Fracking discussed at August meetings

By Brittany Burns and Kim Lewicki

When the conversation about hydraulic fracturing was first started in North Carolina, experts identified portions of the Piedmont as hot spots for the practice. But not long after the state legislation lifted the moratorium on the experimental search for natural gas, officials set their eyes on the mountains of western North Carolina as a potential site for exploratory fracking. Not long after WNC counties were added to the list of potential areas, opposition from local residents surfaced.

Finally, Kelsey-Hutchinson Park is a go!

The Town Board and Appearance Commission gave their official OK and if the turnout at the dedication of Kelsey-Hutchinson Park this past Saturday is any indication, the public is ready for the park to finally become a reality in all its glory.


Fun for the whole family!

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Invisible Art Williams of OEI and Landscape Architect Hank Ross. Photo by Jim Lewicki
Tuesday evening, August 19, two helicopters flew over Highlands at a low altitude. I was having dinner, and while I heard them for a brief moment, I did not see them.

A few minutes later, I took a call on my cell phone from a resident who was asking about the flyover, and what I planned to do about it as mayor. My response to the resident was that I thought of it as an infrequent and isolated incident that required no action on my part. That was not a satisfactory response in the caller's estimation. I was informed that it was my duty as mayor to find out what happened, report it to the public, and then contact authorities, including the governor, to let them know this flyover was unacceptable.

I responded that if the choppers were military, I had no authority as mayor of Highlands to tell the US military where they could not fly. I went on to explain the army and air force both train in Western Carolina and occasionally a helicopter or C-130 will fly over the town, but I had not heard one in a while. The next day I learned these choppers were in fact military.

My position is that we will have training flights from time to time pass over our tranquil town. But, I know of no town in America that has the right to impose a no fly zone for military aircraft. If these flights became chronic on a daily or weekly basis, as mayor I would voice my concern about how constant flights and noise hurt our hospitality efforts.

On the other hand, I am a proud US Army veteran who appreciates what our military men and women do for our country. The helicopter crews could have been training for deployment overseas. The crewmen may already be veterans of the conflicts in the Middle East. With that said, if these servicemen need to train in our region and may inconvenience us for a minute or so, I think we should understand. Those chopper crews could be in harm's way overseas at any moment.

By the way, we live in an area designated as a Military Special Operations Area called Snowbird. The US military has trained here for decades. They have standing federal authorization to conduct training exercises in Western Carolina.

As for this incident, the helicopters were from the Georgia National Guard. They were working with the Rabun County Georgia Sheriff's Department in a drug interdiction sweep. They were probably doing a low flying sweep over northern Rabun County and made a turn around maneuver that took them over Highlands.

My father-in-law, retired air force colonel Buck Trott, told me that for pilots flying over mountains covered with vegetation it could be difficult to see a small village like Highlands until they were directly over it. Buck said he would be happy to talk with anyone about this issue, since he used to conduct training missions over this area.

God bless members of our military and keep them safe, whether they be in combat on distant shores or training over our beautiful land.


dear Editor,

referring to the letter in last week's edition about telephone directories, I don't know where Mrs. Nelson lives, but I, personally have a very nice telephone book provided by Frontier, with 66 pages of residential names and phone numbers in addition to the business listings Mrs. Nelson mentions.

Maybe she should try calling her carrier at 800-888-8448 to order a copy of this phone book before slamming them in her letter.

And, by the way, I am not even a Frontier customer but enjoy their book since my cable company does not provide one.

Ann Anderson Urbanski
Highlands

P.S. To order a phone directory, call Frontier Communications at 1-800-888-8448.

Fracking isn't OK

Dear Editor,

In answer to Mr. Drummond's letter in the Aug. 14 edition, I would like to make a few observations.

He says the people opposing fracking are using scare tactics. The facts are frightening enough. I do not know of any organization who are opposing fracking, as he says. I do know the oil and gas companies are proposing it.

He also states that fracking has been going on for years and why all the opposition now. The answer to that is simple— it has just been passed by the General Assembly of North Carolina. He also states that the opposition is because of environmental (green energy) proponents. This is a patently false statement. The opposition is because of the proven dangers to the health and welfare of the people of North Carolina.

Two professors, Robert Jackson and Avner Vengosh, of Duke University, did a study in Pennsylvania and New York State where fracking was being done. In 2011 they tested the water in private wells and found the water was contaminated with high levels of methane. The oil and gas companies denied their results so they did the tests again in 2013 with the same results. They found a river contaminated with radioactive material coming from the discharge from drilling. They also state that North Carolina would be more dangerous because the shale layers are closer to the water table.

The State is to begin testing for carbohydrates in Western North Carolina in the near future. Senator Davis said on television that there would be no drilling in Western North Carolina, only in Central and Eastern areas. Does this mean that it is alright to poison people there, just not in his district. So far as I know, Davis contacted no one in his district before co-sponsoring the fracking bill. It was done with no discussion and allowing no amendments. It is also against the law to publicize any material they use in the fracking process. In the lawsuit in Pennsylvania it was proven that they had used cancer causing materials.

Mr. Drummond said that accidents happen. The time to stop this practice is now, before the accidents happen.

Clayton Ramsey
Franklin
Dear Editor,

What if you’re a police officer in the heartland of America and have a clean and sterling record for fairness and objectivity. And what if circumstances beyond your control force you into a confrontation with a young black man large enough to play linebacker for NFL? And what if this 270 lb. six-foot four black man with a history of violence fits the description of a strong armed robbery suspect that has just occurred? Would you take action?

Would you, as a police officer, be required under the law to take action?

And what if, during the course of your action, the black man overpowers you and hits you so hard, it breaks your eye socket, blurring your vision. What would you do? And what if this very strong young man continues to hit you so hard, you are in fear of your life. Would you pull your firearm and shoot him in order to save your life and make him stop hitting you?

And what if, in defense of your life, you kill the black man and the President of the United States and the Attorney General of the United States, both black men and the most powerful men in our country, come out against you, condemning you for your actions and call for justice and your arrest. What would you do? Where would you run? Where would you hide?

