Three key issues dominate TB meeting

The Police Dept., grievances and Riverwalk were hot topics Wednesday night.

By using applied valued engineering tactics, architect Wendy Stiles and project manager Jeff Weller both with Summit Architects shaved $20,000 from the police department renovation project's lowest bid of $719,000.

At the last Town Board meeting, the board accepted the lowest bid to get the bond process going, with the understanding that Summit Architecture and low bidder JT Turner would come before the board this week with a lower figure.

As it turned out, another floor plan was presented by the firms - one that could bring the project in well below the town's original budgeted figure of $599,000.

Grinder pump policy in the works

With major sewer projects nearing completion and others on the drawing board, commissioners hammered out a Grinder Pump policy during a worksession Wednesday afternoon to add to the sewer ordinance as an amendment.

Two gravity sewer extension projects have been in the works over the last couple of years - the Harris Lake project and the Mirror Lake project. Those two areas have long been part of the Master Sewer plan whose purpose is to keep area waterways clean.

The next phase is the Netsi Place project involving 14 homes by Lake Sequoyah which will have to be on a pressure system; this initiated the need for the amended sewer ordinance.

As per a 2006 state mandate, municipalities with sewer systems must be responsible for pump stations, tanks, service laterals and main lines for the entire sewer collection system. This specifically applies to pressure systems which require grinder pumps. Since the town must maintain those pumps, a permit must be in place to allow for the maintenance, but it's at the homeowner's expense.

For now, costs will be charged for a permit, but it's cheaper to not get the sewer system. This will be reconsidered next year when the ordinance is re-written.

Corbin picked for Davis's unexpired seat

Kevin Corbin, past BOE chair, has been named Commissioner Jim Davis's replacement on the Macon County Commission.

Since Republican Jim Davis won the NC Senate District 50 race against Democrat John Snow, he relinquishes his commission seat to a person picked by the Macon County Republican party.

Davis's resignation is expected sometime in January 2011 when he takes the oath as NC Senator District 50.

"I look forward to working with all the commissioners," said Corbin. "I appreciate the confidence."

Community remembers those who have served

On Veteran's Day, Thursday, Nov. 11, veterans, families and friends gathered at the Highlands Veteran's Memorial at 6th and Main streets to honor all who have served in our country's wars. Vietnam vet and post commander Ed Jones conducted the service. The speaker was Vietnam vet from Glenville, NC, Terry Bye. Standing left of the monument is Neville Wilson vet with the US Army and to the right, Vietnam vet Navy Sea Bee, PJ View.

Photo by Kim Lewicki

Ex-Police Chief Part 2

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For now, costs will be charged for a permit, but it's cheaper to not get the sewer system. This will be reconsidered next year when the ordinance is re-written.
Both parties ‘own’ the government

Dear Editor,

Post election letters to the editor continue the “take back our government” mantra and I would ask the question: Take it back from whom? Has the United States been invaded by some foreign country? The answer is obviously “NO.” So, the question then becomes what defines “our” in the statement? The United States was founded as a democratic Republic and the government belongs to all Americans, regardless of any other qualification. One party, regardless of any other qualification, has no absolute right to claim the government as theirs, certainly not the Republicans or the Democrats. Perhaps, it is the overwhelming majority of registered voters of one party that feels that this is their government. The latest statistic regarding party affiliation I could find was 2004. It breaks down this way: Republican 32.5%, Democrat 42.6% and Independent 24.8%. I do not see anything in these statistics that would support this premise.

No single party, especially the extremists in the party, has the only answer to governing. The Declaration of Independence and the Constitution were written AFTER honest debate, negotiation and compromise. America needs a government that puts country first and follows the example that was set by the founders. Compromise is not a dirty word and does not reflect weakness. The Constitution was not a perfect document when written; otherwise it would not have been amended.

Our elected leaders must be encouraged to talk to each other civilly and realize that consensus is better than ignoring half of the citizens in the country. If America does not learn to build bridges instead of walls, it may cease to exist.

Jim Hartje
Otto, NC

On living with bear hunters

Dear Editor,

Well, it’s that time of year again. The time when, in addition to the racket of the leaf blowers, we have the barking and howling of bear dogs as they chase the bears onto our yards... disrupting our family life and peace and quiet. I do not have a leaf blower, but I can do nothing about the bear dogs.

It seems that they have certain rights that I know nothing about. The hunters stake out the land where bears have been sniffed out and take over. I have heard that they don’t just kill the bear, they render it helpless after it climbs a tree to escape. They shoot its feet to make it fall out of the tree so the dogs can torture it to death. Somehow, this does not seem to be sporting. How can a normal person enjoy torture?

I understand hunting. I know that there is a problem with over population of bears because of loss of habitat. Right here in town my neighbors have never been threatened by bears so we sort of enjoy them. The can be a nuisance, but somehow we adapt to it. We take our trash out only on trash day and pull the bird feeders in at night. No big deal. But the bear hunters seem to want to kill the bears that are easy targets— the ones who amble up and down our mountain roads eating blackberries, seeds and food left by construction people.

There was an article about bear hunters’ rights and property owners’ rights published recently. I would like to know what property owners can and cannot do to discourage bear hunting and bear torture.

I would like to hear from a bear hunter who is horrified that people would think they do such cruel things to bears. I hope to learn that this is false and that my information is wrong.

I hope.

Glenda Bell
Highlands

Continued update on Post Office and Demolition Day

Dear Editor,

I had hoped the U.S. Postal Service officials would give us more cooperation than we have received regarding the relocation of the Post Office to the corner of NC 106 and US 64. I hope now to hear something definite before too long, as time is running out and Christmas is the expiration for my offer to the USPS.

Another delay is holding up the demolition of the existing buildings (formerly Furniture South). We do not have access to the buildings until the bankruptcy situation is closed. Just as soon as possible, we will notify the various contractors we have spoken with to come inspect the structures to submit their bids. We are being delayed because we have no choice. Contractors will be called as soon as access is given to us.

