

Highlands Newspaper

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Thurs., Feb. 22, 2018

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Subdivision gets OK and more at TB

Last week, the Zoning Board of Adjustment and the Town Board met Wednesday and Thursday, respectively with some issues overlapping – namely the Highlands Overlook Cottages

subdivision off Big Bearpen Road. The project has gone through all the required channels and was presented at the Town Board by Planning Director Andrew Bowen as the last step in the process.

In April, the Planning Board OK'd the preliminary plat as drawn, but it returned to the January Planning Board because the final plat which included all infra-

• See **SUBDIVISION** page 9

Lady Highlanders are LSM Tournament Champs!



Last Thursday night, the Lady Highlanders advanced to the state playoffs when they beat Hiwassee Dam 55 to 42 and became Little Smoky Mountain champs. Tuesday night they played the first game in the playoffs against Blue Ridge at home and beat them 61 to 51. They play the second round tonight at Lincoln Charter.

Highlands residents jailed for fraud schemes

The mountains of Western North Carolina are welcomed world away for many. They offer a serene lifestyle far from the hustle and bustle and for some they offer a place to hide. In 2009 Domenic Rabuffo,

• See **JAILED** page 6

The arrows point the way



Wondering what the white arrows along NC 106 and on other roads in town mean? According to Andy Russell, P.E. District Engineer NC Department of Transportation, called survey panels, they are being used in the preliminary photogrammetry (aerial photography) project which is surveying for the planning and development of the proposed NC 106 improvement project (R-5846). Should the project be selected to move forward, the department's current schedule indicates a proposed construction date of 2027.

–Photoby Kim Lewicki

Sheriff's Office and school system take swift action against two verbal threats

On the heels of the Marjory Douglas Stoneman High School massacre on Feb.14 where 17 students and faculty were murdered and 14 injured, on the same day,

a Franklin High School student made verbal threats as he was exiting his school bus after arriving home.

The student made more than

one statement threatening the safety and well-being of fellow students.

The bus driver immediately

• See **THREATS** page 7

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• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• MAYOR ON DUTY •

Remembering 'Wreaths Across America'

Last Saturday morning I woke up at 8:50. I realized I was supposed to be at the Highlands American Legion Post 370 monthly meeting. I thought about not going, but I decided to get dress fast, like in the army, and make the meeting.

Even though I arrived late, a great breakfast at the Baptist Church awaited me. I sat down to eat and noticed that Phil Potts had joined us. He was playing a video

of last year's Veterans Day Ceremony. After that video ended, the post commander asked him to show the Wreaths Across America video. Phil, Ginger Mobley and Derek Taylor made the video of the ceremony and wreath-laying event that took place at the Highlands Cemetery this past December.

The opening scene was the American Legion honor guard presenting the colors on a beautiful, but very cold day with snow covering the ground. The video ended with Ray Charles' rendition of America the Beautiful accompanied by photographs of folks placing wreaths on the graves of veterans. The photographs captured poignant moments of remembrance where a volunteer would place a wreath at the grave and



Highlands Mayor
Patrick Taylor

callout the veteran's name.

I realized this Highlands video underscored an essence of the American spirit. The ceremony and wreath-laying were both very plain and simple, not a polished or sophisticated production often seen at larger venues. They were honest acts of respect and appreciation.

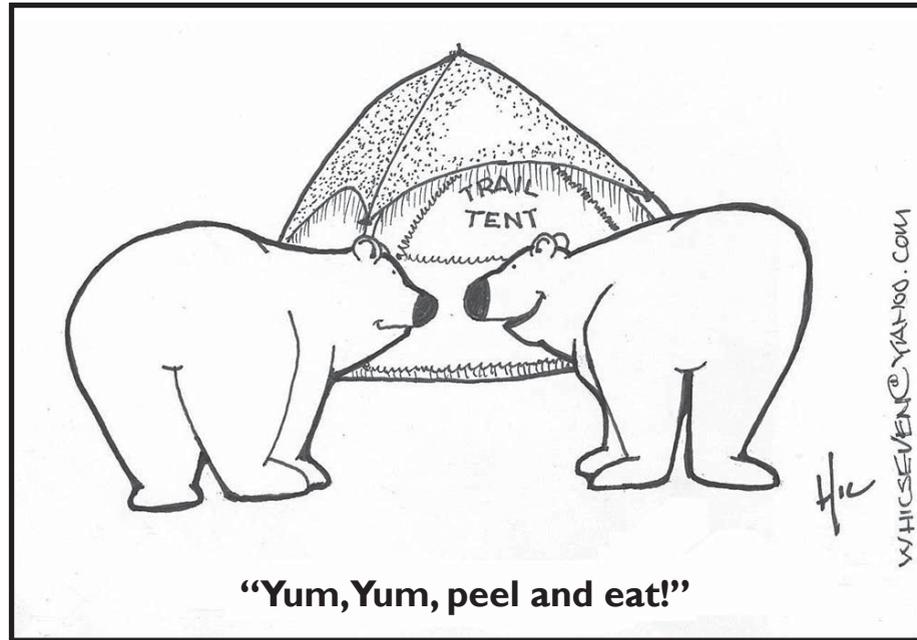
The photographs made me grateful for the veteran Legionnaires who participated in the ceremony and also for the many veterans who are no longer with us. These men and women served, many in foreign wars, and then returned to work and support their families in Highlands. I thought about family members, too, those who waited and worried everyday day while their love ones were away from home. Sadly, we also have veterans in our cemetery who were killed in action.

