Rules change for Mountain Fresh Grocery

Mountain Fresh Grocery, initially considered a boutique grocery store, has evolved over the years into something much more... so much so, that the town required it be labeled a restaurant, which in turn required a new Special Use Permit (SUP) issued by the Zoning Board of Adjustment.

At the Zoning Board’s meeting last Wednesday, Planning Director Josh Ward explained that town staff and the Land Use Committee (made up of Commissioners John Dotson and Eric Pierson) reviewed the building use, which includes the store, the old laundromat that will soon become a public part of the store and the County Club.

Easter egg hunt start of Easter for children

The town’s annual Easter Egg hunt at the Rec Park is Saturday, April 19 at 10 a.m. for ages 0-10. Then at 11 a.m., Community Bible Church is holding its annual Egg Fest this year on the CBC campus. There will be inflatables, face painting, balloon artists, food and more.

‘League’ sponsors candidate forum

By Brittany Burns

At the Thursday, April 10 League of Women Voters meeting, candidates for MC Commission District 1 and 2 answered questions posed by the League.

Though only Republicans John Shearl and Jim Tate are running in the upcoming primary on May 6, all six candidates participated in the forum – Democrat Ronnie Beale (District 1), Republicans Ron Haven and Gary Shields (District 2), Libertarian John Martin (District 2) and Democrat Michael David “Bud” Rogers (District 1) as well as and Shearl and Tate.

With the primary coming up, in this issue, we will feature can-

The town’s annual Easter Egg hunt at the Rec Park is Saturday, April 19 at 10 a.m. for ages 0-10. Then at 11 a.m., Community Bible Church is holding its annual Egg Fest this year on the CBC campus. There will be inflatables, face painting, a balloon artist, food and more. On Sunday many churches will hold egg hunts between services.

Mission Health changes geared for rural areas

HCH CEO Craig James to become VP of Mission’s western region

As part of a continuing effort to address the health care needs of its rural communities and to move toward new models of health care, Mission Health is realigning senior management across its member hospitals to streamline operations and expand its work on the management of health care needs in rural communities.

Bob Bednarek, 18-year President and CEO of Transylvania Regional Hospital (TRH) will assume the role of Vice President of Rural Health Planning and Development for Mission Health on May 19 so he can become more involved in rural health policy regionally and nationally.

With his experience serving a rural community, he brings unique qualifications to the new post. He is sensitive to and recognizes how Mission’s system will effectively serve the rural communities of western North Carolina.

Bednarek has also served on the
Mayor on Duty

Tonight’s Town Board agenda and issues

Mayor Pat Taylor

I was going to write a final article on our electric utility this week, but in reading it, I realized it was too long and complicated, aka, not very clear. I will revise the article for next week, but for now I want to review the agenda of tonight’s Town Board meeting.

The board will review the final loan agreement for the Lake Sequoyah water intake project and dam repair. The town will allocate $460,000 as a part of the 1.6 million dollar loan in order to convert the loan into a grant. We will also have to appropriate $500,000 for the repair of the 80-year-old Lake Sequoyah dam. The dam repair money will come from an existing watershed improvement fund. Both projects need to be done simultaneously since they require the lake to be drained for as long as six months while the work is being done.

The board will also review and approve the recommendations that the parking committee that I chaired developed last month. I will ask the board for direction as to whether the committee should continue examining parking issues, and if they have specific issues for the committee to review.

Representatives of the town have been in discussion with a private citizen concerning a major donation to upgrade the facilities at the Highlands Civic Center and Recreation Department. The donation will bring about significant improvements and expand program offerings. The board will review the major components of the donation and decide whether to approve the initial project proposal. I hope and believe this generous offer will be enthusiastically accepted by the town board.

There are several other items of general interest on the agenda, such as a town policy on 5k road races for charity. The Greenway Committee will be presenting a proposal for developing the old sled run into a greenway trail. The sled run is on the town property on Oak Street across from Mountain High Motel. It is just around the corner from the Chamber of Commerce office.

In the afternoon, prior to the Town board meeting, I will travel to Franklin to address the Macon County Planning Board. I will talk about how Highlands plays a key role in county economic development. I will stress that any plans for economic development should include Highlands and the surrounding plateau.

Tourism is a major component of the Macon County economy and the Highlands area is the primary tourist destination. While we are a small part of the population, this area generates approximately 40% of the county’s sales and property tax revenue. I will emphasize that just like Franklin, Highlands and the surrounding area has infrastructure needs that should also be included in a county-wide development strategy.

Hope to see everyone tonight at 7 pm at the Highlands Conference Center.

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.

Dear Editor,

I was watching an old 1930 movie about people working on a railroad, the lives of the men who labored to maintain those huge steam locomotives and the men who drove them. Steam engines required lots of maintenance in those days and the manual labor was hot, dirty and exhausting, quite unlike the work done on modern diesel locomotives where the engineer sits in an air conditioned cab and operates computerized controls. If you lived within a couple of miles of a railroad or a coal fired power plant, you’d wake up in the morning to find coal ash on your windowsill.

In the past, a potato farmer with 500 acres needed a 100 workers to harvest his crop. Now days, it’s done by machine and two or three men can do the job in a couple of days. Migrant Mexican workers do the really hard work on farms because Americans won’t do the hard labor.

Remember the old fashioned radio your grandparents had that took several minutes to warm up? It was built by people in America sitting at a bench soldering individual parts to a circuit board. Now days, it’s done by robots in China.

Ships were built of steel and iron with the steel plates pounded and shaped by men using their hands, requiring hundreds of workers in large ship yards.

Life wasn’t easy in those days and it makes you wonder if there was any such thing as the “good old days.”

Life involved lots of hard manual labor and our life spans were somewhat shorter. There was no such thing as heart by-pass surgery and if you had a heart problem, you often died young. Before antibiotics, a simple infection could kill you.

But, surprisingly, people were happier and it gave them a sense of satisfaction to have put in a hard day’s work, and in those days loafers were looked down on and weren’t given special privileges. We took pride and satisfaction in hard work and we were happier.

But now one must wonder if our computer-driven robotic age is a good thing when you consider the number of people who need jobs, many of which don’t exist anymore, those jobs having been replaced by robots.

Back in the 1950s prescient experts touted the future of robots in our world, even predicting that robots would do our housework and cooking for us thus leaving us more spare time to do the things we enjoy more than work. Somewhere along the way to the future, something went off the track. We expect the world to owe us a living and our young protest violently if they don’t get free stuff. To make matters worse, we refuse to pay higher prices for American made products and buy things made in China. We continue to shoot ourselves in the foot and have the gall to complain about something we brought on ourselves.

Bob Wilson
Franklin, NC
National Forests in NC announces changes for the 2014 season

The U.S. Forest Service National Forests in North Carolina are changing the fees at seven recreation sites in the Nantahala, Pisgah, Uwharrie, and Croatan National Forests for the 2014 season.

The fee changes were approved in March, after careful consideration of public comments, including the recommendations of the Southern Region’s Recreation Resource Advisory Committee (RRAC). All fees were evaluated to ensure that the level of benefits and services provided are commensurate with the fee and that fees are comparable to similar public and private sites. The Forest Service will implement most of the fee changes beginning May 7, 2014.

The National Forests in North Carolina are implementing the following change(s) to its current fee structure:

**Nantahala National Forest**
- The fee increases will standardize rates across the three shooting ranges. The fees are critically needed to address the health, safety and resource damage needs at these ranges.
- Panther Top Shooting Range - The cost of the daily permit will increase from $2 to $3 per person. Annual fee would remain the same at $25 per person. The last fee increase was in 2007.
- Dirty John Shooting Range - The cost of the daily permit increases from $3 per vehicle to $4 per person. The annual permit cost will increase from $7 per vehicle to $25 per person. The last fee increase was in 2004. *NOTE: Annual permits already sold in 2014 for Dirty John Shooting Range will be honored until their expiration. However, these permits will only be honored at that site.
- Moss Knob Shooting Range - This is a new fee at the range, and the only new fee across the four national forests. The cost of the daily permit will be $3 per person, with the annual permit costing $25 per person.
- Purchasing the $25 annual permit will allow shooters to use all three ranges in Nantahala National Forest.
- Fee rules did not change for shooters under the age of 16. They are not required to have a permit, but must be accompanied by an adult and must provide identification, if asked.

**Pisgah National Forest**
- Sliding Rock Recreation Area - The daily fee increases from $1 to $2 per person. Annual passes remain at $25. Additional revenue is required to operate this extremely popular site, which often receives 1,000 or more people a day. Fee revenue will provide expanded hours for lifeguards and help pay for the maintenance at this highly used site. The last fee increase at this site was in 2001.

