

Highlands Newspaper

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Thurs., Feb. 16, 2017

County may use some of \$25mm FB to pay down debts

In 2013, the Macon County Board of Commissioners approved a 10-year \$1.5 million loan to complete renovations to Highlands School. Two years later in 2015, commissioners once again approved another QZAB loan

for additional improvements to the school. The two loans were part of the county's school improvement plan that upgraded and constructed new facilities across Macon County for students. A total of nine loans were issued from 2005

to 2015, all of which addressed school facility needs in Macon County.

Macon County Commissioners are looking at the county's debt loan and are considering paying off some of the debt early, free-

ing up operation costs designated for debt service payments, and reducing the county's fund balance, which is nearly triple the state's recommended amount.

The county's fund balance sits

•See DEBTS page 2

• INSIDE •

Mayor on Duty.....	2
Thank You.....	2
Dining.....	4
Spiritually Speaking.....	6
Presidents Day Shopping....	8
Police & Fire.....	14
Classifieds.....	14

Highlands S. projects on BOE capital outlay list

Principals in Macon County identified \$14.6 million in capital project needs for district schools, and after prioritizing all the requests, the Macon County Board of Education voted to prioritize \$2,885,614 in needs, which it will request from the Macon County Board of Commissioners.

Each year, the school system requests funds from the county for capital improvements at area schools. Last year, the county increased the district's capital outlay budget to \$500,000 -- a \$200,000 increase over the prior year.

Out of the overall \$14.6 million capital outlay request, Highlands School identified \$65,667 in needs including \$30,000 for new lighting on the stage, \$15,000 for new floor covering in the cafeteria, \$12,400 for new bookshelves in the media center, \$5,200 for new LED lighting in the old gym,

•See PROJECTS page 3

Pre-schoolers at The Gordon Center are ready for Presidents' Day!



Students at The Gordon Center are preparing for Presidents' Day with specially orchestrated songs complete with props, like George Washington and Abe Lincoln hats and flags. Next week the children will be making their own flags which will include what they would do if they were president.

— Photo by Kim Lewicki

ACA Special Enrollment open for ex-United Health and Aetna-Coventry clients

If you had 2016 health insurance with United Healthcare or Aetna-Coventry, you qualify for a Special Enrollment for ACA because those companies left the Marketplace on Dec. 31, 2016.

Even though open enrollment for 2017 health insurance through the Marketplace ended January 31, 2017, if you are one of these people, you have until February 28, 2017 to enroll for 2017 coverage that will start March 1, 2017.

Many Aetna/Coventry and United customers may have received letters from the Marketplace or Blue Cross saying they have been automatically enrolled in the Blue Cross plan that was closest to the coverage they had in 2016.

Even if you are OK with the coverage the Marketplace picked for you, you are encouraged to shop the 2017 plan offerings to see if it really is the most affordable one for you.

You are also encouraged to update your application to be sure

you are getting the right tax credit for 2017. The tax credit you receive affects the amount of the premium you pay. Because you have a Special Enrollment Period, you have all of February to update your application and shop all available plans.

Further, anyone who has a qualifying life change event during 2017 may be able to enroll in or change marketplace coverage during the year.

Qualifying events are a change in family size from marriage, divorce, births, deaths, children moving out, change in household income, losing health coverage from a previous source, or moving to a different zip code, county or state.

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• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• MAYOR ON DUTY •

See you at the Town Board meeting tonight!

The holidays are behind us and the town in very much into the new year. Our agenda at tonight's Highlands Town Board meeting underscores the beginning of the year. We have a full agenda. The meeting is at 7 pm at the Highlands Community Building next to the ball field.

First on the agenda is a public hearing calling for an editorial change to G/I (Governmental/ Institutional) ordinance. The change is to modify the "visual arts" designation to a more inclusive designation of "arts organizations." This change would encompass all nonprofit arts groups including both the visual and performing arts. The amendment is actually an editorial clarification.

