Donation expands Highlands Police Dept’s canine unit

Highlands Police Department Chief Bill Harrell made no bones about it. If he had had access to Ruby, his canine officer, on July 8, the outcome of the day’s robbery events would have been much different.

As it turned out, Ruby had been called out the night before and so wasn’t available.

But with a gift to the police department set to augment its K-9 unit, there will now be a canine officer available more often.

At the Thursday, July 16 Town Board meeting, Chief Harrell told the board about a $66,000 gift offered to the police department to buy, train and equip another police dog and handler.

“A full-time, long-standing family in Highlands who has been impacted by drugs asked if they could do something to help the Highlands Police Department further its drug enforcement abilities,” said Chief Harrell.

*See CANINE page 18*

Board takes stances on requests

Various policies and the consequences administering them were discussed at the Town Board meeting last Thursday.

**Fire Substation**

Mr. Dean Briggs, representing the residents who funded the construction of the new fire sub station on Cherrywood Drive, formerly handed the deed to station to the town.

Commissioners questioned a part of the deed that outlines the terms of ownership, specifically regarding the reverting of the property to the Cherrywood Drive Corporation on or before July 16, 2025 if the town ceases to use the property as a fire substation.

Briggs said the corporation doesn’t want it back but Commissioners Eric Pierson said the reason the verbiage is in the deed is because laws may change regarding the manning of the substation and Highlands Fire & Rescue Department may not be able to comply.

*See REQUESTS page 3*

Concrete dump defiles Greenway ‘sled’ trail

Months of back-breaking work was obliterated in a day when last week on Friday, July 10, an unauthorized dumping from Oak Street produced a river of concrete on the Greenway’s newly created Sled Run Trail. The photograph of the trail as it looked before July 10th is on the left and the one on the right shows the effect of the discarded concrete. “If we knew the company, we would take action, but as it is, there is not much we can do,” said Town Manager Bob Frye. “Most cement companies are guilty of this, and it happens more than you know.” Frye said in the case of illegal dumping the person is usually given 30 days to clean up the mess then fines begin; usually $50 per day. “After another 30 days we can go to court,” he said. “In any case, unless we catch the person in the act or have a witness willing to testify in court it’s hard to take action on something like this as we can’t prove who did it.” Anyone who witnessed this dumping is asked to contact the Highlands Plateau Greenway at highlandsgreenway@nctv.com or call the Highlands Police Department at 828-526-9431.

*See CANINE page 18*

Protecting bees protects mountain azaleas

By Andie Chilson

Intern

The weekly wildlife and biological lectures in the Zahner Conservation Hall continued at the Nature Center on Thursday evening with Clay Bolt’s discussion on native bees and the (4,000) reasons why their preservation should concern us.

In 2014, natural history photographer Clay Bolt set out to study, photograph, and relay the compelling tales of these beautiful, invaluable creatures. During his contribution to the Zahner Conservation Lecture Series, Bolt presented some of his favorite images, stories and solutions for an issue he holds near and dear: native bee conservation.

Bolt began with the hard hitting facts: what’s killing this seemingly bountiful species. He went on to describe a prevalent problem and so was not available.

“Most cement companies are guilty of this, and it happens more than you know.” Frye said in the case of illegal dumping the person is usually given 30 days to clean up the mess then fines begin; usually $50 per day. “After another 30 days we can go to court,” he said. “In any case, unless we catch the person in the act or have a witness willing to testify in court it’s hard to take action on something like this as we can’t prove who did it.” Anyone who witnessed this dumping is asked to contact the Highlands Plateau Greenway at highlandsgreenway@nctv.com or call the Highlands Police Department at 828-526-9431.

*See BEES page 6*
The fine arts are in full swing in Highlands. At the Highlands Playhouse, Godspell is its second summer stock production. The Highlands Cashiers Chamber Music Festival is underway, featuring musicians of national and international stature. In September, Bel Canto will begin its 23rd concert season featuring beautiful voices. The PAC continues to bring outstanding national performers and groups to the community. At the Bascom, the exhibition entitled “Sublime Beauty” includes paintings by all the major artists of the 19th Century Hudson River School. Its new outdoor sculpture show is made up of nationally recognized artists. The CLE lectures series includes lectures by fine arts experts as well as scholars in the humanities and sciences. Highlands Cashiers Players continues a vibrant community theatre program.

I have heard many folks say the arts enrich our lives, and I appreciate those sentiments. As a former art teacher I take it a step further by contending that the arts are, moreover, essential human experiences. Ellen Dissanayake writes in her book, Homo Aestheticus, that the arts and our aesthetic sense define modern human-kind. Denis Dutton, in The Art Instinct, makes a similar case by contending that making art is an integral part of our evolutionary DNA that drives humankind to be creative in almost every endeavor.

I also believe the arts are essential to the quality of life in a community. Furthermore, the arts are irreplaceable to our economic and cultural life.

Now, I have a dream about the arts in our community. A dream that one day our arts organizations will coalesce under a dynamic organizational umbrella, propelling the arts in the community to even higher levels of recognition and achievement. Just a dream, but what if?

What if there was an area, a campus, where the various arts organizations could have facilities that measured up to the spectacular programming already taking place? I dream of across the board art facilities that would propel Highlands/Cashiers to be known as a national, or even international, arts center.

My dream would be for an art campus with unique facilities for our arts programs. A dream of a new, state-of-the-art theater, a concert hall with world class acoustics, a lecture hall for presentations in the arts, humanities and sciences. The synergy of such a coalition could be tremendous. Arts organizations could coordinate events and combine marketing. For instance, the opening of a major exhibition, followed by a concert or performance that same night.

The dream would take commitment, work, cooperation, and strong financial backing. Town government could be a partner, but taxpayers couldn’t bankroll such a bold effort.

Could the arts community and benefactors bring a dream of the unified arts to fruition?

Would groups support this new model, or would lines of self interests be drawn? Admittedly, it would be a delicate balance. Maybe the first step would be to begin conversations and explore possibilities to find common ground.

You may call this mayor a dreamer, but may be I’m not the only one.

Lewicki heads back to Edinburgh – hopes kickstarter program will help

Former Highlands High School graduate, Megan Lewicki is directing a new play inspired by the life and work of American photographer, Francesca Woodman. The play is called Francesca, Francesca...

The piece has been accepted into the international Edinburgh Fringe Festival in Scotland and Megan is eager to share this play with audiences from around the world!

Megan and collaborating artists are raising money to go the festival abroad. They have a kickstarter, and with a little over one week left, they need all the help they can get. Here is the link to the kickstarter: http://j.mp/franfranplay

Megan had this to say to her supporters, “Thank you, Highlands, for taking the time to read this and for supporting my endeavors throughout my life. Your support will help us to continue creating art and hopefully inspire others to do the same. On behalf of the entire Francesca, Francesca… team, THANK YOU!”

Francesca, Francesca... is a new work of bio-fiction inspired by the brief but remarkable career of Francesca Woodman, one of the 20th century’s most prominent photographers.
Obituary

Theodore ‘Ted’ Perry Smyre

Theodore “Ted” Perry Smyre, 73, of Cullowhee, NC died Friday, July 17, 2015.

Born in Newton, NC, he was the son of the late Alvin Theodore Smyre and Mattie Hampton Smyre. Ted enjoyed restoring his 1931 Chevrolet, carpentry work and gardening and landscaping. He was the property manager of his and his wife’s housing development and member of the Cashiers Valley Rotary Club. Ted loved sailing when he was younger.

He is survived by his wife of 42 years, Sharon Lynnea Kloske Smyre of Cashiers; three children, Randall Perry Smyre and wife Amanda of Athens, GA, Lynnea Ellen Copeland and husband Kevin of Kennesaw, GA and Elizabeth Ann Kelley and husband Jon of Acworth, GA; brother, Tim Smyre of Charlotte, NC and two grandchildren, Morgan Mattie Kelley and Claire Emma Kelley.

Funeral services were held Monday, July 20 at in the Chapel of Macon Funeral Home with Pastor John Shubert officiating.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations can be made to the Cashiers Valley Rotary Club, PO Box 833, Cashiers, NC 28717.

Macon Funeral Home was in charge of the arrangements. Online condolences can be made at maconfuneralhome.com

Announcement

Highlands High School Multi-class Party

The Highlands High School Class of 1975 is hosting a multi-class party for the Highlands High School classes of 1972 through 1978. The event will take place on Saturday, July 25, beginning at 8:30 p.m. at the Highlands Community Building (adjacent to the ball field on U.S. 64 East, Cashiers Road). Music will be provided by the local band High 5.