Thank you for your patience.

Jane Woodruff
Highlands
... CORBIN continued from page 1

the Republican Executive Committee has placed in me. From what I understand, the party sought someone who they thought could work well with the entire board both Republican and Democrat, and someone who would be respected by all the citizens of the county.”

Corbin is a Macon County native and is active in numerous civic and community organizations. He is a graduate of Franklin High School, class of 1979, and an honors graduate of Appalachian State University where he earned a BS in Business Administration.

He is a past chairman of the Macon County School Board where he served for 14 years winning five county wide elections. He currently serves on the Southwestern Community College board of directors, and the Franklin Chamber of Commerce board.

“I am obviously very interested in our schools and will continue to work with our school folks for success there,” said Corbin. “I am appointed as a Republican and I am proud to serve in that capacity. I will, however, have an open ear to all Maconians - Republican, Democrat, and Independent.”

The Corbins own and operated Corbin Insurance Agency and he is a partner in Blue Ridge Insurance Group, Inc.

In 2010 Corbin was appointed to the Blue Cross Blue Shield NC Agents Advisory Board where he was involved in developing lower cost plans for citizens of North Carolina.

Looking toward the future Corbin said he will strive to keep the tax rate as low as possible, particularly due to the state of the national and local economy.

“We have to give individuals and citizens every chance for success and recovery during this very deep recession,” he said. “We are not out of the woods for a while yet and retail, sales and industries such as real estate and construction have a long way to go to recover. Wedo not need to hinder the growth back in any way.”

There are two years left on Davis’s District II unexpired term at which point Corbin can enter the race for re-election if he so

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HS 2010 Valedictorian is member of Chapel Hill rowing crew

2010 Highlands School graduate and UNC-Chapel Hill Crew team member, Brice Jenkins, participated in the Head of the South Regatta in Augusta, GA, Nov. 13. Brice is one of UNC’s 8-men team members. There were over 1,500 participants in the 5,000 meter race. This was the last race of the fall season for the Tarheels crew team; the next race is in the spring.

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• LAUGHING AT LIFE •

Don’t touch my ‘Junk’ unless you really, really love me!

Are you aware the jews are laughing at us? The State of Israel doesn’t have much to laugh about these days but it does manage to maintain a sense of humor by laughing at Amm, the sky-scowling airline security system.

There are uncomplimentary cartoons in its newspapers about the downs at TSA. Guess what? TSA deserves it.

Al Jazeera News also does a pretty good job of ridiculing and making fun of our safety methods.

Lead down, of course, is Janet Napolitano, head of Homeland Security, who said America’s security system worked perfectly after the shoe bomber’s explosives failed to go off…or was that the underwear bomber…or was that the guy whose father turned him in and he still boarded….or was that the…? Oh, never mind, I’m so confused….so many bombers….so many clowns!

Now Napolitano is trying to convince Americans they must be groped for their own safety. Again, they are bent over in laughter at her latest antic, do you want to get radiated or groped? Jews laugh because our security system is a joke. Here’s the bottom line, folks. Homeland Security is hopeless and doesn’t have a clue what it’s doing. They’re putting on a show in an attempt to make us feel safe. Once you’ve made it through all that security showmanship, they’re loading unsanctified UPS packages that missed their regular cargo flight onto your plane. Aren’t you feeling safe?

I mention the Jews because most of the entire Arab world is trying to woo upset their nation. Yet they manage to run the safest airline in the world. They do it without touching a single vagina, breast or penis. And they don’t radiate a customer unless they’re sure he or she is a terrorist. Then, and only then, it’s mandatory. They’re close to making an arrest.

In America, we no longer randomly pull little old ladies out of line to frisk them, nor do we skin everyone. We still confiscate cigarette lighters but allow matches. Everyone in America is still taking off their shoes for scanning. In Israel, the shoe bomber would have been arrested before he made it through the ticket line to make his purchase. As a retired lawyer, I’m embarrassed for my country.

In Israel, while you’re waiting in line to confirm or purchase a ticket, you’re interrogated by a skilled interviewer. About 10 quick questions is enough for them to make a determination. “May I see your passport and luggage stubs? Why don’t you have luggage stubs? May I see your return ticket? What is the nature of your visit? To how many countries do you claim citizenship? May I see verification of your hotel reservations or the address where your relatives live? Are you employed and do you have ID to prove it?”

While this is going on, the interrogator has entered your passport number and name into a database which is searching for more history. They can confirm your hotel reservation or verify relative’s addresses from their screen. The interrogator is also looking at your language and eye contact. Remember, these interrogators are pros. If you don’t pass the interrogation, you are taken to a room where a security officer of your sex does a body search in private. You are interrogated further. If you pass, the interrogator says, “Thank you, Mr. Hussein. Enjoy your business visit to Israel.” Once Hussein passes through an old fashioned metal detector, he hops on his plane with shoes on and cigarette lighter intact. And he gets to keep his portable wine opener squired away in his overnight kit. Most of all, he keeps his dignity.

News analyst Juan Williams, recently fired from National Public Radio for making a racist remark that he was fearful when he saw Muslims boarding his flight, has obviously never flown Emirates Airlines…or any Arab airline, for that matter.

Juan represents the ultimate stupidity of American news pundits. The ll misus and I fly Emirates Airlines all the time to Dubai. Leaving America, we go through the charade of security. Once boarded, we make note that, except for a small handful of westerners, the remaining 400 plus passengers are Muslim. Ole Juan would have a heart attack. No great loss. Without going into detail, Emirates Airlines is one of the safest in the industry.

Read Fred’s column on-line all winter at www.highlandsinfo.com, click on LOCAL NEWS.

“Congratulations to Jeff Wooldridge on his promotion to captain with Emirates Airlines flying the giant Boeing triple 7. We are so proud of you.
- Fred and Maddy Wooldridge”
On applying what we learn in school

I didn’t expect to be learning algebra at age 69. I know more about logging alternatives than I really care about, although shelter logging makes a lot of sense. Clear cutting leaves a bad taste in our mouths, although in some cases it is the preferred technique. It’s just that one might want to avoid looking at the scarred earth for a few years after the loggers leave.

