

Highlands Newspaper

FREE Every Thursday

Volume 11, Number 50

Real-Time News, Weather & WebCams: HighlandsInfo.com

Thurs., Dec. 11, 2014

NOTE:

• Employee and Employer Main Street Parking Regulations are still in effect until the end of the year.

Through Dec. 11

• Movie at The Playhouse: Hunger Games: Mockingjay Part 1. Showtimes, 2p, 5p and 8p.

Dec. 12-14 & 18

• At the Highlands Playhouse, the movie "My Old Lady" at 2, 5 and 8p. No movies on Tuesday and Wednesday.

Sat., Dec 13

• Holiday Artisan Market in Cafe 460 10a to 4p.

• Wagner's Die Meistersinger Von Nurnberg Live in HD at PAC. Pre-Opera discussion lead by Beverly Pittman will begin at 11:30 am and the MET Opera begins at 12 pm. Tickets are available online: highlandspac.org or by calling: 828.526.9047. Beverage and snacks will be available for purchase. 507 Chestnut Street, Highlands.

Sun., Dec 14

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take an easy-to-moderate 1.5 mile hike, elevation change 400 ft., on the Rufus Morgan Trail, (named for the founder of the Club), through the woods to a beautiful waterfall with one short steep section. Wear sturdy shoes and bring water. Meet at Westgate Plaza in Franklin at 2 pm, drive 24 miles round trip. Call leader Joyce Jacques, 410-852-7510, for reservations.

Mon.-Wed., Dec. 15-17

• At The Highlands Playhouse, "Gone with the Wind" 75th anniversary kicks off with a booksigning at 4p with Peter Bonner and the movie at 6p. Tickets are \$15 and available at the Playhouse or by calling 828-526-2695.

Findings on tax revaluation are in

By Brittany Raby

After more than two years of research, Macon County Tax Assessor Richard Lightner presented his findings for the 2015 property tax revaluation to the board of commissioners at their

Tuesday night.

After going through the extensive revaluation process, Lightner reported that on average, Macon County residents can expect a 14.8 percent decline in property values. As it stands right

now, at .27 millage rate per \$100, Macon County has the lowest property tax rate in the state. With the revaluation factored in, Lightner reported that would have to increase to .33 for the county

• See TAX page 8

Newly elected officials take office; look forward

By Brittany Raby

During a special called meeting of the Macon County Board of Commissioners Monday Dec. 1, a unanimous vote appointed James Tate, the board's Highlands representative as vice-chairman. In the past, the board has elected both a democrat and a republican to the positions of chair and vice-chair to remain balanced, but Monday night, Commissioner Ronnie Beale, the lone democrat on the board, made a motion to appoint Tate as vice-chair.

Beale noted that Tate has proven time and time again his dedication and exemplary leadership and is deserving of the position of vice-chair. Beale's motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

Commissioner Kevin Corbin, who has served as chairman for the last several years, was once

• See ELECTED page 2

Homecoming King & Queen



Elected King and Queen at the 2014 Homecoming Dance held at OEL's The Springhouse the evening of Saturday, Dec. 6 were seniors Tanner Stephens and April Moss. See photos on page 14.

Photos Emily Crowe

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Board of Elections theft case still pending

By Brittany Raby

Last January, a state investigation was launched into the Macon County Board of Elections office after County Manager Derek Roland discovered that more than \$50,000 had been embezzled from the department.

While the start of the investigation was handled by Sheriff Robbie Holland, as soon as it was discovered that the department's director, Kim Bishop, was involved in the alleged embezzlement, the investigation was handed over to the State Bureau of Investigation (SBI).

Nearly one year after news first broke of the scandal, no arrests have been made, and no concrete evidence has been released to the public. Feeling pressure from citizens, who want answers as to the status of the investigation, Commission Chair

• See PENDING page 4

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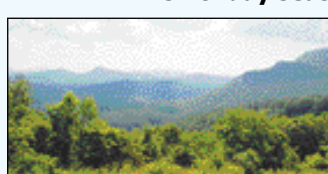
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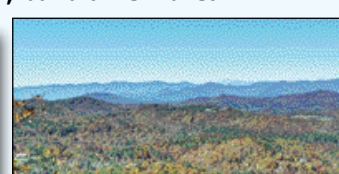
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• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• MAYOR ON DUTY •

Fun parade and upcoming TB issues



Highlands Mayor
Patrick Taylor

The rain stopped just in time for the Christmas Parade this past Saturday. Like always the parade was “a wonderful life” moment and a holiday ritual for Highlanders and our guests. I want to thank the Chamber of Commerce, especially Bob Kiltyka and Jennifer Cunningham, for organizing the parade. Chamber volunteers Mary Ann Vines, Irina Taylor, Elaine Carlton, Vickie Aspinwall, and Kate Mahoney did a great job in staging parade participants.

This event could not happen without the enthusiastic participation of the many volunteers and non-profit organizations in the community. I don't always get to tell everyone personally, but I do value everyone's commitment to this exceptional community. Yes, I used the term “exceptional” to describe Highlands, and its people. I looked up the definition to make sure I was using the correct word. The definition is: unusual, not typical, unusually good, outstanding. I concluded the word exceptional does capture the spirit of Highlands.

Some folks have asked me if consideration was given to postponing the parade because of inclement weather. I did discuss this option with Bob and Jennifer

the morning before the parade when it was raining, and the forecast was the same for Saturday. The tradition has been that the parade must go on. Folks have been preparing in some cases for days, visitors are in Highlands for parade day, and participants are ready to go. Bob has described the parade as a huge battleship that is not easily moved. Besides, a Highlands December holds no certainty that delaying the parade day and time will assure any better weather conditions. Conditions could improve, remain the same, or even become much worse.

The agenda for tonight's December Town Board meeting will be short. The pool bid and related financial issues will be reviewed. I anticipate approval.

An accountant from Martin Starnes & Associates will present the completed town audit. By state law Highlands has to have an independent audit of all town financial matters. The audit is forwarded to the North Carolina Local Government Commission where it is reviewed by their staff. The Local Government Commission has approved this year's audit and noted no problems or deficiencies. All town financial activity, such as a major loan or purchase, is

• See MAYOR page 22

• LETTERS •

Wake up Call

Dear Editor,

Last week “Thanks and Giving” letter to the Editor hit home with me.

Sure, I donate to several local charities whose causes are special to me. But what do I give to support other equally important and deserving local charities?

It's important that I make the effort to support a multitude of local charities through my donation to the H.A.N.D.S Christmas Dinner 501c3 fundraiser.

The letter last week was a wake-up call for me. If there are others in the community like me, I hope this will serve as a wake-up call for them as well.

It's time we all participate.

