

Highlands Newspaper

FREE Every Thursday

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Thurs., Dec. 10, 2015

HCLT to get 63 acres on Brushy Face Mountain

The Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust (HCLT) will soon have another 63 acres to add to the more than 2,500 acres it protects in 71 places in Macon and Jackson County.

At the Monday, Nov. 23

Planning Board meeting, the board OK'd the reworking of the Brushy Face Mountain Consortium subdivision so that 63 acres of the about 100-acre subdivision can be given to HCLT.

Back in 2004 when plans for

the old Brushy Face subdivision went south, seven property owners – Brushy Face Mountain Consortium – bought the subdivision from the bank. According to Griffin Bell, member of the consortium and a property owner in the

subdivision, since the '90s the plan has been to give unused acreage to the Land Trust.

However, the consortium asked to keep two tracts – a .64-acre tract that currently houses

•See HCLT page 7

• INSIDE •

Mayor on Duty.....	2
Forum.....	2
Obituary.....	3
Events.....	8-9
Investing at 4118 ft.....	11
Shopping Pullout.....	12-13
Police & Fire Reports.....	19
Classifieds.....	19-22

Swimmer found dead in Town Pool

Cause of death suspected to be natural

At 10:20 a.m., Tuesday, Dec. 8, a swimmer was found unresponsive in the town pool.

Jim Phillips, of Highlands, in his late 60s reportedly swam regularly during the Lap Swim periods where swimmers swim at their own risk, usually swimming a mile twice a week.

According to Highlands Mayor Pat Taylor, the pool staff member on duty found Phillips unresponsive in the pool and called 9-1-1. EMTs and members of the Highlands Fire & Rescue responded, but efforts to revive Phillips were unsuccessful at the scene.

Phillips was transported to the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital where he was pronounced dead.

The Highlands Police Department is investigating the situation.

Cause of death is under investigation by the medical examiner but natural causes are suspected.

Highlands School Homecoming King and Queen for the night!



At Saturday's Homecoming Dance held at Coleman Hall in the First Presbyterian Church, seniors Colin Weller and Whitney Billingsley were crowned King & Queen. See photos on page 16.

Photo by Kaitlin Moss

UNC-Chapel Hill Institute for the Environment students present research findings

The UNC Institute for the Environment is the multidisciplinary program leading UNC-Chapel Hill's world-renowned environmental community in educating practitioners, researching and solving global challenges, and informing the public about critical issues.

And for 14 years Highlands has been its students' working laboratory – an off-campus campus.

It focuses on several key areas: balancing energy production and environmental quality, protecting human health, protecting and restoring watershed systems and ecological habitats, supporting environmental policy makers, and developing sustainable community design principles and practices.

UNC-Chapel Hill has a long and distinguished tradition of environmental research, dating back nearly 200 years. It began with Professors Denison Olmsted and Elisha Mitchell, who helped found natural science programs at Caro-

lina and prepared the nation's first geological survey. The scope of environmental study here has expanded considerably over time. A major addition to the campus came in the 1920s with the development of a program in sanitary engineering that eventually formed the core of one of the nation's first truly interdisciplinary departments of Environmental Sciences and Engineering, now located in the School of Public Health.

Today, there are programs throughout the campus as well as satellite campuses like the Highlands Biological Station covering literally every aspect of environmental study. The UNC Institute for the Environment helps these individual departments and centers join together in interdisciplinary research, education and engagement, and creates new areas of study in response to some of our most pressing environmental challenges.

•See STUDENTS page 5

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• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• MAYOR ON DUTY •

Gearing up for expanded cell and broadband

In a way there will be two town board meetings tonight. The meetings begins at 7pm at the Highlands Conference Center next to the ball field.

I will call the first meeting to order, and the Town Board will address old business items. The meeting will then be adjourned. I will then reconvene the meeting in order to form a new board and to address new business.

The first item of new business will be the swearing in of the newly elected commissioners. John Dotson, Brian Stiehler and Eric Pearson were reelected in November and will be sworn in for a new four-year term. Congratulations to the incoming commissioners. I look forward to working with them for the betterment of Highlands.

The new business agenda is full. One item is a public hearing for the new addition to the Highlands United Methodist Church. There are several miscellaneous items, and a tree cutting item coming from the planning department. The awarding of landscaping contracts will also be announced.

Major agenda items will be in telecommunications. First, there will be a review of a proposed contract with US Cellular to construct a monopole cell tower next to the



Mayor Pat Taylor

fire department. If approved, a US Cellular antenna would broadcast from the tower. Furthermore, two other providers could co-locate on the tower, thereby improving overall coverage for many residents and visitors.

Matt Shuler, our IT professional, will do a rollout presentation of the town broadband initiative which will be called Altitude Broadband. Specific proposals

will be made concerning the design, phase-in, scope, pricing and operation of Altitude Broadband. Job descriptions, department organization and funding issues will also be covered. I anticipate the commissioners giving the go ahead to Altitude Broadband and approving a budget amendment to operate the new department.

Let me address several questions I have already been asked about the broadband initiative.

One question is whether all utility customers will have to pay a broadband fee. The answer is absolutely no, it is strictly a voluntary customer system. One can continue to use their current service if they desire. Other questions revolve around funding and town support. While initial funding will come from the town, the system will be required to become self-supporting. All startup funds will be a loan which will be repaid to the town. Altitude Broadband is to be a service to the community.

I anticipate the broadband service starting around the beginning of the new year. The town manager and I are concerned that some folks may be frustrated if they are not instantaneously connected to the system. We anticipate an installation backlog of maybe several weeks from the service request date. Since it is a totally new system, technicians will have to physically install equipment at each home or business requesting service.

By the way, the mayor won't be connected first. I will just get in the line like everybody else. See you tonight.