We didn’t study environmental science when I was a kid, so this is all new to me. We did study algebra, but I’ve had more than 50 years to forget everything I learned. The best reassurance I can offer Bull is that it’s possible to be a good doctor without being a good mathematician. There are a number of courses that are used to weed out applicants to medical school, even to popular undergraduate majors.

Miami University, Oxford, Ohio, required freshmen to take calculus before being accepted into the business school. Bernie Madoff proved that knowledge of calculus is not necessary for success in business. Basic arithmetic and sleight of hand sufficient. He might do well to brush up on his story problems to calculate his jail time. “If Bernie is sentenced to 150 years in jail, with the possibility of parole after he has served 50% of his sentence, how long will he be imprisoned?” Since Bernie was 71 years old at the time of his sentencing, it’s the kind of question only an algebra teacher would bother to ask.

I hope Bull doesn’t need help in calculus. I hit the wall, had no idea how to do it, or why. I remember nothing more than that there were two types of calculus; integral and differential. It’s all I know now, and it was all I mastered then. At the time, I complained to a friend, a math/physics major that I was completely lost. David, a close friend since third grade, told me that all I had ever done was learn formulae and plug numbers into them. As far as I knew, nothing more was expected. He went on to say that I had never learned the language of mathematics, or how to think mathematically. I wasn’t much good at German either, but at least I understood it existed and that several million people routinely spoke it.

To this day, I don’t know exactly what David meant. What was clear was that I had missed the boat, failed to build a foundation, and watched my engineering career collapse like a house of cards. My tenth grade English teacher would have accused me of mixing metaphors, and I have to plead guilty. I never wanted to be an engineer. That was Dad’s dream for me. I didn’t really want to mix metaphors either, but I hope recognition mitigates the offense. There are times when mixing metaphors feels really good, like a good many other sins I won’t mention.

I hope I can learn a little Spanish with Bull, but the only way that might happen is for someone to drop us off in Guatemala or maybe Walhalla. There are languages far more important than the language of mathematics. Spanish is one of them. I understand Chinese is another. My niece is studying Mandarin Chinese. More power to her.

We had a family seminar on the use of commas this afternoon. I never knew there were formal rules for their use. I just threw them in when I needed a breath. Maybe I’ll be a better columnist now that I know a few rules, although I have to warn you that I studied English. Bull is involved in something called “language arts.” I didn’t do very well in that either.

On applying what we learn in school
In the interest of maintaining my policy of being unfair and unbalanced, I shy away from liberal news sources like the plague. I imagine my amazement when I came across an item from the huffingtonpost.com website that raised my curiosity. In case you are not familiar, according to Wikipedia, “The Huffington Post is a liberal/progressive American news website and content aggregating blog founded by Arianna Huffington...”

The headline of this posting, dated Nov. 9th is “2012 Could Be Worse for Democrats Than 2010.” Well now, isn’t that interesting? “Last week’s election was bad for Democrats.” So far, so good. “Then next one could be worse.” And why would that be? “Senate Democrats running in 2012 will be trying to hold their jobs in states where Republicans just scored major congressional and gubernatorial victories—Florida, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Michigan, Wisconsin, New Mexico and Virginia.” I see. Is there more?

“The Democrat’s problems don’t end with senators. President Barack Obama carried those states in 2008, and he will need most of them to win re-election in two years. But this time, they will all have Republican governors. These GOP governors can try and inhibit the president’s policies and campaign operations. They also can help steer next year’s once-a-decade House redistricting process in the GOP’s favor.” My goodness, Fox News couldn’t have said it better. But I digress.

“Moreover, Democrats must defend Senate seats in hotly contested Missouri, and in four states that Obama has little chance of winning, assuming he even tries: North Dakota, Nebraska, West Virginia and Montana. The 2012 Senate landscape shows a daunting picture for the Democrats,” said Sen. John Cornyn, R-TX, chairman of the GOP’s Senate campaign committee. “They’re not only defending twice as many seats as Republicans, but a number of them are in states where the Obama- Reid agenda is deeply unpopular.”

Later, in the lengthy piece, the writer allowed for the possibility of conditions changing in favor of the Democrats, but with little conviction. The resurgence of Bill Clinton was seen as a possible replay scenario for the outlook for Obama. Nice try, but while Clinton was smart enough to go along with the newly seated Republican majority in 1994, resulting in positive economic results, I seriously question Obama’s ability or interest in learning from his mistakes. The next two years should be very interesting politically speaking.

Speaking of mistakes, have you wondered whatever happened to John Edwards, Democrat nominee for Vice President in 2004 and candidate for president in 2004 and 2008. Incidentally, did you know that his real name is Johnny Red Edwards? That conjures up all sorts of lurid thoughts. Anyway, his recent history reads like a bad novel. No need to reopen the extracurricular paternity event while his wife was fighting cancer.

The denial; the deception in trying to get an aide to ruin his life by coping to the fatherhood, No Breck girl be he. This guy is a real snake.

Using the huffingtonpost.com once as a reference is pretty quixotic. Twice in the same column is other worldly. HP recapitulated recent news items about E, which I shall now share with you. John Edwards Pleas Deal To Avoid Jail Time, National Enquirer Reports (7/19/2010); “Rielle Hunter (the Mother) Demands All Profits from Andrew Young’s (the Aide) book (9/6/2010); ‘Aaron Sorkin (whoever he is) Cuts Deal For John Edwards Movie (9/14/2010); ‘John Edwards Case Subpoenas Issued (10/6/2010); ‘Former Aide Could Face Jail Time Over John Edwards Sex Tape (10/22/2010); Presidential timber, indeed.