The board will also hear a request by Friends of the Park to close the Pine Street section of the park this spring for a on- day fundraiser. Also, the school will be seeking approval to use the official 5k road course for the Highlands High School Color Fun Run. This is the second year for this spring fundraising event.



Mayor Pat Taylor

Bob Kieltyka, Tony Potts and David Bock will make a presentation and proposal for the Highlands Food and Wine Festival. The festival is slated for November, but important coordination and planning with the town is currently underway and will continue into fall.

The board will review and approve the town mowing and landscaping contracts. These contracts cover maintenance of our parks, ball fields and cemetery. Contractors submit bids each year. As in past years, various bidders will win components of the total maintenance program. One contractor may be the low bid at the cemetery while another is the low bid for the ball field or park.

Before the request for bids went out, the town staff conducted a review of what was needed for each area. For instance, specific requirements for fertilizing each space was included in the bid requests.

The board will also review a lease agreement for Verizon Wireless to locate an antenna on the town's tower on Bear Pen. The town has been in negotiations with Verizon to increase their cell coverage for the past two years. We have invested in the effort by adding 20 feet to the existing tower. The monthly lease fee will enable the town to receive a return in our investment and facilitate better cellphone coverage in the community.

•See MAYOR page 3

Highlands Newspaper

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• THANK YOU •

A Stell Huie Valentine

Love music filled the air last Sunday at the Presbyterian Church in Highlands. What a welcome reprieve from the news! It was even better than the Hallmark Channel. Men, if you sat in your recliners or ladies, if you never got out of your warm-ups, you missed some enchanting concert.

The Presbyterian Church is a beautiful setting and it hosts wonderful concerts all year. The Patriotic concert with the Male Chorus is one of my favorites. Angie Jenkins and Larry Black are both professional and seasoned musicians. And Stell, well, that man can sing! Our town is so fortunate to have them. Thank you for sharing your talent with our community. And it was all free love!

Stell was charming in his tuxedo, with his conversation, and the songs he sang brought back memories. I think everybody's favorite was when he sang If Ever I Would Leave You to his wife, Madaline. Seeing the surprised expression on her face made me feel like I was witnessing true love. I thought how lucky people are who can live together a lifetime and still sing love songs.

Candy is nice, flowers are too, fine dining will do, but if you are a true romantic, A Valentine Concert of Love Songs was a special treat. And the best part, you didn't need a SWEETHEART to enjoy it. It was for anyone who wanted to remember a love or think of the possibilities of love or just feel love.

Stell, I know you can't be my Valentine, but I hope you'll have another concert next year.

— Lee Lyons

...DEBTS continued from page 1

at about \$25 million. The state recommends county governments keep a fund balance around eight percent of their annual budget, or one month's worth of expenditures.

Looking at the county's undesignated funds, Macon County's fund balance includes just over \$21 million, or 48 percent of the county's total budgeted expenditures.

With no additional revenues, the county's current fund balance would cover operational costs for six months.

Both of the county's loans issued for Highlands School were QZAB loans and were issued at a zero percent interest rate. The county is paying off those loans to the tune of \$349,058 a year with the 2013 loan

scheduled to be paid off in the 2022-2023 year and the 2015 loan scheduled to come off the books in 2030-2031.

While the two Highlands School loans are interest free, the other nine loans currently attributed to Macon County will include nearly \$1 million in interest payments this budget cycle. Commission Chair Jim Tate said he would like the board to discuss looking at some of the county's debt payments and consider an early payment option to reduce the amount of taxpayer dollars going toward interest payments each year.

•See DEBTS page 3

• WEEKEND WEATHER •

FRIDAY
FEB 17



60°/27°

SATURDAY
FEB 18



59°/37°

SUNDAY
FEB 19



64°/35°

For real-time weather and the extended forecast go to www.highlandsinfo.com and click on Weather

...DEBTS continued from page 2

This year, the county will pay around \$4.5 million for debt service payments for everything from new school construction, renovations to existing schools, iPads and computers for the school system, constructing the Macon County Public Library and defibrillators for Macon County Emergency Services.

