October: best tourism month for Western NC

By Brittany Raby

Last week, the Boiler Room Steakhouse in Franklin filled with local leaders from the far western seven counties: Cherokee, Clay, Graham, Haywood, Jackson, Macon, and Swain and the 16 municipalities therein for the September meeting of the Southwestern North Carolina Planning and Economic Development Commission.

In addition to regular business, the meeting’s agenda featured a highlight talk from Dr. Steve Morse, economist and director of the Hospitality and Tourism Program at Western Carolina University, who spoke about the importance of tourism in the region.

Cochran could get death penalty

By Brittany Raby

After appearing before Superior Court Judge Mark Powell, Charles Andrew Cochran was formally charged with 1st degree murder, 1st degree arson, and other felonies. After reading the list of charges being filed against Cochran, Judge Powell explained to Cochran that if convicted, he could face one of two choices: life in prison without the possibility of parole, or the death penalty.

In North Carolina, the charge of 1st degree murder has the potential to carry a death penalty sentence. By state law, one can be sentenced to the death penalty if convicted of 1st degree murder with the finding of 1 of 11 statutory aggravating circumstances, which includes being convicted of a second felony. Cochran faces for a felony charge for arson, as well as other charges.

North Carolina is one of 32 states in the country that still allows the potential to carry a death penalty. By state law, one can be sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole, or the death penalty.

Fall foliage forecast is good

The outlook for a bright leaf season is improving, as Western Carolina University fearless fall foliage forecaster Kathy Mathews has updated her prediction about the quality of the annual color show, based on changing conditions in the mountains.

“The weather patterns that
Sallie and I just returned from the beach on the Florida panhandle. It was good to get away, but as when I recently traveled through Georgia, I couldn’t help but compare what I was seeing to what happens in Highlands.

Heading to Florida we drove through Eufaula, Alabama. Like Madison, Georgia, Eufaula has a beautiful historic district. Old Neoclassical and Victorian homes line North Eufaula Avenue coming in from the four-lane highway, US 431. A large median runs down the avenue separating the single right and left lanes. Large, old oak trees growing in the median provide a wonderful shaded canopy.

The town of Eufaula, like many small towns, is caught between the pressure points of progress versus preservation. The state highway department wants to widen North Eufaula Avenue into four lanes so there is no bottleneck when arriving from US 431. Their position is the widening will benefit the local economy. Highway engineers point out that the median would not be totally eliminated, and the trees would remain. Local leaders, including the mayor, counter that adding lanes and reducing the median size will damage tree roots and do long term harm. They also point out an increase in traffic volume will impact the aesthetic appearance of the historic district. Both sides have their proponents. A by-pass, like the one in Madison, might be a solution, or maybe not.

While at the beach, we visited two small towns that have strong tourist industries. They both reminded me in some ways of Highlands.

First was Port St. Joe. We drove down its main street which was replete with diagonal parking. Oh no, I could not find a place to park! We kept on driving almost to the end of the street before finding a precious parking space. We had to walk back 150 yards to a restaurant just for lunch. But from my tourist perspective, the parked cars on the street suggested this must be an interesting place to visit rather than being a parking problem.

Our second stop was Apalachicola. Instead of just a main street, their business district consisted of several streets of shops, galleries, bars and restaurants. I must confess, as a pedestrian I paid little attention to traffic directions and became a flagrant jaywalker. The irony of my transgression is that I get irritated when I see folks jaywalking in Highlands. It hit me that tourists, like myself, relaxing on vacation, are joyfully focused on the discovery of a new, little place. They are simply oblivious to the traffic signs and signals they have to negotiate every work day in their own home city. I will remember my personal failure this leaf season when I spot a flagrant jaywalker downtown.

We also stopped for lunch in a little restaurant and bar in Apalachicola. The menu consisted of oysters, shrimp, crab, and grouper. I grew up in Valdosta and spent years fishing with my father on the gulf. Trying to be “cute” I asked the waitress if they had any mullet. She perked up and said, “Honey, sure we do, caught ‘um fresh this morning.” Brenda was so delighted to serve me what I asked about. Even without cheese grits, that fried mullet was the best fish I ate during the entire trip.

We will go back to the Hole in the Wall restaurant next time we are in the area because of its genuine hospitality. While historic buildings, beautiful streets and parking are important, people make a town that other folks want to visit.

— Mayor Pat Taylor

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.
Ronald Rodger Talley

Ronald Rodger Talley, 72, of Franklin, NC died Monday, September 29, 2014 in a local hospital. Born in Jacksonville, FL, he was a son of the late Lyman “Red” and Leora Carver Talley.

He was employed by Belden Electric Cord as an equipment operator for 28 years. He was a loving husband, caring father, grandfather and great-grandfather; he liked to hunt, fish, listen to gospel music and garden. He was a member of Ellijay Missionary Baptist Church where he was a deacon.

Mr. Talley is survived by his wife of 51 years, Hilda Mincey Talley; one daughter, Wanda Talley Bolick and her husband Tony of Franklin; one son, James Talley and his wife Becky of Franklin, five sisters, Reba Talley Webb and Rena Talley Carver both of Walhalla, SC; Rodean Talley Wilson of Norcross, GA and Roberta Talley Barnes and Romonia Talley Picklesimer both of Highlands; three brothers, Relton Talley of Highlands, Randolph Talley of Mountain City, GA and Rabun Talley of Gastonia, NC; three grandchildren, Courtney Scott and husband Travis, Amber Bolick and Josh Talley; one great-grandson, Johnny Scott and a number of nieces and nephews.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by a sister, Revelyon Carver and a brother, Russell Talley.

Funeral services were held Wednesday, October 1, 2014 at Ellijay Missionary Baptist Church with Rev. Ray Fox and Rev Bud Haire. Burial was in the church cemetery. Pallbearers were Gerald Woods, Brian Jones, Randy Rogers, Morlan Bowman, Travis Scott, Brian Talley and Stacy Talley.

Memorial donations may be made to Ellijay Baptist Church Cemetery Fund, c/o Wanda Bolick, 80 Woodrow’s Lane, Franklin, NC 28734.

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

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Richard Ross (Dick) Cornell

Richard Ross (Dick) Cornell, age 85, of 451 N. 5th St., Highlands, died September 8.

He was born in Columbus, Ohio on May 13, 1929. He graduated from Westerville High School (Ohio) in 1948 and continued on to receive a BS in Business Administration from The Ohio State University in 1955. Dick was a member of the Delta Upsilon Fraternity and the Air Force National Guard.


He was a member of Highlands Falls Country Club, Mountain Laurel Tennis Club, and the Highlands Duplicate Bridge Club.

