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 infrastructure.

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.

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 reported it.

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, Sheriff’s Office and school system took swift action against two verbal threats.

The arrows point the way

Wondering what the white arrows along NC 106 and on other roads in town mean? According to Andy Russell, PE, 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.

The SUMMER HOUSE

The SUMMER HOUSE
‘Home Furnishing Center’
Open
Monday – Saturday
9a-5p
2089 Highway 106
828-526-5577

Highlands
Sotheby’s
INTERNATIONAL REALTY
114 N. 4th Street • Highlands
NC • 828-526-4104

EXPECT THE EXTRAORDINARY.
Discover how extraordinary a real estate experience can be:
contact us today.
www.Highlandssir.com

McCULLEY’S BLOW-OUT SALE!
In Highlands
242 S. 4th St. • 526-4407
and
In Cashiers
24B Canoe Point • 743-5515
Remembering ‘Wreaths Across America’

Last Saturday morning I woke up at 8:50. I realized it 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 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 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 Remembering ‘Wreaths Across America’ Daytime

Dear Editor,

Goodbye Highlands I will miss you. I’ll miss the serenity and beauty of a 15” snowfall, 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 of life.

For Real-time Weather and the Extended Forecast, go to • www.highlandsinfo.com and click on Weather.
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 steevedore 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-
• Highlands Area Dining •

Cozy Coffee Cafe
Coffee • Espresso Drinks
Smoothies • Hot Soup
Paninis • Baked Goods
On Main Street • Highlands
7 days a week • 7a to 6p • 526-0020

Cyprus
International Cuisine
DINNER:
Mon.-Thurs. 5-9p • Fri.-Sun. 5-10p
For reservations call: 526-4429
Main Street • Highlands

Asia House
Japanese • Asian • Thai • Hibachi Cuisine
Open Year Round • 6 days
Closed Wednesdays
Mon. thru Thurs. 11a to 11p
Fri., Sat. 11a to 10p
Sun. noon to 10p
828-787-1680 or 828-787-1900
We Cater!
151 Helen’s Barn Avenue

Sports Page
Sandwich Shoppe
Now Serving Breakfast & Lunch All Year Long!
Monday: Saturday
Breakfast: 7:30:10:30am
Lunch: Until 2:30pm
Full cooked-to-order breakfast &
Daily Lunch Specials.
314 main Street, Highlands • (828) 526-3555

The LOG CABIN
CASUAL DINING
Fresh Seafood, Steaks & Comfortable Italian
Dinner Nightly at 5:00 PM
Just off Main Street in a historic
1924 Joe Webb log cabin
828 526-5777
www.LogCabinHighlands.com
130 LOG CABIN LANE
JOIN US FOR OUR WINTER
3 FOR 30 MENU
THREE COURSES, 30 DOLLARS
MONDAY - THURSDAY

BAKE MY DAY
BAKERY & CAFE
Breakfast & Lunch
Tuesday-Saturday
7a to 3p
Sunday • 8a to 2p
Serving Lunch Mon-Sun • 11a to 4p
Closed Wednesdays
Serving Dinner from 5:30p
Mon., Tues., Thurs., Fri., & Sat.
Closed Wed. & Sun.

Bake My Day
NEW HOURS
NEW HOURS

Homemade in House
Open Everyday
11a.m until
423 N. 4th Street • 828-526-5188

Wild Thyme Gourmet
Restaurant
Serving Lunch and Dinner Year-Round.
Gourmet Foods, Full Service Bar
Town Square at 343-D Main St. • Highlands
828-526-4035

Friday: Saturday
Breakfast: 7:30:10:30am
Lunch: Until 2:30pm
Full cooked-to-order breakfast &
Daily Lunch Specials.
314 main Street, Highlands • (828) 526-3555

NEW HOURS
NEW HOURS

BUCK’S COFFEE CAFE

SPORTS PAGE

Sandwich Shoppe

Now Serving Breakfast & Lunch All Year Long!
Monday: Saturday
Breakfast: 7:30:10:30am
Lunch: Until 2:30pm
Full cooked-to-order breakfast &
Daily Lunch Specials.
314 main Street, Highlands • (828) 526-3555

Cyprus
International Cuisine
DINNER:
Mon.-Thurs. 5-9p • Fri.-Sun. 5-10p
For reservations call: 526-4429
Main Street • Highlands

Asia House
Japanese • Asian • Thai • Hibachi Cuisine
Open Year Round • 6 days
Closed Wednesdays
Mon. thru Thurs. 11a to 11p
Fri., Sat. 11a to 10p
Sun. noon to 10p
828-787-1680 or 828-787-1900
We Cater!
151 Helen’s Barn Avenue

The LOG CABIN
CASUAL DINING
Fresh Seafood, Steaks & Comfortable Italian
Dinner Nightly at 5:00 PM
Just off Main Street in a historic
1924 Joe Webb log cabin
828 526-5777
www.LogCabinHighlands.com
130 LOG CABIN LANE
JOIN US FOR OUR WINTER
3 FOR 30 MENU
THREE COURSES, 30 DOLLARS
MONDAY - THURSDAY

BAKE MY DAY
BAKERY & CAFE
Breakfast & Lunch
Tuesday-Saturday
7a to 3p
Sunday • 8a to 2p
Serving Lunch Mon-Sun • 11a to 4p
Closed Wednesdays
Serving Dinner from 5:30p
Mon., Tues., Thurs., Fri., & Sat.
Closed Wed. & Sun.