• FORUM •

America the Beautiful & 'BagReadyJobs' Empowering our nation's youth

By Gary Chamberlain, FVUSA

"America the Beautiful & BagReadyJobs" is being promoted and utilized as a teaching, learning and earning (fund raising) opportunity for youth groups in any city, town or state and it's funded by community businesses.

It is an opportunity for our nation's youth to earn their funding needs and it prepares them for their futures as business owners or employees.

The program teaches our nation's youth valuable life lessons and something about community pride. Business owners like the "America the Beautiful & BagReadyJobs" concept because it allows them to invest in the youth groups that enhance the image and economy of their community by picking up highway litter.

Through the "BagReadyJobs" process, our youth will learn how to make cold-calls, market, negotiate and sell their highway trash-collecting services including the collection of their rewards from their sponsoring businesses. The youth groups work directly with their local DOT Adopt-A-Highway groups picking up highway trash. The youth groups negotiate a price with the businesses between \$7 and \$10 for each 33-gallon bag of highway trash they recover. They are required to meet the age and safety requirements of their state DOT Adopt-A-Highway program.

The nation's official DOT Adopt-A-Highway groups, those whose organization names appear on the DOT Adopt-A-Highway signs, will supervise the youth groups and have each youth group participant sign a document confirming their participation.

In Arizona, this document is referred to as the ADOT "Activity Report" and every Adopt-A-Highway participant must sign this document. A copy of the "Activity Report" will be provided to the businesses funding the youth groups and it will indicate and confirm the number of bags filled, be signed by the Adopt-A-Highway group leader and include his or her phone number for verify-

ing the youth group's compliance with the agreement they have with the businesses funding their effort. Those providing funding will pay the youth groups for their services once all of the obligations have been fulfilled.

As part of creating litter awareness, education and recognition, the youth groups are encouraged to write an essay and submit it along with photographs to their local news media organizations for publication.

"America the Beautiful and BagReadyJobs" litter events are being promoted nationwide on the third Saturday of February, May, August and November. One of our goals is to connect the nation's Adopt-A-Highway groups needing help with youth groups wanting to help and through the process displaying thousands of bags of recovered litter on our highways with the message "We care about America the Beautiful!"

"America the Beautiful and BagReadyJobs" is the perfect opportunity for city and town leaders, businesses and residents to support their local youth groups. These young adults are our future role models and leaders.

For more information, email or call, FolksvilleUSA@gmail.com (928) 202-1186

• THANKS •

From the Crowe family

The family of Merlin Crowe would like to thank everyone who brought food, came to visit, called, or sent flowers.

We are reminded in times like this what a wonderful community we live in. Our heartfelt thanks to the First Baptist Church and all those wonderful souls who prepared the food for the meal for our family after the service. A special Thank you to Reverend Mark Ford, Reverend Jeremy Dooley and Reverend Paul Christy. These gentlemen were wonderful to all our family and contributed to a wonderful memorial service for our husband, father and grandfather. We cannot express our deepest gratitude accurately, but know we love and appreciate each and everyone of you.

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.

Highlands Newspaper N.O.A.A. Weather Report For Highlands NC



• OBITUARY •

Cleamon Levon Moffitt,

Cleamon Levon Moffitt, age 64, of Cashiers, NC, passed away Sunday, December 6, 2015. He was born in Jackson County, the son of the late Finley Josiah Moffitt and Vylena McCall Moffitt. He was a self-employed contractor and a member of Cashiers Church of God.



In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his step-dad, James Sharpe, sisters, Irene Hughey, Mattie Moffitt and Azilea Fugate, brothers, Junior Moffitt and Eugene Moffitt.

Funeral services were held Thursday, December 10 at the Cashiers Church of God with Rev. Benji Collins, Rev. Delbert McCall and Rev. Shane Silvers officiating. Burial was in the Upper Zachary Cemetery. Pallbearers were Tinker Moffitt, Shawn Moffitt, Cliff Moffitt, Jim Stiwinter, Jamie Stiwinter, Tracy Fugate and Jeremy Dodson.

Online condolences may be made at bryantgrantfuneralhome.com. Bryant-Grant Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

He is survived by one daughter, Laura Dodson and her husband, Jeremy of Jacksonville, FL; three sons, Tinker Moffitt of Walhalla, SC, Shawn Moffitt and his wife, Vicki of Jacksonville, FL and Cliff Moffitt and his wife Tracey of Franklin, NC; a sister, Willeen Stiwinter and her husband Jim of Cullowhee, NC, a brother, Marvin Moffitt and his wife Judy of Cullowhee, NC; four grandchildren, Cherub Dodson, Merada Carson Moffitt, Megan Moffitt and Zoe Dodson.

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Thursday, December 24 • Christmas Eve

5:30 p.m. Family Liturgy in the Nave

10:30 p.m. Christmas music and carols

11 p.m. Holy Eucharist in the Chapel

Friday, December 25 • Christmas Day

10 a.m. Holy Eucharist in the Chapel

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...STUDENTS continued from page 1



Wednesday afternoon., Dec. 9, UNC-Chapel Hill Institute for the Environment Fall Semester students presented their research projects and findings in the W. C. Coker Laboratory seminar room at the Highlands Biological Station, 265 N. Sixth Street.

This semester the students conducted research on a diversity of environmental topics under the mentorship of community partners such as the NC Wildlife Resources Commission, USFS, and Highlands Cashiers Land Trust.

Olivia Arnold studied establishing the distribution of *Desmognathus folkertsi* in the North Carolina segment of the Chattooga River Drainage.

Corey Buhay studied the presence of cryptic species *Desmognathus folkertsi* in the Chattooga River Drainage of North Carolina.

Neil Curtis studied habitat and distribution of Fraser magnolia.

Katie Furey explored the correlation between *Castanea dentata* size (diameter and height) and the presence of

Cryphonectria parasitica.

Katherine Harrell worked on predicting distribution patterns of *Magnolia fraseri* in the southern Appalachians.