Dick is survived by Margaret Lisle “Pegsie” Payne; his children, Richard Ross Cornell Jr. (Linda), Cris Cornell (Julie), Susan Meager (Tim), and Jeffrey Cornell; his twin brother, Bob Cornell (Cathie), and a sister Nancy Diane Dewitt (John); his grandchildren Alexandra, Jacqueline, Michael and Andrew Cornell, Katherine and James Meager, Ariel, Charlotte and Ricky Cornell, Sheina and Corriona Cornell. Dick was also special to Pegsie’s children Nancy (Carter) Bruns and Lewis (Paige) Payne and their children Lisle, Carter, Cameron and Davis.

He is also survived by Gunnar Cornell II.

Dick is preceded in death by a sister Mary Charlotte Cornell.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to:
- Highlands Land Trust, 348 S. Fifth St, Highlands, NC 28741
- Four Seasons Hospice Corp, 171 Hospital Dr, Highlands, NC 28741
- Highlands Cashiers Hospital Foundation, 190 Hospital Dr, Highlands, NC 28741
- The Cornell School, 5250 Johnstown Alexandria Rd, Johnstown, Oh 43031
enforces the death penalty. Since the state took control from the counties to implement the death penalty in 1910, more than 1,000 people have been sent to North Carolina's death row. In 1910, the power to execute criminals was taken away from local governments and assumed by the state. On March 18, 1910, Walter Morrison, a laborer from Robeson County, became the first man to die in the state's electric chair at Central Prison in Raleigh.

According to the North Carolina Department of Public Safety, from 1910 to 2006, North Carolina conducted 405 executions, two of which were females.

If Cochran is sentenced to the death penalty, and the sentence is carried out, he will become the second man from Macon County to receive such a fate. The first and only man currently in North Carolina history from Macon County to be executed by the state was Curtis Shedd on March 23, 1951 for murder.

In North Carolina's history, three methods of execution have been employed by the state. The electric chair was used into late 1938, which is about the time the state began to use the gas chamber. Allen Foster, sentenced to death in Hoke County for murder, became the first person put to death in the state's gas chamber on January 24, 1936.

In 1983, the General Assembly gave death row inmates the option to choose death by lethal injection. A statutory amendment was signed into law October 29, 1998, eliminating execution by lethal gas and making lethal injection North Carolina's only method of execution.

As of April 1 of this year, North Carolina reports 159 people on death row, three of which are female prisoners.

According to the North Carolina Department of Public Safety, the state's prison system houses male death row inmates at Central Prison and female death row inmates at...
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a fourth generation Maconian. After he graduated from Franklin High School in 1999, Cochran began his career at Caterpillar Precision Seals. He and his wife, Julie Pendergrass, married in May 2003 and three years later their daughter, McKinleigh was born. To spend more time at home with his family, Cochran left Caterpillar to become self-employed in the grading and building business.

Although Cochran has never held an elected office in Macon County, he has served his community in various volunteer capacities. “I have been a volunteer firefighter for seven years, a little league softball coach for four years. I have also been a little league softball board member for three years,” said Cochran, “and a member of Watauga Baptist Church for 25 years.”

With Macon County’s unique geographical landscape, having the Register of Deeds office placed at the county seat of Franklin inside of the courthouse puts it 20 miles away from Highlands and 30 miles away from Nantahala, although those citizens have to be adequately served as well.

According to Cochran, the county’s makeup hasn’t impacted how efficiently the Register of Deeds Office operates. “Highlands geography really does not affect the services they receive from the register of deeds office other than the time spent traveling down the mountain if the service needed cannot be taken care of online,” said Cochran.

According to North Carolina Statute (NCGS: 161-7) The Register of Deeds shall keep his office at the courthouse unless the Board of County Commissioners shall deem it impracticable. Despite the Register of Deeds office being a considerable distance from Highlands, Cochran believes the Highlands residents receive the same service of those in Franklin, and if elected, plans to continue ensuring that happens.

“Currently, I believe Highlands residents are receiving the same services as any other customers,” said Cochran. “But I would like to look into E-Recording which would possibly speed up the process for Highlands residents along with all service users.”

If elected, Cochran said he would explore ways to better connect Highlands and Nantahala residents with the local office.

“Highlands will be a priority when elected,” said Cochran. “Many of Franklin residents work in Highlands due to the economy. Highlands’ construction and real estate seems to have recovered somewhat faster than the rest of Macon County.”

Todd Raby has served in the capacity of Macon County's Register of Deeds for the last eight years. He filed for re-election to continue working for the residents of Macon County.

“I was elected to the Register of Deeds Office in 2006, and as the incumbent, I have eight years of work experience in the office. This includes being charged with the responsibility of maintaining the public real estate records and other general recorded documents, vital records which include birth certificates, death certificates, and marriage licenses, military discharges for veterans, county ordinances and board of commissioner meeting minutes,” said Raby. “This is a great responsibility in which I have a great respect. I am seeking a third term because I want to continue to be the Register of Deeds. I love my job, I like working with the public and help-
Love is a many splendored thing

In the first grade, Sister Wasername told me that love is the greatest of all the gifts God gave to mankind. And you know what? She was right. Love is paramount and supreme to all the other graces and blessings we have. It wasn’t until my later years I realized how many kinds of love existed.

As best I can remember, my parents never told me they loved me but I knew they did. It just wasn’t a thing people did very well back then. And they certainly weren’t touchy feely type folks. They brought me into the world and cared for me, sent me to a parochial school when there was a free public school just down the street. When I got into trouble which was often, they were there for me each and every time. As an ‘over the top’ mischievous child, I was extra hard on them. They were both already forty years old and pretty much worn out by the time I was born. Forty back in the thirties was pretty old.

Then in 1957 I moved to Miami Beach and experienced a very different kind of love. After meeting out in the Atlantic Ocean on a hot summer day, I slowly fell in love with a girl whom I eventually married. My lil’ missus was the first girl I ever loved. Oh, there were girlfriends but that was silly stuff. My love for Maddy was real, sensual and passionate; so different from the love I had for my parents or puppy-love of girlfriends. I had absolutely “flipped out” over this cute little girl.

Then came our three children and I discovered yet another kind of love. At first it seemed to be an instinctive love provided by Mother Nature. Ha, wrong! It was like all the other loves I experienced, a gift from God that would grow each day.

Then there is a thing I’ve labeled “man love” that is, yet again, another form of love. Policemen grow very close to one another in the trenches of the criminal world. There is an ‘us against them’ mentality and love for fellow officers is strong. Combat soldiers experience this same kind of love.

Of all the loves I’ve mentioned thus far, the most important of them all is the only one I haven’t mentioned. It is the love we receive from God, taught to me, a spoonful at a time for eight years, by the Dominican Sisters of St. Bridget School in Louisville, Ky. They taught me how to love….and be loved. And it was my parents, the ones who never said they loved me but did, that put me in that school where love, above all the other subjects, was paramount. I am so blessed to have learned to love because so many in our world don’t know how to love.

