

Highlands Newspaper

FREE Every Thursday

Volume 11, Number 40

Real-Time News, Weather & WebCams: HighlandsInfo.com

Thursday, Oct. 10, 2013

Thurs., Oct. 10

• Wellstrung at ...on the Verandah at 6:30p.

Fri., Oct. 11

• Live music in Town Square on Main Street from 6-8p featuring The Mountain High Dulcimer Group.

Sat., Oct. 12

• Highlands Arts & Crafts Show, 9a to 5p at the Highlands Civic Center Rec Park. Fressers Eatery is selling breakfast and lunch. Free admission and parking.

• At The Hen House, a STONE-WALL Kitchen Demo 10:30a-4:30p. Patrons will be sampling: Lemon Curd in Pastry; Fig and Walnut Butter on Sweet Grass Dairy Tomme cheese; Roasted Apple Grille Sauce on chicken. Recipes available with purchase. Purchase any 3 Stone-wall products and receive a FREE mini JAM.

• The Met Opera Live in HD at PAC at 12:30 p.m. Features 10 Live Transmissions including four new productions. Tickets are available online at www.highlandspac.org or by calling 828.526.9047 Highlands PAC: 507 Chestnut Street, Highlands NC

Sun., Oct. 13

• First Presbyterian Church will host an old fashioned Hymn Sing at 5pm on Sunday. Those attending may choose a hymn they wish to sing from the 1938 Cokesbury Hymnal. Songleader will be Stell Huie with Angie Jenkins at the piano. Also featured will be several soloists who will sing spirituals. Everyone is invited.

Tues., Oct. 15

• The Highlands Dialogue discussion at the Hudson Library from 10-11:30a, with Thinking, Fast and Slow by Daniel Kaneman. A handout is available at the Hudson Library. Our coordinator will be Robert E. Smith.

Another bear attack; husky dog dead

By Cynthia Strain

Chair of B.E.A.R. Task Force

By now many Highlanders will have heard about the elderly beagle that was killed and partially eaten by a bear in town on September 20. However, they have probably not heard about a sec-

ond incident which occurred in the Flat Mountain Road area two days later. A husky that was also elderly and had seizures was killed and eviscerated by a black bear in the early morning hours.

In both cases the families saw a bear with the body. Additionally,

the husky had a large bite mark on the back of its neck, indicative of a bear bite.

These deaths are tragic occurrences, and our hearts go out to all involved. Anyone who loves dogs knows that they are a part of

•See BEAR page 10

'Shutdown' hits County

The longer the government shutdown lasts, the closer to home its effects will be felt.

At Tuesday night's Macon County Commission meeting, Jane Kimsey, director of Macon County's Department of Social Services (DSS) and Jim Bruckner, director of Macon County's Public Health Department explained how the government shutdown has affected federally mandated programs each department is required to provide.

Though a myriad of services and programs stand to be affected if the shutdown lasts much longer, currently federal dollars are no longer funding Child Protective Services and Adult Protective Services – both mandated programs.

Both services operate on a reimbursement basis. The county foots the bill and the federal government reimburses it – although there is always a two-month lag. With the shutdown, the normal reimbursement timeline will not be realized,

It costs DSS \$2,600 a day to run the two program and provide their services.

Of the 10 areas in the DSS lineup, all but Child and Adult Protective Services have carry over money to get them through October. Kimsey said whether or not the much needed Energy Assistance programs are in jeopardy is yet to be seen. The assistance programs start Nov. 1 and Dec. 1,

•See SHUTDOWN page 20

Around here, it's all about Fall!



Folks are rolling out pumpkins, mums and other items to celebrate autumn in the mountains. Color is coming slowly and is likely to last through October.

– Photo by Linda Barden

Question 2 in candidates 5-question lineup

This is the second week in a 5-week Q&A series with the candidates running for the Highlands Town Board.

The mayor's seat and two commission seats are open. Commissioner Brian Stiehler and Pat Taylor are running for that the Mayor's seat.

Commissioner Gary Drake's and Commissioner Amy Patterson's seats are open. They are both running as incumbents.

Vying for their seats are Donnie Calloway and Michael "Bud" Rogers.

Commissioner Gary Drake said "thanks but no thanks" when

asked to participate in the Q&A in Highlands Newspaper.

Question 2:

Many citizens feel that much of Highlands' governance is done behind closed doors during legal, non-quorum meetings between the mayor and one or two commissioners. First, do you feel this practice should continue; second how would you go about remedying the public's perception?

Donnie Calloway

Open meeting laws are put into place to keep "closed door" sessions from taking place. I

•See Q&A page 7

• INSIDE •

Letters.....	2
Dining/Eateries.....	4
The Fredster.....	7
Obituary.....	12
Shopping Pullout.....	15
Real Estate Snapshots.....	18
Investing at 4,118 ft.	19
Classifieds.....	30

Town searching for new attorney

Expected to be selected by November TB meeting

Just who will be the next Highlands Town Attorney will be an item of discussion at the October 17 Town Board meeting.

Attorney Bill Coward, 55, of Coward, Hicks and Siler in Macon and Jackson counties, has been Highlands' attorney for 15 years. He now embarks on a whole new journey as Superior Court Judge – 30th district bench.

The district encompasses Cherokee, Clay, Graham, Macon and Swain counties and will involve a lot of traveling to courtrooms in those counties.

He is filling Judge James Downs' unexpired term and will be on the 2014 election ballot. It is an 8-year term.

Downs, who retired Sept. 26, stopped practicing law to sit on the bench when appointed by Governor Jim Hunt in 1983. Coward was appointed by Gov. Pat McCrory.

Coward was officially sworn in the last week of September but expects to take his seat on

•See ATTORNEY page 6

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• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• LETTERS •

Questions about Main Street Coordinator

Dear Editor,

The article in the Sept. 26 edition concerning the Main Street Coordinator raised quite a few questions for me.

1. "...the Main Street Coordinator would basically be an economic development coordinator and promoter."

2. What do the Chamber of Commerce people think about this?

3. "This person would ... work with landlords so everyone knows what it takes to operate a business in a seasonal town and be successful." Is this the job of government? Would this person actually eliminate the need for due diligence and market studies by private businesses?

4. "Would be a promoter and liaison between the town and its citizens." "The person would also be an interface between the town and the public." Does the town really need an interface between the town and the public? Since when does the town care what citizens want? If citizens said they wanted the farmers market, the antique show, or the local craft show would this person listen? If citizens said they didn't want a new post office, turn only lanes onto Main Street, or two adjacent one-way streets going the same direction, would this person listen? If citizens said that it does not make sense to plant trees and shorten quite a few parking spaces on Main Street, would this person listen?

5. "This person would coordinate events and work between the town and all these organizations." Shouldn't each organization do just a little research and determine which other organizations have events that present conflicts? Would this person have the power to tell the PAC that they could not open a performance on the same day as an opening at the theater or would the PAC be able to decide that for themselves?

6. "The position would be listed... with a starting salary of \$41,017.60 (\$64,129.37 for the complete package which is available in the Planning and Development Dept. budget." Why does the Planning and Development budget have at least \$64,129.37 unallocated funds in their budget? What other town priorities have been denied the use of these unallocated funds?

Morris Williams
Highlands

Much to do about nothing

Dear Editor,

I have seen in the paper the last couple of weeks that there have been complaints about Jake Braking on large diesel trucks. My first question would be, how often do you hear the Jake Braking noise and at what hours of the day? Do you hear them all day long, once an hour, 10 times a day?

There all kind of noises that we could complain about. Maybe the Town can put these in the policy as well. How about vehicle alarms, motorcycles with loud pipes that come through town, loud cars and pickups, maybe Emergency vehicles using sirens?

We could put a policeman at each entrance to town to stop everyone and tell them if your motorcycle, car, or pickup has

loud pipes you will have to push your vehicle while in the city limits. All vehicles with alarms will have to disconnect the alarm while visiting Highlands. Emergency vehicles can only use flashing lights, no sirens.

There are probably more noises but we can deal with those later.

Skip Keener
Highlands

Supper on the dam

Dear Editor,

Close your eyes and imagine this. Late, late in the afternoon with the coming of twilight in a magical place. All the colors are there, shades of green beyond the touch of a Monet, beige, and blues, and greys that bend and dance with the light, and; oh my; the pinks! It was a Plein Aire dream, but impossible to capture because it was on Mother Nature's time, rapidly changing

with each moment bringing another moment, and another moment, and another.....of God's perfect painting.

Where was I? I was on the dam overlooking the Lily Pond at The Highlands Biological Center. Many thanks to Julia and Bill Grumbles, Paul Sanger, and their team for introducing me to the best kept secret in Highlands. I hope that everyone will consider making it a part of their next adventure. It's just around the corner!

Jane Hill Scott
Highlands

Cutting back due to family obligations

Dear Editor,

I am writing to share my plan to retire from The Bascom in the spring of 2014 with the Highlands community.

As many of your readers know, my husband, George, sustained a severe spinal cord injury in April 2012. Thankfully, George's overall health continues to improve. However, for the first time in my museum career I haven't been available to work "24/7" and that has made it difficult for me to balance my home and work life. These circumstances have caused me to redefine the ways I can best serve The Bascom in the future, and have prompted a plan for my retirement.

I am grateful to The Bascom's board leadership for working with me to form a Search Committee to identify my successor as Executive Director. Hopefully, this new individual will be in place by next spring, and I will then work for The Bascom on a part-time or contractual basis focused on community relations and fundraising as needed.

I could not be more energized about Highlands' distinctive character as a cultural center of North Carolina — and the Bascom's role in promulgating this identity — than I am at this moment. I am particularly proud of the great strides The Bascom has made to be embraced locally, regionally and, indeed, nationally, as evidenced by:

- The more than 500 entries submitted for consideration in our current national juried exhibition: Figures

- Highlands' designation as one of the top 12 small town ArtPlaces in the country; a designation that specifically named The Bascom

- Extensive Outreach Programming that now includes collaboration with 17 non-profit organizations throughout the

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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- A close association with the Highlands and Regional Art Leagues

- Active participation in Highlands and Cashiers Chambers of Commerce activities

As proud as I am of these accomplishments, I know there is still work to be done.

It continues to be a privilege and a pleasure to live in Highlands and serve The Bascom. I look forward to hearing the voices of the community as we move forward into the next phase of leadership. My husband, George, joins me in thanking every one of you who provide us with such a wide and caring network of support. Cheers ...

Jane Jerry,
Executive Director
The Bascom, Highlands

Here we are. Again.

Dear Editor,

The Republicans, including our own Mark Meadows, who have repeatedly stated dislike for the federal government, have

closed much of the US government. What is particularly obnoxious about this is that they are blaming Democrats for something that the Republicans have been wanting to do, again, for many years.

Shutting down government services in order to nullify a law (Obamacare) that has already been debated, compromised, passed and even approved by the Supreme Court, is far from the Republicans' stated tactic of principled action. The Republican shutdown is more like spoiled children throwing a tantrum when they don't get their way.

As for the Republicans' "solution" of re-funding bits and pieces of the government that they like, that goes against their Constitutional obligation to fund the government. They have already debated and voted on the priorities. The Democrats have already compromised the current budget down to the amount that the Republicans demanded.