One of the county's more expensive debt service payments was issued in 2011 for a sewer project on the Little Tennessee River. The NCDENR loan was issued with an interest rate of 2.56 percent over a 20-year period. By the time the \$2,043,250 loan is paid off on the current schedule in 2030-2031, the county will have paid a total of \$2,608,454.37. Paying off that loan today would cost the county about \$1.4 million, but would save \$274,614.24 in interest payments.

...PROJECTS continued from page 1

and \$3,067 for a new floor scrubber.

After the school principals prioritized the requests, Highlands' request for new floor covering in the cafeteria and the request for LED lighting to improve the school's efficiency made the cut and will be part of the overall request that will go to county commissioners.

Upgrading the LED lighting in the old gym at Highlands School is part of a districtwide request that was approved during the budget work session last Thursday. Lighting at Macon Middle Schools, Union Academy, and on the exterior of all schools were all included on the final request, totaling a request of \$24,125.

Although the bookshelves weren't included in the final capital outlay request budget, according to Highlands Board representative Stephanie McCall, if the school system can find a way to cover a portion of the request, there are private donors in Highlands willing to match the funding needs to make it happen.

"From my understanding, those bookshelves are wobbly and if we are able to find some funds to replace them, there is someone, or a group of people willing to provide matching dollars to replace them,"

...MAYOR continued from page 2

Highlands is also seeking providers to co-locate on our new cellphone tower behind the fire station. Yes, there is an 80-foot tower that no one notices behind the fire station. US Cellular is the primary provider on the tower, but two other providers could co-locate. Like the Verizon agreement, the leases for the fire station tower would be with the town.

Commissioner Paul Higdon has asked the board on several occasions to look at reducing the county's fund balance and using those funds for one-time expenditures rather than keeping it in the bank. Before former commissioner Kevin Corbin left the board, he lead the charge of using \$1.5 million out of the fund balance to pay off the loan taken out to construct Parker Meadows Recreation Complex. That unanimous vote freed up more than \$200,000 in annual debt service payments in the county's operational budget, and saved taxpayers money on annual interest payments.

Now in the "formulating the budget season," reviewing the county's debt service payments and comparing it to funds available in the fund balance, may result in considerable savings over the next 10 years.

said McCall.

Macon County Schools Superintendent Dr. Chris Baldwin said that may be a possibility and that he and McCall could work together more on that project.

Addition countywide requests that would impact Highlands include the school system's request to get technology in the district on a scheduled replacement plan.

The county approved asking the county to fund a five-year replacement plan for iPads, desktops, and Macs, and a seven-year replacement plan for projectors.

The districtwide technology request also includes replacing active/boards and flat panels, the district's server on a five-year plan, and district switches, which is the county's match for E-Rate funding. The total request would be 618,874.

The county's last significant contribution to district technology was \$1.5 million to purchase the initial iPads for all students in Macon County to give students access to electronic textbooks. To keep the technology current, those devices need to be upgraded regularly.

Macon County already plans to give the school system around \$300,000 a year

•See **PROJECTS page 5**

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• BIZ/ORG NEWS •

Highlands Country Club recognized for Environmental Excellence

Highlands Country Club has retained its designation as a "Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary" through the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Golf Courses, an Audubon International program. Brian Stiehler, Golf Course Superintendent, led the effort to maintain sanctuary status on this course. Highlands Country Club was designated as a Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary in 2003 and is one of 893 courses in the world to currently be designated as such.

The Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Golf Courses, endorsed by the United States Golf Association, provides information and guidance to help golf courses preserve and enhance wildlife habitat, and protect natural resources. Golf courses from the United States, Africa, Australia, Canada, Central America, Europe, Mex-

• See HCC page 5

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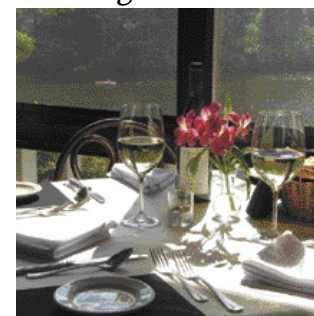
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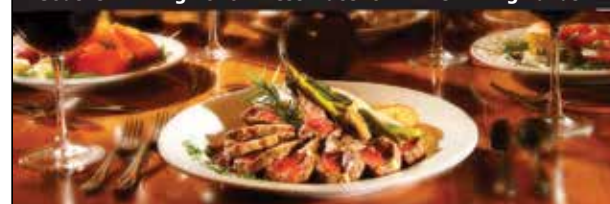
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...HCC continued from page 4

ico, and Southeast Asia have achieved certification in the program.