– Check out Fred’s two books, Deceived and I’m Moving Back to Mars

...DEATH continued from page 4

the North Carolina Correctional Institution for Women. Both prisons are located in Raleigh.

“At Central Prison, the men are housed in cellblocks of Unit III. Two correctional officers in a control center watch the inmates at all times. Each cell block is divided into eight pods with 24 single cells - 12 cells on each level. The cells open into a dayroom area that has a television at one end, stainless steel tables in the middle and showers at the other end. Each cell has a bed, a lavatory, commode, and a wall-mounted writing table. Inmates on death row spend nearly all their time in either their cells or the adjacent dayroom. They may stay in their dayroom from 7 a.m. until 11 p.m. While in the dayroom, they may watch television,” reports the NCDPS website. “Death row inmates may be assigned incentive wage jobs in the canteen or clothes house, or may work as barbers or janitors within their housing areas. They are required to keep their cells and dayrooms clean. Inmates are allowed at least one hour per day for exercise and showers. Two days a week, officers escort death row inmates in groups from each cellblock pod to outdoor exercise areas, weather permitting, where the inmates can play basketball, walk or jog. Officers also escort the death row inmates by cellblock to the dining halls for each meal.”

Cochran is expected to appear in court on November 3, at which point discussion on whether the state intends to seek the death penalty is expected to occur. Cochran is currently being held at the Macon County Detention Center without bond while he awaits the state to appoint him an attorney.
**...OCTOBER continued from page 1**

Morse shared a study conducted by his students at WCU into the region’s hotel occupancy rates for Cherokee, Clay, Graham and Macon counties throughout each month of the year in 2012. For the project, students in a hospitality and tourism strategies course analyzed information including hotel room sales data showing visitor trends in areas bordering public lands by using complementary data sets provided to them by Smith Travel Research, a global leader in hotel and tourist travel data based in Hendersonville, Tennessee. Through his students’ research and tracking, Morse reported that October was peak travel season and by far exceeded the occupancy rates of other months.

In October 2012, just under 30,500 hotel rooms were sold in the four counties being studied, which comes as no surprise considering October is the peak leaf-looking season in the mountains. According to Morse, the second highest month with rooms sold came in June at just under...

**...FOLIAGE continued from page 2**

color season could be longer than normal, extending well into November, Mathews said.

The timing of “peak color” is difficult to nail down and is dependent on the decreasing amount of sunlight that comes with the passing days, plus the elevation of a particular location, she said. The peak of fall color typically arrives during the first and second week of October in the highest elevations – above 4,000 feet – and during the third week of October in the mid-elevations of 2,500 to 3,500 feet. An early frost could accelerate the timing of peak color, Mathews said.

In any event, visitors to WNC always will find a pleasing leaf display somewhere in the mountains from September into November, with a vast palette of color made possible by the region’s more than 100 tree species, she said.
This week in sports

Volleyball:
This week, the Highlands School girls varsity volleyball team had three games with one being a conference game against Natahalia. The final score of the Nantahalla game was 15-10.
Taking home a win puts the varsity team tied for second in conference along with Blueridge.

Soccer:
This week, the Highland school boys varsity soccer team only had one game which was against Tallulah Falls. After a 4-0 win against the school the previous week, the boys lost 2-0.

– Sierra Nylund

Upcoming games/matches

Thursday 10/2
MS volleyball Tri State conference tournament at Highlands 4:30p
HS girls golf at Broadmoor Asheville 3p dismiss at 12:50p

Friday 10/3
MS cross country Tri State conference championship at Tallulah Falls 4:30p

Saturday 10/4
Varsity soccer at Providence Academy 2p

Nature Center Oyster Roast/Jazz fundraiser is Sunday

On Sunday, Oct. 5, it’s “Highlands on the HalfShell” oyster roast and live jazz 4:30pm ‘til dark behind the Highlands Nature Center to benefit the Highlands Biological Foundation. Knowing that your support is directly contributing to conservation efforts in the southern Appalachian Mountains, you’ll find that oysters and jambalaya have never tasted - and jazz never sounded - so good. Tickets are $75 for members and $100 for non-members. To purchase tickets, visit www.highlandsbiological.org/half-shell/.

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Mondays
- Shortoff Baptist Church hosts a non-denominational Men's Meeting the first Monday night of each month at 7 pm and all men are invited to attend.

Tuesdays & Thursdays
- Free Community Table Dinner at the Community Bldg. at 6p.
- Aerobics at the Rec Park with Tina Rogers 5:15. $5.
- Mon., Wed., Fri.
- Aerobics with Tina Rogers 8-9a.
- Tues., Wed., Fri.
- 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 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 Mountain Top 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, Donna (828) 526-9510.

2nd Thursdays
- Sapphire Valley Needlepoint Guild meets at the Highlands Rec Park at 10 a.m. Newcomers welcome.
- Fri.-Sun.
  • Hal Phillips on the piano at Skyline Lodge during dinner and Sunday brunch.
  • Storytimes with Miss Carol at Highlands School Scholastic Book Fair.

Saturdays
- The Farmers Market, 9a-1p in K-H Park. Organic vegetables, eggs, honey, cheeses, home-made food and hand-made items. For information call 482-0555 Maxine Davidoff.
- Cashiers Local Farmers tailgate market through October at the Anglican Church Parking Lot Hwy 64 E next to Macon Bank.
- Free wine tastings at Mountain Top Wine Shoppe from 1-3p.
- Thurs., Oct. 2
  • The Rotary Club of Highlands will partner with Highlands Cub Scout Pack 207 to offer Cub Scout Bingo on Thursday from 6:30 to 8:30 in the Highlands Community Building next to the ball park. Half of the Bingo money goes to Highlands Cub Scouts and the other half will go to Bingo winners.

Through Fri., Oct. 3
• Highands School Scholastic Book Fair. Theme: “Sir Readalo’s Castle!” at 8 am until 3pm. Everyone is welcome to come and shop at the Book Fair! Also an online Book Fair shopping site, http://onlinebookfairs.scholastic.com/default.aspx?f=3157683. All proceeds directly benefit the Library Media Program at Highlands School.

Fri., Oct. 3
• At Hudson Library, Community Coffee with Mayor Pat Taylor from 11a to noon.

Sat., Oct. 4
• At PAC, Broadway and More with Liz Callaway, a Tony Nominee and Emmy Award-winning actress, singer and recording artist. Tickets call PAC: 828.526.9047.
• At the Nature Center, “Fall Leaf Colors” program 2 – 4 pm. Fun activities about how leaves change color, deciduous versus coniferous trees, and winter survival strategies of each. Afterwards, visitors will be led on a walk through the Botanical Garden to identify many species of trees by leaf type, shape, and color. Fun and educational for the entire family; cost is $5 for adults and $2 for children. Advanced registration is required; please call 526-2623 to sign up.
• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate 6-mile hike through pleasant forest to BEE COVE FALLS in SC, an 80 ft. high multi-layered falls. Meet at Cashiers Rec Center parking lot at 10 a.m., drive 22 miles round trip. Call leaders Mike and Susan Ketles, 743-1079, for reservations.