Speaking of near Presidential disasters, Al Gore has been eerily quiet of late. Evidently his marital difficulties, brought on by his being caught with his pants down, combined with the discrediting of his global warming/climate change scam, have sent him underground. You may have missed it, because the broadcast news sources chose not to cover the story, the Carbon Climate Exchange, the US headquarters for the Fraudmeister’s phony carbon credit trading scheme, closed their doors.

From Wikipedia, “The effective final Carbon Financial Instrument position was reached in November when the carbon credit price per metric ton of CO2 was between 5 – 10 cents, down from its highest value of $7.50 in May 2006. Trading reached zero monthly volume in February 2010 and remained at zero for the next 9 months when the decision to close the exchange was announced. The decision coincided with a significant Republican victory and the loss of Democrat control in the US House of Representatives.” You heard it here first, folks.

Throw in John (Lurch) Kerry (millionaire tax avoider) and Obama (?) and the Dems recent cast of characters is complete. What’s next?
To save even more money, there was some talk about leaving part of the upper level unfinished – in particular the area designated as a meeting room – but doing so would change code stipulated occupancy uses and would only save $25,000-$30,000 in the short term.

“I don’t think this new plan is excessive and the savings suggested aren’t significant enough when it might mean that we just have to go through this again in the future if the Police Department needs that space,” said Commissioner Amy Patterson.

Mayor David Wilkes said the new plan – for which a final figure will be given at the Dec. 1 Town Board meeting – was pretty tight and doable “as long as the meeting room can be used for overflow from Town Hall when it’s not being used by the Police Department.”

Another draft of the Grievance Procedure was submitted by Town Attorney Bill Coward and included modifications requested by the Town Board last month.

The new draft clarifies definitions of a grievance or a complaint and discusses what actions employees, department heads, the Town Manager and the board can take.

The steps outlined to address grievances was greatly expanded – from two steps to five steps – the idea being that going step by step, an employee can go all the way to the Town Board with a grievance, if needed.

In step one an employee goes to his or her supervisor; in step two to the department head; in step three, after a grievance is logged with the Human Resource Dept. or the Town Manager, it goes to the employee grievance committee which is made up of one employee selected by the employee bringing the grievance (the employee must be from another department), one employee selected by the department head (the employee must be from a different department), and one member selected by the other two members.

The grievance committee makes a recommendation to the Town Manager after an investigation and possible hearing. The Town Manager makes the final decision, but if the employee with the grievance isn’t satisfied, he or she can proceed to step four which is a hearing conducted by the Town Manager.

The final avenue is step five where an employee may present the case to the Town Board in a closed session. Step five is also how a Department Head can log a complaint against the Town Manager. Another way is through the Comment area where a problem can be discussed in writing or anonymously with a Town Board member who must then present it to the Town Board.

Wednesday night the board also OK’d the request for conditional use zoning for Riverwalk made by Macon Bank. The request reduces the number of lots from 70 to 58; reduces the setback from the road from 25 feet to 15 feet; and allows one driveway for two homes and another for three homes, as long as restrictive covenants as to house size still apply.

If they don’t still apply, Commissioner John Dotson requested the issue come back to the Town Board.
By P. Russell Paxton

...There was no police station, only a two-cell concrete building. As I recall 20' X 18' on a dirt road (Maple Street) very close to town. The two relic pistols provided to me were dangerous, should I ever draw a weapon. Luckily, I had an S&W .38 pistol with a holster. I ordered a small badge and two gray uniforms. The Town Board was finalizing plans for a new town hall, which would include a police station, an office, and two modern cells...

The first week was normal for me with my Marine training and some advice from my brother Bob, as he had assisted the Chief previously for a few months. Like many other small towns, we had two local men that had a drinking problem, mostly with “white lightning.” They each tried to challenge me in a very drunken state. After two arrests each, they let the word out not to provoke me. Those of you that remember Helen’s Barn, the Saturday night dance hall, know that, on occasion, a few “out-of-towners” would stir up a little trouble. I recall one evening when a group tried to challenge me; I was concerned until, all of a sudden, the group backed down and I realized that a large group of local young men were backing me up. That made me feel really proud and very relieved.

On Christmas Eve I received a call that a very intoxicated man had told his children that he had killed Santa Claus. After the man had been arrested and put in a cell, he told me that he hadn’t killed anyone, but could not buy his children any toys, so he’d told them he shot Santa. The word got around and the children had toys for Christmas from the generous neighborhood. Early the next morning I released a very sober, embarrassed man from the cell.

I assisted the sheriff in Cashier and Franklin in a few raids on stills operating close to Highlands. What amazed me was that the ones we caught and told to show up for their hearing actually all showed up for it.

I got a call from the sheriff in Cashiers who advised me that a teenager had been shot and was being brought to Highlands Hospital. He had been playing his guitar on the side of the road when he was shot by another young teenage boy as ordered by his grandfather. The doctor removed a .22-caliber rifle bullet from the boy’s lower jaw and put in a few stitches—with minor assistance from me. He kept the boy under observation and then released him. I assisted the sheriff in the arrest of the grandfather the next day.

Another memorable incident occurred when I got a call from a frantic family saying that their teenage daughter was thought to be drowned in a lake twenty miles from Highlands. My poor Studabaker was valiant that day as I drove to the lake. I found the small group of adults and other children desperately looking for the child. It was a sad day, as the girl had drowned, but her body was recovered for a proper burial.

I got an assistant from the Hall family. My assistant and buddy was a Boxer dog named Snuffy. He went with me on my night drive around town at varying times of night. He quickly learned to run around the homes to check for break-ins or strangers. These were random checks that proved to be a big help for Highlands. For two to

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On going and Upcoming Events

Annual Christmas Concert
set for Dec. 11 & 12

Rehearsals have been underway since early October in preparation for the annual Christmas concert presented by the Highlands Community Christian Chorale. The event will take place this year at First Presbyterian Church. Performances will be Saturday, Dec. 11 at 4 p.m., and Sunday, Dec. 12 at 5 p.m. A reception will follow the Sunday performance. The group is directed by Orville Wike and accompanied by Angie Jenkins. Special guest musicians will be Margaret McAllister, harp; Johnathon McAllister, boy soprano; and David Landis, bagpipes. The church is located at 471 Main Street. Handicap entrances are located on Church Street and on 5th Street.