Indeed, this solemn event was part of a national commitment that was replicated in hometowns across America in quiet, straightforward ceremonies. I like to think these events symbolize the fabric of our nation, little hometown threads that on their own are fragile, but when woven together create the fabric of the American Flag. I'm so glad I got off my lazy butt and went to the meeting to witness such a beautiful video. I was also honored to be a part of that ceremony.

Last year President Trump signed an order designating this coming March 29 as

•See MAYOR page 13

• HIC'S VIEW •



"Yum, Yum, peel and eat!"

WHICSEVEN@YAHOO.COM

• LETTERS •

Good-bye Highlands

Dear Editor,

Goodbye Highlands I will miss you. I'll miss the serenity and beauty of a 15" snow-fall, a walk through your beautiful national forests, the power of the many water falls so close to town, the bears walking across my back deck to get to my apple and pear trees, but what I will miss most are the people I had the pleasure to know during my 15-year stay.

People like Ray McPhail who at the age of 78 can out talk a Baptist minister at a Sunday morning service, but whose insatiable curiosity and joyful Uncle Remus personality attracts a diverse group of intelligent and accomplished individuals from all walks

•See LETTERS page 3

Highlands Newspaper

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	Friday 2/23		Saturday 2/24		Sunday 2/25	
	Daytime	Overnight	Daytime	Overnight	Daytime	Overnight
Temp <input type="radio"/>	67 F	53 F	66 F	54 F	63 F	43 F
RealFeel [®] <input type="radio"/>	68 F	56 F	65 F	54 F	63 F	49 F
Winds <input type="radio"/>	5 g 7	3 g 6	5 g 8	7 g 12	6 g 12	4 g 6
T-Storms <input type="radio"/>	2%	3%	20%	20%	24%	2%
Rainfall <input type="radio"/>	0	0	0.16	0.24	0.32	0.38
Snowfall <input type="radio"/>	0	0	0	0	0	0

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• WEATHER •

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Letter Policy:

We reserve the right to reject or edit letters-to-the-editor. **No anonymous letters will be accepted.** Views expressed are not necessarily those of Highlands Newspaper.

• OBITUARY •

Charlotte Ransom Wood

Age 94



Charlotte's work on this earth is done. A good friend, neighbor and faithful servant now enjoying a reunion with family, friends and furry ones, especially Ben. She had a full life, which included marrying the love of her life, Charles Richard Wood. Together they raised four boys, traveled and tried to never miss a Clemson football game. Charlotte was the queen of her kitchen and loved decorating to the max for every holiday. Mimi was the best mom, grandmother, mother-in law, aunt and friend you could ever wish for. Always thinking and doing for others. A celebration of her life will be held in Highlands at a later date.

Survived by Carol and Rusty Wood, Tom and Sandi Wood, Roxanne and Bob Wood, Mo and George Wood, and grandchildren Gretchen and Josh Foster, Allison and Scott Fitzgerald, Robert Wood, Kristin Kopic and Austin Wood and her three great grandchildren.

The family would also like to acknowledge and thank her kind and loving caregivers and friends, Jan, Hilda, Rhonda, Sharon, Gloria, Trina, Denise and Maria.

Online condolences are available at bryantgrantfuneralhome.com. Bryant-Grant Funeral Home and Crematory is serving the Wood family.

...LETTERS continued from page 2

of life.

On any given morning at Bucks you can find a lovable old hippy from Columbus, SC, a stevedore from Charleston, a state supreme court justice, former CEOs of major national corporations, former navy fighter pilots, a local woodworker, a former Georgia District Attorney, lawyers covering all areas of the law, and several successful developers. They all come from the full range of political beliefs and all abide by Ray's rule "when someone is speaking there will be no interruptions or side conversations." Isn't that refreshing!

I'll miss my morning talks with Mayor Pat Taylor. Highlands is very fortunate to have someone who goes about his business as mayor quietly, thoughtfully, and openly while keeping the best interests of the town in sight.

I will miss Cynthia Dendy and her two sidekicks who competently manage First Citizens Bank and always with a smile. I worked with them for 10 years and as of this writing none of the ladies have joined the "Me Too" movement.

I had the pleasure of working with Art Williams and Jane Woodruff whose vision and generosity have provided Highlands with an amenity infrastructure worthy of many major cities. I only regret that I wasn't able to wish them well before I left town.

I'll miss the Board of Directors of Friends of Founders Park whose advice, support, and commitment for the 44 months it took to approve, fund, and build the park was a blessing that made the whole project a pleasure to pursue. My special thanks to Skip Taylor, Hank Ross, and Gary Wein.

And of course, I will miss the Rotary Club of Highlands Mountain Top which was the very first service club I ever joined. Although the club is small it has been very involved in both local community support and Dr. John Baumrucker's Bolivian Mission for abandoned boys. It was there that I learned the true meaning of "Service above Self."

I could go on with so many more names, but I doubt I could get this letter printed. If any of you happen to be in the Gig Harbor, Washington area please let me know at nicholas.bazan@gmail.com and I will buy the coffee. Otherwise, I will see you all again at the Shrimp Boil on June 16.

Nick Bazan
Gig Harbor, WA

It's time to call your Senators

Dear Editor,

I just listened to a group of the Florida high school student survivors that are calling for gun control action and it brought tears to my eyes. I was so impressed and proud of their determination to be the ones to finally make a difference in this ongoing national gun tragedy.

I'm writing this letter to the voting citizens of Highlands to bring your attention to a very important fact related to this issue.

One of these students made the statement that any of our legislators who are ac-

•See LETTERS page 5



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...LETTERS continued from page 3

cepting financial support from the NRA "wear a badge of shame." I want everyone to be aware that our NC Senators are on the list of the top five with the most contributions from the NRA.