"Highlands Country Club has shown a strong commitment to its environmental program. They are to be commended for preserving the natural heritage of the area by protecting the local watershed and providing a sanctuary for wildlife on the golf course property," said Tara Donadio, Director of Cooperative Sanctuary Programs at Audubon International.

"To reach certification, a course must demonstrate that they are maintaining a high degree of environmental quality in a number of areas," explained Donadio. These categories include: Environmental Planning, Wildlife & Habitat Management,

Outreach and Education, Chemical Use Reduction and Safety, Water Conservation, and Water Quality Management. Courses go through a recertification process every three years.

Audubon International is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization based in Troy, NY. In addition to golf courses, Audubon International also provides programs for businesses, schools, communities, and new developments with the purpose of delivering high-quality environmental education and facilitating the sustainable management of natural resources. For more information, call Audubon International at 1-844-767-9051 or visit www.auduboninternational.org.

...PROJECTS continued from page 3

for technology, which is the amount of the debt service payment for the initial \$1.5 million investment. With that loan being paid in full this budget cycle, commissioners intended to reallocate the debt service payment to the school system to keep the technology on a replacement schedule.

On Thursday, Dr. Baldwin and the Board of Education said while the new \$300,000 line item would be appreciated, it isn't enough and they would like to see more than \$600,000 annually – above the \$500,000 the county already gives the district for capital needs – to get the district on a technology replacement schedule.

The district's \$2.8 million capital outlay request also includes \$114,000 to be distributed based on each school's enrollment for school furniture and equipment.

The bulk of the \$2.8 million request

includes a \$1.6 million to build six new classrooms to South Macon Elementary School to address overcrowding at elementary schools in the district.

The Franklin area elementary schools are either over capacity or nearing capacity forcing the district to look at either redistricting the schools, a temporary fix, or expand existing buildings.

Three of the six new classrooms at South Macon will be general classrooms; the other three will be used for exceptional children's classes. If approved, exceptional children's classes at other area elementary schools would all be housed at South Macon Elementary, which would combine resources for that department, freeing up space at the other elementary schools in the district.

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• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •



Take some time to sit with God

Pastor Randy Lucas
Highlands United
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I recently spent a week on silent retreat at the Abbey of Gethsemani in Trappist, KY. This was my second time at the Abbey, and I hope to make the trip annually as part of my ongoing spiritual growth. Across the years, I've come to appreciate, more and more, the value of silence and solitude in my attempts at cultivating a healthy and vibrant inner-spiritual life.

Before I became a United Methodist Pastor, I was a morning radio announcer in Asheville, NC. One of the things I learned early on in my broadcasting career, was that silence on the radio is a bad thing. Referred to as "dead-air" my radio training instilled in me that it was "un-entertaining." So, I spent a good many years working diligently to prevent silence.

Of course, entering into inner-silence and solitude is not always an easy thing. It can be difficult to sit quietly with ourselves. It can be easier to remove ourselves from the noise of the world, than to silence the troubling voices that often clamor for our attention in the deep places of our souls.

"Be still, and know that I am God!" (Psalm 46:10a) These quiet, strong words from the Psalmist offer us a compelling invitation to trust, and simply to be, and to rest in God's Presence. The Psalm begins with these words, "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble."

There is an emptying quality in silence. Quiet the mind and the heart in the stillness of the soul, and there is a process of releasing, of letting go. Be still in the silence, as one searching for a deeper communion with God, and you may find yourself resting in one of many paradoxes of the Christian faith - there is often a fullness, in emptiness.

