power to seat Becker.

“The controversy around Becker is directly related to his very pro-union agenda. He previously served as counsel for the AFL-CIO and the Service Employees International Union (SEIU). He is a staunch supporter of the Employee Free Choice Act (Card Check) and according to Republicans, Becker’s writings clearly indicate that he would use his position on the NLRB to institute far-reaching changes in labor law far exceeding the Board’s authority and bypassing the role of Congress.”

Aren’t stronger labor laws just what our hurting economy needs?

Another outrageous recess appointment involves filling an open seat on the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. From Wikipedia: “The EEOC is an independent federal agency that enforces laws against workplace discrimination. The EEOC investigates discrimination complaints based on an individual’s race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, disability and retaliation reporting and/or opposing a discriminatory practice.”

In September, 2009, Obama chose Chai Feldblum to fill a vacant seat and her nomination was awaiting a vote on the Senate floor. Obama wasn’t interested in the Senate’s delaying ratifying her appointment and went the recess route. Perhaps the following information from OneNewsNow.com might have been concerning the Senate.

“Feldblum, a law professor at Georgetown University, has signed an online petition titled, ‘Beyond Same Sex Marriage: A New Strategic Vision for All Our Families and Relationships.’ That petition chides conservatives for opposing same sex ‘marriage’, and calls for a ‘new vision’ for achieving recognition from the government and private sector for diverse forms of partnerships. Speaking at a forum in 2004, Feldblum stated that ‘gay sex is morally good.’”

When a mostly morally bankrupt Senate refuses to vote on Obama’s appointments because his nominees are too radical even for them, look out below. One common thread between these two appointments is that Obama’s actions fly in the face of the people. On top of jamming through health care legislation that is clearly unpopular with the majority, he is setting the stage for implementing the equally unpopular Card Check scheme. God only knows where the EEOC appointment will lead, but most of us won’t like it.

Obama let us know that he would institute change and he is being true to his word.
Ongoing and Upcoming Events

Ongoing
• Registration is now open for the 2010 summer nature day camps at the Highlands Nature Center. Five different camps are offered: "WOW – A World of Wonder" (ages 4-6), "Amazing Animals" (ages 7-10), "NatureWorks" (ages 8-11), "Mountain Explorers" (ages 10-13), and "Junior Ecologists" (ages 11-14). Some camps are offered more than once during the summer. Sessions run from Tuesday to Friday each week. For complete schedules, costs, and other information, please call 828-526-2623 or visit www.wcu.edu/hhs.
• At Health Tracks at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital, various exercise classes are all week long. Call 828-526-1FIT.

Through May 7
• CBC Bank is collecting non-perishable food products for donation to The Food Pantry of Highlands Emergency Council. Donated items can be dropped off at our branch location at 225 Franklin Rd in Highlands during normal banking hours.
• Sundays:
  • Altarschook Youth meets every Sunday night at 6:30 p.m. downstairs at Cullasaja Assembly of God at 6201 Highlands Road, Franklin, NC. Contact youth ministers Seth & Satha Henegar at 828 369-7540 ext 203.
  • Mon. & Wed.
    • Pilates Classes at the Jane Woodruff Clinic, 1st floor, at H-C Hospital taught by Sandie Trevathan at 4 p.m. A mat class for all levels. For info call 526-5852 (4/15)
    • Mon. & Thurs.
      • Yoga On the Mat at the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation on Main Street. Enter through the single door facing Mountain Fresh. Upper Level Jones Hall. Winter Hours: Monday at 8:30 a.m. and Thursday at 10:45 a.m. Bring your mat. 828-482-2128. $10/hour. (4/29)
      • Step Aerobics with Tina Rogers at the Rec Park, 8-9 a.m. $10 per class or $50 a month.
      • First Mondays

• Tuesday After School Classes for grades K-6 at the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. Enter the hospital in the main or emergency entrance and follow the signs downstairs. Visitors are welcome. Come learn

• Wednesdays
  • Wednesday Preschool Creativity Classes for Parent and Child (ages 2 1/2–5) are held weekly at The Bascom in Highlands. To register or for more information, visit www.thebascom.org or call (828) 526-4949 ext. 100.
  • A FREE After School Program at Highlands United Methodist Church. Children are picked up at school, taken to the church, have a snack, helped with homework time and supervised playing on the playground and participate in a music program. Children are dismissed at 5:30 pm in time for dinner in the fellowship hall. For information, call 526-3376.

HS School Scholarship Fund Golf Tournament
Monday, June 21 at Wildcat Cliffs Country Club
Register by Wednesday, June 9

The fun begins at 7:30 a.m. with a complimentary driving range and practice putting green adjacent to clubhouse.

• 7:45 a.m. Beginning registration; Mulligan’s (2 max. per player) may be purchased at $10 ea.; Raffle tickets will be available at $20 each or 3 for $40 for a chance (by random selection) of “four-somes-if you play on one of the major country club courses in our area participating in this event.

• 8 a.m. Breakfast in the clubhouse with gift distribution & continuing registration.