The Class of 1975 will celebrate their 40th reunion prior to the party and are inviting all members of the HHS classes from 1972 through 1978 to join them afterwards for a fun evening of socializing and reminiscing. Attendees are asked to bring their beverage of choice, party fare snacks will be provided. For additional information, please contact Wade Wilson at 828-787-1997 or Mary Dotson at 828-421-0950 or 828-526-5868.

...REQUESTS continued from page 1

“For instance, we may have to staff with a permanent person at some point, we just don’t know,” he said.

In addition, by state law, a fire department can have a substation only if it has a minimum of 28 members – 20 for the main station and eight for the substation. Currently there are 30 members.

Fire Chief Ryan Gearhardt said that if the number of members falls below the required 28, the department would be put on probation and given a year to increase membership. He said it’s likely the substation could still be operational during the probation period, but if membership didn’t increase within that time, the substation couldn’t be used.

K-H Park Phase 2

Nick Bazan with the K-H Founders Park Coalition presented the board with a memorandum of understanding concerning Phase 2 – the old Sossomon property.

Of concern to commissioners was item four of the memorandum: The town agrees to use and maintain the Phase 2 property, in conjunction with the Phase 1 tract, as a public park for the future enjoyment of the community in perpetuity. However, in the event that it becomes no longer feasible or in the public good to operate a park on that combined site, the town agrees to create either another park of similar size or larger, or create an appropriate amount of green space at its discretion.

Commissioner Donnie Calloway said he couldn’t agree to the memorandum unless item four was removed.

Bazan said he would discuss it with the coalition, but they really wanted that in the document because the gift of the land for Phase 2 is meant for the expansion of the K-H Founders Park.

Attorney J.K. Coward reminded the board that the memorandum of understanding was not a contract between the current or future boards.

“This is only saying ‘this is something you intend to do if you can and if you want to,’” he said.

In the end, Bazan agreed to take the issue up with the coalition and return with an amended memorandum of agreement.

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**Pottery Barn Kids**

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

“A curious mind knows no bounds”

- **ROMANTICS OF CHAMBER MUSIC:** Sat., July 25 Time: 10-12 Dr. Stephen Crist continues to delve into the origins and development of chamber music. In this lecture he will look at several lovely pieces that were all composed around the same time but in vastly different locals; Tchaikovsky’s Souvenir de Florence, Dvorak’s Piano Quintet in E-flat, and Chausson’s “Concert”.

- **TECHNOLOGY AND THE FOURTH AMENDMENT:** Yes, we’re watching but it’s for your own good! Monday, July 27 Time: 10-12 This lecture presented by Dr. Todd Collins will look at recent Supreme Court cases and the interesting facts and questions posed about the balance between civil liberties and police power involving the use of technology as it continues to change.

- **WHY MILTON STILL MATTERS:** Love, Politics and Life: Tuesday, July 28 Time: 10-12 The influence of the writings of John Milton are second to none. Dr. Mimi Fenton is an expert on Milton’s prose and poetry and will look at how his writings can illuminate our own thinking about everything from love and death, marriage and power, to freedom and the need for beauty.

- **LIFE IN THE UNIVERSE:** Thursday, July 30 Time: 10-12 The search for life outside our planet has consumed the thoughts of mankind for hundreds of years. Are we on the verge of discovering other life in our galaxy? New technological advances have allowed us to examine the stars in our galaxy and their suitability for life. This presentation will describe these amazing findings and discuss the controversies that have arisen as we search for life in our galaxy and the universe at large. Presenter Steve Danford, Ph. D in Astronomy from Yale, is Professor Emeritus of physics and astronomy at UNC Greensboro and director of a project to install a 32 inch refractor telescope and observatory for use in several North Carolina Universities.

- **IPHOTO FOR APPLE COMPUTERS:** Friday, July 31 Time: 10:30-3:30 Cost $70/$80 Nigel Sixsmith will teach you how to edit, organize and manage all your photos on your Mac computer using the new iPhoto.

*The cost for all lectures is $25 members/$35 non-members For more about classes at The Center for Life Enrichment stop by our office in the lower level of the Peggy Crosby Center at 348 S. 5th Street, call 828-526-8811 or visit www.clehighlands.com
nomenon termed Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD) which describes the bulk of the worker bees in a colony retreating and leaving behind a queen and a few nurse bees to care for the remaining infantile insects. Other harmful factors that contribute to the decline of the species include mites, environmental relocation and stress related to the move and, most commonly, pesticides.

Bolt went on to describe harmful human-inflicted effects on the bee species such as mass farming, which requires bees for the pollinator abilities and, once the farm land has been sufficiently depleted, the bees have nothing left to pollinate, causing them to die out.

Because of the abundance and diversity of bees in the North American region, it is difficult for people to imagine the species ever verging on extinction. However, Bolt people, to think otherwise.

Much like the presently extinct Passenger Pigeon, should bees and their contribution continue to be taken for granted, we may find ourselves with a world without bees, forcing us to procure a sustainable method of artificial pollination – a method which has been employed in China following the extinction of bees in certain regions, he said.

One type of bee that is following the deadly trend of the Passenger Pigeon is the rusty patched bumble bee, or bombus affinis, which has experienced an 87% population decline in North America over the course of the past two decades.

While he recognized the importance of the existence and role played by the infamous honey bee, Bolt encouraged the audience to also recognize and appreciate the lesser known breeds of the insect, such as the Augochlora Sweat Bee, which is responsible for the pollination and preservation of the beautiful mountain azaleas all know and love in Highlands.

Bolt’s final caveat to his audience was, “everyone can do something. You don’t have to save the world, but there are little things you can do.” Some of the small changes you can make in your life in the fight to protect and preserve native bees include planting bee-friendly flowers and flowering herbs in your garden so as to promote pollination, refrain from using pesticides and other harsh chemicals when treating your plants or yard, and putting a small dish of clean water outside of your home for bees to drink from.

For more information or to support the work of Clay Bolt, please visit www.meetyourneighbours.net to learn more about international nature and biodiversity through the photography project titled “Meet Your Neighbours.”
From tough guy to super weenie
A sad but true background check

I was a Louisville, Ky. street kid from the age of six on into being a teenager. Then, as a smart-ass kid, I got into fist fights often. I seldom won but didn’t care. So when I joined the police department in 1961, I was well prepared for the rough and tumble career that awaited me on the streets of Miami Beach. Back then, criminals were actually afraid of the police if you can believe that. I was born to be a cop and had found my calling early in life, a blessing many never receive.

Twenty-eight years later I was more than done; a hardened, worn out and bored policeman, tired of serving search warrants, kicking in doors, Grand Juries, mistreating criminals, arresting scum bags and all the rest that came with the job. I was never your friendly neighborhood policeman and loved to terrorize criminals. I was more than ready to give it up to rappel the cliffs of Highlands.

So my lil’ missus and I opened our seasonal business and for the next 13 years, taught rappelling to tourists. We met some of the finest people America had to offer. Our memories are endless. Just this week, in front of the Wright Square drugstore, a lady stopped us and announced she was the “Beanie Baby Lady” and asked us if we remembered her. “Who could forget?” I responded. She had bribed her very young daughter with a gift of 50 Beanie Babies (Remember them?) if she would learn to rappel. Reluctantly, she agreed and wound up loving the sport. She is now married with a couple of kids. As I said, our memories are endless.

Eventually we had to sell the business as I was becoming a weenie, losing my balance and unable to maintain the muscle mass required for such a sport. Mother Nature was slowly but surely having her way with me. I panicked and pondered “What will I be when I grow up?”

Shoot ahead to the spring of 2015….yes, this year. I’ve arrived in Highlands and I am so worn out my tired and achy back goes out more than I do. In fact, I had to give up pickle ball ‘cause my alien hand syndrome was attacking me when I slept. Alien hand syndrome was my new enemy and, yes, it was me. It can attack at anytime but like the coward it is, it’s always while I sleep.

• See FREDSTER page 10
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THURSDAY - TWO RACKS OF BABY BACK RIBS - COOKED UNTIL FALL-OFF-THE-BONE-TENDER. SERVED WITH HOUSE MADE BACON/APPLE BAKED BEANS AND POTATO SALAD. $25.95 SERVES TWO
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**Biz/Org News**

**TJ Bailey’s 30th celebration enjoyed by all**

Friends, family and long-time customers turn out for TJ Bailey 30th year celebration Thursday night. Left are Johnny, Anita and Isabella Lupoli with manager Tanya Kuzmina. Below, the Derek Taylor family hams it up in the photo booth.

**SOAR thanks Debbie Grossman for support**

SOAR representative Marianne Vines presented Debbie Grossman, owner of Fressers Eatery, a plaque of appreciation... “For your support of the SOAR Foundation and to the families of fallen and wounded special operations service members.”