Perhaps, like me, one of your favorite New Testament Passages is Matthew 11:28, where Jesus says, "Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest."

There is a Sabbath quality to silence. It requires trust. It calls for discipline. It takes time.

Spending a week at a monastery is not for everyone, nor is it necessary to experience deep communion with God in silence. And admittedly, some of us are more suited for intentional solitude and silence than others. But, for what its worth, I simply offer an invitation for you seek God in the quietness of your soul today.

When I think of the value of solitude and silence in my life, there's a quiet recurring image that often stirs in my soul. In my mind, I happen upon a park bench. God is sitting there. And I just walk over and sit with God on the park bench for awhile. And that's enough!

So my simple hope and prayer for you, is that sometime real soon you'll be able to pull up a chair....and sit with God for awhile.

Proverbs 3:5

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Oct-May: Sunday Services: Rite I, 8a Rite II, 10:30

June-Sept: Sunday Services: Rite I, 8a, Rite II, 9:15 & 11a

Nursery available for Rite II services

Sept 6-Oct 25- Informal Evening Eucharist- 5:30 p.m.

Thursday: Noon Healing Service with Eucharist.

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Rev. Sam Forrester/Cashiers

Sunday School: 10 am, Worship Service: 11 am

• BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NEWS •

The heart of the matter

Thirteen years ago Gwen Murrah fell gravely ill from a flu virus. She was rushed to the ER where she was diagnosed with viral cardiomyopathy and she dimly overheard a conversation about a heart transplant. Shocked that she'd gotten so ill so fast, she interpreted the conversation to mean she must be already dead.

The 42-year old Florida resident was immediately transferred to the Shands Transplant Center at the University of Florida Medical Center in Gainesville. There she was kept alive using a ventricular assist device (VAD), a mechanical pump that supports heart function and blood flow, as she awaited a heart. She remembered that at first the VAD was as big as a washing machine but she was still able to haul it around as she walked the hospital halls. In the weeks that followed, the VAD got smaller, until it was about the size of a carry-on suitcase.

Six weeks later a 16-year-old high schooler named Cathy tragically died of a massive brain aneurism. Ironically, Cathy had discussed organ donations with her Mom and expressed her wish for a little red heart to be added to her driver's license, identifying her as an organ donor. Cathy had unwittingly made the heartbreaking choice for her family and at least six people received organs following her death.

Gwen and her husband Scott Murrah are in the process of moving to Highlands and Gwen was eager for a chance to promote organ donation to Rotary Members on January 31st, when she was the club's speaker.

If you are not already an organ donor, please go to www.dmv.org/nc-north-carolina/organ-donor.php for more information.



Above, from left: Scott Murrah, Heart Recipient and Rotary Speaker Gwen Murrah and Rotarian Jim Osterle.

NC Dept. of Labor warns of 'labor law posters'

RALEIGH—The N.C. Department of Labor is urging businesses across the state to be on the lookout for suspicious correspondence, after the department recently received multiple reports of persons using scare tactics or threatening language in an attempt to sell labor law posters to employers.

"These scams surface several times a year and businesses will contact us," Labor Commissioner Cherie Berry said. "The threats of fines are bogus and should be ignored. The Department of Labor provides free sets of labor law posters to businesses.

The scammers will often pose as either government officials or as acting on behalf of a poster company, such as the North Carolina Labor Law Poster Service, a non-regulatory entity that does not operate under any government agency. Other names these companies are known to go by include Personnel Concepts and Labor Law Compliance. There have been reports of these companies threatening fines from \$7,000 to as much as \$17,000 for non-compliance. Mailings can often appear to be from an official source and request fees for posters that cost anywhere from \$84 to \$200. Businesses should be aware that scammers may also attempt to contact them by either email, text or by phone.

While labor law posters are required to be displayed at a workplace by law, NCDOL inspectors carry the most up-to-date versions of the posters in their vehicles and will distribute them free of charge. The N.C. Department of Labor will never fine a business that has older versions of the poster displayed.



