

# Highlands Newspaper

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Thurs., April 9, 2015

## Senate plan eliminates most local sales taxes

*Municipalities would have to cut operating expenses or raise property taxes to recoup funds*

A Senate bill filed recently would lead to the eventual elimination of most local sales taxes. S369 (Sales Tax Fairness Act) would convert 2% of local sales taxes

to a state sales tax over three years. The state would allocate 2% of the 6.75% state sales tax to counties and cities on a per capita basis. (See the included timeline of how the local

sales tax authority is eliminated.)

The North Carolina Association of County Commissioners (NCACC) said it appreciates Sen. Brown initiating the conversation

about how to solve some critical funding issues facing NC counties.

The NCACC's longstanding mission is to seek what is best for all

•See **SALES TAX** page 15

## Debate on the measles vaccine revisited

By Merritt N. Shaw

The debate in regard to the safety of vaccines and whether the MMR vaccine causes autism rages on.

A documentary by Frontline called "The Vaccine War" that aired last week on PBS (Public Broadcasting System) said, people are compelled by their fears and there is a real possibility that there could be injury and, in the worst case scenario, death if you decide to vaccinate or to not vaccinate. So people have to decide for themselves on a personal basis what risks are acceptable to them and which risk outweighs the benefits.

According to the Center for Disease Control (CDC) doctors who advocate for vaccines admit that no vaccine is perfect, but they believe the benefits of vac-

•See **SERVICE** page 16



Mayor Pat Taylor begins the run to the town limit on US 64 east with Intrepid Fallen Heroes runner Dave Cockman who made a pit stop in Highlands the night of Sunday, April 5 on his way to Manteo, NC. He began in Murphy, NC and plans to make the trip in 12 days. Inset: Mayor Taylor signs a proclamation in support of his run for wounded warriors. With the mayor from left is Morris Williams of the Highlands Roadrunners Club, Dave Cockman and Highlands Police Officer Jonathan Phillips who escorted them to the town limits.

Photos by Jim Lewicki

## Cockman running NC for Fallen Heroes

When Mayor Pat Taylor heard about Dave Cockman's "Murphy To Manteo 600" run

across the state of North Carolina to raise money for the Intrepid Fallen Heroes Fund that helps

wounded veterans returning from conflict, he was all over it.

•See **COCKMAN** page 6

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### MC Youth Risk Behavior Survey results:

## Study shows student suicide risk on the rise

By Merritt N. Shaw

Dawn Wilde, Community Health Promotions Supervisor for Macon County recently presented results of the Macon County Schools, Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) for 2014 to the Macon County School Board and Macon County Health Board.


The YRBS is a national school-based survey developed by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in 1990. The survey is given every two years to monitor health risk behaviors that contribute to deaths, disabilities, and social problems among young Americans.

Macon County Schools uses the survey as a tool for needs assessment and curriculum plan-

•See **RISK** page 5


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# • THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

## • MAYOR ON DUTY •

### It's time to clean up Highlands

It is spring cleanup time. The town has been in clean up mode since March and will continue to do so this month.

Our street department, under the direction of Gene Ramey, has been especially busy. They have been removing the winter chat from the roads. Large fallen limbs on the right-of-way will also be cleared. Potholes are being filled and clogged culverts cleared. Since asphalt is not very workable in cold temperatures, the potholes will be fixed as it warms up.

Last week town crews cleared beer cans, plastic bags, fast food wrappers and other litter from the main highways, US 64, NC 28 and 106. They are state maintained roads, but periodically town crews pick up the trash.

On Saturday, April 23rd, the Chamber of Commerce will be sponsoring the Annual Gorge Pick-Up Day. As always volunteers will do a wonderful makeover of this NC Scenic Highway.

But, a point I want to make is that litter control is everyone's responsibility, not just town workers, or volunteers on



Highlands Mayor  
Patrick Taylor

a particular day. If near a piece of trash, please pick it up if possible. I arrive at the front of town hall many days to see trash in the door way that has blown from 4th Street. I don't assume someone else will pick it up, I do it.

There are several things that can be done to manage the trash problem, like keeping household trash inside until the day of pickup, or putting it in a bear resistant container. I have seen folks just place a plastic trash bag in front of their house on pick up day. Not only is that an invitation for bears, other animals like crows can open and pick through a trash bag within minutes.

Another problem is the proliferation of those plastic bags. They can blow away and lodge in prominent positions in trees and bushes. An alternative is to use reusable shopping bags, or even biodegradable paper bags.

Our police will enforce litter laws, but litterbugs don't throw trash in their presence. As the former magistrate, I saw only one case where a person was arrested for littering. The police did not see the person litter, but a citizen did and took down the offender's tag number. She immediately gave the police the information and indicated her willingness to testify if necessary in court to what she witnessed. Police made the case resulting in a conviction because a citizen was a stakeholder in the process, and did not pass it off as somebody else's job. By the way, if the police observe trash blowing out of the back of a truck, or from a car, an enforcement action will be taken.

The town crews and police can't do it all. Let's all work together to control litter. My mayor walks continue on Tuesdays at 5 pm starting in front of town hall. I will bring a trash bag just in case we see trash on our beautiful streets.

The town crews and police can't do it all. Let's all work together to control litter. My mayor walks continue on Tuesdays at 5 pm starting in front of town hall. I will bring a trash bag just in case we see trash on our beautiful streets.

## • LETTER •

### Suggestions regarding Highlands' new Outdoor Mall

Dear Editor,

I've been reading about the proposals for the Kelsey-Hutchinson Park and looking at the newspaper ketches of those proposals, and my initial reaction was, gee, it sure looks cluttered, more like an outdoor mall than a green park. But, then I thought, why not? Highlands doesn't need a green park because it is surrounded by green park land. So maybe an Outdoor Mall is what the town actually needs. I mean, why not?

So in addition to the proposed seasonal ice rink, the support facilities required for the rink such as an on site skate rental building and a storage building for rink materials, the plaza with low walls (nice mall touch), the occasional tent structure, the water feature, the restroom building, the stage pavilion and anything else I may have missed, I have a few proposals of my own; how about a seasonal water slide that could be incorporated into the already planned water feature and could then be removed when the seasonal ice rink was set up; what about a scaled down Ferris wheel (seasonal, of course) for children 12 years old and younger; how about a small building on the property that could provide computerized light shows for the anticipated "community gatherings of all kinds" and would possibly even put on a really big 4th of July show and would be safer than live fireworks. I've heard someone suggest a small, pony riding rink attached to a miniature farmyard display

with small animals, but probably the town has ordinances against something like that. Instead, how about maybe a bumper car rink that could be year round if the Williams family or other civic-minded donors would provide a removable winter enclosure like the one planned for the Rec Center swimming pool.

These are just a few simple suggestions, but there are tons of other fun things which could be installed in any leftover space in the new Kelsey-Hutchinson Outdoor Mall, or even regularly scheduled activities, like jump rope marathons, relay races, dog contests, music events of course. Did I mention vending machines scattered strategically around the L-shaped property providing something for everybody, like soft drinks, candy and other healthy snacks?

Last but not least, I've heard some talk of replacing the little remaining grass with Astro turf, having the dual benefit of eliminating grass cutting and staying green year round; also, removing the existing trees which would eliminate the costs and labor of leaf blowing – in other words, basically eliminating all landscape maintenance – but I cannot advocate either of these measures because, as Hank Ross so accurately expressed, "the idea is to have an area that still felt like Highlands."

Alice Nelson  
Highlands

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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.

## • OBITUARIES •

### Sylvia Freda Conn Leousis

Sylvia Freda Conn Leousis, 89, died Monday, April 6, after a brief illness. Sylvia was born in Athens, Alabama, to Will and Dell Conn, but spent most of her adult life in St. Petersburg, Florida. After the Second World War, she married the love of her life, Peter Leousis, and they had two daughters and a son.