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**“Godspell”**

The musical through August 1st

**Wednesdays through Saturday 8 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays 2 p.m**

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“Godspell”

**The Bascom**

A benefit for THE BASCOM: CENTER FOR THE VISUAL ARTS, Highlands NC

Thursday, August 13

Horticulture Lecture Series and Demonstrations FREE to all and open all day

Friday and Saturday, August 14 and 15

Bascom in Bloom Flower Show; The “Art of Design” demonstration with Rene van Rems and champagne luncheon Tickets $85 per person

Sunday, August 16

Benefactor Party: music by The Tams and dinner by award-winning, Avalon Catering

Visit www.thebascom.org for tickets!

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**Highlands Playhouse**

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www.highlandsplayhouse.org
highlandsplayhouse@yahoo.com

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Celebrate four days of fine art and flowers in Highlands during the premier of Bascom in Bloom AUGUST 13-16, 2015

A benefit for THE BASCOM: CENTER FOR THE VISUAL ARTS, Highlands NC.
...FREDSTER continued from page 7

And are you aware I’m so “over the hill”
I have actually used a rotary phone and have
one in our basement in Highlands? Are you
writing this down? I’ve also used phones
where the operator said “number please.”
Ha, try to top that. The only phones I’ve
used that had to be cranked to signal a ring
was when I was a soldier for the US Army.
My God, how long ago was that?

But the one thing all of this has not
prohibited me from doing is pissing people
off in my column. Actually, I sometimes do
it on purpose and there’s always a segment
of readers that bite to my sarcasm. Believe
it or not, I actually had a Catholic priest
with zero sense of humor hand me a note
in church that read “Sarcasm is the body’s
natural defense against stupidity.” I don’t
think he liked me.

A man at Bridge recently asked, “Do
you have any friends at all?” My response
was simple. I said, “Not many but the ones I
do have are solid and loyal. Instead of many
friends, I have fans.”

My politics lean to the right sooooo I’m
now reporting the last Democratic president
I voted for was John F. Kennedy. I loved
the guy. By the way, the lil’ missus and I
were learning to play bridge while Kennedy
was cooking up the Cuban missile crisis. I
was so involved with work, family and yes, bridge, I didn’t realize the seriousness of it
all. Kennedy was taking us to the brink of
World War III, and I was opening with four
card majors. Oy!

Sadly, I believe that in time, history will
judge President Obama harshly whether you
like him or not. I also believe the American
culture I grew up in is gone forever. I’m
afraid what is ahead is not good. I just hope
history records some of it correctly. It was
a great time.

And finally, if you’re interested in
some raw sex, despicable violence and
loads of surprises, read my mystery/thriller
“Deceived,” available on Amazon.

Prepare to be awed by Highlands Playhouse’s
production of ‘Godspell’

The Highlands Playhouse is now featuring the smash hit musical, GODSPELL, through August 1st. GODSPELL is a retelling of the story of Jesus from the Gospel According to Matthew. This stylized musical follows a group of followers of Christ as they teach various parables through song and dance. The second act follows a more linear narrative as Jesus is betrayed by Judas and eventually crucified. Individual tickets are $32.50 for adults and $15 for children 12 and under.

Show times are Wednesday - Saturday at 8 pm with Saturday and Sunday Matinees at 2 pm. For additional information or to order tickets, call the Box Office at 828-526-2695.

No Relay for Life this year, but a flea market
will benefit the American Cancer Society

Cancer does not sleep; neither should we. For the first time in 15 years, Highlands is not sponsoring the traditional Relay For Life Event. However, because daily everyone is affected by that dread disease, whether a Survivor, a Struggler, a Caregiver or Spared continued efforts must be made to fund local needs, research, advocacy, and education. Together we are making a difference in the number of fatalities to cancer. More people are celebrating birthdays!

An A-Z Flea Market will be held at Highlands Rec Park gymnasium on Friday, July 31 and Saturday, August 1 from 9A.M. until 3 P.M. both days. Multiple households of goods including antiques, books, furniture, linens, miscellaneous, tools, some items new, many used – all perfect for the bargain hunter.
After several attempts to get a wayfinding sign for the Center of Life Enrichment (CLE) which is on the bottom floor of the Peggy Crosby Center on S. 5th Street, president of the board, Ed Mawyer, made a passionate plea to commissioners.

“We are a 22 year-old, self-sufficient nonprofit with 500 members occupying 1,800 sq. ft. of space in the Peggy Crosby Center,” he said. “We need help directing people to the Peggy Crosby Center because they can’t find it and we attract 3,000 people a year who attend our programs not including the speakers.”

Jerry Barber, an expert on Russia who traveled from Greenville, SC to speak at CLE, said it took him three tries to find the building.

According to Town Manager Bob Frye, CLE was left off the wayfinding sign list because it doesn’t operate year-round and it is in a mixed-use building which includes for-profit and non-profit organizations.

Furthermore, he said not every nonprofit made the cut, nor did the churches in town.

Commissioner Pierson said part of the problem would be solved if the Peggy Crosby Center got a 9-1-1 address as required which could then be entered into a G1P. In addition, a sign on the property listing the organizations that occupy the building would help, he said.

Mawyer noted that other nonprofits that are on the wayfinding signs are town-supported and in town-owned buildings. “We are self-sufficient and never asked for anything,” he said.

Commissioner Amy Patterson asked that the issue be tabled until more thought could be given to the matter.

“I want time to think of unintended consequences. I understand it is a venue but we have tight rules and we need to know when to say yes and when to say no. Churches feel they are venues because they have concerts so we have to think this through carefully,” she said.

**Highlands Playhouse**

The discussion about reimbursing the Playhouse for maintenance costs was initiated by Mayor Pat Taylor who said the matter was one of miscommunication.

He asked that the Playhouse be allowed to access funds placed in the current year’s budget (2015-’16) to pay for a portion of the repainting of the Playhouse which took place during the 2014-’15 budget.

This past spring, the Playhouse building and the decks and porches were stained, the metal building was painted and the metal stairs and railings were painted for a total of $17,500. The Playhouse requested a reimbursement of $8,463.36.

“We would like to request that the funds remaining in our budget be put toward payments to upgrades to the building,” read a correspondence to the board.

And therein lies the problem. The town says the money isn’t theirs; but rather it is the town’s to use to maintain its buildings.

Annually, the town puts aside $10,000 for its maintenance of the Playhouse building and the Performing Arts Center.

“If you look at the budget detail there is a Playhouse line item; this is simply so I can keep track of expenditures,” said Town Manager Bob Frye. “Having the funds placed in the budget does not mean that we have to spend them nor that the Playhouse would be entitled to them on that basis. It has never been ‘their’ money it is the town’s money.”

Some years ago, Joe Deppe was hired as the town’s Building Maintenance Manager whose job it is to ascertain what repairs or maintenance is needed on town buildings. By law the Town Manager then decides how or if to allocate the money after discussing it with the board of commissioners.

According to Town Manager Frye, in November of 2014 the manager of the Playhouse contacted him about using the $10,000 for various painting/staining jobs. He said he told her to have the request put on the December Town Board agenda. Evidently, the request was never made and he said that’s the last he heard of it.

Meanwhile, at the end of May, the EMS building roof had to be replaced as water was literally pouring in.

Since the Playhouse and PAC 2014-’15 maintenance money hadn’t been used, Frye explained that he used the town building maintenance funds to pay for the EMS building roof.

What followed was an emotional exchange between commissioners and Playhouse Treasurer Wanda Drake.

“We made this clear some time ago, you aren’t to do anything until you talk to us. You do things without us saying it’s a necessity. Our inspector is supposed to see what is going on,” said Commissioner Amy Patterson.

“We have put money into upgrades at the Playhouse and haven’t asked you for a dime,” said Drake. “We only want the money to maintain the building. We did what we thought was prudent and in good faith.”

Commissioner Brian Stiehler, who is the Playhouse liaison said he’d missed the last two Playhouse board meetings but agreed with the mayor about the issue being a failure to communicate and was for allocating this budget year’s funds.

Commissioner Dotson also OK’d allocating 2015-’16 funds as long as the Playhouse, “understands the 2015-’16 money has now been spent,” he said.

Commissioner Patterson voted no.