**Croatan National Forest**
- Cedar Point Campground - For single campsites per night, fees will incrementally increase from $12 to $15 in 2014 and $20 in 2016. All sites have electrical hookups and the electrical surcharge at single sites will increase from $5 to $7 per site, with no price change in 2016. Double campsite fees per night will increase from $24 to $30 in 2014 and to $40 in 2016. The electrical surcharge at double sites will increase from $10 to $14 per site, with no price change in 2016. Campsite fees have not increased since 1998, while operation and maintenance costs have risen.

**Uwharrie National Forest**
- Arrowhead Campground - Nightly camping fees for single campsites increase incrementally from $12 to $15 in 2014 and to $18 in 2016. Fees for double sites will increase from $24 to $30 per night in 2014 and to $36 in 2016. Thirty-three of the sites have electrical hookups and the electrical surcharge will increase incrementally from $3 to $5 in 2014 and to $7 per night in 2016. Additional revenue will help defray the expense of electrical hookups as well as maintaining and operating water, sewage and other facilities and providing campground hosts. Campsite fees have not increased since 2001.

- Canebrake Horse Camp - Nightly camping fees for single campsites increase incrementally from $12 to $15 in 2014 and $20 in 2016. Fees for double sites will increase from $24 to $30 per night in 2014 and to $36 in 2016. The electrical surcharge at double sites will increase from $10 to $14 per site, with no price change in 2016. Campsite fees have not increased since 1998, while operation and maintenance costs have risen.

The Forest Service recognizes how important these sites are to our local communities and those who use them. These fee changes will help the agency maintain the sites at the level and quality visitors have come to expect, especially at a time when the National Forests in North Carolina are experiencing tremendous increases in recreation uses. In addition, the agency has made improvements at select sites based on visitor desires and feedback. Fee changes will help to maintain these improvements as expected by those who use the sites.

**Holy Week Events**

**Episcopal Church of the Incarnation**
520 Main Street
Highlands, NC

**Thursday, April 17** – Maundy Thursday Foot Washing – 7pm in the Chapel

**Good Friday, April 18**
12:00 noon Community Stations of the Cross at the Catholic Church followed by 1:30 pm Good Friday Liturgy in our Chapel

**Saturday, April 19** – Great Vigil of Easter – 7 pm in the Chapel

**Sunday, April 20** – Sunrise Service at Biological Center Amphitheater at 6:15 a.m. (If rain at the Episcopal Church)
Easter Services Holy Eucharist Rite II
9 am & 11 am in the Nave (No Sunday School)
Hand-tossed - thick, thin, pan Gluten-free & Whole Wheat, too

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...FORUM continued from page 1

didates Shearl and Tate – the only candidates at the forum who will be on the Primary ballot.

In a subsequent issue, we will feature the answers from the candidates who will be on November’s ballot.

Question 1
Introduce yourself and focus on the ways you qualify for this office.

John Shearl
I am self-employed, I own and have operated J&J Lawn & Landscaping Services in Highlands since 1988; and in 2012 I opened Shearl Produce in Otto. I am a retired firefighter from Highlands Fire and Rescue. I have been very active with Highlands School. I am a former assistant Highlands high school baseball coach. I ran little league in Highlands for many years and was president of that. I was on the board of the Booster Club for Highlands and currently I am serving on Macon County Planning Board.

I have filed for the MC Commission District 1 seat because I have great concerns about government spending and government debt. We can’t, in my opinion, do a lot about the financial nightmare in the federal and state governments, but we can do something in our own county government. So I filed to take a stand against excessive spending and debt.

Jim Tate
I have been a constant volunteer advocate. From church, to hospice, to the fire department, to various board from the planning board to advisory boards, I have tried to get my hands dirty with it. I want to be a commissioner because I love this county. Out of all the places in the world I could live, I have chosen to put my roots down right here. I have chosen to watch my children grow up right here, just like the generations of my family who came before me. I want to do the best that I can to help improve this county and do what’s right. I want to make common sense decisions and to be responsible and I think that is what you will find with me. I hope that my record so far will show that.

Question 2
Tell us what two or three issues that are most significant to you and what is different about your position or approach than the other candidate.

Jim Tate
I am very, very proud to call Macon County home and I hope you all are as well. If I am re-elected, I am going to do my best to make sure that we continue to...
national advisory boards on rural health issues.

Other changes across Mission's member hospitals include changes for Craig James, currently President and CEO of Highlands-Cashiers Hospital (HCH). He will become vice president for Mission's western region. He will retain his hospital president role, a post that he has held since June 1, 2010, and will become the interim leader of TRH. Angel Medical Center President and CEO Jim Bross will report to James.

“Our providers are placing great emphasis on population health management for chronic disease such as diabetes, high blood pressure and obesity,” said Bednarek. “Those conditions are prevalent in rural communities in this region, and lead to a wide variety of other debilitating and expensive health issues. We want to serve our communities by helping our patients become well and remain healthy for life. By creating this department at a system level, we can develop innovative models of care to address the unique strengths and challenges that many rural communities face and more fully engage in policy discussions.”

A search will be conducted to replace Bednarek as TRH president. The new leader there will serve in the combined role of President, CEO and Chief Nursing Officer (CNO).

“Our rural communities have a unique set of challenges, and we are committed to serving each community with a local focus,” said Jill Hoggarth Green, PhD, RN, Mission Health’s Chief Operating Officer and President, Mission Hospital and Mission Medical Associates. “By working together and borrowing on the established strengths of Mission Health, we are building local capacity to recruit, retain and build access to primary care services. Refining and expanding our services as we move toward a population health model – where one of those important populations is the rural part of our service area - is critical to providing the best care to every patient.”

Moving to a population health model is the most significant opportunity, but also a major challenge.

“Putting a seasoned leader such as Bob Bednarek in a role that can really impact policy in the rural areas of western North Carolina will help Mission lead into the future, while caring for all patients, one at a time,” said Ronald A. Paulus, MD, President and CEO, Mission Health. “The driving force behind all we do at Mission is our BIG(GER) Aim: to get each patient to the desired outcome, first without harm, also without waste and with an exceptional experience for the patient and family.”

“...Mission Health is one of only two medium-sized health systems to receive this recognition in 2012 and 2013, and the only health system in North Carolina to achieve that distinction.”

Mission Health, which traces its roots in the region back to 1885, operates six hospitals, numerous outpatient and surgery centers, post-acute care provider CarePartners, and the region’s only dedicated Level II trauma center. Its medical staff consists of more than 1,000 physicians and is certified in more than 50 medical specialties and sub-specialties.

Mission Health has seven Centers of Excellence: Cancer, Heart, Mission Children’s Hospital, Neurosciences, Orthopedics, Trauma and Women’s Health. Mission Hospital, located in Asheville, is the system’s flagship hospital and is licensed for 730 beds. It is the regional referral center for tertiary and quaternary care. It also includes Mission Children’s Hospital – the region’s only children’s hospital. Other Mission Health member hospitals include Angel Medical Center in Franklin, Blue Ridge Regional Hospital in Spruce Pine, Highlands-Cashiers Hospital in Highlands, McDowell Hospital in Marion and Transylvania Regional Hospital in Brevard. With approximately 10,600 employees and 2,000 volunteers, Mission Health is dedicated to improving the health and wellness of the people of western North Carolina. For more information, please visit mission-health.org.
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EVERY SUNDAY FROM 11:00AM UNTIL WE SELL OUT FRESH ORGANIC HAND CUT, HAND BREADED CHICKEN COOKED IN A CAST IRON SKILLET. SERVED WITH GREEN BEANS, MASHED POTATOES AND GRAVY WITH A WARM HONEY BISCUIT...$8.95

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TUESDAY: MADE IN-HOUSE ITALIAN SAUSAGE LASAGNA AND A LARGE HOUSE SALAD $18.95 SERVES FOUR

WEDNESDAY: CHICKEN OR STEAK POT PIE AND A LARGE SALAD $18.95 SERVES FOUR

THURSDAY: ROASTED MEATLOAF WITH MASHED POTATOES, GRAVY AND A LARGE SALAD $18.95 SERVES FOUR

FRIDAY: WILD CAUGHT FRIED SHRIMP, BAKED POTATOES, HUSH PUPPIES, AND COLESLAW $21.95 SERVES FOUR

SATURDAY: IN-HOUSE SMOKED BBQ, COLESLAW, APPLE & BACON BAKED BEANS, AND YEAST ROLLS $18.95 SERVES FOUR

MOUNTAIN THROUGH THURSDAY: TWO WOOD FIRE PIZZAS, FOUR HAND-MADE BREAD STICKS WITH HOUSE TOMATO SAUCE, AND A HOUSE SALAD $19.99 SERVES FOUR

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**BUDGET** - Since I took office, every approved budget is still LESS than 2008’s budget.

