

Highlands Newspaper

FREE Every Thursday

Volume 11, Number 46

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

Thurs., Nov. 13, 2014

Through Nov. 20

• Movie at The Playhouse: St. Vincent. Showtimes, Fri., Sat., Sun., Mon. & Thurs. 2p, 5p and 8p. No movies on Tuesday and Wednesday.

Sat. Nov. 15

• At The Bascom, Giving Trees decorated by local nonprofits, Nog Off Competition and WCU exhibition: What? Draw? What We Draw.

• The Highlands Plateau Greenway monthly work day. If you are interested in participating, please email Ran Shaffner at highlandsgreenway@nctv.com or leave a message at 828-526-5622. Meet at the large upper parking lot (near the pool entrance) at 9a.

• Live in HD at the Performing Arts Center. The National Theatre of London presents Bill Nighy and Carey Mulligan in the highly-anticipated production of David Hare's Skylight captured live from the West End by National Theatre Live. 7pm. Tickets (\$18) call 828.526.9047

Sun., Nov 16

• The Highlands Cashiers Players will hold auditions for their winter play Sunday from 3 to 5 p.m. at the Highlands Performing Arts Center, 507 Chestnut Street. The play will be a murder mystery dinner theater presentation entitled "Murder Not Prohibited." Performance dates are scheduled February 19-22, February 27-March 1. The cast includes three women, and four men. Ages vary from young to older. Scripts are available to read in the Cashiers or Hudson libraries.

Wed., Nov. 19

• At The Center for Plastic Surgery with Dr. Buchanan, Zerona Demonstration Open House from 1-4p. Receive a coupon for \$250 toward treatments through April 2015.

Williams' set plans for ice-rink in motion

Lack of bids delays start on enclosed pool

Thanks to the foresight of Art and Angela Williams of Old Edwards Inn Hospitality Group, Highlands just might become a place to "play" in the winter for local families and visitors with

"winter swimming" and now ice skating as options.

The enclosed pool was the first cog in the wheel. The Williams donated \$1.3 million to enclose the pool, renovate the pool

house and entry way, as well as provide the Rec Park gym with a new floor and bleachers. The second cog is a proposed ice rink.

Construction of the pool's

• See ICE RINK page 4

• **INSIDE** •

Mayor on Duty.....	2
Obituary.....	3
Letters.....	3
Tell Tales	8
Events	12-13
Investing at 4,118 Ft.	15
HS Sports.....	20
Classifieds.....	22

Lake Sequoyah draining to begin mid-Dec.

By now everyone knows about the work set to begin in Lake Sequoyah – the new water intake valve upstream of the dam and repairs to the concrete dam.

To construct the intake valve and repair the dam, the lake's water level has to be lowered. Initially the lowering was going to begin in October, but that date has been pushed back to mid-December.

According to Town Manager Bob Frye, the reasons the timeline has changed are twofold.

"The first was that we were held up waiting for all the permits to make it back from Raleigh. That cost us about a month because we could not officially begin the project till we had all the permits in hand," he said. "But the biggest reason is that the intake itself has some material that none of our suppliers routinely carry in stock as its manufactured on a case-by-case

• See DRAINING page 6



On Thursday, Nov. 6, officials broke ground on the new Highlands Fire & Rescue Substation on Cherrywood Lane. Pictured from left are Fire Chief Ryan Gearhardt, Cullasaja Country Club Field Service Manager Gary Clark, Highlands Commissioner John Dotson, Highlands Mayor Patrick Taylor, fire fighter Roger Wilson, Asst. Chief Robbie Forrester, Cullasaja Country Club Home Owners Association representative Diane Riddle and MC Commissioner Jim Tate.

Photo by Kim Lewicki

New HF&R Substation breaks ground

Means lower insurance premiums and faster response time

The first Highlands NC fire substation became a reality with official ground breaking ceremony on Thurs., Nov.6.

The fire substation is being built at the intersection of Cherrywood Drive and US 64 east.

Reaching this milestone has

taken more than two years of work by the Cullasaja and Wildcat Cliffs Homeowner's Associations who

• See SUBSTATION page 10

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• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• MAYOR ON DUTY •

To dredge or not to dredge ... that is the question

“Mayor, when are you going to dredge these lakes in Highlands? It is a pressing problem that needs to be addressed by the town.” This concern has been expressed to me by many people.

I have been aware of the issue long before I took office. As the construction of the water intake and repair the dam on Lake Sequoyah gets underway, here are my observations and thoughts.

In the view of the town, there are two critical areas of the watershed that impact the town's drinking water supply, Lake Sequoyah and Big Creek. The town owns some land next to these bodies of water that extends into the water itself. On the other hand, the vast part of these bodies of water is privately held by homeowners.

Second, with the new water intake on lake Sequoyah, plus the existing pump and weir near the water plant on Big Creek, the town can process water for public use for about two decades. There is no immediate drinking water problem, and further action will not be required until around 2034. It is a situation where political officials can “kick the can down the road” for years to come.

Highlands has had a problem with our water impoundments silting up for decades, yet no one has viewed it as an immediate problem, but instead something that could be done later. Actually, there was one person who tried to do something. Former Mayor Buck Trott worked for years trying to leverage funds from state and federal grants for dredging projects, especially Mirror Lake, but to no avail. He came close to getting federal assistance a couple of times.

I have not included Mirror Lake, not that it isn't apart of the watershed. Nevertheless, the town owns no property on the lake and does not rely on it as a water source. It, along with the Mirror Lake dam, are all privately owned. A large section of the lake has been labeled a wetland, and it would be almost impossible to get government clearance to dredge that area.

Parts of Lake Sequoyah and Big Creek have also silted up and are moving toward wetlands, too. This process will continue to where eventually, if nothing is done, there could be only the channel flow of the Cullasaja River at Mirror Lake and Lake Sequoyah. Big Creek will continue to silt up to where it may be Big Creek in

name only. There is the impending danger of Randall Lake dam failing and really hastening the siltation of Big Creek. A critical question is whether the town should take possession and secure this dam in connection to any dredging effort.

So what should be done? To some extent, the issue effects all of us living in town.

One option would be to do nothing and let the lakes silt up and embrace that flowing channel notion. Prior to the construction of the Lake Sequoyah dam in 1928 and the Mirror Lake dam in the 1950s, the Cullasaja River was a wild, natural river. If these lakes continue to silt up, a new river path would evolve and the dams could be viewed as waterfalls. Property owners who now own underwater land to the center of the lakes



Highlands Mayor Patrick Taylor

would gain usable real estate. Would folks living on the lakes like this solution? A few may, but most lake residents love their beautiful views of their lake. They would also point out the lake views enhance their property values and maintain overall tax values in the town.

The other option is to dredge some or all of these bodies of water. Big questions are connected to such a proposal. What about funding? Also, how much disruption and inconvenience would people be willing to endure?

Dredging is a complicated and passionate issue. A few years ago the town explored the possibility of dredging Big Creek. Deepening the creek would have enhanced water retention around the area of the town water intake pump serving the

water plant. Deepening the creek would have lowered the temperature of the water being retained and also would have reduced the amount of sand being taken into the pumps.

Cool water is much easier to process for drinking and the reduction of sand and silt particles flowing in the pumps extend their life. Since the town did not own property that would give them access to much of the creek, requests for easements were made. Some residents were against granting easements and others expected compensation from the town for dredging their waterfront property. The town put the project on hold and proceeded to develop the new water intake system on Lake Sequoyah using land the town owns.

So, if the community came together and decided to dredge, what kind of money are we talking about, what would be the time frame, and exactly how would the dredging be done?.

First, the dredging is neither the hardest part, nor the most expensive part of the process. The real costs are in handling and processing the sediment taken from the lakes. Where and how would this material be disposed? For instance, the town has a vacant lot next to Big Creek. Could sediment be placed on this lot? Realistically, no. The dredged soil has to be tested for heavy metal content and placed in an area where it cannot re-enter another part of the watershed.

There may be thousands of tons of sediment to be removed just from Lake Sequoyah. It would take between 500 to 1000 acres of land to relocate and spread out the sediment. Just transporting the material would require hundreds of trips by dump trucks from staging areas around the lake to the dump site. These staging areas would have to be big enough spaces where the wet sediment could be drained before being loaded onto trucks.

There would be two options for doing the actual dredging. One would be to drain the lake and use excavators to remove the sediment. The other option would be to use barges. One would have a large pump system. A second barge would be used to move the pumped sediment to a staging area on shore for loading into trucks.

Both approaches would involve substantial noise and disruption around the

We reserve the right to reject or edit letters-to-the-editor. No anonymous letters will be accepted. Views expressed are not necessarily those of Highlands Newspaper.

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NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE
NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

THURSDAY	THURSDAY NIGHT	FRIDAY	FRIDAY NIGHT	SATURDAY	SATURDAY NIGHT	SUNDAY
Mostly Cloudy High: 49 °F	Mostly Cloudy Low: 26 °F	Mostly Sunny High: 37 °F	Mostly Clear Low: 22 °F	Sunny High: 41 °F	Mostly Cloudy Low: 32 °F	Freezing Rain Likely High: 47 °F

• OBITUARIES •

Doyle Michael Wood



Doyle Michael Wood, 57, went home to be with his Lord on November 5, 2014.