And what if the governor of your state where you enforce the law joins with the President, the Attorney General, several black organizations and most all of the main stream media in calling for your arrest, what would you do? Where does a police officer run to when such awesome powers are against him?

Is this what America has become? Are we now a racist nation? Is this what happens to lowly police officers trying to enforce the law and keep Americans safe from criminals? Have we forgotten that police officers are our last line of defense between us and the criminals? And finally, what if the officer had killed a white man? Would there be such fury?

I think I’m going to be sick!

Fred Wooldridge
Highlands, NC
Retired Miami Beach Police Major

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...K-H PARK continued from page 3

time around the park to access chess and checker tables, picnic tables, and seating areas. The park will be landscaped – with the help of the Audubon Society and a garden club – with hardy native plants and trees as well as heirloom apple trees made famous in Highlands by Kelsey.

Architect Paul Schmitt answered questions about the two buildings and concerns about the load on the stormwater infrastructure below the park.

Only one western corner of the main pavilion – to be set toward the back and center of the park – will sit on a part of the stormwater infrastructure whose load-bearing capacity is 2,000 pounds per sq ft. Schmitt said that corner load is only 1,000 pounds per sq ft., so there won’t be any chance of damage. If the town ever needs to get to that specific portion of the stormwater infrastructure, that part of the pavilion would be compromised.

All other elements in the park sitting over

• See K-H PARK page 26
Holy Guano, Batman, where’s all the ammo?
Surviving Armageddon

Americans are wadding their shorts about their personal survival. I say, “Relax, you're not going to make it anyway.” It only takes another survivor with one bullet who pulls the trigger first. The skit I watched about Armageddon was outrageous. They tossed in some theatrics when the family stopped to give aid to an injured person who later came to their rescue when it was needed most. That's Hollywood theatrics at its best. When faced with certain death, it's everyone for himself. Shoot your neighbor before he shoots you!

An example of this Armageddon thingy was vividly pointed out to me when the li’l missus and I walked into a Gander Mountain Emporium just before coming to Highlands. We wanted to grab a bite to eat and buy some .223 mm steel jacketed bullets for my illegal fully automatic M16 Armageddon assault rifle. The salesman came to their rescue when it was needed most. That's Hollywood theatrics at its best. When faced with certain death, it's everyone for himself. Shoot your neighbor before he shoots you!

After watching this stupid, stupid program on the History channel about an average American family trying to exist after surviving the final “good over evil” battle, I came to realize something. The li’l missus and I aren’t going to make it! And that’s not a bad thing, especially if you believe there’s life after death as we do.

But for reasons I don’t fully understand, thousands upon thousands of Americans are wadding their shorts about their personal survival. I say, “Relax, you're not going to make it anyway.” It only takes another survivor with one bullet who pulls the trigger first. The skit I watched about Armageddon was outrageous. They tossed in some theatrics when the family stopped to give aid to an injured person who later came to their rescue when it was needed most. That's Hollywood theatrics at its best. When faced with certain death, it's everyone for himself. Shoot your neighbor before he shoots you!

A are you preparing for Armageddon? Exactly what is your grand plan for keeping yourself and your family alive when chaos reigns and there is no order? Are you keeping your powder dry? And what’s your plan for obtaining water for your family when there is no water because it’s all polluted? And finally, how many firearms do you own and do you have ample ammunition? The answer to all these questions is, of course, it doesn’t matter. We’re all toast!

The Center for Life Enrichment
The Curious Mind Knows No Bounds
Upcoming Classes and Events:
Faces and Places of Highlands Thur., Aug. 28 5:30-6:30 Come, sit and hear the stories of Highlands from native residents. Program is in conjunction with The Bascom exhibit Faces and Places: Cashiers and Highlands Cost $10
The $1000 Genome: What Does it Mean for You? Thur., Sept. 4 10-12 This talk will cover recent advances in genetic technology and how they are being used. Presenter Bob Ivarie is professor of genetics at UGA.
China’s Soong Sisters: One Loved Money, One Loved Power and One Loved Her Country Sat., Sept. 6 10-12 Educated in Georgia, the Soong Sisters and their husbands were China’s most significant political figures of the early 20th century. Historian Rick Hutto will share stories about their fascinating lives.
Making a Winter Terrarium: Recreating Your Mountain Environment Mon. Sept. 8 1-3 Don’t miss the chance to take a piece of Highlands home with you for the winter. All supplies and plants will be provided, but feel free to bring small leafed specimens from your woods. Presenter Penny Mawyer Cost $50/$65
FREE Presentation Mon. Sept. 8 5:30-7:00 Presenters Barrett Hawks & Jim Groton will be discussing ways to improve business and personal relationships through conflict management and encouraging cooperative behavior.
Cooking At Home with Ease Mon. Sept. 15 10:30-1:30 Don’t miss the chance to dine in one of Highland’s kitchens with local favorite Holly Roberts. Holly will be sharing simple, delicious recipes that you can fix at home. Cost $40/$50

All lectures are $25members/$35 non-members unless otherwise noted
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With towns and counties such as Swain, Sylva, and Franklin passing resolutions against fracking and Highlands crafting a letter outlining concerns, residents filled the Macon County courthouse during August’s commission meeting to bring the conversation to the county level.

By definition, fracking is the process of extracting natural gas from shale rock layers deep within the earth. Fracking makes it possible to extract natural gas from shale in areas once unreachable with conventional technologies. Both horizontal and vertical drills are sent thousands of feet below the surface to hunt for such deposits.

North Carolina Senator Jim Davis was a co-sponsor of the bill that paved the way for fracking in the state, but says the practice will not reach western North Carolina. “I think it is highly unlikely that fracking will occur in this part of the state,” Davis said recently.

Despite assurances from the Senator, on Monday, Aug 12, the Macon County Commission heard from more than a dozen citizens pleading for the local board to take a stance against the practice.

“Fracking is a dangerous activity,” John Gladden said. “You combine explosive gas, toxic chemicals, and heavy equipment — that’s by definition a hazardous activity.”

Gladden was followed by residents concerned about the hazardous nature of the practice, and the uncertainty of having their property rights infringed upon.