Sylvia had a deep and abiding faith in God, and in June of 2011, she and Peter celebrated 63 years of marriage. A devoted and loving wife, mother and grandmother, Sylvia is survived by their three children, five grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

A service commemorating Sylvia's life will be held at 11:30 AM in St. Petersburg, at Lewis Mohn Funeral Home on Saturday, April 11, 2015. A visitation for Sylvia's friends and friends of the family will be held from 10 to 11:30 a.m. on Saturday, April 11, in the chapel at Lewis Mohn Funeral Home in St. Petersburg.

Bryant-Grant Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.





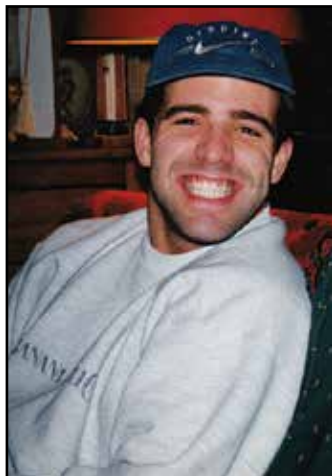
# ...OBITUARIES continued from page 2

## Thomas Roland Brooks

Thomas Roland Brooks (Tommy) 44, of New York City, NY (formerly of Highlands, NC) passed away peacefully in his sleep on Friday, February 6th.

Thomas was the son of Larry Brooks of Franklin and the late Janice Bowman Brooks. Thomas studied at UNC-Wilmington and Johnson and Wales in Charleston, SC. He was however, most gifted at design, and partnered in several businesses in this field. He had a special place in his heart for animals as well as donating his time and talent to various other charitable organizations. Thomas was passionate, gifted, and kind. He will be greatly missed by his beloved family and friends fortunate enough to have been part of his life.

He leaves behind his father and step-mother Paula, brothers Mark and Ross, step-sister Melissa Chambers, step-brother



Greg Worley, Aunts Debra Lamb, Stephanie Bowman and Ruth Sessions. We honor Thomas because of his spirit of encouraging the gifts that make each of us special, the eternal mystery and extraordinary beauty of the human heart.

A service will be held Saturday, April 11, 2015 at 11:00 AM at The Episcopal Church of the Incarnation in Highlands, NC with Dr. Bruce Walker officiating. Donations may be made in his honor to one of his favorite charities, God's Love We Deliver, <https://www.glwd.org/>.

Bryant-Grant Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. Online condolences may be made at [www.bryantgrant-funeralhome.com](http://www.bryantgrant-funeralhome.com).

## Andrew Jackson Picklesimer

Andrew Jackson Picklesimer, 63, of Highlands passed away Monday, April 5, 2015. Born in Macon Co., he was the son of the late Alfred and Katherine Talley Picklesimer. He was a supervisor at Macon County's recycling center. He was a loving husband, father, and grandfather who loved hunting and fishing. He was a member of Shortoff Baptist Church.

Mr. Picklesimer is survived by his wife of 28 years, Romonia Talley Picklesimer; one daughter, Christy Rhoden and husband Thomas of Clearwater, SC; one step-daughter, Samantha Phillips and husband Mat-



thew of Highlands; one sister, Genevieve Rogers and husband Larry of Highlands; five grandchildren, Catilan, Paige, Rose, Memphis and Mitchell. In addition to his parents he was preceded in death by a brother, Gearce Picklesimer and two grandchildren, Gwendolyn and Andrew.

A memorial service will be held at a later date.

Bryant-Grant Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. Online condolences may be made at [www.bryantgrant-funeralhome.com](http://www.bryantgrant-funeralhome.com).

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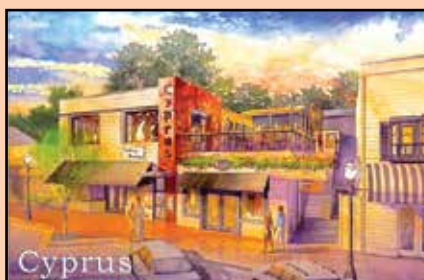
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# • DINING •

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## ...RISK continued from page 1

ning. The Macon County School System administered the YRBS in middle and high schools most recently in April 2014.

The survey questions address six general risk areas: alcohol and drug use, injury and violence, including suicide, tobacco use, nutrition, physical activity and sexual behaviors.

According to Superintendent of Macon County Schools, Dr. Chris Baldwin, the Macon County Schools system follows the New North Carolina Standard Course of Study which enables flexibility.

"While the curriculum is set by the state, our administrators, teachers and school nurses are aware of the results of the survey and may adjust their instruction in order to address identified local needs," Baldwin said.

Baldwin went on to say that in the past, Macon County Schools has modified instruction to reduce teen pregnancies and bullying. These modifications have included increased time and additional lessons on these topics including guest speakers.

A total of 1,795 students responded to the surveys in this report. Out of the 761 middle grade students that took the survey, 49% were female and 51% were male. In regard to the high school students, 1,034 students took the survey and 48% were female and 50% were male. According to Wilde only the middle school results were analyzed.

All Macon County middle and high school students in the public school system were given the opportunity to complete the YRBS. Participation was voluntary. The survey is confidential and anonymous. These results did not reflect results from surveys taken by students attending private school, who were being home schooled or who had dropped out of school. Interestingly, the report states, "Studies conducted among alternative education students and dropouts have shown a significantly higher incidence of behaviors that put children at risk."

One other thing that is important to note is the limitation of the reliability of the data. The report stated that the information was "self-reported by respondents" rather than being a scientific study of direct observation. So there is a possibility that students may (intentionally or unintentionally) inaccurately report information.

There were some significant changes for the better compared with the survey results two years ago. There was an increase of students who were taught about abstaining from sexual activity, AIDS, HIV infection and other sexually transmitted diseases and an increase of the student's willingness to talk to a teacher or other school adults about STDs, HIC, AIDS and pregnancy prevention.

The significant changes for the worse dealt with increase of poor eating habits, poor self image and exercise habits, suicide, weapons and sexual intercourse.

More students described themselves as slightly or very overweight, more ate junk food three or more times per day and fewer students were physically active for at least 60 minutes per day on five or more days in a week.

In regard to exercise, the numbers trended downward on wearing a bicycle helmet, fewer students participated in PE for five days per week and fewer students played on one or more sports teams.

On the flip side, there was an almost eight percent increase in students using video games or a computer instead of doing homework on school nights.

Nine percent more students carried a weapon and even though the numbers were higher in education for abstinence and sexually transmitted diseases, the study showed a 4.5 percent increase in students having sexual intercourse.

One of the most disturbing statistics shown in the report is an almost 5% increase in students contemplating suicide. Although lower when compared with statewide results almost 59 percent of Macon County middle grade students felt alone in their lives.

The report compared results of middle school stu-

• See RISK page 11

## MACON COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY 2015 CONVENTION

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## ...COCKMAN continued from page 1

Emails went out encouraging citizens and area runners to meet Dave – a software engineer and marathon runner from Cary, NC – at the “Welcome to Highlands” sign at Sequoyah Dam the evening of Easter Sunday.

Dave is attempting an uninterrupted and totally self-supported crossing of the state on foot following the “Murphy to Manteo” route. This follows US 64 from where it crosses the Tennessee/North Carolina border, all the way to Manteo, NC on the coast in the east – passing through Highlands where US 64 is Highlands Main Street.

In addition to raising money for the Intrepid Fallen Heroes Fund and running in remembrance of the victims of the Boston Marathon bombing of 2013, Cockman is attempting to set a Guinness World Re-

cord and a FKT (Fastest Known Time) for this route.

“I am planning on finishing in 12 days, which will require running an average of 50 miles per day at 12-minute miles. Along the way, I am hoping to run some segments with veterans and first responders from the local communities I will be running through,” he said.

His first day was grueling and ended later than the anticipated ETA of 6 p.m. He arrived at the Sequoyah Dam at 8:30 p.m. walking with a slight limp.

“I had to climb two mountains to get here, he said illuminated by Sheriff Deputy Josh Stewart’s headlights at the dam. The Sheriff Dept. escorted him to Highlands where the Highlands Police Dept. took over.