Jack Tarver
Highlands and Atlanta, GA

• See LETTERS page 6

...ELECTED continued from page 1



Clerk of
Superior
Court Vic
Perry swears
Commissioner
Ronnie
Beale into
office at the
Dec. 1 BOC
meeting.

Photo by
Brittany
Raby

again appointed to the position.

“Thank you for your vote of confidence in me and leading this board,” Commissioner Corbin said of his appointment.

The appointment of chair and vice-chair came shortly after Commissioner Ronnie Beale, Commissioner James Tate and newcomer Gary Shields, who were all elected to the board in November, took their Oath of Office. While Beale and Tate were re-elected and will retain their seats, Shields replaces Ron Haven on the board.

As December 1 served as the official swearing-in date for offices across the state, the Macon County Board of Education also swore in new members Monday morning.

After serving on the board for 12 years, Tommy Cabe was re-elected to the board of education and took his Oath of Office to serve on the board for another term.

As Shields left the board of education to run for commissioner, his seat was left open. Former Macon County teacher

and coach Fred Goldsmith successfully secured the seat in November and was official sworn in on Monday.

When the new board took their seats, they unanimously voted to reappoint board member Jim Breedlove as Chairman and Cabe as vice-chair. Breedlove and board member Melissa Evans were unable to attend the meeting in person, but participated in the vote via telephone.

After the new board was official, Breedlove thanked Shields for his service to the children of Macon County. Shields has worked in public education for decades and as commissioner, has now vowed to work for public education on the county level.

In addition to the board of education and commissioners, other officials were sworn into office on Monday. Sheriff Holland, who joins only two out of the 26 men who have been elected Sheriff as beginning their fourth term, took his Oath

• See ELECTED page 3

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...ELECTED continued from page 2



Former BOE member Gary Shields was presented a plaque of appreciation from Macon County Schools Superintendent Dr. Chris Baldwin at a special called BOE meeting last week. Later that day, Shields took the oath of office and began his term as a MC Commission board member.

Photos by Brittany Raby

of Office first thing Monday morning, which were elected in November, were also sworn in. Vic Perry, Clerk of Superior Court, and Todd Raby, Register of Deeds, all of



BOE member Tommy Cabe takes the oath of office for his fourth term on the Macon County BOE which was delivered by Superior Clerk of Court Vic Perry.



New BOE member Fred Goldsmith replaces Gary Shields on the BOE board.



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• BIZ/ORG NEWS •

Mountaintop Rotary Club members donated Christmas ornaments to decorate one of the trees within the Eckerd Living Center (ELC) to bring a little holiday cheer to its residents during this festive season.

Pictured from left:

Bill Coffeen, Nick Bazan, Bill Zoellner, President of Mountaintop Rotary, Skip Taylor, Nin Bond, Andy Potter, Dr. John Baumrucker, and Pamela Harris. The Mountaintop Rotary Club meets every Wednesday morning at 7:30 am at the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital lower level Dining Room.



...PENDING continued from page 1

Kevin Corbin updated the public with what little information the county has as of late.

"We just want to be clear, that the county commissioners have no role or authority in the investigation into the Board of Elections," said Corbin. "After county officials were made aware of the situation initially, the investigation was handed over to the SBI, and as far as I know, that is where it still stands."

Roland agreed that the investigation is still ongoing and according to the last update that he received from authorities, additional follow up interviews are in the process of being scheduled and should be conducted soon on the state level.

Under the advisement of County Attorney Chester Jones, Corbin noted that to date, county officials and employees have complied with all state requests involving interviews or providing the state with documents and fi-

nance records, suggesting that any cause in delay is not that of the county's.

The state auditor's office conducted a full audit review of the Macon County Board of Elections office, and as of December 1st, Corbin noted that the county had yet to be notified of those findings, although the audit is complete.

Corbin, with the consensus of the entire board, instructed Jones to contact the District Attorney's office as well as the SBI in search of an official statement and update, to be presented at the December meeting of the county commissioners.

"All we can do is direct our county attorney to work with the newly appointed District Attorney to find out where the investigation stands at this point, but other than that, we have no authority," said Corbin.

The Macon County Board of Elections office is managed locally, with a local board, but acts as an arm of the State Board of Elections Office. The state appoints a director and the state office alone has authority over action regarding the position. Corbin noted that the county's basic role in the state office is to provide space within the county for local operations.

The investigation was launched last January when it was discovered that 37 checks either approved or written by former director Kim Bishop totaling \$50,000, have been allegedly misappropriated over a seven-month period beginning in June 2013.

Bishop was placed on paid administrative leave pending the outcome of the investigation and before resigning from her position in April, was paid \$17,699.94 in salary and benefits while the investigation was ongoing. The local board of elections office sent a petition to the state to end Bishop's employment, which resulted in Bishop resigning, thus ending her salary, which saved taxpayers money.

After Bishop formally resigned, Debbie George was appointed as Interim Director, before the state formally approved her as Director in June.

Newly elected DA Ashley Welch said SBI investigations can take years and as soon as new information is made available, although it is not required, she will communicate the information to the county attorney.

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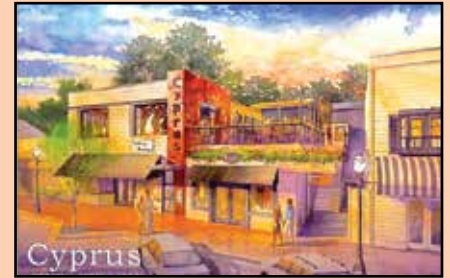
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BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NEWS

'Shop with a Cop' Rotary Bingo

The Highlands Police Department, Macon County Sheriff's Department and Highlands Rotary Club celebrated Shop With a Cop Rotary Bingo on Dec. 4th in the Highlands Community Building.

More than 90 people, including HPD officers and Macon Co. deputies, attended and enjoyed a surprise visitor from the North Pole – Santa. Donations from sponsors, Highlands Rotarians and individuals put this year's SWAC Rotary Bingo 30% ahead of last year's record Bingo fundraiser. Even Bingo winners donated their winnings to SWAC as did HPD Officer Ronnie Castle who won the Super Money Bingo.

Sheriff Robbie Holland, who is in charge of SWAC, said that the tremendous response to this year's SWAC Rotary Bingo speaks so well of the Highlands community, its Rotarians and area businesses.

Children in Macon County who will have little or no Christmas are selected by teachers and law enforcement officers and taken to Walmart on a secret date and assisted by an officer and spend \$100 on presents for themselves



Pictured are members of the MC Sheriff's Dept., the Highlands Police Dept. Santa and members of Highlands Rotary.

and another person, usually a family member. After the Walmart adventure, children enjoy a fast food meal with their officer then go to visit Santa and wrap presents. Lastly, a thoroughly worn out officer takes the children home.