Michael was born in Macon County on January 2, 1957 and was a lifelong resident of Highlands. He is survived by his parents, Vic and Betty Wood of Highlands; a brother, Scott of Highlands and a son, Quinton of Highlands. Michael graduated from Highlands High School in 1975 and Appalachian State University with a B.S. in Business in 1979. Michael pursued his passion for construction and was a master carpenter by trade. He was an avid outdoorsman and enjoyed hiking and fishing. When not outdoors, he enjoyed playing guitar and painting. Michael was widely known for his hu-

mor and wit and family and friends will fondly remember his ability to keep them laughing. He was a loving, compassionate man who loved his family and friends deeply without reservation and the love was returned by all who knew him.

A Memorial Service will be held at 3 p.m. Sunday, November 23, at Shortoff Baptist Church. Rev. Andy Cloer will officiate. The family will receive friends from 2-3 p.m. Sunday, prior to the service at the church.

Memorials may be made to the Shortoff Baptist Church, C/O Edna Crisp, 100 Crisp Road, Highlands, NC 28741, where Michael was a member.

• LETTERS •

Community supports Highlands School

Dear Editor,

On behalf of the Highlands School PTO, I would like to thank everyone who helped make our annual Fall Festival such a huge success.

A HUGE thank you goes to our awesome Senior class and parents, faculty and staff of Highlands School and the PTO board members who all volunteered their time and energy to running the booths, to David Sims and Highlands Lawn & Garden for the donation of the hay bales, to Dennis Wilson and Wilson Gas for the use of their grill to cook our delicious meal, to Tay and Timmy Brounaugh for being our grill masters, to Phil Potts for making Funnel Cakes, to Ron Hensley and Mike Murphy for running our cake walk and keeping us entertained, to August Produce, Bi-lo Food Store and Ingles Markets for food donations, to Coca-Cola for the beverage donations, to David Billingsley for the hay ride transportation, to all who made cakes and baked goods, to Bryson's Food Store, Reeves Hardware, Main Street Nursery and Highlands Ariel Park for raffle donations and to all the parents and children who attended the festival.

Highlands School is fortunate to have such generous community support. It truly makes a difference in the lives of our children.

With sincere appreciation,
Andrea Chalker

Broken windows, broken man

Dear Editor,

Criminologists George Kelling and James Wilson, produced a theory called "Broken Windows." They stated after extended studies within neighborhoods, the simple yet factual result of windows that are broken and not repaired send a message that no one cares or no one is in charge of the home or neighborhood so crime is inevitable and becomes rampant.

People sleeping in doorways or hallways of apartment buildings, people pan-handling, urinating in public, graffiti on

walls of once respectable buildings sends a negative message.

This deterioration comes slowly with just the "broken window," which gives the message no one cares or is in control, but soon becomes a complete breakdown of neighborhoods. People complain but the system seems not to care.

We as a people recognize this to be true. But we ourselves, some more some less, are also deviant beings, selfishly wanting things our way. Who of us hasn't lied

• See LETTERS page 4



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...MAYOR continued from page 2

lake for an extended period of time. Dredging could take one to two years to complete just for lake Sequoyah.

The technology and engineering sounds real complicated, but the costs of dredging is another matter. The cost depends on what bodies of water would be done. The bill could be somewhere between 6 to 8 million dollars. Admittedly, This is speculation on my part.

Many issues would have to be resolved. Where would the money come from? Federal and state grants? Town taxpayers? Lake residents? Would residents not living on the lake be willing to support a tax increase for lake dredging? Would folks on a lake be willing to grant easements and endure the disruption of dredging?

Federal grants and state funds have been used in North Carolina for billion dollar dredging projects like the Wilmington harbor. If the town taxpayers were to totally foot the bill, a substantial property tax would have to be assessed, maybe as much as a 15 to 20% increase to service a 20 to 30 year loan. If external funding could be secured, like the federal funds for the current dam and intake project, the cost burden for local taxpayers could be substantially reduced, if not eliminated altogether.

If the town had to go it alone in dredging our waterways, the real benefits would be for folks living in Highlands decades from now. By comparison, senior citizens paying property taxes in the coming years may not be around to see the ultimate benefits of dredging. Many of us would be expected to commit with our pocketbooks to a long term investment for the good of the community.

So, I believe dredging our lakes is something that town staff and officials should continue to study. It may take several years just to reach a consensus on a plan of action. What I do know is that there are no simple and immediate answers. I would like to hear other ideas and views on the issue. In the meantime I will be contacting county, state and local officials concerning potential sources of funding for this vital infrastructure project. Wish me luck.

...ICE-RINK continued from page 1

enclosure – a retractable glass building – was supposed to begin early fall 2014 and conclude May 2015 but it looks like that timeline could be extended.

Town Manager Bob Frye said up until early this week it looked like there wouldn't be an enclosed pool this year, but late Tuesday the scenario changed a bit.

"We don't really have a timeline at this point. We are trying to figure out what to do," he said.

Initially Frye said since contractors didn't seem comfortable constructing the enclosure as designed, there was talk of possibly changing it, but late Tuesday, after back and forth discussion with Richard Delany CEO of Old Edwards Hospitality Group and John Lupoli of Lupoli Construction, a bid for the project may be forthcoming.

"It appears that Lupoli Construction now seems willing to bid the project," said Frye which would be the only company willing to do so thus far. "We will be talking to them over the next several days to see if we can get a good bid."

• See ICE-RINK page 7

...LETTERS continued from page 3

and mostly to ourselves, to make ourselves look better than what we are, cheated, falsely accused someone, whether done so by business, self, or government. It's not the broken window, but the "Broken Man" that we all are part of. As the novelist Dostoyevsky had asked, "Can man be good without God?" and the answer has always been, "no".

We all want and desire stable lives and living, but yet if we are put up to the standard of justice, where even our small lies, cheating and other such behaviors are not placed in check either by our own doing or by something external, then it grows and government, society, and we ourselves are cheated in living fully.

Historically this has always been with us and scripture bears this out as well. God also gives us the standard of justice, which our laws have been built upon. These laws are a blessing and a curse, because none of us can live by them nor can we live without them. If true justice were to be administered all would be guilty.

Justice is the standard bearer for law, which God has

given us, which is also why Christ gave Himself for each of us because there is no one who can live this out, but yet if God is perfect and Holy as described in scripture then justice must be exact and rightly deserving.

Christ is the one who fulfills being perfect and justice was placed upon Him for our personal benefit. We should willingly place our faith in Him for doing such a thing on our behalf, and follow Him with our total being.

Nothing more clearly paints the picture of our humanity and the world in which we live: the purpose, reason, and direction we are to go. Scripture is more real and relevant today than ever before, but like Solomon's chase for meaning, modern man desires anything but God in education, government, self, and society in general.

But Solomon came to his end then reasoned out his life toward God and found God, (Ecclesiastes12:13-14)

I pray we as a people can find the same.

Deni Shepard
Franklin

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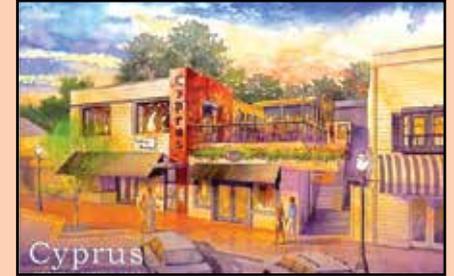


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...DRAINING continued from page 1



Lake Sequoyah.

Photo by Linda Barden

need and since none of our suppliers had any in stock we had to special order the material and that cost us a 12-week delay which is why the lake is not going down till December.

The length of time it will take to lower the lake the needed 10 to 15 feet will depend on weather conditions and other construction-related factors as will the refilling of the lake which is expected to take place between mid-March and May 2015.

But even after the lake is refilled, additional work will have to be done with the overall project expected to be completed by March 2016.

While the lake is being drawn down, pumps and other construction equipment will be running 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

In addition, throughout the project timeline, it may be necessary for construction activities to occur outside normal business hours (six days a week, 7am until 7pm in some cases).

Town officials are asking citizens to be patient and cooperative so the contractor can complete the work as quickly as possible.

Property owners along the lake are responsible for taking all necessary precautions and measures to secure their property and materials, including both permanent and floating items and structures that could be impacted by the lowering and subsequent refilling of the lake. The Town of Highlands will not be responsible for any damage to private property and materials.

According to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers some projects property owners may want to do once the lake is drained require permits and some don't.

Projects allowed without a permit include: manual

debris removal by hand; very minor sediment removal by hand; mechanical removal of debris and maintenance sediment removal (not new excavation) but only if equipment can be situated above the normal pool elevation with the bucket reaching out into the lake. This cannot be new excavation – only removal of sediment and debris that has settled.

Projects that will require a permit from The Army Corps of Engineers include: new excavation; new fill; new piers; new docks; sediment or debris removal by mechanical means with equipment situated below the normal pool elevation.

Those wishing to do work in the lake bed should contact the Army Corps of Engineers directly at 828-271-7980 to verify if they need a permit and how to go about getting one.