Two of Highlands own marathon

runners and members of the Highlands Roadrunners Club – Morris Williams and Brian McClellan – met Dave at Dry Falls and walked/ran with him to the dam where Mayor Taylor waited with Highlands Police officer Ronnie Castle. He escorted the group of four on the last leg of the journey for the day – the run into town.

Old Edwards Hospitality Group gave Dave a room for the night and by 8:30 a.m. Monday, Dave was ready to embark on the second leg of his journey – Highlands to Brevard.

Prior to leaving, Mayor Taylor signed a proclamation supporting his effort and the Intrepid Fallen Heroes Fund and then joined him on his way out of town.

To donate to his cause and to see a live feed of his progress go to: [murphytomanteo.org/run-across-north-carolina](http://murphytomanteo.org/run-across-north-carolina). As of Tuesday afternoon he raised \$3,656.

– Kim Lewicki



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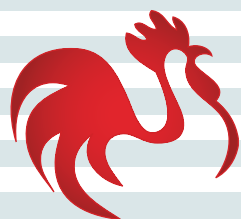
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## • MILESTONE •

### Collier and Grady wed



Sgt. Ryan Grady, an Airborne paratrooper, son of Tom and Ann Gray of Naples, FL and Highlands, NC and grandson of Mac and the late Maggie Grady, of Franklin and previous seasonal residents of Highlands was married to Lara Collier, an organic farmer, in Naples, FL on April 4, 2015. They were married at the bride’s father’s home in Naples. The couple will be living at various bases after honeymooning in Bali.



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From left: Highlands senior Kirstyn Lamb, Highlands Coach Brett Lamb and Highlands senior Brent Amundrud.

## Girls 'West' team wins; Boys 'West' team loses close game

Highlands School seniors Kirstyn Lamb and Brent Amundrud were selected to play in the 1A All-Star Basketball game on March 21 at Cherryville High School and Highlands School Athletic Coach Brett Lamb was chosen as one of the girls' team coaches.

Called the 'West' teams, players came from various schools in the western district of North Carolina.

### Girls Game

The girls game ended in a lopsided win for the West team that had Kirstyn Lamb playing and Brett Lamb as one of the coaches.

The West triumphed 91-50. The game started out very close throughout the first half, then the West team started full court pressing and the tempo changed greatly and the West took a 19-point lead at halftime.

The second half the West continued to put pressure on the Midwest team creating many turnovers and getting easy baskets.

The West continued to dominate the game defensively, rebounding and ultimately the final score.

The West team consisted of players from Blue Ridge, Cherokee, Hayesville, Highlands, Hiwassee Dam, Swain and Robbinsville.

"It was an honor to coach in the first ever 1A West vs. Midwest all-star game and

to come out on top shows how good our conference is in our state for girls basketball," said Highlands Coach Brett Lamb. "The girls played great after just two short practices. I hope this all-star game continues for many years to come. It was a great experience as a coach and also for the players."

### Boys Game

The boys game saw a great up tempo start with a lot of scoring by both teams. The kids were entertaining the crowd with a lot of 3 pointers and fast breaks. The game was tied at half time. The Mid West pulled away at the end and pulled out an exciting 108-101 victory over the West squad, which featured Highlands Brent Amundrud.

This game was super competitive and set a great standard for future all-star games.

The boys West team were players from Cherokee, Hayesville, Highlands, Hiwassee Dam, Robbinsville and Rosman.

"We are very proud of Kirstyn Lamb and Brent Amundrud for their participation in this all-star game," said Lamb. "They both represented Highlands High School and the Smoky Mountain Conference in a great way."

Next year the game will be held at a school from our conference.



# •BIZ/ORG NEWS•



On March 24, The Rotary Club of Highlands welcomed 3 new members. The photo shows (l to r) Rotary President Peter Ray with new members Jackie Ring, Buzz Dotson and Chris Wilkes.

## Have you Fixed Your Dirt Crawl Space?

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# • RUNNER'S TALE •

## The 'Dime' revisited

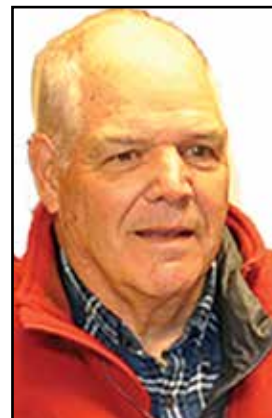
*I started running when I was 13 and I am still running now at 70. I count myself blessed to have had running as part of my life. Sometime in the mid 70s I was running around Stone Mountain Park on a Saturday morning when I met Lee Fidler. We decided to run together the next weekend and have been running together ever since. We run together less frequently now since I moved to North Carolina, but we have run together on every Christmas Eve morning for over 30 years. We have been running partners, teammates on the Racing South Competitive Team, and great friends since running brought us together. For over 23 summers we have together directed a week long running camp we call the North Carolina Running Adventure in the Boone area. I have so many great memories involving Lee, that they would fill a book. My all time favorite story was published in the April 1987 issue of Racing South Magazine and is reprinted below followed by an epilogue. (Racing South was later acquired by Running Journal.)*

Lee Fidler is well known throughout the South for being an excellent coach, for consistently running at a high level and for being just a plain nice guy. Anyone who has been around him very much soon has a favorite Lee Fidler story. I think Mike Caldwell's favorite is about the time Lee arranged to stay in a hotel room with some friends after a race and agreed to pay a portion of the \$24 room charge. His negotiated portion turned out to be 50 cents, but by playing like he was asleep the next morning as the others checked out he didn't even pay that.

Almost everyone is amazed at how much Lee can eat. Go with Lee to Shoney's breakfast bar and he will quickly show you how to out eat any two people there. However, one starts to wonder if it is that he likes to eat or that he likes to get what he considers a good deal that drives him.

Being quick to latch on to any scheme to make money, at this past August's Summer Breeze Road Race in Tuscaloosa, AL he came up with the idea of buying used records in that city for 25 cents and then re-selling them in Anniston for 50 cents. His plan was not implemented, however, because he remembered that the record store in Anniston would not be open for our return trip home to Stone Mountain on Sunday.

Lee's favorite way of making a quick cent is to pick up coins on his training runs. Last year he picked up over \$32 mostly in



Morris Williams

pennies. Most people who run with him know that they should keep alert to his frequent stops. If you happen to be running behind him when he spots a penny, you could end up spending a great deal more in medical bills after you have tripped over him.

One Saturday night last August, I decided to superglue a dime to the street near Lee's house just to see what he would do. The next morning on our run, Lee spotted the dime and as expected stopped to pick it up. I kept running while giving it my best straight man imitation. Lee finally caught back up and I asked how much he got. He said, "Well, it was a dime, but I couldn't pick it up."

When asked why not, he replied that it was stuck down. I asked if it was under a rock or something, but he insisted that it was "just stuck down."

At the end of our run we went back by the dime and Lee challenged me to pick it up. While I gave my best effort to pick up the dime, Lee started looking around for something to help in our conquest. He finally settled on a rock and placing it next to the dime began kicking it with hopes that he could jar the dime loose.

After he gave up and we decided to go home, Lee asked if I had come over early that morning and put the dime down. Since I had done it the night before, I didn't lie when I replied, "no."

The next Sunday after our usual morning run, Mac Coile, a teammate from Athens, GA, Lee and I decided to eat breakfast at Shoney's. On the way home, Mac commented about Lee saying something about a dime that he couldn't pick up. I suggested that we go by the spot where the errant dime was stuck and let Mac have a try at picking it up. Lee, completely serious, said it was probably still there because he had gone back on Monday and Tuesday to give it another try without success. Mac, of course, knew that I had gone by earlier and knocked the dime loose with a hammer and screwdriver. So when I stopped the car, Mac quickly jumped out with Lee, and in a flash picked up the dime and put it in his pocket. You would have thought Lee had seen a ghost (or maybe he was just upset because Mac had gotten his dime).