SWAC Rotary Bingo has a saying: "That small sound you hear on Christmas Day may be a child saying Thank You."

Chamber launches Mobile App

The Highlands NC Chamber of Commerce App is now available for downloading on the Apple App Store and Google Play for Android

The app offers visitors mobile access to lodging, dining, cultural arts, outdoor activities and shopping information, as well as directions, calling, photo sharing and other native device features. The goal of the app is to provide visitors anywhere/anytime access to resources about the Highlands area and merchants, thus creating a better experience during their visit to the Highlands area.

The creation of a mobile app about the Highlands Area is the brain-child of the Highlands Chamber of Commerce and Visitors Center. The phone based app will enable a portable version of the printed Visitors Guide, while additionally reducing paper/printing usage to protect our mountain environment and leveraging mobile native technology. Bob Kieltyka, Executive Director of the Highlands Chamber of Commerce, says "the mobile app is the first step in a series, applying new technology to vastly expand and improve visitor engagement with the Highlands community by creating the best visitor experience from the first internet search until returning home, it is truly the Highlands Chamber of Commerce & Visitor Center at your service!"

Geoff Allen, founding Principal at altaCloud solutions, the app's developer said altaCloud aims to assist businesses and organizations in deeply engaging visitors across all channels, from website to store front and beyond, using cloud-based technologies combined with industry best practices."

Further development will include access to the 2015 Visitors Guide.

...LETTERS from page 2

Dear Editor,

I certainly hope that Santa brings Bob Wilson a new "Connect The Dots" book – he could use the practice. He must not have had much direction in how to accomplish "dot connecting" when he was a child.

His frequent Tell Tale columns are so clearly out of touch with what is verifiable fact, but then his goal is plainly to give additional ink to some of the most flawed far-right messaging.

To be clear, I do not find fault with paper printing this tripe as it is, after all, submitted as a column and doesn't necessarily represent the stance of the newspaper. This is his forum and his opinion. However, Wilson repeatedly shows his flawed and circuitous thinking with variations on quotes from what we all recognize as those notoriously twisted "Urban Legends?" Or, even worse, he offers his own invented "facts." In short, these are NOT facts.

A friend calls this kind of thinking as: "off-the-shelf pundits, tend to construct these far fetched analogies to fit presuppositions without rigorous analysis." I agree. I don't think any "rigor" is involved in any of Mr. Wilson's rants.

Let's all ask Santa to do him a favor and gift him with a new children's "Connect the Dots" book in hopes of improving his thought processes and promote reasonable, rational and truly factual future remarks.

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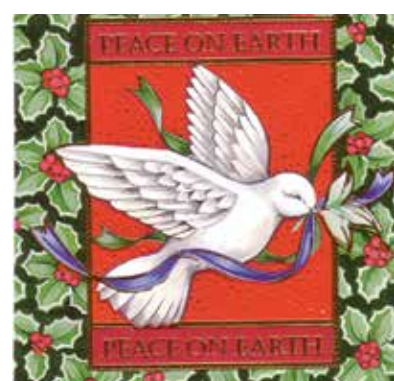


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Photos by
Kim
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Highlands Christmas Parade Dec. 6, 2014



...TAX continued from page 1

to bring in \$26 million in revenue for the current level of county services.

Property tax rates need to produce about \$25 million annually for the county to

remain revenue neutral. Lightner explained to commissioners that one measure needed to be taken to ensure tax rates stay as low as possible is to focus on the collection of delinquent taxes. He explained that if the county shows a collection rate of 97 percent, 3 percent in delinquent taxes

need to be factored in which will result in a forced increase in the tax rate to make up the difference.

The increase to .33 is based on a 100 percent tax collection rate and a revenue neutral budget to keep everything the exact same as it stands right now. Commission

Chair Kevin Corbin noted that with the increase, Macon County will have the 5th lowest taxes in the state.

Based on North Carolina law, a property revaluation must take place at least every eight years, but can occur more often if a county sees fit. In the past, Macon County has had revaluations on a four-year cycle. With Macon County's last revaluation completed in 2007, the county has been operating under the assumption that property values reflect those of 2006, before the market began to decrease drastically.

Since Lightner took the position of tax assessor in 1991, his office has handled the property reassessment in 1991, 1999, 2003, 2007 and now 2015. Since Lightner has been employed with the county, he has handled the county's property revaluation in house, which has saved county taxpayers \$4,330,000 since 1999. This year alone, the process of conducting the revaluation in house saved tax payers \$1,083,150.

When commissioners went against the trend of most Western North

• See TAX page 18



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What Is Your Property's Brand Position?

I just returned from a one-day, intense, marketing coaching day with my mastermind group and business coaches in Connecticut. It is always energizing and fun to be surrounded by entrepreneurs who are creating incredible results in their businesses as they employ myriad marketing strategies.



My fellow masterminders are consistently reaching their ideal clients, as well as are creating big ripple effects and lasting change in the world because they know how to communicate their unique brilliance to precisely the audience who needs and wants to hear their message.

Simply, when you are very clear on your strengths and what you have to offer, as well as precisely whom you want to attract, your ability to connect with your core audience increases exponentially.

There is an additional aspect to strong marketing that often escapes even the most seasoned entrepreneurs: consistent brand positioning.

We are all familiar with strong brands, as they are etched into our psyche: Apple, Nike, Google, Amazon, etc. It is not only wide-reaching advertising campaigns and well-loved products and services that account for a company's raving fans. It is also that these companies truly know who they are, what they stand for, and what they do better than anyone else. They know that genius lies at the edges, not the middle. They don't chase everyone – they chase their chosen few (and by doing so, attract multitudes). And, importantly, they align their messaging with every aspect of their products, services, and customer experience.

So what does all of this have to do with real estate?

As a Seller, your property's brand position is as important to your success in attracting the right Buyer as Nike's tagline is to their company. How you define your property's branding and messaging – consistently – can mean the difference between obtaining traction and heading to closing or languishing on the market.

Let's say you are the owner of a remote, cozy cottage in the woods. Your home is the perfect retreat for someone seeking solitude, quiet, and the healing power of nature. Near hiking trails that afford wonderful vistas and peaceful streamside meditation nooks, the cottage is an outdoor enthusiast's sanctuary.

Now, let's go a bit deeper.

We've established the unique features of the property in broad strokes. What about the interior? Does the interior match the overall branding of the classic cottage in the woods? The interior should similarly be warm, inviting, calming, and conducive to relaxing. In other words, every aspect of the property should be

in alignment. (This sounds elementary, but you would be surprised how many properties I see where there is dissonance among home style and interior feel, furnishings, fixtures, and design choices.)

