Verizon agrees to Town’s lease terms

The Verizon 20-ft. extension on the Big Bearpen Tower is a go. At last week’s Town Board meeting, commissioners learned instead of pulling out when its terms weren’t met, Verizon decided paying rent to the town made better business sense.

Thanks to the insistence of Commissioner Amy Patterson that Verizon pay rent for use of the town’s tower, the town will now get $21,600 per year in rent from Verizon.

HS Soccer is having great season

Varsity Soccer is currently 7-4 and 4-0 in conference. Teams we have beat: Pisgah, Tallulah Falls, Erwin (twice) both of which are non-conference and 3A, and in conference we have beat Swain, Hayesville, Andrews and Murphy. We have lost to Franklin, Brevard, Rabun Gap, and East Henderson. Pictured are: Kenan Lewis, Philip Murphy, Jacob McElroy, Colin Weller, Dylan Vinson, Remy Adrian, Harrison Renfro, Austin Nichols, John Murphy, Tucker Johnson, Andy Marquez, Jody Thorske, Benjamin Miller, Wes Hedden, Ryan Houser, Brandon Dorau, Juan Garcia, Manuel Contreras, Max Renfro, Jose Jimenez. Managers: Pablo Toman, Eluterio Flores.

Cochran charged with first-degree murder

Brittany Raby

Nearly two months after his initial escape, Charles Andrew Cochran was indicted by a grand jury Tuesday morning. Cochran, who escaped from the Macon County Detention Center on July 30 and remained a fugitive for five days, was formally charged on Tuesday with first degree murder.

Cochran, 21, was also charged with first degree arson, assault by strangulation, felony breaking and entering, felony

PB calls for ‘attitude’ and policy changes

Green is coloring the Planning Board’s discussions lately. At Monday night’s meeting, the board was asked to consider where to install a couple of Electric Car Charging Stations in town. According to Planning Director Josh Ward, providing this service is something the town wants to do.

“These would be installed in a parking space close to Main Street, but not on Main Street,” said Ward. “The idea is that people could come into town, park and charge their vehicles while they shop or dine.”

According to Town Manager Bob Frye, the parking spaces won’t be reserved for electric cars, because they typically have long electric cords which can reach the station from either side of the designated space.

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Hi ghlan d s C a m p a g n T i c k e t s
get emails, phone calls and cards concerning town issues. Sometimes I don’t have an immediate answer and have to learn more about the issue myself.

Such has been the case about town employees receiving overtime on holidays. Some folks may suspect a boondoggle with workers clamoring for the extra holiday pay, only to sit around doing nothing.

Many town employees make extra money working second jobs after hours for private employers. Conversely, almost all of our workers do not seek holiday or weekend overtime. When it comes to making overtime pay or spending time with their families, workers understandably prefer the latter.

A case in point is our sanitation department. On holidays Highlands has a huge influx of people and businesses are very active. If the garbage trucks do not run during these peak times, even on Saturdays during the summer, a backlog will put the regular trash pick up behind schedule. So, the town manager orders the garbage trucks into service on certain holidays. Workers pressed into duty receive overtime.

Also on holidays, nights and weekends, especially during the winter, designated workers are on call. The water, sewer and electrical departments always have personnel ready for immediate response after business hours. Workers on call must remain within minutes away from town in case of an emergency. They receive on-call pay and overtime if actually summoned to work. Be assured that during below zero winter nights, electrical crews pray for no overtime. In addition, with impending bad winter weather, crews spend some nights in the town maintenance shed prepared to work. It is not considered a fun overtime pay activity either.

The town manager includes anticipated overtime pay in each year’s budget. Some years we are below estimates, while in other years of bad winters, we go over the estimate.

In regard to worker productivity, I have observed town workers sitting around on the tailgates of pick up trucks and have mistakenly jumped to conclusions. I visited the worksite on Chowan Road repair and saw workers sitting around, and wondered what was going on? I learned they were on break from rappelling down the side of the road embankment working about an hour installing metal pins to stabilize the road. Naturally, doing manual labor while suspended from a rope was exhausting. Their willingness to do this very hazardous job helped the town significantly hold down the cost of the project.

So, am I Pollyanna Pat, the apologist for town workers? Some may think so, but I strive to be accurate and objective about what town workers do. I have also learned that dedicated town workers have no tolerance for a slacker either. If they discover someone not doing their job, a department head and town manager finds out very fast. With that said, there are ways we can improve. If someone is not doing their job, I want to know. There is no room for slackers on the town payroll.

I find it hypocritical that our leaders in Raleigh want to limit local government’s ability to rule themselves but they are quick to chastise the federal government when they limit the ability of states to rule themselves.

With regard to fracking, education and many other issues, our statewide elected leaders should leave as many policy decisions as possible to the counties and municipalities. The further you take government away from the people, the less effective government becomes.

Additionally, it is much more effective to hold special interest groups in check at the local level than it is at the state and national level.

We all have a chance to send a message to our statewide and national leaders in November and I would encourage everyone to exercise this amazing freedom.

Jerry Moore
Highlands
Obituaries

Judy Ann Bryant

Judy Ann Bryant of Franklin, passed away Saturday, September 20, 2014. She was the daughter of Betty Rowland of Franklin and the late George Rowland. Judy was a loving mother, grandmother and great-grandmother; she loved the beach and camping.

In addition to her mother, she is survived by one daughter, Sacha Branum and husband Brad of Highlands; three sons, Clay Bryant and wife Falon, Elmon “Trey” Bryant and wife Patti, and Bryan Bryant and wife Kimberly all of Franklin; five sisters; two brothers; 17 grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren. In addition to her father, she was preceded in death by a son, Jay Bryant, and one grandchild.

Memorial services will be held at a later date. Memorial donations may be made to Bryant-Grant Funeral Home, 105 West Main Street, Franklin, NC 28734.

