Town reacts to FERC application

An application filed with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to revive the town's defunct hydroelectric plant on the Cullasaja River in the vicinity of Bridal Veil Falls brought citizens out Thursday night and has prompted the Town Board to take action.

The old hydroelectric plant was built in 1925 and supplied Highlands with power until 1969 when the town opted to buy power from Nantahala Power which has since been absorbed by Duke Power.

The town’s FERC license was in effect until 1996 when it let it expire.

The applicant, Advanced Hy-

Chowan Rd. keeps 2-way status

With a 3-2 vote, citizens rallying for a two-way Chowan Road got their way Thursday night.

About 300 feet of the road had been closed to two-way traffic for almost two years due to its width coupled with an unstable embankment from which vehicles have fallen to US 64 west.

A costly project, the town opted to keep the hazardous portion closed until it could be repaired properly but with materials and equipment from NC DOT and manpower provided by the town, the project is now finished – the embankment stabilized and sealed and the roadway repaired.

Though some town officials and commissioners believe the fortified portion of Chowan, which is only 12 ft. to 16 ft. wide, should be one-way – opening to two-way before and after the area – property owners on the road want its two-way status returned.

Commissioner Brian Stiehler, Chairman of the Parks and Recreation Committee, said that he and Commissioner Bob Frye are interested in hearing more about the two-way option.

Tax revaluations now reporting a 14 percent decline

By Brittany Raby

In 2012, the Macon County Board of Commissioners followed the rest of the western counties of North Carolina in delaying the state-mandated property tax revaluation. By devaluing the revaluation, commissioners hoped that the economy would continue to rebuild after the recession and property values would improve.

Since the ball park project was rebid due to a lack of bids, the town was legally allowed to open a bid from Warth Construction which was accepted.

The bid was originally $386,689 but after some negotiating was trimmed by $12,745 lowering the total to $373,944.

Since this project wasn’t ins-
I have been mayor for almost a year. Folks still ask me how I’m doing, and how I’m dealing with the pressures of public office. I reply, yes, there are times of stress and difficulty, but I really enjoy serving as Highlands’ mayor.

Before being elected as mayor my wardrobe was rather informal, especially when I was working in my pottery studio. My wife was not impressed with my large supply of blue jeans and cotton pullover shirts. When it comes to my dressing for my role as the mayor, I have taken a new direction by following the example of President Ronald Reagan. It was told that Reagan was so honored to be the President of the United States that he would never take off his coat while working in the Oval Office. He had a deep respect for the historical office of the presidency.

While I am not anywhere near the man, or fashion master, as was President Reagan, I do view serving you as mayor as an honor and privilege. I remember entering the mayor’s office for the first time after being sworn in. I had a strong feeling of responsibility and realized appropriate dress was a part of the job. Now you won’t see me with a coat and tie each day, but I do try to meet the modest standard of attire sometimes referred to in Highlands as “mountain casual.” My clay covered blue jeans have been left back at my studio, although I admit my productivity in pottery has diminished in lieu of other important matters this past year.

During this Thanksgiving weekend I am thankful for the opportunity for public service. I am also thankful that I serve in a wonderful, giving and caring community where citizens are committed to creating a better life for all. While our town faces challenges in the future, like in our past we have the talent, creativity and resources to make good decisions for the future.

I also am thankful for our town staff and all the community volunteers working so diligently in our many non-profit organizations. I am thankful we have had a vibrant local economy this year. There is a wonderful energy and warmth in our village community that make folks want to be here.

And like all of you, I am thankful for those vital family ties that binds us all in love and affection for one another. So, my family and I will see you at the annual lighting of the Town Christmas Tree. I can’t wait to see our wonderful new Christmas decorations all lit up.

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.

Highlands Mayor Patrick Taylor

Dear Editor,

The Hudson Library would like to thank all who have participated in our Community Coffee this year, especially the people and organizations who have made Community Coffee’s first year a success.

How wonderful that our goal of becoming a hub of the community coincided with Mayor Patrick Taylor’s desire to keep the people of Highlands abreast of the issues. The collaboration began in January with snow on the ground, hot coffee in the pot, “Water” on the agenda, and 10 people in the audience.

Pat has invested a great deal of time and effort in Community Coffee by furnishing the topic and/or the speaker while facilitating the discussion. In fact, he even brought the refreshments for that first snowy meeting.

We would also like to thank the company Community Coffee and the associated Saurage family for an abundant supply of both coffee and coffee cups.

The Hudson Library looks forward to the second year of Community Coffee beginning January 30, the last Friday of the month from 11am-12pm, in which Mayor Taylor will introduce Recreation Director Lester Norris. Thank you and Happy Holidays from all of us at the Hudson Library.

Jennifer Crowley Librarian

Dear Editor,

This is about thanks and giving. As residents of Cashiers and Highlands, we have so much to be thankful for. We live in one of the most beautiful places in the world. This is attested to by the thousands of part time residents of Cashiers and Highlands, we associate Saurage family for an abundant supply of both coffee and coffee cups.

We would also like to thank the many local charitable organizations (a different non-profit group each month) to furnish the refreshments for each meeting. The host organizations deserve a warm thank you:

- Highlands Dialogue, Mountain Garden Club, Mountain Top Rotary, Highlands Rotary Club, Appalachian Humanist Group, Highlands Plateau Audubon Society, and Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust.
- Pat has introduced many Town Administrators to the community in this informal “Coffee” format, and we further thank Town Manager Bob Frye, Police Chief Bill Harrell, Public Works Director Lamar Nix, and Planning Administrator Josh Ward for taking time out of their busy schedules.

Next was the addition of a host organization (a different non-profit group each month) to furnish the refreshments for each meeting. The host organizations deserve a warm thank you:

- Highlands Dialogue, Mountain Garden Club, Mountain Top Rotary, Highlands Rotary Club, Appalachian Humanist Group, Highlands Plateau Audubon Society, and Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust.
- Next Mayor’s Community Coffee is Friday, Jan. 30

For the past 15 years, a local charitable...
By Brittany Raby

After searching the remote forest around Trails Carolina Wilderness Therapy Program in Cashiers for Alec Lansing since November 10, the Jackson County Sheriff’s Department called off the search on Saturday morning after finding a body in the forest near the camp.

Lansing, a 17-year-old teen from the Atlanta area, was at the Jackson County camp for at-risk teens at the request of his mother Pamela. On November 10, authorities reported that Lansing had walked away from the camp. During the nearly two-week period Lansing was missing, temperatures plummeted in the rugged terrain surrounding the camp.

Despite reports of a sighting of the teen at the Exxon gas station in Cashiers, the only trace searchers found of the teen was a reflector vest the camp distributes to teens when they arrive. Law enforcement officers received numerous tips of possible sightings of the teen, even as far as Main Street in Franklin, but nothing was confirmed.

The teen’s mother passed flyers around the Highlands area late last week, and gave Alec’s descriptions to shop owners. According to Pamela, the camp doesn’t allow campers to carry cell phones as part of the therapy program.

As the search for Lansing continued into the second week, a 24-hour command center was established at the Cashiers fire department, but the number of active individuals searching decreased as the days continued. On Saturday, the Jackson County Sheriff’s Department sent out a press release informing the public of a body, which is believed to be Lansing in the Nantahala National Forest.

“Today the Jackson County Sheriff’s Office along with multiple volunteers coordinated by the Jackson County Emergency Management Office conducted further searching of the forest where Lansing was last seen,” reads the press release. “The body was found in a remote portion of the forest by searchers. The Jackson County Sheriff’s Office investigators along with investigators with the United States Forest Service Law Enforcement are working together to continue to investigate the death.”

