

Highlands Newspaper

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Thurs., April 2, 2015

1st reading get nuisance ordinance a 'yes' with 4-1 vote

Nine county residents signed up to speak to commissioners Tuesday night regarding a proposed nuisance ordinance intended to regulate malicious noise in Macon County.

After spending 45 minutes

listening to residents who ranged in opinion from wanting the ordinance to be stronger to some wanting it thrown out completely because it infringed on their property rights, the nuisance ordinance was passed in a 4-1 vote on the

first reading.

The public comment period opened up with Linda Koser, who spoke to commissioners about an email correspondence she had with Commission Chair Kevin Corbin on the matter. According

to Koser, while she is favor of the county adopting the ordinance, she believes that the way the proposed document is written, more work could be done. Citing her opinion of vague language and

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SCC has positive financial effect on the region

By Merritt N. Shaw

Recently a study was done by Economic Modeling Specialist International that found Southwestern Community College (SCC) had a \$126.9 million financial impact to the region.

The study was commissioned at the state level and the goal of the report, was to dem-

onstrate the economic impact of public higher education on North Carolina.

The report stated that \$109.2 million alone was due to how many graduates have decided to remain in the area once they finished their higher education. It also stated that nearly 90 percent

•See SCC page 5

Paying MC for fire service is just part of the story

Macon County looking for 'package' allotment

New fire districts in Jackson County could ease a financial burden on the Highlands Fire & Rescue Department.

Each year, Jackson County provides Highlands Fire & Rescue with just over \$7,000 for emergency services the department renders for Jackson County residents.

An area of homes technically located in Cashiers in Jackson County is completely landlocked

by either non-accessible national forest or Macon County. For Jackson County emergency personnel to respond to calls in the area in question, which includes more than 300 parcels of land, they must first pass through Macon County. If one of the homeowners in the area were to call for an ambulance, it would take 25 minutes, on a day with no traffic, for an ambulance from Cashiers to

•See SERVICE page 5

Easter is alive in Highlands!



At noon on Good Friday people will gather at Our Lady of the Mountains Catholic Church to begin the Stations of the Cross walk around town. On Saturday at 11 a.m., it's the town's annual Easter Egg hunt for children 0-9 at the Rec Park. and on Sunday at 7 a.m. there is an ecumenical sunrise service at the Nature Center. This also marks the 10th year for the living cross on the lawn of the Highlands United Methodist Church. Prior to each service Easter Sunday people attach a flower to the cross.

— Photo by Kim Lewicki

FBI arrests Sapphire, NC man for fraud

Later jailed in Florida for faking death in insurance fraud scheme

On Monday, March 23, a criminal complaint was filed in the US District Court of the Western District of North Carolina against Sapphire, NC resident Jose Salvador Lantigua.

The charging document lays out a sequence of events showing probable cause that Lantigua, 62, violated Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1542 (passport application fraud); 1001 (fraud and false statements); 1028A (aggravated identity theft); and Title 42, Section 408 (willfully, knowingly, and with intent to deceive, uses a social security account number) and Lantigua knowingly made false statements in his passport application that he applied for in Asheville, NC; that he knowingly and willfully supplied a social security number belonging to another individual

•See FRAUD page 10

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• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• MAYOR ON DUTY •

• MILESTONES •

Loss of sales tax revenue is a big issue

Our town manager, Bob Frye, is experienced at balancing budgets and filling shortfalls, provided there is adequate revenue. With the prospect of the legislature changing the sales tax distribution, Bob worries about potential loss of revenue for Highlands.

He shared with me a local sales tax distribution comparison for this proposed sales tax formula. Developed by the North Carolina Fiscal Research Division, this analysis projects how counties and towns would fare under the proposed distribution formula.

Admittedly, we politicians can skew the numbers, but let me review what the Fiscal Research Division forecasts for area towns and counties. Some will be in the black, or like Highlands, in the red.

Macon County stands to lose \$1,022,132, so county manager Derek Roland is also concerned about this redistribution of revenue. The county is facing a 11.5 % reduction, while Franklin could see a 20.7% increase.

So what about Highlands? We could see a 73.6% loss in sales tax revenue to the tune of \$587,811. But wait, that's not the whole picture. The small portion of Highlands in Jackson County generates an additional



Highlands Mayor
Patrick Taylor

\$44,193 in sales tax revenue. Highlands stands to lose 97.6% of that sales tax. All total Highlands could lose up to \$628,104. Other municipalities in Jackson County will see revenue increases under the new formula.

A review of counties and towns in Western North Carolina reveals that most will fall in the black. Only Lake Santeetlah in Graham County has a greater percentage of loss than Highlands, although they will lose only \$51,000, not \$628,104.

Some of you may think I should go to Raleigh and loudly proclaim Highlands won't give up our sales tax money! The retort would be that it is the state's sales tax money, not Highlands'. I would be reminded that the legislature makes the laws, even to the point of enabling Highlands to operate as a municipality.

One may also ask why the state is doing this? Simply put, the state needs more revenue. Personal and corporate income taxes have been reduced in recent years, so the state now has over a 200 million dollar deficit. This proposed sales tax formula will redirect additional income to the state budget and send the remaining money to some of the more populated areas in the state. At 980 full-time residents, Highlands generates a substantial amount of sales tax revenue that will go off the mountain in a similar fashion as does property tax revenue. Also, it does not help to have only 844 voters.

So what are the options? First, we will continue to express concern to our state representatives. Second, the town manager is planning for the worst case scenario by looking at ways town departments can reduce costs. Certain capital projects, such as new water lines, equipment and services upgrades may have to be postponed. Finally, the town and its residents could be faced with the options of reducing services, raising taxes, or both. For now, we are in a cautious budget planning mode.

Highlands Newspaper

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Letter Policy:

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



Long and classmates win in speech tournament

Local resident and Cedarville University sophomore, L. David Long, along with his team recently competed in the National Christian Collegiate Forensics Invitational tournament at Colorado Christian University in Denver, Colorado. The three day competition involved two days of preliminaries and final rounds on Sunday.

Cedarville's seven-person team had four members make it to the final rounds. The tournament is segregated into novice (that is first year speakers) and open, which is all competitors. Cedarville took first in novice informative, first in novice dramatic interpretation, first in novice duo and first in both novice persuasive speech and first in open persuasive speech.

David Long is the national champion in persuasive speech and first in the novice duo and third overall in open duo. Along with his duo partner, Gabe Cyrus, Gabe and David placed 1 and 2 as the top novice speakers in individual events and 1 and 2 as the top novice speakers in the entire tournament. Cedarville finished the tournament in 2nd place behind Seton Hall, but it was considered a very successful event for the team.

Boat raised from the lake ... and the past



Onlookers and diggers from left: Furman Vinson's daughters: Frances Batur and Dale McCall, Robbie Forrester, Phil Potts, Terry Potts, Bill Edwards, Carter Potts, Hank Ross and Jeffrey Owens.

Furman Vinson sank the vessel during his ill-fated attempt to move a load of dirt from the boat landing he was building for Kenyon Zahner in 1930. It was revealed, with the dirt still in it, when Lake Sequoyah was drained for the water intake/repair project. The fire dept. used a hose to blow the boat clean and town crews moved it to its new home at the Highlands Historic Village on N. 4th Street.