•See RUNNER page 11



# Fontana Regional Library celebrates National Library Week April 12-18

A week-long celebration of America's libraries will be observed April 12-18, 2015 with the theme, "Unlimited possibilities @ your library®."

Stop by your local library or [www.fontanalib.org](http://www.fontanalib.org) to see how far libraries have come since 1958, when the first National Library Week was celebrated.

At the library today, you can see the work of local artists and crafters; hear speakers on topics of interest; learn how to do something new; use wi-fi and computers; find books, audiobooks, DVDs and electronic resources; or do something fun and educational with your kids.

Fontana Regional Library extends its services beyond its buildings by making available electronic resources that patrons can access and use anywhere—from home or while traveling. From digital magazines to eBooks, eAudiobooks, and databases for research, the library provides resources to any cardholder with an internet connection. For those without a connection, computers and wi-fi are available at the library, as is instruction in how to use computers and eReaders.

Students, job seekers, and learners of all ages can find what they need to realize their potential

## ...RUNNER from page 10

His eyes bulged as big as saucers and his mouth flew open with a gasp. Mac said there was nothing to it and didn't understand what the problem was.

Lee stooped down and started an analysis of the cement where the dime had been. He pointed to the spot and declared that it had been shellacked down. Asked why it decided to turn loose now, Lee figured that it must have been the rain the night before.

Two weeks later at Summer

•See RUNNER page 21

at the library, from test preparation for a trade, the GED, SAT, and ASVAB to preschool learning activities and research assistance for school projects or personal interests.

Children's storytimes and activities are perennial favorites, and have been since the first National Library Week more than fifty years ago, but today, Fontana Regional Library provides teens with their own special events, activities, volunteer opportunities, and a Summer Reading Program that runs parallel to the program for younger children.

No matter your interests or your age, Fontana Regional Library can connect you to unlimited possibilities.

For more information, please contact your local library or visit [www.fontanalib.org](http://www.fontanalib.org) for details or to connect with electronic resources.

## ...RISK continued from page 5

dents in Macon County to results statewide. Even though there were significant statistics that showed that Macon County students were less at risk as compared to middle school students across the state, the results were still negative when standing on their own and had to do with bullying on school grounds and carrying weapons.

In 2014, 32 percent of students indicated that they had been bullied on school property. And over 45 percent of Macon Middle school students indicated that they had carried a weapon such as a gun, knife or club.

Overall Macon middle school females are more at-risk than males for electronic bullying, feeling sad and hopeless, feeling stress, suicidal thinking, suicidal planning and generally not feeling good about themselves. Males are more at-risk than females for being hurt in fights and for carrying weapons.

Reacting to survey results may help prevent premature death by identifying health risk behaviors in students early on and by educating students, parents

and educators about the seriousness of risk behaviors and related health problems; plan, set goals and implement programs that re-

spond to the trends in these negative behaviors and then check to see if these programs are working by surveying every two years.

## Quilt Raffle to benefit Emergency Council Fuel Program



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.

## Upcoming Center for Life Enrichment offerings

*"A curious mind knows no bounds"*

Did Santa bring you an iPad or an iPhone for Christmas or you bought one with your tax refund and are still at a loss for what to do with it? Well stop trying to figure it out for yourself or wait until the grandkids visit, sign up for one of the computer classes offered by the Center for Life Enrichment in May.

These classes are offered at convenient times for those who work and need evening classes. Apple guru Nigel Sixsmith is an expert in all things Apple and has taught classes for Center for Life Enrichment for four years and has a great following in our community.

iPad Basics is the beginner's class that covers everything you need to know to get up and running with your new iPad. You will learn how to add email accounts, browse the web, take and send photos and

much more. May 12/14, Tuesday & Thursday 6-8 pm. Cost \$70 members/\$80 non-members.

i P a d Advanced is for those who have taken the beginner class or already have a basic working knowledge of the iPad. This class will help you get the most out of your iPad and iOS8. Subjects covered will include; messaging, advanced use of mail, Siri and Safari, customizing your iPad to work best for you and a look at the new advanced features of iOS 8 and more! May 19/21, Tuesday & Thursday 6-8 pm. Cost \$70 members/\$80 non-members.

And now that you have the hang of your iPad or iPhone



you don't want to miss A Fun Guide to the Best Applications for iPad & iPhone. This fun class will have you translating your voice to any other language and vice versa,

playing the piano without any musical experience and much, much more. There are almost a million apps out there. This class will introduce you to the very best ones! May 26/28, Tuesday & Thursday 6-8pm. Cost \$70 members/\$80 non-members.

2015 brings expert speakers in the area of Current Affairs, Literature and Language, History and Philosophy and other

illuminating topics. Just a few class titles you will not want to miss will include "Birding Beyond the Feeder," "Piracy and the Contemporary World," "Breaking the German Enigma Code of WW II" and "What Sustains Radical Islamists: From Local Opposition to Transnational Organizations."

Experience the best in travel this year with trips planned to Greenville, South Carolina's beautiful downtown area, travel overseas to Russia or visit the nearby John C. Campbell Folk School.

You can renew or become a member anytime by visiting the website [clehighlands.com](http://clehighlands.com), email us [clehighlands@yahoo.com](mailto:clehighlands@yahoo.com), call 828-526-8811 or stop by the office located in the lower level of the Peggy Crosby Center located on 348 S. 5<sup>th</sup> Street.



# • HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

## Concert to raise money for Bolivian music mission is April 12 at HUMC



Les Scott, the music director of the Highlands United Methodist Church has announced plans to host a Concert for Bolivia at the church on Sunday, April 12 at 6 p.m.

This will be in a coffee house environment and include other musicians from the area. The purpose of the concert is to raise funds to support his music mission in Montero, Bolivia as an out-reach of the Highlands Bolivian Mission.

Les has been an integral part of the mission at the foster home for many years and also at the Methodist School. The school is a well-known private school in the city of Montero and it is expanding their curriculum to provide classes for special needs students and has agreed to take in all the children at the foster home run by the mission. Currently, only the top students at the home are enrolled at the private school. The rest attend the public schools that are sub-par by our standards and only have classes half a day as the community has grown so fast that there are not enough schools to accommodate them all. Most public schools have three sessions, 8-12, 2-6 and 6-10 p.m. To allow all our boys to enter the school, the mission has agreed to build a playground apparatus, just like the one at the home that was built in 2004. This was begun by Steve and Michelle Hott who were in Montero in early March and will be completed when the larger groups go to Montero in April.

The foster home has been the focus of the mission since its inception in 2003, but now our feeding program that was so successful in the early days of the mission will be repeated at several churches, showing the Jesus film and distributing 1,000 Bibles. Hardly any family has a Bible in Bolivia as books are very expensive in Latin America. This is a great opportunity for evangelism in the poorest country in South America. The mission has been active in several churches there and building classrooms in three churches and building the whole small church in one impoverished area.

Les has brought his musical talents to schools and churches as well as the foster home. Please come and support his mission and the Bolivian Mission. The concert that will feature Bolivian Music in addition to more traditional pieces is free, but donations are accepted. If you would like to donate but can't attend the concert, please send your donation to Highlands Bolivian Mission, 209 Hospital Drive, Highlands NC 28741 and mark it for Les Scott.

### 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](http://www.occupywnc.org) or call 828.331.1524

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

ner 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.

- 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.

### 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



# • HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

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 blooming. 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.

## **Wed., April 14**

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

## **Fri., April 17**

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

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

## **Friday, April 17**

- WCU's School of Music will present Little Red Riding Hood...a Children's Opera at 3 p.m. in Coleman Hall of the First Presbyterian Church. There will also be a 1 p.m. performance for Highlands School children K-4. The performance is free.

- 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

• See EVENTS page 14

## 'Love Letters' coming to Highlands Playhouse for Mother's Day

The Highlands Playhouse will be offering three special Mother's Day weekend performances of Love Letters that is sure to delight the whole family.