An autopsy has been requested by investigators to determine the cause of death.

**MC firefighter dies in house fire**

Nantahala Volunteer Fire and Rescue was dispatched at 12:51 a.m., on Friday, Nov. 21 to a report of a structure fire at 600 Briartown Church Road in Topton, NC.

Firefighters arrived to find the house engulfed in flames. They quickly extinguished the flames and discovered the body of Stephen Bradley McCoy, 36, inside the structure.

McCoy was home with his wife and two children at the time of the incident. His nine-year old daughter was airlifted to the Augusta Burn Center from the scene with severe injuries and two other family members received medical treatment at the scene.

McCoy was a member of Nantahala Fire and Rescue Department.

The cause and origin of the fire is under investigation by the Macon County Sheriff’s Office and fire investigators from the Macon County Fire Marshal’s Office.

There was heavy fire damage to the structure and the family’s personal belonging.

Nantahala Fire and Rescue was assisted by West Macon Fire and Rescue and Valletytown Fire and Rescue. Area Fire and Rescue departments in Macon County are flying flags half mast as well as displaying the Fallen Firefighters flag known as “The Thin Red Line.”
Revaluation results currently are showing around a 14 percent decline in property values in the aggregate,” said Roland. “At the beginning of the budget year we were expecting this percentage to be as high as 20 percent, but as the economy has continued to recover, our tax base values have shown improvement as well.”

After commission made the decision to delay the revaluation until 2015, Lightner told commissioners that the county as a whole would experience an estimated 20 percent decline in property value.

As it stands now, Macon County has the lowest property tax rate in the state, .27. With the adjustment in property values, and in order for commissioners to maintain a revenue neutral budget, the county’s property tax rate would have to increase to .33 to bring in $26 million in revenue to finance the current level county services.

While Lightner is expected to address commissioners in December, during his last update to commissioners, he informed the board that he and his team were wrapping up the revaluation in Highlands.

Highlands Dining

Jane P. Lewis

Jane P. Lewis, 88 of Highlands passed away Thursday, November 20, 2014 in a Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. She was born in Bibb County, GA October 19th, 1926. She was preceded in death by her mother, Sarah Ann Parks. She was a member of Athens United Methodist Church in Athens, GA where she had served as secretary. Mrs. Parks was a loving wife and mother. She is survived by her husband of 56 years, William G. Lewis, a daughter Wanda R. Moody of Watkinsville, GA, one sister, Martha Walker of Franklin and one nephew, Terry Barnes and wife Rhonda Moody of Watkinsville, GA and one sister, Martha Walker of Franklin and one nephew, Terry Barnes and wife Rhonda Moody of Watkinsville, GA.

No services are planned at this time. Memorial contributions may be made to Highlands United Methodist Church, 315 Main Street, Highlands, NC 28741. Bryant-Grant Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

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...PROJECTS continued from 1

cluded in the 2014-’15 budget Frye said it could be put in the 2015-’16 budget, with work finished early spring in time for 2016 sports at the complex. However, since this would delay the ice rink proposed by and funded by Williams until November 2016, he offered the town $100,000 to ensure ball park renovations would be completed this spring rather than next.

Factoring in the Williams offer, cost to the town would be $273,944 with monies allocated from the undesignated fund balance.

Commissioners voted unanimously to accept Williams’ offer of $100,000 for the ball park renovations and allocate money from the undesignated fund balance and to proceed with the project.

The project is expected to be completed early April 2015 with the ice rink to follow with a projected opening date of November 2015.

Pool Enclosure

Finding a company willing to enclose the new pool has proven to be nearly impossible. The job was bid twice; five contractors requested packages but none bid on the job.

Frye said contractors feel the $800,000 project is too small, some don’t want to work in Highlands over the winter, some aren’t comfortable doing the type of work required.

But last week, at the request of OEI’s Richard Delany, John Lupoli, of Lupoli Construction, bid on the job for $1,211,259, which is close to the total amount the Williams’ donated for recreation upgrades. In addition to enclosing the pool and upgrading the pool house the money was to be used to replace the gym floor and bleachers.

Frye said he has notified Delany and subsequently the Williams, that there is a possibility the pool enclosure project will not be moving forward at this time, he said.

Like the ball park project, since the pool enclosure job was bid twice it is legal for the town to enter into negotiations with whomever is interested.

Frye suggested, and the board agreed, to table the issue until the December meeting when more information will hopefully be available.

Closed Session

Following the closed session Thursday night, commissioners voted unanimously to file a complaint with the NC Bar Association against attorney Scott Neumann for filing a frivolous and vindictive lawsuit against the town in The Neumann Law Office PLLC v. The Town of Highlands (Macon County 14 CVS 594), and for questionable ethics resulting from statements he made in a letter-to-the-editor in the Oct. 30 edition of Highlands Newspaper.

The Back Story

During the October Town Board meeting Closed Session, commissioners instructed Town Attorney J.K. Coward to pursue payment for utilities in the The Neumann Law Office PLLC v. The Town of Highlands (Macon County 14 CVS 594). Coward said this will be vigorously defended as meritless and retaliatory, since he hasn’t paid his utility bill.

Frye said at this point, the board believes Neuman is behaving in a manner which in their opinion is exhibiting a level of ethics far below what one would expect from an officer of the court.

The complaint to the NC Bar Association was filed Monday.

“As our complaint states, we found it highly coincidental that a week after Mr. Neuman received a debt set-off letter for not paying utility bills, he files a law suit over an item that we thought had been dealt with back in February,” Frye said.

According to Frye, though all his accounts are now paid in full, at one time Neumann had three accounts he had defaulted on. “As an officer of the court one expects a higher level of ethics,” he said.

In his letter-to-the-editor Oct. 30, Neumann alleges the “…Town of Highlands cannot deliver safe power to its customers, it should get out of the electric business and leave it to the bigger utilities which properly maintain their equipment, and provide the same service for less money.”

This is in reference to an incident that occurred around Feb. 7, 2014, when a temporary over-voltage at his law office on N. 4th Street caused his computers, phone system, lighting and his copier machine to fry.

According to Neumann, at that time in February, a neutral wire in a town transformer came loose and instead of providing his office with a steady flow of 110 volts the voltage was double, or approximately 220 volts.

Neumann claims this cost him $10,000 and believes the town is liable for the damage.

However, in Mayor Pat Taylor’s Mayor on Duty column in the Nov 6 edition of Highlands Newspaper, he said the main issue expressed by the writer [Neumann] was that a neutral wire on a town transformer had come loose and caused damage to his office equipment. He was distressed that insurance, both his and the town’s policy, would not pay the claim. Taylor said insurers do not pay these types of claims if they determine no negligence was
involved. In this case, insurers viewed the claim as an accident caused by the forces of nature. If the town electric department had made a mistake, like incorrectly wiring a customer’s service, the town would certainly have paid for damages.

According to Frye, there are a variety of things the NC Bar Association could do concerning Neumann.

“As the governing oversight board of attorneys in NC, they could publicly censure Mr. Neumann for his behavior, they could put him on notice/probation that his behavior needed to change, or at the extreme end recommend his license to practice in NC be suspended or forfeited.”

Attorney Neumann was not available for comment by press time.

– Kim Lewicki

...PROJECTS continued from page 6

dropower, Inc., of Clovis, CA, believes the land upon which the hydroelectric plant sits was transferred to the Forest Service upon expiration of the town’s special use permit in 1996 as it lies entirely within the Nantahala National Forest.

However, according to Town Manager Bob Frye, no one know for sure who owns the property.

“We obviously have an interest in this but we don’t have grounds to do anything about it,” he said. “We can’t say ‘you can’t use our property’ if we can’t find proof saying we own the property,” he said.