Charlotte Hopson studied the temporal and spatial soil moisture patterns on two southern Appalachian hill-slopes.

Bob McMahan conducted a community assessment of Hartwig's locust and hairy locust on the Highlands plateau.

Emily Watson-Cook studied vegetation and seed bank of a southern Appalachian fen.

Sarah Wellish studied distribution patterns of chest-

nut blight (*Cryphonectria parasitica*) in American chestnut populations.

In addition the group did a Group Capstone Project which studied the habitat quality assessment of the Horsepasture River in western North Carolina.

According to Institute, our society faces serious environmental challenges. "The old environmental solutions - command and control regulation of specific pollutants and point sources - will not solve these problems. Every one of us is partially responsible for these challenges - and every one of us must play a role in solving them."

The UNC Institute for the Environment is leading UNC's world-renowned environmental community in developing solutions to these critical challenges. In doing so, it educates future environmental leaders and engages with the people of North Carolina and the nation to address and solve environmental challenges

— Kim Lewicki

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\$20.95 serves four.

Tuesday: Made in-house Italian sausage lasagna and a large house salad.
\$20.95 serves four

Wednesday: Chicken or steak pot pie and a large salad.
\$20.95 serves four

Thursday: Roasted meatloaf with mashed potatoes, gravy and a large salad.
\$20.95 serves four

Friday: Wild caught fried shrimp, baked potatoes, hush puppies & coleslaw.
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Saturday: In-house smoked bbq, coleslaw, apple and bacon-baked beans, and yeast rolls.
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...HCLT continued from page 1

the gatehouse at the entrance near NC 28 south and the tennis court area which is 1.31 acres.

As such, the subdivision plat had to be revised and all tracts had to conform to R-1 (residential zoning) and subdivision standards.

The gatehouse tract includes the gatehouse which has been rented as a residence for years, so Planning Director Randy Feierabend said the lot couldn't be pulled out unless it was enlarged to the required .75-acres in a R1 (residential) zone.

"Since it has a house on it subdividing a tract can't make it more non-conforming," he said. "But if you take the gatehouse down, then it doesn't have to be expanded."

However, Bell said the consortium wants to keep the house as is.

HCLT Director Gary Wein said the Land Trust doesn't want to own or manage rental property or the tennis court site so it didn't mind if those two tracts were pulled out and lines shifted to increase the gatehouse acreage to make it conforming.

To make the .64 tract conforming Feierabend and the board suggested moving the property line to the other side of Brushy Face Road.

HCLT is the oldest land trust in North

Carolina and among the first 20 in the United States.

The summit of Satulah Mountain was the first property purchased by the Highlands Improvement Association in 1909. Later this association would eventually evolve into the Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust.

HCLT originated in 1883 with the creation of the Highlands Improvement Association (HIA), a group created to "protect, preserve, and promote the natural beauty of Highlands." They began this effort with trail-building and tree-planting improvement projects. In 1909, the HIA collected \$500 and bought 56 acres on Satulah Mountain that was slated to become a hilltop hotel. The Highlands community thought it better to look at a mountain rather than a hotel, a notion that is still in vogue today. The HIA promptly built a stone shelter for the benefit and protection of those who "wanted to spend the night for the purpose of beholding the beauties of the sunset, starlit heavens, and the glories of the sunrise." The foundation of that structure is still there. The Land Trust has added to that initial purchase and today owns nearly 70 acres on the summit.

Another landmark, Sunset Rock, was donated by the Ravenel family in 1914. These

• See HCLT page 10



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• HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

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LAP SWIM - ADULTS ONLY
Monday thru Friday
7 - 10 am, 6 lanes
AND Monday thru Thursday
5 - 6 pm, 1 or 2 lanes
Sharing pool with water
aerobics @ 5:15 on
Mondays, Tuesdays, and
Thursdays
PUBLIC SWIM
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday
3 - 5 pm & 6 - 8 pm
Wednesday 3 - 5 pm
Saturday 11 am - 6 pm
Sunday 1 - 5 pm
WATERAEROBICS
Monday, Wednesday, Friday
10 - 11 am
Saturday 11:15 - noon
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday
5:15 - 6 pm
(sharing pool with
lap swimmers)
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\$30 for 12 classes
***Beginning in January, we**
will be adding Tuesday and
Thursday 10 - 11 am*
POOL PARTIES
Pool available on Fridays,
Saturdays, Sundays

Ongoing

• Highlands Hurricanes Swim Team is open to all levels of swimmers ages 6-18. To sign up contact Coach Steve Hott at 828-421-2121.

• Anyone interested in taking Adult, Child and Infant First Aid/CPR/AED certification class needs to contact the Highlands Recreation Department and get on the list for the class. You will learn how to respond to first aid, cardiac and breathing emergencies. Upon completion attendees receive certification from the American Red Cross. Please pre register we need a minimum of 6 for the class and a maximum class size of 16. Once we have enough signed up for a class we will schedule the class.

Mon. Thurs., Fri., Sat., Sun.

• Movies at the Playhouse:

2, 5 & 8 p.m. Call 526-2685 for weekly movie.

Mondays

• 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.

• The Humanist Discussion Group meets every Monday morning from 9:30 to 10:30 in the Meeting Room in the back of Hudson Library. All are welcomed

Mon. & Wed.

• Zumba with Mary K. Bar-

bour at the Rec Park from noon to 1p. For more information, call 828.342.2498.

Mon., Wed., Fri.

• Heart Healthy Exercise Class 8:30am-9:30am at the Rec Park.

• Aerobics with Tina Rogers 8-9a.

First Tuesdays

• The monthly family support group for those with family members, friends, or loved ones living with the challenge of mental illness meets the first Tuesday of each month, 7p.m. at Memorial United Methodist Church,

4668 Old Murphy Road, Franklin. This group is sponsored by the local affiliate of NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness). For info call 828 369-7385.