• 5:30 p.m. Cocktail lunch buffet & award recognition. Award recognition will be given for 1st, 2nd & 3rd low score, longest drive, closest to the pin & a hole in one opportunity to win a free “Club Car” provided by Appalachian Golf Cars. All sponsor donations and “sign-up” for play must be made by June 9th to guarantee proper publication of your generous gift and assure your ability to play within the 100 max. allotted player positions for the event. Pleasenic or hand deliver this sign-up sheet and your tax deductible donation to: The “Town of Highlands Scholarship Fund” PO Box 460, Highlands, NC 28741. Sponsorships available at $500 Diamond Sponsor (Tee sign, program recognition & 2 rounds of “four-some golf”); a $1000 Platinum Sponsor (Tee sign, program recognition & 1 round of “four-some golf”); a $5000 Gold Sponsor (Program recognition & 1 round of “two-some” golf); or a $300 Patron Sponsor (Program recognition & 1 individual round of practice golf). All golf playing gifts in return for your donation at Wildcat Cliffs CC are to be scheduled no later than October 31st of this year. Or, it’s $150 per golf player (Listed in the player’s roster). Up to 4 players per group.

The best-kept secret in this area is the talent pool of artists who are highly qualified, professional instructors and waiting for an opportunity to teach. The new Bascom Art Academy will provide a place for great teachers to work with anyone who wants to grow their interest in art. Beginning the week of April 12, The Bascom will launch the first series of classes for the beginner or returning artist taught by the following instructors: Phyllis Jarvinen, Knight Martorell, Bill Rouda, Diane McPhail, Patrick Taylor (above) and Robin Swaby. Pre-registration is required. Classes fill quickly. Call (828) 526-4949 or visit www.thebascom.org/artacademy to enroll or for more information.
Hostas just one variety of native plants available at the Mountain Garden Club Plant Sale May 29

Spring is right around the corner. Soon there will be green budron branches and little tell tale shoots emerging from the ground indicating a soon-to-appear hosta plant. How strange that a perennial native to Japan is so popular in Highlands, North Carolina! Hostas are fantastic. You can dig them up, divide them, even forget to plant them and they most likely will survive. These shade perennials thrive in low light and best of all, they get better with age. Each season, the plants get larger and margins on variegated leaves become wider. Puckering or see-sucker in leaves becomes more prominent, and the coloring becomes more intense.

Hostas are members of the lily family and there are literally thousands of varieties. Lush foliage in diverse colors, heights, and textures, coupled with the hostas ability to excel in deep shade, have captured gardeners hearts everywhere. When choosing a plant, location, color and size are all important in your decision. Hostas are considered shade plants, but do not thrive if grown in deep shade. Early morningsun and filtered shade in the afternoon seems to be ideal. As they become larger and more mature, some hostas can succeed in full sun. However, the hotter the summers, the more shade will be necessary to prevent scorching the foliage. A high shade canopy providing dappled light is best.

Hosta plants are beautiful on their own or grouped with other shade plants. These companion plants can enhance the appearance of a planting of hostas. Early blooming bulbs and perennials are especially nice with the emerging hosta leaves. Spring companions could include snowdrops, tulips, daffodils, and trillium. After they have bloomed, the bulb foliage can be hidden by the larger hosta leaves.

Many of these mentioned hostas and their companion plants will be available at the Mountain Garden Club’s annual plant sale on May 29. There will also be many other local perennials available including “sun lovers,” herbs and a large variety of dahlias.
Ongoing and Upcoming Events

- The Jackson County GOP is sponsoring a Republican Primary Candidate Forum on Thursday at 7 p.m. at the Albert Carlton Library in Cashiers. All Jackson County voters are invited to attend to hear County Commission candidates Doug Cody and Charles Elders; District 11 candidates for Heath Shuler’s seat in the U.S. House of Representatives Dan Eichenbaum, Jake Howard, Jeff Miller, Ed Krause, Greg Newman and Kenny West; District Judge Candidates and State Legislative candidates Dodie Allen and Jimmy Goodman and Jim Davis. Each candidate will present remarks after which there will be opportunities for questions from the floor. For additional information contact Jackson County Chair, Ralph Slaughter at 828 743-6491 or visit the website www.jacksoncountygop.com.

- Friday & Saturday, April 9-10
  - HCP’s Mystery Dinner Theater 6:30 p.m. at PAC: Destination Highlands-Destination Murder. Tickets are $55 each or $425 per table of 8. Call 526-8084 for tickets.

- Saturday, April 10
  - The Nantahala Hiking Club will take an easy 2-mile hike on the Long Branch loop trail in the Standing Indian area, crossing the creek a few times. Bring hiking stick. Meet at Clubhouse in Franklin at 1 p.m. Drive 28 miles round trip. Call leader Chris Shaw, 371-0183, for reservations. Visitors are welcome, but no pets please.
  - The Cashiers-Highlands Humane Society is sponsoring a rabies and microchipping clinic in Tuckasegee. 11 a.m to 2 p.m at the Tuckasegee Trading Company on 7867 Hwy 107 South. The public is invited to bring their animals to the clinic, and no appointments are necessary. The costs are $10 per vaccine for rabies and canine parvo; $20 per vaccine for feline leukemia; $40 for a 24PetWatch microchip; and $50 for all vaccinations and a microchip. All vaccinations and microchips are administered by a North Carolina licensed vet.

- Mon.-Fri., April 12-16
  - Pat Dews will teach a watermedia workshop, “Great Starts, Great Finishes,” at The Bascom. Cost is $525 Bascom members, $550 non-members. Register now. Call 526-4949 ext. 100.

- Monday, April 12
  - Contemporary watercolor and mixed media artist Pat Dews will give a free demonstration of her highly acclaimed work at The Bascom on Monday, April 12. Join Dews and other art lovers for a wine reception at 4:15 p.m.