Evidently, there aren’t any records that give Highlands the legal right to stop the project on the grounds of property ownership.

“The question is, being proponents of green energy, should we stand in the way?” asked Frye.

But citizens in the audience said they didn’t want this to happen citing the environmental impact to Highlands whose draw is nature.

With the cost of energy skyrocketing and the interest in “green energy” on the forefront, at the 2013 Town Board retreat, commissioners asked McGill Engineering to supply an estimate of what it would cost to augment Highlands’ energy demands with hydropower generated at the old hydroelectric plant.

According to McGill is would cost about $4.5 million which would presumably include about $250,000 in study and permitting fees.

Understandably, the town did not include the project in the 2013-’14 budget which was the purpose of the January 2013 budget retreat.

However, on Oct. 1, 2014, a legal...
Supposedly by accident, Bob ran into Elmer Schmidlap again at the local watering hole.

Elmer was getting paranoid because Bob seemed to be tracking him.

“OK, sonny, sit down and have a brew with me. And don’t give me that crap about being surprised to run into me. I know you are following me around. In addition to the diaper for dogs with weak bladders, maybe I should also invent a hat with rear view mirrors on it.

Did you have something in mind or did you just want me to buy you a beer?”

“Well yes, Elmer, I was thinking about logic and reason.

“Sonny, there ain’t no such thing, at least not that I can find. The only place it exists is in physics and I can assure you that physics obey the laws of logic and reason. The entire universe and even God herself must obey the laws of physics. There ain’t no such thing as magic.”

Yeah, but I’m talking about down to earth stuff. The way people think.

“Of course it does. So does religious theology. And as long as that goes on, we won’t be able to find solutions to our problems. I’ve mentioned this before but just look at the damage Al Sharpton has done to black people teaching dependency instead of self-worth and valuing themselves.”

But Al Sharpton does it for entirely different reasons, I would think. He’s just looking for power and is willing to sell out his fellow blacks to maintain his power.

“You don’t see him going to Chicago to lecture blacks who are killing each other by the dozen each month, of course not. He goes to Ferguson Missouri and raises hell over just one unfortunate death.

Could be he’s afraid to venture into Chicago and fears for his own life.

“That’s possible. But I just think his greed OVERPOWERS his ability to use reason and logic and he goes to Ferguson because he has an audience already there. “Sonny, we’re all guilty of ignoring reason and logic. The world is filled with people who are unable to think in a logical manner. For many of us, 2 plus 2 does not add up to 4.

“Some of it, of course, is just due to ignorance. The liberal Democrats believe that people shouldn’t have to struggle in life but that idea is contrary to all scientific knowledge of how things work on this planet. I’m not sure what the heck the Republicans believe.”

Elmer, it’s funny how the environmentalists don’t want the Keystone pipeline but are willing to risk shipments of oil from Canada by train. The pipeline is 50 times safer than the railroads. I guess it’s simply that their agenda overrides any sense of logic from them.

“We could go on and on for days or even months discussing how illogical people are.

“The tribal regions of Africa and the...
Middle School Basketball

The Lady Highlanders travelled to Victory School where they came out strong and took the game with an impressive 33 to 5 win.

High School Basketball

The Lady Highlanders travelled to Smoky Mountain, Robbinsville and AC Reynolds for scrimmage games. No score was kept.

The boys' team didn’t play this past week.

– Sierra Nylund

Middle East are excellent examples of how ignorance plays a hand in arriving at illogical conclusions.

“If we were able to somehow improve the single parent problem for blacks, provide them better schools and send them on to schools that teach them something they can make a living at, their problem would disappear but that’s too logical for most folks.”

True, and it’s too logical for the teachers’ unions who control things.

“And now of course, we’re allowing millions of Latinos who entered the country illegally to stay and compete with black Americans for jobs in their own country. This isn’t right.

“The money it will cost would be better spent on improving education for our black citizens.

“Gotta go, sonny, we’ll talk again.”

See you again, Elmer.

“Yeah, sonny, I have no doubt you will.”

**TELL TALES continued from page 8**
**• Highlands Area Events •**

**Annual Christmas Day Dinner at HCC’s Hudson House**

This annual affair raises money for various nonprofits in town and all proceeds benefit them. This year a match of up to $30,000 in donations has been promised. The buffet dinner prepared by area chefs, is 11 am to 5pm. Reservations only. Please call 526-9419.

**Hard Candy Christmas’ Art & Craft Show at WCU Fri. & Sat.**

The “Hard Candy Christmas” Art & Craft Show is a Mountain Christmas Tradition in this neck of the woods! It opens for its 27th year inside the Western Carolina University Ramsey Center in Cullowhee, N.C. November 28-29. The show is always held the Friday and Saturday after Thanksgiving. Hours are 10-5 each day with convenient free parking. Admission is Adults $4, children under 12 free. At the ticket table, get a piece of peppermint candy and an apple from local Barber Orchard. You will catch the Christmas Spirit. For more information: www.mountainArtisans.net or djhunter@dnet.net 828 524 3405

**Santa sittings begin after the tree lighting ...**

Santa and Mrs. Claus will be at the MountainTop Wine Shoppe right after the Tree Lighting Saturday night, Friday, Nov. 28 from 10a to 4p, on Saturday Dec. 6 after the parade until 4p and from 10a to 4p on Saturdays Dec. 13, and 20.

**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. 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.
- Aerobics with Tina Rogers 8-9a.

**Wednesdays**

- 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!
- 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. For more information or to pre-register your k - 6th grade child, please call 526-4153.

**First & 3rd Thursdays**

- Free local ongoing support group for caregivers. Are you 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 Carroll at Hudson Library 10:40am. Open to the public.
- Highlands Writers’ 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.
- 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 dcwitham@ymail.com, Donita (828) 526-9510.

**2nd Thursdays**

- Free wine tastings at Mountain Top 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 Dec. 6**

- Macon County Youth Boys basketball registration. You can register at the Highlands Recreation Department, Macon County Community Building or on-line at www.maconcounty-boysbasketball.com.

**Through Dec. 11**

- Movie at The Playhouse: Hunger Games: Mockingjay Part 1. Showtimes, Fri., Sat., Sun., Mon. & Thurs. 2p, 5p and 8p. No mov...
**Highlands Area Events**

