Town Board to consider business-friendly changes to sign ordinance

At the November 21 Town Board meeting, commissioners will consider the Planning Board’s recommendations concerning amendments to the sign ordinance – recommendations that may be considered more “business-friendly.”

Interim Planner Josh Ward asked the board to review the recommendations prior to November’s meeting, so there can be an educated discussion prior to setting a public hearing to amend the ordinance.

*See SIGN ORDINANCE page 8

New Mayor and crew on board

November 5, 2013 Election Results

Mayor: Patrick Taylor: 260 votes (59.77%); Brian Stiehler: 174 votes (40%).

Commissioners: Amy Patterson: 294 votes (37.07%); Donnie Calloway: 270 votes (34.05%); Michael David "Bud" Rogers: 121 votes (15.26%); Gary Drake: 106 votes (13.3%).

A total of 434 of Highlands’ 889 registered voters (48.8%) turned out to vote – 399 voted at the polls; 21 voted at one-stop voting and 14 voted absentee.

Those newly elected will take their seats at the board table during new business at the December Town Board meeting.

Sheriff’s Office seeks citizens’ help with case

The Macon County Sheriff’s Office is requesting assistance from the public regarding a crime that occurred during the early morning hours of Tuesday, October 29, 2013. Deputies were called to a residence in the Windy Gap Road area north of Franklin, where a female reported that she had been sexually assaulted.

The victim reported that two men came to her residence on two separate occasions earlier in the evening under the pretext of looking for a dog. One of the men returned about 2 a.m. and after gaining access to the house, overpowered the victim. The victim described both suspects as...

*See SHERIFF page 7

MC Schools ready for new 3rd grade EOGs

Legislation that went into effect the 2013-14 school year, has the Macon County School System – its students, parents and teachers – struggling to meet state standards for North Carolina – new ‘cut scores’ – with a more rigorous curriculum and new tests.

Dubbed “Read to Achieve” the program is a part of the Excellent Public Schools Act which became law in July 2012 and applies to all schools at the beginning of the 2013-14 school year.

The goal of the state via the law is to ensure that every student can read at- or above-grade-level by the end of the third grade.

“Read to Achieve is another example of how legislation is affecting us,” said MC Schools Superintendent Dr. Chris Baldwin. “It is about new proficiency standards for North Carolina – new ‘cut scores’ – with a more rigorous curriculum and new tests.”

At the Monday, Oct. 28 school board meeting, Baldwin said North Carolina and other states as well are seeing that.
**Letters to the Editor - Policy**

We reserve the right to reject or edit submissions. **NO ANONYMOUS LETTERS WILL BE ACCEPTED.**

Views expressed are not necessarily those of Highlands Newspaper. Please EMAIL letters by Sunday at 5 p.m. There is a 500-word limit without prior approval.

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**Letters**

**Why would the mayor withhold information?**

To our Mayor David Wilkes,

David, you have been mayor of Highlands for four years and in those years I thought you were aware that there are two newspapers in Highlands. In fact, the free paper is available on every corner of Highlands so you must have seen it. I do not understand why you hand-delivered a newsworthy article to the other newspaper about Jane Woodruff deciding not to pursue the Performing Arts Building but not to Highlands Newspaper.

It seems that you were showing favoritism for some unknown reason.

Anyway, I noticed this oversight as I am sure others did.

Your customer
Glenda Bell

**Fred had a good idea**

Dear Editor,

Sometimes an idea is so good, so simple but brilliant, that it jumps out at you, slaps you across the face and makes you wonder, “How come I didn’t think of that?”

Last weeks letter-to-the-editor by Fred Wooldridge suggesting closing the Playhouse and the current PAC and directing the community’s efforts and donations to a new PAC makes a world of sense. The community would surely benefit from a state of the art performance venue.

Such a facility could attract a varied genre of musical talent including the big band music of the Glenn Miller Orchestra, The Tommy Dorsey Orchestra and others which would definitely appeal to our towns demographics. Unfortunately, politics and egos often prevent such logical solutions from happening.

Just one man’s opinion.

Jack Tarver
Highlands

**Maybe Woodruff will consider covering the pool**

Dear Editor,

I love the true local flavor you bring to Highlands with your news and event coverage.

The first thing we do when we drive into town is to stop to get the paper. I plan my weekend and catch up on the news.

I was horrified when the ‘entry land’ into Highlands was made into a paved parking lot and PO. I miss those trees that began when my mother worked as a hotel maid/waitress (and danced at Helen’s Barn) in 1930s Highlands to pay for her Winthrop College courses.