- Thursday, April 15
  - The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate 5-mile hike, with a small 200 foot elevation change, to Rough Run and High Falls, viewing many wildflowers along the way and climbing over rocky terrain near the falls. Bring water, lunch, sturdy shoes. Meet at Ingles parking lot one mile east of Cashiers on Hwy 64 at 1:30 p.m. Drive 20 miles round trip. Call leader Carl Blozan, 743-1765, for reservations. Visitors are welcome, but no pets please.

- Saturday, April 17
  - The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate 5-mile hike, with a small 200 foot elevation change, to Rough Run and High Falls, seeing many wildflowers along the way and climbing over rocky terrain near the falls. Bring water, lunch, sturdy shoes. Meet at Ingles parking lot one mile east of Cashiers on Hwy 64 at 1:30 p.m. Drive 20 miles round trip. Call leader Carl Blozan, 743-1765, for reservations. Visitors are welcome, but no pets please.

- Monday, April 19
  - The Jackson County GOP announces the next in the series of Orville Coward Forum presentations on Monday at 7 p.m. at the Jackson County Community Services Building in Sylva. The topic is The Fair Tax and the speaker is local authority Laura McCue who is the NC District 11 Director for Americans for Fair Taxation. Contact Forum Chair Fran Webster at 828 566-3577, Jackson County Chair, Ralph Slaughter at 828 743-6491.

- Thurs.-Sun., April 22-25
  - PAC Youth Theater presents a 4-day 1-Act Play Festival. Call 526-8084 for times and tickets.

- Saturday, April 24
  - Gorge pick up is scheduled for Saturday at 8:30 a.m. Sponsored by the Highlands Area Chamber of Commerce & Visitor Center. If you’d like to volunteer please contact Jan at 828-526-2112. Lunch provided.

Special watercolor event at The Bascom April 12

Contemporary watercolor and mixed media artist Pat Dews will give a free demonstration of her highly acclaimed work at The Bascom on Monday, April 12. Join Dews and other art lovers for a wine reception at 4:15 p.m. in The Bascom’s Education Gallery, followed by a studio talk, question-answer session and demo at 5 p.m. Dews will discuss her art and her very unique techniques. For those who want more of her “watermedia,” Dews will also teach a five-day studio workshop at The Bascom April 12-16 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day. A few spaces still remain. Pre-registration is required. For more information or to register, call (828) 526-4949 ext. 100 or visit www.thebascom.org.

PAC Youth Theater presents a 4-day, 1-Act Play Festival April 22-25

Highlands-Cashiers Players mainstays Ronnie Spilton and Jim Gordon have joined forces to cultivate and perpetuate youth theater in Highlands.

The following is an contribution from Elizabeth Strawn, a ninth-grader at Highlands School who is directing six one-act plays: “The Happy Journey to Camden and Trenton” directed by Gordon; “Done Her Wrong or Wedded But No Wife” directed by Spilton; “The Girl Who Was Asked to Camden and Trenton and Gordon decided on six one-act plays.

Students in grades 7-12 from Highlands School, Blue Ridge School, Summit Charter School and the area’s homeschoolers have been invited to participate in the program which kicks off with a 4-day, one-act play festival at the Performing Arts Center presenting six plays April 22-25.

About 25 students are involved this time around which meant finding an appropriate script. To ensure every student got a specified part and decent stage time, Spilton and Gordon decided on six on-act plays.

April’s Youth Theater program will feature six one-act plays: “The Happy Journey to Camden and Trenton” directed by Gordon; “A Game” directed by Spilton; “The Done Her Wrong or Wedded But No Wife” directed by Spilton; “Impromptu” directed by Gordon; “The Girl Who Was Asked to Turn Blue” directed by Spilton; and “The Stronger Gender” directed by Spilton.

For ticket information, call the Highlands-Cashiers Players box office at 526-8084.

Also under the PAC Youth Theater umbrella, the “Act Up at PAC” program for children in 2nd through 6th grades which will teach the basics of acting. To register, call 526-9047.

Act Up at PAC will meet every Saturday in May from 10-Noon and two weeks in June and will end with a performance.
In my 53 years of ministry, I have done thousands of weddings; no two couples the same. This past Saturday I had the joy of interviewing two new potential brides and grooms being married in just a few months, one couple right here in Highlands and the other at the Farm of the Old Edwards Inn. Each of these couples was exuberant in their looking forward to their special service, but it brought to my mind that songs of spring and love and undying devotion are good to the ears of all of us. The wedding service was marred without music and moonlight and romance, but lovely as all these are, there must be much more for making a lasting marriage, for making a good and solid life, and for keeping alive the love and sweetness of life.

In June we may walk together holding hands, with adoring eyes and high hearts. But many precious things are perishable, if they are not understood and not carefully cultivated. Life is full of change, it changes pace, it changes color. It is sometimes light and lovely, sometimes difficult and discouraging. There are the fair and pleasant days, there are days of illness, of disappointment, of sorrow. But the sacred covenant of marriage does not contemplate that any of these will make any difference in loyalty and love. Marriage is not only for the brighter moments, not only for the prosperous and pleasant days, but for all the days there are, endless and forever, and it cannot be built on less than common ideals, common purpose, and willingness to rear a family, usefulness, and sincere service. No one should marry with the remote possibility in mind that matrimony is sometimes eliminative.

A few months ago while conducting a marriage ceremony, I noticed a woman sitting in the second row on the groom's side, sobbing throughout the service. It was a quiet sob, but painful nonetheless. She was sitting next to a very well-dressed gentleman, and the service went on in spite of her sobs. After the service, she came to me and said, "Bishop, I am so sorry for disturbing the beautiful service." I, of course, said to her that I was sorry for her pain, but could she tell me just what it was that disturbed her. She said, "I was sitting next to my husband and all of a sudden realized how far we had drifted from the promises we had made so many years ago."