“What’s scary to me as a homeowner is if you don’t own the mineral rights on your property, then the fracking industry can come in and access your property,” said Larry Stenger.

Although there were more than a dozen opponents willing to speak out against the practice, some residents encouraged the commission to support the state’s decision.

“The industry is heavily regulated with strict precautions,” Sonya Thompson said. “Shale gas will give us more jobs and more affordable energy.”

Don Swanson also discussed the perceived economic benefit and possible job creation fracking could bring to the area. According to Swanson, instead of placing the economic future of the county in a recreation complex and ball fields, commissioners should consider fracking.

Some citizens argued that although the moratorium on the practice was just lifted in the state, the practice of fracking wells in North Carolina has occurred for years and is in fact feasible.

“It’s apparent that many people do not know that we’ve had fracking in North Carolina and in Macon County for many years with no problem,” said Gail Chapman. “We already frack the wells, it is good for employment, the economy, and I’m in favor.”

The decision to allow fracking throughout the state was a state decision, and leaves no room for local government input, which is something Commissioner Ronnie Beale said was the most alarming fact about the law.

“Something only a few people talked about tonight is the fact that the way the law is written, local governments have no say whatsoever,” said Commissioner Beale. “As far as I know, this is the only time in history something like that has happened. That is something we need to be concerned about.”

At the Aug 21 Highlands Town Board meeting, Mayor Pat Taylor presented his letter to the N.C. Energy and Mining Commission which outlines concerns about the proposed permitting of fracking operations in Western N.C.

“Towns and counties won’t be able to stop fracking, but I want to make sure there are rules

**See FRACKING page 9**
in place to protect the interest of municipalities’ water supplies and protect them from contamination,” he said.

Taylor said Highlands has a strong tourist and resort economy. To serve its residents and visitors, the town has invested in a substantial public water system which depends on surface water from streams in the immediate area to supply the system.

“These sources originate well beyond the corporate limits of our town. Our Town Board, business leaders and residents are all very concerned that an accident where fracking waste water enters our water supply would have detrimental impact on the economy, as well as the health of our citizens,” he said.

The legislation calls for companies that contaminate water sources to pay for damages and reclamation efforts, but Taylor said if a town suffers a contamination breach to its water system, the costs would be immeasurable and possibly irretrievable.

“In addition, there would be a lingering stigma of a compromised water system for years to come. For a community with a strong hospitality and tourist economy, the effects would be disastrous,” he said. “For instance, in a municipality that has had long standing residential zones, drilling operations would not be appropriate in these areas. On the other hand, industrial zones with adequate space and setbacks may be acceptable drilling areas.

Taylor said he knows North Carolina adheres to Dillon’s Rules which prevent a municipality from adopting an ordinance that negates State Statue law.

“However, Highlands has had comprehensive zoning guided by a comprehensive land use plan for 40 years. Our citizens and businesses have invested in property based on our plan that permits specific uses in clearly designated zones. I urge the adoption of regulations that will recognize municipal development zones that are grounded in years of established land use policy,” he said.

Furthermore, he said municipalities should be informed of any fracking plans.

“Finally, communication with municipalities will be essential as this legislation is implemented,” he said. “I urge your commission to develop procedures that will keep local governments informed of any planned drilling operations within their corporate limits or near critical water resources,” he wrote.

Commissioner Amy Patterson agreed saying Highlands needs to be informed even if fracking exploration or mining is planned outside the town limits.

“We need to know if it is happening within our drinking water watershed because most of that isn't in the town,” she said.
Senator Davis said that even though he doesn’t believe the practice will reach the mountains, he is certain that a lot of the opposition across the state comes from people not being informed on the matter, which is why he is holding a public information session on September 2 at the Franklin High School Fine Arts Center.

“We are going to have a panel of experts and people will have the opportunity to ask questions,” said Davis. “The first 40 minutes of the meeting will be a presentation on what fracking is, because I think people who are most concerned about it are not informed about what it actually is.”

Commissioner Paul Higdon spoke out in favor of fracking during the commissioner’s meeting but shared the same sentiment as Davis regarding the public being as informed and educated on the matter as possible.

Commissioners took no action during the meeting but encouraged residents to attend the September 12 meeting of The Mining and Energy Commission scheduled for 5 p.m. at WCU Bardo Arts Center to express their concerns or support in front of the state board in charge of the practice.

... PROJEC TS from 1
pany has never done work like this before and doesn’t have a lot of experience in this particular area, the town needs to keep an eye on the job and make sure it is done correctly.

“It’s not our money but we have to be sure this is done correctly,” she said.

The numerous circular culverts under each crossing will be replaced with one large square culvert each.

New Intake Project
Mike Waresak from McGill and Associates discussed the timeline for the Lake Sequoyah Project.

Bids will be opened Sept. 4 and awarded at the September Town Board meeting. The lake will be drained starting early October and continue through Feb. 2015 and intake and dam work will coincide with the draining. Waresak said weather may affect the draining and construction schedule.

The raw water main line, which will require one lane of US 64 west to be closed, will be laid Dec. 2014-Feb. 2015.

The lake will be refilled by Feb. 2015 and intake and dam work will coincide with the draining. Waresak said weather may affect the draining and construction schedule.

New Ball Park Facility
Jeff Weller of Summit Architects presented a plan to build a new ball park pavilion with bathrooms, a concession stand, dugouts and seating areas.

Since it wasn’t included in the 2014-’15 budget, Town Manager Bob Frye suggested bidding out the project to see how much it would cost in case there are offsetting funds from the Founders Park Coalition.

Cell Tower Expansion
Commissioners voted unanimously to extend the 80-ft. Big Bearpen Tower on town property at the water tank by 20

• See PROJECTS page 24
**Mondays**  
- Shortoff Baptist Church hosts a non-denominational Men’s Meeting the first Monday night of each month at 7 pm and all men are invited to attend.

**Tuesdays**  
- Free Community Table Dinner at the Community Bldg. at 6p.
- Aerobics at the Rec Park with Tina Rogers 5:15. $5.
- Aerobics with Tina Rogers 8-9a.
- Zumba at the Rec Park at 9:05a. $5.