**FUND BALANCE** - I have ensured that our County maintains a HEALTHY fund balance which in turn provides us with an A+ credit grade and SECURITY in case of an emergency.

**DEBT** - Since I took office, and even with the Highlands School capital project and the recreation enhancements, the County’s overall debt has DECREASED by almost 20 million.

**TAXES** - We still have the LOWEST property tax rate in North Carolina.

**RECREATION** - Since I took office, we have made much needed improvements to our existing facilities and we have acquired property in both Highlands and Franklin for new facilities WITHOUT raising taxes.

**COUNTY EMPLOYEES** - Since I took office, the total number of County employees has DECREASED and I was able to support the remaining employees who picked up the additional duties with a raise WITHOUT raising taxes.

**SCHOOLS** - I have supported every capital project, every improvement item and kept our teachers in the class rooms WITHOUT raising taxes.

**PUBLIC SAFETY** - I have supported our Sheriff and his recommendations to improve our schools safety and our County’s safety WITHOUT increasing taxes.

**JOBS** - Since I took office, the County’s unemployment rate has DROPPED by over 20%.

**ECONOMY** - Since I took office, home sales and building permits have INCREASED, and sales tax and occupancy tax receipts have INCREASED. All are signs of economic IMPROVEMENT.

**REGULATIONS** - Since I took office, and as liaison to the Planning Board, more rules and regulations have been REMOVED than added.

**FIRE DEPARTMENTS** - As a current Highlands fireman and as a Commissioner, I have worked diligently to ensure that all of our fire departments have the SUPPORT that they need.

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Two adjoining Lots in Rabun Gap

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Julian E Howell (770)980-9565
NCAL #7403 GAL#2503
...FORUM
continued from page 8

John Shearl
The reason I have filed for county commissioner is the fact that there is no doubt in my mind that Commissioner Tate, in his heart, he has voted for everything in the right way. But when it comes to me, I disagree with some of his voting records of all this spending and borrowing money.

I don’t believe in all the government control, government regulations and wasteful spending. We do not have much control over the federal level and the state level, but we do have control over the county level. In my opinion, I would rather this lady right here have her hard earned money in her pocket than sitting in the Macon County fund balance for when someone decides they want to spend a little bit of money on whatever the case may be. If we need to give money to some organization or whatever. We have no control over that, but I would rather you be in control of your life and your finances.

Since Commissioner Tate was appointed in 2011 and elected in 2012, Macon County’s budget has increased by millions of dollars. The borrowing has continued and we still have this enormous fund balance, and I have said before, that money does not belong to Macon County, it belongs to the taxpayers of Macon County and it should be given back to the owners of that money.

With all due respect to Commissioner Tate and the other commissioners, this is the differences between Commissioner Tate and myself: I don’t believe in all the government spending and government control. I just don’t believe this is the proper way our government needs to be operated. We need better leadership in there that will be better stewards of the taxpayers’ money. If elected to this board, I plan on watching over your money better than I will ever look after mine.

• See answers from other candidates next week.

I am a “True” Conservative who believes in:
Lower Taxes
Less Regulations and
Limited, Effective & Efficient Government!

Early Voting Begins – April 24th
Early Voting Ends – May 3rd
Election Day – May 6th

Independent Voters – You Can Vote In The Republican Primary…. Please Do!!!

Paid for by the Committee to Elect John Shearl
Ongoing
• Artists wanted for Oct. 4 show featuring historic sites in Macon County. The moveable show will begin in Franklin and move to Highlands and Nantahala. There is a $35 fee. To register, contact Barbara McRae at mcbarbara@frontier.com

Mon., Wed., & Fri.
Aerobics with Tina Rogers 8-9a.

Every Tuesday
• Community Table Dinner at the Community Building at 6 p.m. It’s free.
Tues. & Thurs.
• Aerobics with Tina Rogers 5:15 to 6:15p.

Last Friday of Each Month
• Community Coffee with Mayor Pat Taylor from 11a to noon in the Hudson Library.

Sat., April 19
• Volunteer in the Botanical Garden to celebrate Earth Day 10a to 4p. We will provide lunch and tools. All skill levels are welcome. Please let us know if you wish to attend. Visit highlandsbiological.org/earth-week/ for more information.
• Easter Egg Hunt at the Highlands Rec Park at 10a for ages 0 to 10.
• Eggfest at the Community Bible Church 11a to 1p. Egg Hunt, Inflatibles, face painting, balloon artists, food and more.

Sunday, April 20
• Ecumenical Easter Sunrise Service sponsored by the churches of Highlands, at the Nature Center amphitheater. In case of rain, the service will be held at the First Presbyterian Church.

Mon., April 21
• The Affordable Healthcare Act and what it means to employers will be the featured topic at the BizWeek 2014 Industry Roundtable to be held Monday, in the boardroom of the Cecil L. Groves Center at Southwestern Community College’s Macon campus at 2pm. Presenting the program will be Gary Simmons, Senior Vice President and the Health and markets leader for the Aon Hewitt’s Carolinas and Southern Virginia region. Aon is the leading global provider of health management, insurance and reinsurance brokerage and human resources solutions and outsourcing services.
• Fundraiser for Cashiers Highlands Humane Society: Our good friends at the Ugly Dog Pub are taking a much-deserved break from behind the bar, and another “pack” of great CHHS friends – Richard Delaney and the crew from Old Edwards Inn – are taking over. Join the fun this Monday, beginning at 4pm for the 2nd annual Old Edwards Ugly Dog Pub Takeover.” Best of all, 100% of all tips...
• Highlands Area Events •

received Monday night benefit the CHHS Shelter Pets. Come, sit, and stay while OEI fetches.

Tues. & Thurs., April 22 & 24
• The Center for Life Enrichment's ICloud and Computer Security from 6-8p. Cost $70 Member/$80 Nonmember. To register call CLE at 828-526-8811

Tuesday, April 22
• Highlands Dialogue meets at the Hudson Library at 10 a.m. “A Century Old Prediction about the End of the Internet” based on The Machine Stops by E. M. Forrester. A copy of this novella (as a PDF) is attached. As you read this 1909 short story, make a list of today's technology that has an analogue in Forrester's story—for example, the woman is listening to music which could have been delivered by Pandora, she sees and talks with her son using something like Skype. Then imagine what would happen to our society if the Internet suddenly stopped working.

Coordinator: John Gaston

• Highlands Nature Center director Patrick Brannon will present a talk on the impact of discarded bottles along our mountain roads on the mortality of small mammals 7-9p. Free and appropriate for all ages. Visit highlandsbiological.org/earth-week/ for more information.

• Community Table supper at the Community Building at 6 p.m. It’s free.

Thursday, April 24
• Highlands School Kindergarten Registration for Class of 2027 is on Thursday at 10 a.m. For information, call 526-2147

• Dining Out for Life Benefit at Cyprus. On the Veranda, The Ugly Dog and the Doghouse will contribute 20% of your bill to support WNCAP, the AIDS Service organization for WNC.

Thurs. – Sun., April 24, 25, 26, 27
• A PAC Youth Theater production of “Little Women.” Tickets available online: highlandspace.org or by calling 828-526-9047 507 Chestnut Street in Highl

Fri., April 25
• Community Coffee with Mayor Pat Taylor at the Hudson Library. The subject: The Town Budget, $13.1 Million: Where does it come from & where does it go? Refreshments provided by Mountain Top Rotary Club.

• Celebrate Arbor Day at the Botanical Garden with a “Living with Trees” guided tour 2-4p. We will discuss noteworthy trees of the Highlands Plateau, as well as their identification, residential use and care. In the spirit of Arbor Day, visitors will leave with a native tree to take home and plant. Visit highlandsbiological.org/earth-week/ for more information.

• An Informal meeting to learn about Big Brother Big Sisters program in Highlands at Buck’s Cafe at 5:30p. Come by and enjoy a complimentary refreshment and learn everything you wanted to know about Big Brother Big Sisters.

Sat., April 26
• Educators are invited to a “Project Wild Workshop at Highlands School from 8:30a to 3:30p in the school's outdoor classroom between the shops and middle school building. It is free. To sign up contact Science teacher Stephanie Smathers at 526-2147 or Stephanie.smathers@macon.k12.nc.us.