- **Miles on Tuesday and Wednesday.**
- **Thurs. & Fri., Nov. 27-28**
  - Macon County Public Libraries will be closed.
  - The Highlands Civic Center will be closed.
- **Fri. & Sat., Nov. 28-29**
  - The annual Hard Candy Christmas Art & Craft Show inside WCU's Ramsey Center in Cullowhee, NC. 10a to 5p each day. Tickets are $4 for Adults and children under 12 are free.
  - At PAC the Friday after Thanksgiving, Jason D Williams. Enthusiastic, Reckless, Stormy... Rock & Roll in its natural state. Call today, most of the concerts last year were sold out. Highlands PAC 507 Chestnut Street, Highlands www.highlandspac.org
- **Sat., Nov. 29**
  - Holiday Artisan Market in Cafe 460, 10a to 4p.
  - Annual Lighting of the town Christmas Tree, carolling and visits with Santa at 6:30p. Main Street will be closed to traffic from 5:30-8:30p.
  - Annual Town Lighting and Carolling at 6:30p. Main Street will be closed to traffic from 5:30-8:30p.
  - Santa and Mrs. Claus will be on the lawn of MountainTop Wine Shoppe after the Tree Lighting.
  - The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate-to-strenuous 9.5-mile hike, elevation change 900 ft., to Cabin Flats in the Great Smoky Mountains, following Bradley Fork to an old logging camp. Meet at Oconaluftee Visitor Center in Cherokee at 9:00 am. Round trip from Visitor Center; 8 miles, from Franklin, 72 miles. Call leader Keith Patton, 828-456-8895, for reservations. Hike limited to 15 people.
  - The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a strenuous 10-mile hike, elevation change 700 ft., to Charlie's Union in the Great Smoky Park, starting at Newfound Gap on the Appalachian Trail for 4 miles to great view. Returning, the group may take the Boulevard Trail to the Jump Off for another spectacular view. Meet at Huddle House in Dillsboro at 7:30 am, drive 70 miles round trip. Call leader Don O'Neal, 828-586-5723 for reservations. Able visitors welcome.
- **Sun., Nov 30**
  - Walk with the Nantahala Hiking Club in the Franklin Christmas Parade and help hand out granola bars and pencils along the route. Pets on leash and families welcome! Pizza at Vitos after the parade. Phone leader Bill Van Horn 828-369-1983 for info on meeting place and time.
- **Wed., Dec 3**
  - At the Center for Plastic Surgery with Dr. Bob Buchanan, Epionce Open House. Learn about their botanical skin care. 10 to 2p. Refreshments and door prizes. Special one-day pricing.
- **Thurs., Dec 4**
  - Shop With a Cop Rotary Bingo at the Community Building by the ball field 6:30-8:30 p.m.
- **Sat., Dec 6**
  - Holiday Artisan Market in Cafe 460 9a to 5p.
  - Annual Christmas Parade on Main Street Highlands at 11a. Santa & Mrs. Claus will be at MountainTop Wine Shoppe to hear children's Christmas wishes.
  - Christmas Carol Sing at First Presbyterian Church at 2 p.m. Stell Huie will be song leader with Angie Jenkins at the organ. Come join us for a wonderful hour of singing in Christian fellowship.
- **Sat., Dec 13**
  - Holiday Artisan Market in Cafe 460 10a to 4p.
  - The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate-to-strenuous 10-mile hike, elevation change 700 ft., to Charlie's Bunion in the Appalachian Trail at Wine Springs, a little used horse trail that the leader would like to clear. Distance depends on the amount of clearing. Meet at Westgate Plaza in Franklin at 9 am, drive 36 miles round trip. Call leader Gail Lehman, 828-524-5298, for reservations or an alternate meeting place. Visitors welcome, no dogs please.

**Shop With a Cop Rotary Bingo**

The Rotary Club of Highlands will partner for the seventh year with the Macon County Sheriff’s Department and the Highlands Police Department on Thursday, December 4th for Shop With a Cop Rotary Bingo from 6:30 to 8:30 in the Highlands Community Building next to the ball park.

Shop With a Cop provides Christmas to well over 200 Macon Country children who otherwise would have little or no Christmas. Each child is taken to Wal-Mart by a law enforcement officer and will have $100 to spend with only a couple of conditions. First, they must buy something for themselves and second, something for someone else.

After fun and shopping with officers, children will have lunch and a Christmas Party where presents are wrapped after a visit with Santa Claus complete with photos. After the Party children are taken home by the officer.

Macon County Sheriff Robbie Holland points out that, “Many of the children come from difficult circumstances, where law enforcement officers are perceived as bad guys. Shop With a Cop works to change that image through friendship and participating in a Christmas that otherwise wouldn’t happen.” Highlands Police Chief Bill Harrell joins Sheriff Holland saying, “Shop With a Cop is a positive experience not only for the children involved but also for our officers.”

Rotary Bingo will be an evening of fun, a lot of laughs and a chance to yell, “Bingo!” The cost to play is $1 per card per game and there will be 15 games with the last game offering some serious money to a lucky winner. Refreshments are free and there will be a surprise visitor from the North Pole half way through the games. Half of the money paid to play Bingo goes to lucky winners and half goes to Shop With a Cop.

If you can’t be at Shop With a Cop Rotary Bingo on Thursday, please make a donation to Highlands Rotary for Shop With a Cop and drop it off at Highlands Police Dept., the Rec Park desk or give it to any Highlands Rotarian - that small sound on Christmas morning may be a child saying thank you.

The Rotary Club of Highlands is licensed by the State of NC to operate bingo games.
... EVENTS continued from page 11

reservations and/or information.
Sun., Dec 14
• The Nantahala Hiking Club will
take a moderate-to-strenuous 9-mile hike, elevation gain 1300 ft., going north on the Appalachian Trail from Wayah Crest to Wayah Bald Lookout Tower, 5342 ft. elevation, with great views of the Franklin area. Meet at Westgate Plaza in Franklin at 8:30 am, drive 24 miles round trip. Call leaders Diana Otero/Rudolph Buchholz, 765-318-9981, for reservations. Visitors welcome, no dogs please.

Tues., Dec 18
• This season the Holiday Program, presented annually by the Highlands Cashiers Players at the Highlands Performing Arts Center, is scheduled for Thursday evening, December 18, beginning at 7:00 P.M. This season a dramatic reading of Truman Capote’s touching story, “A Christmas Memory” from his childhood in rural Alabama will be featured. Also a group of area musicians, playing dulcimers, guitars, and fiddle will accompany singers for three songs interspersed in the reading. A reception downstairs in PAC will follow the reading with music by the “Mountain High Dulcimer Club.” The program is the Players gift to the community and is free to all.

Sat., Dec 20
• Holiday Artisan Market in Cafe 460 10a to 4p.
• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take an easy-to-moderate, up and down 3-mile hike to 60 ft. high Yellow Branch Falls, one of the most beautiful rocky waterfalls in western SC. If time allows, a stop can be made at nearby Stump Town Tunnel. Meet at Cashiers Rec Park at 9 am, drive 50 miles round trip. Call leaders Mike and Susan Kettles, 828-743-1079, for reservations. Visitors welcome, no dogs please.

Sun., Dec 21
• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate 7-mile hike, elevation gain 500 ft., on Chunky Gal Trail, off the Appalachian Trail from Deep Gap in Standing Indian area to Glade Gap on Hwy. US 64. Meet in Franklin at Westgate Plaza at 8:00 a.m., drive 45 miles round trip with car shuttle. Call leader Don O’Neal, 828-596-5723, for reservations.

... FERC continued from page 7

notice in The Franklin Press, submitted by Advanced Hydropower, Inc. announced its application with FERC requesting a licensing permit to revive the hydroelectric plant.

Under their proposal, Advanced Hydropower would generate 775 KW at peak times, and make over $200,000 a year by selling power and green energy credits back to Duke. The town would receive no money.

Mayor Pat Taylor said he learned of this quite by accident when on his weekly walk with citizens. Sam Green said he saw the announcement in The Franklin Press and wondered what Mayor Taylor thought about it.

At Thursday’s Town Board meeting, Taylor said he was alarmed on several levels — one being that the notice didn’t run in any Highlands newspapers since the project clearly involves Highlands, another was that as mayor he was not notified of the plan.

Highlands has only 10 days left to respond to the notice so as a stop gap measure, Taylor requested permission to send a letter to FERC outlining Highlands’ concerns.

“As mayor I am asking the board to endorse me responding immediately to FERC on the following grounds.

1. We have recently explored resuming operations of the power plant, as late as 2013.
2. The legal notification by California Power did not appear in any Highlands newspapers, but instead in a newspaper located 20 miles away in another town, Franklin.
3. In the initial application, the mayor was listed as the representative of Highlands, a principal stakeholder, yet he was never contacted.
4. Furthermore, the town has concerns with any project that will impact the Cullasaja River and change the natural environment and compromise a locally historic site.
5. As a major stakeholder in this process, the Town of Highlands expects to be informed and included in all aspects of this application process.