At the Sept. 18 Town Board meeting Langston Construction Company won the bid for the Lake Sequoyah project. Their bid was as follows:

Raw Water Intake: \$1,764,705; Raw Water Main: \$590,910.40; Dam Improvements/Repair: \$179,000 for a total of \$2,534,615.40. However these prices didn't include engineering design fees, project management/administration costs, and loan closing costs.

Including those expenses, the total amount of the project is \$2,893,689.

State grant funds from NCDENR will pay for \$1,654,760; State loan funds from DWSRE with 80% forgiveness will cover \$413,690 for a total of \$2,068,450. To cover the \$824,870 balance, \$468,580 will be used from the town's Lake Remediation Fund and \$356,290 will be used from the Sewer Reserve Fund.

– Kim Lewicki



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...ICE-RINK continued from page 4

If all goes well, and the town decides to award the bid to Lupoli Construction it would be free to do so given the project was bid twice with no takers, said Frye.

“The only snag is at this point if we were to proceed as originally planned, since our timeline is off, the pool would probably be closed for the entire month of June 2015.”

Originally, Frye said contractors said they didn’t want to work up in Highlands over the winter. “We also heard that the project is too small – as if an \$800,000 project is small,” he said.

Jeff Weller, with Summit Architecture, the firm on the project, said the problems for bidders has been multi-faceted and there are several reasons for companies not wanting to get involved at this point.

“Most said they are very busy right now and they already have work scheduled through our original timeline for the project. In addition, constructing such a structure isn’t something they are used to doing.”

Five General Contractors received packages but all five declined to bid on the project.

“They all said their workloads and the type of construction required, coupled with the timeline we had in mind, was not something they wanted to do,” said Weller.

Mayor Patrick Taylor said in addition to larger firms not wanting to work in Highlands in the winter, small companies weren’t prepared for the bonding process.

If the town doesn’t accept the Lupoli Construction bid, the job will be rebid again spring 2015, with hopefully a new start date of early September 2015, which means it could be ready for “winter swimming” early 2016.

“Many of these bidders are interested in returning and re-bidding the project in the spring in addition to a few others as well,” said Weller.

Ice Skating Rink

About a year ago, Art Williams of the Old Edward Hospitality Group, began talking to Delany about what is available to do in town once the weather turns. Long story short, Williams decided to buy an ice-skating rink for the town.

This is a resurrected idea, but this time it would be constructed on town property and run by the town so there won’t be an issue about a for-profit company making a profit on town property. This was a concern some years ago when a for-profit ice-skating rink in the Kelsey-Hutchinson Park was suggested.

“The optimum spot for the rink would be on the infield of the ball park where the grass wouldn’t be disturbed, and where there will be bleachers, bathrooms and a concession,” said Delany.

Though the Williams are ready and able to supply the \$150,000 to \$200,000 to make the ice-rink a reality, with the ball park reconstruction project in the works, erecting an ice rink and enticing people to mill about a construction zone wouldn’t work, said Frye.

Plans to build a new ball park pavilion with bathrooms, a concession stand, dug outs and bleachers and the associated cost will be discussed at the Nov. 20 Town Board meeting. If the board votes yes to the unbudgeted 2014-15 expense, work will likely begin immediately so it is ready for spring sports.

According to Recreation Director Lester Norris, ball park renovation bid packages went out in September and



Enclosed pool is still in the works -- just delayed for lack of bidders.



Above from left: tubing through which glycol is pumped, the rink lined with plastic tubing and filled with water, and the 4,000-lb. chiller machine.



were due back in October. If the Town Board OK’s it, the project will be awarded at the Nov. 20 Town Board meeting with a construction completion date sometime in March 2015.

Obviously, town officials are excited about the Williams’ gift, but like the enclosed pool, it’s likely the ice-rink won’t become a reality this year – Delany said a projected date would be November of 2015.

According to Delany, the Williams will pay all expenses associated with the ice-rink and its operations for five years.

“That’s the rink itself, staffing, maintenance, utilities and any costs associated with its operation,” said Delany.

Delany said construction of the ice rink, which could

range in size from 40- or 50-ft by 100 ft, is straight forward and easy.

“You roll out foot-wide sections of this pipe on top of a liner, build a form with some boards around the edge and attach it to the chiller machine and then fill with 2 1/2 inches of water and wait. That is it!” he said.

Railings would also be constructed around the rink.

Though the rink could be set up on tennis courts at the Rec Park, talk is the optimum spot would be the ball park for accessibility, visibility and convenience of users and observers.

Delany said at the end of the season, the piping is rolled up, the liner is folded up and the boards and railings stashed away for next season.

He said the only real permanent item is the chiller machine which weighs 4,000 pounds and pumps glycol through the tubing under the ice, but he said it can sit permanently 20-30 feet away from the rink, or it can be moved to a storage area, but not as easily as the rink components.

Frye said obviously nothing can happen this winter, “but I think the board is receptive to the idea and would look to see it happen next winter.”

At the Nov. 20 Town Board meeting, commissioners will consider bids for both the ball park renovation project and the enclosed pool.

– Kim Lewicki

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• TELL TALES •

Now that the election is over ...

Come on in, sonny, what do you want to talk about today?"

Just passing by and saw your lights on. You got time to chat for a few minutes?

"Well shore, come in and set a spell. I've got some good Scotch and you can have one of my \$600 cigars that Bill Clinton smokes. One ice or two? Oh, careful, don't sit on that part of the cushion with the spring popping up."

Careful to avoid that spring I sat across from the world's greatest philosopher, utterly ecstatic that I could be so fortunate. I surely must be the envy of the journalist world.

You been following the elections, Elmer?

"I've been trying not to but it's a chore to find a TV program without running into some campaign finagling going on."

My impression is that campaigning in this election cycle has sunk to new lows. And what is even more disturbing is that the Liberals seem to thrive on it.

"I agree. But understand Liberals don't live in the same real world you and I do. They live in a world where anything goes and they often use any method to achieve their goals"

But what are their goals?

"Sonny, that's a question I've been wondering about for 60 years. Liberalism used to be about "live and let live" and originally didn't trample on anyone. Now, of course, Liberals have become radical militants and want more laws to control our lives and the very way we think."

But that's just the opposite of "live and let live, isn't it.?"

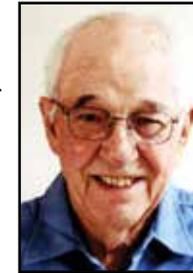
"Of course it is. The only way you can stop people from being religious is to pass laws against religion. The only way you can stop people from becoming more successful than their neighbor is to pass more laws. Or, impose punitive taxes on those who might rise above others. Simplistic thinking is supposed to bring equality to everyone."

Everyone except the political rulers. I'd have to say that the Clinton's or the Bush's don't live in the same world as the middle class.

"And you know the problem with that, sonny?"

What,?" I asked.

"Well, look around you sonny. Everywhere there is a country run by a ruling political class that country has turned into a totalitarian state. But what makes it worse is to maintain control over a country, the political elite must give their citizens what-



Bob Wilson

ever they ask for, except allowing them to rise above others. If they rise too much, they become a threat to the ruling class and get smacked down."

The rich are simply replaced by a ruling political class. Right?

"Yeah, and therein lies another problem. A rich ruling class don't create industry and they don't make the wheels turn.

We've seen that over and over and the result was always failure. Greece is a wonderful example of the political class chasing off industry and it applies to a lot of other countries as well. Now, few in Greece have jobs and they borrow money to pay interest on the money they have already borrowed."

Elmer, do you think America is headed that way?

"Not sure, sonny. You remember when President Obama some years ago praised Greece for its success in Socialism only to have it collapse weeks after his remarks? I don't doubt that he was thinking of Greece as a model for his dream of a socialist state in America. But, hopefully the Republicans taking both houses will keep a lid on things."

You know, Elmer, it dawned on me that if Hillary and Bill should win the presidency, we will have the first dynasty in America. Hillary and Bill would jointly rule the country and who knows, maybe Chelsea would be in there, too. So, we'd have the entire family running the country. Same problem with the Bush family, however. But, But George H. W. Bush didn't appear to interfere with junior running the country.

"Dynasties can be scary and dangerous. Family dynasties get it in their heads that they know what's best for the rest of us and make a mess of things."

Just like the Liberals think they know what's best for us.

"Agreed, and too often, people will vote for a celebrity figure, regardless of their abilities to lead. Therein lies the danger to us as a people. We simply must find leaders who understand what makes our economy work and with the humility of Truman. Reagan was the last one who understood it."

Got to go, Elmer, really enjoyed our chat. See you next time.

• Bob has done a good snow job on his editor who believes him when he tells her he has one reader. She wanted at least two readers but so far he hasn't been able to come up with anymore. He hopes she never asks him to identify the one reader he claims he has.

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also recruited neighboring communities and homeowners to participate in the endeavor.

A nonprofit corporation, Cherrywood Drive Corporation, was created to purchase the property and build the substation.

Upon completion the Town of Highlands has agreed to a lease term of 10 years to maintain, provide all the necessary equipment, personnel and operate the building as a fire substation.

Western Builders of Sylva, Inc. has been contracted to build the structure. Construction will begin immediately and is expected to be completed and certified by the end of May, 2015.

Officers of the newly formed nonprofit corporation are: Deane Briggs, President, Sid Nurkin, Vice President and Bill Getzen, Secretary.

The Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept., has been trying to secure a substation for years, but began again in earnest two years ago when the fire department received a new ISO rating and insurance companies started focusing on a home's distance from a physical station instead of its proximity to a fire hydrant.

This correlated with insurance companies increasing reliance on their own GPS technology rather than locally produced maps to determine how far away a home is from a fire station.

Insurance companies are slowly, but steadily revising the policies to correct fire protection code classification.

These changes have almost all resulted in a higher insurance premium and in some cases policy cancellations.

Having a fire substation within a six-mile radius provides homeowners in the area with the possibility of lowering the response times by the Fire Department to those homes, more affordable homeowner insurance premiums, as well as adding to their property values.

Highlands Fire & Rescue Chief Ryan Gearhardt and Assistant Chief Robbie Forrester, MC Commissioner and firefighter Jim Tate as well as town staff worked

diligently over the last two years to help make this happen and everyone was heartily thanked at the groundbreaking.

"The officers of 54 Cherrywood Drive Corporation and the neighboring communities would like to thank Mayor Patrick Taylor and Town Manager Bob Fyre, Ryan Gearhardt, Robbie Forrester, and Jim Tate for all their assistance in making the new fire substation a reality," said Diane Riddle, president of the Cullasaja Club Home Owners Association.

"We would also like to thank the participating community associations, in addition to Cullasaja and Wildcat Cliffs Homeowners' Associations which are: Cowee Ridge, Whiteside Mountain Road, Wildcat Ridge and Wildwood Mountain," she said.

Voluntary homeowner contributions came from Apple Mountain, Cowee Mountain, Lake Osseroga, Wildwood Forest, and Ravenel Lake Trail.

Jeff Sikes, a neighboring property owner of the new fire substation, is donating reclaimed lumber and landfill from his Reclamation Company for the project.

Altogether, the group is raising \$400,000 to build the fire substation.

Because potential faster fire and emergency response time benefits all homeowners and businesses near the new substation, Riddle hopes to encourage all who live within the six-mile radius of the new fire substation to make a contribution. Make checks payable to 54 Cherrywood Drive Corporation and mail to 54 Cherrywood Drive Corporation, 1371 Cullasaja Club Drive, Highlands, NC 28741.

MC Commissioner Jim Tate said projects such as these exemplify the philanthropic traits of those living in the Highlands Township. "This is something you just don't see elsewhere," he said.

Mayor Pat Taylor also thanked all groups involved for coming together to make such a needed thing a reality.

— Kim Lewicki

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• BUSINESS / ORGANIZATION NEWS •

Kindergarten plants Johnny Jump-Ups



On October 24, Mrs. Jaime Dooley's kindergarten class planted Johnny Jump-ups in the garden outside their classroom at Highlands School, assisted by Mountain Garden Club members. The club works with elementary and middle school teachers at Highlands School to provide youth gardener activities that enhance what students learn in the classroom. Youth gardener activities at Highlands School gained recognition recently from The Garden Club of North Carolina. The program at Highlands School is one of 31 youth gardener programs in NC and the only one in 12 surrounding counties.

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LTLT Conserves Additional Land on the Little Tennessee River



The Land Trust for the Little Tennessee (LTLT) recently purchased two lots along the Little Tennessee River in north Macon County. The acre of land includes 210 feet of frontage along the Little T in an area that is popular for canoeing and fishing.

Situated across the river from the Needmore Game Lands and looking directly at Hall Mountain that was conserved by LTLT in 2013, this land is adjacent to other lots owned by LTLT which were slated for floodplain development. During Macon County's most recent extreme flood in 2004, the area was under four feet of water.

In addition to protecting the floodplain, LTLT Land Protection Manager John Culclasure says the purchase was attractive for a few reasons. "Land along the river is important for water quality, recreation and wildlife. The soils identified on these properties were identified by the USDA as prime farmland, which is limited in the mountains. Long-term, keeping this land as it is helps maintain the rural character of Cowee and protects the land along the Little Tennessee area."

Since its inception in 1997, LTLT has conserved more than 23,000 acres over six counties in western NC and Rabun County, GA. The Franklin-based non-profit also works to restore natural and cultural resources and connects people to those treasures.

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• HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

Audition notice for HCP winter play

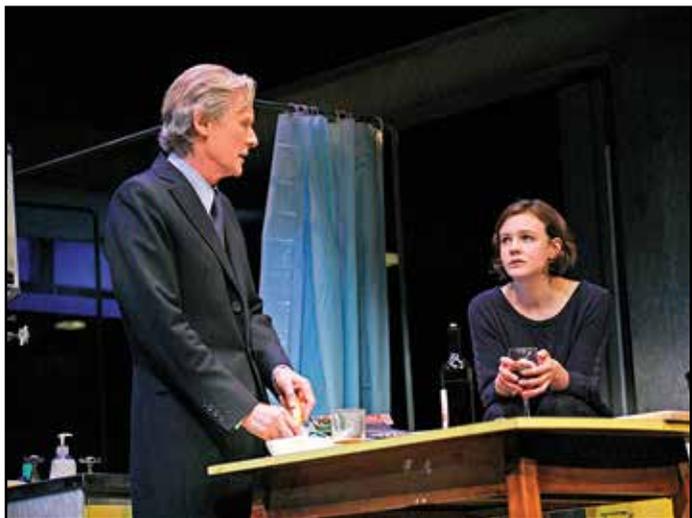
The Highlands Cashiers Players will hold auditions for their winter play Sunday, November 16 from 3 to 5 p.m. at the Highlands Performing Arts Center, 507 Chestnut Street.

The play will be a murder mystery dinner theater presentation entitled "Murder Not Prohibited." Performance dates are scheduled February 19-22, February 27-March 1.

The cast includes three women, and four men. Ages vary from young to older.

Scripts are available to read in the Cashiers or Hudson libraries. Dean Zuch, 526-4904, is coordinating the production with the assistance of Virginia Talbot.

Live in HD at the Performing Arts Center, Saturday, November 15



The National Theatre of London presents Bill Nighy (*Love Actually*, *The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel*) and Carey Mulligan (*Inside Llewyn Davis*, *The Great Gatsby*) in the highly-anticipated production of David Hare's *Skylight*, directed by Stephen Daldry (*The Audience*), captured live from the West End by National Theatre Live.

On a bitterly cold London evening, schoolteacher Kyra Hollis (Carey Mulligan) receives an unexpected visit from her former lover, Tom Sergeant (Bill Nighy), a successful and charismatic restaurateur whose wife has recently died. As the evening progresses, the two attempt to rekindle their once passionate relationship only to find themselves locked in a dangerous battle of opposing ideologies and mutual desires.

Performing Arts Center, Saturday, November 15, 7pm. Tickets (\$18) are available online: highlandspac.org or by calling 828.526.9047

Ongoing

• The Cub and Boy Scouts of America have three drop offs for worn and tattered flags. They properly retire them. Drop offs at Highlands Doors and Windows 2242 Dillard Road, the Highlands Fire Station or Highlands United Methodist Church office. Contact Phil Potts for more information 828 526-3719

Through Dec. 16

• Fruit sale by the HS Junior Class. Mondays Oranges, Small juice oranges, Grapefruit, Tangelos, and Tangerines. And it is \$20 per box. The pick up for the fruit will be Tuesday, December 16 at Highlands school between 3:30 and 5!

• 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.

• Zumba at the Rec Park at 8:05a. \$5.

Mon., Wed., Fri.

• Aerobics with Tina Rogers 8-9a.

• Zumba at the Rec Park at 9:05a. \$5

Mon.-Sat.

• Nantahala Tennis Club meets 9a-12 noon, at Highlands Civic Center, tennis courts. \$2 per person, and all visitors are welcome!

Wednesdays

• First Baptist Church is happy to present a new season of X-treme Games at the Highlands Rec. Park. The games will be held Wednesday nights from 6 to 7:15 pm, starting September 10th. For more information or to pre-register your k - 6th grade child, please call 526-4153.

1st Wednesdays

• Family Movies at the Hudson Library at 3:30pm. Call 828-526-3031 for titles.

3rd Wednesdays

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

1st & 3rd Thursdays

• Free local ongoing support group for caregivers. Are you in-

involved with the care of a loved one who is physically or mentally facing challenges? Sponsored by The Counseling and Psychotherapy Center of Highlands and the Highlands United Methodist Church, this group meets at 4PM at Room 203 at the Peggy Crosby Center. Facilitated by Bonnie Gramlich, a licensed professional. Drop in or call for further info, 828.342.0546.

Thursdays

• Storytimes with Miss Carol at Hudson Library 10:40am. Open to the public.

• 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.

• NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) offers a peer support group for individuals that are dealing with depression, anxiety, PTSD, bipolar, schizophrenia, etc. and the family members or friends of loved ones dealing with these challenges. Join us in a safe, confidential environment to share concerns and gain insight. Join us for our Weekly Support Group from 7 - 8:15 pm @ 14 West Palmer Street in Franklin NC, email dcwithnami@yahoo.com, Donita (828) 526-9510.

2nd Thursdays

• Sapphire Valley Needlepoint Guild meets at the Highlands Rec Park at 10 a.m. Newcomers welcomed.