That the Republicans are willing to shut down much of the government, and possibly even default on our debt to get their way, is the opposite of principled. In all honesty, it is stupid and harmful to the economy, government, and people of this nation.

Real people are being hurt by this shutdown. Real businesses and real families are taking the hit because of the Republi-

cans' rigid political agenda. Here in Macon County, we have scores of federal employees who are now laid off at Coweeta Research Lab and the US Forest Service.

Who will pay their mortgages? Who will buy their food? Who will pay their doctor bills, their car payments, their utilities? They won't be patronizing many restaurants or stores without an income during the shutdown. The Republicans care more about their power, ideological purity and their Big Ideas than they do about real people.

The wealthy politicians don't know what it is to live paycheck to paycheck. Besides, their paychecks aren't stopped by the shutdown. They are playing with our livelihoods. They are playing with our lives to score points in their political game. They are gambling with our lives, and we are losing. We are not amused or impressed.

The Republican Party of so-called

Family Values is hurting families directly, without apology, without insight. Republicans often talk about the dignity of work, yet they carelessly throw tens of thousands out of work with their shutdown.

The Republicans created this disaster. They have cornered themselves into this mess. They need to find some real principles and open the entire government.

If Congress shuts down the government every time a law is passed that one party doesn't like, America will fall apart, leaving the world open to be taken over by our global adversaries. If that is what you seek, then you do not belong in office.

Stop the partial refunding game, fulfill your Constitutional duty, and fund all government functions.

Stop holding America hostage to your political agenda.

Don Kowal, Franklin



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Robin Axtell, Small Piece of Turf



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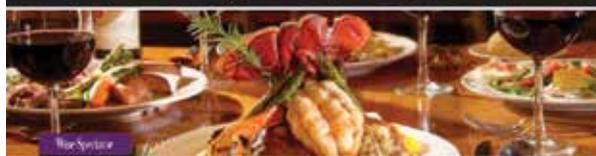
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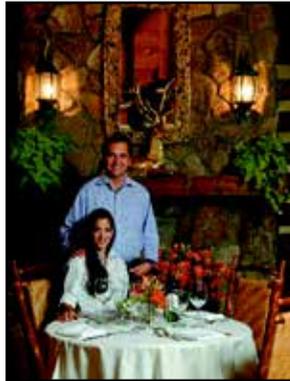
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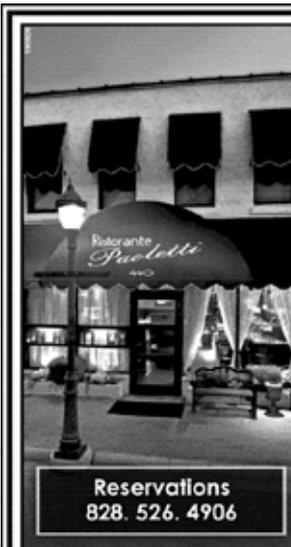
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...ATTORNEY
continued from page 1

the bench early in November. There will be a swearing in ceremony at the Macon County courthouse on Oct. 25.

"I, am very excited about the challenge and the opportunity to serve," said Coward. "What excites me is being in the courtroom. That has been my passion since 1987, when I was licensed to practice."

Coward is the son of Betty Stillwell of Sylva and late local attorney Kent Coward. His brother is attorney Jay Coward. Bill Coward's uncle is Sylva attorney Orville Coward, whose son, Orville Coward Jr., practices in Franklin.

Bill Coward is married to Kim Coward, also an attorney. He is a graduate of the University of North Carolina School of Law, Davidson College and Sylva-Webster High School. He has worked with Coward, Hicks & Siler for more than 25 years.

He has litigated every flavor of civil and criminal cases. As Highlands' attorney for 15 years, he dealt mostly with zoning and eminent domain issues.

The cases that got the most press were the Bowery Road condemnations when the road was widened, and also during Edwards et al where the original Kelsey map of the town was contested.

Since Coward's work for Highlands is considered a professional service, there is

• See ATTORNEY page 12

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• THE FREDSTER •

A review of the 2013 season

First, I'd like to report that things are a lot calmer for our newspaper than last year. It was during the month of October, 2012, that Highlands' Democrats were handing out 'Fred Dolls' complete with a six-pack of barbed pins. But still, even with my new shorter and softer material containing no national news or poking fun at our president, some folks still found reason to pull out their dolls and jab me. What's a mother to do?

A priest handed me a note during mass that read, "Sarcasm is the body's natural defense against stupidity." Hummmm! What does that mean? Maybe because last year we almost came to blows over a serious column I wrote about pedophiles in the church? Who knows? Actually, who cares? This year, he may have been suffering from my column titled "The sacrament of constipation." It was a cute, harmless little ditty about my young granddaughter who confused confirmation with constipation.

Then there was my report on Bridge players wearing Depends which, of course, is all nonsense. Several fellow players were offended, giving the term "shorts in a wad" a whole new twist. But I received rave reviews from most Highlanders who thought the Depends piece was hilarious. Because I don't want to further offend a few of my fellow Bridge players, I will not...I repeat...will not write a report on the new Depends hot babe thong

...Q&A continued from page 1

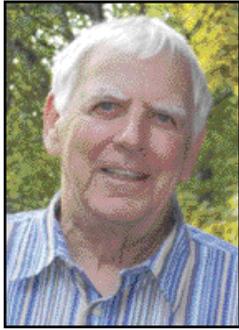
personally do not know if that has been occurring. However, if one or two commissioners are meeting with the Mayor, on a regular basis to discuss personnel or regulatory matters, they are in violation of the "Sunshine Laws." All board members need to be a part of the discussions and the public needs to be informed.

Board members should be able to visit town hall or the Mayor on occasion to keep up with current events. If elected I will be in contact with the manager as well as the department heads at various times. And I might just stop by for a cup of coffee.

Amy Patterson

Yes, I have heard the comments that citizens worry that decisions, that should

• See Q&A page 8



Feedback is encouraged
highlandseditor@aol.com

diapers due out next year.

Moving on, several readers, mostly dog owners and motorcyclists, were offended by my bare breasted motorcycle babes on Main St. and my 'nude day' at dog poop park. Some were angry and disappointed because they thought the article was true until the last sentence. They felt duped. Sorry...ha, not really!

And if you're a butt ugly woman who was offended by my 'beauty challenged piece,' get a face lift and size 40 breasts during the winter. And old men like me should think about a butt implant. I'm also considering Botox lips and tattooed eye brows.

Sooooo, as you can see, none of this year's silliness was as bad as last year's making fun of our president and his government which, of course, I love to do. So everyone should kick back and try to develop a sense of humor while I'm in hiding. The truth is that no matter what I write, someone will be offended. (Yawn!)



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TUES	IN-HOUSE MADE ITALIAN SAUSAGE LASAGNA WITH A LARGE SALAD	\$18.95 serves 4
WED	CHICKEN OR STEAK POT PIE AND A LARGE SALAD	\$18.95 serves 4
THURS	ROASTED MEATLOAF WITH MASHED POTATOES, GRAVY AND A LARGE SALAD	\$18.95 serves 4
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be made in the public view, are decided in closed meetings by a few. To me, whether these meetings are legal or not is irrelevant. Whether these meetings are innocent, information exchanges with no decisions made or not is irrelevant. What is important is that citizens trust their elected officials both as individual commissioners and the board as a whole. Any persistent or routine behavior, no matter how legal or innocent, that undermines the trust citizens have for their government or causes them to question how decisions are made, should stop. These meetings are not essential. The trust of the citizens for their elected officials is. There are other ways and/or times that individual commissioners can stay informed without causing suspicion and distrust of the decision-making process.

As a commissioner, I have neither the right nor the power to command or control another commissioner's behavior. That power is in the hands of the voters. I can only pledge that I will do my best to insure an open government, listen to citizen's concerns, and never give the citizens of the town I serve a reason to question my integrity or the integrity of my votes on matters brought before the board.

Michael "Bud" Rogers

If elected, I have full intentions of letting the voters/taxpayers know what is going on and who is behind the issues and

what my intentions are on what I am going to do to stop and/or encourage each issue. I do not believe in closed door meetings. The public needs to be a part of all discussions and the appearance and the reality of the commissioners on the Town Board should be above board at all times. I will be there to serve the taxpayer/voter; not to be served. I will be going around Main Street businesses and others to see what their needs are as this is not about me but about the taxpayer. A good politician should listen, learn, help and lead.

Brian Stiehler

While I can understand this may be the perception, it is not the reality. All decisions made by the Town Board require a majority vote. Furthermore, the monthly commission meetings are only a small part of the responsibilities of a commissioner or the Mayor. The committee assignments can be time consuming and often come with a fair amount of meetings. However, the residents of Highlands have a right to know of all activities being dealt with by the board. One of the primary reasons I am running for the position of Mayor is because communication skills are a great strength of mine. It is my hope to use a variety of media sources to get information out there to the general public. I want the residents of Highlands to take a greater interest in their town. If residents know what is on the agenda, why it is on the agenda and what the consequences of a board decision will be, I feel most would take a greater interest in the town. I would also like to make better use of the Mayor and Commissioner Report area of the agenda to let residents know what is happening in town. I will make myself available to the newspapers and radio at all times. We are fortunate to have access to three great media sources in Highlands and I will make the most of our local media. As I have said before, it is important we run the town like a business and make smart business decisions. However, an open door policy for the Mayor is a must and one I plan to bring to Town Hall.

Pat Taylor

Indeed, there is a perception among some Highlanders that non-quorum meetings have been held behind closed doors. The counter in the lobby of Town Hall has a glass curtain that literally and symbolically separates citizens from town staff and elected officials. I understand this glass-walled counter was installed as a security measure, but it also implies a separation between government and citizens.

What is viewed behind this glass wall must be open and above board with no room for misperceptions. This current

• See Q&A page 9

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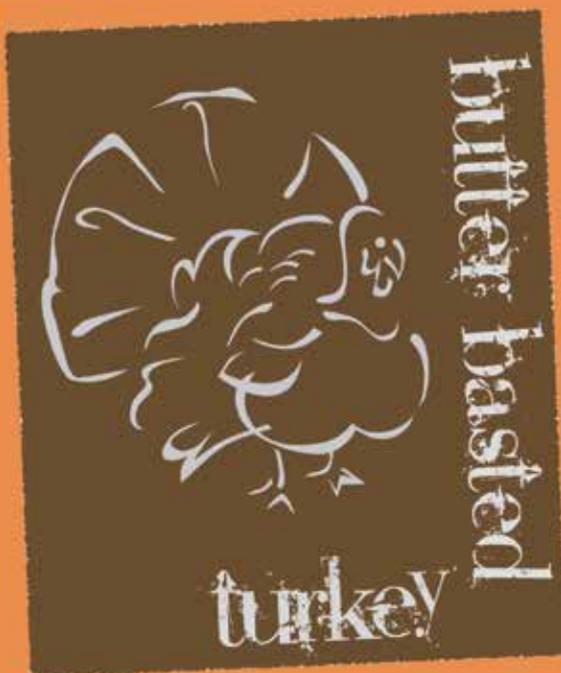
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Choice of Pies: Granny Smith Apple, Pumpkin or Pecan



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...Q&A continued from page 8

question would not have been asked unless there is a perception that strategy and policy meetings are taking place among a few town leaders at the exclusion of the public and even some commissioners.