Richard Burr has received nearly \$7 million and Thom Tillis over 44 million. This obviously gives them very little incentive to become part of the solution.

As I see it, as voting citizens we all have a responsibility to make our senators aware that we do not want them to continue to be part of the problem rather than the solution.

For starters, the ease with which a disturbed individual can acquire a semi-automatic weapon is something that should concern us all.

Please let Burr and Tillis know this and let them know that you expect them to begin to participate in a solution if they want to continue to represent North Carolina in the future.

The most recent school tragedy could happen in North Carolina as easily as Florida. We must realize that and support those Florida high school students in their plea for action.

Vivian Brewer, MSW
Highlands

• MILESTONE •

Champs in the making



From left: Cane Smolarsky, 8, and Elliot Scott, 6.

Cane Smolarsky, representing the Mountaineer Wrestling Club, earned a second place silver medal at the Georgia Novice State Championships on Sunday at River Ridge High School in Woodstock, GA.

The colossal tournament had over 500 competitors ages 6-14 years old. His bracket consisted of 16 wrestlers with one or two years of experience from all over the state. Smolarsky, only in his second year, competed in the 8-year-old and under division at 60 pounds and battled his way through four incredibly tough matches before losing by points in the finals.

He was joined by six-year-old Elliot Scott of Rabun Gap who placed fourth at 52 pounds. The Club will continue to run until March and will reopen again in November. Facebook: Rabun Wrestling Club - The Mountaineers

Changing Times

Dear Editor,

This is a quote from the February 7th Wall Street Journal at page C-1 about political correctness

Quote:

Get married before you have children and strive to stay married for their sake. Get the education you need for gainful employment, work hard and avoid idleness. Go the extra mile for your employer or client. Be a patriot, ready to serve the country. Be neighborly, civic-minded and charitable. Avoid coarse language in public. Be respectful of authority. Eschew substance abuse and crime.

This was described as a "behavioral norm" almost universally endorsed between the end of World War II and the mid-60s. My wife and I grew up during that period. We were afforded that norm. Looking back, our lives have worked out well, quite well. Our children included. Nevertheless, it seems that many of these 14 behavioral norms today are considered abnormal or are in retreat. What a shame.

Griffin Bell
Highlands

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• HIGHLANDS SCHOOL SPORTS •

This past week was conference tournament games for the high school basketball teams. On Tuesday both varsity teams played Blue Ridge for semifinals of the tournament. Varsity girls won to advance to the championship game on Thursday. Varsity boys didn't.

On Thursday night, JV girls and boys and Varsity girls played their championship games all against Hiwassee Dam. Neither JV girls nor boys won but both played well. Varsity girls finished the night on top, leaving the gym as champions, with a trophy. Both varsity teams played in the first playoff games Tuesday night. The girls won 61-51 against Blue Ridge. The boys lost 35-62 against the Community School of Davidson.

From Coach Crystal Gustin

Business was as usual walking into the locker room to give the pre-game coach's speech last Thursday. Walking out of the locker room and waiting to take the court, something was a bit different. You could feel the energy among the team. Every single girl was ready to hit the court. They were hungry for a win. As soon as tip off happened, I knew the girls were going to play. Through every play, every jump ball, every possession, the girls continued to battle. When the final buzzer sounded, all the hard work paid off. The girls walked away with the championship trophy. To see the hugs, the high fives, and all the smiles are moments coaches dream of. I could not have asked for more from these girls and I could not be more proud of the heart they displayed during the LSM championship game.

with Kedra McCall



...JAILED continued from page 1

of Big Ridge Road in Cashiers and Miami and his ex-wife Mae of Ft. Lauderdale, were sentenced to 27 years and 14 years, respectively, for orchestrating a mortgage fraud scheme involving lots in the Big Ridge development in Cashiers. They used straw buyers from Florida and mortgages from a half-dozen banks to raise more than \$50 million in loans that were not repaid.

In 2014, Jose Lantigua and his wife Daphne Simpson, of 153 Fox Den Road in Sapphire were jailed on seven Florida insurance fraud charges each, after Lantigua was arrested by Federal agents on Saturday, March 21 in North Carolina.

Lantigua had allegedly faked his own death on April 17, 2013 in Venezuela to orchestrate an elaborate insurance fraud scheme.

Now, the Department of Justice, U.S. Attorney's Office of the Eastern District of New York has announced that two Highlanders, John R. Lakian, 74, and Diane Lamm, 57, of 65 Eagle Ridge Drive are serving time for securities fraud for defrauding investors out of millions of dollars in two separate schemes. Both pleaded guilty.

On Dec. 15, 2017 Lakian was sentenced to 55 months in prison and on Jan. 25, 2018 Lamm was sentenced to 36 months. In addition, the Court also ordered Lakian and Lamm to pay restitution to the victims in the amount \$15,640,582.46.

"Lakian and his co-defendant stole millions of dollars entrusted to them by investors, who have been robbed of financial security in their retirement years by the defendants' fraudulent scheme," stated Acting United States Attorney Bridget Rohde and William F. Sweeney, Jr., Assistant Director-in-Charge, FBI. "While Lakian and Lamm were living in the lap of luxury, those who invested not only their money with them, but their faith in them, were unwittingly funding this lavish lifestyle."

"Between 2009 and 2013, they were involved in two schemes to steal investors' money. In the first, Lakian and Lamm, obtained more than \$11 million by promising Capital L Financial Group, LLC (Capital L)

investors that their money would be used to purchase, consolidate, and sell registered investment advisory businesses.

"Instead, Lakian and Lamm diverted more than \$3 million to themselves and to entities, including hospitality businesses, that they owned and controlled.