Tuesdays

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

• The Beyond the Walls Book discussion group meets every Tuesday at 4 PM at The Ugly Dog Public House. Each week we read a short story and then discuss its insights for our lives and spiritual wisdom.

2nd and 4th Tuesdays

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

Every 3rd Tuesday

• The Macon County Poultry club in Franklin meets on the third Tuesday of each month 7 pm. Meetings are open to the public and are held at the Co-operative extension office on Thomas Heights Road. For more Information call 369-3916.

Tuesday and Thursdays

• Zumba with Connie at the

Rec Park 8:15 a.m. \$5.

• Pickle ball is played from 9:30-11a in the gym at the Rec Park.

Wednesdays

• Donation Based Meditation Wednesday nights w Christopher Baxter at 6:30. Getting a little chilly for outside classes :) held at The Wellness Place. 468 Dillard Road Highlands 8285269698

1st Wednesdays

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

2nd Wednesdays

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

Thursdays

• Storytimes with Miss Deanna at Hudson Library 10:40 am. 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

Annual Christmas Bird Count is Dec. 18

By William McReynolds

Join in our annual bird count on December 18.

One of our Chapter's most important annual activities will take place in December. This highly collegial event is both enjoyable and relevant to our mission of environmental and wildlife conservation. You do not have to be an expert birder to join in. If you have not participated in the Christmas Bird Count or CBC before, consider becoming involved this year on December 18.

Every winter since 1900 the National Audubon Society has sponsored the CBC. Today, CBCs take place across the U.S., Canada, Latin America, and beyond. Last year's CBC involved over 2,400 counting groups including over 60,000 individuals whose counts totaled over 68 million birds. These yearly bird counts feed what is perhaps the largest citizen science database in the world.

The cumulative bird counts are being used to specify winter bird distributions and the "climate space" in which many of our bird species exist. Last year, National Audubon released "The Audubon Report" focusing on 588 North American bird species and the likely impact of rising temperatures. A shocking 126 North American bird species are projected to lose 50% of their existing ranges to climate change by 2050; another 188 birds could lose half their current range by 2080. Like the canary in the mine, bird data from the CBC are being used to foretell our collective future.

Local species that are forecast to be pressured include Scarlet Tanager, Ovenbird, Canada and Black-throated Blue Warblers, Ruffed Grouse, Veery, and Wood Thrush. Beyond Western North Carolina, ten states could lose all of their state birds including Minnesota (Common Loon), Maryland (Baltimore Oriole), Louisiana (Brown Pelican), Vermont (Hermit Thrush) and New Hampshire (Purple Finch). Both the Bald Eagle and Golden Eagle are threatened.

The CBC provides important data on winter bird populations as well as a good time for socializing and birding here on the Highlands Plateau.

The Highlands Plateau Audubon Society will conduct our local CBC Friday morning, December 18. 7:30 a.m. Binoculars and expert guidance will be provided. A chili lunch will be offered at the home of Bev and Hillrie Quin. Call Brock Hutchins (404-295-0663) for more information.



Wild Turkey by Ed Boos

Santa is hearing wishes!



Visit Santa on the Lawn of the First Baptist Church every Saturday until Christmas Eve from 11 a.m. until 4 p.m.

• HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

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.

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

Fridays

• 99ers Bridge at the Rec Park 9a to noon.

Every 3rd Friday

• Senior Dinners are held the third Friday of each month at 12 noon November through April. For any other information contact Lester Norris or Maxine Ramey at 828-526-3556.

Last Fri. of each month

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

Fridays and Saturdays:

• The Highlands Historical Museum is open every Friday and Saturday from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m..

Saturdays

• At the Rec Park, MMA Fitness Class is being offered Saturdays at 1:30pm with Moses Machida. NHB Pankration, Muay Thai, Boxing and BJJ combined into an hour long fast paced interactive class. The class combines plyometric, strength train-

ing, MMA techniques, explosive cardio and self-defense into one class. • At Mountain-Top Wine Shoppe on Main Street, free wine tasting from 1-3 p.m.

Thurs., Dec. 10

• The Macon County Cancer Support Group will meet Thursday at 7 p.m. in the cafeteria of Angel Medical Center, Riverview Street, Franklin. We will be focusing on Lung Cancer since November is recognized as Lung Cancer Awareness Month. Anyone who has been affected by lung cancer is especially invited to attend. There will be free gifts for everyone. Light refreshments will be served.

Sat., Dec. 12

• Breakfast with Santa at the Highlands United Methodist Church at 8:30 a.m. Please call for a reservation to 526-3376.

• At PAC, Jane Eyre Live in HD, National Theatre of London at 1 p.m.

• Highlands Community Christian Chorale at 5 p.m. at CBC.

Sun., Dec. 13

• Highlands Community Christian Chorale at 5 p.m. at CBC.

Mon., Dec. 14

• The Battle of Sugartown Chapter of the North Carolina Society, Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), will hold its monthly meeting at 11:30 on Monday, in the Boiler Room at 1024 Georgia Road in Franklin. All DAR members and prospective members are welcome. For further information, please call 828-524-2673.

Thurs., Dec. 17

• At The Bascom, a Sip & Stroke class that is Thursday from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m..

Learn how to recreate famous paintings while drinking wine!

• Highlands Cashiers Players Holiday Reading at PAC at 7 p.m. It's free.

Fri., Dec. 18

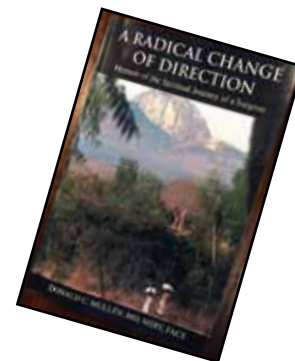
• Bird Count with the Highlands Plateau Audubon Society. Meet at K-H Founders Park at 7:30 a.m. For more information, call Romney Bathurst at 828-526-1939 or 828-200-0288. Or Brock Hutchins at 404-295-0663.