As mayor, I will keep my lines of communication open with the town commissioners and with the town citizens. I am for the process of open and transparent government, and it begins with the mayor's office. I will keep communication open by responding to phone calls, letters and emails. I may not agree with a person's viewpoint, but I will listen and consider their concerns.

Town Hall should be a place for information sharing for everyone. There are a number of things that can be done to break this perceived wall of separation between Town Hall and the people. As mayor, I will work with the Town Board to implement the following practices:

I believe the agenda and informational packet that commissioners receive before a Town Board meeting should be posted directly on the town's website for citizen access. Currently, one has to request to be placed on an email list to receive this material.

Town legal notices should be placed on the town internet site. Access to this important information should not be limited to newspaper subscribers only. Internet access to town officials should be improved. The current email procedures for contacting officials can be difficult, especially when using portable devices.

Thursday nights for Town Board meetings are not the best time for citizen

access. Between May and October especially, there are multiple community events that conflict with the Thursday meetings. Also, there is a one-week delay in newspaper reporting of what transpired. Working with the board, I would like to see a return to Tuesday meetings.

The practice of a town manager polling commissioners on an individual basis before making a decision that is within the manager's purview should be avoided. If there is a problem where the manager seeks guidance, there should be a special meeting of the full board.

Town board meetings scheduled during daily business hours, unless in an emergency, should be avoided. The past spring budget workshop meetings at 3 p.m. had practically no citizen attendance. Newly retired, I had a flexible schedule to attend these sessions. I would advocate for 5 or 5:30 p.m. meetings, or call additional meetings at the regular time during budget planning months.

I want people to feel welcomed to meet with the mayor. A year ago I wrote a letter to this newspaper entitled "A Mayor/Citizens Coffee Hour." It proposed early morning gatherings open to citizens, town officials and anyone interested. Citizens could ask questions, state opinions, and communicate with the mayor and town officials. These coffee hours would have no agendas and not be meetings. They would be information sharing sessions going in both directions. Such events may be one more way for this little, local republic to open up town government.

Taylor-Made for Highlands

As Highlands Mayor I will move about town talking and interacting with town residents, business owners and stakeholders to insure their needs are being met.

My door will always be open. My cell phone, (828) 506-3138, is and will always be on.



Paid for by Patrick Taylor for Mayor

"I have the time and the experience to devote to the job of Mayor of Highlands."

—A pledge to the citizens of Highlands

Pat Taylor

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October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month

- Save the date -

Breast Cancer Symposium

October 29th
12 noon

Breast Cancer Survivors and community members are invited to join Highlands-Cashiers Hospital in observance of National Breast Cancer Awareness, for the first Annual Breast Cancer Symposium. HCH's own Board Certified Physicians; Radiologist Jerry A. Mitchell, M.D. and Gynecologist Julie A. Farrow M.D., will provide an in-depth lecture series covering the latest advancements in the prevention, detection, and treatment of Breast Cancer. Attendees will also hear from HCH's Registered Dietician, Yvonne Smith, on crucial steps to leading an "Anti-Inflammatory" lifestyle.



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www.highlandscashiershospital.org

...BEAR continued from page 1

one's family.

There is still a lot that we do not know. For instance, was the same bear responsible for both deaths? Was this a predatory bear as opposed to an opportunistic or defensive attack? Although it was not known for being aggressive, did the husky attack the bear first? Even though the beagle was tethered in the back yard, could it have provoked an attack? We do know that the husky preferred to be outdoors, and the family always left food out for her. Bears grow bolder if they regularly find food near houses.

Attacks like this, as well as movie portrayals of bears, tend to leave people with the impression that black bears are vicious predators that we should fear. The truth is that they are usually as frightened of you and your dog as you are of them, and bear encounters rarely lead to such aggressive behavior. Black bears generally avoid people, and the chances of you being killed by a domestic dog, bees or lightning are vastly greater.

With autumn here, bears are going through hyperphagia when they will eat up to 20 hours and 20,000 calories per day to put on several inches of body fat before they go in to den for the winter. They neither eat nor drink for several months, and if they do not have enough fat reserves, the females will not produce babies, and some bears will die in their dens. So their need to gorge on food in the fall is instinctive and necessary.

Some food sources have been scarce this fall, including acorns and hickory nuts in many areas. According to The Bear Almanac (author Gary Brown), "Natural food shortages have resulted in bears killing dogs at urban and rural homes. The Associated Press (N.C.) related, "The killing or injuring of dogs happens each year when hungry bears head into developed areas looking for food, then are provoked when dogs start barking at them." said Mike Carraway, a NC Wildlife Resources Commission Officer."

According to New Hampshire Fish and Game Dept., "Bears will not intentionally attack dogs, but they can sometimes be startled or surprised by a dog if they are sneaking around a house looking for birdfeeders or following the smell of pet food. Bear will often run and tree when disturbed by dogs, but a parting swat can't be ruled out in close quarters. An exception would be a large male bear or a sow with cubs, which may attempt to fight rather than run away if cornered."

On the other hand there are predatory attacks, which are extremely rare, and opportunistic attacks. According to Kathy Sherrard, volunteer educator with Appa-

lachian Bear Rescue and a member of B.E.A.R., "a predatory attack is one where the bear views another animal (in this case, the dogs) as prey. Bears will eat the vital organs first, so the feeding pattern is consistent with a predatory attack. Predatory bears will prey on weak, young, old and sick individuals. It sounds as though both dogs were old and sick."

Photographer and bear expert Bill Lea attempts to differentiate between that and an "opportunistic" attack when the bear is simply taking advantage of an opportunity to eat when it is presented.

A study published in the 2011 Journal of Wildlife Management reports that attacks by bears have risen as human populations have grown. They report that between 1900 and 2009, 63 people were killed in the U.S. and Canada.

"Each year there are millions of interactions between people and black bears with no injuries to people. So while the risk is low, it does exist," bear expert Stephen Herrero, one of the authors of the study, said. "In 88% of the attacks, the bear was exhibiting predatory behavior; in 92%, the bears were males." Scientists also predict that surprise encounters between bears and humans will become more common as the two species encroach on one another's territories.

I could not find any statistics on how many dogs have been attacked by bears, but a Google search showed eight or so newspaper reports in 2013 spread across Canada and the U.S.

Bill Lea cautions against reflexive killing of bears in response to the deaths. "One thing I do not think we should do is just go out and indiscriminately kill any bear in the area and think the problem is resolved. When killing has been the solution in the past, the first bear seen in the general vicinity of "the crime" has been shot. Often this is not the "guilty" bear, and thus another innocent life is taken." He adds that "bears are most often killed for what we think they will do versus what they actually do!" (NCWRC biologist Mike Carraway was not available for comment).

We love our canine friends, and therefore must learn to do what is best for them when living or hiking in bear country in order to prevent conflicts. In addition to bears, there are coyotes in the area, which are known to prey upon small dogs and cats.

- Do not leave pet food outdoors or dog bones lying around the yard.
- Keep pets indoors as much as possible, particularly old and infirm dogs,

...BEAR continued from page 11

and especially at night. Do not tie them up in the yard.

- Keep your dog on a leash when hiking or walking in areas of known bear activity.

- Remove things that will attract bears to your yard: e.g. trash and BBQ's. Stop feeding birds, or make birdfeeders inaccessible to bears by placing out of reach and using a seed tray.

- Close and lock your house and vehicle doors and windows.

Of course, small children playing outside should never be left unattended (although threats from human predators are significantly greater than that from a black bear).

So, what should you do if you are threatened by an aggressive bear? According to National Geographic writer Ker Than,

“you'll want to try to scare it off by yelling or throwing things at it. You've got to become a threat to discourage it from attacking you ... You want to get a stick, or if you don't have a weapon, make loud noises or threatening gestures toward the bear.”

For more information, pick up B.E.A.R.'s brochures at Town Hall, Chamber of Commerce or the Post Office. You can also call me at (828) 526-9227.

Bears are beautiful and great, but they are wild animals and need to be treated with respect and caution.

Enchanted Forest at the Nature Center

On Wed., Oct. 30 there will be a Halloween “Enchanted Forest” Nature Trail at the Highlands Nature Center. Group tours leave every 15 minutes from 6:30 – 7:30 pm. Bring a flashlight to go early trick-or-treating along the Botanical Garden trails. Encounter friendly forest creatures (portrayed by students of the UNC Institute for the Environment) and learn interesting nature facts about each one! Fun and educational for all ages; \$1 per person. Please call 526-2623 for more information.

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PEPPERONI

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PEPPERONI

PANCETTA

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PEPPER, MUSHROOMS, PANCETTA,

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OBITUARY

Marie Alice Sharpe

Marie Alice Sharpe, 80, of Highlands, NC passed away Monday, October 7, 2013. Born in Los Angeles, CA she was the daughter of the late Charles and Gladys Quatacker Churan. She was married to Norman Thomas Sharpe who preceded her in death in June of 2011. She was a volunteer for Holy Trinity Church in West Palm Beach, FL and The Episcopal Church of the Incarnation in Highlands, NC, where she was a member.

She is survived by one daughter, Virginia Clair Sharpe Martin and husband Michael of West Palm Beach, FL; two sons, Kenneth Norman Sharpe and wife Pam of Atlanta, GA and Tracy Roy Sharpe and wife Karen of West Palm Beach, FL; one brother, William Tucker of Oklahoma City, OK; five grandchildren, Christopher, Kelly, Lisa, Tara and Troy; two great grandchildren, Trace and Matthew and one nephew Lawrence Drake.

A memorial service will be held Saturday, October 12, 2013 at 11:00 am at The Episcopal Church of the Incarnation in Highlands, NC with The Reverend Howard W. L'Enfant officiating. A reception will follow the service. A second memorial service will be held Saturday, October 19, 2013 at Holy Trinity Episcopal Church in West Palm Beach, FL with a reception following the service.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to The Episcopal Church of the Incarnation, PO Box 729, Highlands, NC 28741.

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

...ATTORNEY continued from page 6



At the Tuesday, Oct. 8 Macon County Commission meeting newly appointed Superior Court Judge Bill Coward discussed office space with the commissioners.

– Photo by Kim Lewicki

no requirement for the town to “go out” for bid or to issue a request for qualifications to select law firms.

“At this time we have begun the process of putting together a list of potential firms/individuals that the board will then short-list and interview,” said Town Manager Bob Frye. “I would anticipate having a new attorney on board by the November meeting.”

In the interim, Bill Coward’s firm will continue to handle town affairs as needed.

At the Tuesday, Oct. 8 Macon County Commission meeting, Coward was on hand to request an office in Franklin. Each

county in the 30th district is responsible for providing office space for the Superior Court Judge.

Judge Downs’ office was in the PNC Bank building and cost the county \$144 a month for 350 sq. ft.

Downs is keeping his office at his own expense.

Coward’s office will be in a building on the back side of Main Street in Franklin. It costs \$600 a month.

The board voted unanimously to fulfill its obligation.

– Kim Lewicki

• HIGHLANDS AREA UPCOMING EVENTS •

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.

Thurs., Oct. 10

• Wellstrung at ...on the Verandah at 6:30p.