And to you who have begun life together: Don't let any unkind comment, any act of inconsideration start its widening wedge between you. There will be many things you will not understand; there will be differences; you will try each other's patience at times. No two people, however much in love, think or act in all things together alike. Do not let differences grow, do not magnify them, don't brood about them; bring them into the open, face facts fairly.

Avoid hasty words and quick conclusions; reserve judgment; build and encourage each other and never belittle. Avoid extravagance, live within your means; trust and be true to your trust. Forgive, forget, don't let the errors of the past keep coming back to drive a wider wedge. Be prayerful, live with faith and forbearance, be a blessing to each other always and forever, don't lose the loveliness of looking down the years of lifetogether. Hold to what you have in June, and let it be so, sacred and blessed, in December.
Navigating the new real estate environment

Part 4 - Understanding Foreclosures and REOs

• This is the third article in Highlands’ Newspaper’s newest column “Investing at 4,118 Feet” for which seven Realtors will write.

Next up in the April 15 issues Bus Dotson of Preferred Properties.

After unsuccessful attempts to modify a loan, refinance, close a short sale, or convey a deed in lieu of foreclosure, the only option remaining for the distressed homeowner is foreclosure. According to the National Association of Realtors (NAR), a foreclosure sale “entails sale of a property, commonly through an auction, under authority of a court judgment in order to satisfy an unpaid obligation.”

In individual state foreclosure laws drive how the proceedings will take place, as well as the length of time to complete the proceedings.

Search the legal sections of local newspapers for announcements about upcoming foreclosure auctions/sales. If you are considering purchasing a property through a foreclosure auction, there are several points of concern you should be aware of prior to moving forward:

• You may be extremely limited in your ability to conduct property inspections. Generally speaking, potential buyers have limited or no access to properties offered at foreclosure sales.

• As the buyer, you would be responsible for paying for inspections.

• You may have to initiate legal action to evict the occupants.

• You may not receive clear title.

If a foreclosed property does not sell at the auction, the property is transferred to the lender and is categorized as a real estate-owned (REO) property. REOs are generally attractive to investors as their negotiating position is much stronger than the prior bidder. However, you do not have a binding contract until the bank and you have signed and initiated the contract.

As noted, it is important to know the landscape before investing in foreclosures and REOs. How are they handled? You do not have a binding contract until the bank and you have signed and initiated the contract.

As noted, it is important to know the landscape before investing in foreclosures and REOs. How are they handled? You do not have a binding contract until the bank and you have signed and initiated the contract.

First, while yes, the number of distressed properties has increased over the last two years, such properties are the exception, not the norm. The very appearance of distressed properties in our market has raised us. In a shaken state, one may default to exaggerating the negative.

I advocate that we take a page from Jim Collins (author of Good to Great: Why Some Companies Make the Leap and Others Don’t) and “confront the brutal facts” while keeping our emotions in check. That is, do your homework and get your boots on the ground for real time data and information.

Second, I am seeing signs that indicate this season’s sales will be stronger than last year. I am receiving inquiries from buyers from websites, as well as print media. Importantly, these folks are not just window shopping; they are scheduling appointments to view properties and are starting to get their financing in order prior to visiting. Confidence in the market, therefore, seems to be improving.

Third, the breathtaking beauty of this area has not changed; our area remains the jewel of the Blue Ridge Mountains. We will always attract those seeking respite from summer heat, as well as from city smog and crowds. Our mountainous terrain continues to deliver on its promise of rejuvenation and rebirth. And the Highlands-Cashiers area remains a wonderful place in which to invest and enjoy unparalleled lifestyle.

• To contact Susie deVeille Schiffl visit www.HighlandsNCRealEstateInnvestor.com, or calling (828) 371-2079.

Primary candidate Q&A continues

This is week two of our 5-week Q&A series with the Macon County candidates facing off for the May 4 primary. Each week we will feature a new question.

Question 2: Tell us why you are running for office, specifically what you like or dislike about what’s going on — and why you are the right person for the seat you are attempting to get or keep, and why can you do it better than your opponents?

Michael “Bud” Rogers – County Commissioner District 1 (Dem)

I am running for office because I am a native of Macon County and I love this place. I have lived all my life in Highlands. I have a daughter in our Macon County school system as well as in college. I am aware of the economics in this county and would like to see more economic growth in Macon County to bring more jobs. I want to protect our schools and make sure all schools get the best for our kids without wasting our tax dollars. Our future is in our children and we need to make sure they are afforded the best educational opportunities we can offer them. I am passionate about our natural resources. We have one of the most beautiful areas in the United States to live in and I want to make sure we protect it. I would like to see us clean up our rivers and lakes. We have one of the top landfills in the state and I want to make sure we can be even better at our recycling efforts. Recycling can benefit the county as well as the taxpayer.

I feel like Highlands could be represented a little stronger than it is right now. Our district may be smaller but our needs should be heard. I feel I am a well rounded person and have experience in various areas. I have indepth experience in water and sewer which is just one aspect of the growth in our county. I also have good communication within our school system. I feel I am more plugged in to what is needed in Macon County to grow our economy. My experience has taught me a job well done the first time will keep generations from paying for it down the road. Therefore, I want to make sure our county stays on a path of growth that will continue to benefit us rather than my children having to pay for our mistakes down the road. My opponents will be speaking the truth when they say I don’t have experience as a Macon County Commissioner, but the truth is, no one is experienced the first time they take office. What I lack in experience I can assure you is made up by my enthusiasm.