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

Joan Dickinson Levinson

Joan Dickinson Levinson of Highlands, N.C. died Monday Sept. 14 at the Fidelia Eckerd Living Center in Highlands. She was born in Terre Haute, IN. Preceded in death by her husband, Frank K. Levinson, Jr. and by her daughter, Jeanne L. Sheaffer. She is survived by her daughter and son in law, Barbara and Bruce Werder, three grandchildren, Randolph William Werder, Orlando, FL, Stephanie Sheaffer, Las Vegas, NV and Steven Sheaffer, Denver, CO, and a great grandson, Chase R. Werder. Joan received her Bachelor’s degree from Principia College, Elsah, IL and went on to attend Mass. School of Design. She began her career as a furrier at Cherry’s department store in New England. After her marriage, she moved several times before they moved to Clearwater, FL. Her husband was an avid Sailboat Racer and they bought a marina as well as started to design sails for the Snipe and Flying Dutchman racing class. Joan went under the name of Levinson Sails and formed an all women sewing company and began making sails along with some sportswear that held up under heavy sea conditions. She became known as the only woman sail maker in the country and had many articles written about her skills. Levinson Sails won numerous national championships and soon they shipped sails all over the world. After her husband’s death, she expanded her sportswear business under the name of Sail Loft Sport Fashions. Her patterns and designs translated into a showing in catalogs which included, Lands End, Eddie Bauer, Norm Thompson, Ships Wheel Fawcett Boat Works and The Sporting Life as well as exporting to Japan and Europe. She ran the marina with her two daughters as well. She was voted one of the Best Dressed Women in Clearwater and was a volunteer for 6 years with Clearwater Jazz Holiday. She was a member of the Belleair Rotary Club in FL as well as Highlands Rotary for over 26 years. After moving to Highlands, she opened an antique shop, Three Wishes in Cashiers, and she and her daughter owned and operated the 1891 Stewart House in Highlands. She was a member of the Christian Science Church. She belonged to The Bascom, Art League, and was Treasurer of the Mountain Garden Club of which she was a member for 17 years. In her life time she traveled to 24 different countries, but Highlands was her special place and she loved being in the mountains.

- See OBITUARIES page 14

Highlands Aerial Park says THANK YOU! with September Discounts for LOCALS

Sundays - Thursdays
The World Class Tour was $89 NOW $44.
The Mountain Tour was $49 NOW $39.
Call 828-526-8773 for required reservation.

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Annual Book Fair at Highlands School through Oct. 3

Highlands School Media Center is sponsoring a Scholastic Book Fair Thursday, Sept. 25 through Friday, Oct. 3 with the theme: “Sir Readalot’s Castle”

The Book Fair will open on Thursday at 8 am and runs daily from 8 am to 3 pm. The Book Fair will also be open from 4:30 - 6 pm before the PTO meeting on Sept. 25.


All proceeds directly benefit the Library Media Program at Highlands School.

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  - 828-526-1019

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erosion of the soil in the attempt to reduce pollution of streams and lakes from septic seepage.

I would like to suggest that there are practical solutions to these pollution problems that happen when it rains. The public simply needs to become aware of the problem and then take ownership and accept responsibility and implement solutions. With the demands and personal plans that we all have, it is difficult to even take the time to become informed on the subject of the pollution that results from rainfall in the communities where people live and work. Is there a group in Highlands that will take up this Public Education effort?

Erosion is a natural process that has happened for thousands of years even on lands never touched by people. The problem comes as erosion and pollution increase above natural levels from the impact of people as land is developed by the construction of roads, homes, town centers, farms, and yes, even recreation facilities. In the mountains, as the concentration of people becomes higher, dams are built to both store water for treatment and consumption as well as beautification which encourages further land development. Homes, roads, farms, towns, and recreation facilities are all good things to have if construction, operation, and maintenance is properly managed to prevent pollution of the very resources that have been developed for the people. As more people occupy the community, the discharge of pollutants increases including wastewater discharges, fertilizer and pesticides use for homes, recreation facilities, and farms, and erosion of soil from all types of construction and maintenance of road systems.

I would suggest that the Town of Highlands needs to consider the implementation of a “Stormwater Utility” to finance needed repairs of past erosion through dredging and improved erosion control during ditch and road maintenance and other needed improvements to the Town drainage system. The implementation of a “Stormwater Utility” for the Town of Highlands, is a reasonable approach but would be expected to encounter some political resistance. With the current economic challenge that we all face, the correction of past and current neglect will be difficult to overcome but is possible. The failure to make a decision is a decision “not to” which is almost always the wrong decision.
The Grammy Awards

And the winner is…. drum roll, please…. my li’l missus!!

My wife, Maddy, would really, really, really like for me to keep her name out of the paper because she is, and always has been, a more private person than li’l ole me. As you might know, my life is an open book and a sometimes tacky one at that. But being the wife of “The Fredster” means that, on rare occasions, it’s gonna happen. This is one of those times. Hey, after all, don’t forget she is “the li’l missus.”

After giving birth to two boys and a girl, we knew the day would eventually come when we would have to face the music. For us, becoming grandparents translated into becoming….well, grandparents. In our minds, being a grand anything meant we’re older than thirty-nine. I thought about offering my kids a lifetime supply of protection to put off the event for as long as possible but since we raised them to be pro-life, I couldn’t figure out how to tell them that using protection, in this case, was okay without sounding hypocritical. So I just cringed, held my breath and waited.

When our first grandchild was born in December twenty-two years ago, my son held out his new baby and said, “Meet Alex Noel Wooldridge, your first granddaughter. (Fa la la la la….la, la la la.) What do you want her to call you?”

I already had a whole nine months to ponder this question and decided that “Poppy” would be appropriate. Poppy is a fun name and easy to pronounce. But the li’l missus was not ready to be called anything that had a “grand” attached to it. She held her new grandbaby in her arms, hesitated and finally said, “How about Mrs. Wooldridge?” She was kidding, of course.