WCU faculty members will be performing at 4p. The performers will be Mario Gaetano, percussion; Michael Schallock, tuba; Shannon Thompson, clarinet; and WCU School of Music Director Will Peebles, bassoon. Lillian Pearson, piano, will be the collaborating musician for this program.
**Highlands Area Events**

**Broadway comes to PAC Saturday, October 4 at 8pm**

Liz Callaway is a Tony® Nominee and Emmy Award-winning actress, singer and recording artist. She made her Broadway debut in Stephen Sondheim’s *Merrily We Roll Along*, received a Tony Award nomination for her performance in *Baby*, and for five years, won acclaim as Grizabella in *Cats*. She has also starred in the original casts of *Miss Saigon*, *The Three Musketeers*, and *The Look of Love*.

Off-Broadway she received a Drama Desk nomination for her performance in *The Spitfire Grill* and also appeared in *Browstone*, *No Way to Treat a Lady*, *Marry Me a Little*, and *Godspell*. Other New York appearances include the legendary *Follies* in concert at Lincoln Center, *A Stephen Sondheim Evening, Fiorella* (Encores!), and *Hair in Concert*. Liz recently starred as Norma Desmond in the Pittsburgh CLO production of *Sunset Boulevard*.

Ms. Callaway has also established a major career as a concert and recording artist. She had the pleasure of co-starring with Jimmy Webb & Paul Williams in their critically acclaimed engagement at Feinstein’s in New York, and recently joined Burt Bacharach, Dionne Warwick, and Stevie Wonder at Hal David’s 80th Birthday Celebration Concert at the Mark Taper Forum in Los Angeles. Her extensive US symphony work includes appearances at The Kennedy Center, Carnegie Hall, Ravinia, The Hollywood Bowl, as well as in concert with The Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra and The Boston Pops Worldwide. She has performed in China, Australia, Iceland, Estonia, France (Paris), Slovenia, South Korea, and Barcelona’s Gran Teatre del Liceu where she premiered a new concert featuring the music of Stephen Sondheim.

Liz sang the Academy Award nominated song “Journey to the Past” in the animated feature *Anastasia* and is also the singing voice of Princess Jasmine in Disney’s *Aladdin* and *The King of Thieves* and *The Return of Jafar*. Other film work includes the singing voice of the title character in *The Swan Princess*, *Lion King 2: Simba’s Pride*, *Beauty and the Beast*, and *The Brave Little Toaster Goes to Mars*.

**Broadway and More:**

Liz Callaway Highlands PAC, Saturday, October 4, 8pm. Tickets available online: highlandspac.org or by calling 828.526.9047. Check out our website for a full description and schedule of everything going on at Highlands PAC: www.highlandspac.org

**Gap Singers to perform at First Presbyterian Sun.**

The Rabun Gap Nacoochee School “Gap Singers” will be singing during the 11a worship service at Highlands First Presbyterian Church on Sunday, October 5. The group is conducted by Mirra Valerio. Everyone is cordially invited to attend the service. The church is located at the corner of Main and Fifth Streets. Handicap entrances are located on Church Street and on Fifth Street.
ing people, and meeting new people. I feel honored to be in charge of the office that holds the history of Macon County.”

A native of Macon County, Raby grew up in the Cowee Community and currently lives on his ancestral home place. Born to the late Coach Tom Raby and Joyce Cabe Raby, Todd Raby is a 46-year-old single dad who enjoys nothing more than spending time with his beloved three-year old son, James Thomas Raby III.

After graduating from Franklin High School in 1987 with the citizenship award, Raby attended SCC where he took business administration. Raby is a lifelong member of Cowee Baptist Church.

Since being elected into office in 2006, Raby has worked to mainstream the outlying municipalities such as Highlands and Nantahala and has worked to ensure those citizens receive quick, easy access to the Register of Deeds office.

“Seven years ago the Register of Deeds office created a website so the general public and legal professionals could search for all indexed real estate documents online,” explained Raby. “These start from January 1, 1987 to the present, and all the non-indexed images if you know the book and page; from May 18, 1917 in book A-4. These would require in most cases a search in the index books in the deed vault. The website is a convenience to the public and in most cases saves them a trip to the Deeds Office; we have had lots of praise for our website not only from Highlands residents, real estate professionals and attorneys but also the same groups of people in Franklin and Nantahala. If someone requires a vital record such as a certified birth or death certificate, and marriage license, they can request online by mail and credit card. We do not take credit cards over the phone. Military discharges can only be acquired in the office by

• See OFFICE page 13
the veteran, veteran’s widow or widower or by the local V.A. If someone is into genealogy you will have to come to the office and search. We do not have the vitals online for security reasons. There are lots of ways that our office has made it easier for the public and professionals to acquire the information they need from our office. By all general statutes that apply, the Deeds office serves Macon County in its public and professionals to acquire the information they need from our office. By all general statutes that apply, the Deeds office serves Macon County in its primary role of keeping track of property ownership changes. This information is critical for various legal and financial transactions. The Deeds office is responsible for maintaining accurate records of property transfers, including sales, gifts, and other property exchanges, as well as providing access to these records to the public. The office also issues new deeds, which are legal documents that evidence the transfer of property ownership. In addition to its role in property transfers, the Deeds office plays a critical role in maintaining the integrity of the property records and ensuring that the information is accurate and up-to-date. This is important for a variety of reasons, including the ability of lenders to make informed decisions about loans and the ability of property owners to verify the accuracy of their records. The office is also responsible for keeping track of the court-ordered sales of property, which can occur when a property is foreclosed or when a property owner has failed to pay their taxes. Overall, the Deeds office is an essential part of the property transfer process, and it is critical that the information it maintains is accurate and reliable. This is why the Deeds office is committed to maintaining the highest standards of accuracy and reliability in its records.
Morse explained to local government leaders during the meeting that tourism should be a focus for economic development in the region.

With a state unemployment average of 7 percent, as of July 2014, Morse explained that only two counties, Graham and Cherokee, have unemployment rates higher than the state average. As of July of this year, Macon County sits right below the state’s unemployment average level at 6.6 percent with Jackson County sitting right at 6 percent.

Morse connected the current unemployment levels in Region A as being an indicator of the strong job growth that the tourism industry has seen over the last 10 years. From 2003 to 2013, jobs in the Hospitality and Tourism industry in the seven far western counties have seen an overall growth of 3.1 percent, while the majority of other industries have either remained stagnant or declined.

Tourism revenue in the counties that comprise Region A totaled $721.3 million, with Macon County accounting for $140.8 million and neighboring Jackson County totaling $163 million.