• The Macon County Cancer Support Group will meet this Thursday evening, at 7 p.m. in the cafeteria of Angel Medical Center. Guest speakers will be Mike Garner, Western North Carolina Volunteer Coordinator for Four Seasons and Sallee Coss, local volunteer. Topics will include volunteer opportunities with Four Seasons and the Pet Therapy program. Light refreshments will be served. A \$50 gas card will be given away. Everyone is welcome.

• The October meeting of The Western North Carolina Woodturners Club will meet on Thursday at 6 PM at the Blue Ridge School, in Glensville, N.C. Drive to the back of the school to the woodworking shop. Visitors are always welcomed. The club meets every second Thursday at 6 P.M., March through November.

Fri., Oct. 11

• Live music in Town Square on Main Street from 6-8p featuring The Mountain High Dulicmer Group.

• At the Nichols Center, 629 Duggan Hill Drive, Clayton, GA (behind Blue Ridge Music) 706/782-9852. 7pm. Oliver Rice and The Blue Ridge Mountain Boys, with Special Guest Hank Belew (bluegrass. Admission is \$10.

Sat., Oct. 12

• Highlands Arts & Crafts Show, 9a to 5p at the Highlands Civic Center Rec Park. Fressers Eatery is selling breakfast and lunch. Free admission and parking.

• At The Hen House, a STONEWALL Kitchen Demo 10:30a-4:30p. Patrons will be sampling: Lemon Curd in Pastry; Fig and Walnut Butter on Sweet Grass Dairy Tomme cheese; Roasted Apple Grille Sauce on chicken. Recipes available with purchase. Purchase any 3 Stonewall products and receive a FREE mini JAM.

• The Met Opera Live in HD at PAC at 12:30 p.m. Features 10 Live Transmissions including four new productions. Tickets are available online at www.highlandspac.org or by calling 828.526.9047 Highlands PAC: 507 Chestnut Street, Highlands NC

Sun., Oct. 13

• First Presbyterian Church will host an old fashioned Hymn Sing at 5pm on Sunday. Those attending may choose a hymn they wish to sing from the 1938 Cokesbury Hymnal.

Songleader will be Stell Huie with Angie Jenkins at the piano. Also featured will be several soloists who will sing spirituals. Everyone is cordially invited to attend.

• The Cashiers Methodist Church's group Love Out Loud will serve free dinners from 4-6pm at the VFW Post on NC 107 in Glensville, NC.

Tues., Oct. 15

• The Highlands Dialogue discussion at the Hudson Library from 10-11:30a, with Thinking, Fast and Slow by Daniel Kahneman. A handout is available at the Hudson Library. Our coordinator will be Robert E. Smith.

Fri., Oct. 18

• Live music in Town Square on Main Street from 6-8p featuring The Macon Grass-Band

Sat., Oct. 19

• At The Hen House on Main Street, a signing with artist Kathy Miller with her "TAILGATING THROUGH THE SOUTH" prints and cards of all the SEC, ACC schools, 1:30-4:30p.

• The Highlands Bolivian Mission will hold its fall yard sale, lunch and bake sale on Saturday, October 19 from 11AM to 3PM in the fellowship hall, next to the Highlands United Methodist Church on Main Street. All proceeds will go to the mission fund that serves many hospitals, clinics, churches, feeding and education centers and the foster home

Tues., Oct. 22

• Doggie Fun Day at Chestnut Hill Retirement Center 2-4 p.m., 20 Chestnut Hill Drive off Buck Creek Road. Park across the street at Zachary Park. \$5 - proceeds to benefit the Cashiers-Highlands Humane Society. Dress your dog in a costume or favorite outfit for our fashion walk; musical "sit," Owner/Dog Relay Contests; best dog trick and more. Dogs must be leashed. Call Mary Bean, 828-787-2114 for more information.

• Direct Uniform Scrub and Shoe Sale 7am-4pm, JWC First Floor Suite 103.

• Leadership Highlands is hosting a Candidate Forum from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at the Highlands Community Building.

Sat., Oct. 26

• Scaly Mountain Womens Club pancake Breakfast at Old Scaly School House corner of 106 and Buck Knob road, Scaly. 7:30 to 10:30. Price is \$5.50.

• Family of the Stars Relay for Life Golf Tournament at Franklin Golf Course. Start time will be 9 a.m. Registration will begin at 8:30 a.m. This will be a 4-man captain's choice. Call Franklin Golf Course to sign up a team or Toby Blanton at 828-347-5110. Cost is \$40 per person. Prize money will be determined on the number of teams participating. There will be a longest drive contest and a closest to the pin contest. There will also be a putting contest for \$5 a person. The winner of the putting contest will win half the money brought in by the contest. Lunch will be sold for \$5. There is only space for 12 teams so please get your teams signed up soon. Tee Sponsors are needed for \$50 each. Please help finish the

fight against cancer.

Wed., Oct. 30

• Halloween "Enchanted Forest" Nature Trail at the Highlands Nature Center. Group tours leave every 15 minutes from 6:30 - 7:30 pm. Bring a flashlight to go early trick-or-treating along the Botanical Garden trails. Encounter friendly forest creatures (portrayed by students of the UNC Institute for the Environment) and learn interesting nature facts about each one! Fun and educational for all ages; \$1 per person. Please call 526-2623 for more information.

Sat., Nov. 2

• Come to the Mountains for HomeTown Day. The Town of Highlands will be hosting HomeTown Day on Saturday in Pine Street Park from 11am until 3pm. There will be live music, clogging, farmer's market and craft vendors, tractor hay rides, inflatables for children, a bake contest, greased pumpkins relays, pinto beans and cornbread for dinner and much more. Lonesome Sound will be performing

'Murder Among Friends' with HCP at PAC



Meet Palmer Forrester (played by Stuart Armor). Palmer is having a very bad day. Though this pompous actor's 1000-watt ego can light up a stage all by itself, there's no one in the audience. The loan sharks are circling. And his wife wants him dead. Palmer's very rich wife Angela (played by Megan Mclean) just wants to get through the night without having a nervous breakdown. Or being murdered. Or getting caught. Palmer and Angela's two clueless friends, Gert and Marshall (played by Bonnie Earman and Ken Knight) want to enjoy New Year's Eve getting quietly dead drunk. Instead they become unwitting witnesses to a murder plot gone horribly, comically wrong.

Join the cast of Murder Among Friends at PAC October 17-20 and 24-27 for a night of mayhem, mystery and murder most foul. Call 828-526-9047 or visit highlandspac.org for tickets and information.

traditional mountain, gospel, country, folk and Americana music from 1pm until 3pm. The Southern Appalachian Cloggers will be performing throughout the day as well. All activities are free except items purchased from farmer market and craft vendors. All donation proceeds will benefit the Town of Highlands Scholarship Fund. For more information or to register for the bake contest or as a farmer market/craft vendor, please call Town Hall at (828)526.2118, go to www.highlandspac.org, or email rebecca.shuler@highlandspac.org. Pine Street Park is located at 441 Pine Street in Highlands, NC. In case of rain, the event will be held at the Highlands Civic Center, 600 N. 4th Street, Highlands, NC.

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.

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.

'Chocolate Fantasy' at Highlands Arts & Crafts Show this Sat.



Indulge your love of chocolate by visiting the popular Scaly Mountain Women's Club, "Chocolate Fantasy" booth at the Highlands Annual Arts and Craft Fair on Saturday, October 12th from 9a. to 4p. Proceeds from this popular booth are used to provide scholarships for area students as well as donations to area human service agencies. Pictured: Susan Bankston, Lydia Hall, Nell Oliver and Nancy Aldridge. Also at the show will be a myriad of arts and crafts and baked goods.

— Highlands Profile —

The Wildlife Lover of Mirror Lake

By Don DeBat and Sara E. Benson

Take a twilight walk down Mirror Lake Road near the town of Highlands, N.C., and chances are you'll see Woodrow Wilson, a naturalist, wildlife lover and teller of stories.

Wilson, 71, loves animals—from tiny baby chipmunks to ducks, geese, otters, turtles and the occasional black bear he encounters only a few feet from his home on the hill overlooking the lake, just west of the Mirror Lake Bridge. Wilson makes several trips each day down to the small "Duck's Park" on the water to feed the animals.

Today, it is a bucket-lunch of bread and dried corn for the water fowl—tiny brown

wood ducks, Mallards, and white domestic geese.

At sunset, Wilson, a stocky, sun-tanned ex-military man with a shaved head and bright smile, makes another gourmet offering—a bucket filled with corn, sunflower seeds and meal for what he calls "his ducks."

Black Bear Stories

Wilson, a professional Highlands land surveyor, also puts out dry dog food and sunflower seeds when he sees an occasional 80-pound black bear crossing Mirror Lake Road in the moonlight.

"The bear growls if I get too close to it," said Wilson, who always stays 25 feet away. So, a cagey Wilson backs off and lets the animal work his way through the bushes to his bear-

feeding station.

"My wife recently spotted a young 30-pound black bear cub dragging a bag of garbage into the woods to have a private feast," he noted.

One day, Wilson saw an otter stealing fish bait off the lines of young fishermen at Duck's Park. Afterwards, the hungry otter would walk across the road to Wilson's house seeking a snack.

"I caught this very tame otter and called Wildlife Control for relocation, because I was worried he'd get run over by an automobile on the road," Wilson said.

Lost Mirror Lake Swans

A life-long resident of Highlands, Wilson also remembers with great fondness the white swans that once glided up and down Mirror Lake. Unfortunately, they are no longer swimming on the lake.

"One swan was killed by a youngster with a .22 caliber—shot seven times in the neck," Wilson recalled.

A floating pallet was constructed by swan lovers on the lake for the female swan to build her nest. Unfortunately, the male swan—in a valiant attempt to protect the nest—attacked a man in a canoe passing under the bridge.

"The man fought back using his paddle as a weapon and broke the swan's neck," Wilson recalled.

Sadly, yet another swan drowned in the lake when he got his neck stuck in a hole in the ice and its feet anchored in shoreline mud, while feeding, Wilson said.

Now, the swans are gone.

Koi Stories

Another attraction of Mirror Lake is the large Koi,



Melinda and Woodrow Wilson

a golden fish that grows to a length of three feet or more, according to Wilson.

Mirror Lake historical lore says the wife of former Highlands Mayor Buck Trott introduced tiny goldfish into the lake and they grew to be giant fish.

However, Wilson refuted that backwoods story, noting that the so called "goldfish" really swam into Mirror Lake from a Koi pond higher on the mountain. "I also have yellow and orange Carp, further upstream," said Wilson, inventorying his wildlife collection on Mirror Lake.

While the writers were chatting with Wilson on the side of Mirror Lake Road, a shiny red pick-up truck pulled up, and the family inside rolled down the windows.

Wilson's eyes brightened, and he smiled. The family had two dogs in the truck, and he soon learned that one was a puppy that had just been rescued from a local "kill shelter." Teenagers in the car were very excited about saving the puppy.

Earlier, just before sunset, a woman in a van pulled up to the Duck Park on Mirror Lake. "Is it okay for my son to fish here?" the mother asked.