After much pondering and hand wringing, she became “Grammy.” Warning to readers: Do not, under any circumstances, call her “The Gramster” without serious repercussions.

Well that was over twenty-years ago and now we have nine grandchildren. Now, the li’l missus is more than comfortable with her title and she is actually acting younger than ever. Keeping up with nine grandchildren can be a great exercise program.

And here’s the good news….I hope….I think! They’re done having babies. No more kids. Nine is enough.

But now she’s sweating out great grandchildren and that’s always a possibility. Any word with “great” in it is a huge no-no. Thank God the economy is so horrible they can’t afford to get married or have kids. We are safe until the economy improves and that ain’t happening anytime soon. Oh, and they’ll not have babies until after the marriage. I know, I know: how old fashioned!

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.

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.highlandsapc.org
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To the point

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Broadway & More:
Liz Callaway
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828.526.9047
Presented by: Jim & Marshia Meadows
Wade & Geri Coleman

Macon Aero Modelers RC aircraft air show

He also wanted the board to consider spaces on separate ends of town.

Since the objective depends on the availability of power, the board suggested three areas: on 3rd Street below Spring; in the Town Hall parking lot; and in the Kelsey-Hutchinson Park area either on Pine or Fifth street.

The stations would be a Level 2 station (the most common type) – 240 VAC, 40amp, 6.5kw – which depending on the size of the vehicle’s battery, its on-board charger and the vehicle model, can take 3 to 21 hours to charge.

The charging stations would take credit cards and users would be charged for power used. This sparked discussion about having the user also paying a surcharge to help offset the cost of the $4,000-$6,000 stations.

Since this is just in the discussion stages, Ward said details still had to be worked out – that charging station companies may put them in so they could add them to the nationwide map showing Electric Vehicle drivers where they can charge.

As part of the Comprehensive Plan, members continued to discuss the town's utility policies expressing the need for an “attitude change.”

“The town’s enterprise funds [water, sewer, garbage and electric] generate income so there is no incentive on the town’s part to encourage the conservation of energy,” said Chairman Thomas Craig. “I talked to a Town Board member and suggested the town collect water from the Community Building roof and to use it to irrigate the ballfield [the idea being that homeowners could do the same] and he said ‘Why would we do that? We want people to buy as much water as possible.’”

Craig said currently, with the town only using 62% of its water capacity, there probably isn’t a reason to conserve but suggested it become a mindset in the community starting with the town government.

Members said the town doesn’t really encourage the idea of sustainability and discussed ways to make Highlands a more sustainable community.

Discussion ranged from pushing for net metering where a regular meter is replaced with a bidirectional meter that measures the two-way flow of electricity so customers are only charged for the “net” power they consume from the town which encourages green energy options.

Instead of a bidirectional meter used for net metering, the town installs two separate meters, pays consumers electricity saved at the wholesale rate that Duke charges it and also charges the homeowner an extra $8.75 a month to read the second meter.

This policy, which was written by the town’s electric consultant who acts as the go-between the town and Duke, is the way it is done in most small towns like Highlands.

Since that’s the case, for now, the only way for people to conserve and use green energy, would be to collected energy from solar panels or roof top wind turbines, to heat their water heaters which would decrease their electric bills since less town-owned electricity would be used to heat the water.

The board also discussed the need for in-town recycling – either a center in town or on county property near town or preferably, substituting one of the two residential pickups each week to one for “garbage” and one for “recyclables” grouped together rather than separated by type.

Craig said he drives to the recycle center in Glenville each week to dispose of his recyclables because sorting isn’t required. Ward is going to talk to the county to see if that is an option for Highlands.

Acting as the Appearance Commission, the board unanimously approved plans submitted by Dr. Robert Buchanan of the Center for Plastic Surgery & Medi-Spa, who is seeking to purchase and expand the building at 273 Spring Street to house his practice.

In a written statement, Buchanan said changes to the H-C Hospital since merging with Mission Health have left him without a place to do surgical procedures. Those changes include closing the OR this month and restrictions that prevent him from developing a place to perform procedures either in his current office or elsewhere on the hospital campus.

The building will include a reception/retail area, examination and treatment rooms, spa and procedure rooms, offices and storage.

Next Buchanan will seek a Special Use Permit from the Zoning Board.

– Kim Lewicki

Macon Aero Modelers RC aircraft air show

Come out on Sat. & Sun., Sept. 27 & 28 for the Macon Aero Modelers radio-controlled model aircraft air show on Saturday September the 27th and Sunday afternoon church at the OTX Aerodome On 441/23, across from the Otto Post Office. Take Tessellee Road for ½ mile and the airfield is on the left. Bring some lawn chairs Parking is $5. BBQ lunch is $7 and Hotdogs lunch is $5.
larceny, two counts felony larceny of a firearm, and possession of a firearm by a felon.

The charges handed down on Tuesday stem from a string of crimes connected to Cochran during his five-days as a fugitive in Macon County. Cochran allegedly burned down the home of and strangled 71-year-old Day Williamson of Franklin.

During his first appearance before a judge Tuesday afternoon in Macon County, Superior Court Judge Mark Powell read Cochran the list of charges he would be facing and asked if Cochran understood. Cochran responded, “Yes.”

Judge Powell then explained the maximum penalty for each charge, which included life in prison or the death penalty for first degree murder to Cochran and asked if he understood. Cochran confirmed, “Yes.”

Judge Powell informed Cochran that he was not to be allowed bail and that he would remain in custody until his next hearing which is tentatively scheduled for the November 3rd Superior Court date. Cochran will be given a state court appointed lawyer after an application to do so is approved.

Although Cochran was taken back into custody on August 4, five days after he escaped, Tuesday’s True Bill of Indictments were the first charges brought against Cochran. Sheriff Robert Holland and his staff conducted a thorough investigation into the events which occurred when Cochran was a fugitive and meticulously gathered evidence for the case before presenting it to the District Attorney’s Office. Once the investigation was complete and in the DA’s hand, the DA’s office considered all the evidence before filing charges.