---

Kim Lewicki
Mon.-Sat.
- Nantahala Tennis Club meets at 9a.m to noon each day. All visitors welcome.
Sun.-Tues.
- Movies at the Playhouse: 2, 5 & 8 p.m. Call 526-2685 for weekly movie.
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.
Mon. & Wed.
- Zumba with Mary K. Barbour at the Rec Park from noon to 1p. For more information, call 828-342-2498.
Mon., Wed., Fri.
- Heart Healthy Exercise Class Monday, Wednesday and Friday 8:30am-9:30am
- Aerobics with Tina Rogers 8-9a.
First Tuesdays
- Donation Based Family Fitness Class at The Nature Center every Monday at noon and Wednesday at 7pm for Teens and Adults,
- FAMILY and Caregiver Support Group Meets: for Individuals that have a friend, family member or loved one living with mental illness. Learn how peers deal with stress and emotional overload. First Tuesday of Every Month 7-8 pm. Call Ann for more info (828) 369-7385
Tuesdays
- Growing Stronger Together - A support and learning group for women who have physical or mental difficulties including depression or high stress. $5 per session. Meets weekly on Tuesdays through August 4 at the Peggy Crosby Center, Rm.203. Led by Bonnie Gramlich, LPC and sponsored by HUMC and the Counseling and Psychotherapy Center of Highlands. Call 828.342.0546 to register or for more info.
- Free Community Table Dinner at the Community Bldg. at 6p.
- FREE Yoga in the K-H Founders Park Tuesdays from 6-7 p.m. Bring the whole family (along with a towel and a bottle of water) for a gentle, community stretch!
2nd and 4th Tuesdays
- OccupyWNC meets at the Jackson County Justice Center. For more information, visit www.occupywnc.org or call 828-331.1524
Tuesday and Thursdays
- Zumba with Connie at the Rec Park at 8a. $5.
- Pickle ball is played from 9:30-11a in the gym at the Rec Park.
1st Wednesdays
- Family Movies at the Hudson Library at 3:15pm. Call 828-526-3031 for titles.
2nd Wednesdays
- General Audience Movies at Hudson Library at 2pm. Call 828-526-3031 for titles.
Wednesdays
- Children’s Book of the Month Club and Story Hour with Nonnie (Diane McPhail) at Shakespeare & Company in Village Square at 11 a.m.
- Live music at Satulah Mountain Brewing Company with Jimandi, a local duo, 7:30-10:30p.
Thursdays
- Storytimes with Miss Deanna at Hudson Library 10:40 am. Open to the public.
- Weight Watchers support group meets every Thursday at 6pm at the Cashiers Community Center. Questions? Call Lisa 828-506-3555.
- NAMI Support Group for individuals dealing with mental illness: depression, bipolar, schizophrenia, etc. and the family members of individuals dealing with these challenges from 7 – 8:15 pm. Call Donita for more info (828) 526-9510.
- Free lectures at the Highlands Nature Center, 930 Horse Cove Road in Highlands at 6:30pm on Thursday nights at 6:30p. For more information, call the Highlands Biological Foundation at (828) 526-2221.
2nd Thursdays
- Sapphire Valley Needlepoint Guild meets at the Highlands Rec Park at 10 a.m.
3rd Thursdays
- Kidney Smart Classes in Franklin: Every 3rd Thursday of month, 4:30pm-6pm, Angel Medical Center, Video Conference Room, 3rd Floor, 120 Riverview Street, Contact Majestic 828-369-9474
- Kidney Smart Classes in Sylva: Every 3rd Thursday of month, 7:30am-9am, DaVita Sylva Dialysis Center, 655 Asheville Highway, Contact Sue 828-631-0430
Last Fri. of each month
- Community Coffee with Mayor Pat Taylor from 11a to noon at The Hudson Library.
Fridays
- Live music in Town Square from 6-8p.
Saturdays
- Highlands Marketplace in the vacant lot next to K-H Founders Park on Pine Street from 9a to 2p.
- Children’s Book of the Month Club and Story Hour with Nonnie (Diane McPhail) at Shakespeare & Company in Village Square at 11 a.m.
Through July
- At the Hudson Library, a comic exhibit: What’s up, Doc?
Thurs.-Sun, July 23-26
- The 50th Annual Macon County Gem & Mineral Show and Sale is Thursday through Sunday from 10
- See EVENTS page 13

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Highlands Events

a.m. to 5 p.m. Thursday through Saturday and 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday. Daily admission is $2 for adults and 12 & under admitted FREE. A Run-of-Show Ticket is also available for the event. This special pass is only $5 and will allow you admission to the event all 4 days for one low price. On Sunday all Macon County residents can enter for only $1 admission. For more information on the 50th Annual Macon County Gemboeree, contact the Franklin Chamber of Commerce toll free at 800-336-7829 or 828-524-3161.

Thurs., July 23
• At the Nature Center, Zahner Lecture: White-Nose syndrome and bats: the current status of this wildlife health crisis from 6:30-7:30p. Free.

Thurs. & Fri., July 23 & 24
• At Wits End, Champagne, cupcakes & cashmere: Two Day Trunk Show!

Fri.-Sat., July 24-25
• HCCMF presents “Musical Fireworks” with David and Julie Coucheron, violin and piano. Friday at PAC at 5 p.m. and Saturday at the Cashiers Library at 5 p.m. For ticket information call 828-526-9060 or go to hccmf@frontier.com.

Sat., July 25
• At Clifford Lake, Live Birds of Prey with Michael Skinner with the Balsam Mountain Trust at 11 a.m. Program on the patio at Clifford Lake. No pets allowed. Please arrive 15 minutes prior to program. Free by $4/vehicle admission to recreation area.

• A Tennis Camp will be run held at the Recreation Department on Saturday from 9am-noon. The camp will be run by Coach Matt Richie. Tennis balls will be provided and we will have a few loaner rackets available for the camp. The cost for the camp is $12.

• Bluegrass Bash featuring The J.W. Band & Harmony Valley, 11:30a to 4p at the Highlands Civic Center. Lunch features hamburgers, hot dogs, baked beans and Coleslaw. Lunch begins at 11:30a. There will also be clogging & Karate presentation free-style dancing and a cake walk. Tickets are $10 for adults and $5 for children under 12. Proceeds to benefit the Highlands Emergency County.

Sun.-Mon., July 26-27
• HCCMF presents William and Alexandra Preucil, violin; Yinzi Kong and Miles Hoffman, viola; Charae Krueger, cello. Sunday at PAC at 5p and Monday at the Cashiers Library at 5p. For ticket information call 828-526-9060 or go to hccmf@frontier.com.

Sun., July 26
• Cowee Textiles in Franklin on Sunday from 2-5 p.m. will be having a Fiber Day. Bring your spinning, weaving, rug hooking, knitting or any textile related project to spend the afternoon at 51 Cowee School Dr. Franklin NC 28734-4182. The school is also open to visitors during this time. For more information please call or e-mail Teresa Boucounnet 828 349-3878 bouchonnet@coweetextiles.com or www.coweetextiles.com

Mon., July 27
• The Art League of Highlands-Cashiers’ July meeting will be at the Bascom Monday at 5 p.m. with social time beginning at 4:30 p.m. The guest speaker will be local sculptor, John Tolumay. This free presentation is open to the public.

Tues., July 28
• At the Hudson Library, at 10 am - Community Book Discussion on Andrea Barrett’s “Archangel”, a collection of short stories. Please call (828)526-3031 for more information.

• See EVENTS page 14

On Sat., Aug. 1, it’s the annual Open House at the Highlands Fire & Rescue Department on Oak Street from 11a to 3p. Fire truck rides and hot dog plates. Donations accepted.

– Photo by Kim Lewicki

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BBQ CILANTRO CHICKEN: PULLED CHICKEN, BBQ SAUCE, GRANDE MOZZARELLA, RED & GREEN ONION, FRESH CILANTRO.

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Western North Carolina Botany Alliance. She is the founder of a habitat stewardship outreach and educational group, Transylvania Naturally, to promote native habitats for endangered, indigenous pollinators such as certain bees and monarch butterflies. Programs begin at 5:30 PM and usually last about an hour.

Wed., July 29
- At the Hudson Library at 2:30 pm the NC Museum of Natural Sciences will be visit the library and present their “Interesting Invertebrates” program. Children ages 4+ can meet live invertebrates such as millipedes, crayfish, tarantulas, scorpions, and more in this up close, safe look at animals without backbones.
- Adult, Child and Infant First Aid/CPR/AED certification class at 9am at the Community Building. Learn how to respond to first aid, cardiac and breathing emergencies. Upon completion attendees receive certification from the American Red Cross. Please pre register we need a minimum of 6 for the class and a maximum class size of 16.
- Free Interlude Concert Series at the Presbyterian Church at 2 p.m. St. Paul’s Chamber Choir; Atlanta - directed by Trey Clegg.

Thurs., July 30
- HCCMF presents Bach at Bucks Coffee Café in Cashiers with the Vega Quartet at 7:30p. It’s Free.
- Free Interlude Concert Series at the Presbyterian Church at 2 p.m. St. Paul’s Chamber Choir; Atlanta - directed by Trey Clegg.