Allan “Ricky” Bryson – County Commissioner District 1 (Dem)

I am running for office to ensure that Macon County citizens are not subjected to another tax increase during a severe recession. My record of past service on the Board of Commissioners shows that I will meet the goals of the county without additional tax increases. I am the right person for the District 1 seat because I have the experience of serving in that post for four years working with the Town Board of Highlands, as well as the state Senate and the Congressional offices, to ensure that our district’s needs are met.

My contact information is hot@hcgexpress.net. I can also be contacted on Facebook, either on my personal page or my candidate page, “Allan “Ricky” Bryson for Macon County District 1 Commissioner.”

Dusty’s

Let our tasty soups warm you up on these cold winter days! 9 kinds to choose from!

Tues.-Sat. 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
493 Dillard Road
(828) 526-2762
I have been doing everything that I can to prepare myself for the opportunity of serving District 1 as its representative.

At all levels, our government is taking more control of our everyday lives and increasing our debt. These actions can only lead to one thing: raising our taxes! If our Nation and our State cannot control their spending, then, at the very least, we need to control our spending at the local level. With our economy struggling, I believe that doing the last thing that should do is incur more debt with the inevitability of raising our taxes. This is not the way that most people would operate their business and we shouldn’t operate our County the same way.

Because I am very familiar with the struggles and challenges of operating a business in Macon County, and because I am active with the budgeting and undertaking of numerous successful organizations like the Highlands Fire Department and the Highlands Cashes Land Trust, I feel I am ready to tackle the issues facing our County’s finances. As a sixth generation to call Macon County home, I have a deep desire to ensure that our County will continue to prosper, yet still be able to provide the same incredible beauty, opportunity and happiness to our future generations as it has for ours. There is and will continue to be a very difficult balancing act between satisfying our current needs with being able to make the wisest plans for the future. We should all respect the moral responsibility to be good stewards of our environment and finances, and pass along to the next group the best possible solutions.

• Brian McClellan - Incumbent, County Commissioner District 1 (Rep)

I am running for office because these are difficult times for many of us here in Macon County. In times such as these it is important to keep a tight rein on spending and to make the right choices. I feel our county on solid financial footing going forward. We need to provide the essential services that are needed to keep our county safe and functioning properly while maintaining our quality of life here in Macon County. In my opinion, one thing: raising our taxes! If our Nation and more control of our everyday lives and increasing our debt. These actions can only lead to one thing: raising our taxes. This is not the way that most people would operate their business and we shouldn’t operate our County the same way.

Because I am very familiar with the struggles and challenges of operating a business in Macon County, and because I am active with the budgeting and undertaking of numerous successful organizations like the Highlands Fire Department and the Highlands Cashes Land Trust, I feel I am ready to tackle the issues facing our County’s finances. As a sixth generation to call Macon County home, I have a deep desire to ensure that our County will continue to prosper, yet still be able to provide the same incredible beauty, opportunity and happiness to our future generations as it has for ours. There is and will continue to be a very difficult balancing act between satisfying our current needs with being able to make the wisest plans for the future. We should all respect the moral responsibility to be good stewards of our environment and finances, and pass along to the next group the best possible solutions.

• Brian McClellan - Incumbent, County Commissioner District 1 (Rep)

I am running for office because these are difficult times for many of us here in Macon County. In times such as these it is important to keep a tight rein on spending and to make the right choices. I feel our county on solid financial footing going forward. We need to provide the essential services that are needed to keep our county safe and functioning properly while maintaining our quality of life here in Macon County. In my opinion, one thing: raising our taxes! If our Nation and more control of our everyday lives and increasing our debt. These actions can only lead to one thing: raising our taxes. This is not the way that most people would operate their business and we shouldn’t operate our County the same way.

Because I am very familiar with the struggles and challenges of operating a business in Macon County, and because I am active with the budgeting and undertaking of numerous successful organizations like the Highlands Fire Department and the Highlands Cashes Land Trust, I feel I am ready to tackle the issues facing our County’s finances. As a sixth generation to call Macon County home, I have a deep desire to ensure that our County will continue to prosper, yet still be able to provide the same incredible beauty, opportunity and happiness to our future generations as it has for ours. There is and will continue to be a very difficult balancing act between satisfying our current needs with being able to make the wisest plans for the future. We should all respect the moral responsibility to be good stewards of our environment and finances, and pass along to the next group the best possible solutions.

• Brian McClellan - Incumbent, County Commissioner District 1 (Rep)
I am seeking election as Sheriff of Macon County. I have a passion for helping others and making this county a safe and wonderful place to live. I feel that the citizens of Macon County have worked hard to earn what they have and each week we read and hear of more breaking and enterings with people's belongings being stolen. To combat this, I will be assigning deputies to 12-hour shifts within communities; allowing for quicker response and a more personal relationship with the public. Also each shift will have an investigator on duty allowing the deputies to turn the crime scene over quickly and get back to patrolling our communities as well as giving the department a jump-start on recovering stolen property. Another major emphasis for our force would be to combat the drug epidemic in our community. People's lives are being destroyed everyday, especially among our youth. We must reverse this terrifying pandemic. Macon County is very fortunate to have an outstanding Highway Patrol Department, as well as two great Police Departments. I am confident in their ability to perform their assigned duties, whereby allowing the Sheriff's Department to fulfill its intended purpose. I will also be moving my office back to the courthouse which will make me more accessible to our citizens. I will always be willing to listen to any concerns or questions that an individual may have. I feel that I am the best candidate for the job due to my 14 years of law enforcement experience, in which I have been a Patrol Officer, Investigator, Captain and Chief Deputy. I feel that my law enforcement background has given me the knowledge of how to be a great Sheriff for Macon County.