“The officers assigned to the case have done a tremendous job thoroughly investigating all facts and evidence available in this case,” Holland said. “I am confident that our department has given the District Attorney an in-depth report, and the DA’s office will have a thorough report to prosecute this case.”

Cochran, who was serving as a trustee at the detention center at the time of his escape, was considered to be an ideal inmate. Prior to his escape, he gave officers no need for concern regarding his behavior.

Cochran was being held at the Macon County Detention Center on charges stemming from violating his Colorado parole for a felony trespassing charge. His previous record in North Carolina consisted of non-violent misdemeanor crimes, but he had been previously arrested and convicted of felony burglary charges in Georgia.

Since Cochran’s escape, the Sheriff’s Department has ceased all inmate programs including the trustee program. Holland said now all inmate programs are being reviewed by him. Prior to the incident, command staff at the detention center made the decision as to who participated in the trustee program which included duties such as laundry and taking out the garbage.

“It’s really the only privilege inmates get for good behavior within a jail population,” said Holland. “But for now, in addition to their regular duties, detention officers are doing all of the chores once conducted by inmates in the trustee program.”

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

The board thanked Patterson for her diligence and also agreed to change verbiage on the contract from $1,800 a month to $21,600 per year.

New Fire Substation

The contract for the new fire substation was completed and approved, so the fire substation is happening.

A group of homeowner associations located on the Jackson County side of the fire district have purchased property at Cherrywood Drive and US 64 east to build a fire substation which will house two fire trucks and be manned by the Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. Having a substation in the vicinity will dramatically cut the cost of fire insurance premiums for homeowners outside the 5-mile fire district.

Two of the department’s four trucks will be stationed there. There are 28 volunteers in the department and by law the main station must have 20 volunteers and the substation must have eight, so guidelines have been met.

The building, which will be funded and built by the homeowner associations, will be turned over to the town upon completion and if the town decides it doesn’t want to be responsible for utilities and maintenance in the future the building will revert back to the homeowners.

Lake Sequoyah

The town awarded the bid for the construction of the new raw water intake, raw water main, and dam repair to Langston Construction Company in the amount of $2,534,615.40.

The cost of the project, is $2,893,320. The $824,870 lacking will be appropriated from the Lake Remediation Fund.
**Highlands Events**

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

**Tuesdays**
- Free Community Table Dinner at the Community Bldg. at 6p.

**Tues. & Thurs.**
- Aerobics at the Rec Park with Tina Rogers 5:15. $5.
- Zumba at the Rec Park at 9:05a. $5

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

**Tues., Wed., Fri.**
- Nantahala Tennis Club meets 9a a-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 MountainTop Wine Shoppe.
- NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) offers a peer support group for individuals that are dealing with depression, anxiety, PTSD, bipolar, schizophrenia, etc. and the family members or friends of loved ones dealing with these challenges. Join us in a safe, confidential environment to share con-
With a $150 purchase, a free headband of your choice and 50% off a Game Day scarf.

Fri., Sept. 26  
- At The Bascom, a Bascom benefit, MoTown Dance, 6-10 p.m. Tickets are $2 for $30 or 4 for $50. Call 526-4949.

**Sat. & Sun., Sept. 27 & 28**  
- Macon Aero Modelers radio-controlled model aircraft air show on Saturday September 27th and Sunday after church at the OTX Aerodome On 441/23, across from the Otto Post Office. Take Tessenette Road for ½ mile and the airfield is on the left. Bring some lawn chairs Parking is $5. BBQ lunch is $7 and Hotdogs lunch is $5.

Sat., Sept. 27  
- The Junior class of Highlands School will be having a car wash at the First Citizen’s Bank. The funds will be used to support the various activities such as Prom and Graduation, just to name the two biggest. Donations will be taken for car washes so come bring your dirty cars out and support your Highlanders!

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate-to-strenuous 6.5 miles hike with elevation change of 1200 ft. to LITTLE CATALOOCHEE in the Smokies, a rarely visited part of the park with old home sites, barns, churches, cemeteries, as well as wildlife. Meet at Waynesville Ingles at 9 a.m., drive 50 miles round trip. Call leaders Mike and Susan Kettles, 743-1079, for reservations. Visitors welcome.

- Highlands School Scholastic Book Fair. Theme: “Sir Readalot’s Castle!” at 8 am until 3 pm. Also open from 4:30 - 6 pm before the PTO meeting on September 25. Everyone is welcome to come and shop at the Book Fair! There is a Book Fair homepage, http://bookfairs.scholastic.com/hompage-highlandschool2 and 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.

Thurs., Sept. 25 - Fri., Oct. 3  
- Highlands School Scholastic Book Fair. Theme: “Sir Readalot’s Castle!” at 8 am until 3 pm. Also open from 4:30 - 6 pm before the PTO meeting on September 25. Everyone is welcome to come and shop at the Book Fair! There is a Book Fair homepage, http://bookfairs.scholastic.com/hompage-highlandschool2 and 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.

Thurs., Sept. 25  
- At the Cashiers Village Green, a sculpture of Al Balestiere, visionary behind the formation of the Village Green, will be at 5p.

- Commissioners’ debate at 7p at SCC in the Burrell Center.

Fri. & Sat., Sept. 26-27  
- At Sidelines Gameday/Hen House on Main Street, Emerson Street Trunk Show. 11a to 4:30p. With $75 purchase a free Game-Day headband of your choice.

Fri., Oct. 3  
- At Hudson Library, Community Coffee with Mayor Pat Taylor.

Sat., Oct. 4  
- At PAC, Broadway and More with Liz Callaway, a Tony Nominee and Emmy Award-winning actress, singer and recording artist. For 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 Kettles, 743-1079, for reservations. Visitors welcome.