**1st Wednesdays**  
- Family Movies at the Hudson Library at 3:30pm. Call 828-526-3031 for titles.

**2nd Wednesdays**  
- General Audience Movies at Hudson Library at 2pm. Call 828-526-3031 for titles.

**Thursdays beg. Sept. 4**  
- Storytimes with Miss Carol at Hudson Library 10:40am. Open to the public.

**Thursdays**  
- Highlands Writer’s Group meets every Thursday from 1-3:30 pm at Hudson Library. Writers of all genres welcome. For info call 526-8009 or 526-2295.  
- Weight Watchers support group meets every Thursday at 6pm at the Cashiers Community Center. Questions? Call Lisa 828-506-3555 Last Fri. of each month.
- Free wine tastings from 5-7p at MountainTop Wine Shoppe.

**2nd Thursdays**  
- Sapphire Valley Needlepoint Guild meets at the Highlands Rec Park at 10 a.m. Newcomers welcomed.
- Hal Phillips on the piano at Skyline Lodge during dinner and Sunday brunch.

**Fri. & Sat.**  
- The Historical Society Museum is open.

**Thursdays**  
- The Farmers Market, 9a-1p in K-H Park. Organic vegetables, eggs, honey, cheeses, home-made food and hand-made items. For information call 482-0555 Maxine Davidoff.
- Cashiers Local Farmers tailgate market through October at the Anglican Church Parking Lot Hwy 64 E next to Macon Bank.

**Thurs., Aug. 28**  
- At Shakespeare & Co. at 3pm an informal discussion on T.W. Reynolds and his book “High Lands: Stories of the Carolina Mountains” which was published 50 years ago this summer. Free and open to the public. Donations will go to the Highlands Historical Society.
- At the Hudson Library, author presentation of “Cherokee Little People Were Real” at 4 p.m.

**Fri., Aug. 29**  
- Community Coffee with Mayor Pat Taylor at the Hudson Library in the Meeting Room 11a to noon. Mayor Patrick Taylor and Chief Bill Harrell will discuss the Highlands Police Department. Refreshments provided.
- Bubbles & Big Band at the Highlands Playhouse at 7 p.m. Champagne and all you can eat Low Country Boil. Concert begins at 8 p.m. featuring Asheville Jazz Orchestra. Tickets are $85 per person and includes dinner and a cash bar. For tickets to the H-C Hospital Foundation fundraiser call 828-526-2695.
- The High Mountain Squares will host their “Black and White Dance,” Friday night at the Macon County Community Building, GA Road (441 South), Franklin NC from 6:30 to 9 PM. Ace McGee from Anderson, SC will be the caller. Mike McDonald and Debbie McClain from Clayton GA will cue rounds and lines. We dance Western Style Square Dancing, main/stream and plus levels.

**Sat. & Sun., Aug. 30 & 31**  
- Cashiers Arts & Crafts Fair on the Village Green. 10a to 5p both days. A donation of $3-$5 per adult is encouraged. Sponsored by the Cashier Rotary.

**Sat., Aug. 30**  
- At Highlands Playhouse, Randall Atcheson in concert for the Highlands Literacy Council. Champagne reception, 3-4p and concert from 4-6p. General Admission $50. Call the playhouse for tickets at 828-526-9047.
526-2695. Free shuttle service from the rear of the Highlands Rec Park and from the Community Center by the ball park.

- Saturdays in Pine Street Park, live music from 6-8 p.m. Featuring Andrew Scotchie and The River Rats.
- Mon., Sept. 1
  - Live Birds of Prey at Cliffside Lake at 11 a.m., $4 per vehicle. No pets. Arrive 15 minutes prior to show. No pets.
- Thurs., Sept. 4
  - Macon County Public Health presents “The Bedroom Project” 10a and 6:30p at the First Presbyterian Church in Franklin’s Tartan Hall. Adults only, must be 18 or older. Call 349-2426.
  - At ...on the Verandah, Well Strung in the lounge.
- The Highlands Male Chorus will perform at 7 p.m. at the Performing Arts Center. The chorus will perform songs from The Music Man, Man of LaMancha and Oklahoma. It will also take the audience back to the 50s and 60s with a variety of songs. Advance tickets are $15. Call PAC at 828-526-9047. They are also available at the door.

- Sat., Sept. 6
  - This beginner’s bird walk will explore Turtle Pond Road in Highlands. Meet in the parking lot behind the Highlands Town Hall near the public restrooms off Highway 64 at 7:30 am to carpool. The Franklin Bird Club will be joining HPAS and will meet at Bi-Lo parking area at 7:30 am to carpool from Franklin. Binoculars will be available. For more information, visit www.highlandsaudubonsociety.org.
  - Highlands Nature Center is looking for children ages 9 to 14 to participate in a student volunteer docent program on some Saturdays during the fall season. Students will learn about regional plants and wildlife and the Nature Center’s related exhibits, and to communicate this information to visitors as a museum interpretive guide. Interested students (with parent) should come to the Nature Center for an orientation meeting 1–3 pm for further details. To enroll, call Patrick Brannon at 828-526-2623.

- Sun.-Wed., Sept 7-10
  - Shortoff Baptist Church Community Crusade/Revival 7PM each night. Everyone is welcome, so come out to Shortoff Baptist Church at the intersection of High-
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...FREDSTER from page 7

laughed and said, “.223s arrive on Tuesdays. We receive a full pallet which we sit it in the middle of the store and it’s all gone by mid-morning. Come before eight and wait your turn.”

Here’s my take on Armageddon. The back-woods mountain Highlanders will survive the longest. Policemen will band together with their families to shoot and raid those less organized but will leave the back woods people alone because they have little to offer and don’t cotton to people shooting at them. Uppity transplanted country club Highlanders will go first as they are easy pickin’ and are among the most vulnerable. Bands of Atlanta’s youth will arrive to kill and steal from the rich mountain folks. Those who are able to hide will die of thirst several days later.

So when complete chaos finally reigns, drop by the house and take whatever you want ‘cause we won’t be there. I’ve managed to survive on this planet for three quarters of a century, 28 of those as a police officer, and have never killed another human being. I’m very proud of that. I’m certainly not going to start at the end of life.