When you printed info about the proposed performing arts center, I was further distressed. Thank you for printing Ms. Woodruff’s address so I could write to her. I believe Highlands needs a year round swimming facility rather than another performing arts venue. With the current pool being re-done, this would be a perfect time for her to propose a cover/roof, (perhaps retractible?) which could be built and paid for soon (or later) – if she would consider this and funding a design that would fit in without destroying the small-town, green, integrity of the property.

My reasons for wanting a pool cover: good for financial and physical health, extend the season for locals and visitors, offer increased programs (imagine: baby’s ‘learn to swim’ classes, senior arthritis swim team) and뀐

I hope you can generate some support for such a project – if others also feel as I do.

Millie Coleman
Highlands and Atlanta

**One more word on ‘Jake Braking’**

Dear Editor,

If there is that much noise, then there is only one thing our town leaders can do. We must patrol Hwy 28 South and Hwy 106 24 a day until we get this Jake Braking noise under control. I think Highlands has 10-15 policemen, so they need to patrol the two highways until this noise problem is stopped. If town police cannot control the noise on those two roads then we can also call in the sheriff dept. and the State Patrol. If that doesn’t help, there is only one thing left – National Guard. This must be stopped. Do not worry about the other highways or in town just these 2 roads. Maybe the big trucks do not use the other roads in Highlands, seems like the complaints are coming from this area between Hwy 28S and Hwy 106. Why not...?
David Daniel Chastain

David Daniel Chastain, age 55, of Highlands, NC died Wednesday, October 30, 2013 at his residence. He was born November 17, 1957, in Macon County, the son of Vivian McCall Chastain of Highlands and the late Hillard Chastain. He was a carpenter and was a member of Highlands First Baptist Church. He was a loving husband, father, granddaddy, son, brother, and friend. David loved spending time with his family and friends. He loved to hunt and fish. He was a former fireman for the Highlands Fire Department.

In addition to his mother, he is survived by his wife of 19 years, Anita Owens Chastain; two daughters, Danae Westendorf and her husband, Scott of Highlands, NC and Shelbi Watkins and her husband Ethan of Salem, SC; his grandchildren, Adisyn, Charlotte and Camden Westendorf and Sawyer Watkins; his brother, Den Chastain and his wife Marcia of Highlands, NC. One niece and three nephews also survive.

Memorial services were held Saturday, November 9 at the Highlands First Baptist Church with Rev. Jim Kinard officiating. Bryant-Grant Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Lewis Carpenter Doggett

Lewis Carpenter Doggett, 85, of Highlands, NC died Wednesday, October 30, 2013. Born in Atlanta, GA, he was the son of the late Lewis Carpenter and Mary Adeline Elliott Doggett. He was a US Army veteran serving during the Korean conflict. He was an executive in the textile industry. He was Phi Beta Kappa at Duke University and graduated Summa Cum Laude. He served on the Board of The Martin Lipscomb Performing Arts Center, The Bascomb Art Gallery, Center for Life Enrichment, Highlands Town Planning Board, The Highlands Historical Society, and The Jackson/Macon Conservation Alliance. He was a vestryman and senior warden of

Bears family takes trip of a lifetime!

When Ryan Bears, HS Class of 2006 graduated from Newberry College with a BA in Communications in 2011 his Dad, Harry Bears, owner of Xtreme Threads in Highlands, promised him a trip of his choice. Ryan waited a while to decide what trip he wanted and then the World Series came along! So Harry and Ryan headed for Boston and Fenway Park to watch the Red Sox battle the Cardinals winning 6-1. It was a trip to be remembered.

Ryan is sales manager for an engineering firm in Orlando, FL. Right is Ryan in famous Fenway Park.

For advertising information, email highlandseditor@aol.com
...LETTERS from page 2

ban all diesel vehicles? They are louder than gas engines and since the diesel engines are the only ones with Jake Brakes this would solve the problem. Also to make Highlands more noise free maybe ban all diesel delivery vehicles (eighteen wheelers, gravel trucks, gas trucks, etc.) Again as mentioned by other people the Jake Brake is for safety and to help the driver save the wheel brakes for when he does need them.

If the town is going to put a policy in place for noise ordinance then it should cover all bases. Vehicle alarms, emergency vehicles (sirens), business and home security alarms, golf course weather alarm, vehicles that have backup alarms, dogs in vehicles barking. All these can be annoying to someone maybe not everyone but just one person.

I have lived in Highlands for 50+ years and I truly believe this is the first time the Jake Brake noise has ever been mentioned. Actually I can not remember a lot of noise complaints that required town leaders to write a policy. Sure I hear an occasional Jake brake, dog barking, car alarm, sirens, or motorcycles but I do not run to the Town Board requesting that they make a policy so I do not have to hear these noises.

As for the motorcycles, if the town starts handing out tickets to all motorcycles that do not have factory exhaust, then you will hurt the businesses (restaurants, lodging places and shops) in Highlands.