Though all agreed that a response was necessary ASAP, commissioners had various views on the subject.

Commissioner John Dotson said he was concerned about someone other than Highlands reviving the plant.

• See FERC page 13
“As a town we have a vested ‘grandfathered’ interest in this. If anyone does this, we should be the one who does it. I would love it if we were energy self-sufficient and would love to see the town off the grid especially if we could do it 100%. But even if we can’t, we should still explore this amongst ourselves,” he said. “I’m not sure the $4.5 million price tag is a reason to let it go to someone else at this point.”

According to Public Service Administrator Lamar Nix, it take 10-13 Megawatts to fully power the town, and the most the hydro plant could generate would be 1 megawatt.

“We should still put a bug in the government’s ear to let it know this California company isn’t the only horse in this race,” said Dotson.

Frye said this could be 10-15 years down the road and there are numerous hurdles to be jumped by anyone interested in pursuing this.

Already the NC Wildlife Resource Commission has responded to the application: one motion to intervene and one to comment on the preliminary permit; the Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance has filed a comment and a motion to intervene; and the US Dept. of Interior has filed a notice of intervention.

Commissioner Donnie Calloway suggested the town file a petition to revive the plant on its own behalf but Frye said FERC may look at that as Highlands’ way to block it which would be looked at negatively.

Commissioner Amy Patterson said she didn’t want to do that because filing it might look like “we are for it, when we might not be.”

“An application from us might look like we think it’s an OK thing to do. This could affect the entire town whose economy is based on its attractive environment,” she said.

According to the application, the configuration of the project will be run-of-the-river with no storage capacity and a constantly bypassed flow quantity operated solely in a run-of-the river configuration at all times. This diversion will be a small weir with a coanda-effect screened intake roughly 40-50 feet wide, 1-2 feet high above the stream bed and will be constructed of concrete. The diversion structure will also consist of a collecting basin below the coanda-effect screened intake, and a sluice gate located near the penstock connection portal located near the middle of the collecting basin.

It will have a new 36-inch diameter above ground penstock, approximately 2,000 feet in length with a tailrace overall dimension of about 10 feet wide at the powerhouse expanding to 40 feet wide at the end of the stilling basin portion of the tailrace approximately 30-40 feet downstream of the powerhouse.

The project does not include any dams. The diversion structure will create a small pool of water upstream approximately 40-50 feet wide and 1-2 feet deep at the upstream face of the weir. This weir will pool water approximately 30 feet upstream and result in a pool with a capacity of about 1,000 cubic feet. The elevation of the resulting pool is approximately 3,575 feet mean sea level which will be entirely within the Nantahala National Forest property and will not affect the normal operations of the Lake Sequoyah Dam or the Town of Highland’s Waste Treatment Facility.

Frye said the FERC application by Advanced Hydropower and the town’s response is the first step in a 50-step process that could take years.

– Kim Lewicki
Happy Thanksgiving! Shop Local

Book Signing ...

at the Book Nook in The Toy Store

Saturday, Nov. 29 • 2-4p

Meet photographer, Robb Helfrick, author of 13 coffee table books, and get your personalized mountain keepsake book.

Robb’s works have appeared in Audubon, Atlanta Magazine, National Geographic, Sierra, Sky, Travel Holiday and National Parks.

The Toy Store • 365 Main Street
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One pound of our perfect combination of dark chocolate, white chocolate and peppermint pieces in a gift box with a gourmet candy cane. This is the perfect holiday gift.
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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+ hand-mixed signature blends and rubs. Also, a wide variety of loose leaf teas!
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**SALE**
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**SALE**

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**Sidelines**
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SPECIALS
2 Days ONLY!
- All Highlands custom polar fleece 50% OFF
- All Highlands custom T’s 50% OFF
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- All CHILDREN’S Collegiate clothing 50% OFF
- SELECT Women’s Collegiate Hoodies and tops 50% OFF
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Black Friday Special
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who lives on Chowan, agreed with citizens saying that the narrow width of Chowan at that point is no different than areas along Wyanoak and numerous other roads in Highlands where drivers routinely pull over or into driveways to let oncoming traffic pass.

“We should listen to the folks who live there,” he said.

However, Commissioner Donnie Calloway, who sits on the Public Safety Committee disagreed.

“Lamar and I went up there and he came from one direction and I came from another and when he came around the curve we couldn’t pass, in fact I couldn’t even back up, he had to,” he said. “I am on the Public Safety Committee not the Public Convenience Committee. I don’t think it’s safe to make it two-way.”

But Stiehler said a lot of roads in Highlands should probably be one-way but are two-way.

“There are several roads in Highlands where you pull into someone’s driveway to let them pass or where you have to back up,” said one Chowan Road homeowner. “In the 22 years I’ve lived there, there have only been three occasions when I had to back up.”

Commissioner Eric Pierson, who also sits on the Public Safety Committee, said opening that portion of the road to two-way traffic was a liability issue because when the road was repaired and the embankment fortified and railed, the town had to make the road even more narrow.

Commissioner John Dotson, a Realtor, said he agreed with Stiehler, saying people bought their property on a two-way road and it wasn’t in their best interest to make it one-way.

He suggested signage at both ends warning to proceed with caution would do the trick.

“Driving with caution is clearly required on many town roads – many fall into this category and are narrow and impassable for two vehicles in places,” he said.

Commissioner Amy Patterson agreed saying Chowan Road shouldn’t be taken out of context since there are a lot of roads like Chowan.

“We have to look at the big picture and we can’t choose to make this road one-way over others because it’s no more dangerous than in other places,” she said.

Plus she said everyone who lives there has the option to use the road as a one-way road if they so choose. “They live there and know what’s going on,” she said.

In the end the board voted 3 to 2, with Calloway and Pierson voting no, to keep it two-way with signage to proceed with caution.

– Kim Lewicki
A ccording to the Highlands/Cashiers Multiple Listing Service Comparison Report, residential sales in the Highlands area including in-town Highlands are up 29% in unit sales and 41% in volume amount. Townhouse/Condo sales are up 86% in unit sales and 140% in volume amount.

Conversely, sales of lots are down 9% in units and 10% in volume and commercial is down 20% in units and 78% in volume.

Overall, real estate sales are up 27% in units and 34% in volume. Congratulations to everyone who participated in these investments and to those of us who continue to enjoy this magical area.

Another interesting trend is that homes over two million doubled in volume amount this year on the Highlands/Cashiers Plateau.

In 2013, $22 million was invested in homes listed for over $2 million and this year, $50 million was invested in this price range. The robust stock market may be contributing to this trend as well as the fact that for the first time in recent memory, lenders are offering well-heeled buyers large “jumbo” mortgages at the same – or even better – interest rates as smaller loans.

This trend has helped fuel a resurgence at the high end of the real estate market across the country and is validated by our area.

The National Association of Realtors reports that most residential real estate firms have a positive view of the future, with 66 percent of firms expecting to see profit increase in the next year.

“Despite continued challenges, real estate firms expect market growth in tandem with the ongoing recovery,” said NAR President Steve Brown.

This sentiment is certainly shared by Highlands Sotheby’s International Realty.

This year has been an incredible year for Highlands Sotheby’s, and we thank all of our clients and friends for their support in making this happen.

In addition to selling over 48 million dollars in real estate, we added eight top-producing brokers to our company bringing our total broker count to 19 professionals.

We all have many reasons to be thankful this Thanksgiving, and we hope that you and yours enjoy good health, happiness and love this holiday season.