"In the second scheme, Lakian and Lamm embezzled money through their management of Aegis Capital Fund, a North Carolina-based investment fund that was placed into liquidation in 2011.

"Prior to the liquidation, Lakian and Lamm directed more than \$2.4 million of Fund assets into hospitality businesses without informing the Fund's investors that they owned and controlled these businesses. More than \$1.9 million of the \$2.4 million of fund assets was never recovered by the investors.

"Additionally, following the Fund's liquidation, instead of returning investment proceeds to investors, Lakian and Lamm diverted more than \$2 million of investors' money to themselves and to their hospitality businesses.

"The government has identified credit card charges and company expenses or purposes unrelated to the purchase, consolidation and sale of registered investment advisers.

"Charges were incurred, for example, for clothing, furniture and fine art from luxury stores such as Bergdorf Goodman, Gucci, and Paul Stewart; stays at the Palace and Waldorf Astoria hotels in New York City; getaways at luxury resorts; and items for Lakian and Lamm's restaurants."

John R. Lakian, pleaded guilty in February 2016 to two counts of securities fraud. He was sentenced, on December 15, 2017.

Diane W. Lamm pleaded guilty to two counts of securities fraud on February 5, 2016. She was sentenced Jan. 25, 2018.

The government's case was handled by the office's Business and Securities Fraud Section. Assistant US Attorney Whitman G.S. Knapp was in charge of the prosecution. Assistant US Attorney Karin Orenstein of the Office's Civil Division was responsible for the forfeiture of assets.

Highlands School Kindergarten Registration is Tuesday, March 13

On Tuesday, March 13, Kindergarten registration for Highlands School's 2018-2019 school year will begin – for parents – at 10am in the school's media center. Children who reach the age of five on or before August 31, 2018 are eligible for admission into the Class of 2031.

A Macon County school bus will pick up eligible students from the Gordon Center at the Methodist Church and the Highlands Community Child Developments Center and take them to school to meet their parents. Children not currently enrolled at either learning facility may meet at the Highlands Community Child Development Center, located at 89 Church St, to catch the bus. PTO will provide complimentary lunch for all students and their parents in the school cafeteria. Registration packets can be picked up at Highlands School or at Highlands Community Child Development Center. Call the school office at (828) 526-2147 for more information.

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...THREATS continued from page 1

contacted school officials at which time the School Resource Officer and the Macon County Sheriff's Office were also contacted and an investigation ensued.

Detectives conducted interviews and collected video from the school bus camera system. Following the investigation into the incident the 16-year-old student involved was charged with Communicating Threats (Misdemeanor) and Making False Report of Mass Violence to a School (Felony).

The Macon County Sheriff's Office investigation will continue with the assistance of the District Attorney Ashley Welch's Office and the Macon County School System.

"The threats were extremely serious in nature and all of our staff took the appropriate steps immediately following the statements," said MC School Superintendent Dr. Chris Baldwin and MC Sheriff Robert Holland. "Threats of any kind against students and/or faculty will not be tolerated. These types of threats will be investigated thoroughly and prosecuted if appropriate."

The student involved in this incident was the only person involved in making the threat and has been arrested and bond set at \$10,000. Following his release, the student will also be subject to disciplinary action by the school system.

The start of school the next day, Feb.

15 Union Academy faculty reported to their School Resource Officer (SRO) that a teacher heard a student ask another student, "Do you want to be a school shooter?" The student was also reported to have made another statement, "Hey you wanna go shoot up a school?"

The SRO immediately detained the student and requested the assistance of the Macon County Sheriff's Office along with the resources of the Macon County School system.

All responded to the school and an investigation was initiated. Interviews were conducted with various witnesses as well as with the student who the allegations were made against.

Investigators then filed a Juvenile Petition stating the offenses of False Report of Mass Violence on Educational Property.

Following a review of that petition, a "Secure Order" was issued and approved by a District Court Judge. The 14-year-old will remain in custody and was transported out of county to a state facility for juveniles pending his next court hearing.

"This investigation is on going and we are limited as to what can be released due to the age of this student," said Sheriff Holland. "We do not want to jeopardize either of the two investigations conducted in the last 24 hours regarding Macon County students nor do we want to jeopardize their

rights."

These two cases are entirely separate investigations and are not related to one another. Both students involved attend separate schools, said Holland.

"Threats are nothing new. We have dealt with threats long before now but how we deal with them today is very different than in years past. We don't have the luxury of brushing them off as a moment of simply being stupid," said Sheriff Holland. "We must have a zero tolerance for any threat that relates to bringing harm to our students or faculty. It must be investigated thoroughly by each agency and if found to be legitimate there must be swift and consistent consequences."

Sheriff Holland said he makes no qualms about it – he wants other students, involved or not, to know the consequences for the two students involved have been swift.

"Any students in the future who choose to act in such a manner will be dealt with accordingly. This is not an issue to play around with and we will not," he said. "After hearing about these recent local cases, I hope parents will take time to seriously speak with their kids about this issue. I am doing so with my children. We live in a society where negative statements and/or threats to one another have become acceptable behavior."

Holland pointed to FaceBook as an example.

"Just look at social media such as FaceBook today and see how adults treat one another. Even professionals like teachers, nurses, law enforcement officers, business owners, fellow church members. Shame on us. What are we to expect from our children when the adults are setting the example?"

Neither student involved in the incidents has claimed bullying as the reason they made the threats and the two students during their interviews never mentioned being bullied in the past.

"We always take these types of statements seriously and deal with them according to the laws that govern us. Our agency along with our school system have worked diligently to implement protocol for handling these types of cases and we both utilize the resources available for all involved," said Holland. "This type of activity will not be tolerated in our schools."