Fri.-Sun.

• Hal Phillips on the piano at Skyline Lodge during dinner and Sunday brunch.

Fri. & Sat.

• The Historical Society Museum is open.

Saturdays

• Free wine tastings at MountainTop Wine Shoppe from 1-3p.

Sundays

• At Highlands Inn, Sequoyah Room at 4:30 pm. Multi-denominational, Interactive Bible Study and Fellowship. Open to all.

Through Nov. 13

• Movie at The Playhouse: St. Vincent. Showtimes, Fri., Sat., Sun., Mon. & Thurs. 2p, 5p and 8p. No movies on Tuesday and Wednesday.

Sat. Nov. 15

• At The Bascom, Giving Trees decorated by local nonprofits, Nog Off Competition and WCU exhibition: What? Draw? What We Draw.

• The Highlands Plateau Greenway will conduct its monthly work day this Saturday. If you are interested in participating, please email Ran Shaffner at highlandsgreenway@nctv.com or leave a message at 828-526-5622. We'll meet at the large upper parking lot (near the pool entrance) behind the Recreation Center at 9:00 AM for a brief orientation session. You will be furnished with the necessary tools and safety equipment. We finish around noon.

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate 6-mile hike, elevation change 500 ft., from Park Creek to Park Ridge in Standing Indian area, from the Back Country parking lot, along the Nantahala River to Park Creek, returning on Park Ridge Trail. Meet in Franklin at Westgate Plaza at 9:00 am, drive 40 miles roundtrip. Call leader Mary Stone, 369-7352, for reservations.

• Live in HD at the Performing Arts Center, The National Theatre of London presents Bill Nighy (*Love Actually*, *The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel*) and Carey Mulligan (*Inside Llewyn Davis*, *The Great Gatsby*) in the highly-anticipated production of David Hare's *Skylight*, directed by Stephen Daldry (*The Audience*), captured live from the West End by National Theatre Live. 7pm. Tickets (\$18) are available online: highlandspac.org or by calling 828.526.9047

• HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

Sun., Nov 16

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate 2.5-mile hike, elevation change, 430 ft., to Glen Falls near Highlands, descending on a newly repaired trail to the bottom of the falls to view two or more levels of the falls. Call leader Joyce Jacques, 410-852-7510, for reservations or alternate meeting place if coming from Highlands

• The Highlands Cashiers Players will hold auditions for their winter play Sunday, November 16 from 3 to 5 p.m. at the Highlands Performing Arts Center, 507 Chestnut Street. The play will be a murder mystery dinner theater presentation entitled "Murder Not Prohibited." Performance dates are scheduled February 19-22, February 27-March 1. The cast includes three women, and four men. Ages vary from young to older. Scripts are available to read in the Cashiers or Hudson libraries. Dean Zuch, 526-4904, is coordinating the production with the assistance of Virginia Talbot.

Wed., Nov. 19

At The Center for Plastic Surgery with Dr. Buchanan, Zerona Demonstration Open House from 1-4p. Start Sculpting your new body today! No pain, no recovery. 100% Non Invasive. Fat Melting Laser. Receive a coupon for \$250 toward treatments through April 2015.

Thurs., Nov. 20

• Read2Me is teaming up with local restaurants for the first annual "Thankful for Books" event. Read2Me will provide participating restaurants with a basket of books for families to enjoy while they dine. A portion of the proceeds made from each restaurant during the Thankful for Books event will be donated to Read2Me to help fund things such as the Dolly Parton Imagination Library and literacy training days for parents to help teach parents how to raise a reader. Just by dining out with your family, you will be making a contribution to the program and helping Read2Me in their

mission of proving that "Reading Matters in Macon County." Participating restaurants include: Gazebo Creekside Cafe, The Boiler Room Steakhouse, The Sunset Restaurant, Gondolas, The House of Luck, and Motor Company Grill.

Sat., Nov 22

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate-to-strenuous 8-mile hike, elevation change 800 ft., to the "great wall" in Panthertown Valley, near Cashiers, descending into the valley, passing Granny Burrell Falls to climb the wall on steps cut into the granite rock. Meet in Franklin in Bi-Lo parking area at 8:30 am, drive 60 miles round trip. Call leader: Gail Lehman, 524-5298, for reservations.

• MET Opera Live in HD to present the Barber of Seville at the Performing Arts Center on Saturday. The Met's production

of Il Barbiere di Siviglia, is Rossini's classic comedy with some of the most recognizable melodies in all of opera. It begins at 12:55pm and the Pre-opera discussion, lead by Beverly Pittman, begins at 12:30pm. Tickets (\$24 Adults & \$20.40 for PAC and MET Members) are available online: highlandspac.org or call 828-526-9047. Performing Arts Center, 507 Chestnut Street.

Sun., Nov 23

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take an easy 2.5 mile hike, elevation change 150 ft., on the Bartram Trail from Wallace Branch near Franklin, passing two small waterfalls along the way, returning on a forest service road. Meet in Franklin at Westgate Plaza at 2 pm, drive 6-miles round trip. Call leader: Jean Hunnicutt, 828-524-5234, for reservations. Visitors welcome, no dogs please.

Celebrity Cats



Highlands' cats, Rion and Josh, stars of The Hunger Games, will be on hand for the opening of the The Hunger Games "Mockingjay I" on Thursday, Nov. 20 at 7pm before the start of the movie at 8pm.

On Saturday, Nov. 8, Rion and Josh will be at the Highland's Playhouse with adoptable pets at the Stop and Adopt from the Cashiers-Highlands Humane Society.

Rion and Josh who both have roles in the Hunger Game movies will be available for photographs both days. We will be asking for a donation to go to the Humane Society. Bring your cell phone to take your photo with the stars.

Cain Haley will be on hand to answer any questions at the event.

Wild Thyme, Pescados and some other restaurants will be donating money to the local shelter if the patrons mention the name Buttercup to the waiter. We encourage everyone to have a great night out on November 20th before the premier of the movie. Make your reservation now for November 20th at one of these restaurants and say "Buttercup."

Please come and join us for this great cause!

• BIZ-ORG NEWS •



Local Music Educational Programs Receive Donations from Bel Canto

Local music educational programs received \$50,000 in donations from the benefactors of the recent 2014 Bel Canto Recital. This year marked the concert's 22nd year. Bel Canto supports the Bascom Permanent Collection, Highlands School music program, Highlands Community Child Development Center and the Gordon Center for Children. Over \$350,000 has been donated in the last 11 years.

Accepting the donations from Stell Huie, Bel Canto Chairman (center) are from left: Sallie Taylor, Executive Director, The Bascom; Marcia Franklin, Highlands School Music Teacher; Mary Ann Sloan, President, Highlands Community Child Development Center; Allison Tate, Director, Gordon Center for Children.

For more information, about Bel Canto, please call 828-526-5213 or email highlandsbelcanto@gmail.com.



NAMI members Jesse MacWatt, Francis Venticinque, Linda Talbot, Jennifer Iannuzzi and Donita Cline.

The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) North Carolina awarded NAMI Appalachian South the Outstanding Affiliate Award during a luncheon at its 30th Annual Conference at the McKimmon Center on October 17, 2014. The Outstanding Affiliate Award is given to a NAMI North Carolina affiliate exhibiting overall outstanding performance on a variety of criteria—mental health consumer involvement, class offerings, special events and awareness, advocacy, and membership growth. Overall leadership and innovation are also important aspects of this award. NAMI Appalachian South serves Clay, Cherokee, Graham, Swain, Macon and Jackson counties, and is always searching, leading and pushing for new ways of improving the lives of those impacted by mental illness. www.nami-maconnc.org

WHAT'S FOR DINNER?



MOUNTAIN FRESH GROCERY DINNER TO GO MENU

MADE FRESH AND SERVED HOT.
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FRI & SAT 7AM TO 9PM, SUNDAYS 8AM TO 6PM

EACH DINNER FEEDS A FAMILY OF FOUR

MON CHOOSE EITHER:
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FOUR CHICKEN ENCHILADAS, REFRIED
BEANS, MONTEREY RICE, HOMEMADE
TORTILLA CHIPS, SALSA, SHREDDED
LETTUCE, TOMATOES, SOUR CREAM

\$19.95
serves 4

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24 BUFFALO WINGS OR 2 LBS CHICKEN
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TUES IN-HOUSE MADE ITALIAN SAUSAGE
LASAGNA WITH A LARGE SALAD

\$19.95
serves 4

WED CHICKEN OR STEAK POT PIE AND A
LARGE SALAD

\$19.95
serves 4

THURS ROASTED MEATLOAF WITH MASHED
POTATOES, GRAVY AND A LARGE SALAD

\$19.95
serves 4

FRI WILD CAUGHT FRIED SHRIMP, BAKED
POTATOES, HUSH PUPPIES, AND
COLESLAW

\$22.95
serves 4

SAT IN-HOUSE SMOKED BBQ, COLESLAW,
APPLE AND BACON BAKED BEANS, AND
YEAST ROLLS

\$19.95
serves 4

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16" NEW YORK STYLE PIZZA WITH UP TO 5
TOPPINGS & A LARGE HOUSE SALAD OR BAKED
PASTA: TOMATO SAUCE, & CHEESE WITH A
CHOICE OF ITALIAN SAUSAGE, MEATBALLS OR
CRISPY CHICKEN. COMES WITH GARLIC BREAD
AND SALAD \$19.95
BOTH SPECIALS AVAILABLE MONDAY THROUGH
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Parker Meadows Rec Complex takes form

Aerial photo of the Parker Meadows Complex taken from a remote control helicopter at about 600 feet. The project continues to be on track and building structures on the property are expected to begin this month. This exemplifies one way RC drones are helpful.