- Jody Lovell and her husband, Wood, own Highlands Sotheby’s International Realty which has been a leader in sales on the Plateau for the last fourteen years. Jody has been the top producing broker on the entire MLS for the last six years. With two locations: one at The Old Edwards Inn Complex and one at the gate of Cullasaja Club, they are ready to serve all of your real estate. Call them at 828-526-4104.

- Thanks You for Investing in Highlands!

You are all set to build! Amazing price for a .90 +/- acre lot in Ridgeview Estates. Gently rolling topography with easy access from Raven’s Ridge Road, fantastic mountain views, 700’ well with 2 gallons of water per minute, and great building site. Cool elevation and great neighborhood. Snap it up!

Offered at $60,000. MLS #80680.
Contact Susie deVille at (828) 371-2079.

- Affordable Move-in Ready Home

Great family home priced just right! This 3BR/2BA home sits on 1.16 +/- acres and is move-in ready. Hardwood floors, slate flooring in the kitchen with tile in the bathrooms. Includes a hot tub on the back deck. A full basement features washer & dryer, bathroom, and an ability to finish. An additional shed/workshop sits on the property. Seller is the original owner and home has been lovingly maintained. This home has wonderful upgrade potential!

Offered at $199,000. MLS #80121.
Contact Susie deVille at (828) 371-2079.

- Price Reduction on Commercial Listing

A wonderful opportunity to invest in a Highlands In-Town, High Traffic, Commercial Property. This property is also zoned Residential including a 5 Bdr/2 Bath house. Perfect for office space or retail. This property is located next to The Bascom.

Offered at $749,000. MLS #79511.
Contact Sheryl Wilson (828) 337-0706.

- Commercial Zoned B-3 with 1/1 Apt.

Excellent opportunity to own commercial property in downtown Highlands. Zoned B-3 commercial. Commercial/retail/professional space on the main level w/office area, storage space, and half bathroom. Upper level is a newly-renovated, charming, one bedroom, one bath apartment with hardwood floors throughout. Garage may be used for extra storage space. Gas log fireplace on both levels.

Offered at $395,000. MLS #69631.
Contact Susie deVille at (828) 371-2079.

- Adorable Commercial Cottage!

Adorable 1940’s cottage, known as Rosebay Cottage, with granite fireplace, original pine paneling and oak floors. Great road visibility on Highway 64 East (Cashiers Rd.) Plans for possible expansion on file.

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

Contact Susie deVille (828) 371-2079.

“Invest in Highlands, NC Real Estate … and Invest in Your Life.”

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Susie deVille, Broker-in-Charge
(828) 371-2079

Sheryl Wilson, Broker
(828) 337-0706
Highlands Sotheby’s welcomes new agents

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.

Two lots sold this winter and a year round home is being built ... New cottage section opening soon!

Strong sales and expansion drive Highlands Sotheby’s growth

Highlands Sotheby’s International Realty announced the addition of six experienced former Harry Norman brokers joining their team bringing the number of brokers to 19. “2014 has proven to be a very strong year for Highlands Sotheby’s with over 48 million in sales, more than any other firm in Highlands per the Highlands-Cashiers Multiple Listing Service. With the addition of these established producers, 2015 could be one of the best years in our fifteen year history,” said Wood Lovell, who owns Highlands Sotheby’s with his wife, Jody. The six new brokers and office manager coming on board include:

- Cathy Garren has a previous career in banking as a Mortgage Loan Officer and Trust and Estate
- Ted Meier and Gail Knight (Office Managers), Molly Leonard, Cathy Garren, Jeannette Gurganus, Bert Mobley, Jody Lovell

Breze & Beary

Steve Sheppard
Cell: 404-219-1349

Tammy Mobley, CCIM
Broker in Charge
Cell: 770-337-1000
Officer with First Union National Bank for ten years. For the past fifteen years, Cathy has been extremely active and successful in the Highlands/Cashiers real estate market and has devoted countless hours to the local Board of Realtors. She recognized the incredible marketing advantages that the Sotheby's brand offers her clients.

Bert Mobley moved to Highlands in 2003 following a life-long desire to live in the mountains. Previously a high school teacher at Marist in Atlanta, he has a strong following from his students and parents. Bert's energy, enthusiasm and extensive knowledge of the marketplace make him a perfect fit with the Sotheby's brand.

Molly Leonard has real estate in her blood, as her mother was a successful agent in Atlanta for many years before Molly continued the family tradition in Highlands. Having visited Highlands all of her life before calling it home gives Molly history and knowledge of the Highlands area that benefits her clients. Her desire is to find her clients the right property and make sure the process is positive.

Jeannette Gurganus previously worked as a Realty Specialist for the United States Forest Service buying and exchanging land. This background provides deep knowledge of the local owners and their parcels. Jeannette has over twenty years of real estate experience, twelve of which have been on the Highlands/Cashiers Plateau. Jeannette is excited to give her clients a “world class Sotheby’s experience” whether buying or selling property.

Frank Scudder is an important pillar of the Highlands community and has been since 1976 when his family opened Scudder’s Auction House in Highlands. He meets people from all over the world who visit Highlands and enjoys helping...
Holt Knob.  Just what everyone wants! Walk to town with great mountain view.  3br/2.5 furnished with a large deck.  $565,000.  MLS# 76583

Wildcat Ridge home with 3br/4ba, family room, spacious decks, water feature and private gate at driveway.  Bright and airy on 1.6+/- acres.  $695,000.  MLS# 80661

King Mountain Club  3br/3ba with wonderful mountain view, sunroom and office. Needs TLC. You won't believe the price! REDUCED! $179,900.  MLS# 78789

Highlands Falls Country Club maintenance free living in this freestanding 3br/3ba furnished condo with a great golf course view!  $357,000.  MLS # 73808

Cullasaja Club furnished cottage with extensive waterfall feature. 3br/3ba beautifully remodeled with granite kitchen and baths.  $675,000.  MLS# 79896

Wildcat Cliffs Country Club.  Fully remodeled 4br/4ba home with open living spaces, large kitchen, rustic details and quality finishes. Great rental history!!!  $695,000.  MLS #80111

Lake Sequoyah frontage from this 1.29 acre lot with a gentle slope and community water in upscale Sequoyah Point.  $397,000.  MLS# 77522

Exceptional opportunity to own a commercial building w/easy access off NC 106. Perfect landscaping; countertop and cabinetry fabrication; storage; furniture making; and construction. Plus a small 2/2 house that can be rented out or used by the owner.  $396,000  MLS #80316

COMpletely remodeled in 2005. New kitchen, luxury master suite w/ his and her baths. Large covered decks with fireplace room to use in cold weather. Beautiful grounds incl stream & pond. Guesthouse. $1,100,000  MLS #74659

Located at the top of Highlands Falls CC with a commanding view of both Whiteside and Shortoff Mountains, this sophisticated home is packed with design features.. 5/6/1 $2,500,000MLS #79125

Great value in Highlands Falls. 5/5 family home with a mountain view. Cathedral & beamed ceilings, hardwood floors & beautiful built-in cabinetry give the great room a grand feel. Secret wine cellar for the wine aficionado. $737,000  MLS #71104

Old Highlands Charm at the top of Big Bearpen Mtn with a spectacular view of Whiteside & Chimney Top. Vintage 3BR/3BA home with a lovely porch on the back of the home.  $995,000  MLS # 79622

4/4 home on the Atlanta side of Highlands with a 360 degree mountain view plus a dead on view of a beautiful waterfall. Horizontal wood plank walls and beautiful heart pine floors. Reclaimed antique doors and hardware plus antique light fixtures.  $897,000  MLS #79031

Beautiful lake frontage contemporary cottage home in Cold Springs Saddle and Tennis Club. National Forest on one side w/lots of privacy. Great lake view from deck, and studio/guest quarters above the garage with full bath and kitchenette.  $1,100,000 MLS #79848