Sun., Dec. 20

• At PAC, Bolshoi Ballet' The Nutcracker Live in HD at 12:45 p.m.

• At First Presbyterian Church, Ecumenical Blue Christmas Worship Service, Sunday at 5 PM. The holidays are often the loneliest time of the year for those who have experienced loss in their lives. These losses can be the death of a loved one, loss of a job, divorce, death of a dear pet, loss of health, or any of the other losses people deal with. The Blue Christmas service allows us to grieve the losses, to acknowledge our pain, and to take comfort in God's abiding love and care for us. Everyone is welcome to attend this ministry of our local churches.

Mullen booksigning on Dec. 20



A book signing with Pastor and ex-Mayor Don Mullen at First Presbyterian Church following worship service on Sunday, Dec. 20. The book is available on Amazon and Barnes and Noble. It is called "A Radical Change of Direction: Memoir of the Spiritual Journey of a Surgeon." It is about his medical and surgical work in over 20 countries around the world, including Iraq, Rwanda, Sudan, Russia, Kenya, and China among others and the changes in his philosophy and theology caused by these experiences over 30 years.

Jane Eyre, Live in HD at PAC, Dec. 12



Live in HD at the Highlands Performing Arts Center: The National Theatre of London performs JANE EYRE. Almost 170 years on, Charlotte Brontë's story of the trailblazing Jane is as inspiring as ever. This bold and dynamic production uncovers one woman's fight for freedom and fulfillment on her own terms. From her beginnings as a destitute orphan, Jane Eyre's spirited heroine faces life's obstacles head-on, surviving poverty, injustice and the discovery of bitter betrayal before taking the ultimate decision to follow her heart. Saturday, December 12 at 1pm. 507 Chestnut Street, Highlands. Tickets are available online: highlandspac.org or by calling 828.526.9047

The Highlands Cashiers Players' Holiday Program A Tradition of the Season! Thurs., Dec. 17 at 7 p.m.

This holiday season, as it has done for the past 19 years, the Highlands Cashiers Players present an evening of drama and music at the Highlands Performing Arts Center on Thursday, December 17, beginning at 7 p.m..

Although the Players' program is only one of the many holiday traditions in our mountains, those who know about it never miss it. This year actors will present a dramatized reading from the 1943 novel, "A Tree Grows in Brooklyn," the story of a young girl growing up in a poor Brooklyn neighborhood. The account of the unusual way in which she wins a Christmas tree has become a Christmas classic.

An exciting addition to the evening will be the performance of the "Mountain Voices," a new regional 40-voice chorus who are appearing for the first time in Highlands, to sing selections from their popular Christmas program.

Afterwards refreshments will be served in the downstairs reception room. The program, which runs a little over an hour, is free—a gift to the community from the Highlands Cashiers Players and the Highlands Performing Arts Center, located at 507 Chestnut Street.



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...HCLT continued from page 7

10 acres overlook the town of Highlands to the west and Horse Cove to the east. The view from Sunset Rock has been the most popular vista in Highlands for generations.

The HIA merged with the Highlands Community Club in 1934 to form the Satulah Club. Another merger with the Ravenel Park Association in 1987 resulted in the Highlands Land Trust. Up to this point these organizations had focused on the stewardship of their two holdings, with the formation of this new group there was a greater interest in land protection through purchase and accepting donations.

With the recognition that the Cashiers area was beginning to experience development, the Highlands Land Trust expanded its area of interest to include Jackson County and changed its name to the Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust.

During the 1960-1980s several tax incentives provided land trusts with a variety of new tools: the charitable deduction and the conservation easement or agreement.

The donation of land to a land trust is seen as a one-time charitable tax deduction. This is what the Brushy Face Mountain Consortium wants to take advantage of this year.

The other tool, the conservation easement, has been around since the 1880s and was used to protect parkways near Boston and later was very important in the creation of the Blue Ridge Parkway in the 1930s. With a modern conservation agreement, the owner of a property maintains ownership but permanently restricts development and future use of land. The development rights are given to a qualified non-profit entity such as a land trust to hold and monitor.

In 1996 the Land Trust accepted its first conservation easement on the six-acre Ralph and Louise Sargent tract next to the Highlands Biological Station. Since then, it has gone on to accept 875 acres in conservation easements in both Macon and Jackson Counties and we currently protect over 2,500 acres in 71 places.

– Kim Lewicki

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Balancing Hormones & Health

Now out of hospital, man arrested and charged after domestic dispute

On November 24, Joseph Lee Baty, 28, of Highlands, was officially charged with one count of first-degree kidnapping and one count of felonious restraint resulting from his actions on Halloween at 24 Buttermilk Drive in Highlands.

On Saturday, Oct. 31, 2015 at 12:39 p.m., the Macon County Emergency Operation Center received a 9-1-1 call reporting an

active domestic dispute at a residence on 24 Buttermilk Lane.