As I have asked in my previous letters, just how often do the people that want the Jake Brake Noise Policy hear the Jake brake? Have they stated that at any of the Town Board meetings? Do they have recordings of it going on all day and night? For every town that they mention about having a “No Jake Brake” sign, I can name one that doesn’t have a sign. Just because a town in Utah, California, New York, Alaska or Fletcher, NC has a sign doesn’t mean Highlands, NC needs one. I wonder if the town that Mr. Little moved from has a Jake Brake ordinance and if he helped establish it?

And about the gentleman that could not use his deck because of the rain, Jake brake and motorcycle noise, I am sorry, but Highlands is close to rainforest status, Jake brakes are for safety and motorcycle riders enjoy their machines and are not hurting anyone.

Maybe my idea about bringing in the National Guard is too much. How about the Town buys 100 ‘NOISE REDUCTION’ headphones and give to the first hundred complainers, after that everyone else has to buy their own. As for the gentleman that spent $3,000 on his deck, but could not enjoy because of rain and Jake brake and motorcycles, the town could give him the headphones and a retractable awning.

Skip Keener
Highlands

NC’s Read to Achieve law eliminates social promotion at Third Grade

Dear Editor,

In NC there are some recent changes in the law regarding third grade students. In the fall of 2013, third-grade students were given a beginning-of-grade standardized test to see how they are reading. At the end of third grade, students will take end-of-grade tests in reading and in mathematics. These tests tell the parents, teacher and principal if the child has learned the basic skills that he or she needs to be successful in fourth grade.

North Carolina state law (Read to Achieve) now requires that third graders who are not reading at a proficient level on the end-of-grade test be given additional support. If your child is not proficient on the end-of-grade test in reading at the end of third grade:

The child will be given the opportunity to retest. If the child is not proficient on the retest, he or she can attend a free summer reading camp to help improve his or her reading skills. Following summer reading camp, the child’s reading will be assessed again. If the child’s reading is proficient, he or she will be eligible for promotion to fourth grade. If the child does not score proficient, he or she will be placed in fourth grade classes the following year.

... See LETTERS page 7

• ENGAGEMENT •

Companioni and Strahan to wed

Dr. and Mrs. George Companioni are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter, Dr. Lauren Companioni of Tampa, FL to Thomas (TJ) Strahan, formally of Highlands now living in Tampa.

TJ is the son of the late Thomas Strahan and Carmen Strahan. (Aunt Patee Thornton and Uncle Jimmy Strahan) Lauren is a graduate of LSU and Arizona School of Dentistry and Oral Health. She owns South Tampa Kids Dental Crewe.

Thomas attended FSU and graduated with a Masters Degree in Engineering from USF. Thomas owns Pelican Flats Boat Company and is construction manager of TMD Company.

A June 1st wedding is planned at Paradisus Palma Real Resort, Dominican Republic.

• DINING •

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Thanksgiving Dinner Buffet
Thursday, Nov. 28
noon-5p
Reservations Required.
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Open Mon-Thurs 11:30a - 3p
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11:30a to 8p
Full Bar – Beer, wine, cocktails
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Specialty Sandwiches, Hot Dogs & Salads,
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**WILD THYME GOURMET RESTAURANT**
Serving Lunch and Dinner Year-Round!
Gourmet Foods, Full Service Bar
NEW LOCATION in Town Square at 343-D Main St.

Open 7 days a week!
Serving Lunch Daily
11:30a to 4p
Serving Dinner Daily
beginning at 5:30p

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International Cuisine

 THE MOST EXCITING DINING DESTINATION IN HIGHLANDS!

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Open Late on Weekends • NC 106, Dillard Shopping Center

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Uptown Italian Dining in Downtown Highlands
Since 1984

Small Plates served from
4 pm every afternoon
at the bar;
Dinner from 5 pm
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Exceptional Wines & Robust Cocktails
The Area’s Freshest Seafood
Carrying a wide variety of natural products for your Mind, Body & Home.

Organic Fresh Juices & Smoothies and Salads To Go!
526-5999
Corner of Foreman Road & Hwy 64 east
Mon-Sat 10a to 5:30p

...OBITUARIES continued from page 3
the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation where he was a member.

Mr. Doggett is survived by his wife of 62 years, Anne Patrick Major Doggett; three daughters, Mary Elliott Doggett Williams and husband Robert “R.L.” of Lookout Mtn., TN, Alynder Patrick Doggett of Greenville, SC, Frances Major Doggett Mulkin and husband Joel White of Birmingham, AL; three sons, Dr. Lewis Carpenter Doggett III and wife Cathy Allen of Jacksonville, AL, Benjamin Tanner Doggett and wife Lisa Bailey Doggett of Suwanee, GA and John Patrick Doggett and wife Elizabeth Hamilton of Charlotte, NC; 11 grandchildren, Tyler Jane Mulkin, Joel White Mulkin, Jr., James Elliott Mulkin, Lindsay Anne Doggett, Lewis Carpenter Doggett, IV, Allender Sullivan Duhe Doggett, Ethan McGregor Doggett, Riley Sullivan Doggett, Cooper Reeves Doggett, John Cabell Doggett and Emma Sullivan Doggett.