• Join Macon County Public Health’s Healthy Carolinians Coalition for a new community walking program called “Leading the Way to Wellness.” Mayor Pat Taylor and Commissioner Jim Tate will lead walks through downtown Highlands in an effort to improve fitness and encourage healthy lifestyles. The kick-off event will be Saturday at 11 a.m. at Highlands Town Hall. Join us for registration, free pedometers, a group walk, and the chance for door prizes; then join us for weekly fitness walks. To learn more, call 349-2426.

Sunday, April 27
• North Georgia Children’s Chorus offers public concert at 3 p.m. Come; be inspired as you hear some beautiful voices sing songs of inspiration. For more information please call the Highlands United Methodist Church Office at 828-526-3376.

• Friends of Israel presents “EHAD” in concert Sunday at 10:45 am at Christ Church of the Valley in Cashiers N.C. For info, call 828-743-5470.

Tues. & Thurs., April 28 & May 1
• The Center for Life Enrichment’s A Fun Guide to the Best IPAD Applications. 6-8p. Cost is $70 Members/ $80 Nonmember. Call CLE at 828-526-8811 to register.

Tues., April 29
• Highlands Dialogue meets at the Hudson Library. Season Wrap-up, Social Gathering, and Conversation about the future of the Dialogue.

Thurs.-Sat., May 1-3
• Highlands Annual Three River Fly Fishing Tournament. For information call Town Hall at 526-2118.

Fri. & Sat., May 2-3
• The Highlands Biological Foundation is celebrating the emergence of spring ephemerals in the southern Appalachians with their event “Wildflower Whimsy,” guided garden tours, a lecture, live plant auction and reception (with live music), and guided wildflower walks. The event will be held Friday from 5pm until 8pm, and Saturday from 10am until 2pm.

Mon., May 5
• Rotary Golf Tournament

Sat., May 10
• Hike the Historic Kelsey Trail from Whiteside Mountain to Highlands. Along the way, small groups will be led to Leila's Rock, Ganet Rock, Highlands Falls and Soldier's Cave. You may see some very interesting characters from the past as you go.

The first group will leave from Kelsey-Hutchinson Park on Pine Street at 8 AM. Another group will leave at 8:15 AM and if demand dictates a third group at 8:30 AM. You will be shuttled to Whiteside Mountain to start the hike. The hike will take about 4 hours. A picnic lunch at Kelsey-Hutchinson Park will follow. The shuttle, hike and lunch are all included in the donation of $50. Space is limited, and the choice of starting time will go to the first people to register. You may register at the Greenway website at www.highlandsgreenway.com. Follow the link for the Kelsey Trail Hike and purchase tickets by check or credit card online. More detail about the hike is provided under the Event Calendar tab.

Sat., May 3
• Audubon’s weekly bird spotting trip. Carpool from the parking area behind the Highlands Town Hall, unless otherwise noted. All walks will start at 7:30 AM. Bring binoculars if you have them, good walking shoes, a water bottle, and wet weather gear. Beginner’s Walk in Highlands to Edwin and Kay Poole’s home and lovely native garden. Russ Regnery (HPAS President) will lead. If questions, call Michelle at 828-743-9670.

Thurs., May 6
• The Center for Life Enrichment’s Facebook for the Absolute Beginner – 6-8p. $35 member, $50 nonmember. Call 828-526-8811 to register.

Sat., May 10
• Audubon’s weekly bird spotting trip. Carpool from the parking area behind the Highlands Town Hall, unless otherwise noted. All walks will start at 7:30 AM. Bring binoculars if you have them, good walking shoes, a water bottle, and wet weather gear. Beginner’s Walk in Highlands to Edwin and Kay Poole’s home and lovely native garden. Russ Regnery (HPAS President) will lead. If questions, call Michelle at 828-743-9670.

Sat., May 17
• Audubon’s weekly bird spotting trip. Carpool from the parking area behind the Highlands Town Hall, unless otherwise noted. All walks will start at 7:30 AM. Bring binoculars if you have them, good walking shoes, a water bottle, and wet weather gear. Beginner’s Walk in Highlands to Edwin and Kay Poole’s home and lovely native garden. Russ Regnery (HPAS President) will lead. If questions, call Michelle at 828-743-9670.

Mon., May 26
• Audubon’s weekly bird spotting trip. Carpool from the parking area behind the Highlands Town Hall, unless otherwise noted. All walks will start at 7:30 AM. Bring binoculars if you have them, good walking shoes, a water bottle, and wet weather gear. Beginner’s Walk in Highlands to Edwin and Kay Poole’s home and lovely native garden. Russ Regnery (HPAS President) will lead. If questions, call Michelle at 828-743-9670.

Thurs., June 2
• The Center for Life Enrichment’s Face book for the Absolute Beginner 6-8p. $35 member, $50 nonmember. Call 828-526-8811 to register.

Sat., June 7
• Audubon’s weekly bird spotting trip. Carpool from the parking area behind the Highlands Town Hall, unless otherwise noted. All walks will start at 7:30 AM. Bring binoculars if you have them, good walking shoes, a water bottle, and wet weather gear. Beginner’s Walk in Highlands to Edwin and Kay Poole’s home and lovely native garden. Russ Regnery (HPAS President) will lead. If questions, call Michelle at 828-743-9670.

Sat., June 14
• Audubon’s weekly bird spotting trip. Bring binoculars if you have them, good walking shoes, a water bottle, and wet weather gear. Back by popular demand, an outing to Lonesome Valley in Sapphire, with Romney Bathurst leading. This is a beautiful wooded canyon being sensitively developed by the Lonesome Valley Association. The group will rendezvous with them. NOTE: HCLT members are free of charge; others may either join HCLT or pay a minimal fee for this one walk. Watch the website or call Julie, at 526-1111 for specifics. All participants must register in advance with HCLT so that lunches can be properly planned, so be sure to call Julie if you want to go. Romney Bathurst and Kyle Pursel will lead.

Sat., June 21
• The annual Owl Prowl in cooperation with the Highlands Nature Center starts at 7:30 pm. Donations to the Carolina Raptor Rehab Center will be appreciated but not required. Bring a flashlight and plan to stay after dark as we hunt for owls in the area. If questions, call Michelle at 828-743-9670.

Sat., June 28
• Highlands Dialogue meets at the Town Hall, unless otherwise noted. The Center will meet at 10 a.m. at the Town Hall. CLE at 828-526-8811 to register.

Sat., July 5
• Highlands Dialogue meets at the Town Hall, unless otherwise noted. The Center will meet at 10 a.m. at the Town Hall. CLE at 828-526-8811 to register.

Sat., July 12
• Audubon’s weekly bird spotting trip. Bring binoculars if you have them, good walking shoes, a water bottle, and wet weather gear. Back by popular demand, an outing to Lonesome Valley in Sapphire, with Romney Bathurst leading. This is a beautiful wooded canyon being sensitively developed by the Jennings family with conservation interests high on the priority list. The result is some fine habitat for migrant wood warblers which breed in our area, including the stunning Blackburnian Warbler. Carpool from the parking area of the new Cashiers Rec Center at 7:30 AM sharp. If questions, call Michelle at 828-743-9670.

Sat., July 19
• Highlands School Graduation at 7p in the new gym.
Properties Real Estate office, and concluded that the majority of the building – used by Mountain Fresh Grocery – is now primarily a restaurant.

Parking requirements associated with a restaurant in every zoning district except B1, is considered the most stringent in the Unified Development Ordinance, and the number of parking spaces required is related to the number of seats in the restaurant.

According to the UDO Parking Schedule, restaurants require one space for every three seats, plus one space for each two employees on shift of greatest employment. An office, which is part of the Mountain Fresh Grocery shopping center, requires one space for each 250 sq. ft. of gross floor space. In addition, according to the UDO restaurants can share up to 12 public parking spaces if those spaces are within 300 feet of the restaurant.

JT Fields, owner of Mountain Fresh Grocery, admits the store, which was originally considered retail, has been evolving since it opened in 2008 and food service has become a big part of the business.

“Since we tend to evolve, we wanted to go after the greatest number of seats possible so we don’t have to come back to the town should we want more seats,” he said. “With all our changes we’ve been a moving target, so this is a way it will be clear as to what’s allowed.”

Currently there are 102 seats in the store where people can have breakfast, lunch or dinner. But Fields said they wanted to delineate as many parking spaces on the site as possible.

The number of parking spaces on the site will max out at 47 which means Mountain Fresh can have up to 138 seats.