The story of our lives

Randy Lucas, Senior Pastor at the Highlands United Methodist Church, was the featured speaker at the meeting of the Rotary Club of Highlands on February 7. He was introduced by member Tom Stribling. Randy is a certified Biblical Storyteller and used his skills to present the Jewish story of creation as well as encourage all of us to recognize that we are the product of the stories of our own lives and that we need to share our own unique stories with others. In the photo is Rotary member Tom Stribling and Randy Lucas.



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 - THML
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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)

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A large selection of take-away items
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DINNER TO GO

A different full dinner every night.
Serves four serving Monday through
Saturday from 4:30 until we sell out -
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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.
\$21.95 serves four.

Tuesday: Made in-house Italian sausage
lasagna and a large house salad.
\$21.95 serves four

Wednesday: Chicken or steak pot pie
and a large salad.
\$21.95 serves four

Thursday: Roasted meatloaf with
mashed potatoes, gravy and a large salad.
\$21.95 serves four

Friday: Wild caught fried shrimp,
baked potatoes, hush puppies &
coleslaw. \$24.95 serves four

Saturday: In-house smoked bbq,
coleslaw, apple and bacon-baked
beans, and yeast rolls. \$21.95 serves 4

Weeknight Pizza Special:

Available Monday -Thursday 4:30 to close
16" NY style pizza with up to 5 toppings.
Comes with garlic bread & salad \$21.95

or

Baked Linguini: Meatballs, tomato
sauce & cheese. Comes with garlic
bread and salad \$21.95

or

Baked Penne Pasta: Italian sausage,
onion, bacon and mushrooms in white
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The Case for Buyer Agency

"All advocacy, at its core, is an exercise in empathy."

~ Samantha Power

Consider the somewhat daunting (albeit very exciting) task of investing hundreds of thousands of dollars in an unfamiliar market. Filled with dreams of the perfect mountain getaway, a Buyer dips a toe in the water and typically begins looking at properties online or in print guides. Very soon thereafter, overwhelm descends. Which neighborhood, style of home, array of features, and price point is the better fit? Which one is the better investment area? What is the smartest play in the current market, and where will an investment have the greatest upside when selling several years in the future? What is happening underneath the surface of the market, and what do those trends tell? How does one find assurance when working with an agent that she or he is bound by ethics, professionalism, and fiduciary duties to focus solely on the interests of the investor?

Enter the Buyer's Agent stage left.

North Carolina real estate law provides all NC Buyers the option of hiring an agent to represent you solely in the transaction. You can negotiate with the agent to deter-

mine if you will pay a fee for this service, and/or a part of the agent's commission. Or, you may opt to request that the Seller pays the agent's commission, while owing all of her or his advocacy to you – IF the listing is not a listing within the agent's firm.

Wait. What? How is it that the agent is offering you complete and unbiased advocacy throughout every step of the transaction, yet is only able to do so if the listing is with another firm? The reason is this: an agent cannot serve two masters and must

become a neutral party if the Buyer wants Buyer Agency and also wants to be shown or wants to purchase a listing within the agent's firm (an agency scenario called Dual Agency). Handled properly, Dual Agency in many cases works perfectly fine, but note that the agent may not advocate for one party at the other's expense.

Therefore, let's be clear. If the Buyer wants and needs strong counsel and guidance throughout the process of crafting the contract, negotiating price and terms, as well as wants to receive advocacy through the Due Diligence period, the only option available to allow this is pure Buyer Agency.

• See INVESTING page 13



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Saturday February 18 1pm

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Every space in this 3/3 home was updated. Two-tiered deck with views of the mountains the lake and the 5th fairway at Highlands Falls Country Club. The floorplan is perfect for entertaining. In addition, there is a one bedroom guesthouse with a new kitchen. MLS #82523 \$695,000



Flat Mountain beauty with 3br/3ba. Mountain views, lots of glass, outdoor fireplace, two master suites with lower level family room with fireplace, garage has guest quarters. \$795,000. MLS #81533



Meticulously maintained home with tremendous mountain views! 3.46 acres for plenty of privacy. Kitchen features granite counter tops, new appliances, cabinets and flooring. \$500,000. MLS #80134