— Photo by Ran Shaffner



• MILESTONE •

House on the move



Early Saturday morning, house movers braved icy weather, snow dusted and narrow streets to move the McCall cottage from its old home on Oak Street to its new home on Shortoff. Instead of being demolished, Jane Woodruff, who recently purchased the two properties on the corner of US64 west and Oak Street, gave the cottage to Dabs Potts. The route was supposed to be US64/Main to 3rd and on through Maple and a left at the light at N. 4th. Instead, the lead car took a hard right up the hill past the fire station which meant entering N. 4th at Town Hall.

— Photo by Kim Lewicki

• OBITUARY •

Marion Hammond Rauers

Marion Hammond Rauers, 69, of Highlands, NC died peacefully on the evening of Tuesday, March 24, 2015 following a lengthy battle with cancer.

Mr. Rauers was born in Savannah, GA, the son of the late Hammond and Madge Parker Rauers. He attended Savannah Country Day High School and was a star in both prep football and track. He was selected Savannah Football Player of the Year in 1960 and in 1962 was the Georgia State Champion in the 220 yard dash.

Mr. Rauers attended UNC Chapel Hill and graduated from Georgia State University with a Bachelor of Science degree. In 1971 he moved his family to Charleston, SC where he began a career in the medical supply business and eventually acquired an interest in the company. Upon the sale of the medical supply business, Mr. Rauers began a very successful and lengthy career in real estate and earned accolades as a Million Dollar Producer for many consecutive years. It was during his real estate career that he founded and served as president of the East Cooper Top Producers Club and was recipient of the Realtors Roundtable of Excellence award. Later, employing his extensive experience in residential real estate in the Charleston area, Mr. Rauers ventured further into the area of real estate investments and partnerships.

In recent years, Mr. Rauers, ending his career in real estate, joined his two sons in their automobile business in Franklin, NC, where he served in numerous capacities until his recent retirement. It was during this time that he became known affectionately as "The Ambassador of Highlands."

Mr. Rauers served on the vestry at St. Andrews Episcopal Church in Mt. Pleasant, SC, was a member of the Kiwanis Club and, always striving to be intimately involved with his sons' activities, was a coach in Little League for many seasons. He was an avid sportsman drawn to the salt water and the tidal creeks of the low country and spent much of his time boating and fishing there with his sons and numerous friends. He had a passion for living, lived life to the fullest and helped his many friends and family do the same.

Mr. Rauers is survived by two sons, C. Hammond Rauers and his wife Mitzi Rauers of Highlands, Bryan Rauers and his wife Kerry Rauers of Franklin, NC, grandchildren William Rauers and Catherine Rauers and niece Kim Cleghorn of Lakeland, FL.

A memorial service, presided by Rev. Paul Christy, was held Saturday, March 28 at Highlands United Methodist Church. In lieu of flowers the family asks that a donation be made to the Gilliam's Promise youth coalition at Highlands United Methodist Church. Online condolences may be made by visiting www.bryantgrantfuneralhome.com. Bryant-Grant Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.



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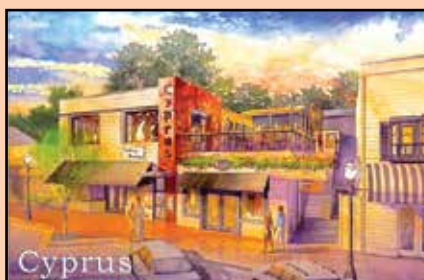
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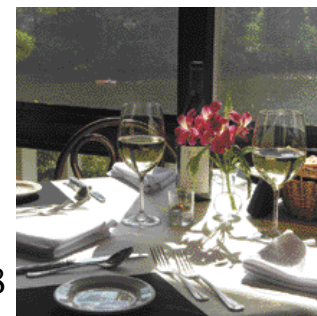


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...SERVICE continued from page 1

respond. It would take Highlands EMS about five minutes.

Because of the close proximity to Highlands Fire & Rescue, the department has always answered the calls of service for those homeowners, because after all, for the department it's not about who pays the bill, but about saving lives and rendering aid when needed.

According to figures given by Commissioner Jim Tate earlier this year, while Jackson County's annual allotment has helped the Highlands department absorb costs spent servicing the Jackson County properties, that amount has fallen short of covering the actual estimated costs, which weighs in closer to \$38,000 per year.

One way Jackson County is looking to provide additional funding for the fire services provided by Macon, is by holding a public hearing, scheduled for April 30, on developing new fire districts in Jackson.

The fire districts would set specific tax amounts for residents in that district which would be specifically allocated for fire services provided in the district – whether it's Macon or Jackson County that delivers those services..

Macon County already utilizes fire districts. If Jackson County follows suit, a new fire district could generate

\$30,000 a year from residents in the area serviced by Macon, without dipping into Jackson County's existing budget and without having to impose a countywide tax.

If approved in Jackson, the new fire district tax would likely go for additional costs associated with the new Highlands substation set to open later this summer. The substation, which was built with funds from Jackson County residents, is located in Macon County and will be operated by Highlands Fire & Rescue staff, which means Macon County would be footing that bill.

The April public hearing in Jackson County could have a substantial impact on Macon County tax dollars and ease the burden of a much larger issue – the other Macon County services provided to the homes in question.

While the fire portion of the Macon's services to Jackson County costs about \$38,000 a year, Macon County Manager Derek Roland said earlier this year that when police assistance, landfill use and ambulance runs are factored in, Macon taxpayers are spending about \$160,000 a year to service residents in Jackson County.

In an email to Jackson County Manager Chuck Wooten earlier this year, Roland specifically identified how the \$160k figure was calculated – basically on property values.

"I would respectfully request for the Jackson County Board of Commissioners to consider reimbursing Macon County in the amount of \$159,811 (13 percent of the \$1,215,092.38 in projected tax revenue to Jackson County from the 332 properties) for landfill utilization, fire protection, 911 Communications, and EMS services which we continue to provide those properties located in the Macon County Service Area for FY 14-15". "Furthermore, I would request that we begin discussing an acceptable method to ensure that this reimbursement continues to be provided on an annual basis."

...SCC continued from page 1

of SCC's alumni stay in the region.

SCC President Dr. Don Tomas was quoted as saying "The important thing is that there's a tremendous impact within our region and citizens should feel very positive about having the ability to attend a community college or university that provides significant opportunities for jobs."

SCC and the North Carolina University System have a reciprocity agreement that streamlines the transfer of credits to many of the state universities in North Carolina so students can continue their education and get their bachelor degrees.

They are earning bachelor's degrees to get better quality and better paying jobs, but are there those kinds of jobs in our region of North Carolina?

Dr. Tomas said the alumni make up a large portion of service-oriented jobs such as first responders, health science occupations, accountants, mechanics, cosmetology and many others.

The financial impact takes into consideration what SCC offers the region -- Jackson, Macon and Swain counties in addition to the Qualla Boundary. The information could not be broken down just for the Macon Campus.

The study determined that each tax dollar invested into SCC returns \$3.80 in benefits due to students high-

Addressing these other costs has caused a bit of friction between the two counties and is something that is sure to gain further attention as the two counties enter their budget planning process for the coming year.

– from Staff Reports

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...SCC continued from
page 5

er lifetime incomes, increased output of area businesses and a reduced demand for government-funded services.

County Commissioner Jim Tate became an EMT (Emergency Medical Technician) when he was training with the Highlands Fire Department through SCC and got interested in taking an EMT class.

"The fire department does most of its training locally at Southwestern Community College in Franklin," Tate said.

He took an EMT class and after training at SCC ended up working for the county as an EMT.