Upon the officers' arrival they learned that Baty, who had a 12-gauge shotgun, had barricaded himself in the bedroom of the home with his girlfriend and their one-year-old child. Prior to entering the house, he allegedly assaulted his mother who was in the driveway with Baty's grandmother

• **See CHARGED page 17**

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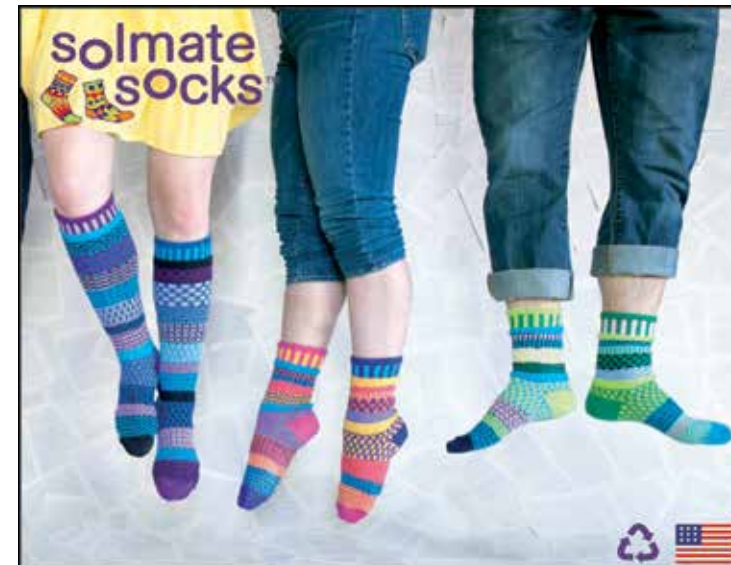
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Highlands Christmas Parade – Saturday, Dec. 5 on Main Street



Photos by Kim Lewicki and David Stroud



•THE INK PENN•

A Snow Globe for you

Please join us for the Christmas season at our house.

Imagine shaking a snow globe and seeing a home with a red front door opening to a cozy living room scene. What will you find inside that home?

- A full-size Christmas tree in one corner with a crocheted angel topper

- A small tree decorated all in cat ornaments in another

- Yet another corner with a fire glowing in the wood burning stove

- A metal ornament tree sporting Woolworth's ornaments from the '50s

- Sparkling jars filled with icicle lights

- Bookshelves displaying a collection of Santas and an assortment of Christmas cards

- Stuffed Christmas bears and cats peeking out of baskets

- A two-foot stuffed reindeer greeting guests in the entry hall

- Greenery and mittens hung from the stair railing

- Christmas candles, pillows, nutcrackers, stockings and more scattered throughout the living room, kitchen and dining room

Imagine you are there and the fire is keeping you warm, but if you're still cold, grab one of the many throws in the basket beside the couch. Perhaps the cat will crawl



Kathy Penn

up in your lap and purr and the dog will lie by your feet, only occasionally coming over to nudge your hand for a head rub.

Now picture yourself in a comfy, snuggly robe, reaching for a steaming mug of coffee. Think of a weekend morning and see yourself reading the paper with Christmas music

playing softly in the background. Can you hear Mannheim Steamroller, piano music by Danny Wright and George Winston, and *A Winter's Solstice by the Windham Hill Artists* or maybe the TV is tuned to *Sounds of the Season* with Bing Crosby, Rosemary Clooney, Julie Andrews and all the other artists you listened to as a child.

Shake the snow globe again and imagine an evening scene appears, with you in your sweater or sweatshirt watching Holiday specials on TV – a Charlie Brown Christmas, Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer and the Grinch. Are you smiling yet?

Here's wishing one and all a very Merry Christmas, complete with a magical snow globe beneath the tree.

- Kathy Manos Penn is a columnist for the Dunwoody Crier and is now happily retired from a corporate career in communications and leadership development. Find more of her musings at TheInkPenn.blogspot.com or contact her at kathymanospenn@gmail.com.



Live in HD Series

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The Nutcracker



Saturday, December 12 1pm

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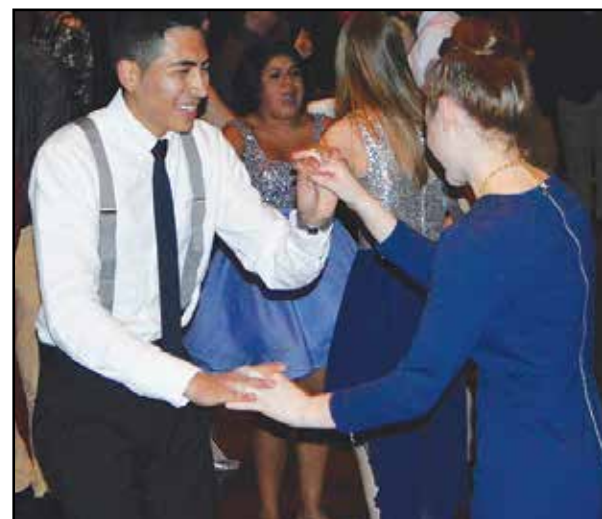
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Highlands School Homecoming Dance 'The fabulous 50s' Saturday, Dec. 5



Photos by
Sunset Yearbook
staff member
Kaitlin Moss



The dance was at
Coleman Hall at the
First Presbyterian
Church



...CHARGED continued from page 11

and aunt.

While law enforcement used a loud speaker in an attempt to talk him out of the house, he and the girlfriend began scuffling and the girlfriend took possession of Baty's shotgun and fired a single shot, striking him the face.

The girlfriend – the mother of the child – immediately exited the home unarmed and rendered herself and the child into the care of officers on scene. Baty was incapacitated in the bedroom.

After officers secured the scene, Baty was tended to by the Macon County EMS and was then air-lifted by MAMA to Mission Memorial in Asheville where medical care continued to be administered. He was later moved to the rehab facility across the street from the main campus where he continued to receive treatment until Nov. 23.

Though he was supposed to be in the hospital for another month, on Nov. 23 Baty signed himself out of Mission Hospital.

The next morning Highlands Police Department received notification from an informant that he had been released and had returned to Highlands.

"We immediately drew warrants and charged him with one count of first-degree kidnapping and one count of felonious restraint. This was already coordinated with the District Attorney's office that those would be the charges and we got a bond on him and conditions of release to include the Domestic Violence Protection Order that we served him at the same time," said Highlands Police Chief Bill Harrell.

The Domestic Violence Protection Order has conditions of restraint that he can't be in contact with the victims "in any shape, form or fashion except through a lawyer," said Harrell.