NOTE: Fred will be moving to Mars when the shootin’ starts so read his book I’m Moving Back to Mars. Stop by the house and
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Matelasse Coverlets and Bedspreads
and much more!

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www.artglasscreationsllc.com

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Come Visit
Peak Experience for the Largest Selection of Decorative and Functional Pottery in the Area.
Handmade in America by Local, Regional and National Artists.

Storwide SALE!
Shop Highlands this Labor Day Weekend

Cabin Couture
Open Daily • 10a to 5p
Home Decor, Art & Antiques, too
Come Celebrate with us this Weekend!
20% Off Storewide
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468 Carolina Way

Big Labor Day Shoe Sale!

C. Orrico
343A Main Street, Highlands, NC 28741
828-526-9122 • www.orrico.com

Fall Sale Underway!
BAGS on MAIN
Next to The Toy Store
Main Street • 828-526-9415

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Fall Sale Underway!
BAGS on MAIN
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Lulu Bleu
Now bigger with even more to love!
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The Spice & Tea Exchange
Paracris of Fine Spices, Herbs, Blends, Salts, Tea
Come in and Smell the Spices!
We combine traditional and exotic gourmet spices, cooking herbs and seasonings from around the globe to make our 75+
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Also, a wide variety of loose leaf teas!
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AT CAROLINA WAY
• Pottery
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• Lighting
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442 Carolina Way

Martha Ann’s...on the hill
S. 4th Street
526-4473
Shop Highlands this Labor Day Weekend

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Introducing...

MIA & MOSS

Jeans

Gray

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Blue

All Styles

$129!

326 Main St.

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Now bigger with even more to love!

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Order online at [www.facebook.com/LuluBleuNC](http://www.facebook.com/LuluBleuNC)

326 Main St.

828-482-4375

**AnnaWear**

Summer Sale

Fall Merchandise Arriving Daily!

- Free People: 10% to 50% OFF!
- $19 Sandal Sale!
- Jeans $20 OFF!
- Joes
- 7 for all mankind
- Citizens, AG, Hudson

Also available: Michael Stars Tees, Wild Fox, CP Shades...and more!

338 Main St.

526-4777

**Sidelines**

College Color Day is Fri., Aug. 29

Wear Your Colors!

Visit SIDELINES (in The Hen House) for all your College Colors Apparel and Accessories!

Gameday Apparel and Accessories

Now Inside The Hen House

Find us on Facebook: Hen House/Sidelines

355 Main Street

(in The Galax Theatre)

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**Cabin Casuals**

20%-50% OFF STOREWIDE SALE!

Comfortable and casual resort wear!

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Fabulous Fall has arrived

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A Highlands tradition since 1940

Our 73rd season on Main Street

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828-526-3160
• Real Estate Snapshots •

Historic Satulah Mountain residence with panoramic mountain views. 4 br, 3 baths, 2 car garage. Needs TLC or build a new home! $495,000. MLS #79730

Furnished 2br/2ba condo in downtown Highlands, only two blocks to Main Street. Includes spacious screened porch and fireplace, furnished. $159,000. MLS# 78091

Beautiful 4br/4ba home in Wildcat Cliffs Country Club with granite countertops, beautiful woods, slate and tile bathroom flooring, large stone fireplace. $695,000. MLS #80111

Outstanding mountain view from the walk-to-town 3br/2.5ba home on Holt Knob. Wonderful deck and lots of glass to enjoy the sweeping views. $579,000. MLS #78446

Highlands Falls Country Club condo. 2/2 with fabulous view of the golf course! Eat-in kitchen, stone fireplace, 2 porches. $249,900. MLS# 79399.

Village Walk condo with vaulted ceilings, 2 fireplaces, granite throughout, 3br/3ba, like new. Furnished. $725,000 MLS#80289

Walk to town cottage with 2/2, fully furnished, cute and cozy $259,000 MLS# 80142

4br/4ba, in town with great view, curb appeal, privacy, superb outdoor entertaining and convenient, close-to-town access $1,795,000 MLS#80201

3/3 Old Highlands Park. In town luxury first floor condo with private garden and two fireplaces at Harris Lake. $839,900 MLS# 77670

3/3 VillageWalk in town luxury upper level condo with luxury finishes and vaulted ceiling. $797,000 MLS# 79900

Village Walk condo with vaulted ceilings, 2 fireplaces, granite throughout, 3br/3ba, like new. Furnished. $725,000 MLS#80289

4/4 in Highlands Gap offering serenity, natural beauty, long range mtn views and 2 car garage. $897,000 MLS# 79031

Mirror Lake like new cottage with 3br/3ba, some mtn views, mtn details, granite counters, wood floors. $325,000 MLS#75048

41 Church Street & 2334 Cashiers Road • Highlands NC 28741
(828) 526-1717 • 526-4101
www.MeadowsMtnRealty.com
Highlands Cowee Ridge gated S/D - 4 BR/4 BA & private. Only $597,000. Mountain views. Open floor plan, vaulted ceiling. Hardwood floors. HOA only $850/yr!

Highlands Cowee Ridge gated S/D - 4 BR/4 BA & private. Only $597,000. Mountain views. Open floor plan, vaulted ceiling. Hardwood floors. HOA only $850/yr!

High End Cottage in Gorgeous Setting

High-end, renovated cottage. Vaulted ceiling, fireplace, two decks, updated kitchen, fenced yard, garden space, bonus room, 2-car garage, and paved access. Gorgeous lot. This 3BR/3BA property offers privacy and quiet. Neighborhood amenities include tennis court, paddock and barn, and private community lake.

Incredible value at $369,000. MLS #79873. Contact Susie deVille at (828) 371-2079.

Price Reduction in Highlands Mtn. Club

Minutes to downtown Highlands. This is a lovely 2 bedroom, 2 bath end unit with a wooded view. This unit has been updated with tile, wood, carpet flooring, & granite counter tops. There is a stone fireplace with gas logs, large storage closet and screened-in porch. Amenities include clubhouse, pool & tennis.

Offered at $195,000, MLS #76224. Contact Sheryl Wilson at (828) 337-0706.