While the percentage of jobs from industries such as retail, construction, full capacity not only with the convenience of a website and payment through credit cards, etc., but by being courteous to everyone and helping as much as we can without giving legal advice.”

According to Raby, the state mandate that the Register of Deeds Office be located at the county seat does offer some challenges for citizens of Highlands, and his office has long since been working to address any concerns.

“The location of the Register of Deeds office being in Franklin does not impact the office as much as it does the citizens of Highlands which is approximately 20 miles from Franklin and also even Nantahala, about 30 miles, both which are a part of Macon County and obviously good distances away from Franklin,” said Raby.

“The one disadvantage of the distance from Highlands or Nantahala to Franklin is that everything in the Deeds Office is time oriented; first come first serve in the order of recording a document, if someone physically brings a document in the office it takes precedence over documents we receive in the mail. North Carolina is a race state which also means whoever records first wins. Thus, according to statute if a person purports to sell a piece of land to another for $100,000, and the next day purports to sell exactly the same piece of land to a second person for another $100,000, then whichever of the two buyers is the first to reach the recording office and have the sale recorded will be deemed the owner of the property. Thus, if the second person is the first to record the conveyance, they will be the owner even if he knew about the prior conveyance to the first person. Race statutes are extremely rare because it is generally viewed as unfair to protect a party who had actual notice of a prior conveyance. Currently, Delaware, North Carolina and Louisiana are the only jurisdictions where a race statute is in effect. I personally think this is unfair, but it is N.C. law and as a recording office we do not pass judgment on a document, we have to record them in order, as they come in the office, with the exception of mail, regardless of who it is or where someone lives.”

Over the years, Raby and his staff have become more keen on understanding the specific needs of residents in the towns outside of Franklin and have adopted efficient methods in ensuring they receive top-notch service.

“We receive calls from real estate offices attorneys’ offices and residents from Highlands daily, asking for help on the website to look up a plat, deeds or whatever document they are looking for, and we always get a thank you for the help and...
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One of a kind custom 3br/3.5ba home with Whiteside Mountain view in Highlands Falls Country Club. Viking kitchen, high ceilings and more. $897,000. MLS# 75205

Commercial and/or residential on the Franklin Road across from The Bascom. 3br/3ba home, separate office/shop space plus an apartment. $759,000. MLS# 80215

Flat Mountain Estates. 3br, 4.5ba mountain home with cathedral ceiling, floor to ceiling fireplace, wood walls and floors. Excellent condition. $489,000. MLS #79177

Beautifully maintained old Highlands charmer! 4 br/2ba, wood floors, new kitchen, 2 car garage and lovely yard. $387,000. MLS# 79149

New listing in Highlands Falls Country Club with 3br, 3ba, guest apartment with full kitchen and family room. $730,000. MLS# 80446

Just listed 3br/3.5ba golf front home, remodeled & expanded, one level home, custom cabinets, hardwood floors. $693,000 MLS#80489

Koenig Built 2/2 town house style cottage on Atlanta side of Highlands. Builder's home with fabulous finishes. $396,000 MLS# 80251

Koenig built professional office with great exposure on Hwy 106S. Minutes from Main Street, post & beam, 1 Half BA & Kitchenette, conference rm, 2 car garage w/ storage $387,000 MLS# 80259

4br/4.5ba Lupoli home in Old Edwards Club, with long range mtn views, elevator, storage & custom features thru-out. $1,395,000 MLS# 80179

VillageWalk condo with vaulted ceilings, 2 fireplaces, granite throughout, 3br/3ba, like new. Completely furnished, $725,000 MLS#80289

VZ Top Condo like you’ve never seen before! 2br/2ba with floor plan modification, new kitchen and baths, all new windows and doors. $275,000. MLS# 80358

Large Morton Building w/ central heat and includes a 2br/2ba cottage for rental investment. Amazing opportunity to have INCOME PRODUCING property. $396,000 MLS# 80316

3br/3ba, 2 story home in Wildwood with vaulted ceilings, 2 levels of decks, amazing grounds w/pond & waterfall. $524,500 MLS# 79717

3br/2ba perfect golf front villa. Exceptional golf, lake & mtn views, covered deck, vaulted ceilings, HVAC, hardwood floors. $400,000 MLS# 78264

4br/4.5ba, custom built mtn home. Big mtn views, 2 story home, HFCC location. Reduced to $1,197,000 MLS# 79582

Dramatic price reduction on this 4br/2ba/2hba private estate with pond, waterfall and incredible Blue Valley view. $747,000. MLS# 77015

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$45,000 price reduction on this free standing 3br/2ba Golf Villa in Highlands Falls Country Club. Exceptional value! $249,999. MLS# 78712

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3br/2ba perfect golf front villa. Exceptional golf, lake & mtn views, covered deck, vaulted ceilings, HVAC, hardwood floors. $400,000 MLS# 78264

Newer, upscale home adjacent to Highlands Falls Country Club. 3br/3ba on the main level, 2 guest suites and family room on lower level, granite countertops, wood floors. $627,000. MLS #76569

Just listed 3br/3.5ba golf front home, remodeled & expanded, one level home, custom cabinets, hardwood floors. $693,000 MLS#80489

VZ Top Condo like you’ve never seen before! 2br/2ba with floor plan modification, new kitchen and baths, all new windows and doors. $275,000. MLS# 80358

Large Morton Building w/ central heat and includes a 2br/2ba cottage for rental investment. Amazing opportunity to have INCOME PRODUCING property. $396,000 MLS# 80316

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Newer, upscale home adjacent to Highlands Falls Country Club. 3br/3ba on the main level, 2 guest suites and family room on lower level, granite countertops, wood floors. $627,000. MLS #76569
There is a pre-listing to-do list that can be extremely helpful if you are considering selling your property. The more prepared you are prior to your first showing, the smoother the selling process will be. Sit down with your Highlands REALTOR® today and learn what you can do to prepare your home and avoid unexpected surprises on your path to the closing table.

A home inspection can be a great way to start the selling process. While you may think of a home inspection as something carried out by a buyer, if you conduct one prior to selling you can avoid being caught off guard before going “under contract.” Having an inspection can help you make repairs to your Highlands home and rest assured that no major items will surface in the due diligence period.

From Realtor Magazine. September/October 2014 Issue

Five Things to do Before Puting Your Home on the Market

1. Have a pre-sale home inspection. Be proactive by arranging for a pre-sale home inspection. An inspector will be able to give you a good indication of the trouble areas that will stand out to potential buyers, and you’ll be able to make repairs before open houses begin.

2. Organize and clean. Pare down clutter and pack up your least-used items, such as large blenders and other kitchen tools, out-of-season clothes, toys, and exercise equipment. Store items off-site or in boxes neatly arranged in the garage or basement. Clean the windows, carpets, walls, lighting fixtures, and baseboards to make the house shine.