- Macon County Poultry Club All Breed Show at the Macon County Fairgrounds. Sponsored by the Macon County Poultry Club and the Macon County Fair Board. For more information and to register your birds call Adam Peak at 828-342-9090. Deadline to register is Sunday, September 28th.

- NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) will have an “indoor yard” sale on Sat. Oct. 4, 9-4 in the Breezeway at Palmer St Mall, between Habitat Resale Store and Smart Pharmacy, 14 W. Palmer St., Franklin. Proceeds go to support our educational programs and support groups. Items and financial donations would be appreciated. Ann 369-7385

Sun., Oct. 5  
- National Life Chain Sunday 2014 2:30 to 3:30 pm at the First Baptist Church of Highlands. Meet at 2p. Any questions contact Emily Chastain 828-200-6277.
Fall Home Improvement

Beautifying Your Home’s Outdoor Spaces

(StatePoint) In the warmer months, the importance of your yard and patio becomes top-of-mind as you spend more free time outside. While there’s no better place to read a book, meditate or simply kick back with some lemonade, you can only truly enjoy those activities if the space inspires tranquility and relaxation.

Here are some great ideas for some alfresco upgrades.

Grow a Garden
While the fruits of your labor can inspire relaxation, the act of gardening itself can be a stress relief. Spend some time working in your yard and you will be rewarded with beautiful flowers and the tranquility of nature that come with it.

Sculpture
Art can inspire relaxation. Sculpture, in particular, is especially beneficial. Luckily, these days you don’t need to be a Rockefeller to afford high-quality artwork for your yard and lawn. New designers are creating affordable, but high quality options.

For example, Hypnartic Artwork creates visually serene, kinetic wind sculptures within reach for the today’s homeowner. Ray Iannetta, founder, was inspired by the great dynamic wonders of the world to create quality art.

Two of the more popular sculptures are the “Concord Swan,” which can also serve as a weather vane, and “Spinning Leaves,” which swivels 360 degrees and complements other landscape artwork. More information about lawn art and installation tips can be found at www.HypnarticArtwork.com.

Lawn Furniture
Ditch the traditional picnic table and install more luxurious alternatives to complement your new lawn art. From chaises and daybeds to bar stools and tables, you can basically extend your home’s living spaces outdoors with style, comfort and functionality. Add a fire pit to extend the daytime into outdoor evening activities.

If your yard doesn’t get enough use, consider the reasons why. Like any room in your home, some care and planning in the design can make the space more attractive, inviting and ultimately more livable.
Some Home Upgrades Can Improve Your Health

(StatePoint) Small changes to your surroundings can have a strong impact on mood and overall health, say experts. A relatively new movement in design and construction, called “designing for health,” aims to make homes and communities have positive impacts on the way people live, work and play.

“Encouraging movement, social interaction and physical health can address problems like obesity and our increasingly sedentary lifestyles. Thoughtful design and home improvements can solve these issues,” says Cyril Stewart, President at Cyril Stewart, LLC and member of the American Institute of Architects’ (AIA) Design and Health Leadership Group.

Spaces that promote movement -- walkable and livable communities -- are an idea gaining steam, as noted by the AIA’s most recent Home Design Trends Survey. Increasingly, designers and developers are creating pedestrian-friendly communities with access to recreational activities.

Want to foster healthy, active spaces in your own home and community? Stewart is offering a few tips:

Extend the Home
Adding porches, patios or balconies improves access to the outside world. This provides great health benefits, ranging from maximizing natural light to extending living spaces. “Many people retrofit homes with these amenities, to allow for more space and fresh air and improve ventilation,” says Stewart.

Add Strategic Seating
Strategic seating is another interesting trend design professionals are employing to encourage movement in and around a home or community.

For example, public seating in the middle of spaces that mix residential, dining and entertainment establishments ensure people need to get up and walk to those services before enjoying them. In other communities, areas designated for more quiet activities, like reading, are on the rise.

Sleep-Friendly Bedrooms
Ensure your bedroom promotes healthy sleep by making it a tranquil place. “Many people retrofit homes with these amenities, to allow for more space and fresh air and improve ventilation,” says Stewart.

Install soundproof windows and use drapes. And leave the entertainment center out of your bedroom. It’s hard to get quality sleep alongside the lights and sound of the television.

Breathe Quality Air
An easy, but often overlooked solution for ensuring better health, is keeping air quality high. Fresh air aids sleep and lessens the occurrence of diseases like asthma. Simple ways to improve air quality include:

• Finding the optimum setup to promote fresh air flow and ventilation in a building
• Regularly replacing and cleaning filters on air conditioners and heating systems
• Confirming radon and carbon monoxide detectors are present and in working order

When it comes to home upgrades and interior decorating decisions, make your health a top consideration alongside visual appeal and functionality.
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Parks & Rec Projects
Pool Enclosure and Bathroom Winterization is on schedule with bids expected back and awarded at the October 16 Town Board meeting. Construction is scheduled to begin in late October with a completion date of May 1.

At the August Town Board meeting, commissioners heard suggestions about the ballfield renovation. This project wasn’t budgeted for in 2014-’15, so commissioners are waiting to see what bid packages entail before making a decision on whether to proceed.

If a bid is awarded at the October Town Board meeting, construction would begin Nov-

... OBITUARIES from page 3

Memorial service will be held at a later date.

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

In Memory of Clem Henry
6/1/1946 - 9/12/2010
4 years in heaven

When someone you love becomes a memory, that memory becomes a treasure.

We miss you and you will always live on in the hearts and minds of your family.
Whether you think 'DD' means designated driver after a few drinks, or due diligence in a sales transaction, it doesn't matter. They are both considered a safety net, and both 'put you in the driver's seat' – without compromise.