After Baty was arrested Nov. 24, he was taken before Judge Forga who placed a \$500 unsecured bond on him.

"We hope to get on the docket calendar this month to draw additional indictments on him for first degree kidnapping, assault with a deadly weapon with intent to kill and other multiple counts," said Harrell.

According to Harrell a special grand jury has been scheduled for mid-December because the docket has been back logged.

Harrell said misdemeanor charges are likely pending due to his actions with his relatives in the driveway prior to entering the house.

Chief Harrell said the girlfriend isn't being charged because all indications are that she fired in self-defense.

– Kim Lewicki



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By Rev. Dr. Francis Xavier Arockiasamy,
Our Lady of the Mountains Catholic Church

The personality of a human being is a bundle of various behaviors. One of the important behaviors is having mercy towards others which is necessary for our human life. Pope Francis opened a Holy Door in St. Peter's Basilica on December 8, 2015, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the 50th Anniversary of the close of the Second Vatican Council. He has declared a Jubilee Year of Mercy throughout the world. This door in Rome will symbolically be known as the "Door of Mercy". In the following weeks, Holy Doors will be opened by Cardinals, Bishops in Basilicas, Cathedrals and Shrines all over the World. On November 20, 2016, the feast of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of The Universe, Pope Francis will symbolically close the Holy Door of Mercy, marking the end of the Jubilee Year.

During the Year of Mercy, Pope Francis invites Priests throughout the Dioceses to visit the people of God in various Churches and to forgive even the most serious sins of the people. They are called "Missionaries of Mercy". They will help the people with their spiritual needs. Missionaries of Mercy will be a living sign of the Church's compassion towards people. During this special occasion, we can encounter the merciful Christ Jesus in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Pope Francis invites every diocese in the world to observe "24 Hours for the Lord" on the Friday and Saturday in the fourth week of Lent in 2016. He also wishes to have an open dialogue with Judaism and Islam. The people are invited to read the passages in Luke's Gospel such as the Prodigal Son, the Lost Sheep, the Good Samaritan, the feeding of the five thousand, as well as the healing of people who are sick, blind, deaf, lame, paralyzed and afflicted with leprosy. These kinds of readings and reflections are known as the Gospels of Mercy. There are two kinds of mercy. i.e. (a) Mercy from God to man. (b) Mercy from man to others. According to St. Thomas Aquinas, "God acts mercifully, not indeed by going against His justice, rather by doing something more than justice". He also defines mercy as a virtue which shows from one man to another as heartfelt sympathy. In Bible, Jesus Christ revealed to us the mercy of the Father. So every action of the Church should reveal mercy.

In the Catechism of the Catholic Church, we see two kinds of works of mercy, Corporal and Spiritual. The Corporal works of Mercy are as follows: to feed the hungry, to give drink to the thirsty, to clothe the naked, to shelter the homeless, to visit the sick, (6) to ransom captives and (7) to bury the dead. The Spiritual works of Mercy are as follows: to instruct the ignorant, (2) to counsel the doubtful (3) to admonish sinners, (4) to bear wrongs patiently, (5) to forgive others willingly, (6) to comfort the afflicted and (7) to pray for the living and the dead.

So Dear Brothers and Sisters, this is an invitation to all of us to practice God's Mercy so that we understand each other and we accept each other as fellow human beings to create peace, love and harmony among ourselves and in our communities, wherever we are. May God Bless you all.

Proverbs 3:5

BLUEVALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH

Rev. Oliver Rice, Pastor (706) 782-3965

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

Sunday night services every 2nd & 4th Sunday at 7

Wednesdays: Mid-week prayer meeting: 7 p.m.

BUCK CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

828-269-3546 • Rev. Jamie Passmore, Pastor

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

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Sky Valley, GA • 706-746-2999

Sundays: 10 a.m.; Worship

Holy Communion 1st Sunday of the month

Wednesdays: 9 a.m. Healing and Prayer w/Holy Communion

CHRIST ANGLICAN CHURCH

Rector: Jim Murphy, 252-671-4011

464 US Hwy 64 east, Cashiers

9:30a Sunday School; 10:30a Family Service w/ Music

Mon.: Bible Study & Supper at homes - 6 p.m.

CHRIST CHURCH OF THE VALLEY, CASHIERS

Pastor Steve Kerhoulas • 743-5470

Sun. 10:45am, S.S 9:30am. Wed. 6pm supper and teaching.

Tues. Guys study 8am, Gals 10am.

CLEAR CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Jim Kinard

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

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

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Sundays: Holy Eucharist (chapel) at 8 a.m.

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Holy Eucharist Rite II, (sanctuary), 10:30

Wednesday: 10 a.m., Morning Prayer

Thursdays: Holy Eucharist, (chapel), 10 am

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH HIGHLANDS

828-526-4153 • www.fbchighlands.org

Dr. Mark Ford, Pastor

220 Main Street, Highlands NC 28741

Sun.: Worship 10:45 am; Sun.: Bible Study 9:30 am

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

Choir 5 pm

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Curtis Fussell & Emily Wilmarth, pastors

526-3175 • fpchighlands.org

Sun.: Worship: 8:30a and 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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• PLACES TO WORSHIP •

John 3:16

HAMBURG BAPTIST CHURCH

Hwy 107N. • Glenville, Nc • 743-2729

Pastor Nathan Johnson

Sunday: School 9:45a, Worship 11a & 7p, Bible Study 6p

Wed. Kidsquest 6p.; Worship 7p.

HIGHLANDS ASSEMBLY OF GOD

Randy Reed, Pastor 828-421-9172 • 165 S. Sixth Street

Sundays: Worship: 11

HIGHLANDS CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Dan Robinson

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

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

Wednesday: Bible Study, 6:30p; Prayer Mtg., 7:30p.