Best Walk-to-Town Property – Reduced!

This 2BR/2BA cottage is in one of Highlands’ most desired neighborhoods. Hardwood and tile flooring, stone fireplace, single garage, wrap-around decking, and generator. Professional landscaping highlights the gorgeous pond, waterfall and stream; covered porch and gazebo. Easy walk to The Bascom or to town. Terrific rental history and offered furnished.

Price reduced to $499,900. MLS #79195. Contact Susie deVille at (828) 371-2079.

Known as Rosebay Cottage, this cottage is replete with commanding classic granite fireplace, original pine paneling and oak floors that would give any business endeavor instant cache. Great road visibility on Highway 64 East (Cashiers Rd). Plans for possible expansion on file.

Offered at $145,000, MLS #80141. Contact Sheryl Wilson at (828) 337-0706.

One level, end unit, 2 BR/2 BA. This unit has hardwood floors, tile, updated kitchen, fireplace, laundry closet, and spacious screened porch. This single level unit is in a great location in Highlands Mountain Club.

Offered at $135,000, MLS #80694. Contact Sheryl Wilson at (828) 337-0706.

Highlands Cowee Ridge gated S/D - 4 BR/4 BA & private. Only $597,000. Mountain views. Open floor plan, vaulted ceiling. Hardwood floors. HOA only $850/yr!

5 Acres!

Blue Valley NC/GA line. Private 2/1 Farmhouse on 5+ acres, large unfinished basement, barns and creek. $249,000.

6 Rentals!

N. 4th St./Hwy 64 E, Highlands. 6 rental units on 1.49 ac w/Highlands Falls CC course & pond views. $985,000. Only $196,000!

**See INVESTING page 21**
A hidden gem! Once you step inside, you will forget you are near the highway. No road noise. Beautiful views with low maintenance landscaping. 4BD/2.5 BA, 2 kitchens, 2 fireplaces, a 2-car garage, and a covered porch. Minutes from town, but nestled in the woods. MLS# 80029 Offered at $599,000. Owner is motivated.

Just listed at HCC. Lovely 4BD/4BA home on almost an acre. Near golf course, with private buffer lot. Furnishings are negotiable. Great grounds as well as access by canoe to Lake Sequoyah. Priced well under the tax appraised value, and offered at $585,000. mls #78368

Highlands Falls Country Club. 5BD/3BA. Living room/dining room and kitchen and laundry. Family room and partial kitchen below. Beautiful lake and mountain view. Offered at $297,000. mls #78947

On Moon Mountain this 3BD/3BA home has a screened porch with view. Completely furnished. Offered at $389,000. mls #78606

Darling 2BD/2BA log cabin on a large private lot on Blackberry Lane. Move in condition. Loft, workshop. Glassed in porch overlooks private wooded area. Room for a workshop downstairs. Offered mostly furnished at $410,000. mls #76607

Wildwood Charmer. Very cute 2BD/2BA mountain cottage. Large living room with fireplace, kitchen opens to dining room with airy den. Huge deck. 2 car garage. Offered at $299,000. mls #77235

Large rooms, open plan, great deck, 2 fireplaces and walk to the lake! Main floor 2BD/2BA, lower level family room with fireplace, 1BD/1BA and large workshop. Offered at $399,900. MLS#69909

Whiteside Mountain View. Charming cabin is comfortable and functional with 4BD/3BA. Woodburning fireplace. Walls of glass. Offered at $885,000. mls #78695

Recently reconstructed mountain cabin with separate guest house (1/1) just across the stream. Secluded location on Hicks Rd. near Flat Mountain Rd. Indoor and outdoor stone fireplaces, stainless steel appliances. Stream flows through property. Offered at $559,000. mls #76809

The very best unit in Highlands Manor. 3BD/2BA. Totally upgraded with cathedral ceilings. Easy walk to downtown. Offered at $375,000. mls #79215

Wonderful starter home. 3BD/2BA open floor plan w/fireplace in the living room. Wood floors in main area that opens onto large covered porch with great mountain views. Southern exposure. Furnishings are negotiable. Offered at $419,000. mls #77660

Highlands Country Club - Breath-taking long-range views atop Sassafras Knob on quiet cul-de-sac. 4BD/4.5BA, stone fireplace, hardwood floors, vaulted ceilings, wet bar, huge deck, dining porch, 2-car garage, poured concrete foundation, loads of storage, and easy care landscaping. Furnishings negotiable. Offered at $1,150,000. MLS# 74694.

Highlands Country Club - Breath-taking long-range views atop Sassafras Knob on quiet cul-de-sac. 4BD/4.5BA, stone fireplace, hardwood floors, vaulted ceilings, wet bar, huge deck, dining porch, 2-car garage, poured concrete foundation, loads of storage, and easy care landscaping. Furnishings negotiable. Offered at $1,150,000. MLS# 74694.
Today the trend has changed and the reason (and my assumption) is the age bracket of our buyers and a slowing economy. Baby boomers have “been there and done that,” as the old saying goes.

They have, and many still do, belonged to the best clubs in the southeast where their primary home is and now with health issues of bad knees, backs, and hips they no longer choose or are able to swing a club. Hence, the memberships are down in most clubs. Incentives are now made to entice younger members making them affordable. If you want to belong to a club it is a GREAT time to join.

What are buyers looking for these days in Highlands? A walk-to-town location with a house or condo that doesn’t need a lot of work. For the most part, we don’t have it in our current market.

Town Place is the latest development and offers gorgeous townhomes with all the bells and whistles and a walk-to-town location. Several homes have been bought in town due to the desirable location and have been torn down allowing a new home/cottage to be built. This is the new trend. Highlands’ downtown offers fabulous dining, great shopping, lively bars, galleries, two playhouses and a movie theatre at the Highlands Playhouse. These are now the interest of our buyers.

To some locals and other Highlanders, the purchase of the Edwards property on Harris Lake that sat in disarray for years was controversial when it was purchased to build a condominium project and other lots were sold for homes. If you drive by today beauty surrounds you, the lake is glistening, the homes are lovely, and the ducks and geese are happy!