Big Bear Mountain in Highlands City limits with 3 br/3ba. Meticulously maintained log home offers all the warmth of Old Highlands Charm, yet it is bright and open bringing in natural sun light. \$850,000. MLS # 83797



Located at the end of a cul de sac with National Forest on two sides. Lovely open floorplan. 3/3 with beautiful, easy care landscaping. MLS#67817 \$698,000



Located in Highlands View, this 2br/1.5ba cottage with rustic wood floors with mountain allure and large fireplace which easily warms the house in this open concept plan. MLS# 79163 \$184,500. MLS #79163



This timeless home was once owned by the renowned botanist Thomas Grant Harbison and is on the National Registry of Historic Places. Enjoy the 3+ acres of lush native plantings combined with colorful annuals and perennials in several gardens. 5/3 & sleeping porch. MLS #82122 \$1,070,000



Rocky Knob with long range mountain views. 3br/2ba with guest kitchenette in a great gated community with a private 17 acre lake. \$355,000. MLS #81329



In exclusive HIGHGATE, only 4 minutes to downtown Highlands. 5br/6.5ba home with open floor plan with high ceilings and a "walk-out" terrace level w/ separate entrance. 'His' and 'hers' baths and closets. \$1,195,000. MLS #83155



This lovely, well maintained 3br/3ba home overlooks tee boxes on the 4th fairway of Highlands Falls Country Club. If you are looking for easy, look no further because this offered fully furnished as well! \$400,000. MLS #83403



Highlands Falls Country Club. Very attractive private 3br/3 1/2ba with raised ceilings in the upstairs living areas, a 3 car garage plus golf cart storage and the possibility of a great golf course view. \$777,000. MLS #81880



Wonderful home in prestigious Wildcat Cliffs CC. Just a two-minute golf cart ride to the club house. Fantastic views from the back porch of Whiteside Mountain and Cullasaja Club golf course. MLS#82872 \$475,000



Private location and mountain view in prestigious Cullasaja Club. This 4 br/4.5 ba Lupoli built home is decked out in beautiful stone and exudes quality. Spacious screened porch with a second fireplace and a lavish master suite. MLS #83822. \$1,695,000



Walk to town, popular Mirror Lake area with gentle building site on .89 acre directly across the street from Mirror Lake with appx. 250' on Cullasaja Drive. Lake and view access. City water and sewer. \$147,000. MLS #84287



Cullasaja Club with fairway, mountain and lake views from this 5br/4ba/2hb home. This large family home offers a sunroom, home office plus an upper level loft with 2nd office/hobby area and sweet kid's room. Lower level family room has wine room & billards room. \$1,290,000. MLS #83731



Highlands Country Club with. Expanded and architecturally redesigned by acclaimed Atlanta architect, Norman Askins. This 4br/4ba home features wrap around decks and mountain views! \$895,000. MLS #84686



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• EVENTS •

National Theatre of London's 'Saint Joan' is Saturday



The Highlands Performing Arts Center will screen the National Theatre of London's production of Saint Joan by Bernard Shaw on Saturday, February 18 at 1pm. Bernard Shaw's classic play follows the life and trial of a young country girl who declares a bloody mission to drive the English from France. As one of the first Protestants and nationalists, she threatens the very fabric of the feudal society and the Catholic Church across Europe. Josie Rourke (Coriolanus, Les Liaisons Dangereuses) directs Gemma Arterton (Gemma Boveri, Nell Gwynn, Made in Dagenham) as Joan of Arc in this electrifying production.