Both students had a parent present in the room when interviewed by law enforcement.

During their interviews, both students said they were not serious in the threats made against students.

"The students involved made very poor decisions and as a result are facing serious consequences for their actions," Holland said.

– Kim Lewicki

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Who Loves Ya Baby?

Who remembers Kojak, the NY crime series starring Telly Savalas from the late '70s? If you don't remember the show, you may remember his bald head, that he preferred Tootsie Roll pops to cigarettes and his main catchphrase was "Who loves you, Baby?" Kojak always had our back, didn't he?

In real estate, your Broker always has your back, after all it's one of the six fiduciary duties of which we're charged. Maybe it's time to

have a little six-talk, but before we do that, a primer on fiduciary.

Real estate brokers are deemed to be a fiduciary, one of the highest duties of law. Other examples include guardians, trustees and executors. As a fiduciary, the broker owes certain specific duties to his principal, in this case, a seller, buyer, or landlord according to the listing contract or agreement signed.

LOYALTY – No wonder this one comes first, as it's one of the most important and sort of acts as

an umbrella to the others. A real estate broker is obligated at all times to act in the best interests of his principal, including his own interests. This keeps able brokers from buying properties from their principals at an agreed price, and then turning around and selling for a profit.

CONFIDENTIALITY – A broker is obligated to safeguard his principal's confidences and secrets. However, a broker cannot withhold material facts or misrepresent the condition of the property.

DISCLOSURE - If the three main words for a buyer are location, location, location, then the main three words for an agent is disclosure, disclosure, disclosure. A broker is obligated to disclose just about everything.

If his principal is the Seller: all offers to purchase are to be presented, the identity of the potential buyers, any facts affecting the value of his property, information concerning the ability or willingness of the buyer to complete the sale including offering a higher price, the broker's relationship to, or interest in, a prospective buyer, a buyer's intention to subdivide or resell the property at a profit, or any other information that may affect the seller's ability to obtain the highest and best terms of the sale.

If the principal is the Buyer: The broker must reveal to the buyer any willingness of the seller to accept a lower price, any facts relating to the urgency of the seller's need to sell, the broker's relationship to, or interest in the seller, any facts affecting the value of the property, the length of time the property has been on the market and any other offers or counteroffers that have been made, and any other information that would affect the buyer's ability to obtain the property at the



Jeannie Chambers
Chambers Realty &
Vacation Rentals
jeannie@highlandscalling.com

lowest price and most favorable terms.

OBEDIENCE - A broker is obligated to obey promptly and efficiently all lawful instructions of his principal. A good example of this is when a Landlord says "I don't want children" (not allowed under most situations) or a seller says, "I love my neighbors, but they would kill me if I sold to XYZ kind of people" Way out of line, and definitely against the law, or "You can tell people we've had 10 people sleep here easily since I added the extra rooms" (what they aren't saying is the home may have a two or three bedroom septic permit). Obedience only goes as far as the law provides.

REASONABLE CARE AND DILIGENCE - A broker is obligated to use reasonable care and diligence in dealing with his principal's affairs and act as a competent real estate professional. Brokers are licensed and should use their skills and real estate knowledge and act prudently.

ACCOUNTING - A broker is obligated to account for all money or property belonging to his principal that has been entrusted to him, including money, deeds, or other documents that relate to his principal's transactions.

Now, tell me, who loves ya, baby? That's right, it's your broker, we've got your back, and I'm glad we got to have this little six-talk.

• Jeannie and Tucker Chambers are broker/owners of Chambers Realty & Vacation Rentals located at 401 N. Fifth Street. They don't have bald heads (yet) and don't imbibe on Tootsie Roll pops (much), but "We're suckers for our wonderful clients – we love ya, baby!"

• IN MEMORY •

In memory of Louise M. Clark who passed away on February 21, 2008. Thinking of you.

– Wayne, Ruth Ann, Jennifer, grandkids and her friend Caprita



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...SUBDIVISION continued from page 1

structure designations was now complete. Last week the subdivision went to the Zoning Board to request a road grade variance.

Due to the lay of the land and the required road widths and radiuses needed to accommodate utility and emergency vehicles, the first 397 feet of the 1,100-foot road has to be 15.5% grade rather than the town's required 14% grade.

The town followed NCDOT's lead when it came to road grades so they would match if the town ever wanted the state to take over any of its roads.

To proceed, a variance was required; it was granted by the Zoning Board. However, the Town Board has the final say on all subdivisions. The board OK'd the variance stipulating that the subdivision road would never become a town road because it didn't meet town standards.

At the January Town Board meeting, commissioners agreed to adopt a formal policy regarding accepting private streets. Only private streets that conform to town standards can be accepted as town streets and thereby maintained by the town.

In the past, residents in subdivisions whose roadways are substandard— in that they don't comply with town standards

— have requested the town to improve the roads as well as maintain them, usually at the town's expense.

What wasn't discussed at the Town Board meeting was the concern residents along Big Bearpen as well as Realtors have about the condition of the state-owned road.

The dirt and gravel road is too narrow, has deep gullies, drastic curves and needs constant repair by NCDOT. Though the Realtors who spoke to the issue — Ellie Hogan and Doug Helms — said they were all for the subdivision since intown properties are "hot" right now, they voiced concerns about additional traffic on the road the subdivision would bring to the area via Big Bearpen — both construction and residential.

Members of the Zoning Board said they understood their concerns, but the case before them was for the grade variance within the subdivision itself and the condition of Big Bearpen and there was nothing they could do about it.