Ward said for a 138-seat restaurant in the B2 district with the greatest shift employment of 20 employees – including the 12 shared public spaces and the office space of 635 sq. ft, the number required parking spaces on the site is 47.

The Zoning Board unanimously granted the SUP but did discuss traffic flow since it’s likely the public will use spaces in the back of the building more now in than in the past, but in the end members agreed that the flow would work itself out. There are two ingress and two egress avenues on the site – one set off Main Street and one set off Fifth Street and Smallwood Ave. in the back of the complex.

Though Fields said he aimed high concerning the seats and therefore the parking spaces, the possibility of needing the spaces may come to fruition. Soon the...RULES continued from 1
Easter Weekend Shopping in Highlands

Cabin Couture
Shop for gourmet Easter treats and gifts at CABIN COUTURE, just a HOP off Main Street, on Carolina Way, your shopping stop for art, jewelry and home decor.

468 Carolina Way
(Between N. 4th & N. 5th streets)
Open Daily:
10a to 5p
526-3909

The Original Handwarmer Mug... exclusively at Peak Experience
This unique mug is available in either a right hand or left hand version. More comfortable to use for those with arthritis than a traditional mug. Made in U.S.A.

Peak Experience
Gallery of Fine Handcrafts & Antiques
2820 Dillard Road, Hwy 106
2 miles past Highlands Country Club on the left
828-526-0729

The Custom House
AT CAROLINA WAY
• Rugs & Pillows
• Lighting
• Lamp Shades
• Lots & Lots & Lots of POTTERY

828-526-2665
442 Carolina Way

Spring SALE
Continues at The Dry Sink!
Select pieces from
50% Off!

Select pieces from Le Creuset
50% Off!

HOME DéCOR 50% Off!
Many Items reduced to:
$1, $2, $5, $10 & $20!!

50% Off
All Colonial Candles!
All Photo Albums! 50% Off

The Dry Sink
Main Street
Highlands, NC

Wit's End
A Highlands tradition since 1940
Our 73rd season on Main Street
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Good Earth
& Ray Pottery
30%-50% Off.
All Colors & Patterns

Bags on Main
Next to The Toy Store
Main Street
828-526-9415

Hobo
New merchandise arriving daily!

Martha Anne's
...on the hill
S. 4th Street
526-4473

Little Chicks
Hop on in to see our new Spring Arrivals

• Free People
• Tulle
• BB Dakota
• Michael Stars Tees
• CP Shades
Jeans by:
• Joes
• 7 for all mankind
• Citizens, AG, Hudson

Shoes & Boots Upstairs
355 Main Street
(in The Galax Theatre)
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Aery Chiropractic & Acupuncture expanding services

Dr. Sue Aery and Aery Chiropractic & Acupuncture announce the addition of Dr. David Marn to head our newly remodeled Franklin office at 1547 Highlands Road with expanded hours.

Dr. Marn has been practicing as a chiropractic physician in North Carolina since 1995, using diversified chiropractic techniques, acupuncture, iridology, ayurvedic healing principles and natural nutrition and detoxification protocols. He is board certified in Bio Energetic Synchronization Technique (BEST), a gentle mind-body chiropractic technique that works directly with the nervous system to improve physiological function and timing.

Dr. Sue and Dr. David look forward to serving all their patients’ needs in the Franklin and Highlands offices. To take your health to new heights today, call us at 828-526-1022 in Highlands and 828-200-4476 in Franklin.

MGC honors local members, Ann & Luther Turner

The Mountain Garden Club (MGC) recently bestowed Honorary Memberships on Ann and Luther Turner. Their energy and assistance are invaluable to the success of the annual MGC Plant Sale. Luther is the club’s first male member in its 35 year history. MGC thanks Ann and Luther for their dedication. Please mark your calendars for this year’s MGC Plant Sale, Saturday, May 24 from 9 a.m. - noon.

Join us this Easter
celebrating the resurrection of Jesus
at Highlands United Methodist Church
315 Main Street with Pastors Paul Christy & Beth Bowser

April 17
Maundy Thursday Service at 5 pm

April 18
Good Friday Service at 5 pm

April 20

EASTER SUNDAY
• 6:15 am – Ecumenical Easter Sunrise Service
Join us and other churches at the amphitheater at the Nature Center.
(If rain, at the Episcopal Church)
• Worship Services / The Living Cross
Join us as we celebrate at 8:30, 9:09 and 10:50 am
Bring a flower to place on the outside living cross before each service.
• 9:45 am – Easter Coffee Break
Bring a coffee cake, muffins, bagels, croissants or danish to share as we have fellowship time together
• 10 am – Children’s Easter Egg Hunt & Storytime
The children will be off to hunt eggs immediately after breakfast.

For more information, please call 828-526-3376

If You Want Commissioners Who Keep Right On Spending Through Good Times and Bad, You Can Keep Them!

The last TWO years Macon County’s budget has increased by OVER 15%

• JIM TATE (R) supported BOTH budget increases, along with the $3.3 million Parker Meadows project, and every other spending or borrowing item before commissioners.
• Commissioner JIM TATE (R) has consistently voted with RONNIE BEALE (D) and KEVIN CORBIN (R) on their spending spree.

Another Choice?

JOHN SHEARL (R), a self-proclaimed fiscal conservative, is running against JIM TATE in the Republican Primary. JOHN SHEARL has indicated he will not vote to continue these spendthrift policies.

"As appointed commissioner and then as an elected commissioner, (to my knowledge) my opponent has not voted against any spending measures since his time as a county commissioner. The budget has increased and county borrowing has continued on the back of the taxpayers when a lot of our citizens are struggling to pay their own bills. I completely disagree with this philosophy."

John Shearl - The Macon County News - March 20, 2014

Commissioners HAVEN (R) and HIGDON (R) have consistently voted AGAINST excessive spending and support John Shearl's candidacy.

Will Your Property Taxes Go Up?

• Over half the money Macon County spends in the general fund comes from property taxes.
• The County's "piggly bank" is nearly empty. How will Beale, Tate, and Corbin continue to support their spending habit without raising property taxes?
• It is VERY IMPORTANT that Republican and Unaffiliated (Independent) voters turn out for the May 6 primary. This election will have a HUGE impact on the direction Macon County takes in the future.

To Spend or Not to Spend - It's YOUR Choice!

Paid for by FreedomWorks, and not authorized by any candidate.
"Lower taxes, Less Government, and More Freedom"
Paul was upset with these Galatians. They were listening to a group of false teachers and were confused and disturbed. They were not sure who was right, their peace was shattered. But even more dangerous, their confidence in grace was injured.

The grace Paul speaks of is God’s spontaneous unmerited favor. This grace is the giving of his loving kindness, the bestowing of salvation on a bunch of guilt-laden sinners who come to him for rescue. This grace is that part of God’s wonderful character from which flows into the lives of his people. This wonderful grace is the faucet through which the peace of God comes the canceling of sins, the remitting of penalties. It is the great blessing of Jesus Christ. He gave it to his people through his atoning sacrifice. John 14:27 “Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.” This peace passes all understanding. You cannot comprehend it, unless you have first been given grace.

When grace comes, Paul says in Philippians 4:7 “And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.” Peace is not some beautiful picture where everything looks so calm and tranquil. It is a place of strength and might. It is like the great cliff with its cave. Like the foreboding calm and tranquil. It is a place of strength and might. It is not some beautiful picture where everything looks so will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.” Peace the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, been given grace.