Fri., July 31
- At The Hudson Library, at 11 a.m.- Community Coffee with Mayor Patrick Taylor at the Hudson Library. Ask him anything!
- At the Hudson Library at 2:30 pm the NC Museum of Natural Sciences will be visit the library and present their “Interesting Invertebrates” program. Children ages 4+ can meet live invertebrates such as millipedes, crayfish, tarantulas, scorpions, and more in this up close, safe look at animals without backbones.
- Adult, Child and Infant First Aid/CPR/AED certification class at 9am at the Community Building. Learn how to respond to first aid, cardiac and breathing emergencies. Upon completion attendees receive certification from the American Red Cross. Please pre register we need a minimum of 6 for the class and a maximum class size of 16.
- Free Interlude Concert Series at the Presbyterian Church at 2 p.m. St. Paul’s Chamber Choir; Atlanta - directed by Trey Clegg.

Sat., Aug. 1
- The annual Open House at the Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. from 11a to 3p. Fire truck rides and hot dog plates. Donations accepted.
- The Highlands Plateau Audubon Society will host a beginner’s bird walk at 8:30 am at the Cashiers Commons, including the area around the Recreation Center, Boardwalk and Village Green. There are plenty of birds to be seen here. The President of HPAS Russ Reginery will lead with Board member Ann Campbell assisting. Loaner Binoculars will be available. Basic birding skills for beginners will be stressed. Meet in the new Rec Center parking lot.
- The Bascom 30th Anniversary Celebration. Free and fun for all from 3-7p.

Sun.-Mon., Aug. 2-3:
- HCCMF presents “Beethoven’s 7th with Andres Cardenes, violin; William Ransom and Victor Asuncion, piano. Sunday at PAC at 5p and Monday at the Cashiers Library at 5p. For ticket information call 828-526-9060 or go to hccmf@frontier.com.

Mon.-Thurs., Aug. 3-6
- Little Highlander Softball Camp will be held at Zachary Park on Buck Creek Road from 9am-noon. The cost for the camp is $50.

Mon., Aug. 3
- The Highlands Plateau Audubon Society will show the PBS film Owl Power at the Hudson Library in Highlands at 7:30 p.m. Light refreshments will be served at 7 p.m. The program explores owl sight and flight and follows the lives of two barn owl chicks from the moment they hatch to show their development into super-powered birds. Please enter through the rear door of the library.
The Highlands-Cashiers Chamber Music Festival launches its own musical fireworks with a pair of programs that welcome back favorite performers.

On Friday, July 24, and Saturday, July 25, Atlanta Symphony Orchestra Concertmaster, David Coucheron, and his sister, Julie Coucheron, of the Georgian Chamber Players will be performing Vitali’s “Chaconne,” Grieg and Saint-Saens’ “Sonatas,” and Piazzolla’s “Grand Tando.”

David Coucheron joined the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra as Concertmaster in September 2010. At the time, he was the youngest concertmaster among any major U.S. orchestra. He has performed as a soloist with the BBC Symphony Orchestra, Bergen Philharmonic Orchestra, Sendai Symphony Orchestra, Oslo Philharmonic Orchestra and the Trondheim Symphony Orchestra.

An active recording artist, recordings with sister and pianist Julie Coucheron include “David and Julie” (Naxos/Mudi) and “Debut” (Naxos). Originally from Oslo, Norway, Julie Coucheron has established an international career, winning first prize in all the national competitions she has attended, in addition to winning prizes in Italy, Germany and in the United States. Ms. Coucheron has worked with musicians such as Lazar Berman, Claude Frank, Emanuel Ax, Vladimir Feltsman, John O’Connor, Elton John and Christopher O’Riley.

On Sunday, July 26, and Monday, July 27, a quintet of internationally recognized performers will present Dvorak’s “Terzetto,” Strauss’ “Violon Sonata,” and Mendelssohn’s “Viola Quintet.” Sunday’s concert is dedicated to Matt Friedlander in loving memory by his wife, Jacqueline Friedlander.

Violinists William Preucil and his daughter Alexandra: violinists Yinzi Kong and Miles Hoffman; and cellist Preucil, violin; Yinzi Kong and Miles Hoffman, viola; and cellist Charae Krueger will present these supremely sublime compositions. Violinist William Preucil has led a multifaceted and distinguished career in the disparate realms of solo, chamber, and orchestral performance. He is probably best known as the concertmaster of the Cleveland Orchestra.

Alexandra Preucil was appointed assistant concertmaster of The Cleveland Orchestra in April 2013. She joined the violin section in 2008. Ms. Preucil has appeared as a soloist with the Georgia Philharmonic, Highland Park Strings, Canton Symphony Orchestra, and the World Cello Congress. A founding member of The Vega Quartet, Ms. Kong has been an active performer on the international music stage for more than 20 years. As a solo violinist, Ms. Kong has performed at numerous festivals, including the Highlands-Cashiers Chamber Music Festival, Aspen, Musikorda, La Jolla, Amelia Island and San Miguel.

Violist Miles Hoffman is founder, violinist and Artistic Director of the American Chamber Players. In 1982, he founded the Library of Congress Summer Chamber Festival, which he directed for nine years.

Cellist Charae Kreuger is principal cellist of the Atlanta Opera Orchestra and the Atlanta Ballet Orchestra. Ms. Krueger received her chamber music training with Eugene Lehner of the Kolisch Quartet, as well as with Robert Mann and Samuel Rhodes of the Juilliard String Quartet.

Throughout the Highlands-Cashiers Chamber Music Festival’s 34th season, which stretches to August 9, concerts will be held at 6 P.M. Fridays at the Martin-Lipscomb Performing Arts Center in Highlands and repeated at 5 P.M. Saturdays at the Albert Carlton-Cashiers Community Library in Cashiers.

Sunday concerts will be staged at 5 P.M. at the Performing Arts Center in Highlands and repeated at 5 P.M. Mondays at the Cashiers Community Library. For tickets and information, call (828) 526-9060.

St. Paul’s Chamber Choir coming to town

At 2pm on Wed. July 29, the free Interlude Concert Series sponsored by First Presbyterian Church and the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation will feature St. Paul’s Chamber Choir, Atlanta, directed by Trey Clegg at First Presbyterian Church.

St. Paul’s is the second largest historically African American Episcopal Church in the United States. The music department there includes an adult choir, four additional adult ensembles, a children’s choir, a handbell choir, and a concert series. Trey Clegg has held the position of Director of Music/Principal Organist at St. Paul’s since 2004. Dress is casual – come as you are. First Presbyterian Church is located at the corner of Main and Fifth Streets. Handicapped accessible entrances are located on Church Street and on Fifth Street.
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Peak Experience
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The money will cover the cost of purchasing a Belgian Malinois, its training, its handler’s training, all equipment and a K-9 vehicle.

The Malinois will be trained in tracking, narcotics and patrolling, but will also be social-friendly, a paramount criteria, said Harrell.

Furthermore, the Malinois will stay on a lead and only come off if an assailant is attacking someone. Even if tracking at full speed it will be on the lead which is 20-25 ft. long - so the handler has to run with the dog as needed.

The board unanimously agreed to accept the gift and so if all goes as planned, Ruby will have a four-legged buddy on the force at least for the next 1 ½ years until she retires.

Though Chief Harrell would like to have two canines on the force, after Ruby retires, he said that is a discussion for another day.

Since Chief Harrell has been at the police department, drug enforcement has increased by 114% and since Ruby has been on the force it has increased 120%.

In 2007, Ruby, a black lab, who at 1 ½ years old became Highlands Police Department’s first canine officer is “aging” out and so Chief Harrell is looking toward the future.

She is a tracking and narcotics officer who at this point can sniff, but can’t track anymore, said Veterinarian and Commissioner Dr. Amy Patterson.

Commissioner Eric Pierson agreed to accept the gift and so if any assailant – but only if the person is a felon or if a felony is committed.

Commissioners asked about recurring expenses – there aren’t any. The $66,000 is a one-time expense that covers everything, for the life of the dog’s service.

The handler – as has been the case with Ruby – or donations will cover the food, and Dr. Patterson provides free medical care.

Chief Harrell hopes to have the dog in service by November. It will take two weeks to get the dog, two months to train it and three weeks to train the handler.

The new K-9 vehicle will not be an addition to the police car fleet, instead it will replace one that is on the rotation list for this year or the next.

– Kim Lewicki

2015 Bel Canto Recital: Sept. 13 at 3p at PAC

This year marks the 23rd year of the highly successful Bel Canto Recitals in Highlands. Every year since its inception, ticket-holders wait enthusiastically to hear the exclusively-selected, world-renowned singers and the Bel Canto music they will perform.

But what is Bel Canto?

Bel Canto is Italian for “beautiful singing” or “beautiful song.” It refers to the Italian-originated vocal style that prevailed throughout most of Europe during the 18th and early 19th centuries – a time when opera composers such as Rossini, Bellini and Donizetti were hugely popular. Opera enthusiasts at the time agreed that there was nothing more ravishing than a beautiful voice singing a beautiful melodic line beautifully.