In addition to his parents he was preceded in death by a daughter, Lucia Sullivan Doggett.

Memorial services were held Saturday, November 2, at the Episcopal Church of Incarnation in with Father Bruce Walker officiating. Burial was at the Highlands Memorial Park.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Episcopal Church of Incarnation in Highlands, NC, The Bell Tower Fund or Highlands Historical Society.

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

Bryant-Grant Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Cynthia “Cindy” Jane Freeman

Cynthia “Cindy” Jane Freeman, 51, of Franklin, NC died Thursday, October 31, 2013, after a short illness, at Mission Hospital. Born in Winter Haven, Florida, she was the youngest daughter of Gene and Peggy Dugger. Cindy was a graduate of Winter Haven High School and went...
Come see why Marilyn Monroe and Arthur Miller toasted their honeymoon here; why Noel Coward, Errol Flynn and Katherine Hepburn graced the property!

Private beach, crystal blue waters, all suite rooms, superb food – attributes that make it an enviable vacation spot for the discerning guest.
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The proposed revisions and how the Planning Board arrived at its decisions are as follows:

**Wall Signage on the Exterior of the Building.**

- Recommendation: Keep existing ratio of one-half square foot for each one linear foot of building frontage.

  The Planning Board felt the ratio was proportional to each building front & should remain the same.

**Signage Display on the Inside of Windows**

- Recommendation: Change verbiage in the ordinance from “Commercial Signs on the interior of the glass” to “Commercial Signs within the window or door display area”

  The Planning Board had lengthy discussions on how to regulate signage displayed inside a building that is not directly attached to a window or door, but yet require such signage to comply with the 20% of the area of a given window or door, as the current standard states.

**“Open” Signs**

- Recommendation: Add a regulation for Open Signs

  The Planning Board agreed to give the businesses an opportunity to display Open Signs in several different ways, as long as those displays did not obstruct the sidewalks and were removed at the close of the business day.

**Electronic Signs**

- Recommendation: Allow electronic monitors for real estate offices and restaurants

  The Planning Board discussed at length the sizes, brightness, and rate of change for electronic monitor type displays for both types of businesses. The discussion revolved around not distracting the public as they drive down the streets or walk down the sidewalks, but to allow a more visible display than the paper type display currently being used by each type of business. In addition, the discussion was had about the use of electronic monitor type displays within other businesses & it was the consensus that these two businesses were different because of their inability to physically display their merchandise within the windows. Also, it might decrease the use of the paper type display of listings in real estate office windows, in which the entire window or windows are permitted to be covered.

**String and Tube Lighting**

- Recommendation: Allow string and tube lighting as area lighting under 6.5.3, Ext. Commercial Lighting

  The Planning Board discussed the display of string and tube lighting as advertisement versus area lighting for outdoor seating and walkways. The consensus was to allow string and tube lighting for area lighting, such as Town Square and SweeTreats.

**Sign Design, Construction and Maintenance**

- Recommendation: Add verbiage to ensure signs will be constructed of permanent materials.

  The Planning Board discussed the need for permanent signs to be constructed from permanent materials. The discussion included concerns that signs constructed for temporary use could and have been used for long-term advertisement.

**Signage for Businesses that have Egress and Ingress from the Rear of the Building**

- Recommendation: Add regulations allowing signage to be displayed on the rear of buildings.

  The Planning Board discussed buildings with public entrances/exits and buildings with only delivery access from the rear. The consensus was to allow wall signage for those buildings with public access under the same regulation as the front of the building. For buildings that simply used the rear access for deliveries, the signage allowance would be much smaller (wall or hanging), but would provide delivery workers an idea of where the businesses are located.

**Political Signs**

- Recommendation: Remove size limits & add sign removal requirement.

  Staff discussed with the Planning Board the Town Attorney’s concerns over political signs. Those concerns stemmed from several court rulings around the State that created case law for regulating political signage. The recommendation...
from Attorney Bill Coward was to regulate political signs at a minimum to prevent the potential for future law suits. The Planning Board agreed with the Town Attorney’s suggestions.