Next, think about your ideal Buyer client. Picture them enjoying your property. How do they spend their time when they come to the mountains? Given your property's distance from town, most likely your ideal Buyer will want to go to town only every now and then – perhaps for a shopping trip or to enjoy a wonderful meal. Otherwise, your Buyer will be found enjoying the cottage's decks, porches, and comfortable chairs by the fireplace, or enjoying walks through the woods on the property or on trails nearby.

Now, we have a clear image of the Buyer we are a fit for, and therefore, want to reach out to. Marketing imagery, word choice, ad placement, as well as tone and tenor of all advertising should be in alignment with the image of that specific Buyer in mind. Again, we are speaking to a very defined group, not the masses. We do not want to be all things to all people, with generic marketing messages. We want to speak clearly and be heard by precisely the Buyers we seek.

As a Seller seeking traction in the marketplace, review your property's current brand positioning. Begin with the property's attributes, features, as well as exterior and interior design and feel. Are there any elements that are inconsistent or do not fit with the overall experience you want to portray?

Next, think back to what specifically attracted you to property when you made your purchase (often times, our ideal Buyer is a person who is very much like ourselves). What would you consider your property's brand to be? Is that brand in alignment with the values and interests of your ideal Buyer? If you wrote a tagline for your property, what would that be?

Finally, partner with your real estate professional and communicate your ideas

• See INVESTING page 22

CHURCH OF THE INCARNATION
420 Main Street corner of Main and 5th



Sunday, December 21 Advent 4

10:30am Lessons and Carols with Rite II in the Nave

Wednesday, December 24 Christmas Eve

5:30pm Family Liturgy Nave

10:30pm Christmas music and carols

11:00pm Holy Eucharist in Chapel

Thursday, December 25 Christmas Day

10:00am Holy Eucharist Rite II in the Chapel



**323 Franklin Road
Highlands, NC 28741
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www.thebascom.org**

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The Bascom offers Open Studio Packages to Bascom Members interested in being part of a studio community. As an Open Studio Artist you will have access to the facilities, tools and equipment in the Dave Drake Studio Barn and the Adult Education Studio at any time during Open Studio hours. Weekly classes are available to studio members as well as discount on workshops.



**For more information, contact Frank Vickery, Director of Ceramics, or
Billy Love, Adult Education Manager,
828-526-4949 or www.thebascom.org.**

To register, contact Anna Alig at 828-787-2865 or aalig@thebascom.org.

• HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •



Highlands Annual Christmas Dinner

Hudson House at
Highlands Country Club

11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Christmas Day, December 25

Charity fundraiser to
benefit local nonprofits.

Mouthwatering, traditional
Christmas buffet featuring
turkey, ham, tenderloin,
all the fixin's and magnificent
deserts prepared by
Highlands finest volunteer staff.

Adults \$40
Children under 12 \$15
Kids 5 and under eat free.

Seating by reservation only.
To reserve, call 828-526-9419

Ongoing

• The Cub and Boy Scouts of America have three drop offs for worn and tattered flags. They properly retire them. Drop offs at Highlands Doors and Windows 2242 Dillard Road, the Highlands Fire Station or Highlands United Methodist Church office. Contact Phil Potts for more information 828 526-3719

Through Dec. 16

• Fruit sale by the HS Junior Class. Oranges, Small juice oranges, Grapefruit, Tangelos, and Tangerines. And it is \$20 per box. The pick up for the fruit will be Tuesday, December 16 at Highlands school between 3:30 and 5!

• Shortoff Baptist Church hosts a non-denominational Men's Meeting the first Monday night of each month at 7 pm and all men are invited to attend.

Tuesdays

• Free Community Table Dinner at the Community Bldg. at 6p.

• Zumba at the Rec Park at 8:05a. \$5.

Mon., Wed., Fri.

• Aerobics with Tina Rogers 8-9a.

• Zumba at the Rec Park at 9:05a. \$5

Mon.-Sat.

• Nantahala Tennis Club meets 9a-12 noon, at Highlands Civic Center, tennis courts. \$2 per person, and

all visitors are welcome!

Wednesdays

• First Baptist Church is happy to present a new season of X-treme Games at the Highlands Rec. Park. The games will be held Wednesday nights from 6 to 7:15 pm. For more information or to pre-register your k - 6th grade child, please call 526-4153.

1st Wednesdays

• Family Movies at the Hudson Library at 3:30pm. Call 828-526-3031 for titles.

3rd Wednesdays

• General Audience Movies at Hudson Library at 2pm. Call 828-526-3031 for titles.

1st & 3rd Thursdays

• Free local ongoing support group for caregivers. Are you involved with the care of a loved one who is physically or mentally facing challenges? Sponsored by The Counseling and Psychotherapy Center of Highlands and the Highlands United Methodist Church,

this group meets at 4 p.m. at Room 203 at the Peggy Crosby Center. Facilitated by Bonnie Gramlich, a licensed professional. Drop in or call for further info, 828.342.0546.

Thursdays

• Storytimes with Miss Carol at Hudson Library 10:40am. Open to the public.

• Highlands Writers' Group meets every Thursday from 1-3:30 pm at Hudson Library. Writers of all genres welcome. For info call 526-8009 or 526-2295.

• NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) offers a peer support group for individuals that are dealing with depression, anxiety, PTSD, bipolar, schizophrenia, etc. and the family members or friends of loved ones dealing with these challenges. Join us in a safe, confidential environment to share concerns and gain insight. Join us for our Weekly Support Group from 7 - 8:15 pm @ 14 West Palmer Street in Franklin NC, email dcwithnami@yahoo.

HCP offers its annual FREE Holiday Reading



For the past 18 years the Highlands Cashiers Players have presented an evening of holiday readings and music as a Christmas gift to the community. On Thursday December 18, at the Highlands Performing Arts Center, the Players will present a dramatic reading of Truman Capote's beautiful and touching story, "A Christmas Memory." There's to be beautiful music as well, provided by several musicians and singers, directed by Les Scott of the Highlands Methodist Church. Afterwards the audience is invited to enjoy refreshments downstairs in the PAC reception room with music performed by the Mountain High Dulcimer Club. Program begins at 7 p.m. There is no charge. All are invited to attend.

Christmas Eve Service

- CANDLE LIGHTING
- CONGREGATIONAL SING
- SPECIAL MESSAGE BY PASTOR GARY

Wed, Dec 24 @ 5 pm



3645 Cashiers Road • Highlands, NC 28741
828-526-4685 ph • www.CBChighlands.com

• HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

com, Donita (828) 526-9510.

2nd Thursdays

• Sapphire Valley Needlepoint Guild meets at the Highlands Rec Park at 10 a.m. Newcomers welcomed.

Last Fri. of each month

• Weight Watchers support group meets every Thursday at 6pm at the Cashiers Community Center. Questions? Call Lisa 828-506-3555

Saturdays

• Free wine tastings at MountainTop Wine Shoppe from 1-3p.