And beautiful music will be heard at this year’s recital on Sunday, September 13, at the Highlands Performing Arts Center. This year’s performers are among the elite of the opera world:

Jennifer Black, is a soprano in high demand on international opera and concert stages. A few of her roles include Mimi in La Bohème, Juliette in Roméo et Juliette, and Norina in Don Pasquale. She will return to the Metropolitan Opera this next season performances of La Donna del Lago and La Rondine.

Audrey Babcock is an award-winning mezzo-soprano who is quickly gaining notoriety for her commanding, powerful performances as Carmen and her hypnotic portrayals of Maddalena in Rigoletto. She was also featured in a televised concert of Russian music with world-renowned singer, Regina Resnik.

Jonathan Burton is a young American tenor who has been praised in Opera News magazine for being “an engaging all-around singer with a powerful, full-bodied sound.” Some of his roles have been Cavaradossi in Tosca, Calaf in Turandot, Pinkerton in Madama Butterfly and Pagliacci.

Mark Walters, baritone, is returning for his third Bel Canto Recital and is fast becoming Highlands’ favorite baritone. Being touted as one of the next great American Verdi baritones, Opera News magazine described him as “a force to be reckoned with” in his role in Lucia di Lammemoor and as “heroic” in Carmen.

Stephen Dubberly, returns as the recital’s accompanist, a role he had been admired for since the start of Bel Canto in Highlands. He is a professor and music director at University of North Texas and associate conductor and chorus master for Fort Worth Opera.

In the past 22 years, Bel Canto has supported The Bascom Permanent Collection, Highlands School music program (with its new choral groups, the Highlands Community Child Development Center, and the Gordon Center which runs the preschool programs at both the Episcopal church and the Methodist church. In the last 11 years, Bel Canto has donated over $360,000 to its four beneficiaries.

For more information about the 2015 Bel Canto Recital or to get on the mailing list, please call 828.526.5213 e-mail highlandsbelcanto@gmail.com, or write to Bel Canto Recital, P.O. Box 239, Highlands, NC 28741.
Perhaps you have been pondering your investments and have decided to add a Highlands-Cashiers property to your portfolio. Regardless of how you came to the decision to buy, it’s clear you now need a solid plan to take note! Acreage features lush, native shrubs and topography with easy access from Raven’s Ridge Road.

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

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

In one of Highlands’ most desirable neighborhoods, this rare acreage offers a unique opportunity to envision and build your mountain dream home. Situated on the Cullasaja River section of Mirror Lake, there are 4.83 +/- acres in total, with 2.1 +/- acres of usable land. With a potential to subdivide, investors, too will want to take note! Acreage features lush, native shrubs and plants; stream and river frontage; good building pock-ets; and proximity to town (yet feels a world away). Offered at $295,000 and MLS # 79819. Contact Susie deVille (828) 371-2079. Main Street’s Best Commercial

Savvy investors will want to take note of this unique opportunity to own highly-visible, Highlands Main Street real estate. 4 retail units on the lower level (could be easily configured as three) and 3 apartments on the upper level (could be reverted to 4 units), comprising an impressive 6,400 +/- square feet. Located between two of Highlands’ most well-loved high-end dining destinations: Paoletti’s & Wolfgang’s. Reserved parking off Oak Street (behind the building). Offered at $1,280,000. MLS #81486. Contact Susie deVille (828) 371-2079.

View Lot, Cool Elevation & Great Price

Premium Riverfront Acreage

In one of Highlands’ most desirable neighborhoods, this rare acreage offers a unique opportunity to envision and build your mountain dream home. Situated on the Cullasaja River section of Mirror Lake, there are 4.83 +/- acres in total, with 2.1 +/- acres of usable land. With a potential to subdivide, investors, too will want to take note! Acreage features lush, native shrubs and plants; stream and river frontage; good building pock-ets; and proximity to town (yet feels a world away). Offered at $295,000 and MLS # 79819. Contact Susie deVille (828) 371-2079. Main Street’s Best Commercial

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In order to make the best investment decision possible, you’ll want to use the following investment toolkit as your guide throughout your purchasing process. Again, you may not start with all (or even any) of the answers to these questions. Relax into the notion that the knowing will come. Grab your notebook and pen and dive into the process.

• See INVESTING page 20

The Real Estate Investor’s Toolkit

Sometimes, it is helpful to have a joint brainstorming session, working quickly to simply get basic parameters and notes down on paper. Or, you might find it beneficial to work independently on your vision for the property and then compare notes. Keep the conversations open, fluid, and unbiased – focus on getting clear in your own mind first; then, move on to understanding the points of common interests and where you may differ in your thinking.

It is entirely possible that you find yourself stumped right at the beginning, without any clear notion of what it is you are seeking. You simply know you want a mountain property, and beyond that, you have a blank slate. As with most things in life, there is a bit of a “stumbling around” period before clarity ensues. Fret not. This is very common and is easy to address. You will find that once you get going and see your first properties, your thoughts will begin to gel. Ideas will surface, and what is important to you will come to the fore.

First, unless you are the only one making the buying decision, sit down with your spouse/business partner/significant other, and begin the conversation around what you both are looking for in a mountain property. Sometimes, it is helpful to have a

Contact Susie deVille (828) 371-2079.
Laurel Garden Club Kitchen Tour
Saturdays August 22
9 am ~ 3 pm Highlands

INCLUDES 6 SPECIAL KITCHENS
Timed tickets are limited.
$65 per person
Tickets are available at The Dry Sink
450 Main Street or laurelgardenclubhighlands.com

Welcome...Come Visit.
GPS Address:
78 Black Bear Trace
Highlands, NC 28741
From Main St. take NC 106 toward Dillard. 1.8 miles turn R on Mt. Laurel Dr., 3 tenths mile, turn L on Moonlight.
Here is on the R
www.highlandscomeshomesite.com
Like us on FaceBook at Falling Waters Highlands

Falling Waters
Falling Waters...is a newer well maintained 52 acre community just 2.8 miles from Main St. Highlunds. Secluded but not remote, no road noise, no thru traffic...peaceful, quiet and private.

The land is well forested and gentle, easy building sites and a pleasant place to walk. Two waterfalls and several creeks add charm and interest to many home sites. Paved roads, Underground utilities & Gated.

Would love to build BUT......
Neil & Paula Van Hoogen (the developers) can help. We are knowledgeable, experienced and love the building process. We can assist with the many decisions, choices and options. In your absence, we will be your eyes and ears watching out for your best interest. Let’s explore the possibilities!

...INVESTING continued from page 19

with a joyful heart – it’s truly fun to become a savvy investor!

1) Location. Have you decided if you are more interested in privacy further out from town, or do you want to be closer in with easy access to all the shops, dining, cultural goings on, and evening fun in town? Maybe country club life is calling with a short golf cart ride to the first tee? If you really don’t know the area well (or at all), ask your agent to help you learn the ropes of the various neighborhoods. Sometimes an afternoon driving around simply getting a feel for the town and surrounding areas is the best way to get your feet wet.

2) Property specifics. Think through how you will use the property: who will be coming to visit (and how often), the style of the property, the number of bedrooms and baths you want, desired amount of privacy/acreage, and any amenities you want in the neighborhood/community. For example, you may want to be able to host your entire family during summers and holidays; think through how much living and sleep space that would require. When you entertain, do you like a certain flow from the kitchen to the dining/living areas? Will grandchildren need lots of level yard space? Will you want to garden? Is easy access to golf, swimming, tennis, etc. important to you?

Once you have narrowed down your list to your top three choices, ask your agent to provide you with a very detailed CMA (comparative market analysis) so that you can understand the fair market value of each and begin your negotiating strategy.

4) Renovation. Are you open to doing any renovating? Before you discount this idea entirely, understand that you could potentially do much better price-wise on a property that needs some work. Furthermore, we have incredibly talented contractors in our area who are well versed in doing renovations and deliver quality, professional work. Having said that, if you are not comfortable at all in doing any renovating (nor even the slightest updating work), let your agent know that from the start. He or she will know to put only turn-key properties on your showing list for consideration.

5) Time Frame. Have you decided when you would like to make your purchase? Do you have a target in mind for when you would like to be in the property? If your hope is to be in a property within 3 months, for example, you will want to begin your search in earnest immediately. If you are getting a loan, it will take 45-60 days to close the transaction. Let your agent know of any traveling you will be doing, times you won't be available to see properties, and specifics on your investment timeline. If you have other needs that impact your timing (the need to sell another property first, desire to spend a certain season in your new house, and/or business trips or vacations planned that prevent you from being available during Due Diligence), give those details to your agent as soon as possible.