A 'view' point on RC drones

By Lawrence Binder

Recently a trend in the use of radio-controlled aircraft has emerged. In the mainstream media these aircraft have been called drones. An ominous word that conjures up ideas of an autonomous weaponized military aircraft. However, most radio-controlled (RC) aircraft are neither autonomous nor weaponized. They are used by professionals and hobbyists alike and are mostly flown within visual range. Even celebrities have weighed in on the subject when last month Martha Stewart penned an article about RC aircraft for Time magazine, publicly showing her support for their use.

Radio Controlled (RC) systems for model aircraft were developed around 1950 by English enthusiasts such as Howard Boys. In 1968 a man named Dieter Schlüter was the first person to develop an RC helicopter. Since then thousands of RC aircraft have been created and in 1989 a Japanese company, Keyence, released the mass produced Gyro Saucer multi-rotor quad helicopter (Quad). A quad RC helicopter is a helicopter with 4 rotating blades. Recently, quads have become popular due to their user friendly design with more stable counter-rotating blades, miniature gyroscopes, advanced long lasting

Lipo battery technology and electronics. These advances have allowed for a much shorter learning curve for users and a generally more reliable aircraft.

There is much debate about the legality of commercial and private usage of RC aircraft. Recently the FAA attempted to fine Raphael Pirker, a drone pilot hired by the University of Virginia, \$10,000 for flying a drone airplane around the campus. Last March he took the FAA to court and won. The Federal judge assigned to the case, Patrick Geraghty dismissed the FAA's case on the basis that the FAA has not issued an enforceable rule governing model aircraft operation as well as the fact that historically the FAA exempted model RC aircraft from the statutory FAR definitions of an 'aircraft.'

Judge Geraghty's ruling makes model RC aircraft legal not just for hobbyists, but for everyone, including commercial use. At least for now that is. The FAA is challenging the ruling while still attempting to enforce nonexistent regulations over RC aircraft. They are also working to create new laws to restrict their usage. This may prove to be a difficult task for the FAA as they only have jurisdiction

• See RC DRONES page 19

• INVESTING AT 4,118 FT. •

Sellers, think of showings as interviews

When it comes to selling Highlands real estate think of showings as interviews and you could be one step ahead of the game. When you interview for a job you want you take the time to look your best and be prepared. This is exactly what you should be helping your home do prior to a showing. Have your Highlands property, inside and out, look its best and be prepared.



Lynn Kimball
Meadows Mountain Realty
Lynn@MeadowsMtnRealty.com

Contact your Highlands REALTOR® today for more information on selling your real estate. We welcome the opportunity to present you a complimentary listing presentation while getting you up to speed on current market conditions. Our goal is to get your home sold in as timely a manner as possible while capturing as close to asking price as possible.

• If you want a good overall introduction to our area and to search available properties, you are

Your Highlands REALTOR® should have all the answers to any questions a potential buyer may have. If he or she does not have the answers, you should be accessible and able to provide answers whenever possible. Take a good hard look at your home and remember what drew you to it in the first place. The more prepared your home is the more likely it will land a buyer.

invited to visit my user friendly website at www.signatureproperties-nc.com. Meadows Mountain Realty has two locations, one at 41 Church Street in the Old Edwards Inn complex or come by and meet Lynn at 2334 Cashiers Road across from Highlands Falls Country Club. Lynn Kimball can be reached at 828-526-4101 or by email at Lynn@MeadowsMtnRealty.com.

• HS SPORTS •

Soccer

On Wednesday, Nov. 5, Highlands hosted East Surry in the 3rd round playoff game.

Highlands came out early with a goal from Austin Nichols. East Surry came back to score to tie the game and scored again to end the first half 2 to 1.

In the second half, East Surry came out early to score, then scored again toward the end of the second half to take the win 4 to 1.

Even though the Highlanders were very disappointed to end their season in the 3rd round, they are very proud to have won their conference, earning them the title of 2014 Smokey Mountain Champions.

Coming up

Now that the Middle School and High School Volleyball and Soccer season has come to an end the Highlanders look forward to the beginning of basketball season.

Middle School boys and girls basketball season begins Monday, Nov. 17 at Blue Ridge.

The boys varsity begin their season with a scrimmage game on Nov. 14 at Towns County. The girls begin theirs Nov. 20 at Smokey Mountain.

Both teams begin their regular season on Dec. 2 at home against Blue Ridge.

— Sierra Nylund

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The lesson in the waltz of leaves

By Rev. Dr. Virginia Monroe

Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd, Cashiers

As I write, the autumn leaves outside my window are waltzing in the wind. They are dressed in crimson red, stunning yellow and muted brown-tinged green. They are filled with light. They descend from lofty limbs to soft soil at a gentle, rhythmic pace. For many of us in the autumn years of life, there is a lesson in the waltz of the leaves. They glide gracefully from one stage of life to another. But first the leaves let go.

In her book, *The Gift of Years, Growing Older Gracefully*, Joan Chittister says that this season of life is a time to let go of fantasies of eternal youth and fears of getting older, and to find the beauty of what it means to age well. It is also a time to let go of regret of how life would have been, could have been, should have been. Chittister says regret is a misuse of the aging process. "One of the functions—one of the gifts—of aging is to become comfortable with the self that we are, rather than to mourn what we are not."

Regret spends time on what was not rather than on what was. Regret claims to reflection, but feels more like failure. Claims to be insight, but "fails to understand that there are many ways to fullness of life, all of them different, all of them unique."

Regret is a temptation that entices us to lust for what never was in the past rather than bringing new energy to our changing present and new excitement to possibilities for the future. St. Paul says it this way, "One thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. Let those of us who are mature think this way." (Philippians 3:13-15)

As we think this way, as we savor this time of life, and look forward to what lies ahead, let us look at the leaves. And learn from them. As they grow older, they are filled with light. And beauty. They do not hold onto the past. They waltz in the wind.

BLUEVALLEY 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

CHAPEL OF SKY VALLEY

Sky Valley, GA • 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.: 9:15a Christian Education at Buck's Coffee Cashiers
Crossroads; 10:30a Faithful, Family Service w/ Music & Communion.

Mon.: Bible Study & Supper at homes - 6 p.m.

CHRIST CHURCH OF THE VALLEY, CASHIERS

Pastor Steve Kerhoulas • 743-5470

Sun. 10:45am, S.S 9:30am. Wed. 6pm supper and teaching.

Tues. 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: Child. 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: Eucharist Rite I 8a in chapel; Education
and choir rehearsal, 9 am, Holy Eucharist Rite II,
(sanctuary), 10:30

Wednesday: 10 a.m., Morning Prayer

Thursdays: Holy Eucharist, (chapel), 10 am

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH HIGHLANDS

828-526-4153 • www.fbchighlands.org

Dr. Mark Ford, Pastor

220 Main Street, Highlands NC 28741

Sun.: Worship 10:45 am; Sun.: Bible Study 9:30 am
Wed.: Men's Bible Study 8:30 am; Prayer Mtg 6:15 pm;
Choir 5 pm

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Curtis Fussell & Emily Wilmarth, pastors

526-3175 • fpchighlands.org

Sun.: Worship: 11 a.m.; School: 9:30

Mondays: 8 a.m.: Men's Prayer Group & Breakfast

Wednesdays: Choir: 5:30p

GOLDMINE BAPTIST CHURCH

(Off Franklin/Highlands Rd) • Rev. Carson Gibson

Sunday School: 10 am, Worship Service: 11 am

Bible Study: 6 pm

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: 743-
9814

Services: Sundays 10am - Wed. - 7pm; Dinner - Wed. 6pm

HAMBURG BAPTIST CHURCH

Hwy 107N. • Glenville, Nc • 743-2729

Pastor Nathan Johnson

Sunday: School 9:45a, Worship 11a & 7p, Bible Study 6p
Wed. Kidsquest 6p.; Worship 7p.

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 Christy 526-3376

Sun: School 9:45a.; Worship 9:09, 10:50.; Youth 5:30 p.

Wed: Supper: 5:15; youth, & adults activities: 6; Handbell

rehearsal, 6:15; Choir Rehearsal 7. (nursery provided)

HOLY FAMILY LUTHERAN CHURCH: ELCA

Chaplain Margaret Howell • 2152 Dillard Road • 526-

9741

Sun: 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

St. Cyprian's Episcopal Church, Franklin

828-369-9270 or 828-293-5197

MOUNTAIN BIBLE CHURCH

743-2583 • Independent Bible Church

Sun: 10:30 a.m. at Big Ridge Baptist Church,

4224 Big Ridge Road (4.5 miles from NC 107)

Weds: Bible Study 6:30 p.m.; Youth Group 6 p.m.