They suggested people talk to the town and the state about bringing the road up to par. However, the issue wasn't brought up

• See **SUBDIVISION** page 11



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• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING.

The words I wish I had said



Archbishop John Erbeling
Archbishop Emeritus
Chapel of Sky Valley

This year we have two very special days that coincide on February 14. This is a rare occurrence. Two special days of love -- one the beginning of the season of Lent, the passion, the love story of a God who loves us so much he gave his son to show us what true love is, but the other day this February 14 will note is Valentine's Day, the day when many a true love story begins not to save a world but to join two souls we hope forever.

In the 60th year of my ministry and the nearly 4,000 marriages I have performed, I now reflect on the lives I have joined and the hopes I have seen fulfilled, but there are words I wish I had said to each couple and they are these.

Songs of spring and love and of undying devotion are good to the ears of all of us. There would be much missing without music and moonlight and romance. But lovely as all these are, there must be much more for the making of a lasting marriage, for making a good and solid life, and for keeping alive the love and sweetness of life.

In June of your life we may walk together holding hands, with adoring eyes and high hearts. But many precious things are perishable, if they are not understood, not carefully cultivated. Life isn't all serenity. It changes pace. It changes color. It is sometimes light and lovely, sometimes difficult and discouraging. There are fair and pleasant days; there are days of illness, of disappointment, sometimes of sorrow. But the sacred covenant of marriage does not contemplate that any of these will make any difference in loyalty and love. Marriage is not only for the brighter moments, not only for prosperous and pleasant days, but for all the days there are, endlessly and forever -- and it cannot well be built on less than common ideals, common purposes, willingness to rear a family, usefulness, and sincere service. And no one should marry with the remotest possibility in mind that the marital ties might sometime be severed.

To you who begin life together, don't let any unkind comment, any act of inconsideration start its widening wedge between you two. There will be moods you will not understand; there will be differences; you will try each other's patience at times. No two people however much in love think or act in all things altogether alike. Don't let differences grow, don't magnify them, don't brood about them; bring them into the open, face facts fairly.

Avoid hasty words and quick conclusions; reserve judgment; build and encourage each other and never belittle. Avoid extravagance; live within your means; trust and be true to your trust. Forgive; forget; don't let the errors of the past keep coming back to drive a wider wedge. Be prayerful and patient; live with faith and forbearance; be a blessing to each other always and forever, and don't lose the loveliness of looking down the years of life together. Hold to what you have in June of your life and let it be so, sacredly and blessedly, in December.

Proverbs 3:5

• PLACES TO WORSHIP •

John 3:16

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Tues. Guys study 8am, Gals 10am.

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1st & 3rd Sunday night Service: 7 p.m.

Wednesdays - Supper at 6 p.m.

COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH

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10:30am: Middle & High School; 10:45am: Child. Program,

10:45am: Worship Service

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Dr. Mark Ford, Pastor

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Wed.: Men's Bible Study 8:30 am; Prayer Mtg 6:15 pm; Ch. 5p

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Mondays: 8 a.m.: Men's Prayer Group & Breakfast

Wednesdays: Choir: 6p

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Wed. Kidsquest 6p.; Worship 7p.

HIGHLANDS ASSEMBLY OF GOD

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Sundays: Worship: 11

HIGHLANDS CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Dan Robinson

670 N. 4th Street (next to the Highlands Civic Center)

Sun.: Morning Worship 10:45 a., Evening Worship, 6:30 p.

Wednesday: Prayer Service, 6:30 p.

HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Pastor Randy Lucas 526-3376

Sun: School 9:45a.; Worship 9:09, 10:50.; Youth 5:30 p.

Wed: Supper: 5:15; youth, & adults activities: 6; Handbell

rehearsal, 6:15; Choir Rehearsal 7. (nursery provided); 7pm

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Wed: Bible Study and Youth Mtg.: 7 p.m.

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Wednesdays: Prayer Mtg.: 7 p.m.

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Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study: 6 p.m.

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...SUBDIVISION continued from page 9

at the Town Board meeting and the subdivision was accepted as presented.

The next two issues that elicited the most discussion was the upcoming Highlands Motoring Festival and the Christmas Tree in Founders Park on Pine Street.

Highlands Motoring Festival

Steve Ham touted the success of the festival slated for Saturday, June 9, which is in its 11th year.

He said 120 collector and special interest vehicles are expected this year and the confines of Founders Park are too small. Since organizers want to keep the festival in the same vicinity – rather than spreading components throughout town – they requested that the portion of Fifth Street from Oak to Pine be closed to vehicular traffic. Instead of being a thruway, that portion of the road would be used to display cars.

Barbara Cusacks, owner of Needlepoint of Highlands in Village Square, spoke out against closing that portion of the road because it would impact parking as well as possibly negatively affect business for shops in Village Square that day.

Debbie Grossman, president of the Village Square Association, said that residents of the square were 50/50 on the issue. Some thought it would hurt business and some thought it wouldn't.

The biggest concern was the flow of vehicular traffic in the area not foot traffic, as Commission Amy Patterson said the festival will likely bring a lot of foot traffic to the area which might not usually be there. "It's worth it to Highlands," she said.

Ham said they are expecting 3,500 spectators during the day which will most certainly positively impact the local economy. Over the past two years more than \$60,000 was given to the Festival's local charity partners – Literacy Council of Highlands, and R.E.A.C.H. of Macon County. This year he expects that to be \$100,000 and the Community Care Clinic has been added to the recipient list.