"Southwestern Community College is definitely an asset to the community. Not only because students can save on tuition, but because of the diversity in education topics," he said.

Recently Tate was trying to advocate for more education that would support the tourism aspect of the businesses in Highlands such as the country clubs, Old Edwards Inn and Spa Resort as well as other businesses in Highlands that could use employees with hospitality and tourism education.

• See SCC page 21



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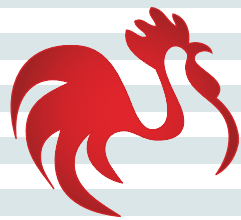
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• HIGHLANDS EVENTS •

Ongoing

• Church of the Incarnation and the First Presbyterian Church are collecting food items for the Highlands Emergency Council and the Food Pantry. Drop off boxes are in the Ravenel Room at First Presbyterian and in the downstairs lobby at the Church of the Incarnation. Monetary donations also accepted. Make checks out to Highlands MountainTop Rotary.

• 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

Thurs.-Sun.

• Movies at the Playhouse: Thurs-Sunday, 2, 5 & 8 p.m. Call 526-2685 for weekly movie.

Monday

• 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.

First Tuesdays

• FAMILY and Caregiver Support Group Meets: for Individuals that have a friend, family member or loved one living with mental illness. Learn how peers deal with stress and emotional overload. First Tuesday of Every Month 7-8 pm. Call Ann for more info (828) 369-7385

2nd and 4th Tuesdays

• OccupyWNC meets at the Jackson County Justice Center. For more information, visit www.occupywnc.org or call 828.331.1524

Tuesdays
• READing Paws dog "Beebles" will be at Hudson Library every Tuesday at 3:30pm. Please call (828)526-3031 to register.

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

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

Starting Tues., Feb. 24

• 12-week NAMI Program to educate families dealing with mental illness, 6:30 to 8:30p. The course has the dual focus of education, and understanding the experience of living with mental illness. Confidentiality is maintained. Class size is limited and pre-registration required. Contact: Ann 369-7385 or Linda 369-9838

Mon., Wed., Fri.

• Heart Healthy Exercise Class Monday, Wednesday and Friday 8:30am-9:30am

• Aerobics with Tina Rogers 8-9a.

• Zumba at the Rec Park at 9:05a. \$5

1st Wednesdays

• Family Movies at the Hudson Library at 3:15pm. Call 828-526-3031 for titles.

3rd Wednesdays

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

Thursdays

• Yoga at the Rec Park 8:15 a.m. \$6 per class.

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

• Weight Watchers support group meets

every Thursday at 6pm at the Cashiers Community Center. Questions? Call Lisa 828-506-3555.

• NAMI Support Group for individuals dealing with mental illness: depression, bipolar, schizophrenia, etc. and the family members of individuals dealing with these challenges from 7 – 8:15 pm. Call Donita for more info (828) 526-9510.

2nd Thursdays

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

3rd Thursdays

• Kidney Smart Classes in Franklin: Every 3rd Thursday of month, 4:30pm-6pm, Angel Medical Center, Video Conference Room, 3rd Floor, 120 Riverview Street, Contact Majestic 828-369-9474

• Kidney Smart Classes in Sylva: Every 3rd Thursday of month, 7:30am-9am, DaVita Sylva Dialysis Center, 655 Asheville Highway, Contact Sue 828-631-0430

Last Fri. of each month

• Community Coffee with Mayor Pat Taylor from 11a to noon at The Hudson Library.

Sundays

• At the Mountain Laurel Tennis Club at 4:30 pm. Multi-denominational, Interactive Bible Study and Fellowship.

Wed., April 14

• Movie at the Hudson Library, at 3:15 p.m.

Friday, April 3

• Stations of the Cross begins at noon at Our Lady of the Mountain Catholic Church.

• The annual Easter egg hunt at the Fidelia Eckerd Center at 2:30 p.m.

Sat., April 4

• Annual Easter Egg Hunt will be Saturday, at 11am at the Recreation Department. For ages 0-9 years old.

• The Fifth Annual Easter Egg Hunt sponsored by Cashiers resident Sharon James will begin at 11 a.m. Saturday for children 10 years old and under. Activities will also include a free hot dog lunch and visit with the Easter Bunny at The Village Green Commons. An Easter bonnet contest for girls concludes this egg-citing event. Bonnets will be judged on creativity and presentation

• At the Lost Hiker at 9 p.m., Mangas Colorado.

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will meet at the clubhouse in Franklin to prepare Easter bags for hikers on the Appalachian Trail. Meet at the NHC Clubhouse at 9:00 am to help make the bags. Contact Elena Marsh at 369-8915.

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate 5-mile hike to Standing Indian Mtn. from Deep Gap north on the Appalachian Trail with elevation change of 1100 ft. Meet at West Gate Plaza in Franklin at 9 am, drive 44 miles round trip. Call leader Mary Stone, 369-7352, for reservations.

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will have a booth with information about the Club at the Nantahala Outdoor Center Festival in Wesser NC. Call Olga Pader, 369-2457.

• HIGHLANDS EVENTS •

Sun., April 5

• Ecumenical Easter Sunrise Service at 6:30 a.m. at the Highlands' Biological Center Amphitheater.

• Easter Sunday. Cashiers area churches will conduct the Community Easter Sunrise Service at 7 a.m. Sunday, April 5 at the Gazebo and Lawn of The Village Green

Thurs., April 9

• The April meeting of The Western North Carolina Woodturners, Inc. will meet on Thursday at 6 PM at the Blue Ridge School, in Glenville, N.C. Located at 95 Bobcat Drive, Cashiers, N.C. Drive to the back of the school to the woodworking shop. Visitors are always welcomed.

Sat., April 11

• At the Lost Hiker at 9 p.m., Sidecar Honey

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a strenuous 10-mile hike with elevation change of 2000 ft. on Standing Indian Loop from the Backcountry parking area, up Kimsey Creek to Deep Gap, lunch on Standing Indian Mtn., returning on Lower Ridge Trail. Wildflowers should be beautiful. Meet at Westgate Plaza at 8 am, drive 30 miles round trip. Call leader Don O'Neal, 828-586-5723, for reservations.

Sun., April 12

Concert for Bolivia at HUMC at 6 p.m. Coffee House venue features musicians from the area. Funds raised will support the music mission in Montero, Bolivia. Free but donations will be accepted.

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate 3.5-mile hike, elevation gain 500 ft., on Wayah Bald Loop with 360 degree views from Wayah Bald. Wildflowers may be bloom-

ing. Hopefully we will find some wildflowers. Meet at Westgate Plaza in Franklin at 2: pm, drive 25 miles round trip. Call leader Gail Lehman, 524-5298, for reservations.

Fri., April 17

• Kindergarten Orientation at East Franklin Elementary at 9 a.m.

• Kindergarten Orientation at South Macon Elementary at 9:15 a.m.

• Free Oyster Roast at The Bascom to celebrate the Pottery Studio expansion from 6-10p

Sat., April 18

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take an easy-to-moderate hike, elevation change 600 ft., to High Falls/ Thurston Hatcher Falls in Jackson County with wildflowers along the trail and a dramatic dam release that day exciting thing to see. Meet at Cashiers Recreation Park at 9 am, drive 18 miles round trip. Call leader Jody Burtner, 828-788-2985, for reservations. Hike limited to 10 people.