Sundays

• At Highlands Inn, Sequoyah Room at 4:30 pm. Multi-denominational, Interactive Bible Study and Fellowship. Open to all.

Through Dec. 11

• Movie at The Playhouse: Hunger Games: Mockingjay Part I. Showtimes, Fri., Sat., Sun., Mon. & Thurs. 2p, 5p and 8p. No movies on Tuesday and Wednesday.

Thurs., Dec. 11

• The Macon County Cancer Support Group will hold its annual Christmas party Thursday, December 11 at 7 p.m. in the cafeteria of Angel Medical Center, Riverview Street, Franklin. Please bring an inexpensive gift to exchange

(optional), your favorite finger food, and a guest!

Dec. 12-14 & 18

• At the Highlands Playhouse, the movie "My Old Lady" at 2, 5 and 8p. No movies on Tuesday and Wednesday.

Sat., Dec 13

• Holiday Artisan Market in Cafe 460 10a to 4p.

• Wagner's Die Meistersinger Von Nurnberg Live in HD at PAC. Pre-Opera discussion lead by Beverly Pittman will begin at 11:30 am and the MET Opera begins at 12 pm. Tickets are available online: highlandspac.org or by calling: 828.526.9047. Beverage and snacks will be available for purchase. 507 Chestnut Street, Highlands

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate-to-strenuous work and exploration hike, with elevation change of 800 ft., on Rocky Bald Ridge just off the Appalachian Trail at Wine Springs, a little used horse trail that the leader would like to clear. Distance depends on the amount of clearing. Meet at Westgate Plaza in Franklin at 9 am, drive 36 miles round trip. Call leader Gail Lehman, 828-524-5298, for reservations and/or information.

Sun., Dec 14

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take an easy-to-moderate 1.5 mile hike, elevation change 400 ft., on the Rufus Morgan Trail, (named for the founder of the Club), through the woods to a beautiful waterfall with one short steep section. Wear sturdy shoes and bring water. Meet at Westgate Plaza in Franklin at 2 pm, drive 24 miles round trip. Call leader Joyce Jacques, 410-852-7510, for reservations. Visitors welcome, no dogs please.

Mon.-Wed., Dec. 15-17

• At The Highlands Playhouse, "Gone with the Wind" 75th anniversary kicks off with a booksigning at 4p with booksigning with Peter Bonner and showing at 6p. Tickets are \$15 and available at the Playhouse or by calling 828-526-2695.

Mon., Dec 15

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate-to-strenuous 9-mile hike, elevation gain 1300 ft., going north on the Appalachian Trail from Wayah Crest to Wayah Bald Lookout Tower, 5342 ft. elevation, with great views of the Franklin area. Meet at Westgate Plaza in Franklin at 8:30 am, drive 24 miles round trip. Call leaders Diana Otero/Rudolph Buchholz, 765-318-9981, for reservations.

Thurs., Dec. 18

• This season the Holiday Program, presented annually by the Highlands Cashiers Players at the Highlands Performing Arts Center, is scheduled for Thursday evening, at 7 p.m. This season a dramatic reading of Truman Capote's touching story, "A Christmas Memory" from his childhood in rural Alabama will be featured. Also a group of area musicians, playing dulcimers, guitars, and fiddle will accompany singers for three songs interspersed in the reading. A reception downstairs in PAC will follow the reading with music by the "Mountain High Dulcimer Club." The program is the Players gift to the community and is free..

Sat., Dec 20

• Holiday Artisan Market in Cafe 460 10a to 4p.

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take an easy-to-moderate, up and down 3-mile hike to 60 ft. high Yellow Branch Falls, one of the most beautiful rocky waterfalls in western SC. If time allows, a stop can be made at nearby Stump Town Tunnel. Meet at Cashiers Rec Park at 9 am, drive 50 miles round trip. Call leaders Mike and Susan Kettles, 828-743-1079, for reservations.

Santa is hearing wishes Saturdays through Dec. 20



Santa and Mrs. Claus will be at the MountainTop Wine Shoppe Saturdays through Dec. 20, 10a to 4p.

Photo by Kim Lewicki

Wagner's Die Meistersinger Von Nürnberg Live in HD at PAC Saturday, Dec. 13



Wagner's Die Meistersinger Von Nürnberg will be presented Live in HD from the MET Opera at the Performing Arts Center on Saturday, December 13. Pre-Opera discussion lead by Beverly Pittman will begin at 11:30 am and the MET Opera begins at 12 pm. Tickets are available online: highlandspac.org or by calling: 828.526.9047. Beverage and snacks will be available for purchase. 507 Chestnut Street, Highlands

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LESSONS & CAROLS

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SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2014

AT 11:00 A.M.

CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2014

Immediately following the 11:00 a.m. service

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2014

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT &

COMMUNION SERVICE

4:30 p.m. Harp Prelude

Candlelight & Communion Service

designed for the entire family at 5:00 p.m.

Valerie Whitcup, harpist

Homily by Curtis Fussell

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FULL BREAKFAST MADE TO ORDER EVERY MORNING UNTIL 10:30
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EVERY DAY FROM 11:00 TO CLOSE
FRESH ANGUS BURGERS, FRESH NATURAL CHICKEN BREASTS, FISH CHICKEN TENDERS, COOKED TO ORDER, HAND CUT FRIES, SALADS, HOMEMADE SOUPS, DAILY SPECIALS

DELI

SERVING ALL DAY
FRESH CUT NATURAL MEATS, HOMEMADE DELI SALADS, PANINI, MELTS, HOMEMADE POTATO CHIPS, DAILY SOUP SPECIALS

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EVERY DAY FROM 11:00 TO CLOSE
AUTHENTIC NEAPOLITAN PIZZA MADE FROM SCRATCH FRESH MOZZARELLA, BASIL, CRUSHED TOMATOES HOMEMADE ITALIAN SAUSAGE, PANCETTA, AND DAILY SPECIALS

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EVERY SUNDAY FROM 11:00AM UNTIL WE SELL OUT! FRESH ORGANIC HAND CUT, HAND BREADED CHICKEN COOKED IN A CAST IRON SKILLET. SERVED WITH GREEN BEANS, MASHED POTATOES AND GRAVY WITH A WARM HONEY BISCUIT...\$8.95

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A LARGE SELECTION OF TAKE-AWAY ITEMS FULLY PREPARED, READY TO TAKE HOME INCLUDING GRILLED PORK LOINS, HOME MADE MAC & CHEESE, MASHED POTATOES, HERB RUBBED CHICKEN, MADE IN HOUSE BBQ, CHICKEN SALAD DELI SALADS & MUCH MORE

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A DIFFERENT FULL DINNER EVERY NIGHT. SERVES FOUR SERVING MONDAY THROUGH SATURDAY FROM 4:30 UNTIL WE SELL OUT - CALL AHEAD TO RESERVE.