Proverbs 3:5

**BLUE VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH**
Rev. Oliver Rice, Pastor (706) 782-3965
Sundays: School:10 a.m.; Worship:11
Sunday night services every 2nd & 4th Sunday at 7
Wednesdays: Mid-week prayer meeting 7 p.m.
BUCK CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH
828-269-3546
Rev. Jamie Passmore, Pastor
Sundays: School:10 a.m.; Worship:11
GRACE COMMUNITY CHURCH OF CASHIERS
Non-Denominational-Contemporary Worship
242 Hwy 107N, 1/4 miles from Crossroads in Cashiers
www.gracecashiers.com • Pastor Steve Doerter: 828-743-9814
Services: Sundays 10am - Wed. - 7 pm
Catered dinner - Wed. 6pm
CHAPEL OF SKY VALLEY
Sky Valley, GA
Church: 706-746-2999
Sundays: 10 a.m.; Worship
Holy Communion 1st Sunday of the month
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.; Christian Education, 9 a.m.;(Bucks in Cashiers)
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 Kehoulas
Sun. 10:45am, S.S 9:30am. Wed. 6pm supper and teaching.
Tue. Guys study 8am, Gals 10am.
CLEAR CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH
Pastor Jim Kinard
Sundays: School:10 a.m.; Worship:11
Wednesdays – 7 p.m.
COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH
www.cbchighlands.com • 526-4685
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: Education and choir rehearsal, 9 am, Holy Eucharist Rite II, (sanctuary), 10:30
Wednesday: 10 am, Morning Prayer
Thursdays: Holy Eucharist, (chapel), 10 am
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH HIGHLANDS
www.fbchighlands.com
Dr. Mark Ford, Pastor
220 Main Street, Highlands NC 28741
828-526-4153
Sun.: Worship 10:45 am; Sun.: Bible Study 9:30 am
Wed.: Men’s Bible Study 8:30 am; Prayer Meeting 6:15 pm; Choir 5 pm
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:

**HAMBURG BAPTIST CHURCH**
Hwy 107N. • Glenville, Nc • 743-2729
Pastor Nathan Johnson
Sunday: School 9:45a, Worship 11 a & 7 p
Bible Study 6p
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)
Sun.: Morning Worship 10:45 a., Evening Worship, 6:30 p.
Wednesday: Prayer Service, 6:30 p.
HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Pastor Paul Childs 526-3376
Wed: Supper; 6; 7:15:children, youth, & adults
studies; 6:15: Adult choir (nursery provided)
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.
MACEDONIA BAPTIST CHURCH
8 miles south of Highlands on N.C. 28 S in Satolah
Pastor Troy Nicholson, (828) 526-8425
Sundays: School: 10 a.m.; Worship:11
Choir: 6 p.m.
Wed: Bible Study and Youth Mtg.: 7 p.m.
MOUNTAIN SYNAGOGUE
743-9917
St. Cyprian's Episcopal Church, Franklin
828-369-9270 or 828-293-5197
MOUNTAIN BIBLE CHURCH
743-2583
Independent Bible Church
Sundays:10:30 a.m. at Big Ridge Baptist Church, 4224 Big Ridge Road (4.5 miles from NC 107)
Wed: Bible Study 6:30 p.m.; Youth Group 6 p.m.
OUR LADY OF THE MOUNTAINS CATHOLIC CHURCH
Parish office: 526-2418
Mass: Sun: 10:30 a.m.; Thurs & Fri.: 9 a.; Sat., 4p
SCALY MOUNTAIN BAPTIST CHURCH
Rev. Dwight Loggins
Sundays: School –10 a.m.; Worship –11 a.m. & 7 p
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.; 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.
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP
85 Sierra Drive • 828-524-6777
Sunday Worship - 11 a.m.
Child Care - 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Religious Education - 11 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.
Youth 8th - 12th grade meets 2nd Sundays 5 - 7:30 p.m
WHITESIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Rev. Sam Forrester/Cashiers
Sunday School:10 a.m., Worship Service: 11 a.m.
old laundromat space, previously used to store and pack coffee beans, will become a public space with access from both inside the store and from the sidewalk.

“We aren’t expanding to generate more business per se, but rather to accommodate the business we already have,” he said.

The wood-fire pizza oven and the coffee roaster will be moved next door to join a full-service bakery for which a Master Baker has been hired. The area in the center of the store that used to house the coffee roaster will now be a coffee station where customers can order coffee on one side and pick up pre-made sandwiches on the other side. Fields said they plan to have about six seats around the coffee/deli configuration.

Concerning the bakery, Fields said Mountain Fresh Grocery will be the bakery’s biggest customer. “The business model suggests that just by supplying the baked goods we need for our food service operation, this will work,” he said.

Customers can also buy fresh baked goods to take out or to eat in on that side of the store where a few seats will be available.

– Kim Lewicki

By Tiffany Preda
I am in the 9th grade and I go to Highlands School. This year I decided to audition for a play and I couldn't have imagined it turning out any better.

The first impression always stays with you. My first impression of acting, let alone acting with this group of people, was absolutely flawless. From the first day of auditions, I knew it would be amazing to be a part of something so special.

For auditions we were asked to prepare a monologue. After I found one, the first thing I did was perform it in front of my Dad. He ended up giving me some advice I now live by “You have to act, not just read. You have to be your character if you want to be amazing.” The next day at auditions, I was my character, and this landed me the role of Beth in the play “Little Women.” The first day of rehearsal, I was terrified and nervous about acting with people I’d never met. I was also anxious to see how rehearsal would go. It turns out I was nervous for no reason. The girls were wonderful and extremely nice. I am lucky to be working with a very talented and experienced group of people. I am a newcomer, so being around people like this has taught me a lot. And I am continuing to learn from everybody every day. Just by seeing the way other people act has given me confidence, and I realized that I love acting. I love portraying characters and working with new people.

I am very happy to be here, doing what I love and being with a group of people I adore.

“Little Women” runs April 24-27 at PAC on Chestnut Street. 7:30p and 2:30p on Sunday. Call 526-9047 for tickets.
When it comes to buying and selling property, it is important to remember that negotiations involve compromise. When a seller draws a hard line in the sand, it shows an unwillingness to want to sell and when a buyer holds firm, we question how much he wants to buy a particular property.

For success, it is essential to separate emotions from the negotiations in order for both parties to have the opportunity to win.

Recent economic reports indicate that real estate sales are on the increase, especially since mortgage interest rates are still very low. While the areas where most of our buyers come from are booming, it still is a “buyer’s market” in our area, as there is still too much inventory and not enough buyers.

Although our market prices are at an all-time low, at least it is stabilizing. Given time we should see improvement, but we don’t yet know how long this will take.

Although there were more buyers in the past year, they came with high expectations of low prices. With over 499 residential/condo and 240 vacant land listings in Highlands, there have been 170 residential/condo sales and 20 land sales over the past 12 months, (statistics from the Highlands-Cashiers Multiple Listing Service). As a property owner, the market dictates that unless you are willing to sell at these current all-time low prices, then you are in a holding pattern of waiting to sell. During the first four years of the recession, I suggested to sellers to wait until the market improved. After a few years, I have realized that many sellers are tired of waiting, mostly for personal reasons. The ones who have considerably lowered their prices or have initially listed based on current comparable sales have a much better chance to sell. If you decide for whatever your reasons that it is time to sell, it is important to realize the value of a buyer. If you were buying right now, wouldn’t you want the best deal you could find? You can consider it an honor when your property has attracted one of the few buyers who have such a large variety of properties to choose from. In all my years of experience, I have found that the best time to sell is when you have a buyer.

For today’s buyer, a little sensitivity goes a long way. If the timing is important for them to sell, it can also be an emotionally draining experience. Instead of adding insult to injury, try allowing a seller to maintain some dignity. For instance, if a home is being sold furnished, allow the owner some leeway with items they’d like to keep. Give them some flexibility with moving dates. Don’t pick apart the home inspection asking for insignificant repairs. Put yourself in their place. Kindness goes a long way.

If you are a buyer or seller and find yourself dealing with a difficult personality in a sales transaction, keep your eye on the prize. The truth is, each needs the other in order to accomplish their goals. When a person acts mean spirited or inflexible, it is usually a result of fear that someone is taking advantage of them. In this day and time when most of us have been rattled by the effects of the economy, some understanding and compassion goes a long way.

Let FUTRAL BUILDERS build you a custom home on a wonderful view lot in Highlands Gap.
The Southern Living “Foxglove” design and 3 acre lot $650,000 Builder/Owner/Broker

Lynn Kimball
Meadows Mountain Realty
828-421-8193

Let FUTRAL BUILDERS build you a custom home on a wonderful view lot in Highlands Gap.
The Southern Living “Foxglove” design and 3 acre lot $650,000 Builder/Owner/Broker

The Ultimate Lake Cottage
Situated on a wooded lot with a winter view of Lake Sequoyah, this cozy and very chic 3BR/3BA mountain cottage is a delight. The main level features a charming master suite; a well-designed, open kitchen, dining and living space with a fireplace; vaulted ceilings; and easy flow to the covered porch. Lower level offers additional bedrooms and fun living space. $328,000, MLS #79157. Contact Susie deVille at (828) 371-2079.

Adorable, Yet Sophisticated
Get-a-way or year-round home, this renovated & expanded 3BR/2BA charmer has a soaring stone fireplace and vaulted ceilings leading to a deck with winter ridge line views. Home & grounds beautifully maintained. One floor living with large rooms, huge master closet, workroom/gym, whole house generator and furnishings. Additional lot available. $374,000, MLS #78488. Contact Mal Phillips at (828) 200-2642.