Off-Premise Signage for Large Venues
• Recommendation: The Planning Board first had the discussion pertaining to off-premises directional signs and felt that they should remain prohibited and give the business owners the information on how to apply for a variance. However, with a variance being very difficult to receive, according to the N.C. General Statutes, it would make it nearly impossible for the Zoning Board to issue a variance for such signage. Staff and the Planning Board discussed an option for the Town Board to approve such signs on a case-by-case basis. Staff also discussed with the Planning Board the desire of several Town Board members to have an option for businesses holding large events to have directional signage to provide the public with clear direction to these unique venues. The Planning Board discussed and the majority agreed with the Town Board’s approval for such signs and the requirement for the signs to match the Town’s wayfinding program. The vote was 5 to 1 in favor of recommending the draft.

Outdoor Display of Merchandise
• Recommendation: Remove the prohibition of display of clothing and merchandise with wind movable parts.

Staff discussed with the Planning Board that currently merchants were displaying clothing on their private property and it had been approved by previous zoning administrators. Merchandise of any type was not allowed to be displayed on public properties or right-of-ways. Planning Board discussed the display of both clothing and merchandise with wind movable parts and felt that if these types of merchandise were displayed on private property it should be permitted as all other merchandise currently is. If the merchandise was protruding into the right-of-way by the least amount, the merchandise would have to be removed. The discussion was also had concerning keeping the ingress and egress area clear of merchandise, regardless. Planning Board agreed to recommend permitting both the display of clothing and merchandise with wind movable parts.

The November 21 Town Board meeting is at 7 p.m. in the Community Building.

Kim Lewicki
**Upcoming Events**

**Through Tues., Dec. 3**
- Bosnia Mission Fundraiser: Help build Barns in Bosnia. $10 per ticket and win an iPad and more! A 32GB Wifi + Cellular iPad: Value $729, a 32GB iPod Touch: Value $299, an iTunes Gift Card: Value $100. All proceeds to fund the Highlands United Methodist Church Bosnian Mission Trip scheduled for May 2014. Limited to only 1000 tickets sold. You do not have to be present to win. Tickets can be purchased at the Methodist Church Office at 315 Main Street.

**Ongoing**
- Macon County Public Health is now giving flu shots on a walk-in basis, with no appointment necessary, at the health and human services building located at 1830 Lakeside Drive in Franklin. Flu shots will be given from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday while supplies last. Flu shots are recommended for everyone age 6 months and older. The cost for regular vaccine is $25 and high dose vaccine is $45. Insurance may be filed, so bring your card. Please call 349-2081 for more information.

**Mon/Thurs.**
- Hatha Yoga. 10:45a at the Episcopal Church. 828-482-2128. RYT, YA

**Wed.**
- Hatha Daybreak Yoga. 7:45a. Coleman Hall in the First Presbyterian Church. 828-482-2128. RYT, YA.

**Thurs. - Sun., Nov. 7-10**
- Culinary Festival Opening Night Gala at Highlands Country Club Clubhouse Thursday, November 7 at 7pm. Tickets are $75. You can order online at www.highlandsculinaryweekend.com via PayPal or call 828-526-2112 to order via Visa/MC over the phone.

**Thurs. Nov. 7**
- Taize at Our Lady of the Mountain at 5:30p.

**Fri., Nov. 8**
- Culinary Festival’s Sip and Stroll Friday, 11am-5pm. Tickets are $35. You can order online at www.highlandsculinaryweekend.com via PayPal or call 828-526-2112 to order via Visa/MC over the phone. Sip and Stroll.

**Sat., Nov. 9**
- Culinary Festival’s Sip and Stroll, Saturday, 11am-5pm. Tickets are $35. You can order online at www.highlandsculinaryweekend.com via PayPal or call 828-526-2112 to order via Visa/MC over the phone.

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**Gun Show**

**November 9 & 10**

**Saturday: 9am - 5pm**

**Sunday: 9am - 4pm**

Franklin Community Building
1288 Ga Hwy - 441 South
Franklin, North Carolina

**Admission:**
- Adults $7 - under 12 free

http://gemcapitolshows.com
• At Mountain Fresh Foods, Louis Osteen, James Beard Award winner, will be in the kitchen on Saturday for Breakfast and Lunch cooking. Louis has been the key note speaker at the Culinary Institute of America, been named a Great American Chef by Gourmet Magazine and won the James Beard Award for Best Chef in the Southeast, but most of all, he loves to cook!

**Wed., Nov. 13**

• Matthew Fox will also lead a Workshop on “The Teachings of the Mystics: Poets of Expanded Consciousness and Perceptions.” The Workshop is also sponsored by the Church of the Incarnation. It will be held at the Martin-Lipscomb Performing Arts Center from 10a to 2p. Registration for the Workshop, which includes lunch, is $30. To register contact the Church of the Incarnation at 828 526-2968, or Diane McPhail at dianemcphail1@mac.com or E. J. Tarbox at ejtarbox1@aol.com.