Bake My Day
NEW HOURS
NEW HOURS

Homemade in House
Open Everyday
11a.m until
423 N. 4th Street • 828-526-5188

Wild Thyme Gourmet
Restaurant
Serving Lunch and Dinner Year-Round.
Gourmet Foods, Full Service Bar
Town Square at 343-D Main St. • Highlands
828-526-4035
...LETTERS continued from page 3

accepting 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

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

Wednesday Lenten Lunch & Worship at HUMC

Wednesdays through March 21

Join HUMC for a weekly soup/sandwich lunch and brief worship message in the Faith and Fellowship Center – each Wednesday during Lent at noon. Everyone invited. Donations accepted.

Phantom Thread

Daniel Day-Lewis, Vicky Kreps

Fri 2/23 - Tues 2/27
at 2, 5, & 8pm
*No 8pm show on Sun

Drama/Romance
Rated R 130 min.
Tickets are $10

For more information or to purchase tickets see our website
HighlandsPlayhouse.ORG
362 Oak Street
828.526.2695

Tickets for our 2018 Season go on sale March 1st!
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.

---

**Corey James Gallery**

**Estate Furniture SALE at Winter Discount!**

Open Everyday!

**Welcome !**

**Shear Elevations**

Color, Cuts, Highlights, Perms, Makeup, Pedicures, Acrylics & Gel Enhancements, Up Do's and Facial Waxes

**Creative Concepts Salon Inc.**

Upstairs and Across the Walkway at "Falls on Main" Highlands (828) 526-3839

**Opening at 9A • Tuesday - Saturday**

**Owner/ Stylist: Lacy Jane Valrano**

**Stylists: Heather D. Escandon, Maggie Barden, Bri Field**

**Nail Tech: Jenna Schmitt**

**Hair • Nails • Waxing • Tanning • Eyelash Extensions • Walk-ins Welcome!**

**Whole Life Market**

Natural Products Store

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

**526-5999**

Located at 680 N. 4th St., Highlands

Open Mon-Sat 10a to 5p

Organic Fresh Juices & Smoothies and Salads “On the Go!”

---

**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.
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
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 at their principals from 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 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 lowest price and most favorable terms.

OBEEDIENCE – 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”.

Wayne, Ruth Ann, Jennifer, grandkids and her friend Caprita
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
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 times. No two people however much in love think or act in all times. 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, sacramd and blessedly, in December.
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 Commissioner 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 Steihler 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 be taken 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
Viva Wellness
Stimulating Natural Healing
Live Pain Free with Healthy CBD Hemp Oil
Call 828-526-1566 for details
Dr. Kit Barker, PhD, Cellular Biology
5 Cottage Row • US 64 east

Larry Houston
Rock Work
Walls • Fireplaces • Patios • Piers
All Rock Work • Stucco
(828) 526-4138 or (828) 200-3551

Loma Linda Farm
Dog Boarding • Day Care
Pastoral Park in Home and Leash Free Lodging in the lap of luxury
(828) 421-7922
Highlands Nc
lomalindafarm@gmail.com
www.lomalindafarm.com
NC License #10978

Allan Dearth & Sons
Generator
Sales & Service, Inc.
828-526-9325
Cell: 828-200-1139
email: allandearth@msn.com

Whiteside Cove Cottages
5 new log cabins nestled in the hemlocks on 25 acres at the base of Whiteside Mountain.
800-805-3558 • 828-526-2222

MORALES PAINTING
RICARDO MORALES
MORALESPAININGSERVICES@GMAIL.COM
706.982.9768
828-226.5347
INTERIOR/EXTERIOR PAINTING • LAWN MAINTENANCE
HOUSE MAINTENANCE • QUALITY WORK
FULLY INSURED

CHESTNUT STORAGE
Storage Units Available
Secure 24 Hour Access
Easy In - Easy Out
Great Rates - Great Terms
Call today to find out why we’re “Highland’s Premier Facility”
828-482-1045

American Upholstery
WE HAVE MOVED TO
105 Ashley Drive • Walhalla, SC 29691
(Same Owners: Morris & Rachel Bible)
Same Phone Numbers:
(864) 638-9661 cell: (864) 710-9106
• Residential or Commercial
• Over 40 Years Experience
• Fast and Dependable
• FREE Estimates
• FREE Pick-up and Delivery

Sample Books Available

Allan Dearth & Sons Generator Sales & Service, Inc.
828-526-9325
Cell: 828-200-1139
dailandearth@msn.com

Whiteside Cove Cottages
5 new log cabins nestled in the hemlocks on 25 acres at the base of Whiteside Mountain.
800-805-3558 • 828-526-2222