The Best in Elegant Mountain Living
Dreamy, broad, flat pasture land with several hundred feet along Highway 28, and complete with a skeleton of antique original home that sets the tone. Property gently rolls to the top of a ridge with ample flat area, at an elevation over 4,000 feet. Surrounded by companion ridge lines, the view is 360 degrees. Next to a spring-fed pond and rushing water is a small, usable two bedroom home waiting for updating. Priced to sell. $548,000, MLS #78943. Contact Mal Phillips at (828) 200-2642.

Pristine 64+ Acres
Situated on a wooded lot with a winter view of Lake Sequoyah, this cozy and very chic 3BR/3BA mountain cottage is a delight. The main level features a charming master suite; a well-designed, open kitchen, dining and living space with a fireplace; vaulted ceilings; and easy flow to the covered porch. Lower level offers additional bedrooms and fun living space. $328,000, MLS #79157. Contact Susie deVille at (828) 371-2079.

For today’s buyer, a little sensitivity goes a long way. If the timing is important for them to sell, it can also be an emotionally draining experience. Instead of adding insult to injury, try allowing a seller to maintain some dignity. For instance, if a home is being sold furnished, allow the owner some leeway with items they’d like to keep. Give them some flexibility with moving dates. Don’t pick apart the home inspection asking for insignificant repairs. Put yourself in their place. Kindness goes a long way.

If you are a buyer or seller and find yourself dealing with a difficult personality in a sales transaction, keep your eye on the prize. The truth is, each needs the other in order to accomplish their goals. When a person acts mean spirited or inflexible, it is usually a result of fear that someone is taking advantage of them. In this day and time when most of us have been rattled by the effects of the economy, some understanding and compassion goes a long way.

Let FUTRAL BUILDERS build you a custom home on a wonderful view lot in Highlands Gap.
The Southern Living “Foxglove” design and 3 acre lot $650,000 Builder/Owner/Broker
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Antique log cabin with private setting, stream and in town. 3 BD/3BA charmer. A huge stone fireplace in vaulted living room, finished with wood accents. Custom kitchen. Covered rear porch. Main level master with 2 bedrooms upstairs. Offered at $595,000. mls #78849

Quality built family home on over an acre of low maintenance property. 2 master suites, plus a guest room, 3.5 baths, wrap-around deck, handicap accessible. Open plan with fireplace, granite kitchen counters, and loads of charm. Offered at $495,000. mls #78752

One bed/one bath home just a couple miles from town. Sunroom opens to a deck off the back of the house with access to a fenced, level yard. Priced to sell at $140,000. mls #78790

Great home with screened and open porches. 3BD/2BA on the main level. 2 car garage. Family room with fireplace and office with full bath. Main level features great room with fireplace, custom kitchen and split bedroom plan. $695,000. mls #78918

Highlands Manor. 3BD/2BA. Upgraded with cathedral ceilings. Upper level unit. Easy walk to downtown access. Offered at $375,000

4BD/2BA rustic family cabin walking distance to town. Has older home quirkiness and great charm. Updated kitchen and great covered porch. Large private lot, small stream. Offered at $489,000. mls #79147

3BD/2BA easy living in good condition. This one level home with 2 car garage is located in a quiet neighborhood with community pond, tennis courts and picnic area. Offered at $335,000. mls #78785

Old Edwards Club. Get in on the ground floor with the best buy at Turning Leaf! 3BD/3BA. Quality finishes with screen porch with gas fireplace. Living room with fireplace, high ceilings, almost new. Spectacular view of the golfcourse, lake, and mountains. A great value at $398,000! Owner wants an offer! mls #78862

Cabin on the Atlanta side of Highlands. Bedroom wing design with master and guest bedrooms on main level. Living room, kitchen, and dining in a great room design. Lower level has recreation room, laundry and guestroom/storage. Large deck. Offered at $210,000. mls #78847

One level, 3BD/3BA with end of the road privacy. One of the most popular plans in HFCC, this home has additional office/reading area. Huge porch and decks with winter view. Large 2 car garage. 2 water features. Offered at $545,000. mls #78544

Located on it’s own private pond. Great living floor plan that features a custom kitchen. Formal dining room off living room, Master bedroom with en-suite bath. Upstairs has 3BD/2BA and a huge family room with morning kitchen. Three car garage, a huge stone patio. Offered at $1,350,000. mls #78850

Immaculate Log Home on 3.5 acre private setting in Rocky Knob, surrounded by National Forest. 3BD/3BA, vaulted ceilings, massive great room, with fireplace, dining area and large kitchen. Decks and porches wrap around 3 sides. Lots of extra features. $499,000. mls #78885

5BD/3BA. Main level with master bedroom and bath on one side with living room/dining room and kitchen in between and 2 additional bedrooms with bath and laundry on the other side. 2BD and bath downstairs. Lake and mountain view. Offered at $297,000. mls #78947

End of street privacy. 3BD/3BA home that features an open great room concept with covered screened porch and open deck. Views of the mountain, golf course and lake at Wildcat Cliffs Country Club. Excellent condition and move in ready at a great price. Offered at $620,000. mls #78697

Historic home built around 1940 and sits on 5 acres of terraced gardens with stunning views of Blue Valley, Rabun Bald, and SC and GA. Dwelling features a sunny environment with large windows. Main floor bedroom and bath with 2 guest bedrooms upstairs. Garage. Additional View lots possible. Offered at $1,200,000. mls #78884

Great cabin off Turtle Pond Road completely renovated 2BD/2BA, fireplace. Beautiful cook’s kitchen! Large lot with outbuilding and slab for a garage or carport. Offered at $625,000. mls #77288

Great In town location. Excellent rental potential for wedding parties and family reunions. Split floor plan excellent for two family vacations. New kitchen appliances. Outdoor campfire pit. $489,000. mls #69499

Gardeners paradise on in the Flat Mountain area. 3 plus bedrooms, 3 1/2 baths. 2 car garage. Cedar interior, spacious kitchen, airy mountain contemporary feel. Huge porch for outdoor living. Offered at $599,000. mls #73859
castle with its mighty ramparts. It is a secure hiding place. Like the wings of the mother hen. When the storm comes she gathers her chicks under her wings and takes the full fury of the storm to keep them safe. She gives them security. She gives them peace and so God hides his children under his mighty wings of grace and peace.

The origin of grace and peace is God. Paul’s explanation is interesting. He says “Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.” The word “our” is the important word. Paul has not written these people off as Christians. He still holds, he delivered to them the true gospel and they accepted it. He knows they are confused and only need to be counseled to be brought back to the truth. He adds this “and the Lord Jesus Christ.” He adds this, for it is by the merits of Jesus, this One who is Lord, master-owner-conqueror, this Jesus, Savior, this Christ, the Anointed One, the Office bearer that because of this three fold anointing as prophet, priest and king is able to save to the uttermost all who draw near to God through him. The purpose of his writing this letter is to reestablish those who are Christ’s into a proper understanding of this glorious gospel of grace.

Paul, then, makes it clear how this grace comes to the believer. In verse 4, he adds “...who gave himself for our sins to rescue us from the present evil age.” Grace, salvation of the soul, is only through Jesus Christ. To add to the works of Christ, other requirements for salvation, is to destroy the heart of the gospel. It is to remove the great act of Christ’s self-surrender. Christ surrendered himself to sorrow, pain, ridicule and the curse of eternal death. He did this throughout his earthly life. We see it clearest in the last days of his life from Gethsemane to Calvary. He laid down his life for his lost sheep. John 10:11,17,18 “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. . . . The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life– only to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father.” He does all of this, motivated by love, incomprehensible, unbelievable love. He does it to deliver you from the many ways in which you miss the mark of his glory, be it in thought, word or deed. It is only through the work of Jesus Christ that you can be saved. It is not because of something in you that salvation has come. Jesus Christ came to fulfill all the requirements of the law on behalf of his people. All men are in slavery to sin, in bondage to the powers of darkness. Jesus Christ came to deliver men from this slavery, from this bondage. Christ has given himself to rescue you from this present evil age. You have no right to such a gift because of your sin. The only One worthy of this is the One who rescued you from eternal death. He did that, by taking your sin upon himself and giving you his perfect life. Herein, is what the Galatians were struggling with because of the false teachers in their midst.

Salvation is given through Jesus Christ to everyone who will open their ears and hear and their hearts and believe. This is the work of God’s unmerited favor. He does not give this grace to anyone based on who they are, what they have or what they will have. It comes from, as Ephesians 1:5 says, according to “his pleasure and will.” The message of this glorious grace is in the world today. Please, hear it and believe, for it is only through faith (belief in Jesus) that grace can change your life. That it will give you confidence in your salvation.
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25 years experience
526-0463 or 526-9388
Highlands PD log entries from March 24. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor, or public officials have been used.

