Matching grant could complete K-H Founders Park

The Friends of Founders Park has received an anonymous challenge gift of $100,000 toward the completion of the second phase of Kelsey-Hutchinson Founders Park.

With construction already under way on part of that project, Friends Chairman Nick Bazan said the latest gift will give a lot of momentum to the group’s efforts to raise the remaining funds to finish the park.

“This is a challenge gift, so we are looking to raise at least $100,000 more by Dec. 31 to match it,” he said. “With the match, we will have raised approximately $450,000 for this phase of the park. So it is essential that other donors step forward and help us match this gift.”

If the matching money is raised, it will bring the group’s fund drive to within two-thirds of its overall goal of $700,000.

“This gift, when matched, will give us a major boost,” he added.

Coalition urges eradication of Oriental Bittersweet

Armed with Round-Up, Highlands’ coalition against invasive plants has Japanese Knotweed, Kudzu and now Oriental bittersweet in its sights.

At the August Town Board meeting, commissioners unanimously voted to help fund the effort to eradicate Japanese Knotweed and Kudzu on town property rights-of-way with a $2,500 grant. At the coalition’s Town Board liaison Commissioner Brian Stiehler’s request, the Board agreed to allocate this amount.

An Hispanic man charged with rape is on the run

Area law enforcement agencies are asking the public to be on the lookout for Marcos Lopez, aka Marcus De La Cruz Lopez.

He is wanted for three counts of statutory rape of a child under the age of 13 and three counts of indecent liberties.

Highlands Police Chief Bill Harrell and Macon County Sheriff Robert Holland are asking anyone who has information on the whereabouts of this individual to call 911 immediately.

They said not to approach him as he is “very aggressive” but to try to collect information safely – all descriptors: clothing, vehicle’s tag and direction of travel or last known sighting – and to call 911 as soon as possible.

According to the Sheriff’s office, during the course of the investigation and while interviews were being conducted last week the suspect took flight.

Special waiver opens school sports to HS 6th graders

Sixth graders at Highlands School will now be able to compete with seventh and eight grade students in interscholastic sports.

At the September board of education meeting in Highlands, Superintendent Dr. Chris Baldwin reported that after working with State Superintendent of Education June Atkins and the Department of Public Instruction, both Highlands and Nantahala schools received a special waiver to allow sixth grade students to participate in sports for the remainder of the current school year.

Highlands Principal Brian Jetter lead the charge by requesting that the district seek permission. In his request letter, Jetter noted that because of the school’s small size, they do not have multiple teams and can only field one or two. Sixth grade students would not be able to participate without a waiver.

The waiver allows Highlands and Nantahala to participate.

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www.twigsgroup.com

Contact Mal Phillips 828-200-2642
Haven’t felt so good since the Friday of the big rain storm a couple of weekends ago. I had finished taping my radio show around 10 a.m. In the taping I told everyone to be careful in the rain storm. I left WHLC to help a friend move. I made a trip to the transfer station on Wilson Gap Road. I was back at my friend’s house assembling a final truck load for the Emergency Council.

It continued to rain. I walked out of the garage with arms loaded and walked down a wet, wooden ramp. Suddenly, my feet slipped forward, and my body fell backwards. I was on the wet ground with immense pain in my right knee. I knew it was trouble, even before feeling that my patella on the side of my knee instead of on top.

My friend rushed to my aid. I blubbered the words of the old lady in the famous “I’ve fallen and I can’t get up” commercial. He called 911. I remained paralyzed in pain on the rain soaked ground.

The paramedics arrived and placed me on the gurney and into the ambulance. They quickly confirmed what I feared, that my knee had major problems that could require emergency surgery. Before arrival at the ER, the paramedics radioed my status and information to the emergency room, so I went directly to a treatment room where a nurse was waiting. The EMTs and ER nurses were wonderful.

The bad news was confirmed three days later. While I missed surgery on that Friday, I had an operation to repair my torn quadricep five days later. I will be somewhat out of duty for a while. The recovery time for a quadricep that has been reattached to the patella is between six to eight weeks. My leg is in a full cast and the doctor stresses it is critical that I do not bend my leg during the long recovery period.

Needless to say, don’t expect to see me riding around town in my old red truck for a while. I will be mostly off duty, but our town manager and mayor pro tempore, Brian Stiehler, will make sure town business gets done.

I am going to make every effort to attend the Town Board meeting, tonight at 7 p.m. The meeting is at the Highlands Community Building next to the ball field.

There are several major agenda items. One item is approval of funds to complete the final landscaping for the water intake and dam project which will is scheduled for completion within weeks.

The board will also get an update on the search to fill the planning director position. A schedule for interviewing finalist will be presented.

Our energy consultant, Kevin O’Donnell, will make a presentation on town options concerning the coal ash surcharge that Duke Energy wants to apply to our electric utility customers. Highlands has an opportunity to join a coalition of those who have not signed the Duke nondisclosure agreement.

Hope to see everyone at the meeting.

I would like to thank the many yoga instructors for a wonderful season of Yoga in the Park. I enjoyed each Tuesday evening and appreciate those great people for donating their time. Also, thanks to the Town of Highlands and the park committee for allowing us to use this wonderful park. Thanks again for the great event.

Linda Edwards
Highlands

Mayor Pat Taylor

The show will go on....
Mildred ‘Mille’ Hagan Montgomery

Mildred “Mille” Hagan Montgomery, 83, went home to be with the Lord Saturday, October 10, 2015 in Franklin. Mrs. Montgomery was born June 30, 1932 in Charleston, SC to the late Lee and Virginia H. Hagan. Millie was a homemaker that loved her husband, children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, pets, Clemson Tigers Football, but most of all her Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Mille was married to Charles Montgomery 65 years ago on October 7, 1950. Millie and Charles love to travel and see the world. She was also a member of Community Bible Church in Highlands.

Survivors include her husband, Charles of the home; two daughters, Pam Hendrix (Skip) of Easley, SC, and Kim Cooley (Gregg) on Clemson, SC; six grandchildren, Leigh Ligon (Scott), Matt Hendrix, Charlie Montgomery (Julie), Katie Dobson (Matt), Austin Cooley, and Preston Cooley (Kelli); three great-grandchildren, Hagan Beach, Lily Dobson, Cora Montgomery. Millie was preceded in death by a son, Chuck Montgomery.

A Celebration of Life was held Wednesday, October 14, 2015 at Community Bible Church in Highlands with the Rev. Gary Hewins and Rev. Steve Kertoulas officiated. Entombment followed in Pickens, SC at the Hillcrest Memorial Park.

In lieu of flowers memorials can be made to Hospice House Foundation of WNC, Inc. P.O. Box 815 Franklin, NC 28744 or www.hhfwnc.org.

Online condolences can be left at www.bryantgrantfuneralhome.com

Bryant-Grant Funeral Home is serving the Montgomery family.

Rollins and Avery wed

Carl Wayne Avery, Jr. and Ann Rollins of Cabin Casuals in Highlands happily got married on Monday October 5, 2015 at noon in front of Magistrate at the Macon County Courthouse. A celebration is planned for January.

On behalf of the Highlands School PTO, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all who helped make our annual Fall Festival such a tremendous success. A HUGE thank you goes to our awesome Senior class and parents who volunteered their time (Christy Weller, Monica & Kevin Vinson, Tom & Amy Fitzpatrick, Vicky Talley, Tanya Drummonds) the faculty and staff of Highlands School and the PTO board members who all volunteered their time and energy to run the festival. Thank you to Lester Norris and his amazing staff at the Highlands Recreation Park and the Town of Highlands for use of their facility and all of their extra hands. Thank you to Lynn Vinson and Gina Billingsley for all of their extra help. Thank you to Mr. Cashion’s construction class for building some of newest additions to the festival. Thank you to Pastor Paul Christy and Ron Hensley for running our cake walk and keeping us entertained. Thank you to Jerry Moore and Kilwin’s for the donation of the caramel apples and Bi-lo Food Store and Ingles Markets for their drink donations. Thank you to all the parents and volunteers who made cakes and baked goods. Thank you for our raffle donators: Bryson’s Food Store, Reeve’s Hardware, Main Street Nursery and Bountyland Gas. Thank you to...
**Highlands Area Dining**

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**El Manzanillo**

100% Mexican Food!

Every Wed. and Thursday FREE SOUP

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Serving lunch from 11:30 daily.
Dinner from 5, Sun., Mon., Tues., Fri. & Sat.
Dinner reservations appreciated.