• The Church of the Incarnation’s Sanctuary Lecture Series 2013 invites the public to a Lecture by Matthew Fox on “Mystics: Pioneers of Consciousness” in the Sanctuary at 7 pm. The lecture is free and open to the public.

**Sat., Nov. 16**

• At The Bascom, from 5-7p, Giving Trees Opening Reception and Nog Off. The Bascom’s annual holiday event and a celebration of local artists, organizations and vendors. Sample homemade egg nog recipes and tour the combined opening receptions for In these Mountains and Giving Trees. Call 526-4949.

• At The Bascom, “In These Mountains: This is My History” opening reception from 5-7p. Artist Talk: 5:30p. Free.

• NAMI Appalachian South is offering a free in-service for educators, families and others involved in the lives of children, to increase understanding of the early warning signs of mental illnesses in children and adolescents, and to raise awareness of suicide signs and risk factors, at the Macon County Community Building, 441 South in Franklin, 9:30 – 2:45. Lunch is provided. There is no charge. Please RSVP (828) 526-9510 email foursealandscape@aol.

**Thurs., Nov. 14**

• The November meeting of The Western North Carolina Woodturners Club will meet on Thursday at 6 PM at the Blue Ridge School, in Glenville, N.C. Drive to the back of the school to the woodworking shop. Visitors are always welcomed.

**Sunday, Nov. 17**

• At the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation, flutist Christina Smith and pianist Robert Henry will present a recital, offering music of Müthel, Milhaud, Liebermann, and Prokofiev. Christina Smith is principle flutist of the Atlanta Symphony... Donations accepted at the door.

• Auditions for the HCP winter play, “Weekend Comedy” written by Jeanne and Sam Bobrick, will be held at the PAC at 3p. We will be looking for a couple who appear to be in their late 20s, early 30’s, and an older couple of their 50s. Call backs, if necessary, will be on Monday, November 18 at 6 pm

• First Presbyterian Church will host an old fashioned Hymn Sing at 4pm on Sunday. Song leader will be Stell Huie with Angie Jenkins at the piano. Everyone is cordially invited to attend.
Veterans’ Day/Culinary Shopping Guide

A “Gotta Stop” Tradition for over 20 Years!

Jigsaw Puzzles, Keepers & Glue,
Magic, Pranks & Science Fun, too.
Lego, Soldiers, Knights & Wheels
The Toy Store has some incredible deals!
Board Games, Cards, Dominoes or Jax
All delivered with Complimentary Gift Wrap
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Found at your Neighborhood Toy Store!

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of Highlands
On Main Street • 526-9415

Dear Friends,
Come get cozy with us this Fall!

Cabin Couture
Home Decor, Art & Antiques, too

Culinary Weekend Sip & Shop participant
Friday and Saturday

Friday guest: artist
Zan Economopoulos painting
pet photos on glass.
Bring your favorite pet photo
for a custom-painted piece.

Saturday guest: Rita Kelly
repairing chipped crystal.
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Veterans’ Day/Culinary Shopping Guide

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Handcrafted Leather

HUE
The Cords are Here!

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Now bigger with even more to love! the boutique
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Sip n’ Stroll over to The Hen House ... 
Friday, Nov. 8 and Saturday, Nov. 9 and
Sample Sallie’s famous gourmet Jams & Cheese Toppers
Fri., 11a to 5p & Sat.10:30a to 4:30p

Featuring:
• Pear & Brie Mixed Green Salad with Blackberry Spice + Sage Vinaigrette
• Peach Pepper + Ginger Glazed Pork Tenderlion
• Sallie’s Greatest Blue on Bleu Spinach Salad

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526-4660

New Arrivals are FALLing in Daily!
• Free People
• Tulle
• Hard Tail
• BB Dakota
• Michael Stars Tees
• CP Shades Jeans by:
• Joes
• 7 for all mankind
• Citizens, AG, Hudson

Shoes & Boots Upstairs

Veterans’ Day/Culinary Shopping Guide

Veterans’ Day/Culinary Shopping Guide

Veterans’ Day/Culinary Shopping Guide

Veterans’ Day/Culinary Shopping Guide
Falling Waters is a 52-acre community

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Pat Allen of Pat Allen Realty Group is pleased to announce the association of Julie Osborn with her real estate firm. Julie was with a top real estate firm in Atlanta for six years prior to moving to Highlands. She won numerous awards, including the Atlanta Board of Realtors Five Star Circle of Excellence of Award in 2008, 2010 and 2011. She was Rookie of the Year in 2008, was the recipient of the Women’s Council of Realtors Entrepreneur of the Year Award, Atlanta Chapter in 2010 and is a graduate of the Atlanta Board of Realtors Leadership Development Program. She served as a Director on the Board of Directors for the Atlanta Board of Realtors in 2011 and 2012.