Legacy of historical homes for Highlands Annual Christmas Dinner

The Highlands Annual Christmas Dinner has a legacy of being housed in many of Highlands' historical homes. The Main Street Inn was the first location and the dinner remained there through 2005. The Main Street Inn was built in 1881 by Captain Charles A Boynton as his residence. It subsequently was known as the Norton, Crisp, Potts, Paxton, Tate, and Phelps house before becoming the Main Street Inn.

In 2007, the second location for Highlands Annual Christmas Dinner was the Log Cabin restaurant, an original Joe Webb Cabin. For the next 3 years local families and tourists dined on Christmas Day at Fressers' in Highlands' own historic Helen's Barn, famous for its square dances beginning in 1932.

The new home for the 2010 Christmas Dinner is the Hudson House at Highlands Country Club. The Hudson House was built in the early 50s for the specific purpose of being a casino and dance hall. The casino was closed by the late 50s. The money earned from the slot machines was used to build a couple of guest lodges for the Highlands Country Club & Resort. They have since been removed from what is now the Highlands Country Club croquet court and were relocated behind the administrative offices for employee housing. The facility was then used for storage until such time that the property was purchased by a developer group for the purpose of creating a private membership owned country club.

The Hudson House was converted for use as a lunch grill and snack counter for members and their family and guests enjoying the pool, playing golf and using other club amenities. It still serves as a lunch grill for the club, a studio for art and fitness classes, and is used by members as a venue for special and private events.

Come share our new home and enjoy a sumptuous buffet of traditional holiday fare in the elegant ambiance of The Hudson House at Highlands Country Club on Christmas Day!

The bountiful holiday dinner will be served from 11am-4p.m. and the cost is $35 for adults and $25 for children. Chefs are Marty Rosenfield (Lakeside Restaurant), Holly Roberts (The Kitchen), Martha Porter (Morningside B&B) and Jan Zehr. All proceeds will benefit R.E.A.C.H. of Macon County; Carpe Diem Farm; and Big Brothers Big Sisters of Highlands.

For reservations call 828-526-5102. Last year we served over 275 guests, so call today!

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Also for sale Christmas Tree Skirts, Placemats, Lap Quilts

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526-9743
Open most of the time
Please call for directions
**On going and Upcoming Events**

### Hard Candy Christmas’ Arts & Crafts Show

Emily and Cayden Hunter of Franklin will be back shopping again at the 23rd ‘Hard Candy Christmas’ Arts & Crafts Show this year. Always the Friday after Thanksgiving, dates this year are November 26-27.

The show is always held in the comfortable Ramsey Center on the Western Carolina University campus in Cullowhee, NC, 10-5 pm each day.

Customers line up for the first pick of heirloom and personalized ornaments. The Santa collectors are thrilled with Father Christmas dolls from two different artists. Other ornaments are angels and snowmen in many different mediums.

This show just gets better every year. It has it all from original clay, glass and wood craft priced to fit your budget.

Heritage crafts like quilting, broom making, pine needle baskets and loomed cotton rugs make treasured surprises. Several new artisans this year will bring Appalachian baskets and candles you are sure are desserts!

A nationally acclaimed portrait artist will bring to life that special someone too.

Come and buy your holiday gifts from American craftsmen. Have a free apple and a piece of peppermint candy. You are sure to catch the Christmas Spirit when you do.

**Admission is $3 for adults, children under 12 free.** Free convenient parking. Concessions are available.

For information call Doris Hunter at 828-524-3405 or djhunter@dnet.net

### AngelFood

The December menu features the popular Holiday Box. This special holiday box includes a 7.5 lb. roasting hen, 3 lb. ham roast, corn bread stuffing mix (2 pkgs) frozen cranberries, mini-corn cobs, green beans, diced sweet potatoes, dinner rolls, brown gravy mix (2 pkgs) and dessert for only $36.

Come by the Church of the Incarnation at 5th and Main streets to pick up a complete menu and place your order.

Christmas Holiday Box orders for should be placed by Dec. 1. Distribution will be Dec. 18 from 8-9 a.m. This box includes the same items as are in the Thanksgiving Box.

For questions, call 526-2968 or 526-9889.

### Thanksgiving weekend activities abound at The Bascom

Looking for that perfect, one-of-a-kind, wonderfully affordable gift for that special someone on your holiday gift list? On Friday and Saturday, November 26-27, from 10 a.m.-5 p.m., put your holiday gift shopping behind you at The Bascom’s Artists’ Marketplace, featuring a gathering of artist tables in the Dave Drake Studio Barn. This is the ideal place to find unique, handmade gifts in ceramics, fiber art, jewelry, and decorative items. While at The Bascom, you can also explore our White Elephant Sale. Don’t miss this opportunity to find ideal gifts for everyone on your list!

Our second annual Gingerbread House Workshop commences on Friday, November 26, 10 a.m.-noon and 1-4 p.m. and continues Saturday, November 27, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. A delight for children of all ages, gingerbread designers will be given all the sweets and confections they need to create their own imaginative gingerbread house. Participants are invited to enter their creations in a contest, to be judged by a popular vote. Tuition: $40 members’ $45 non-members. The public is invited to cast their votes Tuesday-Saturday, November 30-December 10, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. The winners will be announced at 10 a.m. on Saturday, December 11.

Don’t miss the exhibition A Stitch in Time. Quilts. Enjoy this opportunity to examine quilts loaned from local collectors and appreciate functional objects as works of art. On view through December 18, the exhibition is sponsored by Alice and Kent Nelson, Sieglinde and Jack Gillfillen and exhibit partner, the Highlands Historical Society.