Robert L. Holland - Sheriff (Rep)

My 9 years of service as a Macon County commissioner has been very rewarding. The county is in good financial shape, especially considering its neighbors and other like-sized counties in the state. We will soon send out construction proposals to bid for an elementary school that will finish our major capital needs for years to come. This has been accomplished while keeping one of the lowest ad valorem tax rates in the state. Macon County not only has great leadership and a professional staff, but lives within its budget and maintains an appropriate reserve.

The biggest frustration of my service has been dealing with the federal government and the mandates. Routinely the local government is given the funding responsibility for programs that Raleigh or Washington deem worthy without the accompanying money. With the fiscal problems of our state and nation, that practice will most likely continue or accelerate. Last year North Carolina spent 22% more than it took in. This next year will probably be worse. We are looking at years of budgetary problems due to the economic challenges and red ink spending. North Carolina has more than $30 billion dollars in unfunded retiree health benefits. Government employee retirement systems are underfunded. Our state government is building programs or expansion of programs that are already in place. I think our citizens, at all levels, are facing very difficult times and I just don't feel governmental expansion is something that needs to be paid for by people who are struggling to get by.

I would be honored to serve in Raleigh as an advocate for local government, bringing a common sense, conservative, evidence based leadership with integrity.

• Answers to Question 3 will be in the April 15 issue. The question is: Considering the current financial status of the North Carolina government as well as the ongoing construction of elementary schools and other building programs or expansion of programs that are already in place, how would you respond? 

I would respond that Raleigh or Washington should not be in control of what is going on in our communities as well as giving the department a jump-start on recovering stolen property. Another major emphasis for our force would be to combat the drug epidemic in our community. People's lives are being destroyed everyday, especially among our youth. We must reverse this terrifying pandemic. Macon County is very fortunate to have an outstanding Highway Patrol Department, as well as two great Police Departments. I am confident in their ability to perform their assigned duties, whereby allowing the Sheriff's Department to fulfill its intended purpose. I will also be moving my office back to the courthouse which will make me more accessible to our citizens. I will always be willing to listen to any concerns or questions that an individual may have. I feel that I am the best candidate for the job due to my 14 years of law enforcement experience, in which I have been a Patrol Officer, Investigator, Captain and Chief Deputy. I feel that my law enforcement background has given me the knowledge of how to be a great Sheriff for Macon County.

• James W. Davis - NC Senate District 50 (Rep)

When asked why I wanted to run for a government office my response is simple: I'M FED UP! Fed up with politics as usual, a government that refuses to listen, uncontrolled spending, excessive regulation and taxation, attacks on our constitution, personal freedom and rights. I'm also sick of politicians who promise one thing until the get elected then fall right in line with the status quo. Someone has got to stand up and fight hard to take our country back. I am not an insider or a politician... just a hard working business man who understands the value of a dollar. This will not be an easy fight and I can't do it alone. I respectfully ask for your trust and your vote. I can and will have experience!

I first ran for Sheriff in 2002 because I knew I could make a positive difference. My reason for running for re-election remains the same. During my tenure as your Sheriff I have placed emphasis on an aggressive fight against drugs, have developed numerous proactive programs aimed at crime prevention and have provided law enforcement coverage for all communities and the school on the north side of the county. All these projects are worthy of continued support because I want the people of Macon County to know that the thought and considerations of the concerned citizens.

Richard Davis - Sheriff (Dem)

I am running for the office of Sheriff because I want to protect and serve the citizens of Macon County and I feel that each of us owe a responsibility to give back to the community that has given so much to us. I know that Macon County has many fine/good qualified officers and I would like to see them get the personal credit for the work they are doing. I would like to see a Sheriffs Department that will work more with other Law Enforcement Agencies, that will provide full time patrol coverage to all areas of Macon County, that will work more for the protection of private property and not duplicate the responsibilities of the N.C. Highway Patrol, that responds to and is more accessible to the public that it serves. I can bring to the job the experience of working with both State and Federal Law Enforcement agencies. I can give 100% of my time/energy/commitment to serving you as Sheriff of Macon County.

Ricky DeHart - Sheriff (Dem)

I am running for Sheriff to give back to the citizens of Macon County as well as make our community a better place, better patrolled, better covered, better all around place to live and work. I am willing to do whatever it takes to make our community and the people who live here happy. I take any thoughts or concerns into serious consideration and will be looking to make changes that will better effect the thoughts and considerations of the concerned citizens.

• CLASSIFIEDS •

HELP WANTED

FULL-TIME OR PART-TIME JOB OPPORTUNITIES AT HIGH-END CLOTHING STORE

Retail sales experience necessary. Call 828-482-2118. (St. 4/1)

MOUNTAIN FRESH GROCERY has an experienced butcher position available. Call Kevin at 526-2400. (St. 4/1)

MOUNTAIN FRESH GROCERY is looking for a smiling face to join our team as a cashier. Apply in person at 5th and Main Highlands. (St. 4/1)

FRESSERS EATERY now taking applications for experienced waitstaff and line cooks. Call Debbie at 526-8847. (St. 3/18)

Highlands' Newspaper - Thursday, April 8, 2010 - Page 15
PHYSICAL THERAPY ASSISTANT at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. Full-time, Monday through Friday position. NC license required. Primarily orthopedic caseload in an outpatient clinic. Experience preferred. Pre-employment screening required. Call Human Resources at 828-526-1376 or apply online at www.hchospital.org.