MORALES PAINTING
RICARDO MORALES
MORALESPAININGSERVICES@GMAIL.COM
706.982.9768
828-226.5347
INTERIOR/EXTERIOR PAINTING • LAWN MAINTENANCE
HOUSE MAINTENANCE • QUALITY WORK
FULLY INSURED

CHESTNUT STORAGE
Storage Units Available
Secure 24 Hour Access
Easy In - Easy Out
Great Rates - Great Terms
Call today to find out why we’re “Highland’s Premier Facility”
828-482-1045

American Upholstery
WE HAVE MOVED TO
105 Ashley Drive • Walhalla, SC 29691
(Same Owners: Morris & Rachel Bible)
Same Phone Numbers:
(864) 638-9661 cell: (864) 710-9106
• Residential or Commercial
• Over 40 Years Experience
• Fast and Dependable
• FREE Estimates
• FREE Pick-up and Delivery

Sample Books Available

Allan Dearth & Sons Generator Sales & Service, Inc.
828-526-9325
Cell: 828-200-1139
dailandearth@msn.com

Whiteside Cove Cottages
5 new log cabins nestled in the hemlocks on 25 acres at the base of Whiteside Mountain.
800-805-3558 • 828-526-2222

MORALES PAINTING
RICARDO MORALES
MORALESPAININGSERVICES@GMAIL.COM
706.982.9768
828-226.5347
INTERIOR/EXTERIOR PAINTING • LAWN MAINTENANCE
HOUSE MAINTENANCE • QUALITY WORK
FULLY INSURED

CHESTNUT STORAGE
Storage Units Available
Secure 24 Hour Access
Easy In - Easy Out
Great Rates - Great Terms
Call today to find out why we’re “Highland’s Premier Facility”
828-482-1045

American Upholstery
WE HAVE MOVED TO
105 Ashley Drive • Walhalla, SC 29691
(Same Owners: Morris & Rachel Bible)
Same Phone Numbers:
(864) 638-9661 cell: (864) 710-9106
• Residential or Commercial
• Over 40 Years Experience
• Fast and Dependable
• FREE Estimates
• FREE Pick-up and Delivery

Sample Books Available

Allan Dearth & Sons Generator Sales & Service, Inc.
828-526-9325
Cell: 828-200-1139
dailandearth@msn.com

Whiteside Cove Cottages
5 new log cabins nestled in the hemlocks on 25 acres at the base of Whiteside Mountain.
800-805-3558 • 828-526-2222

MORALES PAINTING
RICARDO MORALES
MORALESPAININGSERVICES@GMAIL.COM
706.982.9768
828-226.5347
INTERIOR/EXTERIOR PAINTING • LAWN MAINTENANCE
HOUSE MAINTENANCE • QUALITY WORK
FULLY INSURED

CHESTNUT STORAGE
Storage Units Available
Secure 24 Hour Access
Easy In - Easy Out
Great Rates - Great Terms
Call today to find out why we’re “Highland’s Premier Facility”
828-482-1045

American Upholstery
WE HAVE MOVED TO
105 Ashley Drive • Walhalla, SC 29691
(Same Owners: Morris & Rachel Bible)
Same Phone Numbers:
(864) 638-9661 cell: (864) 710-9106
• Residential or Commercial
• Over 40 Years Experience
• Fast and Dependable
• FREE Estimates
• FREE Pick-up and Delivery

Sample Books Available

Allan Dearth & Sons Generator Sales & Service, Inc.
828-526-9325
Cell: 828-200-1139
dailandearth@msn.com

Whiteside Cove Cottages
5 new log cabins nestled in the hemlocks on 25 acres at the base of Whiteside Mountain.
800-805-3558 • 828-526-2222
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 at $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.

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
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 mine 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)

NOW HIRING SECURITY OFFICERS -- In the Franklin, Highlands & Cashiers area. Must be 21 years of age. Please apply at: NC Works 23 Macon Ave., Franklin, NC 828-369-9534 or call 864-888-0118 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 full-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 Cypress332@gmail.com. Or Visit Us At 332 Main St. Highland NC (st. 1/1)

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

ITEMS FOR SALE

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


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)


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

REAL ESTATE/BIZ FOR SALE

HOMES FOR SALE: 3 Bd & 1 1/2 Ba home includes 1 Bd 1 Ba 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. 2 Bed/2 Bath Clayton home livable while building. Spring rights 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 ddmmarsh15@aol.com or call/text to 239-980-0531. If no answer please leave a message. (st. 7/20)

RENTALS


VACATION RENTAL: 3 Bd & 1 1/2 Ba home $2400 monthly 1 Bd 1 Ba 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)

2 BED PLUS OFFICE, 2 bath. Next to hospital. Year-round. $1100/month includes utilities. Call 828-200-1064 (or leave message). (st. 1/11)

WANTED

LONG TERM RENTAL, CLOSE TO TOWN. Native Highlander. Very honest and dependable couple. No pets. Open to all options. Please call or text Sandra @ 828-482-2261 (or leave a message). (st. 2/8)