3. Get replacement estimates. Do you have big-ticket items that are worn out or will need to be replaced soon, such as your roof or carpeting? Get estimates on how much it would cost to replace them, even if you don’t plan to do it yourself. The figures will help buyers determine if they can afford the home, and will be handy when negotiating.

4. Find your warranties. Gather up the warranties, guarantees, and user manuals for the furnace, washer and dryer, dishwasher, and any other items that will remain with the house.

5. Spruce up the curb appeal. Pretend you’re a buyer and stand outside of your home. As you approach the front door, what is your impression of the property? Do the lawn and bushes look neatly manicured? Is the address clearly visible? Are pretty flowers or plants framing the entrance? Is the walkway free from cracks and impediments?

In addition, if you have vacant land, have or obtain an updated septic system permit. Although the Town of Highlands has a public sewer system, most properties in Highlands Township have on-site septic systems. This ensures a potential buyer knows in advance that the property is buildable and how many bedrooms would be allowed under the permit. Also, under-brush the land and trim trees so the potential Buyer can see the view.

Lynn Kimball has over 40 years of full-time real estate experience, with 29 years serving the Highlands area. Whether you are interested in searching properties or comprehensive information about our area, you are invited to visit her user friendly website at www.signaturepropertiesnc.com. Meadows Mountain Realty has two locations, at 41 Church Street in the Old Edwards Inn complex or visit Lynn at 2334 Cashiers Street in the Old Edwards Inn complex. Lynn Kimball can be reached at 828-421-8193 or by email at Lynn@MeadowsMtnRealty.com.

Located on historic Satulah Mountain in the heart of Highlands, this truly unique, 1.1 +/- acre lot features easy access, a gentle building site, lush wooded views, and Town power and water. Recently surveyed and flagged, this unique parcel is easy to walk and see.

Offered at $199,000. MLS #75978.

Stunning Commercial Building for Rent/Sale

Soaring ceilings, light & bright, hardwood floors throughout, gas log fireplace, and situated on a gorgeous lot with rushing stream. Multiple uses for this building: retail, professional service, and/or office space. Outstanding visibility from the highway on the ATL side of town. Unfinished lower level may be used for storage. $1,500 per month, excluding utilities.

Offered at $499,000. MLS #73176.

In-Town Pristine Gem

This 3BR/3BA home is less than one mile from Main Street. Upstairs master suite. Open living/dining room and granite-counteret kitchen bags for entertainment and/or relaxing. Large deck in canopy of trees with outdoor dining. New roof, floors, paint & updates. Lower Level for storage/more living space. Easy living! Charming and neat-as-a-pin.

Offered at $349,000. MLS #75156.

Multiple Commercial Uses & Incredible Price

Excellent commercial location and visibility from Hwy 64, situated along one of the most highly-trafficked corridors in Highlands. Level topography of this .74 +/- acre parcel, and B-3 zoning allows multiple commercial uses.

Offered at $620,000. MLS #80459.

Contact
Susie deVille at (828) 371-2079.
WhiteOakRG.com
Totally private compound on 9+ acres located off Flat Mountain Road. Walk to Randall Lake with private dock and fireplace. High quality finishes. 1BD/2BA with large extra building. Room to develop. $995,000. MLS # 80371

On over an acre of gorgeous grounds complete with waterfall/pond feature, stream. Wrap around covered decks. Walk to town location. 3BD/2.5BA. Wood floors on main. Wood burning stone fireplace. Zoned HVAC on both levels. NEW (2014) gas furnace. Double carport. Barn, too. MLS # 80271! Offered at $695,000.

Spacious home features high scales, 4 fireplaces. Master bedroom and bath suite on the main, 2 guest bedrooms and baths on the upper level plus a den and office. Lower level has a great workshop and storage. Large two car garage. Offered at $2,900,000. MLS # 80105

Great yard and Highlands charm with this 3BD/3BA with easy access on Hickory Hill Road. Hardwood floors, wood paneling, huge covered porch and great yard with mature landscaping. Offered to sell at $410,000. MLS # 80284

2BD/2BA Satulah Ridge Log cabin is loaded with charm! Stone Fireplace, Mudroom, Custom kitchen, Fenced area for dogs. Move in ready and a must see! Offered at $375,000. MLS # 79412

In the historic Satulah Mountain area, this Montana style log home has numerous features: 4BD/5BA. 2 half baths. Sitting room with fireplace. Master bedroom suite with private balcony. Upstairs guest suite with private balcony. Dream kitchen. Huge great room with fireplace and. Spectacular vista views! Elevator. 2 car garage. $4,500,000. MLS # 80392

Located close to town in the desirable Shelby Place, with quality finishes throughout. The easy living plan expands for guests/family comfort on the terrace level. Huge screened porch and 2 car garage. Offered at $595,000. MLS # 74675

2/2 cabin sits on a one-acre lot, mostly furnished, easy to heat, beautiful wood paneling, pine floors, large great room, beautiful landscaping, mountain stream, and nice two-room basement/workshop on Cole Mountain Circle, about 7 miles from Highlands. A true mountain getaway cabin for only $195,000. MLS # 80113

Charming cottage tucked in the trees. 3BD/2 ½ BA plus a loft. Custom kitchen, Propane range. Formal dining room, large living room with fireplace. Great yard with fenced area for pets. Offered at $445,000. MLS # 79665

Spacious home on a family estate with separate guest house. Beautiful grounds. Backs up to Forest Service Lands. Great mountain views and sunsets! Sunroom, office, den, garage and storage shed. Full generator. Offered at $1,495,000 MLS # 71473

Wonderful views and over 4 acres with charming mountain cottage. Open vaulted living room with fireplace, main floor master with bath. 2 bedrooms upstairs with shared bath. Huge deck to enjoy the layered mountain view. Offered at $395,000. MLS # 80351

Wonderful views and over 4 acres with charming mountain cottage. Open vaulted living room with fireplace, main floor master with bath. 2 bedrooms upstairs with bath. views; walk to town; furnished. Only $699,500. MLS # 80341

Great 3BR/5BA home on top of Holt Knob. Screened porch, sunroom with wet bar, kitchen/living area with fireplace; a 3rd floor family room/office/playroom with extra sleeping area and a bath; two car garage. Only $1,450,000. MLS # 79509

New on the market. 4BR/2BA home on 2 lots in Mirror Lake. Stacked stone fireplace, wood floors. Light and bright with freshly painted interior. Walk to scenic Mirror Lake. Basement. $369,000 MLS # 80120

Great 3BR/5BA home on top of Holt Knob. Screened porch, sunroom with wet bar, kitchen/living area with fireplace; a 3rd floor family room/office/playroom with extra sleeping area and a bath; two car garage. Asking $139,900 MLS # 80305