In 2011, our NC Offer to purchase forms changed to include a due diligence period clause - they even went one better and added a line for a due diligence fee - not to be confused with the earnest money deposit. I’ll address all three:

Now, before we get too far, let me say that most buyers have been practicing due diligence way before ‘due diligence was cool.’ Let’s compare buying a home to relationships. How many people do you know meet and marry the same day? Doesn’t happen – it’s a process – there’s the first date, then there’s a romance period, then engagement, then discovery, then there’s the marriage- and hopefully many long years together. You have your ‘first date’ with a house too; some people can still remember their first encounter with a home they’ve bought. Then there’s the ‘romance’ period where you envision yourself IN that house, maybe think about things you’d like to do to make it ‘yours’. The engagement is the offer – hey, it’s scary putting yourself out there on the line - the fear of rejection is always there, isn’t it? (What if they say ‘NO’?) After getting an accepted offer they began their ‘getting to know you better phase’- the discovery phase- that’s called ‘due diligence’ With a marriage, there’s usually clergy involved for the ‘big day’, compared to an attorney on closing day - one has the exchange of rings, and the other house keys. (In one scenario- DD is ‘I Definitely Do’ while the other is ‘Due Diligence’ - both may involve imbibing in libations of celebration-, which is where the other DD ‘Designated Driver’ comes in.)

Earnest Money Deposits: In the ‘olden days’ when a Buyer made an offer, he would include a check for earnest money deposit- meaning he was ‘earnest’ about buying the house. Even today, some Sellers feel the bigger the earnest money deposit, the more earnest the Buyer. So, What’s the difference? The key word here is ‘deposit’. Anytime you see the word deposit, you should expect there’s a chance you will be getting that money back. When buying a home you ‘get the money back’ by those funds being credited to your purchase price at the closing table.

Earnest money deposits are usually made out to the listing office, and are held in escrow until it is turned over to the escrow agent (attorney). The Selling office, or sometimes the closing attorney may also hold the deposit. The earnest money deposit must be deposited within 3 days of the effective date of the contract.

Every once in awhile, there’s a snag, and a sale won’t go through, and depending on the circumstances, sometimes the buyer would get their earnest money returned to them. Earnest money deposits still exist - not much has changed there.

Due Diligence Period - There has really always been a due diligence/discovery period, it just didn’t have a name, and there really wasn’t a designated time period. Selling Brokers would encourage Buyers to get a home inspection, a pest inspection, possibly a survey, septic tank evaluated, radon, etc. If there was any bank financing as a contingency to the contract, that was always considered the first hurdle. The buyer pays for all discovery/due diligence items, and there’s no need to have any inspections if the buyer can’t qualify for a loan to purchase the property. None of that has changed either - what HAS changed is there is now a designated time period the Buyer has to get all their discoveries done. Setting the time periods should not be done lightly, but rather deserve a great deal of thought from the Buyer with the guidance of their Broker. The Buyer needs to make sure they will have enough time to do everything they want to do, while at the same time not dragging the time out to discourage the Seller from accepting the offer. The clock starts ticking as soon as the contract has been signed/agreed upon by both Buyer and Seller (the effective date of the contract). The period is over at 5:00 on the date agreed by both Buyer and Seller. Some contracts have the due diligence period just a day or two before the settlement date, while others are more reasonable with at least a week in between to give everyone...
You don’t have to go to church but ...

Rev. Emily Wilmarth
First Presbyterian Church

You don’t have to go to church. (But, please keep reading.) In these mountains, or alongside our countless waterfalls and gorgeous streams and rivers, one can commune with God, no problem. If ever an opportunity to appreciate the goodness of creation presented itself, Highlands provides. Since moving here in June, I’ve been pinching myself. I have seen breathtaking sunsets and gentle misty mornings. I’ve been wowed by the late night views of the sky, too. I haven’t seen this many stars in a long time. My sky views remind me daily that God has created a world so much greater than my own imagination. I didn’t need to go to church to figure that out.

Throughout the summer, I’ve been amazed at the ever-changing landscape of wild flowers on my morning jog. Along the roads I traverse, the flora has progressively varied in three month’s time. I’ve never lived in a place with such biological diversity. I’m reminded by the progression of wild flower growth that God continues to create new things. Not just in the physical sense, but in my new relationships, in my new experiences, in new insights and perspectives. I didn’t need a sermon to pick up on that.

Since arriving in Highlands, I’ve also been amazed at how many connections I have made to people and places. I keep meeting friends of friends here; I’ve even met a high school classmate of my mother’s and a man who graduated from the Naval Academy with my dad. Making a connection with someone makes me feel like I’m somehow less of a stranger in this new home. I feel known. It’s the same thing with God, who knows my thoughts, my rising and sitting, my coming and going (Psalm 139); who knows the number of hairs on my head (Luke 12:7). I only had to open my Bible to come to that conclusion.

So, you don’t have to go to church to find God, to experience God’s presence, to grow in faith.

But, I hope you do because church has something

● See SPIRITUALLY page 17
to offer that you cannot find on your own. In addition to the sort of encounters one might have with God in nature, or in relationships, I believe you might meet God in new and profound ways within the heart of a community of faith. In a community of faith, you’re likely to engage with folks who affirm your own experience of God. Your faith can be buoyed by the enthusiasm and encouragement of others. At church, you’re likely to encounter folks whose beliefs differ in some ways from yours, too. If you’re willing to share in thoughtful, respectful conversations, your faith might change a little – or a lot. It might grow and develop as you learn from the experiences and teachings of others who have genuinely studied and prayed. In a community of faith, you might meet people whose life struggles or whose theological questions allow you to connect with something deep within you. You might meet people from whom you want to learn, with whom you might want to study, around whom you might want to raise your children or figure out how you might meet people from whom you might want to study, around whom you want to learn, with whom you might want to raise your children or figure out how you might age well.