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate-to-strenuous 5-mile hike to Windy Falls, a seldom visited falls on Horse Pasture River in Gorges State Park. Elevation change is 700 ft. with steep descent the last 1/4 mile. Meet at Cashiers Recreation Park at 10 am, drive 40 miles round trip. Call leader Mike Kettle, 828-743-1079, for reservations.

Sun., April 19

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take an easy-one-mile hike around the lake at Black Rock Mt. State Park, drive up to the Visitor Center for views of Clayton and surrounding mountains and visit a small nature museum. Share a parking fee of \$4. Meet at Westgate Plaza in Franklin at 2:00, drive 15 miles round trip. Call leader Kay Coriell, 369-6820, for reservations.

Quilt Raffle to benefit Emergency Council



The quilt being raffled is hanging in Macon Bank. Raffle tickets to help fund the Emergency Council's fuel program are available at Macon Bank and the Emergency Council on Popular Street. Tickets are \$1 each or 6 for \$5.

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...FRAUD continued from page 1

EASTER WEEKEND @ COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH



"THE MERCY SEAT"

*An Evening of Worship
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Jesus Christ the Sacrificial Lamb.

GOOD FRIDAY @ 6 PM

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CBC Choir & Special Message

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EASTER SUNDAY @ 10:45 AM

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Jose Lantigua, 62, and his wife Daphne Simpson, 57, were jailed on seven Florida insurance fraud charges each after Lantigua was arrested by Federal agents on Saturday, March 21 in North Carolina on separate fraud charges.

in support of that application; and that he knowingly submitted a false passport application and willfully signed and swore to the veracity of the document submitted.

In addition, Lantigua is a subject in an ongoing and active insurance fraud investigation being conducted by state and federal authorities in the middle district of Florida, his permanent home.

Lantigua and wife, Daphne Simpson, 57, were

jailed on insurance fraud charges after he was arrested by the FBI on Saturday in North Carolina on separate fraud charges.

In brief, it is alleged that Lantigua faked his own death in 2013 in order to fraudulently obtain life insurance money.

In April 2013, his family said he died of a heart attack in Venezuela and his body was cremated there instead of returned home to Florida.

In North Carolina,

Lantigua fraudulently obtained the identity of Ernest Allen Wills, of New York. He used a New York driver's license and New York birth certificate in Wills' name on September 30, 2014 to get a North Carolina driver's license. Then on November 18, 2014 used that stolen identity in an attempt to obtain a fraudulent passport.

As a result of routine processing, the U.S.

• See FRAUD page 11



The Episcopal Church of the Incarnation

Easter

Thursday, April 2

7 p.m. Maundy Thursday in the Chapel

Good Friday, April 3

**Noon Community Stations of the Cross
beginning at the Catholic Church followed by**

1:30pm Good Friday Liturgy In the Chapel

Easter Sunday, April 5

Holy Eucharist Rite II 9am & 11am In the Nave

***No Sunday School**

...FRAUD continued from page 10

Department of State's Charleston Passport Center discovered that a second individual had used Ernest Allen Wills's identity to apply for a U.S. passport which was issued on 09/20/1999.

According to the charging documents, Lantigua, going by Wills at that point, said he had never applied for a passport.

Further investigation by the passport office showed that the real Wills is alive and resides in New York.

Further inquiries revealed that the social security number listed on the birth certificate presented as proof of US citizenship belonged to an Elizabeth Connelly, who was born in 1917, not Elizabeth Wills as indicated on the birth certificate.

The passport center

also noticed that Elizabeth Connelly's date-of-birth was different than the date-of-birth Lantigua listed for his mother, Elizabeth Miller, on the 2014 passport application he executed.

The NY State Department of Health-Vital Statistics verified that the NY State Department of Health birth certificate, presented as proof of the Lantigua's U.S. citizenship for the U.S. passport application was not a valid birth certificate.

The Charleston Passport Center also utilized facial recognition software to search a U.S. Dept. of State database for a match to the individual depicted in the photograph and it didn't match. Wills is black and Lantigua is not.

Then, Charleston Passport Center revealed numerous internet news articles indicating that Jose

Salvador Lantigua had allegedly faked his own death on April 17, 2013 in Venezuela. Daphne Simpson was his wife and she was the emergency contact on the Ernest Allen Wills passport application Lantigua executed in 2014.

His wife, Daphne Simpson owned the home located at 153 Fox Den Rd., Sapphire, NC, but later quit-claimed the deed to an LLC on October 6, 2014.

Basically nothing Lantigua submitted in support of his new identity matched.

US Dept. of State agents (DSS) personnel began surveillance in the proximity of the Fox Den Road home in Sapphire on March 20, 2015, and saw a newer model four-door black Jeep Wrangler traveling toward their home on 153 Fox Den Road with a

registration plate of AZS-FS4.

Prior to his alleged death, Lantigua owned a 2012 black Jeep Wrangler Rubicon, registered in the State of Florida with a registration that expired on 03/18/2013.

His son, Joseph Gabriel Lantigua titled it in the State of Florida on March 13, 2013, with a registration plate of AZSFS4.

Continued surveillance the next day found it being driven by a male subject, who had a beard, with a female. The jeep pulled into a business located at 1653

Rosman Highway in Brevard, NC.

When Lantigua exited the vehicle the DSS agents ID'd themselves.

When they addressed Lantigua as "Lantigua" he said "yes, sir." He was then advised he was under arrest.

During a search incident to arrest, agents discovered that Lantigua had a poorly dyed beard and was wearing a brown toupee. In addition to removing the hair piece, DSS agents found a wallet in his front pants pocket. It contained multiple cards and forms

of identification in the name of Ernest Wills.

Lantigua waived his Miranda Rights and upon signing the waiver form said "It's been a long time since I signed my true name."

Though Lantigua claimed the Wills identity was created for him by someone else, he verified that the handwriting on the fraudulent documents was his and confirmed that he had submitted the birth certificate and everything else in the name of Ernest Allen Wills's identity.

— Kim Lewicki



First Presbyterian Church of Highlands Holy Week 2015

Thursday, April 2, 2015

6:00 p.m.

Maundy Thursday Service

Come for a light dinner followed
by a communion service
in Coleman Hall.

Friday, April 3, 2015

12:00 noon

Stations of the Cross

Sponsored by the
churches of Highlands.
Meet at Our Lady of the
Mountain Catholic Church.

Sunday, April 5, 2015

7:00 a.m.

Ecumenical Easter Sunrise Service

Sponsored by the
churches of Highlands.
Service held at the Highlands'
Biological Center Amphitheater.

11:00 a.m.

Easter Sunday

Communion Service
With guest musicians
Brian Bumgarner & Alec Neal,
trumpeters.

Call 828-526-3175 for more information.



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Rev. Curtis Fussell & Rev. Emily Wilmarth, Pastors

Join us this Easter

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315 Main Street with Pastor Paul Christy

April 2

Passover Seder Meal ~ 5:30pm

call the church to make reservations

April 5

Sunrise Service ~ 7am

join us and other churches

at the amphitheater at the Nature Center

Easter Services

The Living Cross~ 8:30, 9:09, & 10:50am

Bring a flower to place on the outside living cross
before each service.