MONDAY: CHOOSE EITHER:
FOUR CHICKEN AND FOUR CHEESE ENCHILADAS, REFRIED BEANS, MONTEREY RICE, HOMEMADE TORTILLA CHIPS, SALSA, SHREDDED LETTUCE, TOMATOES, SOUR CREAM OR...
24 BUFFALO WINGS OR 2 LBS CHICKEN TENDERS AND HAND CUT FRIES
\$19.95 SERVES FOUR.

TUESDAY: MADE IN-HOUSE ITALIAN SAUSAGE LASAGNA AND A LARGE HOUSE SALAD
\$19.95 SERVES FOUR

WEDNESDAY: CHICKEN OR STEAK POT PIE AND A LARGE SALAD
\$19.95 SERVES FOUR

THURSDAY: ROASTED MEATLOAF WITH MASHED POTATOES, GRAVY AND A LARGE SALAD
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FRIDAY: WILD CAUGHT FRIED SHRIMP, BAKED POTATOES, HUSH PUPPIES AND COLESLAW
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PASTA, TOMATO SAUCE, AND CHEESE WITH A CHOICE OF ITALIAN SAUSAGE, MEAT BALLS OR CRISPY CHICKEN.
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• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

What did God give?

By Emily Wilmarth and Curtis Fussell,
First Presbyterian

In his book, "It's Not About Me," Max Lucado tells the story that when the German Reformer Martin Luther had his translation of the Bible printed in the German language, the printer's daughter encountered the love of God. The printer's daughter had never heard of God's love. She had heard of God's wrath and judgment, but not God's love. The only emotion she felt toward God was fear.

The story goes that one day, as the Bible was being printed, the printer's daughter collected pieces of Scripture that were flawed during the printing process. On one of these flawed piece she found the words, "For God so loved the world that he gave..." The rest of the verse was lost in the printing. Still, what she read was enough to move her. The statement that God loved and that God gave moved her from troubling fear to joyful trust. It changed her life!

Her mother noticed how her daughter had changed and asked her what had brought about this transformation. The daughter reached into her pocket and showed her mother the piece of paper with the partial verse on it. Her mother read the verse and asked her, "What did God give?" The child had a puzzled look on her face and then answered, "I do not know what God gave. But if God loved us so much that he gave us anything, we should not be afraid of him."

Since that time of the printer's daughter we have been able to read Scripture in our own language. We know that the partial verse ends with, "...God so loved the world, that he gave us his Son." It is God's giving of this son that we celebrate at Christmas.

Now at Christmas we will celebrate the love of children and spouses and parents and friends. We will be pre-occupied with gift giving and visiting with loved ones. To be sure, we are very good at preparing for the holiday, but let's also prepare for the holy day of Christmas by remembering the first giving from God. I love what Max Lucado says: "It's not about you. It's not about me. It's about God."

• See **SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING** page 17



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Proverbs 3:5

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John 3:16

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Sundays: 10 a.m.: Worship
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464 US Hwy 64 east, Cashiers
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Crossroads; 10:30a Faithful, Family Service w/ Music & Communion.

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Tues. Guys study 8am, Gals 10am.

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Sundays: School: 10 a.m.; Worship: 11
Wednesdays - 7 p.m.

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Senior Pastor Gary Hewins
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10:30am: Middle & High School; 10:45am: Child. Program,
10:45am: Worship Service
Wed.: 5pm Dinner (\$7 adult, \$2 child), 6pm CBC University

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Rev. Bruce Walker • 526-2968
Sundays: Eucharist Rite I 8a in chapel; Education and choir rehearsal, 9 am, Holy Eucharist Rite II, (sanctuary), 10:30
Wednesday: 10 a.m., Morning Prayer
Thursdays: Holy Eucharist, (chapel), 10 am
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH HIGHLANDS
828-526-4153 • www.fbchighlands.org
Dr. Mark Ford, Pastor
220 Main Street, Highlands NC 28741
Sun.: Worship 10:45 am; Sun.: Bible Study 9:30 am
Wed.: Men's Bible Study 8:30 am; Prayer Mtg 6:15 pm; Choir 5 pm

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Curtis Fussell & Emily Wilmarth, pastors
526-3175 • fpchighlands.org
Sun.: Worship: 11 a.m.; School: 9:30
Mondays: 8 a.m.: Men's Prayer Group & Breakfast
Wednesdays: Choir: 5:30p

GOLDMINE BAPTIST CHURCH

(Off Franklin/Highlands Rd) • Rev. Carson Gibson
Sunday School: 10 am, Worship Service: 11 am
Bible Study: 6 pm

GRACE COMMUNITY CHURCH OF CASHIERS

Non-Denominational-Contemporary Worship
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www.gracecashiers.com • Pastor Steve Doerter: 743-9814
Services: Sundays 10am - Wed. - 7pm; Dinner - Wed. 6pm

HAMBURG BAPTIST CHURCH

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Pastor Nathan Johnson
Sunday: School 9:45a, Worship 11a & 7p, Bible Study 6p
Wed. Kidsquest 6p.; Worship 7p.

HIGHLANDS ASSEMBLY OF GOD

Randy Reed, Pastor 828-421-9172 • 165 S. Sixth Street
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 Paul Christy 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)
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Wed: Bible Study and Youth Mtg.: 7 p.m.

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828-369-9270 or 828-293-5197

MOUNTAIN BIBLE CHURCH

743-2583 • Independent Bible Church
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Weds: Bible Study 6:30 p.m.; Youth Group 6 p.m.

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Mass: Sun: 11 a.m.; Sat. at 4p

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Rev. Marty Kilby
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Wednesdays: Prayer Mtg.: 7 p.m.

SCALY MOUNTAIN CHURCH OF GOD

290 Buck Knob Road; Pastor Alfred Sizemore • 526-3212
Sun.: School: 10 a.m.; Worship: 10:45 a.m.; Worship: 6 p.m.
Wed: Adult Bible Study & Youth: 7 p.m.

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Pastor Rev. Andy Cloer
Sundays: School: 10 a.m.; Worship: 11
Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study: 7

THE CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

1448 Highway 107 South, Office: 743-2359
Rev. Dr. Virginia Monroe
Oct-May: Sunday Services: Rite I, 8a Rite II, 10:30
June-Sept: Sunday Services: Rite I, 8a, Rite II, 9:15 & 11a
Nursery available for Rite II services
Sept 7- Oct 26- Informal Evening Eucharist: 5:30 p.m.
Thursday: Noon Healing Service with Eucharist.