Norma Jean on the guitar in the garden Saturday and Sunday

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Dinner: 7 nights a week 5-9p
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Tuesday – Sunday nights, 5 PM – 9 PM

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**Golden China**

Listed in ‘100 Top Chinese Restaurants in USA’

Lunch Buffet

11-2:30, M-TH $7.95
Friday: Seafood Buffet $8.95
Open Monday-Saturday
11a to 9:30p
Menu available, too
Wine & Beer • No MSG

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Serving Lunch and Dinner Year-Round.
Gourmet Foods, Full Service Bar
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Serving Lunch Daily
11a to 4p
Serving Dinner from
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7 days a week

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Japanese • Asian • Thai • Hibachi Cuisine

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Mon, Tues, Thurs. 11a to 10p
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Sun., noon to 10p
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151 Helen’s Barn Ave., Highlands
Seafood Fridays at Creekside
Only 2 Seafood Fridays left!

- Tender Lobster
- Steamed Snow Crab
- Shrimp Scampi
- Jumbo Fried Shrimp
- Fries or Sauteed Veggies with Bread and Salad

Reservations necessary for this platter • 828-526-9822
Full Dinner Menu also available

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Open for Dinner nightly at 5:30p.
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Restaurant at Skyline Lodge
Fine Dining with a View!

Open for
Dinner Wed. thru Sat.,
Brunch Sunday and Breakfast Sat. & Sun.

Appetizer Specials:
Butternut squash ravioli w/cranberry & walnut cream • $12
Shrimp scampi • $15

Entree Specials:
Crispy balsamic glazed duck breast • $30
Surf & Turf filet and lobster tail • $54

Wednesday & Thursday
Early Bird Specials 5-7p!
All you can eat
Soup & Salad • $16.95
Cajun Chicken Pasta • $17.95
Blackened Mountain Trout • $18.95
Shrimp Alfredo • $19.95
Pork schnitzel w/hunters mushroom sauce • $20.95
• 12 oz. Grilled Black Angus Ribeye $21.95

Prepared to order by Chef Kirtis
Reservations appreciated but not required

470 Skyline Lodge Road
828-526-2121

We are very sad to announce that Creekside Restaurant and Sweetreats Ice Cream at the Mountain Brook Center will be CLOSING.
Last meals served at Creekside will be Sunday, October 25.
From Oct. 26-31, everything will be sold.
Pub tables and chairs, antique buffets, stained glass, dishes, ice cream tables and chairs, etc.

Lakeside Restaurant
Celebrating Our 26th Season
A unique fine dining experience on Harris Lake in Highlands featuring fresh seafood, an extensive wine list and excellent service.

Serving Dinner from 5:30p • Tuesday - Sunday
Sunday Brunch 11a to 2p
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...SPORTS continued from page 1

Because the schools that Highlands plays against allow younger students to participate, Jetter said that allowing sixth graders in Highlands to also play middle school sports would level the playing field and would give more Highlands students a sports option. Highlands currently has 51 students in seventh and eighth grade and because of the low enrollment, there are only seven students on the volleyball team. Having so few athletes on a team can cause problems for the school’s teams if a student is injured or sick. Opening participation eligibility to sixth graders will give the school a larger pool from which to draw students to field athletic teams.

“These challenges are seriously threatening the ability of Highlands School to maintain a middle school athletic program,” said Dr. Baldwin in his plea to the state. “Without such a program, many of the interests and needs of young people will go unmet or they will be met through other channels which may not serve the best interests of the students or community.”

Beginning with the current sports calendar, students in both Nantahala and Highlands can participate and according to Dr. Baldwin, pending a policy change on the state level, hopefully a permanent change will allow further action to improve the athletic programs at these rural schools.

There are only three K-12 schools left in the state, two of which are located within Macon County, so the change would significantly benefit Macon County students.
Yikes! It’s that time of the year for me… us. The Highlands landscape is as orange as John Boehner’s skin, there’s a chill in the air and my nose is beginning to drip, drip, drip. The ends of my fingers are cold and stiff all the time and I feel as if gravity is overtaking me. Most of my friends from our bridge clubs have packed their rain gear and moved on to warmer climes. I must get outta here. Are those snow clouds on the horizon? As much as I love this beautiful plateau, I’m like the hummingbird that’s driven south, not because it wants to but because it has to.

Homer & Jethro were right when they sang, “I got tears in my ears from lying on my back crying over you.” That’s how I feel about getting out of Highlands in the fall. I don’t really want to leave but must to survive.

I love the people of Highlands and, yes, I even love the worst of those dreaded summer folks from the country clubs with their noses in the air, their long stem wine glasses and thousand dollar bills. I must admit some are a little “uppity” but, as a seasoned Miami Beach cop, I had my share of those types in Florida. I have a few special words for them I won’t put into print. Remember, they can’t help the way they are so I’ll be nice.

And for my loyal fans who might be interested, I’ll tell you our life styles are about to drastically change. For starters, we’re heading from our modest Highlands home to a not so modest North Palm Beach home where the sun is out all the time…yes, I mean, all the time. It’s warm…. almost too warm. Okay, okay, I’ll say it. It’s dad-gum hot, at least until early January when the temperatures finally drop into the seventies. Instead of running the heat all the time that dries our skin, we run the air conditioners that also dry our skin. At least in our Florida home we have the humidity to help keep us moist. The sun….the sun….oh how I love the sun!

But then it happens. A cold front rolls in and the temperature plummets into the mid-seventies. We throw open all the windows and sliders and let the warm balmy tropical air overtake our home. For the first time since arriving, I can sit in our family room, watch and hear the waterfall from our spa feeding our backyard pool. Because of our plant decorations, our backyard is a tropical setting of “Bird of Paradise” plants, colorful crotons and blazing coleus plants where tiny chameleons scurry around our patio. Since these tiny inquisitive creatures don’t stray far from their environment, we could be the first humans they have ever seen. I catch them staring at me all the time. I know, I know, you’re not impressed…. but I am.

Tomorrow, we’ll head out to Trader Joe’s, a short distance from our home for wine and roses….and other fun stuff. It’s only been two days and Highlands already seems soooooo far away. Maybe we’ll hop in our car and take a two minute ride to “Downtown,” an incredible conglomerate of restaurants, tony shops, movie theaters, and you name it, it’s there. My lil’ missus will slip into a shop to buy a new glitzy half price baseball cap to keep the sun from her face. There’s even a bar called “Dirty Martini.” Come visit and we’ll take you there. But even with all this glitz and convenience, I’ll miss the folks that make Highlands so special.

Each morning, just as the sun rises; just after my first cup a coffee, I’ll log-in and go to a special web site that the Highlands Newspaper provides to take a look at the weather. The cam, just outside the newspaper’s window, gives me a good view of Oak Street and the fire department. Some mornings the sun is out and sometimes the street is white with snow. Most mornings the street is wet from rain.

But South Florida can be deceiving. It all looks so wonderful but all that glitters is not gold, as the saying goes. The warm climate also invites all sorts of criminals and scum bags to the area. There are pedophiles living in South Florida neighborhoods but, thank God, all my kids are grown. If interested, go on line and learn about these creeps luring about in your neighborhood. You just might be unpleasantly surprised.

On a 24/7 basis, my weapon is always seconds away from my reach. Now that the lil’ missus and I look older, (she’ll deny that) there are criminals who will spot us and look to take advantage of our age. That would be a bad, bad mistake on their part. And yes, I will go to the firing range and waste a few hundred rounds into a paper criminal target just to make sure I can.

So we bid you farewell, Highlanders, stay warm and keep the fires burning until we return. Know that we will truly miss you all.

THANKS continued from page 3

Valery Bates and Frances Beck and all of their minions for putting on the best haunted house in years and Janet Avery for the donation of extra decorations! Thank you to Highlands Doors and Windows and Derek Taylor for use of their box truck and Phil Potts for transporting all of the materials in the rain! And most of all to all of you who braved the soggy weather and attended the festival. The list goes on and on… if I have left you off the list it is not that I’m not appreciative… just forgetful! Highlands School is fortunate to have such generous community support. It truly makes a difference in the lives of our children. With a grateful heart,

Andrea Chalker
HS PTO President
Breakfast
Full breakfast made to order every morning until 11:00 am
Cage-free eggs, waffles, french toast, sausage, ham, homemade biscuits, muffins, croissants. Espresso bar and coffee roasted in-house.

Lunch & Dinner
Grill
Every day from 11:00am – close
Fresh angus burgers, fresh Natural chicken breasts, fish or chicken tenders, cooked to order, hand-cut fries, salads, homemade soups, daily specials. See our website for more info.