PRN-RN's at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. Experienced Med-Surg and ER Nurses needed. Strong leadership skills is a must. Pre-employment screening required. Call Human Resources at 828-526-1376 or apply online at www.hchospital.org.

RESPIRATORY THERAPIST at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. PRN position working 12 hour shifts. Must be on call at night and be within 20 minutes of the hospital. Intubation experience a must. Pre-employment screening required. Call Human Resources at 828-526-1376 or apply online at www.hchospital.org.

WORK WANTED

LOOKING FOR CARPENTRY WORK. Have tools. Please call Allendorf: 524-9304 or 371-2976.

LOOKING FOR LANDSCAPING, yardwork and housecleaning. Call 628-200-1038.

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

ADORABLE 2/2 JOE WEBB LOG CABIN only a stone’s throw from Mirror Lake. Completely furnished for only $499K. Call 800-335-9215 and view pictures at www.HighlandsRentals.net/StonesThrow Pics (527)

TWO LOTS IN BLUE VALLEY – Dead-end Road. Water & Septic included. Subfloor and foundation on one, 70’ single-wide on the other. $55 acre and .65 acre. Borders USFS and great view of Satulah Mountain. Call 828-482-2052. (St. 11/24)

$205,000 FOR BOTH. BY OWNER NO AC NEEDED. CLASSIC COUNTRY HOME. 4.2 acres. Perennial landscaping. 4 bed 3 bath, garage and shed. 2000 sq. ft living space. 1,523 sq. ft deck. $338,500, 743-5788 (st. 11/24)

Deluxe, Indoor Climate Controlled Self Storage With covered loading zone. • Units Available • Highlands Storage Village • 828-526-4555 Cashiers Road

APEARTMENT FOR RENT – newly furnished one bedroom one bath. AC/Heat. Deck. Fantastic view. 5 min from Highlands. Adults only. No smokers, no pets. Utilities included. $795. Call 526-2694. (st. 7/20)

GREAT 2 1/2BATH APARTMENT – Main Street. Highlands includes 9-foot ceilings, central heat & air, balcony, large laundry room with washer/dryer, $950 per month plus utilities. Lease and references required. Contact John Dotson - 526-5587. (st. 5/21)

COMMERCIAL FOR RENT/SALE

FOR SALE – BEST COMMERICAL BUY IN HIGHLANDS – 535 4th Street. Zoned mixed-use, commercial and residential. Recent Remodel. Great retail/ office and separate one-bedroom basement apartment. $389,000. Call 770-827-0450. (St. 11/5)

RESTAURANT FOR LEASE ON THE CASHIERS ROAD. – Currently occupied by High Country Cafe. 6,300 sq. ft. Call Buddy or Sherry Kremser at 706-782-6252. (St. 11/5)

RENTAL SPACE IN WRIGHT SQUARE – Half a building or two floors of one building. Call Harold Brammer. 828-526-6793. (st. 11/5)

VACATION RENTAL

RV SITES FOR RENT IN TOWN — Short Walk to Main Street. Daily, Weekly, or Monthly Rates Available. Contact Charlie @ (828)526-8645 e-mail: chestrutotagcjes@yahoo.com (ST. 11/5)

ITEMS FOR SALE

Piano — Gorgeous Fully restored. Late 1800’s upright owned by the Vanderbelts and was in the Bilmore Estates Plays Beautifull $7,000 invested, worth way more Must sell. Will sacrifice for $2,800. OBO. 828-524-2723 or 828-371-2129. (st. 10/22)

COLONY 5000 ER ELECTRONIC GARAGE DOOR $500. Call 526-5025. (st. 8/13)

Vehicles for Sale


CADILLAC DEVILLE 2002 – Silver, 85,300 miles. One owner, garaged. $8,950. See at 150 Shelby Circle, Highlands. 787-2310. (ST. 7/19)

SERVICES

HELPING HANDS will pet sit, clean and do errands for you. Dependable, good references, Macon County resident. Call 443-315-8547. (48)

RETIRED AND BORED LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT. Needs to stay busy. 25 years experience, brings a lot to the table. Land use masterplanning, to renovations. Out of the box innovative ideas and solutions for circulation, grading, drainage, erosion, soft-scapes, hardscapes water features, natural to formal gardens and irrigation. Please call. My wife’s serious about Latin dance lessons.


ANY OUTSIDE WORK – Landscaping, Tree climbing, roofing or stone work. Insured & Legal employees., Call 828-206-0207. (4/22)


HANDYMAN SPECIAL – Repairs and remodeling, electrical and plumbing, carpentry and more. Low prices. Free estimate. Call 828-342-7984. (5/16)

DEBRIS AND TREE REMOVAL CLEAN UP. Roof and gutter repair expert. Call 371-1103. (st. 2/25)


24-HOUR CARE FOR YOUR LOVED ONE – 16 years experience. Will travel to accommodate. $2,800 monthly, negotiable. Call Claire Myers 828-349-3479 or 828-342-1605. (4/29)


Accordingly. Some medicines are reimbursed better than others, depending on the severity of your condition and the known efficacy of the drugs. It's not a perfect system, by any means, but it's a pretty damned good one. When I lived in Paris, the turnaround time for being reimbursed was about two weeks. (When my father had heart surgery, Blue Cross Blue Shield took 2 1/2 years to reimburse his expenses.) There were puzzling gaps, however. Dental and eyewis-

ers were very badly reimbursed, as if they were a luxury. When I lived in France, the reimbursement for a pair of eyeglasses had remained unchanged since 1945. I've said it once, and I'll say it again. If there were a perfect country, we'd all know about it. I'm just trying to give folks an idea of how it's done in other countries.