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP

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Sunday Worship - 11 a.m. Child Care - 10:30a - 12:30p
Religious Education - 11 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.
Youth 8th - 12th grade meets 2nd Sundays 5 - 7:30p

WHITESIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Rev. Sam Forrester/Cashiers
Sunday School: 10 am, Worship Service: 11 am

...SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING from page 16

It's about God's love for us." Yes, it's about God who gives to us.
 The mother's question is still one for us to answer in this Christmas celebration: "What did God give?" Hopefully, you will give an answer that provides your own joyful trust in God. Take time to reflect on God's gracious and loving giving. Be filled with God's gift of love in Jesus. It can and it will change you for the better. Merry Christmas!

• POLICE & FIRE REPORTS •

Highlands Police Log entries from Nov. 24 Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor or public officials have been used.

- Nov. 24**
 - At 1:50 p.m., officers responde to a two-vehicle accident on S. 4th Street.
- Nov. 25**
 - At 6 p.m., a shoplifting incident at The Christmas Tree was reported when a \$10 ornament was taken.
- Nov. 27**
 - At 3:05 a.m., Mildred Virginia Blount, 20, of Highlands, was arrested for DWI and traffic violations.
- Nov. 30**
 - At 4:15 p.m., officers responded to a call about children's toys being taken out of yard on Laurel Street.
- Dec. 2**
 - At 8:04 p.m., Alex Phillip Bronaugh, 17, of Highlands, was arrested for possession of marijuana and marijuana paraphernalia.
- Dec. 5**
 - At 10:15 a.m., officers were called

- about a burglary at a residence on Lower Brush Face Road with non-force entery where a 46" LED Smart TV valued at \$1,500 was taken.
 - At 9:30 a.m., officers responded to a report of a larceny when a purse containing jewelry was taken from a patron at Old Edwards Inn.
- Dec. 8**
 - At noon, officers responded to a call about a larceny of ladders taken from a construction site on Chowan Drive.

- The Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. log entries from Nov. 26.**
- Dec. 3**
 - At 10:16 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Oak Street.
- Dec. 5**
 - At 8:43 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Shortoff Road.
 - At 9:58 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Jenkins Road.
- Dec. 6**
 - At 2:39 p.m., the dept. provided mutual aid to the Cashiers FD on a possible structure fire.
- Dec. 9**
 - At 9:34 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Shortoff Road.
 - At 11:29 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on US 64 west.

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Cashiers Community Fund awards \$15,000 grant to the Hampton School

The Cashiers Community Fund (CCF) is pleased to announce a \$15,000 grant to the Hampton School, made in partnership with The Community Foundation of Western North Carolina (CF-WNC).
 Grant funds will be utilized to complete the upgrade of three classrooms to expand capacity and continue to provide certified educational programs and services to toddlers and preschool children in Jackson, Macon and Transylvania counties.
 "We are delighted that we can support the Hampton School," said Board Chair Tommy Valenta. "We are pleased to partner with CFWNC to make a difference for nonprofit organizations and the people they serve in our community."



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• HS SPORTS •



Girls Varsity Basketball team: April Moss, Aislinn Fitzpatrick, Kirstyn Lamb, Ann Marie Crowe, Madison Lloyd, Courtney Henry, Tiffany Preda, Jessica Tilson, Whitney Billingsley, Emily Crowe, Emily Mathis and Danielle Mathis. Head Coach, Brett Lamb, Asst. Coaches, Jeremy Dooley and Jerry Sullivan.

...TAX from page 8

Carolina counties and decided to delay the property tax revaluation, the decision was controversial. Tuesday night, Lightner informed commissioners that after completing the revaluation process, he believes the county's decision was in the best interest of the citizens of Macon County and was a good move on the commissioner's part.

Although the housing market has not fully recovered from the recession, Lightner noted that more homes are being sold and the movement has allowed a more accurate assessments of properties.

During the appraisal process Lightner and his office have been collecting and reviewing sales; routing all 369 county maps; mapping property sales from 2013 and 2014; analyzing construction costs; developing land pricing models; developing a schedule of values; applying a schedule of values to properties; visiting properties in the county and reviewing sales to comparable properties. They then identified any areas of concern and corrected anything that needed to be fixed before sending notice of the value to property owners.

With the revaluation complete, the new property tax bills will be sent out in

• See TAX page 19

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It's all about basketball

On December 2, the Highlanders began their regular season. They hosted the Blue Ridge Bobcats.

The Lady Highlanders came out strong as did the Lady Bobcats. The scoring was neck and neck in the first half but the Lady Highlanders ended the first half ahead with a score of 25 to 24.

They came back in the second half to score 25 more points, beating Blue Ridge 50 to 44.

The boys also came out strong playing a very impressive game ending the first half with a 25 to 17 lead.

As the second half began, they continued playing strong with a 50 to 33 win with Bren Amundrud scoring 26 of the 50 points.

On December 4, the Highlanders travelled to Tamassee-Salem where the girls lost by one point, 55 to 54.

The boys won their game with a score of 57 to 53.

On December 5, the Highlanders hosted Tallulah Falls.

The Lady Highlanders once again came out playing strong and ended the first half with a 32 to 21 lead.

As the second half began, they continued to hold the lead with a 57 to 42 win, with Madison Lloyd the high scorer with 13 impressive points. (Go Chocolate!)

The boys didn't fare as well. They came out strong in the first half but couldn't hold on in the second half losing 71 to 35.

Between the girls and boys games, the Homecoming Court selection was announced.

Representing the Freshman class was Madison Lloyd and Chandler Stoltzfus.

Representing the Sophomore class was Maddie Schandolph and John Murphy.

Representing the Junior class was Sierra Nylund, Delaney Keith, Nathan Laderoot and Colin Weller.

Representing the Senior class was Kirstyn Lamb, April Moss, Ally Bolt, Jessica Tilson, Tanner Stephens, Kenan Lewis, Will Beck and Preston Chastain.

Saturday the Homecoming Dance was held at OEI's The Springhouse with April Moss and Tanner Stephens crowned Queen and King.

— Sierra Nylund



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...TAX continued from page 18

January. Once those are received, property owners will have the opportunity to dispute the bills locally in an appeals process.

With 40,000 properties in Macon County, Lightner anticipates about 10 percent or 4,000 appeals will be filed. Those cases will be taken up locally in hopes of a resolution with the tax office, but if not, they will be heard before the county's Board of Equalization. If a resolution still is not reached, property owners can appeal the findings to the state, which can take up to

two years to finalize.

Lightner noted that since he has been employed as Macon County's Tax Assessor, although some disputes have made it to Raleigh, the courts have always ruled in favor of the county. Lightner said that's not because he is good at what he does, but because he and his office take the time to talk to concerned property owners and explain the process to reach a resolution beforehand.

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• BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NEWS •

'Brother and Sister in the Clouds' wins!