First time on the market and priced to sell. Cute cabin on a pretty ¼ acre a mile and a half from the town limits. Split floor plan with 2BD/2BA and old fashioned freestanding fireplace in the living room. Covered porch. Asking $125,000 MLS # 80245

Highlands Mountain Club. This is a great 2BD/2BA with stunning mountain views and lake Sequoyah in the valley below. Kitchen needs some updates but functional. Covered porch, huge front deck. Upper unit with good privacy. Offered at $225,000. MLS # 80125

A wonderful 3/4 bedroom, 3 bath on a knoll lot with a nice mountain view of Whiteside, Bearpen and more. Main level has custom kitchen and wood floors with vaulted ceilings. Large covered porch. Terrace level has a guest suite. Owner wants an offer! Offered at $1,100,000. MLS # 80125

In historic Whiteside Cove, halfway between Highlands and Cashiers and within hiking distance of the Chattooga River. A ‘get away from it all’ kind of place. Streams, falling water, and a pond. Includes 3.7 acres with adjacent 2+ acres available with spring and shared well. Asking $265,000 MLS # 79463

Highlands Falls Country Club. Lovely setting with level access on this 3BD/2BA on Elm Court. Updates galore in the open plan that features 3 levels. Offered at $485,000. MLS # 80386
and manufacturing have declined in Macon County from 2003 to 2013, the Tourism and Hospitality Industry has seen a 4.7 percent increase in job creation. Morse noted that as a whole the tourism industry in Region A accounts for the creation of 7,120 jobs in 2013 alone, which totals $154.41 million in worker paychecks. In the same year, the industry accounted for $38.43 million in state taxes and $33.22 million in local taxes.

With a focus on tourism, Morse explained that Macon County is ahead of the curve when it comes to marketing natural resources and advantages to potential business investors.

“You are marketing to outsiders who may currently be tourists,” said Morse. ‘They come to visit, but after seeing the resources and improved quality of life, they become local business investors. Today’s visitor could be tomorrow’s business investor and Macon County does a tremendous job of painting that picture.”

Morse touted Macon County’s approach in connected tourism and economic development saying that when speaking across the state he often refers to brochures and marketing tactics employed by Macon County as being perfect examples of the correct way to do things. Morse explained that officials in Macon County do not market available business and growth potential to attract new business, instead, they are selling an improved quality of life and opportunity to embrace the natural surroundings of the county.

Morse will be presenting: Lead: WNC, a Western NC Economic Development Conference at WCU on November 12. The conference will focus on Education, Tourism Development, Health Care and other areas of economic growth potential for the region.

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...OCTOBER continued from page 14

Beats Money in the Bank or Any Where Else!
$724,000 • MLS 80237

Investors don’t miss this opportunity to invest in a commercial property on what is becoming Highland’s Rodeo Drive! Located on S. 4th Street, within a short block of Main St and within Highlands main business district. Across from Old Edwards Inn, a resort & spa rated as no. 4 in the nation by TripAdvisor. Great street presence with 27.15 ft of road frontage. In pristine condition and leased to a great tenant. Real estate investments of this caliber don’t come up often in Highlands. Grab it!

In-town
Turn Key Gem
$575,000 • MLS 80187

Profitable Oasis for 75 Years! • $3,480,000 • MLS# 80525
Mitchell’s Lodge is “Highlands” for the many who return to it year after year! Walk to Main, profitable, and updated, this bit of paradise is located on 4.617 acres with 28 unique accommodations (Almost 70% of which have fireplaces) ranging from 1, 2 and 3 bedroom “mountain” cabins to 1 bedroom suites with kitchenettes to the original 9 classic bedrooms that helped build the success story year after year! Come, sit, BUY!

The Pride of Highlands
$12,800,000 • MLS# 80527
Highlands Plaza, the original shopping center for the plateau, remains the destination for meeting the areas basic shopping/restaurant needs. Not an “old dog” but instead, this treasure has been beautifully maintained, with the most recent improvement being the restructuring and re-landscaping of the parking area (240+ spaces,) 9.6 acres acres, almost 54,000 approximate, rentable square feet, further development possible. With the largest grocery store, the only ABC store, dry cleaners, car wash, traditional Mexican, Chinese & Subway restaurants on the plateau, you can’t come to Highlands without going to the Plaza!

Commercial Dream...Greystone
$1,180,000 • MLS# 80526
Located one block from Highlands’ Main Street & sitting across the pond from Mitchell’s Lodge, Greystone gets its name from the locally quarried granite used to construct it. Sitting on 2.376 acres and commercially zoned B-3, the possibilities are endless. A family home for generations, the original matriarch thought it would one day make a great restaurant. Indeed it would!

Classic Highlands Charmer
$418,000 • MLS# 80236
Beautifully maintained, lightly updated, this quintessential Highlands cottage has 4 bdrms/two ba, a classic stone fireplace that begs to be lit, large rooms, including the kitchen, that flow beautifully, all in an oasis garden setting that includes grassy space where croquet has been played for years - no white ever allowed! Garage & gardening shed complete the peaceful existence enjoyed from generation to generation. A short walk to Mirror Lake completes the experience of old world Highlands!
Emergency Council taking applications starting on Oct. 8

The Highlands Emergency Council will begin taking applications on Wednesday, October 8 for the Christmas Program and/or the first round of distribution for the Fuel Program. Children 12 years of age and under are eligible to participate in the Christmas Program.

To apply, you must come in person to the Highlands Emergency Council office located at 71 Poplar Street (next to Wilson Gas).

Applications will continue to be accepted Tuesday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

On Tuesday, October 14 and Tuesday, October 21 the council will extend its hours from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. to accept applications for these programs.

Deadline for the fuel program ends October 24, and the deadline for the Christmas program ends October 31.

All applicants are required to fill out necessary paperwork, with a correct mailing address as well as your physical address, bring proof of income and provide proof of residence.

These programs are for Highlands’ area residents only; Brush Creek, Buck Creek, Short Off, Horse Cove, Clear Creek and Scaly Mountain.

Applications will be accepted, reviewed, then approved or disapproved. Applicants to the Fuel Program will be notified by mail if they are approved to participate in the first round of distribution and will be given directions on how to proceed.

The two programs will be implemented as funds are available and gifts come in. Absolutely no applications will be taken after the deadlines.

Advertising in Highlands Newspaper and online at www.highlandsinfo.com WORKS.

For information, call 828-200-1371 or email: highlandseditor@aol.com

Falling Waters is a 52 acre community just 2.5 miles from Main St. Secluded but not remote; peaceful, quiet and private. Mature hardwoods, giant Rhodies, Mountain Laurel and a plethora of wild flowers that take turns showing off thru the seasons. Two waterfalls & several creeks add charm & interest. Paved roads, underground utilities, newer homes built after 2000, no road noise, well maintained, a great place to take a walk!

Welcome...Come Visit.