“Two are better than one,” we read in Ecclesiastes 4:9-10, “because they have a good reward for their toil. For if they fall, one will lift up the other; but woe to one who is alone and falls and does not have another to help.” Jesus assures, “Where two or more are gathered in my name, there I am also.” (Luke 18:20) Together, in the presence of God, we find the strength of people united in a common mission to love our neighbors, to serve the poor and the outcast, to welcome strangers. It’s a lot easier to do it together than alone.

Maybe you already have a church home. Maybe you’re searching. I know of a great church at the southwest corner of 5th and Main. Wherever you go, my hope for you is that you find a community of faith that is right for you. I hope you find a community that welcomes you, that treasures the truth that you are made in God’s image, that encourages you and challenges you, that inspires you to know and follow God.

You don’t have to go to church. But I hope you do.

...INVESTING continued from page 15

The due diligence fee is paid directly to the Seller from the Buyer. The Seller can do anything he wants to with that money— it’s his. Some liken the due diligence fee to a ‘lay-away plan’ if you go through with the sale, the money you’ve paid goes towards your purchase, if you change your mind, the ‘store’ keeps the money. (My husband’s grandfather, Tudor Hall, used to refer to a ‘lay away plan’ as the ‘lay away plan’ because people would lay awake trying to figure out how to pay for the item.)

The Seller can use your due diligence fee to go on a vacation, a down payment of a new car, etc. If anything happens during the agreed upon due diligence period that the Buyer deems a negative to proceeding, the Buyer can terminate the contract, get their earnest money back, but the due diligence fee is forfeited to the Seller.

If the sale continues to closing, the due diligence fee is applied to the Buyer’s proceeds as a credit— just like the earnest money deposit.

How much should the due diligence fee be? How much should the earnest money deposit be? That’s all up to the Buyer and even though written in the contract— both are negotiating items between the Buyer and Seller.

Buying and Selling homes in today’s market does have to be hard—don’t let the verbiage confuse you. Jeannie and Tucker Chambers of Chambers Realty & Vacation Rentals will be glad to answer your questions. 401 N. Fifth Street, Highlands, NC 28741 getiti@chambersagency.net www.chambersagency.net 828-526-3717.

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!

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**Mtn. Findings donates $89,000 to area nonprofits**

Thirty-eight organizations received donations from Mountain Findings this year totaling $89,000. Pictured are representatives from these organizations together with some of the 59 volunteers who work to make these annual donations possible. Volunteers staff Mountain Findings and it is those volunteers who vote at the June annual meeting on the recipients and the amounts of the donations. Organizations are asked each year to submit letters of request and identify specific needs.

---

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Mtn. Findings donates $89,000 to area nonprofits

This year the following organizations received donations: Cashiers Free Dental Clinic, Community After School Program, Community Care Clinic, Friends for Life, Glenville-Cashiers Fire Department, Glenville-Cashiers Rescue Squad, HCCDC Scholarship Fund, Highlands Biological Foundation, Highlands Nature Center, Highlands School Booster Club, Highlands Boy Scouts, Highlands Cemetery Fund, Highlands Cub Scouts, Highlands Emergency Council, Highlands Endowment Scholarship Fund, Highlands Fire and Rescue, Highlands Historical Society, Highlands Plateau Greenway, Highlands Playhouse, Highlands-Cashiers Chamber Music, Highlands-Cashiers Community Players, Highlands-Cashiers Hospital Foundation, Highlands-Cashiers humane Society, Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust, Hudson Library, Macon County Humane Society, Peggy Crosby Center, Performing Arts Center, Performing Arts Center Youth Theater, R.E.A.C.H., Satolah Fire Department, Scaly-Sky Valley Fire Department, Sonshine After School Program, The Pantry, The Literacy Council, The Mountain Retreat, and the Rathbun Center.

Scaly Mountain Small Business and Welcome Center is now open

A mostly steady stream of local residents along with some visitors stopped in on Saturday, Sept. 6th, during the Grand Opening of the new small business and welcome center located next to the Scaly Mountain Post Office.

Scaly Mountain Computer Services, with Mark Gramlich at the helm, is fully operational. Life Matters Professional Counseling will soon open its doors. And the Scaly Mountain Welcome Center is up and running. Even with limited hours, many travelers have gotten directions, rest, and information. There is also a planned “Resource Room” at the center to benefit all in the local community (Scaly Mountain, Sky Valley and adjacent high elevation Rabun County), as well as folks visiting or just driving through. Feel free to stop in to check it out and experience a warm Scaly Mountain Welcome! Open from 10AM to 2PM daily or anytime you see the “Open” light turned on. 828.526.5630.

...TERMS from page 14

utility bill, citizens will get a bill in an envelope in a new format showing the history of usage instead of on a post card and they can also request their bills be emailed instead of mailed.

Christmas Decorations

The Town Board voted unanimously to buy new Christmas decorations this year for Main Street, from 3rd to 1st, south and north Fourth Street and wreaths and pine swags for the entryway signs on NC 28, NC 106, US 64 east and US 64 west.

The total package will cost a little more than $62,500 – $23,500 was budgeted, so a fund balance appropriation will make up the shortfall.

Poles in town will be decorated with lanterns circled with wreaths and decorated with bows.

– Kim Lewicki

...Fire Reports from page 19

The Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. log entries from Sept. 16.

Sept. 16
• At 1:28 p.m., the dept. responded to a brush fire at residence on Turtle Pond Road.

Sept. 20
• At 10:07 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on N.C. 28 south.

Sept. 21
• A little past midnight, the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on US 64 west.