Yes, was the answer. Immediately, the nine-year-old son put his line in the water. Soon after, the mother and

her red-headed curly-haired daughter, walked across the bridge to where the ducks and geese were feeding. The mother started tossing crackers to the wildlife, while encouraging her daughter to participate.

Seconds later, the 4-year-old daughter pulled off her cowgirl boots and socks and tried to wade into Mirror Lake to feed the ducks. She was admonished by her worried mother.

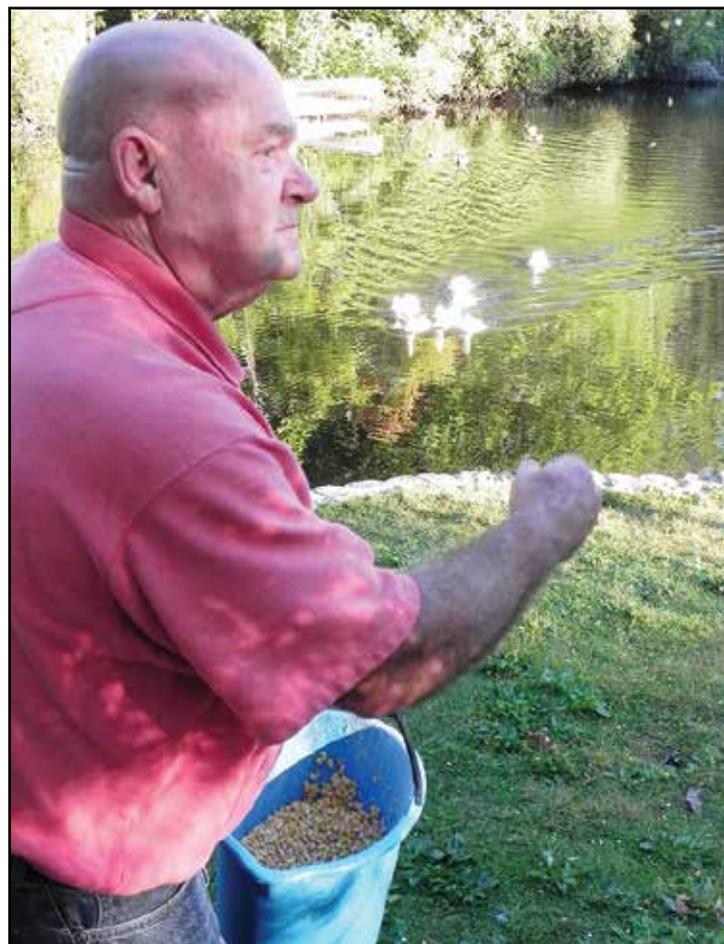
Years ago, Wilson was the only certified scuba-diver in Highlands, and over the years he helped the Sheriff's Department investigate several water tragedies, including the drowning of a motorist who had a heart attack.

With the sun setting, the ducks and geese started swimming north up Mirror Lake. After sunset, the loud, laughing-like honk of the leader—who we called "The Joker"—could be heard across the lake.

Maybe the big white goose was ordering breakfast.

• Sara E. Benson, daughter of long-time Mirror Lake property owner, Herbert L. Benson, Jr., is a South Carolina and Illinois real estate broker and author. Sara grew up in Highlands and once lost her patent leather Sunday school shoes in Mirror Lake.

• Don DeBat is an author and the former real estate editor and assistant managing editor of the Chicago Sun-Times.



Leaf Lookers Shopping Guide!



Photo by Linda Barden



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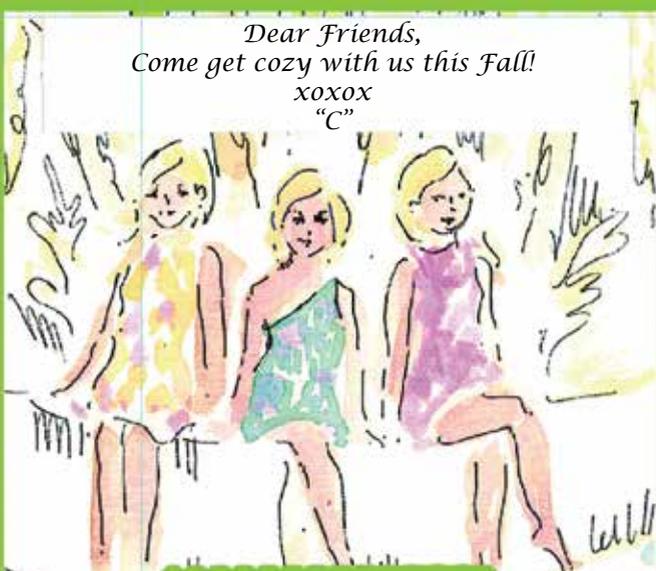
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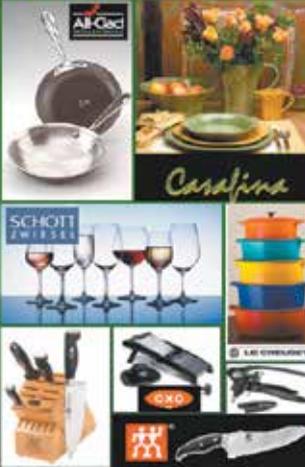


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REAL ESTATE SNAPSHOTS



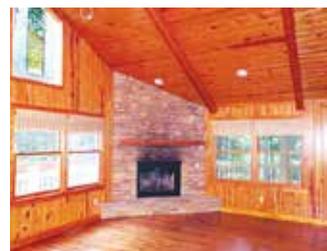
Magical mountain views from this VZ Top condo with 3br/2ba, cozy fireplace, bright and airy. Just 4 steps to walk into from the street. \$235,000. MLS# 77067



Mountain views from this 3br/3ba with family room in Highlands Falls CC on private acre lot adjoining USFS. \$497,000. MLS# 73006



13.8 beautiful acres with mountain views and a family 3br/2ba home. Land borders US Forest Service off of Buck Creek. \$375,000. MLS# 74052



Adorable 2br/2ba cottage with vaulted ceilings and wood floors throughout, granite kitchen, screened porch and carport. \$299,000. MLS# 78090



Highlands Falls CC free standing condo with 3br/3ba, beautifully furnished, golf course view and zero maintenance. \$465,000. MLS# 74042



Just outside city limits, this 1947 Log Cabin on 2.84 acres has 3br/3ba, 2 lofts, sunroom and stone patio. \$295,000. MLS# 76384



Highlands Falls Country Club. Whiteside Mountain view, 4br/4.5ba, private setting on two lots, lower level guest suites. \$797,000. MLS# 71048



Canoe and fish at nearby Lake Wilson. 1br/1ba cabin with masonry fireplace, sleeping loft, spacious screened porch in Blue Valley. \$79,500. MLS# 74134



English cottage in The Cotswolds. 3br/3.5ba, very private with long winding driveway, lovely landscaping and views. \$797,000. MLS# 75521



Waterfall property with sweeping views and two separate homes, located just outside city limits. \$675,000. MLS# 68046



3br/3ba like-new cottage with screened decks, vaulted ceilings, loft, quiet location in Wildwood Forest. \$457,000. MLS# 78054



Lovely 3br/3ba home in Highlands Falls Country Club with great upgrades, 2 fireplaces and wonderful screened porch. \$679,000. MLS# 68076



On Lake Sequoyah. Adorable 3br/2ba furnished cottage with wood floors, stone fireplace, family room and lovely yard. Bring your canoe. \$349,000. MLS# 77512



Like new 3br/2ba home in Highlands Falls CC with adjacent stream and private cul-de-sac location. \$369,000. MLS# 75733



A good mountain view from the deck of this 3br/2ba Highlands cottage in Mirror Lake, wood ceilings and family room. \$387,000. MLS# 76090



Furnished 2br/2ba condo in downtown Highlands, only two blocks to Main Street. Includes spacious screened porch and fireplace. \$169,000. MLS# 7809



Broadview Acres. Great mountain view from this 4br/3ba where lower level has a separate apartment. \$387,000. MLS #76950



Cute 3br/3.5ba cottage in Mirrormont located on 1.07 acres of mostly level yard with mature trees. Excellent value at \$295,000. MLS# 73333



Relax on the porch of this small but tidy 1br/1ba condo, move in ready with a one-car garage. \$65,000. MLS# 77019



Exquisite lodge-style home in Highlands Falls Country Club. 5br/5.5ba home with 5 masonry fireplaces, Whiteside Mountain view. \$2,250,000. MLS# 77789

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Riddle: What 2 words can bring a smile to a prospective buyer's face, and a frown to a prospective seller's face? **PRICE REDUCTION.** There may be one exception – if the price results in a closing, there are smiles on both sides.

Is it just me, or are there really more price changes going on in our local real estate market? Here are some statistics from our local MLS, which encompasses Highlands, Cashiers, Scaly Mountain, Toxaway, Glenville, Horse Cove, and some parts of Franklin. These stats are from homes, condos and town homes only. Of the ACTIVE listings there were 651 properties with price changes in the last year alone, and of those same ACTIVE listings, 175 changed their price within the last month, which is a little over 25%. The number of days on the market for those 175 properties ranged from 15 days to over 2500 days.

There are many valid reasons for dropping the price for your property. Here are some of the WRONG reasons to drop your asking price: 1) Market anxiety: Just because the house down the street dropped their price doesn't mean you necessarily need to drop yours. 2) The 'selling season' is almost over: Yes, there are more people in our area during Summer and Fall, but that doesn't mean all the buyers vanish. There may be more impulse buys during 'the season', but there are always buyers- anytime of year. 3) Priced too high to begin with- **ON PURPOSE.** Believe it or not, there are some sellers that insist on pricing their homes well above the Broker's recommended listing price range. Some Brokers will refuse to list a property over a certain percentage of their recommendation, but others do not.

Homes listed during the period of 2006 – 2010 and are still ACTIVE on the market, hopefully have had price changes due

to a reevaluation of the property's actual worth, based on homes sold. While you may be surprised at the number of properties that stay on the market for years and years- it's really not that uncommon for this area. When listing their homes for sale, some property owners that have had their homes for 10-20 years or more may be unconsciously holding on to the sentimental value instead of the property value, even though the property's value on paper may have changed dramatically over the last 3-8 years,

There are several things to consider regarding the actual sales price:

- 1) It doesn't matter what you paid for your home.
- 2) It doesn't matter how much money you've spent remodeling/decorating/ or landscaping your property.
- 3) It doesn't matter what the local tax authority says your home is worth.
- 4) It doesn't matter how much you want to net so you can move on to the next home.
- 5) It may matter a little, well, OK- a LOT, but just keep reading.

Here's what DOES matter: Homes will sell at a price the market will bear.

Sound familiar? That's right- homes are just like any other property you want to sell- they need to be priced competitively according to what the market will bear.