Love Letters is a play by A. R. Gurney that was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize for Drama. The play centers on two characters, Melissa Gardner and Andrew Makepeace Ladd III. Using the epistolary form sometimes found in novels, they sit side by side at tables and read the notes,

letters and cards – in which over nearly 50 years, they discuss their hopes and ambitions, dreams and disappointments, victories and defeats – that have passed between them throughout their separated lives. Love Letters was first performed by the playwright himself with Holland Taylor at the New York Public Library, then opened in 1988 at the Long Wharf Theatre in New Haven, Connecticut with Joanna Gleason and John Rubinstein.

Highlands' own Vangie and Curtis Rich will be playing the roles of Melissa and Andrew. Vangie has been performing on stage for over 70 years and has been in numerous musicals, operettas and plays. She is very active in the Highlands United Methodist Church Choir and Children's Drama productions. Curtis is very involved in the Rotary Club and is on the Playhouse Board of Directors. Curtis and Vangie have performed many times together, including On

Golden Pond and Cat on a Hot Tin Roof. Together, they are sure to add their own flair to the roles of Melissa and Andrew.

We will have three performances Mother's Day weekend. One on Friday, May 8 at 8pm, Saturday, May 9 at 8pm and a Sunday matinee on May 10 at 2pm. Tickets are \$25 for all shows. Call the box office today at 828 526 2695 to reserve your tickets.

## A family within a family



*The PAC Youth Theater began rehearsals in March to prepare for the ninth production of the Performing Arts Center's Youth Theater program. The play this year will be Spotlight on 2 One Acts: A Game and How to Capture and Keep a Husband. Many students begin the program and the next year a sibling arrives at the theater (or comes along the first year.) The following is a story of one such family.*

### **By Raina Trent**

I remember the first time I walked into that theater. I remember how deafening the sound of my own heartbeat was. I remember breaking into a cold sweat if anybody so much as looked my way. I remember that whenever I opened my mouth to say anything, nothing but some pathetic squeak of a voice came out. I remember how small I felt. I can't even begin to imagine how my brother was feeling.

River was only ten years old when he joined the program, and he was probably the smallest thing in the whole theater. Even the spotlight was bigger

than him. Of course, he eventually did grow, not only in height, but as a technical wizard. He still refuses to get up on the stage to act, but I guess some things never change.

My sister, Ivy, on the other hand, has always been interested in both acting and technical theater. In fact, if it weren't for her, I wouldn't have even known about the PAC Youth Theater. I was just tagging along, seeing if I could be an extra or something.

So there we were at auditions as nervous as two girls could be. We both did fairly well, and she probably would've gotten my role if it weren't for one little detail. She knew how to design sound. Suddenly, Ivy was put in the booth instead of on the stage. Now off at Chapel Hill, Ivy's years with the Youth Theater are over, but she definitely set the bar for young sound designers everywhere.

I smile looking back on that first year at the theater with my

siblings. We all got something that we weren't expecting! I just wanted to be an extra, and I ended up landing a decently sized role. Ivy wanted to act, and she ended up becoming an irreplaceable sound and video designer. River didn't even expect to be involved, and now he's done technical work for several shows.

It's incredible, when you really think about it. Five years ago, I never would have thought that the theater would become my home away from home. The PAC Youth Theater is like a family, but working with your family WITHIN a family...that's something extra special.

*Spotlight on 2 One Acts: A Game and How to Capture & Keep a Husband* will be performed Thursday – Sunday, April 23-26. 7:30pm and 2:30pm Sunday matinee.

Adults \$10 Students \$5. Tickets are available online: [highlandspac.org](http://highlandspac.org) or by calling: 828.526.9047 Highlands Performing Arts Center 507 Chestnut Street, Highlands



# • HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

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.

## **Tues., April 21**

- Kindergarten Orientation at Nantahala Elementary at 6 p.m.

## **Thurs.-Sun., April 23-26**

- PAC's Youth Theatre will present Spotlight on 2 One Acts: A Game and How to Capture & Keep a Husband. 7:30 p.m. in the evenings and 2:30 p.m., Sunday matinee. Adults

are \$10 and students are \$5. Call 828-526-9047 for tickets.

## **Thurs., April 23**

- Kindergarten Orientation at Highlands School at 10 a.m.

## **Fri., April 24**

- Kindergarten Orientation at Lotla Valley Elementary at 8:30 a.m.

- Kindergarten Orientation at Cartoogechaye Elementary at 9 a.m.

## **Sat. April 25**

- Gorge Cleanup from 9:30a to 2p. This year's cleanup will be in honor of the late Jacpot who started the clean up many years ago. After the clean up there will be a cook out at Cliffside Lake. To vol-

unteer call Jennifer Cunningham at the Highlands Visitor Center at 828-526-2112.

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate-to-strenuous 9.5 mile hike, elevation change 1200 ft., to Palmer Creek in the Smoky Mtns. Park in the Cataloochee area, following the creek all the way up. Meet at Waynesville Ingles at 9:00 am, drive 40 miles round trip from Waynesville. Call leader Keith Patton, 828-456-8895. Visitors welcome, no dogs please.

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a very strenuous 10.6 mile hike, elevation change 2700 ft., to Cold Mountain in the Shining Rock Wilderness, part of the

Dirty Dozen Wilderness Hike Challenge, beginning and returning to the Daniel Boone Boy Scout Camp. Meet in the old WalMart parking lot near KFC at 8 am. Drive 80 miles round trip. Call leaders Bill/Sharon Van Horn, 828-369-1983, for reservations. Limit of eight hikers. No dogs please.

## **Through, Sat., May 8**

- The Highlands Cub Scout Pack 207 will be collecting items for the Appalachian Animal Rescue Center. Drop items off at the Highlands United Methodist Church on Main Street. For a list of items needed, call 828-200-9753.

## **Saturday, May 2**

- Macon County Public

Health will hold several Rabies Vaccination Clinics in the Highlands area on Saturday. Area veterinarians will vaccinate dogs, cats, and ferrets over 4 months of age, as required by NC state law. The cost is \$10 (cash only) per pet and all pets should be kept in vehicles, on leashes, or in carriers. In Highlands: Highlands Conference Center 9am – 10:30 am Highlands Cashiers Animal Clinic. In Scaly Mountain: At the Post Office 11 am – noon Highlands Cashiers Animal Clinic.

## **Monday, May 4th**

- The Rotary Club of Highlands will sponsor their 26th Annual Rotary Golf Tournament at historic Highlands County Club. Entrance fee is \$150, with lunch and refreshments, as well as numerous prizes. All golfers are welcome for a day of golf and fun. Contact Joyce Baillargeon at (828) 526-0501 or Slocum Howland at (828) 526-9097 for an application. All proceeds support community Rotary programs.

## **Fri.-Sun., May 8-10**

- Love Letters at The Highlands Playhouse at 2 p.m. each day. Tickets are \$25. Call 828-526-2695.

## **Tues. & Thurs., May 12 & 14**

- At CLE, iPad Basics from 6-8 p.m. Cost is \$70 members/\$80 for nonmembers. To register, call 828-526-8811 or email clehighlands@yahoo.com

## **Tues. & Thurs., May 19 & 21**

- At CLE, iPad Advanced from 6-8 p.m. Cost is \$70 members/\$80 for nonmembers. To register, call 828-526-8811 or email clehighlands@yahoo.com

## **Little Red Riding Hood Children's Opera**



Western Carolina University's School of Music will present a free children's opera, *Little Red Riding Hood* by Seymour Barab at 3pm on Friday, April 17. The performance will take place in First Presbyterian Church's Coleman Hall – and will be directed by Dr. Mary Kay Bauer and musically directed by Dr. Bradley Martin, both faculty members in the WCU School of Music.

Actors in the opera are all voice students in the WCU School of Music. All area children (and adults too) are invited to attend. There will also be a 1pm performance in Coleman Hall to accommodate Highlands School children in grades K-4.

The story of Little Red Riding Hood is charming. It is filled with goodness and with evil, and of course a happy ending! The music is delightful and fun and fast paced. Both children and adults will enjoy this performance.