Easter Coffee Break ~ 9:45am

Come enjoy us for fun and fellowship

Children's Egg Hunt ~ 10am

The children will be off to hunt eggs
immediately after breakfast

For more information please call 526-3376

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Fully remodeled 4br/4ba home in Wildcat Cliffs Country Club. Fully remodeled with open living spaces, large kitchen, rustic details and quality finishes. \$695,000. MLS# 80111



Walk to Town from this Historic Satulah Mountain residence with panoramic mountain views. 4br/3ba, wood floors, stone fireplace, 2 car garage. Diamond in the rough! \$495,000. MLS# 79730



Wonderful mountain views in Mirror Lake area from this 3br/3.5ba home close to Town. Upscale kitchen and baths, 2 living areas with exceptional stone fireplaces. \$697,000. MLS# 80258



Wildcat Ridge home with 3br/4ba, family room, spacious decks, water feature and private gate at driveway. Bright and airy on 1.6+ acres. \$695,000. MLS# 80661



Golf Villa in Highlands Falls Country Club with furnished 3br/2ba, lovely mountain view, vaulted ceilings, stone fireplace and golf cart garage. \$285,500. MLS# 79071



Meticulously maintained 3/2 home on 3.46 acres with tremendous mountain views. Grounds and gardens offer many relaxing sitting areas with pathways. \$535,000. MLS#80134



Single level home in Highlands Falls Country Club with 3br/3ba and office. Awesome setting with its own freshwater lake and overlooking golf course. \$649,000. MLS# 79523



Highlands Falls Country Club condo. 2br/2ba with fabulous views of the gold course! Eat-in kitchen, stone fireplace, 2 porches. \$239,000. MLS# 79399



View of forever! VZ Top condo like you've never seen before! 2br/2ba with great floor plan modifications, new kitchen and baths, all new windows and doors. \$275,000. MLS# 80358



Best price in Old Edwards Club for 3br/3ba condo with awesome views of the golf course. Gourmet island kitchen, open deck and spacious covered deck. Only \$389,000. Owner says bring offers! MLS# 80779



"Big Billy" is offered for sale for the first time since it was relocated from the top of Billy Cabin Mountain by Tommy Chambers in 2005 and expanded to the perfect mountain home that it is today. Situated on over 23 private wooded acres with stream frontage, this stunning log home has 6 bedrooms, 5 full and one half baths and huge family/game room all with finishes and attention to detail that are apparent at every turn. MLS# 80999 \$4,300,000



Panoramic views from most rooms in the home. 6 bedrooms, 6 1/2 baths. The deck stretches the entire length of the home on two levels and offers multiple seating and dining areas with two outdoor fireplaces. The floors are cherry and there is custom cherry woodwork and cabinetry throughout the home. The owners designed exquisite landscaping which includes a paver stone driveway with extra parking, flagstone walkways, a waterfall feature, laurel railing bridge, and koi pond plus beautiful perennial gardens. MLS#80011 \$3,700,000



Located at the top of Highlands Falls Country Club with a commanding view of both Whiteside and Shortoff Mountains, this sophisticated and thoroughly modern home is packed with design features. A truly uncompromising state-of-the-art kitchen enjoys direct access to the outdoor entertaining area and the spacious informal living room. The spacious deck with multiple seating areas and a porch fireplace affords spectacular views of the surrounding mountains. 5 bedrooms, 6 and 1/2 baths. MLS # 79125 \$2,500,000.



Private residence sitting on 1.82 acres which is surrounded by the Biological Station land with its idyllic setting that includes gracious gardens, walking paths, badminton court, pond, gazebo and playhouse. 5 bedrooms/5 bathrooms. The home has a mix of summer camp and European charm with plenty of wood and stone plus imported doors and windows. Perfect as a prestigious family home or enviable holiday retreat, this is a rare opportunity to own a piece of Highlands history within an easy walk to Sunset Rocks or Lindenwood Lake or a great breakfast at Mountain Fresh. MLS#79675 \$2,200,000



Close to all the amenities of Mountain Top Golf and Lake Club. This wonderful mountain home was designed by Summerour and built by JT Turner of Savannah GA. Incredible kitchen with massive island. Deck with fireplace and mountain view. Master suite on main with fireplace and very special bath. Exceptional quality and finishes. Landscaping by Planters. Sweeping staircase to the 2nd level with 4 bedrooms, 3 baths and a family room. MLS#68782 \$2,295,000

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Easter...glorious Easter!

What an exciting time of the year! Not only do we celebrate the beginning of spring with flowers peeking to see it's time to show their little faces but we celebrate the fact that Christ arose and offered new beginnings for all.



Pat Allen
Broker-in-charge
Cell: 828-200-9179
Office: 828-526-8784

that found a happy place for winter! Make sure you get rid of the musty smell from being closed up for so long. In May refresh your landscaping possibly adding a few new plants of shrubs.

All these things will increase the dollars you receive at closing!

Do your HOME work and it will pay off. If you need help staging or rearranging furniture for a better presentation I'm here to help!

It is such a good time to invest in our area and we have had a great winter with buyers! I had a call this week from a gentleman who wanted a home I have under contract and had been "watching" it for a while. He was willing to offer quite a bit more but he missed it! If you are seriously looking and find something you like...don't hesitate!

I predict a busy year for sales and what a great time to start your search! Easter...a time to renew, a time to reflect on life's purpose. Happy Easter to all!

• Pat Allen is owner of Pat Allen Realty Group located at 295 Dillard Road across from Highlands Paint and Decorating. She is a certified Luxury Home Marketing Specialist and can be reached at 828-200-9179, 828-526-8784. Email contact is pat.f.allen@gmail.com. Visit patallenrealtygroup.com

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Adorable Highlands Cottage with Terrific Curb Appeal in Broadview Acres. \$336,000.



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Walk one block to town from this lovely 2BR/2BA on Wilson Road. Quality finishes with open floor plan and stone fireplace with cathedral ceiling. Steel roof, huge decks. Walk to Harris Lake and Lakeside dining. Low maintenance lot and privacy. Some furnishings are negotiable. Offered at \$409,000 MLS# 81267



French Country home on over four acres with a view of Satulah Mountain. Two master suites, fireplaces in the kitchen, living room and screened porch; Downstairs family room Close to town on Billy Cabin Road. Offered at \$1,695,000. MLS #80665



Renovated 2BD/2BA home on 4th hole of HFCC. Fantastic covered deck and porch New roof & gutters. Stone wood burning fireplace. New HVAC. Large unfinished basement. Gated community. Two miles from town. Offered at \$310,000. MLS #80346



In town and priced to sell. 3BD/2BA. Cathedral ceilings, wood burning fireplace, hardwood and tile floors, granite counter tops, on over sized lot in a private lake community. Asking \$285,000. MLS #81010



2/2 cabin on one-acre is mostly furnished, has wood paneling, pine floors, large great room, beautiful landscaping, stream, and two-room basement/workshop. On Cole Mountain Circle, about 7 miles from town. Only \$195,000. MLS #80113



Private compound on 7+ acres off Flat Mountain Road. Walk to Randall Lake. Private deck with fireplace with a ridgeline view. High quality finishes. 1BR/2BA. Large shop building could be a guest house. The property is developable. Offered at \$895,000. MLS #80371



First time on the market and priced to sell right away. This cute cabin is on a pretty 3/4 acre and is only a mile and a half from the town limit. Split floor plan with 2BD/2BA with free-standing fireplace in the living room. Covered deck overlooks woodland yard. Asking \$139,900 MLS # 80305



Split bedroom plan with 3BR/2 1/2BA on the main level, with utility room and 2 car garage. Vaulted Living room with gas fireplace, kitchen, dining room, and huge enclosed loft with storage. Offered at \$575,000. MLS #81022