6) Maintenance. How much maintenance (if any) are you interested in taking on? Sometimes, buyers will only want minimal maintenance and are more than happy to pay additional HOA fees for someone else to handle all the exterior maintenance on a property. Others prefer to do all the work themselves or hire their own crews to assist. Determine how you want to handle ongoing maintenance of the property. If you don’t want to be in an association and want a low-maintenance property, ask your agent to put homes with natural landscaping/yards on your list. Seek newer homes and/or those that have had recent upgrades to the roof, appliances, interior and exterior painting, electrical, and plumbing.

7) Due Diligence. Once you are under contract, you have a period of time in Due Diligence to thoroughly check the property. This is your time of inspections, obtaining a new survey, getting your loan approved, and checking any and all aspects of the property. Your agent will skillfully guide you through this entire process, but it is very important for you to be actively involved as well. If possible, attend your home and pest inspections and understand fully any repair needs. Get a radon test. If planning to rent the property, inquire with property managers as to what you can expect in terms of rental revenue and expenses. If considering a commercial property, ensure the Seller has provided you with up-to-date financials, leases, and other operational details.

Your buying process will be a relaxing, fun experience if you keep these handy tools at your disposal. You will truly enjoy learning the community and all it has to offer, as well as seeing and selecting from the lovely array of properties that fit your parameters and budget. In no time at all, you will be enjoying mountain living at its finest.

Susie deVille, ME, ABR, SFR, is Owner/Broker-in-Charge of White Oak Realty Group. Her areas of expertise include real estate investments, niche marketing, social media, and strategic property positioning. White Oak Realty Group’s sales office is at 125 S. 4th St. in the heart of the retail district in Highlands. For more information, visit WhiteOakRG.com or call (828) 526-8118.
Morris Williams (C), vice president of the Highlands Roadrunners Club, receives a check for $500 from Mountaintop Rotary Club from current President Dr. John Baumrucker (L) and past President Bill Zoellner (R). The money, which represent part of the proceeds from last May’s Run for the Park 5K, will go to the running club’s scholarship fund, which provides scholarships to graduates of Highlands School who continue to participate in collegiate athletics while advancing their education.

Dr. John Baumrucker, president of Mountaintop Rotary Club, recently awarded two Paul Harris Fellowships. Honored for their work in the club and their contributions to the Rotary Foundation were Emily Porter (L) and Ava Emory (R).

Past President of Mountaintop Rotary Bill Zoellner (R) presents a check for $4,300 to Nick Bazan (C), chairman of the Kelsey-Hutchinson Founders Park Coalition, as new club President Dr. John Baumrucker looks on. The money, which was raised from the Run for the Park 5K race May 30, will be used for construction of Phase II of Founders Park.

Upscale Living in Downtown Highlands!
Located off Hickory Street

Old Edwards Club Membership Included

- Old Edwards Club Membership
- 3 BD/3.5 BA or 4BA/3.5BA (with optional Lower Level)
- One Car Garage with Every Home
- Master on Main Floor
- Native Stone and Wood Exterior
- Covered Outdoor Deck (Rear)
- Screened Porch with Stone Fireplace (Front)
- Vaulted Ceilings with Exposed Beams
- Granite, Travertine or Natural Stone
- On-Site Finished Hardwood Floors
- Elevator Option in Every Home
- Built by Schmitt Construction
- Low HOA Fees

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828-526-8784
295 Dillard Road, Highlands

Sheryl Wilson, Broker
Pat Allen Realty Group
828-337-0706

Highlands Mountain Club
Price Reduction!
Price Reduction in Highlands Mountain Club. Don’t miss this chance for a lower level unit with a lovely wooded lake view. $175,000 MLS #80958

Sheryl Wilson, Broker
Pat Allen Realty Group
828-337-0706
Four generations turn out for mortgage shredding and Mills’ 65th B-day!

On Thursday, July 9, the Chamber’s Business After Hours at Nancy’s Fancys and The Exchange for Men, also served as a mortgage shredding and a birthday celebration for Bob Mills. Front from left: Pop, Len Russo, Mom, Shirley Russo, niece Kimberly McLaughlin. Back from left: B-day Boy Bob Mills, wife Nancy Greenfield, niece Amy Wilson, sister Sandee Garion, great-nephew, Camron McLaughlin, niece Jennifer Wilson, nephew Michael McLaughlin, great-nephew Mitchell McLaughlin and nephew Scott Wilson.

The Highlands Emergency Council presents the Second Annual
BLUEGRASS BASH featuring:
The J.W. Band & Harmony Valley

Saturday, July 25 • 11:30 am—4:00 pm
Highlands Civic Center
Lunch and Concert begin at 11:30

Ticket Prices:
Adults—$10  Children under 12—$5
Also included:
Clogging & Karate exhibitions, free style dancing, cake walk
Come join us for an old-fashioned afternoon of fun, while supporting the Highlands Emergency Council!

The 34th Season of WorldClass Music and Internationally Known Artists at the Highlands-Cashiers Chamber Music Festival
July 5 - August 9, 2015
www.h-cmusicfestival.org
hccmf@frontier.com
(828) 526-9060
The Highlands Community Fund (HCF) approved $52,100 in People in Need and HCF GIFT grants to local nonprofit organizations that provide critical services for economically disadvantaged people.

The Highlands Community Fund, an affiliate of The Community Foundation of Western North Carolina (CFWNC), is a permanent endowment to meet local needs. Tax-deductible gifts are added to the principal, which is preserved and invested. The returns are used to make grants to support nonprofits in Highlands. Since 1996, the Highlands Community Fund, in partnership with CFWNC, has awarded 105 grants, totaling more than $637,086 to 28 organizations.

The grants include:
• $10,000 to the Blue Ridge Mountains Health Project, Inc. to replace dated equipment used to make grants to support nonprofits in Highlands.
• $10,000 to the Community Care Clinic of Highlands-Cashiers, Inc. to expand its chronic disease management program and to develop and implement a system to improve medical outcomes.
• $10,000 to the Martin Lipscomb Performing Arts Center to support the PAC Youth Theater program.
• $10,000 to The Bascom’s Community Arts Education Initiative that delivers arts education programming in collaboration with a number of community partners.
• $5,000 to the Literacy Council of Highlands to continue children’s programming, including after school enrichment, tutoring, ESL, Summertime Kids and book distributions.
• $2,500 to the Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust to support the Kids in Nature Program in afterschool and summer programs providing experiential learning on ecological topics in the community.

The grants include:
• $10,000 to The Bascom’s Community Arts Education Initiative that delivers arts education programming in collaboration with a number of community partners.
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Tolerance Is Not Love

By Dr. Mark Ford
First Baptist Church Highlands

The despiser of humanity despises what God has always loved – humanity and creation. Satan is at war against God's intended purpose and plans for His creation and those created in His image. His design is to twist and mar what God called “good.” But there is another sincerely intended love for humanity that amounts to the same thing as contempt for humanity, and ends up despising what God loves. It comes from evaluating human beings according to assumed dormant values and goodness that all supposedly possess. Simply, deep beneath the surface of all souls is an assumed inherent goodness and goodness that all supposedly possess. But this assumption ignores – dare I say despises - God's assessment that we are all sinners and part of a broken, fallen creation. This new kind of love shows contempt for humanity as it fails to love as God loves – a sacrificial love that gives our all to see humanity introduced to redemption and reconciliation with God. This is the love of John 3:16 – “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have everlasting life.”

Today's new kind of love is contemptuous of real humanity – the humanity that God entered into through the incarnation to die for our sins on the cross. This new kind of love expresses itself in a forced tolerance that reinterprets evil as good, where sin is overlooked and the reprehensible is excused. This new kind of love shies away from the clear “No!” of God's Word to finally agree with everything in a warped compassion and understanding called tolerance. This new kind of love, this tolerance, does not take seriously our fallen condition nor God's call for reconciliation through repentance. Reconciliation with the world cost God dearly. Only in God's executing judgment on God in Christ could peace between God and the world, and between human and human occur. It was not tolerance that drove God's love, but judgment of sin. Love said “No!” to sin and grace invites us to say “No!” also. Real love sees real humanity and seeks out the real cure in God's Word. Tolerance – in the name of a false love – ignores the cancer and declares that all is okay. Tolerance is unreal about the human condition.

Tolerance and acceptance of sin is a declaration that it is not that important. But God thought it was very important. So much so, He went to the cross to die for our sins and establish the way of reconciliation and salvation. God's love is not tolerant, but rather His “No!” and intolerance of sin born upon the cross – that which is destroying His creation. We are not called as His followers to be tolerant, but to love as He loved. And in doing this, we may appear intolerant – but our love (the love of God) drives us to speak clearly about sin that is destroying our world and wrecking souls, so that we may speak clearly about our need of salvation in Jesus Christ. And Jesus Christ in His death on the cross is the most intolerant of us all.
**Police & Fire Reports**

The Highlands Police log entries from July 4. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor or public officials have been used.