Mirror Lake. 3/2 Wood floors & ceilings, remodeled kitchen & baths, fresh paint and new roof. Just bring your toothbrush as this is furnished and ready to enjoy. Good mountain views. $299,000 MLS #75048

Cullasaja Club awesome lakefront property. Beautifully furnished with plenty of bedrooms and baths plus a private guest quarters.  $2,135,000.  MLS# 79741

Cullasaja Club furnished cottage with extensive waterfall feature. 3br/3ba beautifully remodeled with granite kitchen and baths.  $675,000.  MLS# 79896

Adorable 3/2 cottage includes extra lot plus a strip of deeded land across the street on Lake Sequoyah with a dock. Terraced gardens with multiple seating areas.  $650,000  MLS #79846

Wildcat Cliffs Country Club. Fully remodeled 4br/4ba home with open living spaces, large kitchen, rustic details and quality finishes. Great rental history!!!  $695,000.  MLS #80111

Cullasaja Club awesome lakefront property. Beautifully furnished with plenty of bedrooms and baths plus a private guest quarters.  $2,135,000.  MLS# 79741

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Exceptional opportunity to own a commercial building w/easy access off NC 106. Perfect landscaping; countertop and cabinetry fabrication; storage; furniture making; and construction. Plus a small 2/2 house that can be rented out or used by the owner.  $396,000  MLS #80316

A private sanctuary of comfort & charm, with open-plan living & dining area. 4/3 with hardwood flooring, stained pine ceilings & two-sided fireplace. Close to all the amenities that Trillium has to offer. $350,000 MLS #74443
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www.CCPHighlandsNC.com

Private compound of 9+ acres off Flat Mountain Road. Walk to Randall Lake, private deck with fireplace and ridgeline view. 1 BR/2 BA, a perfect cozy get-away! Large shop building could easily become a guest house. The property is developable. Offered at $995,000. MLS #80371

Historic home built around 1940 on 5 acres of terraced gardens with stunning views of Blue Valley, Rabun Bald, and SC and GA. Large windows, main floor bedroom and bath with 2 guest bedrooms upstairs. Garage. Additional View lots possible. $1,200,000. MLS #78884

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But Tim Kasser in his book "The High Price of Materialism" concluded that affluent cultures and individuals are not on average happier than others. In fact, those in the United States are among the least content people on earth. The late social psychologist Abraham Maslow found that those in the top 5% of the world's earners can generate in and of themselves. Contentment has to have a pervasive and perverse discontent.

What might go a long way toward relieving our modern day stresses and despair would be a renewed sense of contentment embedded with thankfulness for what we already have — which is abundantly more than most people think. Paul found all he needed in his relationship to God and strengthens me…And my God will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus.” Simply, Paul found all he needed in his relationship to God and the riches he found he held in the Lord Jesus Christ.

If affluence and material things could make us happy, Americans should be the happiest people in the world. But Tim Kasser in his book "The High Price of Materialism" concluded that affluent cultures and individuals are not on average happier than others. In fact, those in the United States are among the least content people on earth. The late social psychologist Abraham Maslow found that those in the top 5% of the world's earners can generate in and of themselves. Contentment has to have a pervasive and perverse discontent.

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The Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. log entries from Nov. 9.

**Nov. 9**
- At 12:44 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Buckberry Road.
- At 12:40 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Spring Street.

**Nov. 10**
- At 11:20 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Falcon Ridge Road.
- At 12:40 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Buck Creek Road.

**Nov. 11**
- At 2:16 p.m., the dept. responded to a brush fire on Queen Mountain.
- At 3:43 p.m., the dept. responded to a brush fire on Buck Creek Road.
- At 5:09 p.m., the dept. responded to a brush fire on Holly Tree Road.

**Nov. 12**
- At 6:12 a.m., the dept. provided mutual aid to Scaly Mountain Fire Dept. on Rabbit Hill Road.
- At 11:38 a.m., the dept. provided mutual aid to the Scaly Mtn. Fire Dept., but the call was cancelled en route.
- At 2:38 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Hicks Road.
- At 4:14 a.m., the dept. was called to assist with a brush fire in Satolah, but it was cancelled.
- At 6:39 a.m., the dept. was called to 5th Street about a fire caused by a downed power line.
- At 8:40 a.m., the dept. provided mutual aid to the Cashiers FD.

**Nov. 13**
- At 2:16 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a fire on Magnolia Drive.
- At 7:02 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Magnolia Drive.

**Nov. 14**
- At 8:20 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Big Bear Pen Road.

**Nov. 15**
- At 7:02 p.m., the dept. provided mutual aid to Scaly Mountain Fire Dept. on Rabbit Hill Road.

**Nov. 16**
- At 11:03 p.m., the dept. provided mutual aid to the Cashiers FD.

**Nov. 17**
- At 6:17 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Cherokee Drive.

**SPRITITUALLY SPEAKING continued from page 24**

States who identified themselves as “very happy” has declined from 35 to 29 percent in the last few decades. He observes that consumer cultures like ours breed a narcissistic personality by constantly focusing us on the glorification of consumption and the denouement of obsoleteness that drives us constantly toward the “Next Big Thing.” And I would say that nothing will make us more discontent and less thankful than a focus on ourselves.

**Contentment and thankfulness go hand-in-hand.**

In discontent we accuse God of being negligent toward us, and fail to acknowledge His abundant blessings on us now. Thankfulness catalogues His goodness toward us, and gives Him proper praise and recognition for His gifts while building in us contentment and satisfaction. Paul said in 1 Thessalonians 5:18 that “in everything give thanks, for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.” It is Thanksgiving this week. Let us do as the Psalmist said and enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise. Give thanks to Him and bless His name” (100:4). I believe that with a real spirit of thankfulness toward God for all He has done for us and all that we have, we will discover the joy of contentment in a world of discontent. And we won’t have to look for the “Next Big Thing” for we already have the biggest and best there ever will be – we have the Lord, and what more could we want?

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them find the perfect match in real estate as well as antiques or other treasures. Sotheby’s is a synergistic partner for Frank across the spectrum of his interests.

Lizzie Salzarulo, the previous owner of Harry Norman, is coming on board after a well-deserved respite over the holidays. Lizzie and her fellow brokers will bring to Sotheby’s all their many Harry Norman contacts in metro Atlanta, which will only strengthen the Atlanta pipeline for Buyers and Sellers and further add to the large client base Highlands Sotheby’s International Realty already services.

Gail Knight will be the Office Manager at Sotheby’s Old Edwards Inn location. Gail has a thirty-year history with Bell South and applied her organizational skills in real estate over the last nine years managing real estate offices.

Earlier this year, two top-producing brokers joined the company: Carole Oxford and Pat Buchanan.

“We are so grateful to our wonderful clients and friends for their referrals and business. We are very excited to have new brokers with so much experience join our Highlands Sotheby’s family which will provide better exposure for our Sellers and deeper knowledge for our Buyers” said Jody Lovell. “With two locations: one at the entrance of Cullasaja Club and one in The Old Edwards’ Inn Complex, we are ready to help with your real estate needs. Call us at 828-526-4104 or 526-8300.”

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The Rotary Club of Highlands honored the November Highlands School Scholars of the Month at its November 18 meeting. Pictured with Nicole Lui, School Counselor, and Peter Ray, club President, are: Brooke Fogarty, elementary school winner, Eli Kennedy, middle school winner and Rachael Foster, high school winner.