In the historic Satulah Mountain area, this Montana style log home has numerous features: 4BR/5BA and 2 half baths, Sitting room with fireplace. Master and guest suites with private balconies. Dream kitchen. Huge great room with fireplace, spectacular vista views! Elevator. 2 car garage. Offered at \$4,500,000. MLS #80392



On top of Holt Knob with 3BD/5BA decks, screened porch, sunroom, kitchen/living area with fireplace; a 3rd floor family room; 2-car garage with doggy bath; views; walk to town; furnished. Views from almost every room. \$699,500. MLS #80341



Lakefront home on Lake Sequoyah. Update the kitchen and bathrooms for your own taste. 3BD/3BA. Offered at \$459,000. MLS #80840



Pond and waterfall and view of Blue Valley and 3 states on 2+ acres.. 4BD/2BA and 2 half on 2 levels. Knotty Pine paneling and native stone. Extra lot with a 2/BD septic approval. Offered at \$695,000. MLS#81059



One of the highest points at Highlands Country Club, with stunning views in two directions. Spacious open plan. Porches off bedrooms, huge living porch with grill and views of Whiteside, Shortoff, Cowee, and beyond. 4BR/4 1/2 BA. Offered at \$2,575,000. MLS #80639



Over an acre land with waterfall/pond and stream. Wrap around covered decks on 3 sides. Walk-to town. 3BD/2.5BA. Wood floors on main. Tile baths. Wood burning stone fireplace. Zoned HVAC with new (2014) gas furnace. 2-carport with storage. Small barn. Some views. MLS # 80271 Offered at \$649,000.



Main house has 4BR/2.5BA. Guest house has 2BD/BA. 1880 farmhouse on Bowery Road on over 10 acres of unspoiled nature. Spectacular southerly views! Level, grassy yard. Outdoor BBQ area One car garage. Offered at \$2,400,000. MLS #80904



Walk to town cottage! 3BD/2 1/2 BA. Stone fireplace. Master suite on main with 2BD upstairs. Decks on front and side. Low maintenance yard and home. MLS #81145 Offered for \$309,000.



This is the largest improved tract of land available in Scaly or Highlands. Leave it as a farm or create a wine vineyard, wedding venue, bed and breakfast, retreat or whatever! Mature fruit trees, gardens and tons of fencing and gates. Home could be created into something grand! Guest quarters, too. Offered at \$1,695,000. MLS #80979



Charming cabin near USFS lands. This 3BD/2BA home on almost an acre. 2-story great room w/ stone fireplace, wood floors. Large deck overlooks pond. Mountain charm in this upscale cabin. Detached 1-car garage. Offered at \$269,000. MLS #80360



Wonderful setting on this 2.6+/- acres with charming cottage. Small stream and usable grounds. House features 2BD/2BA with updated kitchen and baths, wood floors and fireplace. Offered at \$325,000. MLS #80941



Little Bearpen. 6BD/4BA; not your plain Jane ranch. Unique with heavy logs, stone and wood in this octagon 2 story. Lovingly restored with HVAC and meticulously maintained. Offered at \$875,000. mls #81152

This week: soccer and track

Girls Varsity Soccer

Tuesday, March 17, the lady Highlanders travelled to Swain where they took an impressive win 5 to 1.

Friday, March 20, the team hosted Brevard at Highlands School.

Blakely Moore came out early to score the first goal. With an assist from Kirstyn Lamb, Aislinn Fitzpatrick scored the second goal. Jessica Tilson scored the third goal and Aislinn Fitzpatrick ended the first half with another goal ending the half 4 to 0.

The team came strong in the second half with Kirstyn Lamb scoring in the first minutes. The Lady highlanders beat Brevard 5 to 0.

Middle School Track

The Middle School team travelled to Hayesville for its first meet. Marylin Valerio placed 4th in the long jump and 4th in the 400-meter dash.

Gracie Forrester placed 3rd in hurdles and 4th in the 1,600-meter run.

Jadan Hames placed 3rd in the 100-meter dash.

Both Pablo Jimenez and Jonathan Miller placed 3rd in the long jump.

Varsity Track

The varsity team also travelled to Hayesville for its first meet.

Montana McElroy placed 1st in the high jump and 3rd place in the 200-meter dash.

Remy Adrian placed 1st in the high jump and 3rd place in the 200-meter dash.

Chris Benton placed 3rd in hurdles and 4th place in the 200-meter dash.

Jose Jimenez placed 3rd in the 400-meter dash.

Both the middle school and varsity teams are coached by Ryan Keen.

– Sierra Nylund

Two NC & GA land parcels joined



NC tract consists of 25.75 acres and a farm house. GA parcel consists of 54.18 acres, 3 bed/2 bath, full basement, two car garage, 2 barns and 2 outbuildings. Land has pasture, agricultural forestry and 2 creeks. Located in Clear Creek area. \$925,000.

**For more information contact
Fran Wilson at 304-615-3553.**

Tony Highlands Townhouse



Rustic elegance w/easy access to Highlands' Main St. Warm & inviting, this renovated 3BR/3BA townhome features wood flooring, updated kitchen w/granite counter tops and stainless steel appliances, gorgeous fireplace w/gas logs & rustic mantle, expansive master suite w/office area & bay window and open decking overlooking area grounds. Situated at the end of a cul-de-sac w/easy walk to the tennis courts. Great rental history and offered furnished!

**Offered at \$298,000. MLS #78393.
Contact Susie deVille (828) 371-2079.**

Close to Town, Elegant & Cozy Home



This interior designer's own 2BR/2BA home is replete with wonderful design elements: Chef's kitchen, oversized master with walkout sleeping porch, expansive screened porch, and stone fireplace in living room. Serene atmosphere, yet close to all that downtown Highlands has to offer.

**Offered at \$498,000. MLS #81239.
Contact Susie deVille (828) 371-2079.**

Multiple Commercial Uses



Excellent Commercial location and visibility from Hwy 64, situated along one of the most highly-trafficked corridors in Highlands. Level topography and B-3 zoning allows multiple commercial uses.

**Offered at \$620,000. MLS #80459.
Contact Susie deVille (828) 371-2079.**

In-Town Pristine Gem



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**Offered at \$349,000. MLS #75156.
Contact Susie deVille (828) 371-2079.**



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Close to town, great garden space,
small stream, multiple decks



\$294,400. 3BR/2 bath • MLS #78074
Elevation over 4000', garage
Nice yard and mountain ridge view



\$499,000 4BR/2.5 baths • MLS #79371
Partially fenced yard, work shop
Beautiful wood finishes throughout



\$535,000 3 BR/3 bath • MLS #79672
Cold Springs, adjoins USFS land,
10' ceilings, screened porch, garage

• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

Resurrecting a dead marriage

By Pastor Steve Kerhoulas
Christ Church of the Valley

What is the major cause of breakdowns in marriage? On the list would have to be self-centeredness.

Self-centeredness comes from the heart. It is a condition of the heart. And not a good one! We say: "I'm self-centered and that's the way it is with me", and think because we are this way it's something our spouse must get use too. Really? Isn't that like saying, "I'm a slob and that's the way I am, and you need to accept me for what I am"? Really? Because what we are saying is, "I was born a slob and can't change". The heart needs to recognize this for what is something called "sin". Self-centeredness must be identified as the result of "my" sinfulness.