A problem does exist with supply and demand and many sellers feel their homes in town are worth more than they are and second homebuyers are not willing to overpay and will rent instead. To have a win -win situation, sellers who have had their homes for many years and want to sell need to evaluate their goals at this stage in their lives and price to sell. If not they need to do updating to have a more saleable property in the future.

If you have a downtown location and are considering selling I will be glad to do a free marketing analysis for you and guide you with pricing, ideas on updating, and staging tips. This will allow you to make the decision to SELL or NOT. I used to live in a beautiful gated golf community and chose to move to town four years ago… I love being in town and know I made the right choice!
Falling Waters is a 52 acre community just 2.5 miles from Main St. Secluded but not remote; peaceful, quiet and private. Mature hardwoods, giant Rhodies, Mountain Laurel and a plethora of wild flowers that take turns showing off thru the seasons. Two waterfalls & several creeks add charm & interest. Paved roads, underground utilities, newer homes built after 2000, no road noise, well maintained, a great place to take a walk!

Welcome...Come Visit.

GPS Address: 78 Black Bear Trace Highlands, NC 28741
From Main St., take Hwy. 106 (The Dillard Road) 1.8 miles just past the Glen Falls sign, turn right on Mt. Laurel Dr., go 3 tenths of a mile turn left on Moonlight. The entrance is on the right.

www.highlandsnchomesites.com

Contact (onsite owner) or your broker for plats, prices & a guided tour:
828-508-9952.

Old Edwards Hospitality Group announces its newest real estate offering — six private residences on 5th Street in downtown Highlands, NC. The Cottages on 5th will be constructed by John Lupoli Builders, Inc., in the rustic-elegant style of Satulah, Old Edwards Private Residences. This site is an easy walk to all that Highlands has to offer with the Performing Arts Center and the Highlands Biological Station just around the corner plus the start of the Kelsey Trail at the end of the street.

Two available floor plans that were designed by C. Allen Brown AIA, will offer the option of one or two levels. Each plan features three bedrooms with private baths, a covered porch with a woodburning fireplace, and a one-car carport. Finishing touches include wood floors, marble or travertine baths, custom cabinetry, Kohler fixtures, granite surfaces and premium appliances. Each cottage is sited on half an acre among native trees and flora.

The community will be beautifully landscaped and maintained by Tates Landscaping, and like Satulah will be gated. Prices start at $1,097,000. Five of the six homes have been sold and construction will begin this week with completion set for the fall of 2015.

Ownership at Cottages on 5th comes with an Old Edwards Club membership, which includes:

- Access to Old Edwards Club, including the golf course, golf shop, clay tennis courts and lessons, kids golf camp, heated swimming pool, workout facilities, lounges, private member dinners, golf tournaments, member golf trips, and The Grill Room restaurant and bar
- Access to amenities at Old Edwards Inn and Spa in Highlands, including two outdoor heated mineral pools, whirlpools, pool cabanas and spa amenities
- Use of Old Edwards fitness center and classes, as well as access to personal trainers
- VIP discounts and signing privileges at all Old Edwards restaurants, retail shops, The Spa and Salon, The Club and overnight lodging
- Preferred reservations at The Spa & Salon and Madison's Restaurant

For information about Old Edwards' Cottages on 5th, contact Meadows Mountain Realty at info@meadowsmtnrealty.com or call (828) 526-1717.

On site pictured from left is Realtor Judy Michaud of Meadows Mountain Realty, OEI President and Director, Richard Delany, OEI owner Art Williams and builder John Lupoli of Lupoli Construction.

Photo by Kim Lewicki

ATTENTION INVESTORS / DEVELOPERS

1.12 acres of prime commercial property only one block off Main Street. B-3 Zoning. Corner of Oak & Maple Street. $619K. Motivated! MLS# 72189.

Contact Richard Betz
Country Club Properties
200-9279
Barney (played by Lance Trudel) has a moment of panic when Jeanette (played by Lee Lyons), the third woman the “red hot lover” invites to meet him for an affair, threatens to call her husband in HCP’s comedy, “The Last of the Red Hot Lovers.” Call 828-526-8084 for tickets.

“The Last of the Red Hot Lovers’ on stage
Thurs., Aug. 28 through Sun., Aug. 31

“Never have I had so many compliments on a play all my 20 years of directing for HCP,” says Virginia Talbot, director of the Highlands Cashiers Players production of Neil Simon’s The Last of the Red Hot Lovers. “The uproarious laughter of the audience in all the right places, their raves about the performances of the four actors in the cast, their appreciation of our set and other elements of production made all those long weeks of rehearsal entirely worthwhile.”

Those four actors are Lance Trudel, who plays Barney Cashman, the inexperienced and sometimes bungling “red hot lover;” Jennifer Royce as Elaine, a wise-cracking woman, veteran of many affairs; Adair Simon as the kooky wanna-be night club singer, and Lee Lyons, friend of the family suffering from melancholia which she describes in hilarious detail. Set in the 1960’s, Barney, a devoted husband of 23 years, hopes to have one beautiful and satisfying sexual fling during the permissive times of the decade. He arranges three liaisons with the three very different women, but each of his attempts at seduction proves funnier and more frustrating than the last.

But this is Neil Simon, considered by many critics the finest and funniest playwright of the 20th century. Underneath the awkward situations and witty dialogue is an understanding of the human foibles of his characters. This classic, very funny comedy continues Thurs. Aug. 28, through Sun. Aug. 31, at the Highlands PAC on Chestnut Street. Call 828-526-8084 for tickets.
Bluegrass returns to PAC on Saturday, September 27th at 8pm with the legendary group Seldom Scene. What does it take for a bluegrass band to remain popular for more than four decades? For the Seldom Scene, it has taken not only talented musicians, a signature sound, and a solid repertoire, but also a sheer sense of fun.

The Seldom Scene have become one of the single greatest contributors to the progression of bluegrass while setting a new standard and attracting new audiences to the genre, including bluegrass versions of country music, rock, and even classical pop.