Ham proposed barricades at 5th and Pine streets to stop southbound traffic and another barricade at 5th and Oak streets to stop northbound traffic from 6am to 4pm. This would allow one-way traffic down Oak to 5th streets to turn right on to Main Street. However, traffic wouldn't be able to enter 5th off Main because the only way out would be Oak Street which is a one-way road.

He said the plan would increase show field space for 27 vehicles allowing for two more Platinum Sponsors and 19 additional classic cars which could generate an additional \$9,000 per year for the charity partners.

Bonnie Potts, executive director of the Literacy Council, said most of the donations that come into the organization are \$10, \$20 or \$50 so every little bit helps, and the Highlands Motoring Festival certainly does.

"Donations have a huge impact on the 600 people we serve, and we are talking about programs going under without the funds," she said.

Commissioners agreed to the scenario and will temporarily reverse the slanted parking spaces available on 5th from Oak to Main streets so people traveling down Oak to 5th – usually employees seeking parking -- can pull into parking spaces easily.

Christmas Tree

Highlands is definitely going to have a new Christmas Tree this year.

This time a Norway pine will be procured ranging from 20-28 feet high at the cost of \$10,000 to \$15,000 – Mayor Pat Taylor said there are potential donors in the wings.

There was much discussion concerning the shape and potential growth of the tree.

Commissioner Brian Stiehler said Norway pines need less maintenance than a Fraser Fir and though growth will be slow the first three years, within six to seven years a 24-ft. tree will be 35 feet tall.

Pictures of a number of potential live trees on a farm in Scaly were shown but commissioners decided to take a field trip to see the candidates personally before deciding.

Once a tree is picked it will take the place of the two white pines behind the Little Library in the Park.

Rec Park Updates

The Civic Center Stage renovation which began on August 29 is nearing completion. Demolition work began on the Lower Level of the Civic Center on January 30 so those rooms are closed.

Turns out there are floor and wall issues in the Meeting Room and Kitchen area stemming from the original pour and the concrete creeping which will have to be addressed. Recommendations and estimates for those repairs are in the works.

The playground has been moved and new mulch installed so the site is now ready for the American Ramp Company to start the Skateboard Park, weather permitting next week. The park should be completed by April 1 – weather permitting.

Other Items

The Town Board retreat is set for March 8 and on the agenda will be what to do about the Sunset Rock Road and a potential Leash Law in town.

– Kim Lewicki

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

Feb. 4

- At 8:15 a.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident on US 64 west.
- At 10:05 a.m., officers responded to a one-vehicle accident on Little Bearpen Road.
- At 4:51 p.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident on Big Bearpen.

Feb. 9

- At 11:30 a.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident on Cherokee Drive.
- At 11:30 a.m., officers were called about a simple physical assault and a man communicating threats at a residence on NC 106.

Feb. 11

- At 10 p.m., Deanna Lynn McCoy, 25, of Franklin, was arrested for DWI when she was stopped for driving left of center on S. 4th. Street. She was issued a \$1,500 unsecured bond. Her trial date is March 14.

Feb. 13

• At 7:30 p.m., officers responded to a one-vehicle accident on Horse Cove Road.

The Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. log from Feb. 13.

Feb. 13

- At 10:36 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at VZ Top.
- At 6:09 p.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on Horse Cove Road.

Feb. 15

- At 12:36 p.m., the dept. provided public assistance to a motorist on Main Street.
- At 1:15 p.m., the dept. provided public assistance to a motorist on US 64 west.
- At 4:12 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at VZ Top.

Feb. 16

- At 7:04 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on the Walhalla Road.
- At 7:04 a.m., the dept. stood-by at Zachary Field for the MAMA helicopter.
- At 10:25 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a business on Main Street.

Feb. 19

- At 9:43 a.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on US 64 west.
- At 4:16 p.m., the dept. responded to the call of a possible vehicle fire on US 64 west.

...MAYOR continued from page 2

the first National Vietnam War Veterans Day. This day is an offshoot of the United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration, which is the 50th Anniversary of Remembrance passed by congress and signed by President Obama in 2012.

Upon returning home, many Vietnam vets experienced hostility and resentment by some. This commemoration is a needed healing action for our country. I am reminded that after a conflict is over and the guns go silent, the price of war continues for years to come. We need to keep that in mind as our veterans of multiple deployments in the Middle East return to civilian life.

To learn more about the commemoration go to www.vietnamwar50th.com.

The next Wreaths Across America event is December 15, 2018.



LOST DOG

Emma. Yellow lab. About 80 pounds. Rainbow collar with info. She is chipped. Last seen on 370 Sassafras Gap Road/Clear Creek area. 28 south. Contact Dori Moschouris 828-421-7403



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Join us at Highlands Wine Shoppe to honor our local firefighters

Wednesday, February 28 from 5-7pm

National Sales manager Gregg Barrett for Hook and Ladder wines will be pouring from their portfolio.

Cost is \$20 per person includes hors d'oeuvres and wine.

Proceeds will go directly to the Highlands Fire & Rescue Department

• CLASSIFIEDS •

HELP WANTED

SKYLINE LODGE - housekeeping staff, front desk clerks, and maintenance workers wanted for 2018 Season. We offer training. Call 828-526-2121 for an application. Background checks done. (st. 2/22)

DO YOU LIKE TO CLEAN & ORGANIZE?