March 24
- At 3:11 p.m., Nicholas Shane Thomas, 28, of Highlands, was arrested for shoplifting. A $2,000 unsecured bond was issued. His trial date was April 10.

April 3
- At 6:07 p.m., an incidence of trespassing was reported by a residence on Spruce Street where someone was camping on the deck.

April 5
- At 9:35 a.m., Isaia Ramirez, 45, of Franklin, was arrested for driving with a revoked license. He is being held at the MC Detention Center. His trial date is May 28.

The Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. log entries from April 2.
- April 4
  - At 8:06 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at Chestnut Hill due to a system malfunction.
- April 8
  - At 5:51 p.m., the dept. responded to a false fire alarm at a residence on Bowery Road.

April 9
- At 3:33 a.m., the dept. provided mutual aid to Jackson County on a structure fire on Morton Road.
- At 7:57 a.m, the dept. was first-responders to a residence on NC 106. EMS transported to the hospital.
- At 11:12 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at Chestnut Hill due to a system malfunction.
- April 11
  - At 6:05 p.m., the dept. responded to a call about smoke at a residence on Oak Street.
  - At 3:57 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Edwards Creek.

April 12
- At 7:32 p.m., the dept. provided mutual aid to Jackson County on a structure fire on Morton Road.
- At 8:32 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm on Main Street.
- At 7:04 p.m., the dept. responded to a medical alarm at a residence on Edwards Creek.

April 13
- At 11:42 a.m., the dept. responded to a medical alarm at a residence on Sassafrass Gap Road.
  - At 8:32 p.m., the dept. provided mutual aid to Jackson County on a structure fire on Morton Road.

April 14
- At 8:32 p.m., the dept. provided mutual aid to Jackson County on a structure fire on Morton Road.

April 15
- At 9:15 p.m., the dept. responded to a medical alarm at a residence on Edwards Creek.

April 16
- At 9:30 p.m., the dept. responded to a medical alarm at Heucherville due to a system malfunction.

April 17
- At 9:30 p.m., the dept. responded to a medical alarm at a residence on Bowery Road.
- At 11:33 p.m., the dept. provided mutual aid to Jackson County on a structure fire on Morton Road.

April 18
- At 10:38 p.m., the dept. responded to a medical alarm at Chestnut Hill due to a system malfunction.

April 19
- At 6:30 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at Chestnut Hill due to a system malfunction.

April 20
- At 12:04 p.m., the dept. responded to a medical alarm at Chestnut Hill due to a system malfunction.

April 21
- At 9:30 p.m., the dept. responded to a medical alarm at Chestnut Hill due to a system malfunction.

April 22
- At 5:42 p.m., the dept. responded to a medical alarm at Chestnut Hill due to a system malfunction.

April 23
- At 8:40 p.m., the dept. responded to a medical alarm at Chestnut Hill due to a system malfunction.

April 24
- At 8:40 p.m., the dept. responded to a medical alarm at Chestnut Hill due to a system malfunction.

April 25
- At 8:40 p.m., the dept. responded to a medical alarm at Chestnut Hill due to a system malfunction.

April 26
- At 8:40 p.m., the dept. responded to a medical alarm at Chestnut Hill due to a system malfunction.

April 27
- At 8:40 p.m., the dept. responded to a medical alarm at Chestnut Hill due to a system malfunction.

April 28
- At 8:40 p.m., the dept. responded to a medical alarm at Chestnut Hill due to a system malfunction.

April 29
- At 8:40 p.m., the dept. responded to a medical alarm at Chestnut Hill due to a system malfunction.

April 30
- At 8:40 p.m., the dept. responded to a medical alarm at Chestnut Hill due to a system malfunction.

May 1
- At 8:40 p.m., the dept. responded to a medical alarm at Chestnut Hill due to a system malfunction.

May 2
- At 8:40 p.m., the dept. responded to a medical alarm at Chestnut Hill due to a system malfunction.

May 3
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May 5
- At 8:40 p.m., the dept. responded to a medical alarm at Chestnut Hill due to a system malfunction.

May 6
- At 8:40 p.m., the dept. responded to a medical alarm at Chestnut Hill due to a system malfunction.

May 7
- At 8:40 p.m., the dept. responded to a medical alarm at Chestnut Hill due to a system malfunction.

May 8
- At 8:40 p.m., the dept. responded to a medical alarm at Chestnut Hill due to a system malfunction.

May 9
- At 8:40 p.m., the dept. responded to a medical alarm at Chestnut Hill due to a system malfunction.

May 10
- At 8:40 p.m., the dept. responded to a medical alarm at Chestnut Hill due to a system malfunction.

May 11
- At 8:40 p.m., the dept. responded to a medical alarm at Chestnut Hill due to a system malfunction.

May 12
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May 13
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May 14
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May 28
- At 8:40 p.m., the dept. responded to a medical alarm at Chestnut Hill due to a system malfunction.

INVESTING continued from page 17

Everyone will benefit in the end. Lynn Kimball has 40 years of real estate experience, with 29 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. Mead-
HOME with amenities completely updated including W/D. $700/mth. Call 407-489-1568 or 706-746-6396. (st. 4/17)

3/3 OLDER FURNISHED HOME NEAR BASCOM available 6 months to a year. $1,000 plus utilities. 828-526-5558. (4/17)

2BD/2BA FURNISHED DOWNSTAIRS UNIT in town available in May for year-round rental. $900/ MO + utilities. Leave a message at 828-526-5622. (st. 4/17)

2BR/2BA VACATION RENTAL CABIN - Designer-furnished with upscale linens, tableware, Calphalon, Central H/A. Large Deck. Screened-in porch, and fireplace. Just off Atlanta Road on Turtle Pond 10 minutes to Main Street. Available monthly. $1,500. Call 615-243-2006. (5/1)

CASHIERS/SAPPHIRE - Furnished Split level 3 Bed/3 Bath home. Year round Mountain Views. Yearly lease 1,850 per month. Will consider renting 2 Bed/2 Bath level for $1,250. (561)-346-5298. (st. 4/17)

COMMERCIAL FOR RENT TWO SMALL OFFICE SPACES, NEAR BASCOM. $425 and $525 includes electric. 828-526-5558. (4/17)

TWO SPACES FOR RENT on very busy US64 east in Highlands. Call 526-4889. (st. 3/27)

COMMERCIAL FOR RENT. Great location on Carolina Way between 64E and 5th St across from Bank of America. ±1480 sqft. Office or retail. $1500/month. Call Tom Clark (404)210-7979 or (828)526-4646(st. 9/19)

RESIDENTIAL FOR SALE HIGH RIDGE PROPERTYFacing Scaly Mountain on Buck Knob Road. Will divide into two parcels, 6 or 7 acres each. Email for directions and details. Mknowles38@msn.com. (5/29)

MUST SELL 6+ acres at Lake Glenville. Lake and mountain views. $130,000 or Best Offer. Call 706-348-3208. (st. 2/20)

WANTED TO RENT SINGLE OLDER WOMAN (immaculate housekeeper, nonsmoker, no pets) with great local references, seeks affordable seasonal rental in Highlands, July through September. Must be on one level, with few stairs. Call 321-253-3818 or email: StuartMalcolmFerguson@gmail.com

ITEMS FOR SALE SMALL COLEMAN GENERATOR 2250W, $150 or OBO. 526-4067 (st. 4/10)

3-IN-1, 21-INCH, SELF-PROPELLED TROYBILT LAWNMOWER, $150. or OBO. 526-4067. (st. 4/10)

BX2230 DIESEL KUBOTA - Includes 60” mower deck & Kubota LA211F1 Front loader. Excellent condition, professionally serviced. Located in Scaly Mountain, NC. Local delivery available. $8,500. Call 828-526-0502. Richard Lawrence. (st. 4/3)

WORMY CHESTNUT FOR SALE: Approximately 300 square feet of ¾” wormy chestnut wainscot milled and finished. Board length = 36”; width varies from 4” to 8”. $2800 lot price. 404-944-0952. (st. 3/20)

48-INCH LONG LIGHTED JEWELRY CASE. Good looking. $275 OBO. Call 526-4067. (st. 3/20)

2002 EXPLORER, Leather interior. All power: Sun roof, 4x4. New tires, exhaust and battery. Excellent. $6,495. 828-743-0952. (st. 2/27)

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