Seldom Scene: Saturday, September 27 at 8pm. Presented by Ray & Diane McPhail

On Saturday, October 4th Broadway and More with Broadway veteran Liz Callaway. Liz Callaway is a Tony® Nominee and Emmy Award-winning actress, singer and recording artist. She made her Broadway debut in Stephen Sondheim’s Merrily We Roll Along, received a Tony Award nomination for her performance in Baby, and for five years, won acclaim as Grizabella in Cats.

Broadway & More: Liz Callaway, Saturday, October 4, 8pm. Presented by Jim & Marsha Meadows and Wade & Gerri Coleman.

Tickets for both performances are available online: highlandspace.org or by calling 828.526.9047. Highlands PAC 507 Chestnut Street Highlands.

Feet, plus a 10-foot lightning rod so Verizon Wireless can attach 12 wireless antennas to offer better coverage. This will eliminate the need for a new cell tower in the Highlands area.

Though commissioners agreed to allow the extension, they didn't agree to Verizon's terms of free rent for two years to offset their cost to extend the tower. The rent is $1,800 a month.

Commissioner Amy Patterson said she would agree to allow them to build the extension but not to free rent.

"Why should we abate rent for two years?" she asked. "If they had to erect a tower themselves they would be paying for it."

Meanwhile there were two residents from the Big Bearpen area who commandeered the meeting demanding to know why they weren't notified of Verizon's plans.

"No one on the mountain
Quotes to live by

By Steve Kerhoulas
Pastor, Christ Church of the Valley, Cashiers

For years I have written down meaningful quotes from the books I’ve read. So instead of writing an article I thought you might enjoy reading a few of my favorite quotes from some really insightful people.

Here’s one from Coach John Wooden, who won 10 NCAA championships and during one winning streak defeated 88 teams in a row. In an interview he was asked for his secret to success:

“I made up my mind in 1935 to live by a set of principles, and I never wavered from them. They are based on the Bible and the teachings of Jesus. Principles like courage, and honesty and hard work, character, and loyalty, and virtue and honor, these are what constitute a good life.”

Elisabeth Elliot, the missionary whose husband Jim, along with others, was speared to death in South America said:

“...we are made for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadmissable spiritually.”

Those who were strongest intellectually were also strongest spiritually.

The U.S. has placed special reliance upon his faith in God. President John Adams said: “…our constitution was made for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadmissible spiritually.”

Those who succeeded can fail to recognize how every President of the U.S. has placed special reliance upon his faith in God.

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And lastly something President Abraham Lincoln once said:

“I can see how it might be possible for a man to look down upon the earth and be an atheist, but I cannot conceive how he could look into the heavens and say there is no God.”

I hope you have enjoyed a few of my favorite quotes.
Highlands Police Log entries from July 20. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor or public officials have been used.

July 20
- At 9:30 p.m., William Rodger Giles, 69, of Augusta, GA, was arrested for assault on a female at a residence on Worley Road.

July 31
- At 4:52 p.m., officers responded to a one-vehicle accident in the Mountain Fresh parking lot.

Aug. 1
- At 5:30 p.m., officers responded to a report of a burglary with forced entry and vandalism at a home on Big Bearpen Road.
- At 10:21 a.m., officers provided mutual aid to EMS at the home of a person at Highlands Mountain Club.

Aug. 7
- At 6 a.m., officers responded to a call about a female, 94, who had died of natural causes at her home on Cullasaja Drive.
- At 1:25 p.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident in the post office parking lot.
- At 8:30 a.m., officers responded to a bear complaint from a resident on Chestnut Run.

Aug. 8
- At 9:45 a.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident on Spring Street.

The Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. log entries from Aug. 20

Aug. 20
- At 1:50 p.m., the dept. was called about smoke at a residence at 21 Oak Street.

Aug. 21
- At 3:21 p.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on NC 28 south.

Aug. 22
- At 8:31 p.m., the dept. was called to a residence on Oak Street to investigate smoke.
- At 9:43 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to assist EMS at a residence on Pipers Court.

Aug. 24
- At 9:40 p.m., officers received a report of shoplifting at the Farmers Market where a bottle of beer was taken.
- At 6 p.m., officers responded to a call about someone staying at a home on North Drive without permission.
- At 9:35 p.m., officers responded to a one-vehicle accident on US 64 west.

Aug. 25
- At 3:41 p.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident on US 64 west.

Aug. 26
- At 1:13 a.m., officers responded to a report of a burglar with forced entry at a residence on Blue Ridge Pines.

Aug. 27
- At 9:55 a.m., the dept. was notified of a vehicle accident on US 64 west.

Aug. 28
- At 1:41 p.m., the dept. was called to a residence on Shortoff Road.

Aug. 29
- At 9:30 a.m., officers responded to a report of a larceny at a residence on Cullasaja Drive.
- At 10:11 a.m., officers responded to a report of a burglary at a residence on South Drive.

Aug. 30
- At 1:27 p.m., the dept. was called to a residence on North Drive.

Aug. 31
- At 1:20 a.m., the dept. was called to a residence on Chestnut Run.
- At 1:21 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to assist EMS at a residence on Shortoff Road.

Aug. 16
- At 1:13 p.m., the dept. provided public assistance on US 64 east.

Cathy Temple and Murray were concerned about construction traffic on the narrow state-owned road as well as maintenance traffic and also worried about radiation produced by the additional transmitter. They also claimed the town was railroading the citizens on Big Bearpen.

Verizon Wireless representative Richard Williams said a construction vehicle would only travel the road once to carry and install the 20-ft. extension and maintenance vehicles would likely be a Jeep Cherokee once or twice a month but nothing more.

Mayor Pat Taylor said he announced the agenda item twice on the radio and in his column in Thursday's papers.

Cathy Temple and Murray were concerned about construction traffic on the narrow state-owned road as well as maintenance traffic and also worried about radiation produced by the additional transmitter. They also claimed the town was railroading the citizens on Big Bearpen.

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...PROJECTS continued from page 24

Furthermore, he said the wattage on the transmitters that will be added to the tower is so minimal it would barely register. “Your hair dryer has more wattage than this,” he said.

The extension won’t be lighted because in total, the tower is under 200 feet and so a light isn’t required by FCC law.

– Kim Lewicki