First Presbyterian Church is located at the corner of Main and Fifth Streets. Handicap entrances are located on Fifth Street and on Church Street.

## **Highlands Cub Scout Pack 207 collecting items for Animal Rescue through May 8**



Scout Pack 207 is collecting items for the Appalachian Animal Rescue Center.

Items needed are; Purina dog food, cat food, kitten chow and puppy food, 39 gallon trash bags, Dawn dish detergent, Tidy Cat kitty litter, new or gently used towels and blankets, new paper towels, bleach and laundry detergent. There is a collection box located next to the church office at Highlands United Methodist Church, 315 Main Street Highlands. Donations can be dropped weekdays during normal office hours of 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., now until May 8th. If you have any questions please contact Cubmaster Phil Potts at 828-200-9753.



# • INVESTING AT 4,118 Ft. •

## Inspection before you sell?

The answer to that question is yes! Before selling your home it is wise to complete a home inspection. A seller inspection can do many things to help you in selling your home... primarily it makes sure you aren't caught "off guard" with an issue that will make a buyer think twice about buying your home. It will also show those areas that many times go neglected or unnoticed over the years.

Any serious buyer will make their offer contingent upon having your home professionally inspected. This inspection could turn up hidden defects or problems that might turn the negotiating tables in the buyer's favor.

The home inspector will prepare a written report for you outlining potential problems with possible repair solutions.

Once you've received the report, you have a few choices: make the needed repairs, or be prepared to negotiate the sales price based on those repairs needed. Making certain repairs before placing it on the market makes sense. Especially if those repairs are relatively minor. That minor repair might be something you've grown used to over the years and it's become normal to you...cracked paint, chipped tile, dirty HVAC vents... but to a buyer with fresh eyes, it screams "Repairs needed! If I can see what is obvious, what's wrong



**David Bee**  
**Meadows Mountain Realty**  
that I can't see?"

An agent that won't walk through your home and help you point these out isn't worth their

salt. Too many agents are just scared to give the seller the necessary feedback for fear that they won't get the listing and this might hinder the sale of your home further down the road.

Larger repairs that are uncovered during a seller inspection are what help you most and also help your bottom line. If you know about this ahead of time, you can get contractor repair bids ahead of time and know up front how to negotiate with the buyer when that time comes. If a buyer states, "I'll pay \$10,000 less because of this defect", you can comfortably respond by stating..."I knew of the defect when pricing the property. It's already been factored in to the market value and here are three estimates for approximately \$xxx to repair" This tells your buyer that you are on top of your game

when negotiating those repair issues, and that you've done your homework.

Why would you not want to spend a few hundred dollars now to avoid the loss of possibly thousands during negotiations?

David Bee has been a resident of Highlands for over 24 years, with 10 years serving as a real estate professional.

Whether you are interested in searching properties or comprehensive information about our area, you are invited to visit his user friendly website at [www.highlandsnproperty.com](http://www.highlandsnproperty.com) Meadows Mountain Realty has two locations, at 41 Church Street in the Old Edwards Inn complex or visit David at 2334 Cashiers Road across from Highlands Falls Country Club. David Bee can be reached at 828-421-8193 or by

## ...SALES TAX continued from page 1

100 counties – especially access to the resources they need to thrive.

The NCACC is in discussions with Sen. Brown about S369 as well as leadership in the House and Senate about other options available to positively impact the issue.

### Senate Bill 369 timeline:

Note: The following timeline does not take into account the Article 43 transit tax or the Article 46 local-option quarter-cent sales tax.

- Current: State sales tax = 4.75% / local sales tax = 2% (counties determine if local revenue is split with cities on per capita or property tax levy basis).

- Jan. 1, 2016: State sales tax = 5.75% / local sales tax = 1% (17.39% of state sales tax revenue distributed to counties and cities on a per capita basis; 1% local sales tax).

- Jan. 1, 2017: State sales tax = 6.25% / local sales tax = 0.5% (24% of state sales tax proceeds distributed to counties and cities on a per capita basis; 0.5% local sales tax).

- Jan. 1, 2018: State sales tax = 6.75% / local sales tax = 0.0% (29.63% of state sales tax revenue distributed to counties and cities on a per capita basis).

Any redistribution of existing revenues will create winners and losers, but all counties will

lose control of their fiscal stability if local sales taxes become state revenues.

The NCACC, of which MC Commissioner Ronnie Beale is president, continues to closely follow

developments regarding this issue.

There are also alternative plans being announced by members of the House and Senate in the near future. Anyone with concerns

• See **SALES TAX** page 17

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[www.highlandsnhomesites.com](http://www.highlandsnhomesites.com)

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## ...MEASLES continued from page 1

cines outweighs the risk of harm caused by the virus or disease that the vaccine is trying to prevent.

The controversy is driven by personal anecdotes of parents who have seen major and devastating changes in their children after they have been immunized, and therefore question the safety of vaccines which in turn fuels the concern of families who do not want to get their children immunized.

Those who do not immunize must rely on "herd immunity" to keep their children healthy. But herd immunity doesn't always work such as in the case of the Disneyland outbreak last year, especially with more and more parents choosing not to immunize.

The idea that the MMR vaccine causes autism started in 1998. Newsweek Magazine even published an article on Andrew Wakefield entitled, "The Father of the Anti-Vaccine Movement"

because a number of parents and people stopped vaccinating and were very vocal about their beliefs after Wakefield published his finding in The Lancet.

Wakefield was a British doctor whose research and findings published in The Lancet medical journal claimed a link between the MMR vaccine and autism which was later discredited.

In 2010, The Lancet retracted Wakefield's report when several studies were conducted to try to recreate his findings and were unsuccessful. Wakefield subsequently lost his medical license and is now an author, speaker and activist.

In July of 2007, the CDC issued a statement on autism and thimerosal that said in part, "Some people believe increased exposure to thimerosal (from the addition of important vaccines recommended for children) explains the higher prevalence [of

autism] in recent years. However, evidence from several studies examining trends in vaccine use and changes in autism frequency does not support such an association."

In March 2015, Frontline aired a report called The War on Vaccines on PBS that talked about all aspects of the debate on vaccines.

It relayed that it is a cultural phenomenon that parents and people ages 50 and younger do not remember the effects polio, measles, mumps, and rubella, among other diseases, had on a person.

Those who did remember were believers in vaccines. "We as a society have been sheltered from the gruesome and deadly effects of viruses and diseases that have been prevented by vaccines," aired the report.

As infectious diseases become less common, less is heard about the serious consequences of preventable illnesses like diphtheria and tetanus and more about the risks associated with vaccines.

Since the invention of vaccines, smallpox and the wild polio virus has been eliminated. Those who suffer from preventable infectious diseases like measles, diphtheria and whooping cough are at an all time low.

Vaccines are tested extensively by scientists to make sure they are effective and safe before they are approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). However scientists and doctors cannot say that vaccines are 100% safe or effective for everyone because each person's body reacts to vaccines differently.

In the mid-70s several lawsuits were filed against vaccine manufacturers and healthcare providers by people who believed they had been injured by the diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus (DPT) vaccine. Damages were awarded despite the lack of scientific evidence to support vaccine injury claims.

As a result of these decisions, liability and prices sky-rocketed, and several vaccine manufacturers stopped production. A vaccine shortage resulted and public health officials became concerned about the return of epidemic disease. Congress passed the National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act (NCVIA) in 1986 to reduce

liability and to respond to public health concerns.

According to the U.S. Health and Human Resources website, two families will be paid out of that compensation fund this year, but it has nothing to do with autism.

Both families had children who developed an allergic reaction called encephalitis caused by the MMR vaccines and actually got the measles rash.

According to the CDC, thimerosal, a mercury containing preservative used in some vaccines and other products since the 1930s had no link to autism and only had minor reactions like redness and swelling at the injection site, but in 1999 it was eliminated as a precautionary measure.

In September 13, 2010, results of a CDC study claim it didn't support an association between prenatal and infant exposure to vaccines and immunoglobulins that contain thimerosal and an increased risk for autism spectrum disorder (ASD).