**July 4**
- At 6 p.m., officers responded to a two vehicle accident on U.S. 64 west near Oak Street.
- A $2,500 unsecured bond. His court date is Aug. 12, 2015.
- At 11 a.m., a man reported someone using his bank information fraudulently at a business on Carolina Way.
- At 11 a.m., a motor vehicle theft from a residence on Maple Street was reported when a vehicle was taken without permission.
- At 1 p.m., a case of vandalism was reported at the Verandah were graffiti was painted on a fence.
- At 1:30 p.m., officers responded to a two vehicle accident in Highlands Plaza.
- At 3 p.m., injury to real property was reported at a residence on U.S. 64 west where a copper line leading to the heat pump was cut.
- At 3:10 p.m., officers responded to a two vehicle accident on U.S. 64 west near Raoul Road.
- At 9 a.m., a women reported pendants missing from her purse while at the Ugly Dog Pub.
- At 11:30 a.m., two counts of simple physical assault were reported at the parking lot of the Hudson Library.
- At 11:32 a.m., officers responded to a one-vehicle accident on NC 28 near Highlands Plaza.
- At 5 p.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident in Highlands Plaza.
- At 1:55 a.m., Michael Trevor Reese, 23, of Highlands, was arrested for concealing a handgun at N. 6th and Chestnut streets. He was issued a $2,500 unsecured bond. His court date is Aug. 12, 2015.

**July 5**
- At 8 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on the Cashiers Road.
- At 3:08 a.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on US 64 west.
- At 2:04 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Main Street.
- At 6:22 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Shelby Circle.
- At 9:47 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on VZ Top.
- At 3:12 p.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on US 64 west.

**July 6**
- At 11:30 a.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on 4th St.
- At 2:50 p.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on US 64 west.

**July 7**
- At 12:05 p.m., vandalism was reported at the Civic Center where a window was broken out of the rear passenger side of a vehicle.
- At 2:06 a.m., Felipe Ruiz, 21, of Highlands, was arrested for DWI when he was pulled over for driving left of center on NC 106. He was issued at $1,500 unsecured bond. His court date is Aug. 12, 2015.
- At 11 a.m., a man reported someone using his bank information fraudulently at a business on Carolina Way.
- At 11 a.m., a motor vehicle theft from a residence on Maple Street was reported when a vehicle was taken without permission.
- At 1 p.m., a case of vandalism was reported at the Verandah were graffiti was painted on a fence.
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**July 8**
- At 3:08 a.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on US 64 west.
- At 2:04 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Main Street.
- At 6:22 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Shelby Circle.
- At 9:47 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on VZ Top.
- At 3:12 p.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on US 64 west.

**July 9**
- At 11:32 a.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on S. 4th Street.
- At 2:50 p.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on US 64 west.

**July 10**
- At 7:36 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Deuce Lane.
- At 5:03 p.m., the dept. stood by at the hospital for the MAMA helicopter.
- At 10:58 a.m., the dept. rescued a man who broke his hip while at Secret Falls.
- At 4:11 p.m., the dept. rescued a woman at Bust Your But Falls on US 64 west who had fallen and hurt her knee.

**July 11**
- At 4:11 p.m., the dept. rescued a man who broke his hip while at Secret Falls.

**July 12**
- At 5:08 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on S. Sassafrass Court.
- At 11:26 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Cullasaja Club Drive.
- At 8:45 a.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on N. 4th St.
- At 5:09 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on US 64 west.
- At 9:08 a.m., the dept. rescued a woman at Bust Your But Falls on US 64 west who had fallen and hurt her knee.

**July 13**
- At 7:36 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Deuce Lane.
- At 5:03 p.m., the dept. stood by at the hospital for the MAMA helicopter.
- At 10:58 a.m., the dept. rescued a man who broke his hip while at Secret Falls.
- At 4:11 p.m., the dept. rescued a woman at Bust Your But Falls on US 64 west who had fallen and hurt her knee.

**July 14**
- At 11:17 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Moorewood Road.
- At 6:21 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Sky Lake Drive.
- At 11:07 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Lower Brusky Face Road.
- At 8:45 a.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on N. 4th St.
- At 5:09 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on US 64 west.

**July 15**
- At 11:17 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Moorewood Road.
- At 6:21 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Sky Lake Drive.
- At 11:07 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Lower Brusky Face Road.
- At 8:45 a.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on N. 4th St.
- At 5:09 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on US 64 west.

**July 16**
- At 11:17 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Moorewood Road.
- At 6:21 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Sky Lake Drive.
- At 11:07 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Lower Brusky Face Road.
- At 8:45 a.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on N. 4th St.
- At 5:09 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on US 64 west.

**July 17**
- At 11:17 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Moorewood Road.
- At 6:21 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Sky Lake Drive.
- At 11:07 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Lower Brusky Face Road.
- At 8:45 a.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on N. 4th St.
- At 5:09 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on US 64 west.

**July 18**
- At 11:17 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Moorewood Road.
- At 6:21 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Sky Lake Drive.
- At 11:07 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Lower Brusky Face Road.
- At 8:45 a.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on N. 4th St.
- At 5:09 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on US 64 west.

**July 19**
- At 10:33 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on NC 106.
- At 8:18 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Sweetwater Circle.
- At 4:11 p.m., the dept. rescued a man who broke his hip while at Secret Falls.
- At 4:11 p.m., the dept. rescued a woman at Bust Your But Falls on US 64 west who had fallen and hurt her knee.
The Community Foundation of Western North Carolina recently approved scholarships totaling $407,400 to 92 students in Western North Carolina. The Foundation administers 60 scholarships funds; 45 run a spring cycle offered to high school seniors each year.

Top recipient Garrett Higdon of Franklin High School was awarded a Clyde and Mildred Wright Endowment Scholarship valued at $20,000 over four years. Grace Brassard, Kenan Lewis and Jessica Tilson of Highlands School, Rachelle Baldwin and Mary Freeman of Franklin High School and Caleb Cabe who was home-schooled were also awarded. Scholarship endowments can have broad eligibility criteria or can be focused on a particular school or county, offered to students pursuing a degree in a stated field or available to those who will attend a designated college or university.

The Community Foundation is a nonprofit serving 18 counties in Western North Carolina. The Foundation is a permanent regional resource that facilitates more than $14 million in charitable giving annually. Discretionary resources are focused on People in Need, Early Childhood Development, Food and Farming and Natural and Cultural Resources. CF-WNC inspires philanthropy and mobilizes resources to enrich lives and communities in Western North Carolina. Information can be found at www.cfwnc.org.

Highlands-Cashiers Hospital (HCH) is pleased to announce the appointment of John McCoy, Ph.D., as chairman of the HCH Board of Directors, effective Oct. 1, 2015.

McCoy has served on the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital Board since 2011. John and his wife, Rosalind (Rozzy), split their time between their homes in Celebration, Florida, and Highlands. The McCos have been part-time residents in Highlands and Cashiers since 1981.

McCoy is the retired chairman and CEO of The McCoy Companies, specializing in senior health and housing facilities. In 1976, he created Health Care Associates Inc., located in Winter Haven, Florida. Health Care Associates (HCA) also specialized in senior health and housing facilities. HCA and The McCoy Companies have developed and managed more than 100 projects throughout the United States.

The PAC Youth Theater has been busy, even after the April production of Spotlight on 2 One Acts. Western Carolina University’s new Dean of the Fine & Performing Arts College, Dr. George Brown invited the PAC Youth Theater students and parents to come to WCU to watch the dress rehearsal of Peter Pan.

This outstanding production was produced by WCU and performed and staffed by the students of the college.

Before the play began, Dr. Brown spoke with the students and parents for half an hour, talking about the College of Fine and Performing Arts at WCU. “Art place making in your own backyard.”

The venue at WCU is state of the art and is ranked sixteenth in the country. After the performance, the college students took time to interact personally with the PAC students. They even got an up close and personal tour of the back stage area, where all the tech magic happens.

On Saturday, June 20, the PAC students were treated to a special makeup class taught by Broadway veteran, Jeri Sager. Jeri sang in concert at the Performing Arts Center (PAC) that evening. This was not just any makeup class! It was a class to teach them how to apply the cat makeup from the well known musical CATS. Jeri Sager had portrayed Grizabella in CATS on Broadway and national tours for over two and a half years. To watch the transformation of these students was amazing and fun. The students ended up cats but also learned the basics of “character” makeup for the stage.

If you are or know of a student who is interested in the performing arts please call the Highlands Performing Arts Center for more information on the PAC Youth Theater program or the PAC High School Theater Arts class taught in conjunction with the Highlands Schools. 828.526.9047
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