So, if you'll bear with me, more next time. You'll find out what Sœur Marie de la Trinité thought of the Protestant Reformation, and how my other GP found me a hit man.

The spring cleaning season has arrived: Avoid putting up with or returning to a dusty house after a long winter!

Deep cleaning for the demanding home-owner. Offering home checks, clutter control, and more. Now offering spring cleaning specials through June 15.

828-342-8853 www.details-clean.com
...APPEARANCE from pg 3

after that, procedures had been set up to require a rendition of some kind from Appearance Commission applicants.

Though Planning Director Joe Cooley said the project meets the necessary criteria and will adhere to current standards concerning rail height, width and spacing, members of the board weren't sure how they were supposed to OK the "appearance" without seeing a color rendition.

"We need to know how this is going to look," said Taylor. "Since this is more than an extension and will have tables and chairs we need to know how it will look on the property."

Bowers was clearly annoyed with Taylor's request. First of all she said she wasn't told a rendering was necessary and second of all she said everyone has driven by the property for years and should have a pretty good idea of what the change would look like.

Cooley apologized to Bowers for the lack of communication from his office and to the board for allowing the case to come without all the necessary documents.

He said on small projects like the one proposed by the Bowers, hiring an architect isn't necessary but a simple drawing or altered photograph would have sufficed.

Taylor drew a picture of the project based on Bowers' description and Bowers suggested the board simply use that as her rendition.

At first, Taylor made a motion to accept the verbal description with the understanding that the deck would be stained a semi-transparent color instead of left natural, that planter boxes would be installed in front of the lattice where it meets the pavement to soften the overall look, and that a new railing would encompass the original deck and the expansion.

But when Bowers said that the new deck railings would simply butt up against the old railings, with only the new part stained, Taylor withdrew his motion.

In fact, everyone became concerned; afraid the look would be mishmash rather than cohesive.

Things settled down when new member Sally Taylor suggested painting the entire deck, railing and newels — existing and the extension — the same color to give the project a unified look.

In the end, the vote was unanimous. Pat Taylor and Acting Chairman Thomas Craig abstained which counted as "yes" votes.

The next item was the Old Highlands Park Temporary Planned Development sign application — the first of many to come now that the ordinance is on the books.

It's the Appearance Commission's job to OK the look of the signs.

A photograph of a sign applicant Bill Nellis recently erected at Old Highlands Park was presented. Cooley said the board needed to decide if the new sign fit the character of the town and if it identified the project, rather than just being a "for sale" sign.

Everyone agreed that though it was too big, the original sign at Old Highlands Park was nicer, both in character, color scheme and verbiage.

In the end, the board asked that the new sign "match" the development in color scheme and that it identify the project. Members suggested muted, natural colors and even a serif font to soften the entire look, as well as the name of the development on the sign.
Our passion for the mountains starts with you!

**Harry Norman, Realtors®**
828-526-8300
Since 1930
www.HighlandsRealEstate.com

**Highlands-Cashiers Waterfall & Hiking Map**
Detailed Info Inside Newspaper

**HighlandsInfo.com**

**Cut n Patch Quilt Shop**
Custom Quilts, Fabrics, Notions
526-9743

**Cimarron Builders**
Building Green Homes: Durable, Healthy, & Energy Efficient
WWW.CIMBUILD.COM 828-526-2240

**The Animal Wellness Hospital**
NOW OPEN
Brad Smith, DVM
Stephen Arbitter, DVM
Amanda Whitlock, DVM
828-526-8700
Large, Small, & Exotic Animal Medicine & Surgery Laser Surgery Available
Next to Freeman Gas @ 19 Qobe Place, Highlands

**Nadine Paradise, Broker**
828-526-8300 (office)
828-371-2551 (cell)
nadineparadise@gmail.com
www.NadineParadise.com

**Harry Norman, Realtors®**
Hwy 64 & Carolina Way
Mountain Brook Center
Hwy 64 & Carolina Way, Highlands

**Fire Mountain**
Home of the DownHill Grill!
Food and Live Entertainment
Friday & Saturday 7-9 p.m.
828-526-3737
www.scalymountain.com

**Unique Home Furnishings**
Lampshades & Lamps Galore!!!

**The Custom House**
442 Carolina Way • 828-526-2665
Highlands

**Chestnut Hill At Highlands**
“The area’s only Retirement Community and Assisted Living option.”
64 Clubhouse Trail
Contact us: 828.787.2114 - Marketing
GaryTallent@ChestnutHillAtHighlands.com
www.ChestnutHillAtHighlands.com

**The Game Keepers Tavern**
Dinner: from 5:30
Lounge: 4 until
(828) 743-4263
3646 US 64 East
Sapphire, NC
www.gamekeeperstavern.com

**The Good Earth Pottery**
Hours:
Mon.-Sat. 10:30-5
828-787-2473
488 Main Street

**Our passion for the mountains starts with you!**

**Highlands' Newspaper - Thursday, April 8, 2010 - Page 20**