Christmas Crafts from Around the World is a special children’s class on Saturdays: November 20, December 11 and 18, 10 a.m.-noon. Youth will learn about other cultures and make crafts that can hang on the tree or be given as gifts. Tuition: $40 members’ $45 non-members.

Exhibitions at The Bascom are free and open to the public Tuesday through Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Workshop registration is going on now. For more information on The Bascom visit www.thebascom.org or call 828-526-4949.
On going and Upcoming Events

- The Homegrown Buds, a homeschool 4-H club, meets at noon at the Macon County Library on Siler Road in Franklin at 1 p.m. 

**Wednesdays & Fridays**
- Open AA meeting at noon at the Episcopal Church at Fifth and Main streets.
- Study sessions at the Universal Unitarian Fellowship Hall in Franklin. A $5 soup-supper will be served at 5:30 p.m. Study sessions will begin at 6:30 p.m. Call 828-524-6777 or 706-749-5964.
- Al-Anon meeting, noon at the Episcopal Church on Main and Fifth streets.
- The Highlands Memorial Post #370 of the American Legion meets at the Shortoff Baptist Church. Breakfast is at 9 a.m. Meeting is at 10 a.m. All veterans are invited to attend.
- Highlands United Methodist Church (HUMC) Wednesdays through Dec. 15
  - Highlands United Methodist Church (HUMC) is hosting a free Grief Support Group, which is open to the community. The group will meet in the church parlor from 6:15-7:30 p.m. If you want to come early and join us for supper, $5 per person of $12 per family call the church office by Monday of each week. (526-3376) The support group is facilitated by Dr. Jamye Christy. Dr. Christy has 15 years of Pastoral Counseling experience.
- The High Mountain Squares will dance this Friday night, November 19th at the Macon County Community Building on Route 441. South from 6:30-9 p.m. Richard Smith from Gainsville, GA will be the caller. We dance Western Style Square Dancing, mainly stream and plus levels. There will be a Plus Workshop from 6:30-7 p.m. Everyone is welcome. For information call 828-349-0905, 828-369-8344, or 706-782-0943.
- Senior Luncheon at the Rec Park at noon. All are invited. It’s free.
- **Sat., Nov. 20**
  - Greenway Trail workday. Meet at the upper parking lot (near the pool entrance) behind the Rec Park at 9 a.m. for a brief orientation session. Work is on the new trail in the Rec Park — installing a culvert and clearing a section to connect to the Highlands Historical Society. Tools and safety equipment are furnished. Bring water, rain gear, and a day pack to hold them. Wear clothes that can get dirty. Heather Mangum will provide lunch for the group. Register with Hillrie Quin at 524-2285 or hmquin@verizon.net
  - The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate 5-mile hike on the Park Ridge and Park Creek trails in the Standing Indian area. Meet at Westgate Plaza in Franklin (opposite Burger King) at 9 a.m. Bring water, lunch; wear sturdy shoes. Drive 40 miles round trip. Call leader Gabi Lehman 524-5296, for reservations. Visitors are welcome, but no pets please.
- **Sun., Nov. 21**
  - The Nantahala Hiking Club will take an easy-to-moderate 3-mile hike on the Tennessee Rock Overlook Trail in Black Rock Mtn. State Park near Clayton GA. Meet at the Smoky Mtn. Visitor Center at 2 p.m. or call leader for an alternate meeting place if coming from Highlands. Drive 28 miles round trip. Bring water, a snack if you wish, and a few extra dollars for the carpool drivers. There is a $3 parking fee at the park. Call leader Kay Coriell, 369-6820, for reservations or an alternate meeting place if coming from Highlands or Clayton. Visitors are welcome but no pets please.
- **Mon., Nov. 22**
  - Commuter Thanksgiving Dinner at the Highlands Civic Center at 6 p.m. It’s free.
  - At The Bascom, Artist’s Marketplace in the Dave Drake Studio Barn featuring a gathering of artists’ works for Christmas, hostess and New Year’s gifts. For information, call 828-526-4949.

**Friday, Nov. 19**
- At The Bascom, A Gingerbread House Workshop. Participants are invited to enter their creations in a contest, to be judged by popular vote. $40 Bascom members/$45 non-members. The public is invited to cast their votes Tuesday-Saturday, Nov. 30-Dec. 10, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. The winners will be announced at 10 a.m., Saturday, Dec. 11, the public is invited. For information, call 828-526-4949.
- At The Bascom, Artist’s Marketplace in the Dave Drake Studio Barn featuring a gathering of artist tables in the Studio Barn, the marketplace is the ideal place to find unique, affordable, one-of-a-kind artists’ works for Christmas, hostess and New Year’s gifts. For information, call 828-526-4949.

**Nov. 18, 1883**

American and Canadian railroads institute five standard continental time zones to improve train schedules and reduce confusion.

Who would have thought railroads had that power? Apparently they can change the hour! It was a bit of an uphill climb, but really, it was just a matter of time. No matter what the locations of our homes, it will fall in one of these zones. Prior to this, whether far or near, when the sun was straight up, it was noon here. How did they do it? I agree, they alter the clocks by degree.
I travel through life as if we’ve never taken the trip, missing many troubles. The reasons abound, but the result is the same: eat our turkey with tired taste buds and turn numb eyes to the when we should swell with appreciation. But too many of us giving, composed this hymn for the survivors of Eilenberg. It that there was soon a conclusion of hostilities, and the peri-

bles. There as a tremendous strain on the pastors, who ex-

nothing but plague, famine and fear. Eight hundred homes

Thirty Years War was raging through Germany.

this theological training, began his pastoral work just as the

this hymn like American believers sing the Doxology, yet it’s

“Now Thank We All Our God.” The German Christians sing

thanking God. Amount the small, rich handful we do have is

thanksgiving and some of them are powerfully worded.

In everything give thanks, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. 1 Thessalonians 5:18

An old English preacher once said, “A grateful mind is a great mind,” and the Bible agrees.