Pizza
Every day from 11:00am – close
Authentic Neapolitan and NY deck oven pizzas made from scratch. Pasta bowls, daily specials and weeknight dinner specials. See our website for more info.

Soup & Salad Bar
Mon-Sat 11:00am – close
Fresh salads, homemade dressings, soups, chili and more.
$9.99 each (dine in) or $9.99 a pound (to go)

Weekday Lunch Special
Monday – Friday 11am to 2pm
Pizza, pasta, soup and salad bar Continuous fresh pizza from our pizza ovens, pastas, fresh breads from our bakery, plus the entire soup and salad bar… $9.99 each (dine in) or $9.99 a pound (to go)

Sunday Southern Brunch Bar
Every Sunday from 11am – 3pm
Skillet fried chicken, country angus steak, skillet corn, biscuits & preserves, mashed potatoes, veggies, cobbler, plus the entire soup & salad bar.
$11.99 (dine in) or $9.99 a pound (to go)

Prepared Foods
A large selection of take-away items fully prepared, ready to take home including grilled pork loins, homemade mac & cheese, mashed potatoes, herb-rubbed chicken, made-in-house bbq, chicken salad deli salads & much more!

Dinner to Go
A different full dinner every night. Serves four serving Monday through Saturday from 4:30 until we sell out Call ahead to reserve.

Monday: Choose either
Four chicken and four cheese enchiladas, refried beans, monterey rice, homemade tortilla chips, salsa, shredded lettuce, tomatoes, sour cream.
Or...
24 buffalo wings or 2 lbs chicken tenders and hand cut fries. $20.95 serves four.

Tuesday: Made in-house Italian sausage lasagna and a large house salad. $20.95 serves four

Wednesday: Chicken or steak pot pie and a large salad. $20.95 serves four

Thursday: Roasted meatloaf with mashed potatoes, gravy and a large salad. $20.95 serves four

Friday: Wild caught fried shrimp, baked potatoes, hush puppies & coleslaw. $23.95 serves four

Saturday: In-house smoked bbq, coleslaw, apple and bacon-baked beans, and yeast rolls. $20.95 serves four

Weeknight Pizza Special:
Monday through Thursday 4:30 to close 16 inch New York style pizza with up to 5 toppings or baked pasta with either italian sausage or chicken. Both come with garlic bread and salad. Serves four for $20.95

Wine Market
Browse our Wine Spectator award-winning selection of wines w/ the best pricing in town. Run by a friendly & knowledgeable staff. Beer & wine available by the glass while you dine & shop.

Butcher
We sell only 100% premium angus beef, hand-cut in house. Stock up for the weekend every Thursday with 35% off all steaks and ground beef. Then stop by the take-out case to complete your dinner with twice baked potatoes, fresh salads and more!

Specialty Cheeses
Dozens of cheeses, tapenades, olives and specialty items to choose from including our made-in-house crackers.

Bakery
Fresh loaves, baguettes, pastries, pies, layer and specialty cakes. Everything made from scratch.
...GRANT continued from page 1

“Of course, we’d like to raise the entire $700,000 as soon as possible, so we can finish the entire park by next spring. We’d love to be able to have the grand opening for Phase II on May 31.”

The first phase of development of the park, consisting of a new performance pavilion, new town restrooms, walkways and street pavers, was completed last spring. Work began on the second part of the park, on land formerly occupied by law offices, last month. Construction is focusing primarily on Founders Square, a new plaza area, and on a small support building that will be used to store equipment and stage various events held on the square. During the winter months, the square will host a new ice rink and the building will serve as a skate rental facility. The ice rink will be operated by the Town of Highlands Recreation Department, with the funding for the rink, equipment and building being provided by Art and Angela Williams, owners of the Old Edwards Group.

“The square occupies only a little more than a third of Phase II of the park, we will still have to complete the historical component honoring the town’s founding fathers, a wonderful water feature that will tie the original park and this new phase together, and a lot of landscaping to make the area really green,” Bazan said.

With the end of the fiscal year fast approaching, Bazan said he hopes some potential major donors who are considering their tax status will think about making gifts to the park. “Under our agreement with the town, we still have several naming opportunities available for those making major gifts to the park,” he added.

Anyone wishing to make a donation toward improving the park should contact Nick Bazan at (828) 371-2653 or e-mail him at nicholas.bazan@gmail.com.

The Friends is composed of representatives of the Highlands Rotary Club, Mountaintop Rotary, the Laurel Garden Club, the Mountain Garden Club, the Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust, the Highlands Plateau Greenway, the Highlands Plateau Audubon Society, the Highlands Historical Society, the Highlands Chamber of Commerce and the Highlands Biological Station.
pect disappeared.

“We have received information from the public that leads us to believe he is still in the area, but at the same time we have received information that he is back in Mexico,” they said.

Other charges are pending at this time as well.

Detectives with the Highlands Police Dept. and MC Sheriff’s Office have been working this investigation and have been sharing all information with the District Attorney’s Office throughout the process.

Lopez was born April 24, 1964, is 5’6”, and weighs 190 lbs.

He has been known to have full facial hair but also to be clean shaven.

The photo accompanying this article was taken at the MC jail when he was booked on charges some time ago – charges unrelated to the recent charges.

MC 9-1-1 Communications launches ‘Text-to-911’

Macon County 9-1-1 has implemented Text-to-911.

However, Verizon, AT&T, and US Cellular are the only cell phone carriers that are capable of sending texts to 9-1-1 at this time. This includes Straight-talk phones. Text or SMS messaging uses a separate network for communication than voice calls.

In times where the voice network is down, overused, or non-existent, a text message can still possibly get through to the 911-dispatch center.

Macon County hopes this new service will help the deaf and hard-of-hearing residents and visitors as well as anyone who may be on the fringe areas of cell phone coverage where a voice call may not be able to reach the 911-dispatch center.

Text-to-911 will also help serve those who are in a situation where the circumstances are such that calling 911 is not an option.

Macon County 9-1-1 Communications would like for everyone to remember to “Call if you can, only text when you can’t.”

How to text 9-1-1 in an emergency:

- Enter the numbers “911” in the “To” field;
- The first text message to 9-1-1 should be brief and contain the location of the emergency and the type of help needed;
- Push the “Send” button.
- Be prepared to answer questions and follow instructions from the 9-1-1 call taker.
- Text in simple words – but do not use abbreviations.
- Keep text messages brief and concise.
- Text-to-911 is not available if you are roaming.
- Text-to-911 cannot include more than one person. Do not send your emergency text to anyone other than 9-1-1.
- Do not text and drive!

Citizens are asked not to “test” this service by texting 911 unnecessarily. Texts to 911 require the call taker to stay on that line, thus not allowing the call taker to answer other lines that could be life threatening emergencies.
...BITTERSWEET continued from page 11

urging, Oriental bittersweet has been added to the list.

Stiehler was appointed as liaison because he is a licensed pesticide applicator and can oversee the proper distribution of chemicals so other non-evasive plants are not affected.

Oriental bittersweet (native of China, Korea and Japan) was introduced to the U.S. around 1860 as an attractive ornamental plant. It is a woody vine with fruiting stems that have bright red berries and yellow fruit capsules along the intersections of the leaves and stems and can climb 60-ft. along tree trunks.

The stems are commonly cut and sold in the fall for use in holiday decorations such as wreaths and flower arrangements. It's also a favorite autumn plant because its leaves turn a dramatic yellow and persist for an extended time.

But according to scientific research and documentation, the “sweet” characteristic of Oriental bittersweet is offset by a “bitter” characteristic — it’s a threat to America’s forests and native plants, including American bittersweet which is native and therefore not invasive.

The two plants look very similar. Oriental bittersweet has berries strung out along the stem while American bittersweet’s berries are all clustered near the end. Oriental bittersweet has red berries with yellow seed husks and American bittersweet has red berries with orange seed husks. Both plants are poisonous – particularly the berries – to people, dogs and cats.

Research done almost 15 years ago by scientists at Bent Creek Experimental Forest near Asheville, NC confirmed suspicions of the destructive invasion of the Southern Appalachia forests by Oriental bittersweet. In fact, Western NC is considered a “hotbed” for Oriental bittersweet.

“The area around Asheville might win the prize for today’s largest and most insidious Oriental bittersweet infestations and it’s considered this region’s most problematic forest plant invader,” reported scientists.

The plant prefers moist areas with mature trees and few shrubs, does not grow where there are oak forests and is absent from sites with mountain laurel. It grows where there is exposed bare soil, as well as, under a forest canopy with disturbed areas, which is especially desirable.