Sin is a universal condition. We are all sinful. David in the Psalms declares this fact when he said in Ps. 51:5 say "Behold I was shaped in iniquity and in sin did my mother conceive me". In a condition of sin. Sorry but true!

What to do? Own up to the sad fact that being self-centered is my responsibility. I have to deal with mine regardless of what "they" do. I can't wait for them to begin changing to start doing it myself. So what to do? Get alone with the Lord tell him what he already knows... you are self-centered. Ask for help in replacing it with something better.

For sometime I was puzzled by the verse that says "Humble yourself under the mighty hand of God..." My question was how? Admitting we are self-centered is an act of greatest humility. Saying it out loud to God and then, and here's the harder part, to others, destroys our pride. Apparently humility counteracts self-centeredness. By asking the Spirit of God to go to work in our heart gives God permission to change us.

Self-centeredness is ugly. It shows up as impatience, irritability, lack of kindness, it is judgmental, and it blames others as the cause of "my" unhappiness. It holds grudges and doesn't work towards reconciliation.

Self-centeredness is the very opposite of love. Self-centeredness is always at the heart of marriage disintegration. Dana Adams a counselor says, "Self-centeredness by its very character makes you blind to your own, while being hypersensitive, offended, and angered by that of others." Yep it does.

The answer to self-centeredness is spiritual. Tim Keller writes, "...the gospel brought home to the heart by the Spirit, can make us happy enough to be humble, giving you an internal fullness that frees you to be generous with others even when you are not getting the satisfaction you want out of the relationship".

So what needs to happen? We need to deal with our self-centeredness not theirs. We must come to see that the fundamental problem in marriage is me not them. I am self-centered. It's our responsibility to deal with what's in our heart not what's in them! And so begin by stopping the excuses for

• See SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING page 22

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Proverbs 3:5

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Sundays: School: 10 a.m.; Worship: 11 a.m.

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

Wednesdays - Supper at 6 p.m.

COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH

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3645 Cashiers Rd, Highlands, NC

Senior Pastor Gary Hewins

Sun.: 9:30am: Sunday School

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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Sundays: Education and choir rehearsal, 9 am, Holy

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Wednesday: 10 a.m., Morning Prayer

Thursdays: Holy Eucharist, (chapel), 10 am

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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

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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

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Sunday School: 10 am, Worship Service: 11 am

Bible Study: 6 pm

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John 3:16

• PLACES TO WORSHIP •

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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

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Sundays: Worship: 11

HIGHLANDS CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Dan Robinson

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

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

Wednesday: Prayer Service, 6:30 p.

HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Pastor 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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Rev. Marty Kilby

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

Wednesdays: Prayer Mtg.: 7 p.m.

SCALY MOUNTAIN CHURCH OF GOD

290 Buck Knob Road; Pastor Jerry David Hall • 526-3212

Sun.: School: 10 a.m.; Worship: 10:45 a.m.; Worship: 6 p.m.

SHORTOFF BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Rev. Andy Cloer

Sundays: School: 10 a.m.; Worship: 11

Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study: 7

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WHITESIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Rev. Sam Forrester/Cashiers

Sunday School: 10 am, Worship Service: 11 am

POLICE & FIRE REPORT

The Highlands Police log entries from March 10. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor or public officials have been used.

March 10

• At 4 p.m., officers took a report about a employee clocking in at the Smokehouse in Highlands and then leaving without clocking in and then clocking in a Mulligans Bar & Grill in Franklin.

• At 6:19 p.m., officers responded to a breaking and entering with larceny at 154 Franklin Road. Numerous household items were taken.

March 23

• At 2:09 a.m., officers responded to a call about someone removing a license plate from a vehicle at 476 Carolina Way behind the building in the alley.

March 24

• At 4:10 p.m., officers responded to a single vehicle accident in Highlands Plaza.

March 26

• At 10:35 p.m., officers responded to a call about vandalism at a residence on Bowery Road at Upper Lake where a window was hit and broken.

March 29

• At noon, officers responded to a two-vehicle accident at Our Lady of the Mountains Catholic Church.

The Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. log entries from March 20.

March 20

• At 5:57 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm on Country Club Drive.

March 21

• At 6:33 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Cullasja Drive.

March 23

• At 4:02 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Brooks Road.

• At 12:01 p.m., the dept. provided public assistance with an oil spill at N. 4th Street and Oak Street.

March 25

• At 2:04 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Buck Creek Road.

March 26

• At 7:12 a.m., the dept. was first responders to a residence on Biscuit Rock Road.

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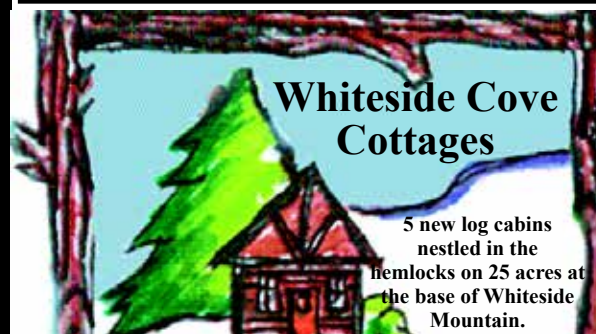
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...NUISANCE continued from page 1

unclear definitions, Koser suggested that commissioners take additional time to strengthen the document in an attempt to provide law enforcement with a better, more solid tool for enforcing the measure.

Speakers who followed Koser ranged in their stance on the issue. Kevin Champion, who lives in the Sanderstown community of the county, pleaded with the county to do something to regulate noise because of loud music and late night happenings at neighboring properties that keep him up on the weekends.

James Burch, who spoke in favor of the measure as a whole, asked commissioners to reconsider the provision in the ordinance that states barking dogs will not be regulated, as unattended barking dogs are a significant problem in the county.

Despite the majority of speakers being in favor of the ordinance in some form or the other, there was opposition. Pat McCall told commissioners that she opposed the move because in her opinion, one tenth of one percent of the county's population are the ones seeking such an ordinance. "Just because some people didn't learn to play well with others doesn't mean that the whole county should be affected," she said.

Kevin Tillet, who runs a business out of his home and has received noise complaints in the past, asked commissioners to not vote on the issue at all and instead to put the issue on the ballot and let citizens vote on it.

Commissioners spoke explaining their reasoning for both supporting and objecting to the ordinance, which was as diverse as the speakers who signed up. Gary Shields, planning board liaison, made the motion to adopt the ordinance as presented. Shields explained that the document was a starting point for the county and gave authorities something to work with.

Both Kevin Corbin and Jim Tate shared personal stories of having a friend who recently passed away battling with a neighbor in the last months of his life. According to Corbin and Tate, if the proposed ordinance was in place, law enforcement officers would have been able to help them man.

Commissioner Paul Higdon sided with those in opposition and said that although he is affected by nuisance noises in Burningtown, "That is just a part of life." Higdon said that he cannot support any ordinances and believes the issue should be resolved between neighbors.

Since Commissioner Higdon voted against the measure it wasn't an unanimous vote, so county attorney Chester said with new ordinances, the issue would have to come before the board again during the April 14 MC Commission meeting for another vote before it could become law.

At that time, if there is a majority vote, the ordinance will go into effect.

— from Staff Reports

...SCC continued from page 6

These businesses bring in a tremendous amount of their employees from out of state and out of the country through various employment programs.

"It would be nice to be able to get

employees locally for these businesses by having Southwestern Community College provide a hospitality and tourism curriculum," said Tate.