•See INVESTING page 21

• REAL ESTATE SNAPSHOTS •

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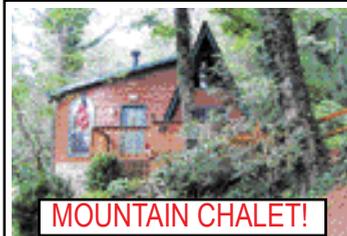


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• REAL ESTATE SNAPSHOTS •



Luxury in-town Highlands. 4 bedrooms and 4.5 baths. The pond in the back yard makes this property perfect for memories of fishing with your family and friends. Enjoy the cool breezes from your large wrap around covered back porch. Offered for \$1,350,000.00. MLS# 77429



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Lovely country manor. Fantastic sunroom and covered porch. Three large bedrooms on the main level, 1 up and 1 downstairs with extra den and fireplace. Sits atop two lovely acres. Priced at \$965,000 MLS# 75804



The perfect Log cabin mountain home! Two covered decks, stone fireplace. Close to Lake Sequoyah. Very comfortable for chilly, fall weekends. Would make a GREAT RENTAL! On 3 lots. Offered for \$385,000. MLS# 76557

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...SHUTDOWN continued from page 1

“The longer this lasts, the more it will impact us,” she said.

Bruckner echoed Kimsey’s concerns.

“As we enter week two of the shutdown, many of the services provided through the health department are feeling the impact,” he said. “Of all state departments, the Health and Human Services are impacted the most because many of its programs are either partially or fully funded by federal dollars.”

He said the shutdown is impacting his department’s ability to effectively prevent epidemics, protect the environment, promote health, and assure the availability of needed health services.

Of specific concern, is the communicable disease program, the maternal health program, family planning, child health, public health preparedness, women, infants and children (WIC), breast feeding per counselor, breast and cervical cancer control, Wise-Women cardiovascular disease program, healthy communities and community transformation.

“These are all required by law and are unfunded mandates,” said Bruckner.

Right now he needs \$2,096 per day to continue critical programs. As with DSS, the county pays and is reimbursed.

According to the Bruckner, there is no assurance of reimbursement even if the federal budget is approved retroactively and the county shouldn’t expect state funds in lieu of federal funds.

“The state is just telling us to explore all viable options so we can continue the critical public health services,” he said.

Both he and Kimsey said if the shutdown lingers, they will return with various plans to try to stem the tide.

So far the only federal sites and offices in our area that have been closed due to the government shutdown are Whitewater Falls, Silver Run Falls and the Wayah Ranger Station.

Though Dry Falls and Cliffside Lake recreation areas are open, the restroom facilities are closed and there will be no trash pickup at those areas.

Bridal Veil, Dry Falls, Bust your Butt, Glenn Falls and Culasaja Falls are all open.

– Kim Lewicki

• CORRECTION •

Last week in the Investing at 4,118 Ft. piece entitled “What the Highlands Real Estate Numbers Really Mean” by Lynn Kimball, there was an error in the first chart. The correct information is below. We regret the error and are happy to set the record straight.

Year	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
# sales	61	60	37	52	75	81
Days/mkt	301	1184	494	520	541	422
Med Price	\$425,000	551,153	\$575,000	\$427,000	\$450,000	\$355,000
Avg price	\$624,861	\$662,508	\$635,519	\$501,438	\$580,609	616,760
List/sale %	89.51%	86.60%	86.32%	86.87%	87.16%	88.30%
Fore./SS	0	8	4	17	16	11



You would never know you’re in town! Great yard, very well maintained home. Pond and small stream, perennial gardens, garage, family room and more. 4 BR/3BA. MLS# 7739.4 \$395,000.



Highlands Manor condominiums. WALK to town convenience. Being sold furnished with few exceptions. Upper 3BR/ 2BA with nice updates MLS#74416. \$375,000.



Stone terrace, 2 covered large decks, Fantastic views, walk to town – this home is perfect in so many ways! TWO lots add to the privacy. 3 BR/ 5 baths (Mst. BR has his/hers) MLS #76790. \$850,000.



Flat Mountain Road area. Listed TO SELL at almost 50% LESS than tax appraisal. 3BR/ 3BA, great yard private-but not secluded. MLS #71142 \$225,000



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...INVESTING continued from page 19

Now back to the 'it doesn't matters' mentioned earlier. You have to strip away all the sentiment and emotional attachment you have with your home when pricing. Your listing Broker should be able to do that easily enough by gathering the facts using their knowledge and expertise, taking a tour of your property, and compiling a CMA (comparative market analysis). The price they give you should be the current estimate of what the home should sell for in today's market.

Here's where the 'it doesn't matters' turns into the 'yes it DOES matter'. When comparing your home to other similar homes that have sold, your Broker DOES take into consideration all the work you've put into your home. If you paid more for your home than the current sales price dictates- is there a good reason? Sometimes there are unique situations that make a home stand out that will affect the listing price. Know that the Highlands-Cashiers real estate market does not

closely follow the national trend in real estate; things that work in other places may not work here. With thousands of properties on the market, listing Brokers should be constantly evaluating their inventory to ensure their prices are competitive. Neither sellers, nor their Brokers should feel defeated when approaching each other about the possibility of lowering the price.

Hopefully, the price you and your Broker decide on will be one that will grab the attention of a potential buyer sooner rather than later. Sometimes Less IS more when it comes to pricing your home. The more comes into play when you hand over the keys at the closing table- you may have accepted less than you ever expected to receive, but it IS sold- and that's the name of the game.

• Jeannie and Tucker Chambers are Owner-Brokers of The Chambers Agency, REALTORS, 401 N. Fifth Street. getit@chambersagency.net 828-526-3717

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Old Edwards Club at Highlands Cove, Koenig built post & beam home in mint condition. Outdoor fireplace, high vaulted ceilings, one level living, 3br/ 3.5ba, Viking Kitchen, golf course frontage. \$895,000 MLS# 77338



Circa 1930 Historic Highlands home. Walk to town, newer windows, metal roof, detached 2 car garage, 3br/2.5ba, screened porch, sunroom, office, & great yards, \$647,000 MLS# 77485



Pristine villa. 3br/ 2ba, covered and open deck; on 11th green at Highlands Falls CC. Vaulted and beamed ceilings with built-ins, stone fireplace. Eat-in kitchen. 2 car garage. \$390,000 MLS# 73139



3br/3 full & 2 half bath contemporary with panoramic view of Whiteside Mtn. Large open living room, dining room, & family room, 4 fireplaces. Stone patio, carport & 2-car garage on lower level. \$1,350,000 MLS# 76535



Mirrorfont home. 3br/3ba, vaulted wood ceilings, large open deck, lower level bonus room with 2nd fireplace, 2 car garage & walk to Mirror Lake. \$385,000 MLS# 77220



Adorable one level cottage in Highlands Falls CC. Remodeled kitchen. New wood front door. Large great room, covered decks, 3 br/ 2ba, carport. Pristine condition & ready to enjoy! \$300,000 MLS# 77541



Mirror Lake area cottage with 3br, 3ba, wood floors & ceilings, remodeled kitchen & baths, fresh paint and new roof. Furnished. Stone fireplace. \$400,000 MLS# 75048



Mountain cottage. 3br/3ba. Remodeled top to bottom. Light and bright with two fireplaces, 2 decks, great kitchen, fenced yard, garden space and bonus room. \$497,000 MLS#77437



Highlands Falls CC home; one level living, 4br/3ba, master bath with tile shower & free standing tub, granite in kitchen. \$750,000 MLS #68518



Post & Beam 3/3 home; lot backing to USFS. Quiet neighborhood. Lake access, riding rings, pastures, trails. Bonus room/storage upstairs, large basement w/bath, 2 car garage, beautiful hardwood floors. Priced below tax value! \$345,000 MLS# 77381



Joe Webb-like cottage on the Mirror Lake with dock. Adorable 2br/ 1.5ba, all wood interior, hardwood floors, history & charm. Screened deck, rolling back yard, metal roof. \$375,000 MLS# 77293



Mirror Lake fixer-upper! Cute get-a-way cottage. Close to town, quiet neighborhood. Could be a show-case! \$200,000 MLS# 77287



In town sweet cottage in pristine condition. 2br/ 2ba, amazing yard & gardens, only 3 minutes to Main St., one level living, newer kitchen, wrap around deck. \$298,000 MLS# 77499



Best priced Turning Leaf condo! Brand new & a great view of the 3rd tee and walking distance to the clubhouse. 3br/3ba, granite counter tops, hardwood flooring, outside fireplace & more. \$469,000 MLS# 75562



Walk to the Old Edwards Club amenities! Open floor plan. 3br/3.5ba cottage with mtn views, timber flooring & beams, lower family room, screened deck with fireplace, 1 car carport with storage. \$897,500 MLS# 77931



Private cul-de-sac location in HFCC. 3br/3ba, vaulted ceilings and stone fireplace. Master suite has spacious bath plus his/her closets, and corner gas fireplace. Mountain views. \$650,000 MLS# 74726



Cullasaja Club home. Open living, dining & kitchen, lots of glass & vaulted ceilings, lower family room, 3br/ 3.5ba, open & covered decks, 2 car carport. \$750,000 MLS# 77373



The Honeymoon Cottage at Highlands CC. Perfect for weekend getaway or for extra space for friends or family who come to visit and enjoy our Highlands weather. Only minutes from Main Street. \$250,000 MLS# 77570



Walk to town! Stream, 1.8 acres, low maintenance landscaping. Old Highlands charm! Vaulted ceilings & hardwood floors. One level living. 3br/3ba, study/office/den, outdoor living area & 3 fireplaces! \$1,050,000 MLS# 78007



Adorable 2br/2bath in-town cottage with stream running by the home and a rocking chair front porch. Great outdoor fireplace and patio. \$435,000 MLS #78186

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Affordable home with a mountain view. 3BR/2BA with a bonus room. Vaulted living room with fireplace, deck, lower level bonus room. Paved access and only minutes from town. Offered at \$299,000. mls #60760



23 acre farm has hundreds of feet of stream frontage, lovely pasture, pond, Mountain views, AND backs up to USFS Lands! Main house, detached garage, new garage with guest quarters above. Offered at \$1,800,000 MLS# 65054



Attractive single story 3 or 4 bedroom home with privacy in the town. 2-car garage with work shop, screened porch, waterfall, fireplace, hardwood floors and atrium ceiling in the living room. Two adjacent lots with city water and sewer available. Offered at \$395,000. MLS# 59447



This is what everybody wants when they come to the Mountains! Close to town, in the woods, charming and comfortable three bedrooms with fireplace in the master bedroom. Owner wants to sell. MLS# 63260, Offered at \$439,755



Lovely estate with usable yard and great mountain view. Main house has 3BR/3BA plus an office. Great room opens to large porch and deck. Garden areas, and great guest house. Offered at \$1,475,000, MLS#69267



Farmhouse design on a large 1.54 acre lot. Garage with finished upper story. Main house has 3BR 3 1/2BA. Efficiency apt., too. This is a diamond in the rough. City water, walk to Mirror Pond and Mirror Lake. Shown by appointment only. Offered at \$499,000. MLS #70122



Perched on the side of roaring Buck Creek Falls. This family home has room for guests or a large family. Living room has windows and deck that overlooks the waterfall and a wood burning fireplace. 4 BR, each with stone fireplace. On 1.5+/- acres. Offered at \$495,000. MLS #54731



Designer's home. 3 bedrooms, plus den, 4 baths. Great living room with fantastic screened porch! Open with lots of Light! Low maintenance yard. Excellent parking. Offered at \$550,000. Owner wants offer! mls #68298