Additionally, researchers discovered that the Oriental bittersweet vines are moving out along the roads and rivers into public lands that surround urban areas -- basically naturalizing. Fast growth can cover tall trees in a season and cause them to collapse from the weight of the vines and the plants can smother understory plants physically or by shading them out. It easily proliferates in forest openings created by disturbance.

Scientists and now the Highlands’ coalition, suggest the following management and eradication methods.

- If used for wreaths, decorations, or crafts, do not simply throw away the berries but rather bag or burn them.
- Be aware that birds may eat the berries on outside decorations so bird dispersal is significant. Mockingbirds, blue jays, blue birds, and European starlings are known to spread the seed. According to the research, once seeds pass through the gut of birds, germination increases. A Japanese study
Highlands Area Events

Ongoing
• Highlands Hurricanes Swim Team is open to all levels of swimmers ages 6-18. To sign up contact Coach Steve Hott at 828-421-2121.
• Anyone interested in taking Adult, Child and Infant First Aid/CPR/AED certification class needs to contact the Highlands Recreation Department and get on the list for the class. You will 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.

Mon.-Sat.
• Nantahala Tennis Club meets at 9:30a.m to noon each day. All visitors welcome.
• 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.
• The Humanist Discussion Group meets every Monday morning from 9:30 to 10:30 in the Meeting Room in the back of Hudson Library. Interested persons are invited to participate.

Mon. & Wed.
• Zumba with Mary K. Barbour at the Rec Park from noon to 1p. For more information, call 828.342.2498.
• Donation Based Family Fitness Class at The Nature Center every Monday at noon and Wednesday at 7pm for Teens and Adults.

Mon., Wed., Fri.
• Heart Healthy Exercise Class 8:30am-9:30am at the Rec Park.
• Aerobics with Tina Rogers 8-9a.

First Tuesdays
• The monthly family support group for those with family members, friends, or loved ones living with the challenge of mental illness meets the first Tuesday of each month, 7pm at Memorial United Methodist Church, 4668 Old Murphy Road, Franklin. This group is sponsored by the local affiliate of NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness). For more information: Ann 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.
• The Beyond the Walls Book discussion group meets every Tuesday at 4 PM at The Ugly Dog Public House. Each week we read a short story and then discuss its insights for our lives and spiritual wisdom. You are invited to join this energetic group at any time as we move our Christian faith Beyond the Walls.

2nd and 4th Tuesdays
• OccupyWNC meets at the Jackson County Justice Center. For more information, visit www.occupywnc.org or call 828.331.1524

Tuesdays and Thursdays
• Zumba with Connie at the Rec Park 8a.
• 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 11a.
• Live music at Satulah Mountain Brewing Company with Jim, 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 828-526-9510.

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 828-631-0439

Fridays
• 9ers Bridge at the Rec Park 9a to noon.
• Last Fri. of each month
  • Community Coffee with Mayor Pat Taylor from 11a to noon at The Hudson Library.

Fridays and Saturdays:
• The Highlands Historical Museum is open every Friday and Saturday from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. On display is a Botanical History of the Highlands Plateau, a gallery of local photographs by George Masa, and presentations of Mary Lapham’s TB Sanatorium, the Moccasin War of 1885, Abraham Lincoln’s alleged origins, Joe Webb’s tools, and books and DVDs about Highlands history. For more information, email highlandshistory@ncvt.com.

Fridays
• Live music in Town Square from 6-8p. (Through Oct. 23, weather permitting)

Saturdays
• Highlands Marketplace in K-H Founders Park on Pine Street from 9a to 2p.
• At the Rec Park, MMA Fitness Class is being offered Saturdays at 1:30pm with Moses Machida. NHB Pankration, Muay Thai, Boxing and BJj combined into an hour long fast paced interactive class. The class combines plyometric, strength training, MMA techniques, explosive cardio and self-defense into one class. • At MountainTop Wine Shoppe on Main Street, free wine tasting from 1-3p.

Thurs.-Sun., Oct. 15-18
• HCP presents “Over the River and through the Woods” evenings at 7:30p and Sunday Matinees at 2:30p. For tickets call 828-526-8084.

Thurs., Oct. 15
• PartyLite Candles Open House in the Highlands Inn Lodge Lobby from 5-7 p.m. All are invited to drop in and see the new Fall Holiday decorative collection and new candles. Door Prizes-Snacks-Drinks. Questions? Call 421-2548
• At the Albert Carlton Cashiers Community Library, author T.K. Calhoun will present his book “Atlanta Jeb” at 6 p.m. Calhoun will read excerpts and answer questions about his novel, based upon his experiences growing up in 1950s Georgia. He’ll also have copies available for purchase and autographing. Calhoun’s presentation will be held in the library’s Meeting Room. Light refreshments will be served. For more information, call the library at (828) 743-0215.
• At the Lost Hiker, a Stand Up Comedy show hosted by Chris Wilkes. Showtime is 7 p.m. Tickets are $20. 828-526-8232.
• At Robert A. Tino Gallery at 381 Main Street, Art and Wine After Hours from 4-8p. Meet the Artist and View New Original Art. Enjoy Wine and Appetizers and Welcome in the Fall Season.

Sat. & Sun., Oct. 17-18
• Fall Colors Fine Art Show by the Art League of Highlands-Cashiers. 10a to 5p, at the Highlands Rec Park on N. 4th Street.
• At Robert A. Tino Gallery at 381 Main Street, Art and Wine After Hours from 4-8p. Meet the Artist and View New Original Art. Enjoy Wine and Appetizers and Welcome in the Fall Season.
• Fall Fest at Sky Valley, GA, from 10a to 4p. Cruise-In of antique vehicle, hot rods and classics begins at 10a; Live music on two main stages, arts, crafts and food vendors, hay rides and waterfall tours, children’s area with pumpkin painting, games, inflatables and more. Hay Bale Trail and Scarecrow Row. For more information visit www.occupywnc.org or call 828.331.1524

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Highlands Area Events

**Tues., Oct. 20**
- The Beyond the Walls Book Discussion Group will begin a new book -- The Vintage Book of Contemporary American Short Stories, edited by Tobias Wolff at 4 p.m. at the Ugly Dog Public House. Each week we read a short story and then discuss its insights for our lives and spiritual wisdom. You are invited to join this energetic group at any time as we move our Christian faith Beyond the Walls!
- At Mountaintop Wine Shoppe on Main Street, the American Cancer Society is having a reception to celebrate the years of work and dedication of the Relay for Life of Mountaintop and the Relay for Life of Highlands, 5:30-7 p.m. Celebratory toast will be at 6:15 p.m. Heavy hors d’oeuvres and non-alcoholic drinks provided. Cash wine bar available. Please RSVP to Sarah Bishop at 828-421-0129 or email sarah.bishop@cancer.org by Oct. 16th.

**Thursday, Oct. 22**
- The Macon County Democratic Women's annual Chili Cook-off Supper will be from 5:30-7 p.m. at the Otto Community Building. The keynote speaker will be retired Superior Court Judge James U. Downs. Democratic candidates and local incumbents will be vying to win this year’s cook-off. All Macon Democrats and like-minded Independents are invited to join us for chili, cornbread, desserts, and drinks, meet the candidates, and have a great time. Donations welcomed – questions call 524-5282 or 524-9991.
- Concert in the Park, at K-H Founders Park at 6:30 pm featuring Josties, a family band from Southern Alberta., Canada. They bring a lively blend of organic / acoustic music with a folk / light contemporary flavor. The concert is free but a love offering will be collected for the band. Bring a blanket or lawnchair and a friend! For more information please call Keith at (828) 421 - 4110 or www.josties.com

**Sat., Oct. 24**
- Holistic Highlands, Natural Health & Wellness Fair in Village Creek Plaza (across from Dusty’s) 468 Dillard Road. Yoga, massage, thyroid health, body detox, cooking with essential oils, zumba, living with diabetes, tea and spices, acupuncture, healing with crystals, hula hooping, belly dancing, Sound Healing Concert. A portion of all donated proceeds will go to sponsoring a child through Compassion International. For more information, call 828-526-9698.

**Sun., Oct. 25**
- Life Chain demonstration at First Baptist Church from 2-3 p.m.

**Tues., Oct. 27**
- At PAC, the movie “My Fair Lady” on the big screen. For information, call 526-9047.

**Thurs., Oct 29**
- Highlands-Cashiers Hospital will be sponsoring a community health screening for the residents of the Cashiers, Glenville, and Sapphire communities on Thursday at the Albert Carlton-Cashiers Community Library located at 249 Frank Allen Road. Men requesting a PSA check will need to bring a physician’s order for this screening. Complimentary flu shots will be available at the screening. Appointments are limited so please call Sheraldean Norris at (828) 526-1498 for your appointment.