“I am delighted to have her not only because she is a great real estate agent but also because she is my daughter” says Pat Allen. Julie is career-minded and will use her knowledge and skills as a Senior Marketing Consultant, Seniors Real Estate Specialist, and Luxury Home Marketing Specialist to assure each client will have a successful and pleasant real estate experience.

Julie attended the University of Georgia and the University of Tennessee, and holds an undergraduate degree in occupational therapy and a Masters Degree in Business Administration.

Julie Osborn can be reached at Pat Allen Realty Group: 828-526-8784, cell: 828-200-6165 or by email at jajosborn@gmail.com.
Over the past several years, the real estate industry has gone through a major transition. The responsibility of the real estate agent has forever changed. In the past, prospective buyers and sellers went to agents to obtain information. Buyers needed to know which properties were on the market. Sellers needed to know which properties had sold.

Today, this information is available on a myriad of websites on the internet. There are complete property descriptions, pictures, virtual tours, maps, public and local knowledge. Since the information is available at the fingertips of anyone to access and use, agents are not generally hired to provide it. So why does one need to hire a real estate agent?

Agents today need to be way ahead of the information by being prepared in this constantly changing market. Agents are expected to keep current, to analyze and give advice and counsel. Their job is to know which questions to ask and carefully listen to what clients are trying to reveal about themselves…specific needs for their personal situation. Personal is the key. The days of auto-generated emails sent to buyers with new listings, is impersonal. Free CMA’s (comparable market analysis) that tell what houses used to sell for are worth the same as they cost.

Because a wealth of information is available, clients are now looking for expert advice. Confidence and certainty are improved by knowledge, which takes away a client’s concerns. They want assistance in what is truly happening in the market and why. They want expertise based on experience and knowledge to help them personally in all areas of buying or selling. People don’t just automatically believe what you tell them. They understand what the agent understands, in clear and concise terms.

To wrap it up….“Always look for an agent with the heart of a teacher, not the heart of a salesman” (Keeping Current Matters).

• Lynn Kimball has 40 years of real estate experience, with 28 years serving the Highlands area. Whether you are interested in searching properties or comprehensive information about our area, you are invited to visit her user friendly website at www.signatureproperties-nc.com. Meadows Mountain Realty has two locations, at 41 Church Street in the Old Edwards Inn complex or visit Lynn at 2334 Cashiers Road across from Highlands Falls Country Club. Lynn Kimball can be reached at 828-421-8193 or by email at Lynn@MeadowsMtnRealty.com.

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A United State

By Pastor Steve Kerhoulas

Christ Church of the Valley, Cashiers

When I think back prior to 9/11 and ask if America seemed more united and stronger as a nation? I would say: Yes! I think we were less divided and stronger. A recent Forbes survey bears this out by placing the Russian leader, Putin above all other leaders of the world, followed by President Obama.

When I ask myself what is the reason for our decline I don’t think the fault is just with Washington or the various political parties. We, it seems, have lost our way as a nation. John F. Kennedy said:

“No man who enters upon the office to which I have succeeded can fail to recognize how every president of the US has placed special reliance upon God…those who were the strongest intellectually were also the strongest spiritually.” Is this true of our leadership today? Are we both strong intellectually and spiritually? I question it.

When John Adams pondered the events that had taken place to create America. He said:

“Statesmen may plan and speculate for liberty, but it is religion and morality alone which can establish the principle upon which freedom can securely stand. The only foundation of a free constitution is pure virtue and this cannot be inspired into our people in a greater measure...they may change their rulers and forms of government, but they will not obtain lasting liberty.”

Lasting liberty?

America is losing its place at the table because we have lost sight of what makes a nation strong. It is our faith in the God of the Bible. We have a responsibility, as President Jimmy Carter said: “To try and shape government so that it does the will of God.” Yes but are we?

“...Our constitution was made for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other.” John Adams.

We have forgotten what makes a nation strong. It’s not its rulers…it is the people, a moral and religious people. If we fail to change “we will not obtain a lasting liberty.” In 1911 President Woodrow Wilson said: “America was born a Christian nation.” He was right! When Eisenhower signed into law a joint resolution to add to our pledge the line “One nation under God” he concluded with these words. “In this way we are reaffirming the transcendence of religious faith in America’s heritage and future; in this way we shall strengthen those spiritual weapons which forever will be our country’s most powerful resource in peace and war.” As a nation we have forgotten what our founders knew: “Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord.” (Ps. 33:12) Yes, but is He? The answer is…?