Last year marks the first time there has been compensation paid to injured patients. And as reported by Brian Shilhavy, the editor of Health Impact News, there were 117 cases filed for vaccine injuries and deaths compensated from November 16, 2014 to February 15, 2015. Ninety-two of the settlements were listed in the report, giving the name of the vaccines, the injury, and the amount of time the case was pending before settlement. Five of those settlements were for deaths linked to vaccines, with three deaths related to the flu shot. Seventy-three of the 92 settlements were for injuries and deaths due to the flu shot. The majority of flu shot injuries were for Guillain-Barré Syndrome (GBS), a disorder where the body's immune system attacks part of the peripheral nervous system.

Trying to strike a balance on the debate of vaccines while making sure individuals and the public are protected against deadly diseases without side effects or devastating consequences may never happen, but it's important to stay informed and

• See MEASLES page 17



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# • BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NEWS •

## Nancy Plate Joins White Oak Realty Group



Susie deVille, Owner/Broker-in-Charge, has announced that Nancy Plate has joined White Oak Realty Group, a Highlands, NC real estate firm.

Nancy Plate, Director of Marketing & Research, has lived in the Highlands-Cashiers area since 1999. A Bryn Mawr, PA native, she graduated from West Virginia Wesleyan College with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology and Sociology, with a minor in Economics. While at Wesleyan, Nancy participated in the comparative cultures curriculum, including semesters at the University of the Americas in Mexico City and the International College of Copenhagen. For the past 30 years, her career has been in the hospitality management and real estate industries.

Plate was recruited by the developers of the Kelsey & Hutchinson Lodge (now a part of the Old Edwards Inn & Spa campus) in 1999 to run the newly-

renovated lodge as the General Manager. Soon after arriving, Nancy quickly became active in the Highlands community and served as chairman of the Chamber of Commerce Marketing Committee and also as a member of the Highlands Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors. Prior to moving to Highlands, Plate was a part of the consulting team that opened the Mountain Air Country Club in Burnsville, NC; she then remained at Mountain Air as Club Manager for five years.

"I am so excited about my affiliation with White Oak Realty Group," said Nancy Plate. "I am eager to bring my marketing, real estate, and hospitality experience to work for the White Oak Realty Group team and all of our clients."

"We are beyond delighted to welcome Nancy to White Oak Realty Group," said Susie deVille. "Nancy is an incredible professional, possessing a deep background in marketing, operations, and real estate. She

is a licensed real estate agent in North Carolina and in Georgia and is, therefore, able to offer an even deeper level of support to the firm and to our clients. Her marketing acumen is phenomenal, and we are blessed

to have her key talent on our team. We know that she will be a tremendous asset to all of our clients and to the firm."

White Oak Realty Group's sales office is located at 125 South Fourth Street in the heart of the retail district in Highlands. For more information, visit WhiteOakRG.com or call (828) 526-8118.

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### ...SALES TAX from page 15

about \$369, is encouraged to contact their legislators.

Highlands Mayor Pat Taylor has been discussing this issue for several weeks now.

"Highlands has a small permanent population of 980 residents, yet the town generates a substantial amount of the sales tax due to the influx of seasonal residents and visitors. Any per capita redistribution formula will have a very negative impact on the town budget. A year by year phased in process would soften the blow, but over a three-year cycle the total loss in revenue would be substantial," he said.

### ...MEASLES continued from page 16

preserve individual civil liberties until that time.

Before the U.S. measles vaccination program started in 1963, about 3-4 million people in the U.S. got measles each year; 400-500 of them died, 48,000 were hospitalized, and 4,000 suffered encephalitis (brain swelling) due to measles. Widespread use of measles vaccine has led to a greater than 99% reduction in measles cases in the United States compared with the pre-vaccine era.

However, measles is still common in other countries, and measles cases continue to be brought into the United States by unvaccinated travelers (Americans or foreign visitors) who get measles while they are in other countries. Measles is highly contagious, so anyone who is not protected against measles is at risk of getting the disease. People who are unvaccinated for any reason, including those who refuse vaccination, risk getting infected with measles and spreading it to others, including those who cannot get vaccinated because they are too young or have specific

health conditions. If vaccinations were stopped, measles cases would return to pre-vaccine levels and hundreds of people would die in the U.S. from measles-related illnesses.

According to the CDC, people who have documentation of receiving LIVE measles vaccine in the 1960s do not need to be revaccinated. People who were vaccinated prior to 1968 with either inactivated (killed) measles vaccine or measles vaccine of unknown type should be revaccinated with at least one dose of live attenuated measles vaccine. This recommendation is intended to protect those who may have received killed measles vaccine, which was available in 1963-1967 and was not effective.

People born before 1957 lived through several years of epidemic measles before the first measles vaccine was licensed. As a result, these people very likely had the measles disease. Surveys suggest that 95% to 98% of those born before 1957 are immune to measles.

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# • SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

## What kind of Christ are we talking about?



By Gary Hewins  
Community Bible Church

This article is a response to religions that deny Christ as the only Supreme Deity only to demote Him to a man-made merger of "common men and false messiahs." This is but a passionate declaration of the power, love, majesty and awesomeness of Christ and a respectful defense to those who mock, deny and even curse the King of Kings. To those who dismiss Him--It is important that you know whom you resist and whom you are denying. As a minister of the gospel--I am admittedly desperate as I plead with atheists & agnostics to listen to the gospel with some degree of openness & soberness.

I also want to encourage those who resist surrendering their lives to Christ because of deep hurt, pain or pride in your past and/or present. May there be time for Him to wait on your willingness. Perhaps today you will be willing to receive his healing touch?

This article also centers in on the Risen Christ and His lack of need of anyone or anything to define Him apart from the reality of Who He is and will continue to be for the ages. He is the "I AM."

Some will like this content, others not so much. It will be easy for some to hear & for others perhaps, difficult to wrestle with. The true essence of Christ is potentially offensive. The Risen Christ really revealed is rarely received without some opposition.

A Christ not mocked is a Christ often veiled in a man-made politeness that can leave a man wondering and wanting and still in charge of the very life gifted to Him by Christ Himself. If the truth of Christ is offensive to some- it is only because it is true. False religions do not offend those outside of their influence...because my friend, they are false and deep inside we all seem to know so.

But when it comes to this Risen Christ-we really have to deal with Him-He just won't go away. He keeps pursuing us in LOVE. Having said that, it is important for people to know whom they mock and whom they resist.

• See SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING page 19

**Going out of Business Sale**  
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## Proverbs 3:5

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Sundays: School: 10 a.m.; Worship: 11  
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**BUCK CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH**  
828-269-3546 • Rev. Jamie Passmore, Pastor  
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**CHAPEL OF SKY VALLEY**  
Sky Valley, GA • 706-746-2999  
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Wednesdays: 9 a.m. Healing and Prayer w/Holy Communion

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**COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH**  
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3645 Cashiers Rd, Highlands, NC  
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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

**EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE INCARNATION**  
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Thursdays: Holy Eucharist, (chapel), 10 am

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH HIGHLANDS**  
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Choir 5 pm

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## John 3:16

## • PLACES TO WORSHIP •

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Wed. Kidsquest 6p.; Worship 7p.

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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);  
7pm Intercessory Prayer Ministry

**HOLY FAMILY LUTHERAN CHURCH: ELCA**  
Chaplain Margaret Howell • 2152 Dillard Road • 526-9741  
Sun: School and Adult discussion group 9:30 a.m.;  
Worship/Communion: 10:30  
HEALING SERVICE on the 5th Sunday of the month.

**MACEDONIA BAPTIST CHURCH**  
8 miles south of Highlands on N.C. 28 S in Satolah  
Pastor Troy Nicholson, (828) 526-8425  
Sundays: School: 10 a.m.; Worship: 11, Choir: 6 p.m.  
Wed: Bible Study and Youth Mtg.: 7 p.m.