Tickets are available online: highlandspac.org, at the door or by calling 828.526.9047. Highlands Performing Arts Center, 507 Chestnut Street, Highlands

...INVESTING continued from page 10

A Dual Agent cannot make a recommendation as to how to structure an offer, nor suggest a beginning offer amount. Further, the Buyer is on his or her own when a Seller responds to an offer. All a Dual Agent is permitted to do is simply relay information from one party to another. Again, with a seasoned investor who is confi-

dent in one's ability to write and negotiate, Dual Agency poses no challenges. For someone however, who is newer to the market, to the area, and to the entire investing process, I would purport that every such Buyer deserves and needs pure Buyer Agency. Such a Buyer needs a trusted advisor with only

• See INVESTING page 14



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LANDS INN LODGE** now accepting applications and interviewing for all positions. Front Desk, Housekeeping, Maintenance, Night Audit, Breakfast Host & cook. Full time and part time available. Call 526-5899 for appointment or stop by 96 log cabin lane for application. Resumes or questions may be emailed to sales@highlandsinn-lodge.com. (st. 2/16)

TOWN CLERK— The Town of Highlands invites candidates to apply for the position of Town Clerk. This employee serves as the official custodian of records for the Town of Highlands and provides administrative support to the Town Manager and Town Commissioners. Minimum qualifications for the position include graduation from high school or GED equivalency; an associate's degree in administrative science or related field is preferred. Experience of at least 3-5 years administrative experience as a municipal or county government clerk or similar work experience in a municipal or county manager's office, or experience as a paralegal. Salary for the position is negotiable DOE/DOQ. Position will be open until filled. To review the full recruitment posting for the position and download an employment application, visit our website www.highlandsnc.org, or at the Town Hall. The Town of Highlands is an EOE. (2/16)

OPENING FOR C.N.A. AND LPN for Assisted Living. Apply at Chestnut Hill, 24 Clubhouse Trail, Highlands, NC (828) 526-5251. (3/2)

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food, wine, beer, and cocktails. People who are excited about working in a kitchen (because you want to own your own restaurant one day). People who enjoy giving excellent service to customers, whether it's delivering food to tables, cleaning up, taking orders, or mixing great cocktails. You might have a lot of experience or you might just be looking for new opportunities (that's why you're reading this, right?). Either way, at The Ugly Dog Pub we value people for their unique personalities and qualities, not just for their prior experience. If this agrees with you give us shout, send us an email, or stop by and see us. theuglydogstaff@gmail.com 828-526-8364 If you don't know where we're located then look us up! www.theuglydogpub.com (st. 1/16)

PART TIME CLEANERS needed after hours cleaning banks. Please call Cathy @ 828 772 9831 (st. 12/22).

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• POLICE & FIRE REPORTS •

The Highlands Police log entries from Feb. 2. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor or public officials have been used.

Feb. 2

• At 8 a.m., officers were notified of vandalism at a residence on Big Bear Pen Road where a fence was damaged.

Feb. 8

• At 1:50 a.m., officers received a call from a mother concerning her son who was overdue in returning home.

Feb. 11

• At noon, officers received a report about a breaking and entering at a residence on Carolina Way where someone entered the residence.

• At 3:25 p.m., officers received a report of an employee at Mountain Fresh Grocery communicating threats to other employees.

The Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. log from Feb. 9 .

Feb. 9

• The dept. was first-responders to a residence on Zachary Road.

Feb. 10

• The dept. was first-responders to a residence on US 64 west.

Feb. 13

• The dept. was first-responders to a residence on Queen Mountain.

• The dept. responded to a fire alarm on Church Street.

...INVESTING continued from page 13

one overarching concern, and that is to put that Buyer's needs above all others.

There is a multitude of ways to win in the Highlands-Cashiers market, and every win begins and ends with an experienced, service-oriented, and ethical agent. Investors needing extraordinary representation may demand it. Ensure the agent in your corner has properly disclosed your options, and if you seek pure Buyer Agency with all its associated benefits, sign an agreement spelling out the details of that agent's responsibilities to you. Don't forget to enjoy the hunt and the entire process. You are investing in

a way of life as much as you are investing in a home.

• *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.*



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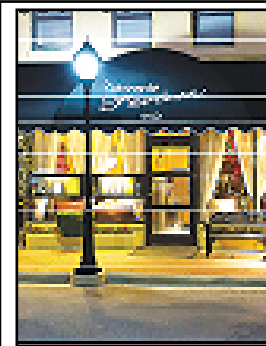
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