Private club seeking a few energetic individuals with a happy state of mind to join our staff in the housekeeping department. Early hours, competitive pay and benefits, one daily meal provided, uniforms provided. If you are interested, please send a letter to HCC. PO Box 220, Highlands, NC 28741 (3/1)

INTERVIEWING FOR FULL-TIME YEAR AROUND SECURITY POSITION

for a private community in Highlands. Shift is 3 pm to 11 pm M-F. Full benefits. Call 828-526-4161 or 706-982-5526. (st. 2/1)

AT DUTCHMANS: Full-Time Sales Associate (year-round). REQUIREMENTS:

Retail experience a must, need to be able to work weekends and holidays, ability to work in a fast-paced sales-based environment, may include long periods of time standing, positive and friendly attitude, computer skills, interest in interior design. PREFERRED: 2+ years retail or customer service experience, POS experience. (st. 2/1)

NOW HIRING SECURITY OFFICERS

- In the Franklin, Highlands & Cashiers area. *Clean background. Clean driving record.* Must be 21 years of age. Please apply at: NC Works 23 Macon Ave, Franklin, NC 828-369-9534 or call 864-888-0518 for more info. (2/15)

OPERATIONS & ADMINISTRATIVE MANAGER

White Oak Realty Group is growing and looking for a customer-first, task-driven, technology savvy person; with a "get it done attitude", highly organized, who has creative skills in marketing & graphic design, and is looking to grow their career! The position is

flex-time, partly full time, or fully part time... we will work that out with a qualified and committed candidate. The Real Estate business is multi-faceted and we typically wear many hats. You'll serve alongside our team of Brokers as we service our Clients with excellence. Along the way you will learn new things. In fact, if you've thought about embarking upon a Real Estate career and practicing Brokerage, this position is a great way to find out if it's right for you before investing the time & money it takes to become licensed. Genuine, Honest, Personality Plus, Servant Spirit, Problem Solver, Good Listener, Fun, High Integrity, Hard Working. If these attributes describe you then drop us your credentials, resume, and cover letter to Pat@WhiteOakRG.com We promise to call you back and we thank you in advance for your interest.

CYPRUS INTERNATIONAL CUISINE. Hiring All Positions. Please Contact Dan At Cyprus332@gmail.com. Or Visit Us At 332 Main St. Highland NC (st. 1/11)

MOUNTAIN FRESH GROCERY has full and part-time positions available. Competitive wages in all positions. Please come in person to 521 east Main Street in Highlands to apply or call 828-526-2400.

- Food Server, Cashier and Barista (includes tips)
- Dishwasher
- Positions in the ice cream dept.
- Pizza
- Experienced Breakfast Cook

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SEASONED FIREWOOD FOR SALE. CALL 828-369-7754. (st. 2/1)

FIREWOOD FOR SALE. Seasoned hardwood. Call Matt at 828-482-2214. Please leave message. (st. 10/5)

SERVICES
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HEALTHY COOKING CLASSES IN YOUR HOME. Learn simple techniques & recipes to make fresh foods taste delicious, as you save money and improve your health! Call Medea Galligan, MS Nutrition, Health Coach at 828-989-9144 and leave your name & number to schedule your class.

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. 8/24)

HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS HANDYMAN - Can fix anything inside or out. Carpentry, painting, pressure washing, lawn care, hauling. Free Estimates. References. Call Tony. 828-200-5770 or 828-482-0159. (4/5)

MOLD AND MUSTY SMELL IN YOUR HOME? Call for free inspection. 828-743-0900.

REAL ESTATE/BIZ FOR SALE
HOMES FOR SALE: 3Bd 2&1/2Ba home includes 1Bd 1Ba cottage 2 miles from downtown Highlands. By owner 803-315-0715. (st. 2/22)

3.20 ACRES UNRESTRICTED
Power underground, borders National forest, 190 degree view. 10 min to Main Street. 3 septic fields, 1 well 7 g p.m. 2 house foundations established and approved by county inspectors. 2Bed/2Bath Clayton home livable while building. Spring sunsets and more land available. For beautiful sunsets contact gracefamilia@yahoo.com. (st. 9/21)

1.21 ACRES FOR SALE BY OWNER - OTTO, NC - \$28,000. Lot 12 Quail Haven Road. Otto, NC. Price not firm...open for negotiation. Please email if interested to ddmars15@aol.com or call/text to 239-980-0531. If no answer please leave a message. (st. 7/20)

RENTALS
VACATION RENTAL: In-town Highlands 3bd/3ba, walk-to-town condo. Book now! Available fall 2017 & 2018. \$2500 week includes housekeeping. <https://www.vrbo.com/4473684> for more info at Chambers Agency 828-526-3717.



VACATION RENTAL: 3Bd 2&1/2 Ba home \$2400 monthly 1Bd 1Ba cottage \$1200 monthly All utilities included, fully furnished. 803-315-0715 2 miles from downtown Highlands. (st. 2/22)

TWO BED/1.5 BA. close to town off NC 106. Long-Term Rental. \$1,200/month. Call Barbara at 828-526-5839. (st. 1/25)

TWO SMALL OFFICE SPACES near town, or combine for 800 square feet. 828-526-5558. (st. 1/11)

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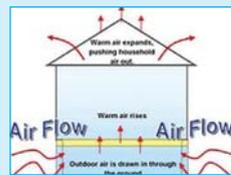
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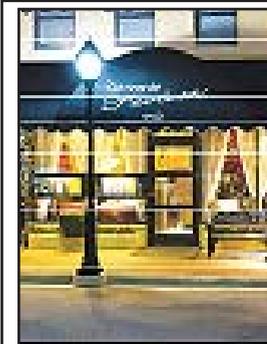


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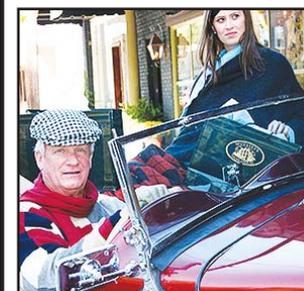
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