Distinctively elegant, this 8BD/8 1/2 BA home is a perfect family retreat with a Blue Valley view in back and Whiteside Mountain view in front. Glass wall elevator, six fireplaces, spacious kitchen custom kitchen game room and exercise room. Membership at Highlands Country Club available subject to approval. Offered at \$3,500,000. MLS# 65882



Amazing views of Blue Valley and the lakes of SC. Beautiful log cabin with 2 BRs, 2.5 BAs, stone fireplace and reclaimed wood floors. Also septic permits to build 4 more homes on 4 acres on Satulah Mountain. Property adjoins Highlands Conservancy land on Satulah Mountain. Offered at \$599,000. mls #68828



Completely renovated, in town. New kitchen with granite countertops and stainless steel appliances, exposed beams, wood walls. Short walk to Mirror Lake and Main Street Highlands. Offered at \$489,000 MLS#69499



In Cold Springs. Large rooms, open plan, great deck two fireplaces and walk to the lake! Main Floor: 2BR/2BA, lower level family room with fireplace, bedroom, bath and large workshop. Offered at \$399,900. MLS#69909



Charming antique home within walking distance to town. Wood burning fireplace in the living room and a gas log fireplace in the master bedroom with patio. Two bedrooms upstairs. The kitchen opens to another patio. Detached garage. Being offered furnished with some exclusions for \$389,000 MLS #65569



3BR/3BA plus family room. Spacious rooms and high quality finishes. Large tile and slate in the baths. Plank floors, stone fireplace, custom kitchen, two large decks. Short stroll from the community boathouse. Offered at \$775,000. mls #65868



One-level log cabin with rock fireplace. Open great room, dining room, kitchen, hardwood floors and split floor plan. Winter view of Rabun Bald Mountain 1-car garage, wheel chair accessible, all on one level. 17-acre community Lake Osage. MLS# 67737, Offered at \$375,000.



Harbison woods under the cliffs of Satulah Mountain. Extraordinary view of Satulah Mountain, Blue Valley and beyond. A park-like setting with old growth timber overstory. Bound on the East by USFS and on the North by Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust. Offered at \$1,500,000. MLS# 68845



Walk to town from this completely updated 4BR/3BA home. Open floor plan. Outdoor family room, 2 master suites and children's room with bunk beds. 2 stone fireplaces, cypress and slate flooring. Offered at \$849,000. MLS #59837



Open plan with cathedral ceilings. Double porch overlooks a pond. 3BD/3BA plus an open loft. Top quality finishes and craftsmanship. Offered at \$795,000. mls #65867



15 acre with log home, barn, pond, meadow, views of Shortoff Mountain. Backs up to USFS lands. Recently renovation of the kitchen, 3BR/1 1/2 BA. The barn has RV hookup. Offered at \$1,596,000. MLS #65910

Walking the walk

By Pastor Paul Christy

Highlands United Methodist Church

Yesterday, October 6th, was a special day in the life of the modern Christian Church. Since the 1930s, churches of all denominations have set aside the first Sunday of October to celebrate what has become known as World Wide Communion.

As a preacher, I always look forward to that one Sunday when we put aside our differences in theology, in worship styles and in music to make it about this one thing, Christ.

I also love that Sunday because people seem to be happy that we are doing something in unity as people of faith. Too often people from the outside looking in only see churches telling the world what we don't believe and what is wrong with everyone and everything. The outside world looking in sees the church as being judgmental and petty when it comes to the big issues of our day and time.

I heard a preacher quote Gandhi in a sermon one time and the quote went something like this: Gandhi was asked why he was not a Christian, and Gandhi said this, "I would love to be a Christian because I love the teachings of Jesus Christ, but the problem is that I have never met anyone who acts like Christ." Now that is a telling quote for me as a minister and that is something I think about a lot in my life.

I wonder if people look at all us church kind of folks and see the lessons that Christ taught? I wonder if folks on the outside looking in see us loving each other or fighting with each other? I wonder if folks on the outside looking in see us caring more about the person than the wrong, he/she may have done? It just makes me wonder sometimes because when I look at myself, I know how many times I fall short of acting like Christ.

When I went away to college, my dad wrote me a letter and said this; "Son we love you, your mom and I, and we know that you are going to face all kinds of things you have never faced before, but just remember this, where ever you go, whatever you do, you are being an example to someone."

My dad was pretty smart because he knew I would think before I did something I was not supposed to do. I tried that with my kids as well when they went away to school. Don't know if it made a difference, but what I do know is there is a truth so profound and sure in those words!

Jesus taught and still teaches us that we are to love one another. We do that by the way we talk to one another, we do that in the way we treat one another and we do that by the way we care for each other. Wouldn't it be great if people just looked at us and said, "Yea, those folks sure do treat everyone with love and respect, therefore, I think I need to do that as well."

People are watching us, as the churches of this community, as people who live in Highlands, and they are learning through our actions. What are we teaching others?

You see why I love World Wide Communion Sunday? It reminds me to keep the main thing, the main thing, which is to love one another. We do this not because they think like I think or do like I do, but because that is what Christ teaches, to love one another. So how are you doing at loving and caring for others?

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Sunday night services every 2nd & 4th Sunday at 7
Wednesdays: Mid-week prayer meeting – 7 p.m.

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

CHRIST ANGLICAN CHURCH
Rector: Jim Murphy, 252-671-4011
464 US Hwy 64 east, Cashiers
Sun.: Holy Communion - 8:30 a.m.; Chirstian Education, 9:30 a.m. Family Worship with music and Communion, 10:30 a.m.
Mon.: Bible Study & Supper at homes - 6 p.m.
Wed.: Men's Bible Study -8:30 a.m., First Baptist Church

CHRIST CHURCH OF THE VALLEY, CASHIERS
Pastor Steve Kerhoulas
Sun.10:30am, S.S 9:30am. Wed. 6pm supper and teaching.
Tue. Guys study 8am, Gals 10am

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE CHURCH
283 Spring Street
Sunday Service: 11 a.m.
Testimony Meeting: 5 p.m. on the 3rd Wed.

CLEAR CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH
Pastor Jim Kinard
Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11
Wednesdays -- 7 p.m.

COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH
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3645 Cashiers Rd, Highlands, NC
Senior Pastor Gary Hewins
Sun.: 9:30am: Sunday School
10:30am: Middle & High School; 10:45am: Children's Program.
10: 45am: Worship Service
Wed.: 5pm Dinner (\$7 adult, \$2 child), 6pm CBC University

EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE INCARNATION
Rev. Bruce Walker • 526-2968
Sundays: Holy Eucharist Rite I (chapel), 8 am, Education and choir rehearsal, 9 am, Holy Eucharist Rite II, (sanctuary), 10:30 a

Thursdays: Holy Eucharist, (chapel), 10 am
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
Dr. Mark Ford, Pastor • 526-4153
Sun.: Worship 10:45 a.m.; School – 9:30 a.m.
Wed.: Men's Bible Study 8:30 a.m., Prayer Meeting – 6:15 p.m., Choir – 5 p.m.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Dr. Lee Bowman, Pastor • 526-3175
Sun.: Worship – 11 a.m.; School – 9:30
Mondays: 8 a.m. – Men's Prayer Group & Breakfast
Wednesdays – Choir – 7

HIGHLANDS ASSEMBLY OF GOD
Randy Reed, Pastor
828-421-9172 • 165 S. Sixth Street
Sundays: Worship – 11

HIGHLANDS CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH
Pastor Dan Robinson
670 N. 4th Street (next to the Highlands Civic Center)
Sunday: Morning Worship 10:45 a., Evening Worship, 6:30 p
Wednesday: Prayer Service, 6:30 p.

HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Pastor Paul Christy 526-3376
Sun: School 9:45a.; Worship 8:30, 9:09 & 10:50.; Youth 5:30 p.
Wed: Supper; 6; 7:15 – children, youth, & adults studies; 6:15 – Adult choir (nursery provided for Wed. p.m. activities)
Thurs:12:30 – Women's Bible Study (nursery)

HOLY FAMILY LUTHERAN CHURCH – ELCA
Chaplain Margaret Howell
2152 Dillard Road – 526-9741
Sundays: Sunday School and Adult discussion group 9:30 a.m.;
Worship/Communion – 10:30

HEALING SERVICE on the 5th Sunday of the month.

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8 miles south of Highlands on N.C. 28 S in Satolah
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Choir – 6 p.m.
Wed: Bible Study and Youth Mtg. – 7 p.m.

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SCALY MOUNTAIN BAPTIST CHURCH
Rev. Dwight Loggins
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Wednesdays: Prayer Mtg. – 7 p.m.

SCALY MOUNTAIN CHURCH OF GOD
290 Buck Knob Road; Pastor Alfred Sizemore • 526-3212
Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 10:45 a.m.; Worship – 6 p.m.
Wed: Adult Bible Study & Youth – 7 p.m.

SHORTOFF BAPTIST CHURCH
Pastor Rev. Andy Cloer
Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11
Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study – 7

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WHITESIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Rev. Sam Forrester/Cashiers
Sunday School – 10 am, Worship Service – 11 am

The Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. log entries from Oct. 2

Oct. 2

• At 2:25 p.m., the dept. checked on the smell of propane at a residence on Wyanoak Drive. There was a hole in the tank. The gas company was called.

Oct. 4

• At 2:01 p.m., the dept. was first-responderes to Main Street

• At 10:11 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Moon Mountain Road. It was due to a faulty gas boiler. There was no damage.

Oct. 5

• At 2:02 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Buck Creek Road.

• At 8:42 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Smallwood Ave.

• At 10:22, the dept. provided mutual aid to Cullasaja FD to search for a woman. She was found,

Oct. 6

• At 12:50 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to Main Street.

• At 6:32 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Hicks Road.

• At 6:45 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to Mountain Ash Lane where a 91-year-old man had fallen.

Oct. 7

• At 5:56 p.m., the dept. provided mutual aid to Cashiers-Glenville FD with a structure fire on Chestnut Street.

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• BIZ/ORG. NEWS •

Highlands, North Carolina...The Early Years Volume II to be available soon

Highlands, North Carolina



... The Early Years Volume II

Angela Lewis Jenkins

After a number of delays, seventh generation Highlander Angie Jenkins' new book, Highlands, North Carolina...The Early Years Volume II is scheduled for release the week of October 20. The book went to the printer in Ashland, Ohio in early July.

Jenkins' first book, Highlands, North Carolina...The Early Years, currently in its second printing, came out in 2007. The book, published by Faraway Publishing, has been a Highlands best seller since it hit the shelves. It continues to be very much in demand and is available in several area stores.

Jenkins' new book will feature photos from the private collections of a number of local Highlanders which have been passed down through the generations. The public has never seen the majority of these photos because they have been tucked away in private albums for many, many years – but they are now being shared with

the public for everyone's enjoyment.

The new book will feature another 200 pages of historic scenes in and around Highlands. Jenkins has been collecting photos and working on the book since May 2012, a real labor of love for her. She is thrilled to also feature in her new book a large number of early Highlands photos from the Earle Young, Jr. Collection, courtesy of David Young. The book will be priced at \$49.95.