OUR LADY OF THE MOUNTAINS CATHOLIC CHURCH

Parish office (Father Francis): 526-2418

Mass: Sun: 11 a.m.; Sat. at 4p

SCALY MOUNTAIN BAPTIST CHURCH

Rev. Marty Kilby

Sundays: School - 10 a.m.; Worship - 11 a.m. & 7

Wednesdays: Prayer Mtg.: 7 p.m.

SCALY MOUNTAIN CHURCH OF GOD

290 Buck Knob Road; Pastor Alfred Sizemore • 526-3212

Sun.: School: 10 a.m.; Worship: 10:45 a.m.; Worship: 6 p.m.

Wed: Adult Bible Study & Youth: 7 p.m.

SHORTOFF BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Rev. Andy Cloer

Sundays: School: 10 a.m.; Worship: 11

Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study: 7

THE CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

1448 Highway 107 South, Office: 743-2359

Rev. Dr. Virginia Monroe

Oct-May: Sunday Services: Rite I, 8a Rite II, 10:30

June-Sept: Sunday Services: Rite I, 8a, Rite II, 9:15 & 11a

Nursery available for Rite II services

Sept 7- Oct 26- Informal Evening Eucharist- 5:30 p.m.

Thursday: Noon Healing Service with Eucharist.

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85 Sierra Drive • 828-524-6777

Sunday Worship - 11 a.m. Child Care - 10:30a - 12:30p

Religious Education - 11 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

Youth 8th - 12th grade meets 2nd Sundays 5 - 7:30p

WHITESIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Rev. Sam Forrester/Cashiers

Sunday School: 10 am, Worship Service: 11 am



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turns cold or
displaying on the wall
Starting at \$175
This one is
Browns, tans and gray

The mighty oak

By Sonya Carpenter
Director, Highlands
Biological Foundation

As the fall colors fade from the landscape, the bright yellows and oranges become a vivid memory marking the peak of the autumn season.

As winter approaches, now is the time for the rich reds, burnt yellows and russet colors adorned by the last of the deciduous trees to drop their foliage: the oaks.

Always the last to leave the party in the fall and the most hesitant to sprout their leaves in the spring, the dominance of oaks in our forest cannot be denied.

Oaks can be divided into two groups; the red oaks and the white oaks. Both groups exhibit a wide tolerance for habitat and make excellent additions to the garden. With a few exceptions, the oaks tend to be a long-lived species.

A single individual can live for hundreds of years. With its wide spreading limbs and ample shade and well-rounded crown, it is little wonder we have honored the mighty oak as our national tree.

This year has been significant for oaks for another reason. Anyone with an oak near their home or garden has certainly noticed the abundance of acorns this year. This is known as a mast year. For scientists, why oaks produce prodigious amounts of acorns in a mast year is easier to answer than when.

To further confound the phenomenon is the fact that in a mast year the oaks tend to synchronize their behavior over a vast geographical area and across multiple species. Are the trees simply being generous to the plentitude of hungry, acorn

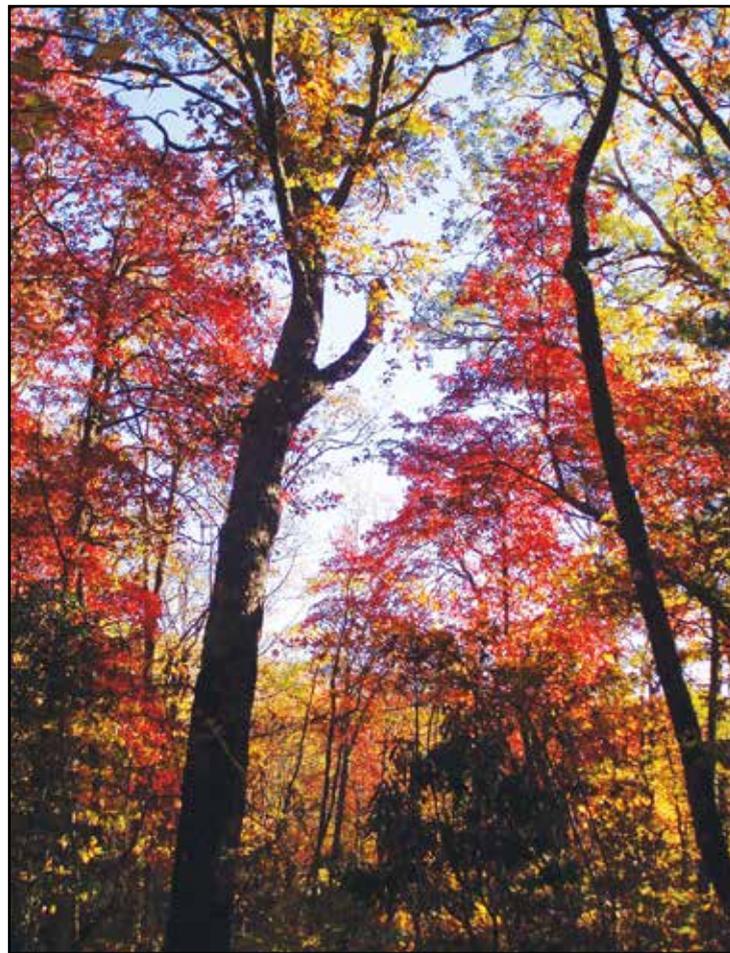


Photo by Michelle Ruigrok, Highlands Biological Foundation

loving animals of the forest? Not really, but by satiating the hunger of their predators the trees ensure a greater likelihood that some of their offspring may escape consumption and live to sprout and grow. Scientists have not yet discovered the trigger for mast years or determined how the synchrony is determined. Weather patterns, pollination success, and temperature fluctuations have all been investigated as relevant factors, but currently no clear answers have emerged. This phenomenon remains one of the mysteries of the natural world.

The value of oaks goes beyond their stimulating fall color and their ability to both feed the hungry masses of acorn loving mammals and supply a cozy home for cavity nesting birds and mammals. The mighty oak may be the quintessential wildlife tree and for a reason you might not immediately think of: hordes of hungry

insects prefer to dine on the foliage of oaks more than any other tree species. One count generated by the studies of Dr. Douglas Tallamy put the number of oak loving insects at over 534 different species!

From tiny leafhoppers to giant silk moths, no other plant genus is as hospitable to caterpillars and other leaf eating insects as the mighty oak. Perhaps this does not sound so wonderful to you...Who wants a hungry legion of insects to take up residence in their garden? The answer is the lovely troupe of birds and furry friends that require these protein packed bugs for their dinner and to support their families. If you are interested in supporting the wide diversity of animals of the southern Appalachians, or simply enjoy great fall color, and a good shade tree, there is no better tree to include in your garden than a majestic oak.

Look for the Red Roof and the Covered Wagon.

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Falling Waters is a 52 acre community just 2.5 miles

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www.highlandsnchomesites.com

Contact (onsite owner) or your broker for plats, prices & a guided tour.

828-508-9952.

Read2Me to host 'Thankful for Books' event

"Children are made readers on the laps of their parents." – Emilie Buchwald

For children, reading is the gateway into a world of imagination and endless possibilities. From birth, it becomes essential for children to be introduced to books and to have their parents and caregivers read to them daily. Early literacy builds a strong foundation that children will need throughout their lifetime.

To celebrate the joy of reading and the gift of literary imagination, Read2Me is teaming up with local restaurants for the first annual "Thankful for Books" event on November 20th. Read2Me will be

providing participating restaurants with a basket of books for families to enjoy while they dine. Either while you wait for your food, or over some delicious desserts, the books will be available for children and families to enjoy.

A portion of the proceeds made from each restaurant during the Thankful for Books event will be donated to Read2Me to help fund things such as the Dolly Parton Imagination Library and literacy training days for parents to help teach parents how to raise a reader. Just by dining out with your

family, you will be making a contribution to the program and helping Read2Me in their mission of proving that "Reading Matters in Macon County."

Participating restaurants include: Gazebo Creekside Cafe, The Boiler Room Steakhouse, The Sunset Restaurant, Gondolas, The House of Luck, Motor Company Grill

As Garrison Keillor once said, "A book is a gift you can open again and again." Please join Read2Me in providing the gift of reading to children in Macon County.

About Read2Me

Read2Me is a volunteer organization geared toward promoting early literacy in the community. Through book

distributions which provide free books to all children and parent training events like the "Beary Fun Activity Day" scheduled on November 15 at the library, these free events work to get books in the hands of children and raise awareness of the importance of raising a reader.

Read2Me also partners with the Literacy Council of Highlands to ensure that all children in Macon County, birth to age 5, can participate in the Dolly Parton Imagination Library at no cost to the family. The program provides one free book a month, each month, until the child turns 5. To learn more about Read2Me, please visit Read2Me on Facebook or email Brittney Raby at bburns@dnet.net

Tree of Lights



This December At Highlands-Cashiers Hospital

Place an ornament on the Hospital Christmas Tree in memory of, or in honor of, a family member or friend with a gift of \$10.00 or more. These bells (in honor of) and stars (in memory of) will display the name of your friend or loved one. Your tax-deductible donation will go toward nursing scholarships offered by Highlands-Cashiers Hospital.