There are 138 passages of scripture on the subject of thanksgiving and some of them are powerfully worded.

Colossians 3:17 says: “And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.”

1 Thessalonians 5:18 adds, “In everything give thanks, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”

Unfortunately, few hymns are devoted exclusively to thanksgiving. Amount the small, rich handful we have is “Now Thank We All Our God.” The German Christians sing this hymn like American believers sing the Doxology, yet it’s “Now Thank We All Our God.”

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Unfortunately, few hymns are devoted exclusively to thanksgiving. Amount the small, rich handful we have is “Now Thank We All Our God.” The German Christians sing this hymn like American believers sing the Doxology, yet it’s “Now Thank We All Our God.”
three months there was a rash of robberies and break-ins in the Highlands in NC, SC, and GA that involved the FBI. The Highlands Township was spared, thankfully. The surrounding counties’ sheriffs, with assistance from the FBI, finally arrested the culprits. We all got a personal letter of appreciation from J. Edgar Hoover, head of the FBI.

Of course, there were the normal duties, such as directing traffic if the town’s one traffic light malfunctioned, issuing a few traffic tickets, and checking out minor fender-benders.

With two children to raise, Sarah and I decided I had to make more money, so I resigned and moved to Atlanta to seek a career. It was a rough few months for Sarah and me. I lived in a boarding house and returned to Highlands every weekend I could get away. I finally found a permanent job as a sales representative with Johnson’s Wax and was given a territory covering Florida, where I bought a house and our family was together again. Our second daughter, Melissa, was born in Miami in May 1960. My career took us to many cities on the East Coast, including New Hampshire, where I was a regional sales manager.

As Sarah was born in Highlands, I must relate briefly a few her many fine attributes. With all our moves, she always looked forward to the challenges with brightness and a positive attitude. I must give a tremendous amount of appreciation and admiration for her love and devotion in raising our three great children.

Even when we discovered she had diabetes a year after Melissa was born, at the young age of 31, her strength and resolve remained positive. We had the opportunity to travel to North Africa, Spain, France, Germany, and Switzerland. Our best trip was to England, Wales, and Scotland. I saw the rise of a new wave of singers starting in the theatrical world. I am confident that you will see and hear of Scott for years to come in Highlands.

Sarah Paxton and James E. Wilcox III were married in Highlands in 1972 at the Church of Incarnation. For many years, Sally and Melissa and their families vacationed in Highlands, and their cousin Tommy Chambers generously provided one of his log homes as accommodations. Sally and James’ daughter Lisa married Chris Plater at the same church, establishing a tradition.

My traveling days ended when the company asked me to move to NYC. I would have had to spend two weeks of each month in Europe and one week in NY. I took early retirement. After a year of consulting with a good friend, he offered me the sale of his stock in a condominium management company. Working closely with the other stockholders, I met a lovely woman with whom I became very close. After many months of long discussions about what we wanted in our life, we married in a very private ceremony. I can’t believe I found another special person in my life. I am proud to introduce Vickie L. Paxton, my wife for 20-plus years. We now live in Sun City Hilton Head, SC.

I want to also commend and praise the 2009 publication of Remembering Highlands, written by Overton and Isabel Chambers.

For the last 10 years, she lived with an amazing spirit—fighting blindness and kidney failure in many hospital stays. She received a kidney transplant, which provided us the chance to be together for four more years. My beloved Sarah died in August 1987. Her ashes lie in the Hall plot in Highlands. My ashes will be with hers when I am called.

Our son, Scott Russell Paxton, at the age of 24 decided to live in Highlands. After a successful few years in the antique business, which brought forth his artistic talents, he became interested in theater. I’m sure a delightful actress named Collin Wilcox was the creator of this desire. In 1979 Scott and Collin had a beautiful marriage at the Farmhouse on Billy Cabin Mountain.

Scott had the privilege of raising a teenage boy, Michael, to manhood. We were all blessed to have him ask to be called a Paxton. Over the years Collin continued her career in films and plays while educating Scott in acting. They succeeded in bringing to Highlands plays written by Collin and with sets designed by Scott. Of course, they both pleased the audiences with their acting ability. They also taught many aspiring actors in the trade and had them join in the plays. Collin died in October 2009 and will be missed by all of us, friends, family, and the theatrical world. I am confident that you will see and hear of Scott for years to come in Highlands.

Sally Paxton and James E. Wilcox III were married in Highlands in 1972 at the Church of Incarnation. For many years, Sally and Melissa and their families vacationed in Highlands, their cousin Tommy Chambers generously providing one of his log homes as accommodations. Sally and James’ daughter Lisa married Chris Plater at the same church, establishing a tradition.

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To read part 1 of the story go to www.highlandsinfo.com, click on Local News and scroll down to the Nov. 11 edition.

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... SPIRITUALLY

SPRING FROM pg 12

But the happiest people in the world are not those who have easy days, painless relationships, or lives without loss. The happiest people are those, whatever their lot, who have learned the art of appreciation.

They don’t expect of the earth what it can’t deliver: life without frustration. Instead they revel in what it can give. Sometimes it takes an eye to see it.

Andrew Wyeth once said that the colors beneath a stalk of wheat drove him wild with joy. He said he’d give anything to capture them on canvas.

Writer Hart Crane found such excitement in the English language he’d search for days for the perfect word for a poem he was writing. Once he said he was waiting by Hart Crane in the same office when suddenly Crane let out a roar of jubilation, finding a certain word in a dictionary.

A mother, watching her infant in a baby swing, noticed the child’s eyes light up with sudden understanding. The baby thrust his hand forward toward a toy, widely missing it. Suddenly the miracle of the ordinary step in human development, the mother soared all day.

The colors beneath the stalk of wheat, a word in a dictionary, a baby doing a very usual thing, most of us would not be filled at such moments, but we are the poorer for it.

We must learn to see and understand, stop and revel in life’s bounteous gifts to us. Feeling appreciation for what we have gives us strength to deal with what we don’t have, and grants us happiness in the gray days.