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**MOUNTAIN BIBLE CHURCH**  
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Parish office (Father Francis): 526-2418  
Mass: Sun: 11 a.m.; Sat. at 4p

**SCALY MOUNTAIN BAPTIST CHURCH**  
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.

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

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Thursday: Noon Healing Service with Eucharist.

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**WHITESIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
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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.**

## April 2

• At 4:30 p.m., officers responded to a call about shoplifting at Potpourri Eyeware on Main Street where a pair of sunglasses valued at \$125 were taken.

## April 4

• At 2:15 a.m., officers responded to a one-vehicle accident on US 64 east near the Riverwalk entrance.

## April 6

• At 7:45 a.m., officers responded to a call about a breaking and entering with larceny at a construction site N. Fifth Street where a chop saw and table saw valued at \$650 each were missing.

**The Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. log entries from March 27.**

## March 27

• At 10:42 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Broadview Circle.

## March 29

• At 2:28 p.m., the dept. was called about smoke in the Bull Pen area but it was smoke drifting from a 400+ acre controlled burn in SC.

## March 29

• At 2:40 p.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident at Satulah Falls Lane and NC 28 south.

## March 30

• At 6:50 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Blue Valley Road.

• At 6:16 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Flat Mountain Road.

## March 31

• At 8:53 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Goldmine Church Road.

## April 2

• At 3:27 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence at VZ Top.

• At 9:25 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm on Main Street.

• At 5 p.m., the dept. assisted the police dept. with traffic.

## April 3

• At 8:40 p.m., the dept. responded to a Co2 alarm at a residence on Satulah Road.

## April 4

• At 6:09 p.m., the dept. responded to a grill fire at a residence on Homer Potts Road.

## April 5

• At 8:10 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Cherokee Drive.

• At 9:43 p.m., the dept. was

first-responders to a residence on Mack Wilson Rd.

## April 6

• At 10:51 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on N. 5th Street.

• At 11:33 a.m., the dept. re-

sponded to a fire alarm at a residence on Spruce Lane.

## April 7

• At 7:39 a.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on NC 28 south but it was cancelled.

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## ...SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING continued from page 18

He is our Advocate. He is Almighty, All sufficient and an All Knowing Ancient of Days who is the Amen. Jesus is the Banner of Victory over us, the Bearer of the sin within us and the Balm of Gilead upon us. Christ is the Crown of Glory, The Creator of the Universe and the Christ, the Son of the Living God. His train fills the Temple and He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty. He is the magnificent, omnipotent, omniscient, Blessed Hope and only Potentate who holds all things together. He is the image of the invisible God, the Bright and Morning Star, the Bread of Life and the Brazen Altar who receives all of our judgment. Christ is the Zeal of the Lord of Hosts and the "yes and the Amen." He is alive forevermore, interested in you, the defender of the weak, a High

Strong Tower, the Vine and the Gardener and his yoke is easy and his burden is light. He is grace, gracious, lovely and love all in one. He is the mediator between you and the Father and the only Way to Heaven, He demonstrated his love for you while you were yet a sinner by dying on a cross. He is jealous for you and your fellowship. Christ is so much more than people realize. This nation and the people in it need to embrace the depth and power and authority that resides in Christ and is due His Name for he is our Provider, Sanctifier, Healer, Righteousness, Banner, Peace, Rest and King. Let's not mess around today with a "less-than" Messiah. Let's expand our thinking and experience with this King of Kings and Lord of Lords while we pray for those being persecuted and willingly being martyred in His Name.

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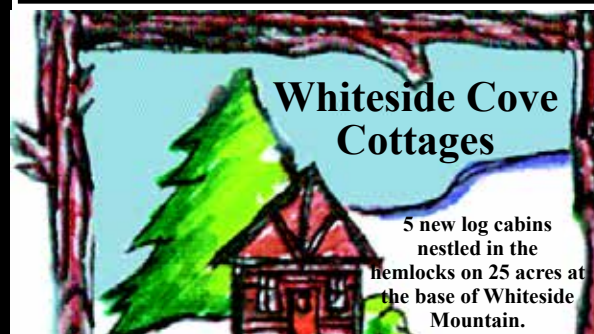
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# • BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NEWS •

## Rotarians attend training in Greensboro, NC

MountainTop Rotary members Dr. John Baumrucker, President Elect, and Pamela Harris, President Nominee, pictured here with Ron Burton, Past President of Rotary International at President Training in Greensboro, NC. The Mountaintop Rotary Club meets every Wednesday morning at 7:30 am at the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital lower level Dining Room.

## February and March Rotary Scholars of the Month

Due to bad weather earlier in the year, The Rotary Club of Highlands honored both the February and March Highlands School Scholars of the Month at its March 31 meeting. Pictured with Nicole Lui, School Counselor, and Peter Ray, club President, are: (front row) Brooklyn Petrone and Hannah Valerio, elementary school winners, Jonathan Miller and Caden Smolarsky, middle school winners and Elizabeth Houston and (not shown) Allison Bolt, high school winners.

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## ...RUNNER continued from page 11

Breeze, Mac took the original dime and I took a tube of superglue. We glued the dime to the street in front of Harry Lee's house, which was our home for the weekend. On no less than three occasions, Lee passed within two feet of the dime without seeing it. One time he stepped right on it. Our plan to get Lee again had been fruitless.

As we discussed the above episodes with many of Lee's friends and tried to come up with a moral to our story, we kept trying to think up a suitable ending. Lee still doesn't know that he had been set up. Every once-in-a-while he says something about the dime and you can sense that he feels bad about missing an opportunity to add to his treasury.

Lee finally learned that he had been had during the weekend of March 28, 1987. We had traveled to Mobile for the Azalea Trail Run. When I picked Lee up at his hotel the day after the race, he got in the car and the first thing he said was "Morris, I read your article." Another Racing South teammate living in Mobile had received his April issued of Racing South Magazine and had shown it to Lee.

Lee didn't say much more about it, but the story soon took on a life of its own. Lee was directing another running camp later that year and one morning as he walked to the dining hall, he looked down and there were coins glued all over the walkway. The campers had read the story and decided to get Lee again.

A great master's runner named Don Coffman relayed that he had been training with some high school boys on a track and as they started out on a cool down, he stopped and picked up a quarter and one of the boys said "you're as bad a Lee Fidler." Don asked the boy if he knew Lee and the boy said, "no, but I read about him".

The last step in the get Lee plan is that everybody who reads this should send him a card at

1042 Bramwell Lane, Stone Mountain, GA 30083.

Lee is still running and coaching and his group meets every Wednesday night at 5 at the Phidippides Store at Ansley Mall in Atlanta. If you are in the area, stop by and say hello.



# • CLASSIFIEDS •

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## 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)

**MOUNTAIN FRESH GROCERY** in Highlands is hiring full-time for Baristas, Cashiers, Grill, Deli, and Piza departments. Applicants should apply in person or email resume to jobs828@gmail.com

**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)

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**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 Jacques at 828.526.3807 (st. 2/29)

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**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)

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**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)

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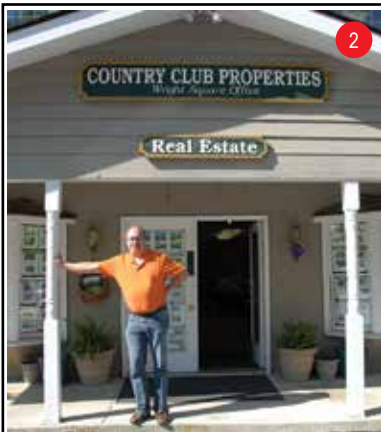
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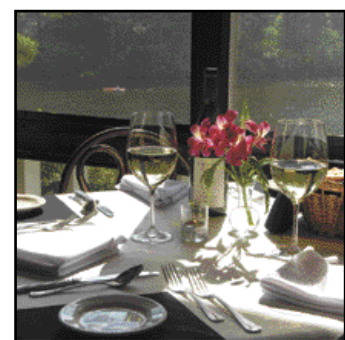
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