Given in memory or honor of _____
(Circle one)

Given by: _____

Address: _____

Amount donated \$ _____

Send acknowledgement to: _____

Address _____

Date: _____ A donation in the amount of \$ _____ has been made by:

(Name of Donor)

(Address of Donor)

To Highlands-Cashiers Hospital Aux.
PO Box 190 - Highlands, NC 28744

Signature of Hospital Auxiliary member receiving donation



This photo of an Elf "bike car" was snapped outside Buck's Coffee Shop in Cashiers by photographer Linda Barden.

ELF solar powered electric vehicles

Announcing ELF 1.5 now standard with dynamic dampening suspension and EZ Ergonomic Sliding Seat. The ELF is a solar and pedal hybrid vehicle powered by you and the sun. "The most efficient vehicle on the planet", it is a revolution in transportation and gets the equivalent of 1800 MPG. Hand built in the USA, the ELF is legally a bicycle, so it can travel on bike paths, park on sidewalks and requires no gas, license, registration or insurance. It can travel up to 20 mph on electric power only and up to 30 mph when combined with pedaling. It can hold more than a dozen bags of groceries and can handle an amazing 350 lb. payload.

A beautiful Trylon composite body combined with rugged carbon fiber provides weather protection, visibility in traffic and is much safer than a bicycle. Advanced LED headlights, brake lights and turn signals make the commute, trip to the grocery store or coffee shop fun and safe. The 100 watt flexible solar panel assures charging assistance anywhere the sun shines.

Because of the radically efficient design, the ELF is the cleanest possible mode of transportation for the environment. If the ELF is used regularly, it can prevent as much as 6 tons of CO2 from entering the atmosphere each year. That is the equivalent of a 100% solarized home at a fraction of the cost!

The healthy, efficient, economical, weather protecting, cargo carrying ELF is perfect for commutes, resorts, shopping excursions, gated communities, college campuses and urban living. It is indeed a revolution in urban eco-mobility.

...RC DRONES from page 14

of airspace above 400 feet. The lowest a manned aircraft can fly over a sparsely populated area is 500 feet and 1,000 feet over a densely populated area, respectively. Most RC aircraft are flown in the 150-200 foot range. Because of this there is little chance of an RC aircraft colliding with a manned aircraft.

Many proponents against RC aircraft use the argument of privacy to support regulation of their usage. As with most advanced technologies there are always

• POLICE REPORT •

Highlands Police Log entries from Oct. 21. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor or public officials have been used.

Oct. 21

• At 8:05 p.m., officers responded to a one-vehicle accident on US 64 east near Sherwood Forest Road.

Oct. 24

• At 1 p.m., officers responded to a call about a lost purse on Main Street.

• At 6:30 p.m., officers were called about a missing person from Mountain Fresh Grocery.

Oct. 27

• At 11:12 a.m., Saturnino Garcia, 40, of Franklin, was arrested for DWI on Pine Street.

Oct. 28

• At 9:18 a.m, officers responded to a breaking and entering of a business and a vehicle on Carolina Way where \$150 damage was done to the door and its fixtures.

Oct. 29

• At 1:25 p.m. officers were called about a vehicle hitting low hanging wires on South Drive.

Oct. 31

• At 4:05 p.m., officers were called about a trespassing incident at hotel on N. 4th Street.

Nov. 1

• At 9:30 a.m., officers responded to a one-vehicle accident on Spring Street.

related risks. Internet accessible video cameras embedded in glasses and cell phones, high powered binoculars and cameras, listening devices, thermal imaging as well as other surveillance equipment are all commercially available technologies that do not require licensing and have the potential to be abused by consumers or professionals.

However, the benefits of using these technologies far outweigh the potential risks. Some valuable uses of RC aircraft are: land surveying, photography/film, property management, wildlife preservation, security surveillance, forestry management, real estate and news gathering. Current federal and local privacy laws are already in place to protect people from unwanted video and photography whether taken from an RC aircraft or a person on the ground. Because of this there is no need to regulate RC aircraft in terms of privacy issues.

Although there are entry level "toy-like" RC aircraft, with their rapidly spinning blades, they can be dangerous in the hands

of a novice and should not be treated as toys. They also can be very expensive to purchase, operate and maintain. A professional RC quad helicopter can cost well over \$3,000.

Overall, this is a technology that our government and law enforcement agencies have and will continue to use. American civilians and private businesses should demand to maintain their rights to this technology as well. If individuals or businesses abuse this right then existing laws addressing privacy and negligence

can handle each situation on a case-by-case basis rather than restricting overall technological progress.

Highlands local landscape architecture firm Hagan Binder Design uses a professional RC quad helicopter for aerial video, photography and site surveying.

• Author Lawrence Binder has been involved with remote controlled vehicles most of his life and currently has a professional drone. He has been flying them for years

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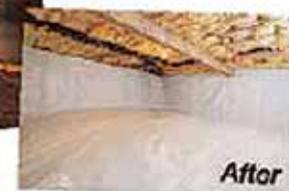
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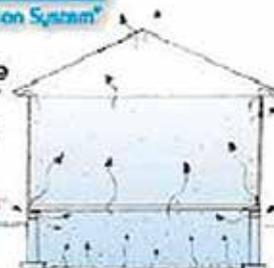
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• BUSINESS / ORGANIZATION NEWS •

Interact Club delivers candy



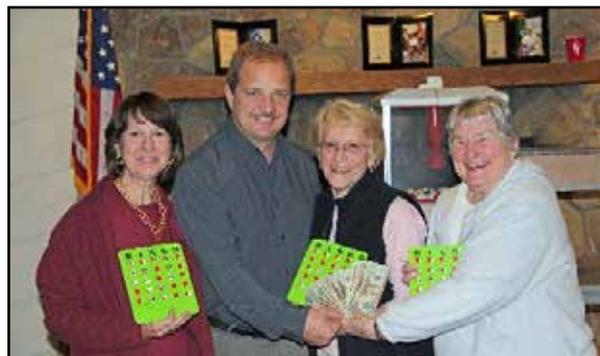
Members of the Highlands School Interact Club helped the Visitors Center deliver candy to merchants participating in Friday night's Halloween Celebration. Reeves Hardware donated buggies to help with the distribution. The students loaded the buggies at the Visitors Center and headed downtown. Over 175 bags of candy were distributed from the Visitor Center for the event.

MtnTop Rotary prepares hot dogs



Members of Highlands Mountaintop Rotary create an assembly line to prepare hotdogs for the annual give-away on Main Street. Eighteen hundred hotdogs were cooked, stuffed and wrapped, quite an undertaking. Even though the hotdogs are free to anyone, generous donations are accepted.

Rotary Bingo benefits The Gordon Center for Children



On Thursday, November 6, the Rotary Club of Highlands partnered with The Gordon Center for Children to sponsor Bingo. All net proceeds benefit The Gordon Center. Rotarian Tony Potts congratulates the winners of the final Super Bingo game from left, Priscilla Flowers, Julie Jared, and Joy Wood.

Shaffner discusses new book



Randolph "Ran" P. Shaffner discusses details of his recently published novel "Father of Virginia Military Institute" with the Highlands Mountaintop Rotary. Pictured left to right: Ran Shaffner, Author and Bill Zoellner, current President of Mountaintop Rotary.

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SECRETARY with Quick Books experience needed full or part time. Black Bear Construction. 828-487-4248 (st. ct 30)

MOUNTAIN FRESH GROCERY IN HIGHLANDS is hiring full-time for positions on the grill. Contact Don at 828.526.2400

PART-TIME BOOK-KEEPER POSITION with Quickbooks experience needed at the Highlands ABC Store. Applications are available at the store in Highlands Plaza. 828-526-5470. (st. 10/9)

EXPERIENCED ELECTRICIAN NEEDED. Edwards Electrical Services. 828-526-5147. (st. 10/2)

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATOR needed at Highlands Community Child Development Center. Must have NC credentials. Mail resume to PO Box 648, Highlands, NC 28741. (st. 10/2)

LEAD LINE COOK & DISHWASHER needed at casual fine dining, up to \$13/hour or salary B.O.E. jasoncancilla2012@gmail.com (st. 6/19)

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CNA, NURSES, CARE-GIVERS needed for Home Care Agency serving Older Adults in Macon, Jackson and Transylvania counties. Call 828-200-9000. (st. 5/15)

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CHARMING MIRROR LAKE DUPLEX FOR RENT. Nicely furnished. Pets ok. Top floor 2/2 with porch and private deck. \$900/month. Utilities not included. Or, rent entire 4/3 house for \$1,300. rentalhouse-highlands@gmail.com. 904-403-8090. (pd 11/6)

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FOR SALE BY OWNER - 3 building lots in the gated community of Rustic Falls. Macon County tax records value at \$51,000 each. Must sell due to health reasons. Asking \$15,000 each. Call owner at 803-640-6004. (St. 5/1)

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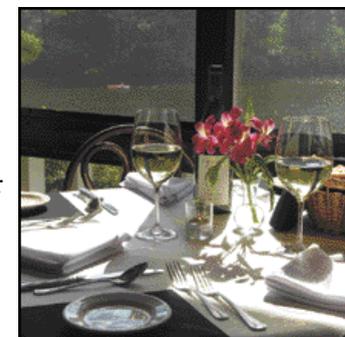
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