**Sat., Oct. 31**
- Highlands 9th Annual Culinary Weekend at local restaurants, shops and inns.

**Tues., Nov. 10**
- At The Highlands Playhouse, the movie “Fantasia” at 7 p.m. $10 for adults and children are free. For tickets call 828-526-2695.

**Fri. & Sat., Nov. 13-14**
- Women of Faith: Loved, the Farewell Tour, at the Community Bible Church. A joy filled worship event for Women 18 years or older. Fro., 7-10 p.m., Satu. 9a to 4:30 p.m. Doors open one hour prior to the first session each day. To register vgo to cbchighlands.com/women-of-faith.html

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**Art League show is Sat., Oct. 17**

The Art League of Highlands-Cashiers’ annual Fall Colors Fine Art Show is being held this year on Saturday, October 17, and Saturday, October 18 from 10:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. both days at the Highlands Civic Center. The show is one of two art shows sponsored each year by the Art League of Highlands-Cashiers Recognized regional artists will have on display and for sale original works in oil, watercolor, acrylics, dry media and mixed media, as well as photographs, glass and wood turnings. The popular Children’s Work Room will be open Saturday, where young aspiring artists can create a piece of art to take home.
Tonight is the opening night of Highlands Cashiers Players’ second show of the season, “Over the River and Through the Woods” running Oct. 15- Oct. 18 and Oct. 22- Oct. 25 at the Highlands Performing Arts Center.

This is a show about “faith, food and family.” It is joyous and poignant and it's about grandparents not wanting to let go of their grandchildren.

Lance Trudel, is the conflicted grandson. He loves his grandparent but opportunity calls and he wants to go.

So starts the hilarious machinations of the grandparents to keep him home. “He didn’t say he wants to move. He said he had no reason to stay. So,” says Grandmother Emma, “we give him a reason.” That reason turns out to be the lovely Caitlin O’Hare, the unmarried niece of Emma’s canasta partner.

For tickets call Highlands Cashiers Players Box Office at (828) 526-8084 or purchase them online at highlandscashiersplayers.org. The Highlands Performing Arts Center is located at 507 Chestnut Street.
found the seed remained in the gut of birds for 14-42 days allowing long-distance dispersal.

- Do not plant Oriental bittersweet. Instead, remove plantings including all roots, sprouts and seedlings by manually pulling. Again, bag or burn and don't compost.
- The plant requires vigilance and monitoring. Early detection is key. It is best to pull, cut and treat when fruit is not present.
- Cutting the vines reduces the destructive effects on the trees because the vines will die and eventually fall down in two to three years.
- Property owners should minimize disturbance – clearing even within miles of where the plant occurs. Repeat cutting of the vine to ground level is not effective due to root sprouts. Regular mowing may eventually exhaust the plants energy; however, two or three times a season will only stimulate sprouting. It is eaten by goats, but again, seed spread is possible.

Other ways to manage it include control by foliar spray, cutting stumps and treating them chemically, or with a basal bark herbicide treatment – the use of an herbicide mixed with bark oil that will penetrate the bark.

As with Japanese Knotweed and Kudzu, the herbicides most frequently referenced are glyphosate – Roundup – and triclopyr – Garlon.

For more information, the Highlands Plateau – the conservation arm of the Laurel Garden Club. Barbara Landwehr is the chairman and can be reached by emailing dlandwehr7@aol.com.

Other coalition members are: the Highlands Biological Station, Highlands Cashiers Land Trust, Highlands Plateau Audubon Society, and the Highlands Plateau Greenway.

– Kim Lewicki

Huge FALL Sale Now in Progress!

BAGS on MAIN
Next to The Toy Store
Main Street
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Now carrying jewelry lines
Made in the USA
Jolie’s
Highlands
Fun Place to Shop!
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“Art & Wine After Hours”
4-8p, Fri., Oct. 16

Robert A. Tino Gallery
Paintings and prints by Robert Tino
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828-526-9333

www.robertatinogallery.com

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Fancy’s
for Men
322 Main Street & Oak Street
828-526-5029 or 828-526-1029

20% off All in-stock Allen-Edmonds shoes

“BITTER-SWEET continued from page 11

...BITTER-SWEET continued from page 11

...BITTER-
Shop & Leaf Look through Highlands

Energetic & Helpful Employees + Wall-to-Wall Toys + Complimentary Gift Wrapping = A HEAD START ON YOUR HOLIDAY SHOPPING! Enjoy family more and stress less! All at The Toy Store on Main Street!

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New Fall Arrivals in Highlands & Cashiers!

Beautiful FALL Shoes and Boots

At Carolina Way

Lighting Lamp Shades

- Pottery
- Rugs
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& Meridith’s Custom Painting

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355 Main Street (in The Galax Theatre)
526-4660

JUST IN TIME FOR FALL GARDEN CLEANUP!

bohemia...a gathering of unconventional objects

133 S. 4th St., Highlands 828-526-8000
113 Hwy. 64 E, Cashiers 828-743-5632

1152 n. 4th street, highlands 828.526.0101

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- BB Dakota
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home decor,
jewelry, gifts
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Come visit Peak Experience for Fine American Handcrafts including Pottery, Jewelry, Fun Gifts and More!

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Old Edwards Inn & Spa

Open Daily
10a to 5p
526-4777
338 Main St.
On Dog Mountain, this contemporary features 2BD/3BA plus den/office. Large living area with open great room and wood burning stove. Loads of windows. Updated kitchen with granite countertops, Kohler sink, hardwood floors. Offered at $297,000. mls #76825

Fully renovated cabin loaded with features: cathedral ceiling in the living room, fireplace, great screened porch with a mountain view, custom kitchen, new hardwood floors, HVAC system, master suite with 2 guest areas. Offered at $425,000. mls #66120

Cullasaja Club, 3BD/1 1/2 BA plus an art studio and family room. Flooded with light from walls of glass, the great room opens to a huge screened porch with a private setting, located off Garnet Rock trail and convenient to the club and all the amenities. Offered at $575,000. mls #82101

Log-sided home with view of Brushy Face and Satulah Mountains. Great room floor plan has vaulted ceilings, wood floors. Stone fireplace, open to kitchen, dining and wet bar. Rustic native laurel stair rails. Master suite on main w/loft sitting area and balcony. MLS# 81876 Offered at $475,000.

On Little Bear Pen, this one level charmer has been renovated from top to bottom. 3BD/2BA plus den/sleeping room with a bath. Stone fireplace, covered porch and deck, garage. Offered at $519,000. mls #81503

Main house with 3BD/3BA, stone fireplace, deck with view of Shortoff Mtn., the fairway and lake; guest apartment above garage with 1BD/1BA, living area and kitchen, 3 lots totaling about 1.59 acres and end of the road privacy. Offered at $797,000. mls #82538

Wonderful views and over 4 acres of privacy with this charming mountain cottage. Open vaulted living room with fireplace, main floor master with bath. 2BD/1BA upstairs, with balcony. Offered at $395,000. mls #80351

3BD/2BA great mountain cabin on private end of road lot. Two adjoining lake view lots in Wildwood are also listed for sale. Offered at $450,000. mls# 82299

Exquisite home with huge rooms. Living room with fireplace, opens on to a large deck and screened porch. Master suite on main level with ensuite bath with stained glass window. Den/office, 2-car garage. Upstairs has 2 bedrooms, Gallery/media room and more area for storage or expansion. Move in condition and in town living! $695,000. mls #79670

Main Street

COUNTRY CLUB PROPERTIES

Mt. Fresh

Wright Sq. 828-526-2520 | www.ccphighlandsnc.com | ccp4info@frontier.com

Thurs., Oct. 15, 2015 - 828-200-1371
I stood at the kitchen sink this morning and looked out behind the house toward the woods. Mist and light fog encased the trees; oranges, reds, and yellows still managed to pierce through the white swirls and a few oak leaves dropped slowly in front of the window like boats pitching on invisible waves.