Proverbs 3:5

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Wed.: Men’s Bible Study -8:30 a.m., First Baptist Church
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Wednesday: Prayer Service, 6:30 p.m.
HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
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Thurs:12:30 – Women’s Bible Study (nursery)
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The Highlands Fire & Rescue
Dept. log entries from Oct. 19
Oct. 19.
• At 9:16 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to Highlands School where a 14-year-old girl had fainted.
• At 10:28 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to assist EMS at a residence on Dogwood Court. EMS transported.
Oct. 20
• At 10:59 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Shelby Court. EMS transported.
• At 8:32 p.m., the dept. provided mutual aid to Satolah Fire and Rescue concerning a chimney fire at a residence on Bee Gum Hollow Lane. The call was cancelled en route.
Oct. 21
• At 1:59 p.m., the dept. responded to a vehicle accident on N. 6th Street. There were no injuries.
Oct. 22
• At 9:38 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm set off by burning food at a residence on Bowery Road.
• At 9:44 a.m., officers responded to a fire alarm set off by a steamer at a residence on Bowery Road.
• At 7:20 p.m. officers responded to a fire alarm set off by smoke from the fireplace due to a closed damper.
Oct. 23
At 1:52 p.m. the dept. responded to an audible fire alarm called in by a neighbor on Split Rail Road. It was false and the alarm was reset.
At 11:19 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Turtle Pond Road.
Oct. 25
At 2:44 p.m., the dept. responded to a vehicle accident on Pinecrest Road. No one was at the scene.
At 8:13 p.m., the dept. responded to a call about the smell of propane at a residence on Village Walk. There was no problem.
Oct. 27
At 7:34 a.m., the dept. responded to a Life-Line Call due to a diabetes emergency at a residence on Clear Creek Road. EMS transported.
At 6:06 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Buck Creek Road. EMS transported to H-C Hospital and MAMA airlifted to Asheville.
Oct. 28
At 9:55 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Satulah Falls Lane. EMS transported.
At 10:41 a.m., the dept. responded to a vehicle accident with minor injuries at a residence on Walhalla Road.
Oct. 29
At 5:50 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Hi Ami Lane. It was false.
Oct. 30
• At 9:10 p.m., the dept. responded to a vehicle roll over with no injuries on US 64 east.
Nov. 1
• At 2:09 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Skylake Drive. EMS transported to the hospital.
Nov. 4
• At 6:25 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Clubhouse Drive. EMS transported to the hospital.

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Bel Canto/Highlands School Continuing Grants

Bel Canto announces its continuing support of the music programs at the Highlands School with a $15,000 grant. Bel Canto has been the major nonpublic supporter of the music programs of the Highlands School since 2005. Through the years Bel Canto has contributed more than $90,000 to the school and is responsible for the purchase of most all of the band instruments.

Being primarily a vocal program itself, Bel Canto has been encouraging the development of a strong vocal music program at the school. Marcia Reid, Director of Music at the school, says “The chorus program is up and running well after purchasing approximately $3,000 worth of choral music. I think it is so important that each child have their own sheet of music in order to learn proper technique, how to follow their part, and just to learn how to hold a piece of chorus music.” This year the Bel Canto grant will be used to purchase more chorus music, new band instruments, repair old band instruments and provide curriculum advancements for the 4th and 5th grades.

Stell Huie, Chairman of Bel Canto, said: “We at Bel Canto are pleased to provide annual grants to the Highlands School and look forward to continuing our financial support of its music programs. The music and arts programs in public schools have generally suffered greater budget cuts than other programs. We are pleased that Bel Canto grants help lessen to a degree the impact of those cuts at the Highlands School.”

HHS Dahlia Festival was a great success

The third annual Dazzlin’ Dahlias Festival included more than 200 entries from area gardens. This exciting event which is one of the primary fundraising events of the Highlands Historical Society was held on Saturday, September 14th at the Highlands Civic Center. Ribbons were awarded to growers in five major categories. Festival volunteers thank everyone who so generously shared their flowers with the more than 300 visitors who toured the Festival.

Arrangements of dahlias brightened the tables during the Patrons Party which was held at the Farm at Old Edwards. Party goers enjoyed the Mexican theme which celebrated the origin of the dahlia. Next year’s Dazzlin’ Dahlias Festival will be on September 20, 2014, the third weekend of the month, which is a little later than usual. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend.

...3rd GRADE continued from page 9

to meet 4th grade performance standards while continuing to remediate in areas of reading deficiency. There is also an opportunity of mid-year promotion by passing a reading comprehension test by Nov. 1.

Meetings with teachers and parents of third-graders system-wide are conducted so everyone knows exactly what is expected and of the consequences.

“Macon County Schools will work diligently to see that our students are proficient in reading and go on to the 4th grade in some way,” said Baldwin.

– Kim Lewicki
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