Let us not stand before the world and reply is “Don’t you wish you could?”
Finding Your Best Investment Match

If the marked increase in Highlands-Cashiers real estate activity over the last month is an indicator of future sales, I believe we are edging out of the protracted downturn at long last. This is music to SELLers’ ears, I know, and it represents a unique opportunity for Buyers.

Now (while inventory is strong in every price point, prices are very competitive, and interest rates remain low) represents perhaps a once-in-a-lifetime window to invest in our market.

Many Buyers who have been monitoring the market are recognizing this and are contacting their agents to start their search. Those who are asking for my representation are, at times, overwhelmed by the plethora of investing choices available to them. While having a wide selection of options is certainly welcomed by Buyers, it represents a unique opportunity for Buyers.

I find that asking series of open-ended questions (paired with empathetic listening) renders the best results for helping Buyers achieve their goals. The following is a brief sample of the variety of questions I ask Buyers:

1) How do you envision spending your time in the area?
2) Are you more interested in proximity to town (shopping, dining, cultural offerings, etc.), or are you seeking solitude and privacy?
3) Is price the most important parameter to you?
4) What style of home suits you the best?
5) Are you hoping to rent this property?
6) Are you willing to do a renovation job (large or small), or do you prefer a turnkey property?
7) Is ongoing maintenance a concern for you? Would you rather turn over exterior upkeep (yard, siding, roof maintenance, for example) to a property association?
8) Will family members becoming to stay and/or visit it? If so, how often? How many people will typically visit at the same time?
9) Are the amenities of a gated community of interest?
10) Do you have an interest in considering building? Describe the ideal site to me (view, water features, topography, size of parcel, etc.).

Once you have established your initial set of priorities, then it is time to start seeing properties. Much of your groundwork may be done online which will give you a “balcony perspective” and foundation of knowledge. However, there is no better way to learn neighborhoods, the advantages of certain properties over others, and the market overall, than getting out and looking firsthand.

Finding a new home or the perfect parcel of land can be very exciting. But deciding what you truly want and need (and can afford) can be challenging. Making these decisions begins with setting priorities among many different preferences.

If you are beginning your property search (or have already begun and would like some clarity) and need to jumpstart your thinking on which parameters are most salient for your best investment match, email me at susie@innovationcompass.com for a free guide.

Susie deVille Schiffli, ME, ABR, SFR, is a Broker with Harry Norman, Realtors. Her areas of expertise include real estate investments, niche marketing, social media, and strategic property positioning. An expert in entrepreneurship and anthropology, Susie applies her acumen in human behavior toward negotiating and advocating on behalf of her clients. You may visit her blog at www.HighlandsNCRealEstateInvestor.com, or contact her by calling (828) 371-2079.

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“It’s good to do business in Highlands”

$17 weekly
... SEWER continued from page 1

back to the homeowner, but eventually, after
a track-record has been established, it's likely
a simple fee will be added to sewer charges
on utility bills.

Since the town has to maintain pres-
sure systems, grinder pumps and since it's like-
ly to charge less than a plumber, Public Works
Director Lamar Nix wanted to give other
homeowners on the sewer system – those with
gravity lines with grinder pumps – the op-
tion to let the town maintain their systems.

But Commissioners Gary Drake, Larry
Rogers and Amy Patterson said they didn't
want the town to take money away from area
plumbers.

"Those homeowners on a gravity line
with a grinder pump should be allowed to
call who they want," said Commissioner
Patterson. "Someone might have a relation-
ship with a plumber who comes right out
with a grinder pump should be allowed to
call who they want," said Commissioner
Patterson. "Someone might have a relation-
ship with a plumber who comes right out
with a grinder pump should be allowed to
contract help will

So instead of being mandatory as with a
pressure system, gravity system grinder pump
maintenance will be optional.

Another part of the sewer ordinance al-
ready in place involves the mandatory hook
on by residents living along town sewer.

If residents agree to do so while the con-
tactor is still on site – Stillwell for the Mirror
Lake project and DPI for the Harris Lake
– then the town picks up the cost of running
a pipe from the home to the sewer main,
connecting the electricity and the cost of a
grinder pump, if one is needed. However, in
all cases the homeowner owns the pump and
is responsible for its maintenance.

If a resident chooses not to sign on while
the contractor is still on site, the town won't
foot the cost of laying the pipe, running the
electricity or purchasing the grinder pump
and the resident has 24 months to hook on
at his or her own expense before being as-
sessed sewer charges — even though a con-
nection hasn't been made. (Monthly sewer
charges are calculated by multiplying water
usage three times.)

Though the town will be getting into the
grinder pump business, Nix said tanks in
which the grinder pumps sit will always have
to be pumped out first, so contract help will
be sought — likely through a bid process.

According to the town's pump station
policy, grinder pumps for gravity lines aren't
necessary unless a resident's gravity line feeds
into a pressure main.

"If they have a good gravity line feed and
can get by without a grinder pump, we don't
want residents to have to foot that extra ex-
 pense," he said. Grinder pumps cost around
$4,500.

So far 90%-95% of all residents on the
two new sewer projects have agreed to hook
on to the town sewer saving themselves thou-
sands of dollars while adding $575,000 to
town coffers.

Town Attorney Bill Coward was instruct-
ed to draft the amendment to the sewer ordi-
nance.
The annual Bel Canto Recital was a great success this year thanks to those who attended the event and especially to those who gave at various levels. Pictured is Stell Huie, Chairman of the Bel Canto Steering Committee, presenting checks totaling over $20,000 to Frances Oakley, Chair of the Board of the Highlands Community Child Development Center, Walter Wingfield of The Bascom and John Gorecki from the Music Department of the Highlands School. Bel Canto funds benefit the permanent collection of The Bascom, supplement the music budget at Highlands School and support the music program at HCCDC. All Bascom exhibitions are free and open to the public Tuesdays through Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information, visit www.thebascom.org or call (828) 526-4949.