A quick check of the temperature – 49 degrees. I pulled my favorite sweatshirt over my head and laced my shoes for my morning walk. I could smell the dank, luscious air before I opened the door. And once outside, I inhaled greedily, not wanting to miss a wisp of the pine-scent, I inhaled greedily, not wanting to miss a wisp of the pine-scent, I inhaled greedily, not wanting to miss a wisp of the pine-

Even though the hour was early, I passed a few people on my walk. We nodded and smiled at each other in kinship, bonded together in knowing that those who remained in bed were truly missing the magic that is October just after dawn. As I headed into the woods, I began my custom of thinking through the day ahead, setting a strategy for tackling certain real estate projects, and mulling over how to approach a stuck place with my writing. Buoyed by the colors and air of fall, I ducked through caves of rhododendron and felt my brain jump start into creative problem solving and strategic thinking. All the research and reading from the summer was beginning to gel, at last, into coherent strands, paragraphs, and pages. Harvest time.

I am 100% percent in love with autumn in Highlands. It’s not only a spectacularly beautiful time of the year, it is also a sumptuous time of both sowing and reaping, starting fresh or anew and wrapping up projects, as well as setting intentions and getting clear on finishing the last quarter of the year strong.

Of course, I could say with complete honesty that I enjoy every season in our mountains. Each of our four, very distinct seasons offers a unique set of experiences (externally and internally). Not only does the landscape change dramatically from summer to autumn and from winter to spring, we change as well. The tone and tenor of the days change as the sunlight takes on a golden hue in the fall and then dims and shortens during the winter. In

Just like the leaves ...
The price keeps falling ...

Open House
Saturday, October 17 • 2-4pm
430 Shortoff Road off Buck Creek Road

Your dream of living in Highlands can come true!
Now only $249,000, fully furnished. On 1.55 +/- acres.
2 bedrooms/2 baths, wood-burning fireplace, covered deck.
Bonus: Studio/playhouse.
Owner is motivated • Bring ALL offers!

Contact Martha & Richard Betz
Country Club Properties
MLS#78133
828-526-2520 (office) or 828-200-1411 (cell)

Real Estate Snapshots

Established Income-Producing Business

*COURTESY OF MARION BRICKMAN*

SweeTreats: $308,000, MLS #80299.
Option #2: Creekside Restaurant: $180,000, MLS #80854.

Contact Susie deVille (828) 371-2079.

Ideal Escape with Mountain View

Open House
Saturday, October 17 • 2-4pm
430 Shortoff Road off Buck Creek Road

**NEW LISTING** Charming and cozy mountain cabin.
3BR/2BA home to be the perfect retreat. Hardwood flooring new, wood stove with honed granite platform; front and back porches; fire pit; extensive stone work.

NOW REDUCED: Offered at $299,000.
MLS #81561.
Contact Susie deVille (828) 371-2079.

Investing at 4.118 Ft.

A Season and a Property for Every Desired Experience

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

Real Estate Snapshots

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Contact Susie deVille (828) 371-2079.
Highlands Falls Country Club.

This lovely 3br, 3ba home lives large all on one level with tall ceilings, lots of glass and an expansive deck to enjoy the gardens with water feature. $497,000 MLS#82682

Holt Knob. Just what everyone wants! Walk to town with a great mountain view. 3br/2.5 furnished with a large deck. $515,000. MLS# 76583

Located in Highgate with a great mountain view, this home is the epitome of a mountain home. Beautifully landscaped, large covered deck w/fireplace. 5/5 ½ in main house. There is also an amazing guest cabin with 2 bedrooms, 1 ½. $2,175,000. MLS#77222.

Rocky Knob...a gated lake community. Exceptional mountain view, 3br/2ba with fireplace, vaulted ceilings, covered and open decks and meticulously maintained. $385,000. MLS #81329

This great home is in like-new condition. Two master suites on the main floor, plus two guest suites upstairs with a bonus loft area. The large covered deck overlooks a rushing stream. Lower family room plus an additional guest area and great storage. $797,000 MLS#81520

Golf Villa at HFCC overlooking the 10th green and the lakes around the clubhouse. Easy living, on one floor with a large kitchen, open greatroom and spacious covered deck MLS #78264 $400,000

Rare Find. Walk to town with a Great Mountain View! 3/2/1 beautifully updated kitchen, keeping room, two fireplaces, large backyard, detached 2 car carport with full guest house. MLS # 79238 $649,000

Highlands Mountain Club with great mountain view. Spacious 3br/2ba, condo. Enjoy the pool, tennis, and clubhouse. It comes furnished, with dishes and whistles, including a full house generator. $995,000 MLS #82444

Great value in Highlands Falls on the golf course. 3/3 Two bedrooms open to decks, plus there is a screened porch off of the greatroom. The terrace level boasts the third bedroom and a large family room. MLS # 79180 $437,000

Highlands Falls Country Club. In-credible value for a 3br/2ba freestanding, furnished Golf Villa. Lake & #10 green view w/ tree trimming. Stone fireplace, solid surface countertops and vaulted ceilings. $249,000. MLS # 78712

Great in town location on nearly 2 acres. All the new upgrades in kitchens and baths.Vaulted ceilings. 3/ 3 with 2 half baths plus an office. $697,000 MLS #66051

Great Mountain View! Exceptional 3br/3.5ba with 3-car garage, listen to the waterfall on the 15th hole, golf course view, wrap-around porches. $777,000. MLS# 81880

Beautifully landscaped, large backyard, deck MLS #78264 $400,000

Located in Highlands Falls Country Club. Incredible mountain view, 3br/2ba plus an additional guest area and great room. Lower family room with fireplace, full kitchen plus dining room, tile baths. Lower level has a family room with fireplace, fullkitchen plus a bedroom and a bonus room (could be separate living area). $695,000. MLS#80446

Little Bearpen in Highlands City limits. Long mountain views from two covered decks, 2br/2ba main level, lower level guest suite w/ family room, 2nd kitchen and hobby room (could be separate living area). $695,000. MLS #81446

Rocky Knob...a gated lake community. Exceptional mountain view, 3br/2ba with fireplace, vaulted ceilings, covered and open decks and meticulously maintained. $385,000. MLS #81329

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Highlands Falls Country Club. Great Mountain View! This lovely 3br, 3ba home lives large all on one level with tall ceilings, lots of glass and an expansive deck to enjoy the gardens with water feature. $497,000 MLS #82682

Holt Knob. Just what everyone wants! Walk to town with a great mountain view. 3br/2.5 furnished with a large deck. $515,000. MLS #76583

Located in Highgate with a great mountain view, this home is the epitome of a mountain home. Beautifully landscaped, large covered deck w/fireplace. 5/5 ½ in main house. There is also an amazing guest cabin with 2 bedrooms, 1 ½. $2,175,000. MLS #77222.
...INVESTING continued from page 19

winter, we draw in, hunker down, and work on longer-term projects that require greater focus than the pace of summer allows. The landscape has a blue hue and a starkness that enables us to see for miles. Clarity that may have eluded us during the crush of summer now confidently knocks upon the door and is a willing partner in innovation. When the first daffodils peek through the snow, we know the chorus of song birds is not far away. Soon, the mountains will erupt into new life, bringing along rejuvenated spirits, longer days, and an eagerness to implement ideas.

Just as seasons afford us the opportunity to enjoy our lives with myriad experiences, so does the fantastic array of properties available for the Highlands-Cashiers investor. For example, if you live to play golf and relish country club living, there are stunning properties inside numerous clubs from which to choose. If you envision yourself walking to town for a morning cup of coffee, a fine meal, or a soulful performance, you can opt to invest in an in-town property that gives you that connection you seek to being in the center of the action. Maybe a soft throw, a glass of wine, and a great book enjoyed on the deck or in front of a fire in a cabin in the woods is your idea of Heaven. Of course, we have a delightful inventory of cabins and cottages that fit the bill.

I can tell you with assurance – regardless of the season – that whatever kind of experience or property you seek, you will find it in these mountains. In both cases, the raw materials of joyful living are available to you in great abundance. When you live in harmony with the seasons and invest in a property that reflects your true self, your life’s path will be one of ever unfolding magic and blissful discoveries.

• 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. An expert in entrepreneurship and anthropology, Susie applies her acumen in human behavior toward negotiating and advocating on behalf of her clients. White Oak Realty Group’s sales office is located at 125 South Fourth Street in the heart of the retail district in Highlands. For more information, visit WhiteOakRG.com or call (828) 526-8118.

On Saturday Oct. 17, there will be a live HD Broadcast from the Metropolitan Opera of Verdi’s dramatic opera, Otello. The opera starts at 12:55 p.m. with a pre-opera discussion led by local opera host, Beverly Wichman at 12:30 p.m.