Fresh, made-in-house, bakery products now available at Mountain Fresh Grocery

From left: Head Breadmaker Jocelyn Thacker and Bakery Manager Cristina Vives display an array of fresh donuts. Items include Stollen Bread, baguettes ciabatta, fruit, pecan and pumpkin pies, cakes for birthdays, weddings and anniversaries, layer cakes, dinner rolls, brownies, lemon bars, cookies, pound cake, cupcakes and macaroons daily in Mountain Fresh Grocery’s bakery.

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‘Holiday Artisan Market’ is open weekends through December 20

The market, which is an offshoot of the Farmers Market that was in Kelsey-Hutchinson Park this past summer and fall, has reinvented itself and is now set up in Cafe 460. Hours are Friday, Nov. 28 from 10a to 4p, Sat., Nov. 29 from 10a to 4p, Sat., Dec. 6 from 9a to 5p, Sat., Dec. 13 from 10a to 4p, and Sat., Dec. 20 from 10a to 4p.

– Photo by Jim Lewicki

Help feed the hungry!

MountainTop Rotary Club is helping the hungry in Highlands and wants your help! Purchase a meal or gift card to share with the community during the holiday season. Bryson’s Gift Cards are available for $20. Dinner meal certificates are available from Mountain Fresh Grocery for $19.95 each. All donations will be shared between the Highlands Emergency Council and the local food bank.

...LETTERS continued from page 2

organization, H.A.N.D.S., the Highlands Area Nonprofit Donation Sharing, has held a community Christmas Dinner to raise funds to give back to the community. Last year, the Dinner raised $36,000 for local charities. The majority of these funds are not raised by the $40 charged for the Dinner, but from local businesses and residents who donate their time and money.

Who among us cannot afford to donate something, no matter how large or how small, for the benefit of our community? That’s the “giving” part of Thanksgiving. Please join me in opening your checkbooks for this worthwhile, local, charitable effort. I am thankful to be part of this community. I will match each donation! Let’s give ‘til it helps. Need more information? Call 526-5102.

A Friend of the Community

Dolinta named to honor society

Ana Maria Dolinta, of Highlands and a student at Southwest Community College, was named to the National Technical Honor Society at Southwestern Community College.

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Living Center veterans participate in Veteran’s Day celebration

The Eckerd Living Center (ELC) at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital (HCH) participated in the Veteran’s Day Celebration hosted by the Town of Franklin for the 2nd year in a row. The ELC Veterans enjoyed a full day of festivities beginning with a cheering crowd of onlookers on Main Street in downtown Franklin during the Veteran’s Day Parade then onto lunch at the local VFW Club and a tour of the Veteran’s Memorial Park.

Local Members of the Battle of Sugartown Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) and Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) volunteered to assist with the ELC Veteran’s during the day’s festivities.
Sincere Thanks to both local chapters for their help during this wonderful day.

H-C Hospital hosts clergy ‘Meet and Greet’

Highlands-Cashiers Hospital’s (HCH) chaplain, Ralph Campbell, hosted a meet and greet for new clergy to meet their fellow clergy serving our communities and patients at HCH. In total, 22 clergy and spouses attended the “Low Country Boil and Bluegrass Jam” on October 23 at the HCH dining room and patio. Shown here is Steve Kerhoulas, pastor of Christ Church of the Valley, as he enjoys some of the delicious food that was served.

For more information on spiritual care at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital, please call the chaplain at 828-526-1305.
HELP WANTED

PART TIME - CO-DIRECTOR FOR AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM. Call 526-3175 or 482-0326 for more information. (st. 11/26)

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)

PART TIME SEASONAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY AVAILABLE. Prior wait staff experience required. 20 - 30 hours with weekend availability. Call 803-389-0199. (st. 6/12)

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

SALES ASSOCIATE FOR HIGH END RETAIL CLOTHING STORE IN HIGHLANDS, NC. Full time, part-time and seasonal. Must be available to work weekends. Retail clothing sales experience preferred. Please call 828-200-1703. (st. 3/13)

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1BR/1BA APARTMENT. All utilities included. No pets. 828-200-2061. (st. 11/26)

HIGHLANDS CREEK VILLAGE. 460 DILLARD ROAD. Live or/and work, units available. Please Call 828-787-1923 for tour. (12/18)

TWO BEDROOM AND THREE BEDROOM THREE BATH HOUSES AVAILABLE. Just 3 miles from Main St. Freshly painted and Propane Heat. 6-12 month lease available. Call 828-421-4681. (st. 11/20)

2 BR APT. IN TOWN. Walk to work, shop, eat. Unfurnished. $675 + utilities. Cynthia (828) 526-9227. (st. 10/30)

SAPPHIRE NC. Partitioned Home for lease” - 2 Bedroom (mountain views) with 2-car Garage. Easy access Sapphire NC. 561-346-6400 (11/20)


CLEAN 2/2 COTTAGE IN SKY VALLEY. $540 weekly. $1900 monthly. Furnished, utilities included, carport/ extra parking. Call: 706-746-3593. (st. 9/4)

RESIDENTIAL FOR SALE

CABINS FOR SALE/RENT. Located on Sawmill Road in Clear Creek. 4.63 acres. Call 828-526-2720. Price Negotiable. (11/6)

2BR/1BA HOME. Clear Creek Road. New exterior paint, inside paint, Brand new appliances, new flooring throughout. $165,000. (828) 526 2288/ (828)482-2385. (st. 9/25)

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LOTS/LAND FOR SALE


LAND FOR SALE IN CLEAR CREEK: 2.18 acre parcel has road frontage on Mack Wilson Rd. $17,000. Any reasonable offers will be considered. Call 828-526-2874. (st. 10/23)

FOR SALE BY OWNER – 3 building lots in the gated community of Rustic Falls. Macon County tax records show $35,000 each. Must sell due to health reasons. Asking $15,000 each. Call owner at 803-640-6004. (St. 5/1)

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

ITEMS FOR SALE

WINTER GREETINGS EVERYDAY CHINA BY LENOX. 17 plates, 13 salad plates, 14 mugs, 1 platter. perfect condition. $550. 828-200-9777. (st. 11/20)

5TH-WHEEL MOTOR HOME. Wanderer by Thor. 27ft. w/10ft. slideout. 2ft. repair needed. $2,500. 828-200-9143. (st. 10/30)

PIANOS FOR SALE - 2 consoles, 1 spinet, 1 upright, 1 electric organ, $150 each, all for $500. Call 526 4818 (st. 10/23)

FURNITURE. Lodge pole pine pedestal dining/ breakfast table with stump base and 2 single/2 double half log benches; handcrafted in Franklin, NC; in excellent condition; slab is 4 1/4” x 36” x 3 1/4”. Estimated retail value is $2,000 and asking $1,200. Please call 229-221-4080 or email janwadams49@gmail.com (10/30)

WORMY CHESTNUT FOR SALE: Approximately 300 square feet of ¾” wormy chestnut wainscot milled and finished. Board length 36”; width varies from 4” to 8”. $2800 lot price. 404-944-5298 (st. 3/20)

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HIGHLANDS RESIDENT PROVIDES LOCAL HOUSE AND PET SITTING, errands, food delivery Rita 526-4249 (11/13)

HIGH COUNTRY PHOTO/KEVIN VINSON: scanning photos, slides & negatives to CD or DVD for easier viewing. Video transfer to DVD. Everything done in house. Leave message at 828-526-5208. (st. 10/23)

MARK’S SEDAN SERVICE – Airport transportation, winter-fall tours. Call or Text 239-292-3623. Mark9398@aol.com (st. 9/11)

HANDYMAN SERVICE – Electrical, plumbing, pressure cleaning, painting, carpentry, yardwork. References. Call Al Edgar at cell: 332-7271 or 369-6245. (11/30)

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