When Melanie Ham hiked to the top of Sunset Rock with her son and daughter on a beautiful July afternoon she probably had no idea that the photo she would take that day would one day win top honors in an "historic" photography contest.

"Brother and Sister in the Clouds" won Best in Show in Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust's Sunsetennial Photography Contest Amateur Division which was judged by Sallie Taylor, Executive Director of The Bascom.

The contest was held in honor of the Land Trust's "Sunsetennial: 100 Years of Conserving Ravenel Park, home of Sunset and Sunrise Rocks in Highlands." The Land Trust has been celebrating this historic anniversary throughout the year.

In 1914, the Ravenel family donated their family land as a public park for all to enjoy in perpetuity. Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust is honored to own and care for Ravenel Park, one of the many special places it conserves on the plateau.

Visit Highlands' Hudson Library this holiday season to see the Amateur Division display. Deadline for the Professional Division is January 15, 2015. To learn more about Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust and their mission to conserve valuable land resources for all generations, visit www.hicashlt.org.



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Identity Theft subject of MtnTop Rotary meeting

Bob Sheesley, Executive Director of Legal Shield, talks about identity theft protection with MountainTop Rotary. Pictured from left: Bob Sheesley, Executive Director of Legal Shield & Bill Zoellner, current President of Highlands MountainTop Rotary. The Mountaintop Rotary Club meets every Wednesday morning at 7:30 am at the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital lower level Dining Room.

• CLASSIFIEDS •

YARD SALE

THE WINDY GAP BAPTIST CHURCH RELAY FOR LIFE TEAM WILL HAVE A YARD SALE Friday & Saturday, December 12 & 13 from 8 a.m. until 3 p.m. at Hollands Storage Units and Detail Shop on Depot Street in Franklin. There will be some Christmas items, clothes, a solid wood gun cabinet, some exercise equipment, and more. This is a fundraiser for their Relay for Life team.

HELP WANTED

MOUNTAIN FRESH GROCERY IN HIGHLANDS is hiring full-time for positions on the grill. Contact Don at 828.526.2400

PART-TIME BOOK-KEEPER POSITION with Quickbooks experience needed at the Highlands ABC Store. Applications are available at the store in Highlands Plaza. 828-526-5470. (st. 10/9)

EXPERIENCED ELECTRICIAN NEEDED. Edwards Electrical Services. 828-526-5147. (st. 10/2)

LEAD LINE COOK & DISHWASHER needed at casual fine dining, up to \$13/hour or salary B.O.E. jasoncancilla2012@gmail.com (st. 6/19)

CNA, NURSES, CARE-GIVERS needed for Home Care Agency serving Older Adults in Macon, Jackson and Transylvania counties. Call 828-200-9000. (st. 5/15)

SALES ASSOCIATE FOR HIGH END RETAIL CLOTHING STORE IN HIGHLANDS, NC. full time, part-time and seasonal. Must be available to work weekends. Retail clothing sales experience preferred. Please call 828-200-1703. (st. 3/13)

RESIDENTIAL FOR RENT

HOUSE FOR RENT IN BLUE VALLEY. \$1,650. 4BR/3.5BA. Unfurnished. 6 month lease or possible month-to-month. 828-713-6101. (st. 12/11)

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rooms, hardwood floors, full kitchen, jacuzzi tub, fireplace, W/D, and lots of closet space. Call 828-421-4681. (st. 12/4)

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RESIDENTIAL FOR SALE

CABINS FOR SALE/RENT. Located on Sawmill Road in Clear Creek. 4.63 acres. Call 828-526-2720. Price Negotiable. (12/4)

2BED/2BATH 1.20 AC. Fantastic views & Privacy \$88,999.00. Call 482.2050 706.782.9728. Cypresslanesale@facebook. (st. 8/7)

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LOTS/LAND FOR SALE 1.23 ACRES. SEPTIC SYSTEM. Located off Sassafras Gap to Hidden Springs Road. Call 828-526-2720. Price Negotiable. (12/4)

LAND FOR SALE IN CLEAR CREEK: 2.18 acre parcel has road frontage on Mack Wilson Rd. \$17,000. Any reasonable offers will be considered. Call 828-526-2874. (st. 10/23)

FOR SALE BY OWNER - 3 building lots in the gated community of Rustic Falls. Macon County tax records value at \$51,000 each. Must sell due to health reasons. Asking \$15,000 each. Call owner at 803-640-6004. (St. 5/1)

ITEMS FOR SALE QUEEN SIZE CHERY SLEIGH BED (FRAME ONLY) \$350. Dark wood deacons bench \$50. 706-782-1949 (st. 12/11)

SAMSUNG 55" FLAT SCREEN TV W/50" STAND. \$400. In Otto. 828-349-1453. (12/18).

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PIANOS FOR SALE - 2 consoles, 1 spinet, 1 upright, 1 electric organ, \$150 each, all 5 for \$500. Call 526 4818 (st. 10/23)

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...INVESTING from page 9

and thoughts on your property's strengths. Be sure to point out subtle touches, design elements, and choices you made in making your home a sanctuary. Walk the property with your agent and help them discover the magic, as well as what makes your property especially appealing. Co-create a unique branding position for your property, communicate that position consistently, and prepare for your ideal Buyers to appear in droves.

• Susie deVille, ME, ABR, SFR, is Owner/Broker-in-Charge of White Oak Realty Group. Her areas of expertise include real estate investments, niche marketing, social media, and strategic property positioning. An expert in entrepreneurship and anthropology, Susie applies her acumen in human behavior toward negotiating and advocating on behalf of her clients. White Oak Realty Group's sales office is located at 125 South Fourth Street in the heart of the retail district in Highlands. For more information, visit WhiteOakRG.com or call (828) 526-8118.

...MAYOR continued from page 2

monitored and approved by the commission. For instance, if the town purchases a new garbage truck, the audit requires documentation that the purchase was approved by the board and procurement procedures were followed. Failure to do so triggers an investigation by the Local Government Commission.

The Town Board will also elect the mayor pro tempore for the year. The date for the annual town retreat will also be discussed. Thursday, February 26 has been proposed. The retreat is an all day, public session where town staff meet with board members to discuss budget issues and priorities for the coming fiscal year.

See you tonight at 7 p.m. at the Conference Center next to the ball field.

Play here. Live here.
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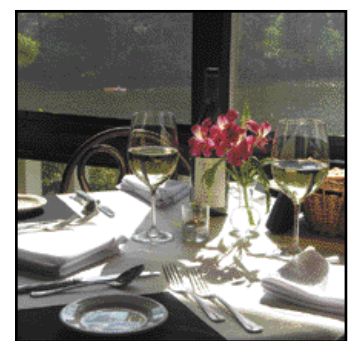
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