Joining Beverly will be Joseph Collins – internationally acclaimed opera baritone who has performed with the Metropolitan Opera, New York City Opera, and Philadelphia Opera – as well as throughout Europe. This is a new Met Opera production by Broadway producer/director, Bartlett Sher that premiered to rave reviews. Tickets are $26 and $22 for PAC and MET members available online at highlandspac.org or by calling 828-526-9047.

• Real Estate Snapshots •

$499,000 • MLS #79371
4BR/2.5 baths
Partially Fenced Yard, Work Shop
Beautiful Wood Finishes Throughout

$395,000
MLS #77394
4BR/3 bath, Close to town, great garden space, small stream, multiple decks

HUGE REDUCTION!
$249,000 • MLS #78074
3BR/2BA,
Elevation over 4000’
Garage, Nice Yard, Mountain Ridge View

$535,000
MLS #79672
3BR/3 bath
Cold Springs Saddle & Tennis Club. Adjoins USFS Land, Custom-built. Screened porch, 2-car garage, access to lake, tennis and stables.

$1,499,000 • MLS #82660
6BR/2 Baths. Outstanding Mountain Views. Over 6.5 acres and walk to town!

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$510,000 • MLS#79354
3 Bedroom, 2 bath, 2-car garage in gated lake community.
Andrea Gabbard,
Highlands Mountain Realty
828-200-6742 (Cell) Owner/Broker
By Trisha Roelke, Secretary

The volunteers at Mountain Findings Thrift Shop continue to aid area non-profits by sharing the proceeds from their resale endeavor. This year 34 entities received $76,000. Smiles abound on the faces of the Mountain Findings volunteers as they present checks to the representatives from many of the recipient organizations.

Since 1969 the generous volunteers of Mountain Findings located at 432 Spruce Street, Highlands have been giving back to the community. During this 40+ years endeavor Mountain Findings has returned more than $1.4 million dollars to the community. These donations are possible because of the efforts of 3 key groups—the donors, the volunteers and the ardent shoppers. To each of these individuals we say a hearty THANK YOU.

Everyone at Mountain Findings is a volunteer-giving freely of their time weekly from Memorial Day through the end of October.

This year the following organizations received donations:


Be sure to remember Mountain Findings when you have gently used furniture, home accessories, china, crystal, lighting, and bedding. Pickups are available for larger items. Volunteers are always needed. The store is open Monday through Saturday 10 A.M.-4 p.m. Memorial Day through October 31. See you there.
Picturesque Setting at Highlands Falls
This home overlooks the golf course and a private, lake with waterfall feature. Spacious, double decks, too. Offered for $645,000 • MLS # 81886

A True Charmer in a Great Location!
This custom built cottage sits on an acre of level ground on a corner lot. An open floor plan with cathedral tongue and groove ceiling and floor to ceiling stone fireplace add true mountain ambiance. The master bedroom is spacious and opens to a large screened porch. The kitchen is accented with Italian tiles and maple glazed cabinets plus built-ins in the dining room. Offered for $499,000. MLS 82578.

A grand gated manor home nestled amongst 35 acres of hardwoods! Exceptional quality and gorgeous millwork by craftsmen. Massive rooms with soaring fireplaces, large windows and cathedral ceilings! Generous bedroom suites. The lower level features a full kitchen, great room and fireplace. A charming guest house is perfect for a nanny/caregiver! Offered FURNISHED for $2,400,000. MLS82789.

Exquisite Estate on Over 35 Acres!

Wildwood Mountain never looked so good . . .
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Searching for something different? This Arts & Crafts owner-built home may be just the thing!
Open plan with lots of natural light
Large native stone fireplace
Wrap-around deck
3 bedrooms / 2.5 baths
Updated kitchen / Master Suite on main level
1.38 +/- acres / Garden shed / Perennials
Contact Martha & Richard Betz
828-526-2520 (Office) or 828-200-1411 (Cell)
Country Club Properties

Julie Osborn
Broker
Cell: 828-200-6165
Office: 828-526-8784
www.patallenrealtygroup.com

Pat Allen Realty Group
828-526-8784
295 Dillard Road, Highlands

Offered for $499,000. MLS 82655.
This adorable cabin sits atop 10 acres with a great view of Blue Valley, numerous mountains and SC. Hardwood floors, tile baths, stone fireplace and deck. Private yet close to downtown Highlands. Could be a guest house for an estate on the upper portion of the lot that showcases spectacular views.

Offered for $770,000. MLS82655.

Julie Osborn
Broker
Cell: 828-200-6165
Office: 828-526-8784
www.patallenrealtygroup.com

Pat Allen
Broker-in-charge
Cell: 828-200-9179
Office: 828-526-8784
828-337-0706
Pat Allen Realty Group
295 Dillard Road, Highlands

This stunning majestic beauty in gated Ravenel Ridge features soaring ceilings, four fireplaces, an open floor plan and walls of windows that showcase breathtaking views of Whiteside Mountain! A large master suite is on the main level. Numerous sitting areas and a large deck. Private, yet close to town.
Offered for $2,700,000. MLS82617.

Big Blue Valley Views!
This home is nestled in the rhododendrons and mountain laurels with a spring fed stream, yet within minutes to downtown Highlands. Reduced to $499,000
MLS # 82469

A True Charmer in a Great Location!
This custom built cottage sits on an acre of level ground on a corner lot. An open floor plan with cathedral tongue and groove ceiling and floor to ceiling stone fireplace add true mountain ambiance. The master bedroom is spacious and opens to a large screened porch. The kitchen is accented with Italian tiles and maple glazed cabinets plus built-ins in the dining room. Offered for $499,000. MLS 82578.

A grand gated manor home nestled amongst 35 acres of hardwoods! Exceptional quality and gorgeous millwork by craftsmen. Massive rooms with soaring fireplaces, large windows and cathedral ceilings! Generous bedroom suites. The lower level features a full kitchen, great room and fireplace. A charming guest house is perfect for a nanny/caregiver! Offered FURNISHED for $2,400,000. MLS82789.

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Updated kitchen / Master Suite on main level
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The universe and nature

Proverbs 3:19-20 “By wisdom the Lord laid the earth’s foundations, by understanding he set the heavens in place, and by his knowledge the deeps were divided, and the clouds let drop the dew.”

By Pastor Sam Forrester
Whiteside Presbyterian Church

We have all observed wisdom, as it is in man, with all of its great promises. Here, in this passage, we see wisdom, as it is in God, being gloriously displayed in his works. You can see his wisdom shown as everlasting because it was before all creatures, and all things, yes, even the entire world was made by it. He tells you, wisdom founded the earth upon nothing and yet, it is impossible for anyone to move it. You see in this the great Architect, God, establishing the heavens, setting all the great lights in their respective orbits.

All of these things declare his wisdom. You see it in the earth, by his dividing the depths, gathering them up and establishing the rivers and streams, so that, man might be refreshed by them. In the heavens, as he collects the moisture for the dew, then letting it rain down its life giving blessing upon man.

So, does not every aspect of the universe glitter in the infinite skill and wisdom of God? The earth is the pavement and the heavens the ceiling of God’s handy work, both miracles of wisdom declaring the glory of this great and marvelous God who created you.

As you look out into the heavens, as you examine the earth and its bounty, you can see the two great systems God established. As you observe the uniformity of them, you begin to ever so faintly understand the wisdom of God. This universe is like a parable, its like a great mirror in which is clearly reflected the gospel of Jesus Christ. It is through these wonderful miracles of creation, along with the marvelous provisions of the plan of redemption your heart must be filled with a glorious song of praise and you should join the apostle declaring “O the depth of the riches, both of the wisdom and knowledge of God!” (Romans 11:33).

Recognizing that God created all thing brings you to consider. Proverbs 30:4 “Who has gone up to heaven and come down? Who has gathered up the wind in the hollow of his hands? Who has wrapped up the water in his cloak? Who has established all the ends of the earth? What is his name, and the name of his son? Tell me if you know!”

Could this all have been done by just any ordinary man? Could all this have been done with the mere wisdom of a human being? No!

God has established the foundations of this world creating all that it was built on. He came down to lay the first stones and stayed until it was finished. He also came down in the form of his Son. He came to lay another important underpinning. He came to lay the base of his eternal kingdom. Jesus Christ was his name and the only way you can truly know his name is to know that God is the Creator and you a traitor to his cause. Once you see that, you can also see, you need a Savior and to receive that Savior, you must call on his name with a broken and contrite heart and he will hear and save you.

God in Jesus Christ came down to provide for his people salvation. Salvation from a life of sin and death. In II Corinthians 5:17 Paul teaches “If anyone is in Christ, he is

See SPIRITUALLY page 25
The Highlands Police log entries from Sept. 5. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor or public officials have been used.

