

Highlands Newspaper

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Thurs., Dec. 17, 2015

Town Board says 'no' to 'In God We Trust' on police cars

The Macon County Commission has done it; the Macon County Sheriff's Office has done it and now people want the Highlands Police Department to do it.

A growing movement across the county has governmental agencies adding the slogan "In

God We Trust" to buildings and vehicles – usually at no cost to taxpayers.

At the Thursday, Dec. 10 Town Board meeting, Highlands Police Chief Bill Harrell said he had been approached by concerned citizens "asking why we

are not putting our nation's motto, 'In God We Trust' on our cars as other agencies before us," he said.

Though it wasn't always the motto of the United States, "In God We Trust" is now the official motto of the country. It was adopted as the nation's motto in 1956

as an alternative or replacement to the unofficial motto of E pluribus unum, which means "Out of Many, One" or "One Out of Many."

"In God We Trust" was first adopted when the Great Seal of

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Commissioners are sworn in for another four years



Town Clerk Rebecca Shuler read Commissioners John Dotson, Brian Shiehler and Eric Pierson the oath of office at the Dec. 10 Town Board meeting. Commissioner Amy Patterson was named Mayor Pro Temp. Photo by Kim Lewicki

Highlands' cell service and broadband options to expand

Alleviating spotty internet coverage and dropped cell phone calls have been on the town's radar for about a year. As of Thursday night, those two problems have been solved.

A few months back, U.S. Cellular asked the town to allow it to

erect an 80-ft. monopole on 3.44 acres of town property behind the EMS station. The Town Board agreed in principle but wanted more information.

At last week's Town Board meeting, MIS/GIS Director Matt

•See BROADBAND page 14

Church gets B-1 CZ

Breaks ground for addition

With the final block in place, the Town Board voted unanimously to rezone the Highlands United Methodist Church property to B-1 conditional zone.

The only change to the plans, as suggested by the Zoning Board last week, was to allow the church to continue to lease out the building currently leased to Corey James Gallery and to retain its ability to rent it out as a commercial use even if the gallery moves.

Subsequently, on Sunday, Dec. 13, the church broke ground for its new Faith and Fellowship Center.

More than 100 people, including the church's District Superintendent, Randy Harry, gathered to cut the ribbon and turn shovels in the dirt to "officially" break ground on the new \$3.5 million project.

The 10,000 sq. ft. facility with a 4,000 sq. ft. lower level, will give the church a larger gathering space for the 9:09 Bluegrass-style

•See CHURCH page 9

A journey to lands rarely travelled



Penny Pollock Mawyer in Dakar, Senegal with the king and some of his children. See story page 9.

Windows last piece of renovation puzzle at school

After months of chaos, it will be back to business as usual for two Macon County Schools with the district's \$2.9 million renovation projects at Highlands and Union Academy Schools that are set to finish next week.

Macon County Schools Terry Bell updated members of the Board

of Education Monday night and said by next week, aside from a few house cleaning items, both Highlands School and Union Academy renovation projects will finish on schedule, and under budget.

"All construction should be finalized when students return

•See SCHOOL page 16

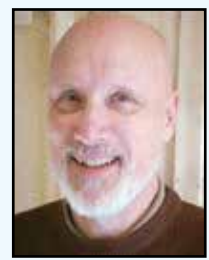
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• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• MAYOR ON DUTY •

Telecommunications are on the forefront

I am half way through my term as mayor. It is still an honor and a joy to serve as Mayor of Highlands, although there are those occasional difficult and challenging moments.

The Town Board meeting last Thursday night was a long and challenging session. Some very critical decisions were made by our commissioners.



Mayor Pat Taylor

Much of the meeting was devoted to telecommunications issues, namely broadband and cell phone service. Matt Shuler, our IT expert for the town, led presentations concerning the two plans.

US Cellular presented a proposal and contract to locate an eighty foot monopole cell tower on town property between the fire department and EMS buildings on Oak Street. US Cellular is willing to build a town tower for about \$200,000. In turn, they would expect rent abatement until their investment in construction had been recouped. The tower could also support two other providers, and the town would receive monthly fees from the providers.