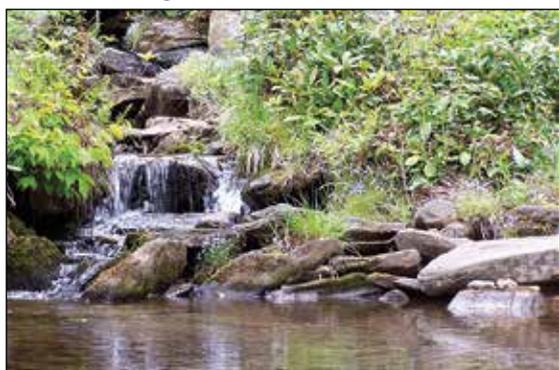
Jenkins is a direct descendant of Barak and Mary Nicholson Norton, early pioneers of the region, who settled in Whiteside Cove around 1820. The family moved to Highlands soon after the town was founded in 1875. Descendants of the family have been very instrumental in the development of Highlands through the years. It is interesting to note that all of Jenkins' prior generations of grandparents have lived out their lives here in this beautiful town, and subsequently, are all buried in area cemeteries.

Jenkins herself has served as organist at First Presbyterian Church for the past 37 years, in addition to teaching preschool music classes at several area preschools for many years. Her children and grandchildren, who all live in the Highlands area, represent the family's eighth and ninth generations.



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• BIZ/ORG. NEWS •

Rotary Bingo benefits Highlands Historical Society

On Thursday, October 3, the Rotary Club of Highlands partnered with the Highlands Historical Society to sponsor HHS Rotary Bingo. All proceeds went to support the activities of our local historical society. Pam Brown won the final Super Bingo game and is shown being congratulated by Rotary President Rick Reid.



CWO is major donor to area nonprofits

Through a combination of direct grants totaling over \$63,000 and individual member-directed donations of over \$26,000, the women's group raised over \$90,000 this past season.

Since its inception in 2006, Cullasaja Women's Outreach has invested well over \$600,000 in the Highlands and Cashiers area not-for-profits—a phenomenal amount for an independent grassroots organization made up of about 80 women from the Cullasaja Club community.

The highlight of this year's fundraising was a gala toasting the Real Housewives of the Highlands plateau, held on September 8th. It was a festive evening in which CWO members walked the red carpet and were made to feel like the stars of the community they are. The celebration-of-giving event brought CWO members and their families into the spirit of giving. Funds raised through the event were awarded to 17 area organizations through a sophisticated grants process led by CWO Grant Co-Chairs Lindy Colson and Stevie Hinel. Individual awards ranged from \$1,200 to \$5,000. This year's grant recipients included: B.E.A.R., WNCA; Big Brothers/Big Sisters; the Blue Ridge Free Dental Clinic; Community Care Clinic of Highlands-Cashiers; Fishes & Loaves Food Pantry; Girls on the Run of Western NC; Highlands Community Child Development Center; Highlands Emergency Council; Highlands Historical Society; Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust; The Gathering Table, Inc.; International Friendship Center; IFC/Food Pantry; Literacy Council of Highlands; the Martin-Lipscomb Performing Arts Center; The Peggy Crosby Service Center and The Bascom.

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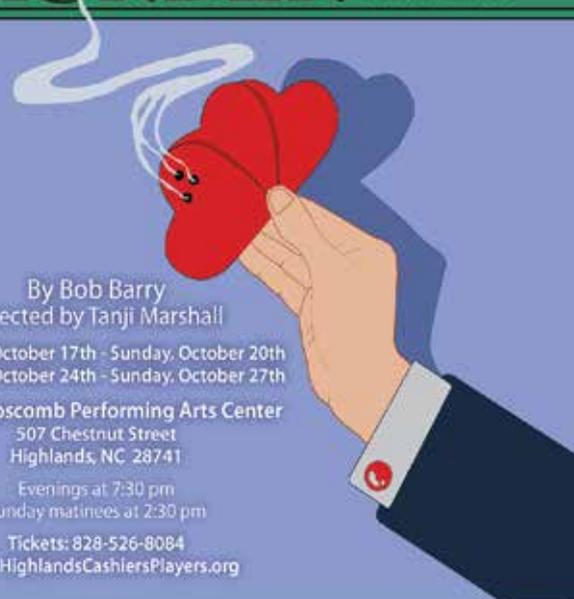
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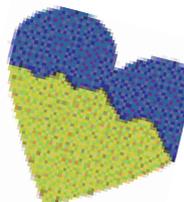
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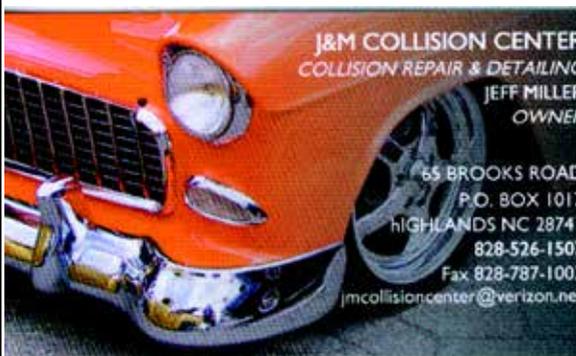
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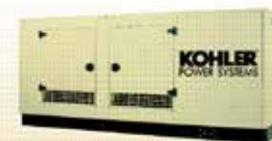
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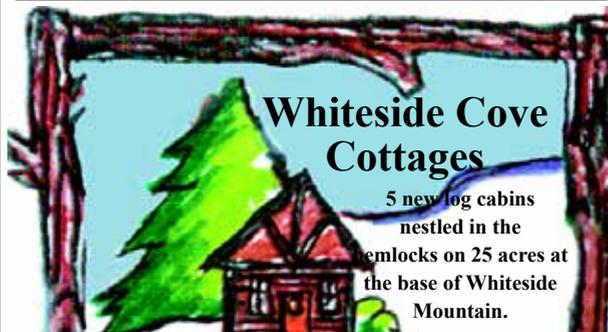
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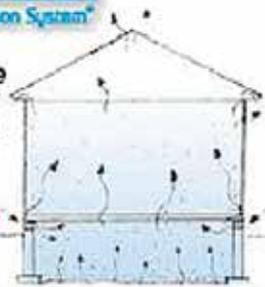
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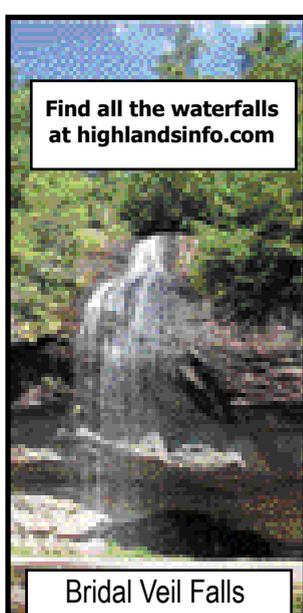
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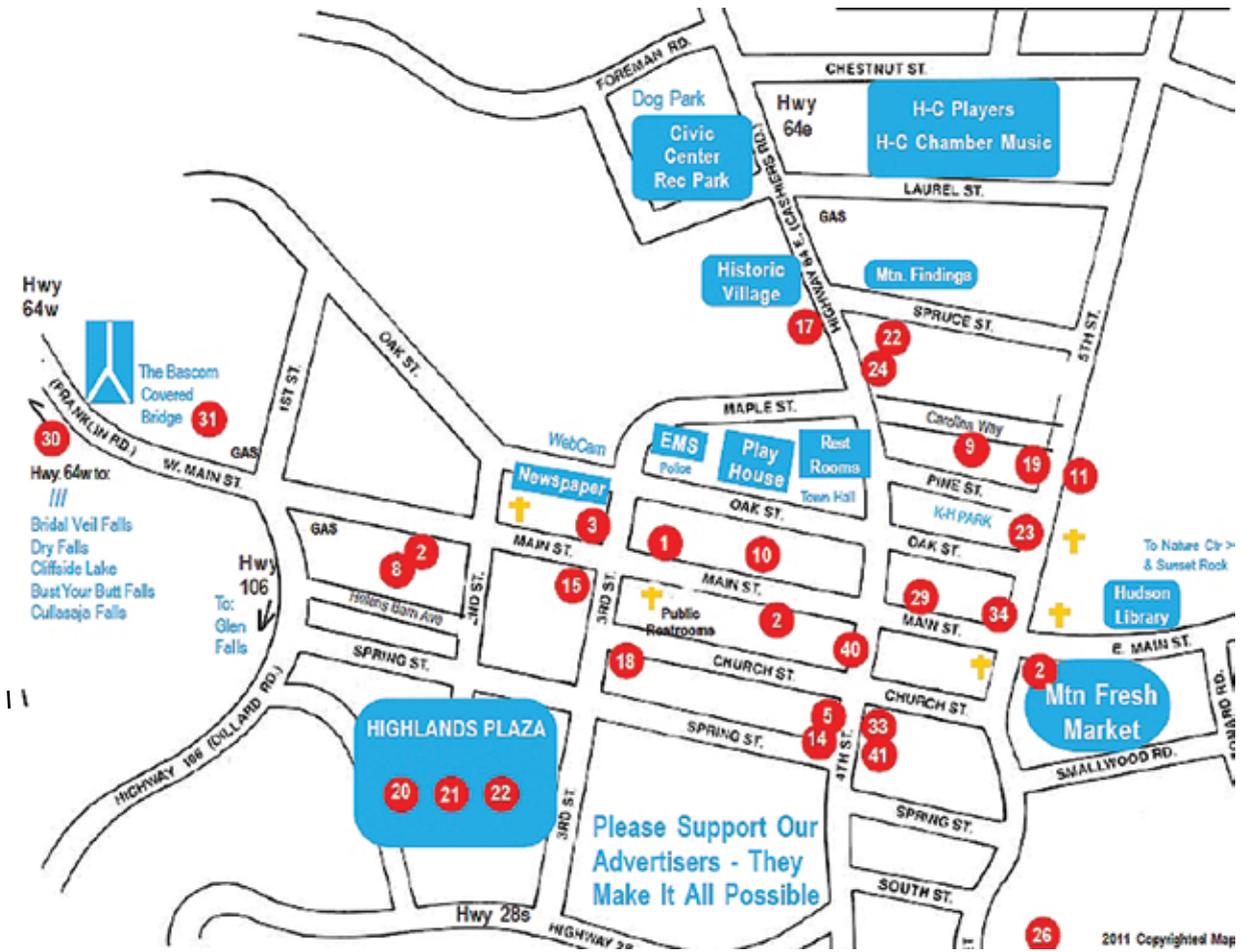
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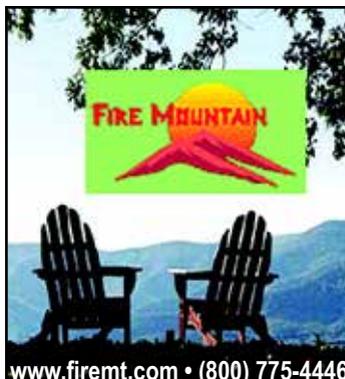
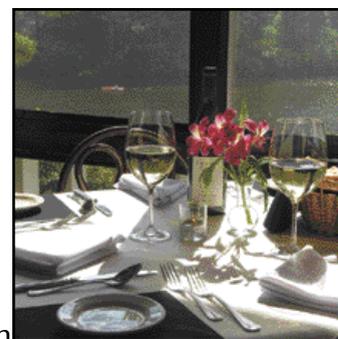
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