Sept. 5
• At 7:09 p.m., officers received a complaint about violation of the town’s noise ordinance due to amplified music at a residence on N. 5th Street.

Sept. 22
• At 2:13 p.m., officers received a complaint about someone communicating threats to a man at Bake My Day restaurant when a man entered and became verbally aggressive with the owner.

Oct. 2
• At 4:10 p.m., officers received a report of a verbal assault on a woman on Worley Road.

Oct. 4
• At 2:40 p.m., officers responded to a burglary with forced entry and larceny at a residence on Hicks Road where a window in the front door was broken, the home was entered and items were taken: hand-crafted knives, and a hand-crafted bow and arrows.

The Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. log from Oct. 7
• At 11:46 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Edwards Creek.
• At 1:59 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on White Clover Lane.

At 10:23 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Cook Road.

Oct. 8
• At 11:10 a.m., the dept. stood by at the Hospital for MAMA helicopter.
• At 3:49 p.m., the dept. provided public assistance on US 64 east.

...SPIRITUALLY continued from page 24

a new creation; the old has gone, and the new has come.” God has created a new heart in you, if you have humbly and sincerely called on him. If you have not called, then today is the acceptable day of salvation, open your heart and humble yourself and call.

Proverbs 26:10, “The great God who formed everything gives the fool his hire and the transgressor his wages.”

This clearly says God formed all things. He not only created the universe and nature but all aspects of the nature of all things. He laid out the path of the righteous before the foundations of the earth were laid and he prepared the reward of the fool and administered that reward.

God has created the universe and everything in it. He has established its course from start to finish and has laid out the final reward for everything created. Open your heart and believe in him and in the One he sent to save your soul.
On October 6, Joy Archer’s 6th grade students went on a Plant Safari in the Courtyard Classroom at Highlands School.

Using size, shapes and even scent, students found native plants like Little Joe Pye Weed and Cranesbill Geranium.

They craned their necks skyward to identify non-native Zelkova trees from Japan and crouched low to finger Sedum ‘John Creech’ from Siberia.

With grit and determination, they excavated rocky soils and planted two large native azaleas donated by Jim Tate of Tate Landscaping.

“This is fun!” Emma said. “We get to get our hands dirty!”

Students also planted 100 tulips and daffodils, common spring-blooming bulbs that are not native to our area. Tulips originated in central Asia and Iran, while many daffodils came from Spain and Portugal.

This is the third year the Mountain Garden Club has sponsored the 6th Grade Plant Safari in the Courtyard Classroom, a vibrant outdoor learning space completed in 2013 thanks to the generous contributions of 16 local and area organizations and many individuals.

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The spacious grounds and unique buildings of The Bascom are available for rent. Large, medium and small-sized venues for receptions, weddings, meetings and other gatherings are available to the entire community.

The Main Building Atrium and Terrace can accommodate numerous guests, while The Horst Winkler Sculpture Trail’s Pavilion would be the perfect site for an intimate ceremony with a small reception. Whether you are planning your only daughter’s wedding, corporate board meeting and retreat, company party, or large birthday bash for your best friends, The Bascom has a unique setting for every special occasion.

The Bascom’s list of approved caterers will provide many choices for you to have the perfect event.
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**FALLINGWATERS** – Just two miles from Main St. Well maintained, easy build sites, paved, underground utilities, gated, waterfalls and creeks. Home sites from $139,000, 828-508-9952 www.highlandsnc.com - Face Book Falling Waters Highlands From Main St. Take Hwy. 106 W 1.8 miles to Mt. Laurel Dr. turn R, 3/10 mile L on Moonlight, Entrance on R. REALTORS 7% (st. 9/3)

**LOT, 10 MINUTES FROM DOWNTOWN HIGHLANDS** 2.01 acres with Mountain Ridge and MeadowViews between Bridal Veil Falls, Dry Falls & Cullasaja Falls, Gorge. Lot cleared, driveway and new septic system. Tax Value is $89,410, Quick Sale at $49,900. Firm. 828-200-0949. (st. 9/3)

**WOODED LOT W/ STREAM FOR SALE – MIRRORMONT AREA,** Berit Ln., 1.45 acres, 4-BR septic permit, walk-to-town. Priced to sell. 770-861-4249. (st. 7/23)

**ACRE LOT HIGHLANDS, NC** Corner Lot Highlands Glen, level with some gentle slopes excavation and foundation expenses would be reasonable, underground power installed. Stream runs year round could be configured to make a small pond, good water sources for well. Space for outbuildings or RV, boat storage. 6 Miles to downtown. $27,000 possible owner financing 828-507-2066 (st. 7/2)

**RESIDENTIAL FOR RENT**

**DAYLIGHT BASEMENT APARTMENT for Rent.** (3 minutes from Highlands/Cashiers Hospital) Recent Complete Renovation, Fully Furnished, 1 bedroom/1 bath, kitchen, dining area, living room, washer/dryer, cable connection, fireplace, brand new carpet. $675 monthly includes water, sewer, electricity, heating. Single or Couple. No Pets No Smoking. Deposit required. Call Betty at 828-787-2324 to preview. (st. 10/15)

**TWO-STORY APARTMENT FOR RENT.** (3 minutes from Highlands/Cashiers Hospital) Recent Renovation. Fully Furnished. 2 bedrooms/2 baths 3 extra-large closets kitchen with dishwasher and new JennAire cook stove dining area living room native stone fireplace, washer/dryer cable and telephone connection. $875 monthly includes water, sewer, electricity, heating. Single Family References Required. No Pets No Smoking. Call Jim at 1-770-789-2489. (st. 10/15)

**RESIDENTIAL FOR SALE**

**CABINS FOR SALE/RENT.** Located on Sawmill Road in Clear Creek. 4.63 acres. Call 828-526-2720. Price Negotiable. (9/24)

**2BED/2BATH 1.20 AC.** Fantastic views & Privacy $88,999. Call 482.2050 706.782.9728. Cypresslanesale@facebook.com. (st. 8/7)

**ITEMS FOR SALE**

**IRON PORCH FURNITURE** 90 pieces total. Beautiful for Thanksgiving! Call for details. 404-966-0283. (st. 10/1)

**65 SUNBEAM TIGER V8** – restored. with hard top, AC, less than 3,000 miles on rebuilt balanced engine. 4 wheel discs. Call for details. 404-966-0283. (st. 10/1)

**A 2009 LEXUS RX 350** under 65,000 miles excellent condition dealer maintained. $18,500 phone 678-522-7859. (st. 9/3)

**ANTIQUES FOR SALE.** Solid cherry twin beds, chest, dresser and mirror; 2 Victorian chairs, end tables, Royal Daltons, Hummels and more. Call 828-526-3258 (st. 8/20)

**HARDEN DINING ROOM SET;** Cherry, drop leaf table opens to 102”, six chairs, hutch. $750. Will send photos. Call 828-526-06121. (st. 8/6)

**SERVICES**

**MALE HOME HEALTHCARE PROVIDER.** 20 years experience. Very reliable. Have worked for many high profile clients. Excellent references. Contact Desmond Grooms at 828-342-9015. (9/24)

**ROSY’S HOUSEKEEPING** “We make sure it’s spotless!” Commercial and residential. Free Estimates. Fully insured. Call 706-949-1684 or 828-200-5397. (11/12)

**CARETAKER POSITION.** Single, 68-year old non-smoker, male, with excellent references and past experience with house sitting. Bondable, with excellent credit score. Call Charles Benore at 828.482.2181. (st. 9/10)

**HIGHLANDS - CASHIERS**

**HANDYMAN:** Repairs, remodeling, painting, pressure washing, minor plumbing and electric, decks and additions. Free Estimates. Insured. Call 421-4667. (9/17)

**HANDI-MAN** – Electrical, plumbing, painting, carpentry, yard work. Call AI at 828-332-7271 or 828-369-6245. (st. 4/2)

**ALL AROUND OFFICE SOLUTIONS** - Bookkeeping Services, Payroll Prep, Payroll Tax Prep, Billing Services, Virtual Assistant, Data Base Management, Administrative Services, Research Assistance, Quickbooks Set-up and Training. Call Mary James at 828-421-0002 or email mjobes@allaroundofficesolutions.com (st. 1/15)

**HIGH COUNTRY PHOTO/KEVIN VINSON:** scanning photos, slides & negatives to CD or DVD for easier viewing. Video transfer to DVD. Everything done in house. Leave message at 828-526-5208. (st. 7/2)

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