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

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

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

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www.WilbanksSmileCenter.com

Email your events to highlandseditor@aol.com
The Department of Defense and the North Carolina Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (NC ESGR) has approved an award to Ms Barbara Welch. Ms Welch is the Branch Manager of Bank of America, Highlands, NC. The nominator is Specialist Luis Diaz, who is still deployed overseas and has taken an official military leave from the bank to serve his country. Diaz is attached to the 87th Engineering Battalion in Toccoa, Ga. The National Committee For Employer Support is a mostly volunteer organization that educates businesses of the current Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA). Bank of America has a historical record of supporting all reservists and has obtained one of the highest awards given by the Secretary of Defense.

Photo by Kim Lewicki

how much the website helps them,” said Raby. “The attorneys and private abstractors still have to come in the office to check on recordings and do title searches and to record documents. The Macon County Register of Deeds Office serves Macon County as a whole and I feel my staff and I have a good relationship with the all the people that we do deal with on a regular basis in Highlands. The bottom line is that all residents get the same service whether they live in Highlands, Franklin, Nantahala or Otto.”

• Next week the Board of Education candidates will be featured.
sometimes things aren’t what they seem

by pastor paul christy
highlands united methodist church

i want to share a story i shared at church last week. my wife and i are proud parents of two children; one is now 25 and the other is 19 so i guess they are not children any more, but young adults.

our daughter is a sophomore at unc-c and our son zack is now the pastor at plains umc in canton, nc.

zack called me several weeks ago and began the conversation this way, “so dad, in all your years of being a preacher have you ever raised anyone from the dead?”

i said, “zack, i can honestly say that i have not done that.” and he said “dad let me tell you a story.”

“i got a call yesterday and a lady told me her mom had just died at mission in asheville and she asked if i could come over to be with the family because her mom didn’t have a church and they were hurting and needed a preacher.

“so i said, of course and i drove to mission and walked into the room where the whole family was crying. i said, ‘why don’t we have a prayer?’

“i started my prayer. the doctors had left the pulse and heart rate monitor on her finger and in the middle of my prayer her heart started again. i said, ‘really?’

“dad i didn’t know what to do. the doctor came into the room and said she was alive.”

i told zack that was the way to begin his ministry. the preacher have you ever raised anyone from the dead?”

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“I got a call yesterday and a lady told me her mom had just died at mission in Asheville and she asked if I could come over to be with the family because her mom didn’t have a church and they were hurting and needed a preacher.

“So I said, of course and I drove to Mission and walked into the room where the whole family was crying. I said, ‘why don’t we have a prayer?’

“I started my prayer. The doctors had left the pulse and heart rate monitor on her finger and in the middle of my prayer her heart started again. I said, ‘Really?’

“Dad I didn’t know what to do. The doctor came into the room and said she was alive.”

I told Zack that was the way to begin his ministry. The woman lived a few more weeks, but the point is clear to see.

Sometimes things are not what they seem. Have you ever had your day planned only to get sidetracked by another issue that comes up at the last minute?

• see spiritually page 25
SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING continued from page 24

Sometimes things are not what they seem.
Have you ever started a project you thought would only take a few minutes, only to be caught up all day working? Sometimes things are not what they seem.

While it is true in life, when it comes to our faith, let me assure you that God’s love and grace is what it seems.

I hope that you remember that God’s love and grace is the same for us all. If you have ever doubted that God could love you or forgive you, let me assure you that God can and God does.

We have it on good authority that God’s love is for the world and if you can’t believe me, read the Bible in John’s Gospel which says, “For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life, God sent His Son into the world not to condemn the world but that the world might be saved through Him.

So in a world where there are things that are not what they seem, remember God’s love for you and the world is exactly what it seems........God loves you!

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OCTOBER 25th - THE VILLAGE GREEN - CASHIERS, NC

Email: WellStrunghighlands@gmail.com
Phone: 828-526-5958
The residents of the Eckerd Living Center (ELC) enjoyed an afternoon of dancing and great fun with local students of Highlands School. The students shared their afternoon with the residents as they participated in the ELC’s First Annual Senior Prom. All residents and staff of the ELC were dressed in formal wear for the event. Pictured are Ann Marie Crowe, Kirstyn Owen, Emily Crowe, Colin Weller, John Murphy, and the 2014 Senior Prom King and Queen, Herbert Reithemeyer and Clara Lewicki.
**Bolivia Mission going strong**

The Bolivian Mission began in 1998 and has donated over one million dollars of medical equipment to six hospitals and clinics in Montero, Bolivia, and has received (4) four Matching Grants totaling nearly $100,000. In 2001, construction of a foster home was started as Dr. and Mrs. Baumrucker who saw a need to care for homeless boys. Girls were adequately cared for by an orphanage.

In 2003, the home was opened for boys and over 40 children have been housed with presently 23 boys in the home, two of which are currently enrolled in the Highlands School here in Highlands. The mission has helped many Americans have a third world experience with collaboration from the University of Mississippi, UNC-Asheville and Johns Hopkins Medical School. Volunteers have come from many other countries including China, Vietnam, India, Switzerland, Canada and several other countries.

Writing pens, made by the foster home boys, will be made available for purchase at the Highlands Craft Show on October 11th and at the Bolivian Mission Lunch at the Highlands United Methodist Church on October 25th from 11 am to 3 pm.

Information about either the event, volunteering or donations, can be obtained by contacting Dr. John Baumrucker at 828-526-3606.

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**Fire Reports**

The Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. log entries from Sept. 25.

**Sept. 25**
- At 10:34 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm on Oak Street.
- At 11:36 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Highlands Meadows Road.
- At 6:13 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Mountain Shadows Drive.

**Sept. 27**
- At 10:57 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Shortoff Road.

**Sept. 28**
- A little past midnight, the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Lower Brushy Face Road.

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USFS wants comments about 2012 decisions about recreation on the upper segment of the Chattooga Wild and Scenic River

Forest Service officials are asking for comments on an environmental analysis (EA) on designating boater access trails on the upper segment of the Chattooga Wild and Scenic River. This analysis covers five proposed trails on national forests in South Carolina, North Carolina and Georgia.

“We appreciate everyone’s continued interest and contributions as we work through some of the complexities of the 2012 decision,” said Michael Wilkins, Nantahala district ranger.

Citizens have 30 days to respond.

The proposal is linked to decisions the Forest Service made in 2012 to allow boating on the upper segment of the Chattooga

Wild and Scenic River. I

In the proposal, the agency would construct and designate hiking trails and establish boater access sites at the following locations:

1. Greens Creek trail, construct 0.28 miles with access at the Greens Creek trail and Chattooga intersection;
2. County Line trail designation of 1.2 miles of an old road bed with access just downstream of Norton Mill Creek
3. Bullpen Bridge;
4. Burrells Ford Bridge; and
5. Lick Log Creek (take-out only).

Other non-motorized recreationists also would be able to use these trails and access locations.