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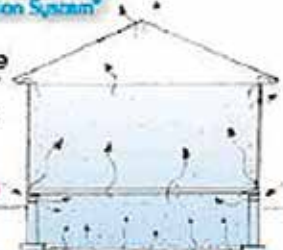
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RESPONSIBLE MALE, employed locally 12 years, seeking room in house or similar near town. May-Nov. Flexible. 772-321-0881. (st. 3/26)

HELP WANTED

SWEETREATS DELI. call 828-526-9632. (ST. 4/2)

NEW HIGHLANDS RESTAURANT hiring all positions - sous chef, line cooks, dish, servers, server assistants, host/hostess logcabinrestaurant2015@gmail.com

MOUNTAIN FRESH GROCERY is hiring full-time positions for coffee/ barista service and cashiers. Contact Don at 828-526-2400 (4/9)

THE BUSINESS SPOT is looking for a part time to almost full time employee. Must be people-oriented, organized, have computer knowledge and some understanding of software programs. Hours are negotiable. Please email your response and a resume to: businessspot537@gmail.com (st. 3.26)

SCALY MOUNTAIN NURSERY now hiring for landscape division. Call 526-9269 or Matt at 371-2474. (4/9)

CHEF NEEDED FOR CREEK-SIDE RESTAURANT IN HIGHLANDS. Experience, creativity and enthusiasm are necessary. Call Bob for an interview, 828-526-9822. (st. 2/26)

MOUNTAIN FRESH GROCERY is accepting applications for full-time positions as a coffee/ barista server. Contact Don at 828-526-2400.

WOLFGANG'S RESTAURANT now hiring experienced waitstaff and line cook. Please call Jacque at 828.526.3807 (st. 2/29)

FULL TIME GRILL AND PIZZA POSITIONS available at Mountain Fresh Grocery. Please apply in person or email jobs828@gmail.com

LOCAL CHURCH SEEKS FINANCIAL MANAGER/BOOKKEEPER - Community Bible Church is hiring a full-time financial manager and bookkeeper. Interested parties can submit resumes to CBCFinanceResumes@gmail.com Job responsibilities will include accounts payable and receivable, budget tracking, payroll, financial reports, banking, insurance management, and asset tracking. Full and working knowledge of QuickBooks and Excel is required. Awareness of specific accounting and reporting requirements for churches is a plus. Salary determined by level of experience. (st. 2/15)

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY SMALL BUSINESS, GREAT LOCATION. tons of goodwill, Retail ready. Under valued! \$5,000. Call 828-526-2801 or 404-550-1565. (3/19-4/30)

RESIDENTIAL FOR RENT HOME FOR RENT: Three Bedroom home, 3 miles from town. Beautiful terrace and yard, pond and mountain views. Available seasonally or year round. Call 828-421-4681 (st. 2/29)

SAPPHIRE NC. Partitioned Home for lease - 2 Bedroom (mountain views) with 2-car Garage. Easy access Sapphire NC. 561-346-6400 (11/20)

COMMERCIAL FOR RENT APPROXIMATELY 1,500 SQ. FT. of commercial space on Hwy 84 east (Cashiers Road) Could be subdivided. Call 828-526-4889. (st. 4/2)

VAC/SEASONAL RENTAL HIGHLANDS VACATION RENTAL DOWNTOWN. 2/2 updated in 2014 with luxury master bath, king bed, marble & SS kitchen. Second floor condo two blocks off Main. Renovated like an Old Edwards Suite! W/D in unit, flat screen T.V., gas fireplace, off street parking. Available weekly \$1,000 plus utilities. Call 828-352-8519. (st. 12/25)

LOTS/LAND FOR SALE

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. (3/26)

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

MAGIC CHEF WINE COOLER, excellent condition. 21x28. Depth 17". 5 shelves. Black with black glass front. \$99.00. Call 828-526-0502. (st. 3/19)

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

WORMY CHESTNUT FOR SALE: Approximately 300 square feet of 3/4" wormy chestnut wainscot milled and finished. Board length 36"; width varies from 4" to 8". \$2800 lot price. 404-944-5298 (st. 3/20)

SERVICES

ZEN SPA BY ANGEL JOY. A New Day Spa in Highlands. OFF HYW 64 N (NEXT TO HIGHLANDS FALLS COUNTRY CLUB). Open Mon - Sat 8am - 7pm. Zen Classic SWEDISH Massage \$95 for 60 minutes additional options at www.zenspabyangeljoy.com. mention ad get 10% OFF. ph. 919-413-7411 (6/18)

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

PIANO LESSONS with Marquita. Adults and Children. Cal 910-548-2719. (st. 2/26)

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

HIGH COUNTRY PHOTO/KEVIN VINSON: scanning photos, slides & negatives to CD or DVD for easier viewing. Video transfer to DVD. Everything done in house. Leave message at 828-526-5208. (st. 12/4)

I PAY TOP DOLLAR for premium low mileage automobiles 828-347-6600. (st. 6/5)

HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS HANDYMAN: Repairs, remodeling, painting, pressure washing, minor plumbing and electric, decks and additions. Free

Estimates. Insured. Call 421-4667. (10/23)

HIGHLANDS TAXI & SHUTTLE: Let Charlie Dasher handle your transportation whether it's to the airport, a special event, or just around town. Van service for weddings. Licensed and insured. 526-8645. (st. 7/18/13)

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

RESIDENTIAL FOR SALE IN-TOWN 1ST-FLOOR 2BD/2BA CONDO FOR SALE. 510 N. 5th Street, \$239,000. See zillow.com or leave a message at 828-526-5622.



TWO LAND PARCELS JOINED. NC tract consists of 25.75 acres and a farm house. GA parcel consists of 54.18 acres, 3 bed/2 bath, full basement, two car garage, 2 barns and 2 outbuildings. Land has pasture, agricultural forestry and 2 creeks. Located in Clear Creek area. \$925,000. For more information contact Fran Wilson at 304-615-3553. (st. 3/5)

CABINS FOR SALE/RENT. Located on Sawmill Road in Clear Creek. 4.63 acres. Call 828-526-2720. Price Negotiable. (3/26)

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

SECLUDED, BUT JUST MINUTES TO TOWN, Adorable two bedroom home with great views and outdoor living spaces. Call 828-421-4681. (st. 5/29)

...SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING from pg 18

being selfish.

Throw out the self-justifying argument because there is none. If a husband and a wife will begin to treat their self-centeredness as the main problem in the marriage they have the potential of resurrecting a bad marriage into a great marriage!

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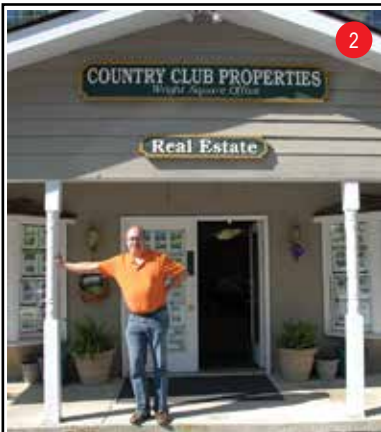
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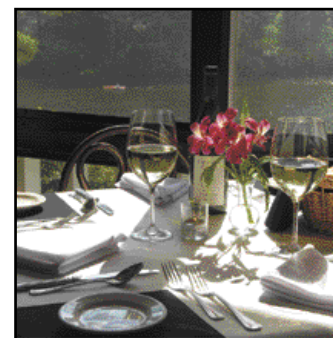
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