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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Rev. Marty Kilby

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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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1448 Highway 107 South, Office: 743-2359

Rev. Douglas E. Remer

Oct-May: Sunday Services: Rite I, 8a Rite II, 10:30

June-Sept: Sunday Services: Rite I, 8a, Rite II, 9:15 & 11a

Nursery available for Rite II services

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Thursday: Noon Healing Service with Eucharist.

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Sunday Worship - 11 a.m.

WHITESIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Rev. Sam Forrester/Cashiers

Sunday School: 10 am, Worship Service: 11 am

• POLICE & FIRE REPORTS •

The Highlands Police log entries from November 23. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor or public officials have been used.

Nov. 23

• At 2 p.m., officers received a report of criminal damage to property at Mountain Brook Inn & Suites where a table set with four chairs and landscaping lights were damaged.

Nov. 24

• At 11:46 a.m., Joseph Lee Baty, 28, of Highlands, was arrested for kidnaping and felonious restraint. He was issued at \$500 unsecured bond. • At 3:20 p.m., officers received a report

of a breaking and entering at a residence on Big Bearpen Road where Ramen Noodles and soup were taken.

Nov. 26

• At 10:20 a.m., a person was detained by police for trespassing at Highlands Inn. He was unsure of why he was at the inn but refused to leave.

Nov. 28

• At 3:05 p.m., Amy Warren Beaty, 56, of Richmond, VA, was arrested for DWI on NC 106.

The Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. log from Dec. 2

Dec. 2

• At 11:11 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Pierson Drive.

• At 3:12 p.m., the dept. provided mutual aid to the Cashiers Fire Department.

• At 6:59 p.m., the dept. stood by at the hospital for the MAMA helicopter.

Dec. 3

• At 11:23 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Hudson Road.

• At 10:58 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Cobb Road.

Dec. 5

• At 2:24 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Whiteside Mountain Road.

Dec. 6

• At 8:38 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Harris Drive.

• At 3:11 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at the hospital.

Dec. 7

• At 6:28 p.m., the dept. stood by at the hospital for the MAMA helicopter.

Dec. 8

• At 10:32 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to the Rec Dept. Pool.

• CLASSIFIEDS •

HELP WANTED

MANAGER, FULL-TIME-YEAR ROUND FOR BUSY INN/RESTAURANT IN HIGHLANDS. Mgmt exp. required, preferably restaurant mgmt. Email resume to info@mainstreet-inn.com. (st. 11/12)

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WOODED LOTW/ STREAM FOR SALE - MIRMONT AREA. Berit Ln., 1.45 acres, 4-BR septic permit, walk-to-town, Priced to sell. 770-861-4249. (st. 7/23)

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STUDIO APT IN DOWNTOWN SCALY MT

• See CLASSIFIEDS page 22

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TOWN OF HIGHLANDS JOB ANNOUNCEMENT FINANCE DIRECTOR:

The Town of Highlands is accepting applications for the position of Finance Director. This position performs professional and supervisory work in planning, organizing, and executing the accounting functions for the Town of Highlands government, annual budget of approximately 13 million dollars.

The Finance Director is responsible for interpretation of local, state, and federal policies, statutes, and procedures and insures overall compliance, adherence, and accuracy in all financial activities.

Responsibilities include; purchasing, financial reporting, general ledger, funds and grants accounting, cash management and investments, accounts receivables and payables, debt service management, and related tasks. The Finance Director is responsible for the supervision of the finance staff, and work is performed in accordance with established Town finance procedures, local ordinances, and NC laws and General Statutes governing local governmental finance, generally accepted accounting principles, and GAAFR (Governmental Accounting, Auditing, and Financial Reporting). Work is performed under the supervision of the Town Manager.

Minimum requirements for the position include a Bachelor's Degree from an accredited college or university, in accounting, finance, business or public administration; or equivalent experience; and ability to obtain a North Carolina Certified Public Finance Officer Certification. A minimum of 5 years' experience in North Carolina municipal or county government administration, or financial management and accounting.

Preferred special requirements are a Master's degree in accounting or financial management, certified as a Municipal Financial Officer by the North Carolina Local Governmental Finance Officers Association and certified as a Notary Public.

Salary will be commensurate with experience and qualifications. The Town of Highlands provides a competitive benefits package, which includes participation in NC Government Employees Retirement System membership and benefits in health, dental, life, vision, long term disability insurance; optional life and auxiliary coverages; 401K and 457 deferred compensation plans; paid holidays; and annual and sick leave. This is an exempt position. The successful applicant is subject to a criminal background check, a pre-employment drug screening and passing a physical examination.

Applications are available at Town Hall or downloaded from the Town's website at www.highlandscnc.org under Employment. Resumes may be submitted in addition to applications. All completed and signed Employment Applications may be submitted in person to Sonjia Gibson, HR Director, at the Town Hall, 210 N. Fourth Street, Highlands, NC, by email to sonjia.gibson@highlandscnc.org, by fax to 828-526-2595 or by U.S. Mail to the attention of Sonjia Gibson, HR Director, at PO Box 460, Highlands, NC 28741. This position has a closing date of January 15, 2016, and applications will be reviewed as received. Only candidates selected for an interview will be contacted. The Town of Highlands is an Equal Opportunity/Drug-Free Employer. (1/14/16)

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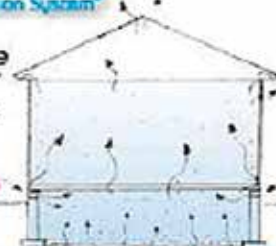
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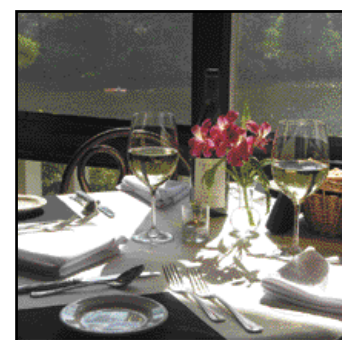
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