Sept. 22
• At 3:47 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Holly Tree Lane.
• At 4:16 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to Main Street.
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Highlands Playhouse is now hiring part-
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customer service and math skills. Call 828-526-2695 or
come by the office at 362 Oak Street, Highlands. (st. 8/28)

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rant. Call Jimmy at 828-526-8800. (st. 7/31)

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Robbie at 828.526.3807. (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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### Classifieds

**Career Opportunity at TJ Bailey in Highlands.** Retail, Online Sales and Multi-media Marketing positions available. Come grow with us. Full or part-time. 828-526-2262 or resume store@TJbms.com (st. 2/13)

**Residential for Rent**

SAPPHIRE NC — 2 residential units for lease. Furnished Studio and Furnished 2 Bedroom (mountain views) with 2 Car Garage. Easy access Sapphire NC. 564-346-6400. (10/16)


**3/3 Older Furnished Home for rent year-round. Walk to town.** $1,000/month. 526-5558. (9/25)

**Apt. for Year Round Rent — 1BR/1BA. Furnished.** W/D available. Satellite and Wi-Fi. 1/2 mi. from downtown. Available starting Oct. 1. $500 + 1/2 utilities and $200 cleaning deposit. Leave message 828-526-4598. (st. 9/11)

**Spacious 2 Bedroom House for rent on private corner of farm.** Potter’s knoll & studio. 7 miles south of Highlands. Hwy 28. $850/mth plus utilities (706) 490-7036. (st. 8/21)

**Long-term Rental — Furnished 2BD/2BA, Walk-to-Town location.** WiFi. Cable. $1,200 including utilities. Call 828-421-1779. (st. 6/12)

**Wanted**

**Nice 3 Bedroom, pet-friendly rental property.** Call 828-200-5788.

**Commercial for Rent**

**Building for Sale.** 170 ft. hwy frontage. Street level. 3 offices, rec room, kit & bath. Large parking area. Lower level. 2BR/2BA apt. Separate entry. Offered by TLC Assoc. 828-371-2485 asking $415,000. (st. 6/12)

**Great Location on Carolina Way between 64E and 5th St across from Bank of America. ±1480 sqft. Office or retail. $1500/month. Call Tom Clark (404) 210-7979 or (828) 526-4646. (st. 9/19/13)

**Vacation Rental**

**Spacious, 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**

**Lake House for Sale by Owner.** 2,600 sq. ft. 7 miles from Highlands. Priced $60,000 below value. $199,000. Call 706-746-3046. (9/25)

**Adorable 2/2 Log Cabin Near Mirror Lake.** Amazing rental history. Perfect for buyer looking for proven investment property. Completely furnished for only $349,900. Call owner at 800-335-9215. View pictures at www.HighlandsRentals.net/StonesThrowPics (pd 11/6)

**2bed/2bath 1.20 AC.** Fantastic views & Privacy $88,999.00. Call 482-2050 706.782.9728. Cypresslansale@facebook. (st. 8/7)

**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)

**Secluded, but just minutes to town.** Adorable two Bedroom home with great views and outdoor living spaces. Call 828-421-4681. (st. 5/29)

**Lots/Land for Sale for Sale by Owner — 3 building lots in the gated community of Rustic Falls. Macon County tax records value at $51,000 each. Must sell due to health reasons. Asking $15,000 each. Call owner at 803-640-6004. (st. 5/1)

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

**1/2 Acre Knoll for Sale** — Homesite is cleared for Camper or Cabin. Driveway in, 1000 gal Septic/Drainfield in, Well permit in hand. Scaly Mountain area near Highlands. No Restrictions and Very Beautiful. $35,000 850-363-1436. (st. 8/28)

**Items for Sale**

**Moving Sale:** 4-piece entertainment center, 96” wide; laurel leg table; Mission style coffee table and end table, sliding glass doggie door. 704-681-0331. (9/25)

**Furniture:** couch and matching chair, $40; 9-drawer dresser, $25; 4 kitchen chairs, $25; end table, $15; TV cabinet, $15; garden hose storage unit, $6. Call 526-5367. (7/24)

**Bistro Tables w/chairs.** Tommy Bahamas chair, like new, lots of other pieces. Call 828-526-3742. (7/24)

**Top of the Line Maytag** — Washer (electric) and Dryer (gas). Never used. Call 828-526-0469. (7/17)

**2005 Kawasaki Vulcan 1600** — Classic Nomad with fairing, windshield, saddlebags and new tires. $3,800. Call 768-878-8757, ask for Art. (6/26)

**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)

**Services**

**Whole Life Market Natural Product Store**

Carrying a wide variety of natural products for your Mind, Body & Home.

**Nectar Fresh Juices & Smoothies and Salads To Go!**

526-5999

Corner of Foreman Road & Hwy 64 east

Mon-Sat 10a to 5:30p

**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. (st. 9/4)

**Thorough Clean —** General, spring, construction References available 706-982-1504. (st. 8/7)

**I Pay Top Dollar for Premium Low Mileage Automobiles** — 828-347-6600. (st. 6/5)


**Highlands Taxi & Shuttle —** Let Charlie Dasher handle your transportation whether it’s to the airport, a special event, or just around town. Van service for weddings. Licensed and insured. 526-8645. (st. 7/18/13)

**Mold and Musty Smell in Your Home?** Call for free inspection. 828-743-0900.


**Chef Vinzenz Aschbacher**

Old Edwards Inn and Spa is pleased to announce the appointment of Chef Vinzenz Aschbacher as the new Executive Pastry Chef. Aschbacher is a nationally-recognized Master Pastry Chef with over thirty years of pastry experience. His culinary achievements will bring a new dimension to Old Edwards’ restaurants, banquet and catering facilities.

Born and raised in the South Tirol, in Italy, Aschbacher learned the food and beverage business from restaurateur parents, then apprenticed as a pastry chef at the Café Konditorei Kühn in Wiesbaden, Germany. At 22, he became the youngest person ever to earn a master pastry chef certification in Germany, and he opened a pastry shop that supplied more than 70 top restaurants and hotels. In 1997, Aschbacher headed to the United States.

In the U.S., Aschbacher quickly became a sought-after consultant and in 2000 became the Executive Pastry Chef at the world-renowned Charleston Grill and Charleston Place Hotel. While in Charleston, he created desserts for the James Beard Foundation and earned the local distinction “the resident genius pastry chef.”