Our town attorney is reviewing the proposed US Cellular contract and will report back at the January board meeting. Commissioners want to insure the town's interests are covered before signing any contract.

Matt informed the board that in developing the cell tower proposal, the North Carolina Historic Commission was consulted. They rejected the idea of just having an open monopole because of the aesthetic impact on surrounding historic buildings. US Cellular will address this concern by designing a camouflage tower system in the form of a large Western Carolina white pine to conceal the tower from view.

In February US Cellular make a presentation of the camouflage design and addressed other issues. The public will have the opportunity to review and respond to their proposal.

Also, Matt presented the rollout of the Highlands Broadband Initiative. For almost a year town staff has been developing this proposal. The Town Board voted to create a new Telecommunications Department using town enterprise funds. These startup funds will be in the form of a loan. Once the department is in full operation, these funds will be paid back to the town. \$240,000 was allocated to set up the department and begin operations. The new department also acquired a bucket truck that will be used for doing installations.

In addition, the board approved the organizational structure and job descriptions of the new department. The new positions will be phased in as needed. One of the positions will be filled as soon as possible so services to new customers can begin at the start of the new year.

Fees for the new service are available at Town Hall and on the website. Requests for service can be taken by calling Town Hall at 526-2118. Whether in or outside of the town limits, if a home or business can get our signal, service can be provided. If there is a request backlog, town residents will have priority. Since the system is being built from the ground up, delays in service are possible. New subscriber patience will be much appreciated.

Postscript: There will be no trash pick up on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Pickup will resume the following week including New Years Day.

• MILESTONE •

Company hits 25-year mark

Terry Potts, owner and founder of Country Club Properties, is proud to announce the company's twenty-fifth year specializing in country club sales and selling "elevation" in the southern Appalachians.

"Since our inception twenty-five years ago, we have grown from one office to four," said Terry, who is also the broker in charge. "We look forward to the next twenty-five years serving our clients and selling the country club dream."

Terry and his team focus on six country club properties, which include Highlands Country Club, Highlands Falls Country Club, Wildcat Cliffs Country Club, Cullasaja Club, Old Edwards Club at Highlands Cove and Mountain Top Golf & Lake Club. Country Club Properties also represents prime rental properties. They have a full-time rental agent, seasoned cleaning service and a long list of vendors to take care of unexpected problems.

"We represent owners who rent their second homes on a limited basis as well as throughout the year," said Terry. "I feel that with being a local hometown agency there are all of the chains that come and go, but



Terry with wife Karin

we will be here year after year and that enables us to create lasting relationships with our clients, including buyers, sellers and people renting out their homes."

Potts has over 30 years of experience in real estate, and over five generations of experience in Highlands. Country Club Properties is a full-service agency focusing on country club sales and vacation rentals. For more information, please call (828) 526-2520, or follow them on Facebook. The office is located at 183 West Main St., Wright Square, Highlands, NC 28741.

• LETTERS •

About the USFS Plan Revision for our forests

Dear Editor,

May I share my letter to the US Forest Service regarding Blue Valley?

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Forest Plan Revision for the Pisgah/Nantahala NF.

The Osage Overlook and the Blue Valley Overlook on U.S. Highway 106 between Dillard, Ga. and Highlands, N.C. have been favorite stops for many tourists and families. For many years, for my family, this was the first glimpse of our beloved Blue Ridge Mountains that said "you are home."

Much of that view consists of the Overflow Creek Wilderness Study Area,

which the US Forest Service deemed worthy of protection decades ago. It is long overdue to receive permanent protection as wilderness.

In 1912, the Weeks Act created the US Forest Service in order to restore the watersheds that had been severely degraded by rampant logging during the turn of the century. Overflow Creek is a major tributary of the Chattooga River which is part of the Savannah River watershed and which supplies water to Savannah, Charleston, and many other cities. For that reason alone it would be prudent to give this area permanent protection.

Because it is a globally recognized "biodiversity hotspot," early naturalists and scientists have been coming to the Highlands area for over two hundred years to study the plants and animals. Aside from its sheer beauty, Overflow contains areas of Old Growth that support several rare and endangered species: Mountain

• See LETTERS page 3

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.



• OBITUARY •

James "Jim" Davison Philips, Jr.

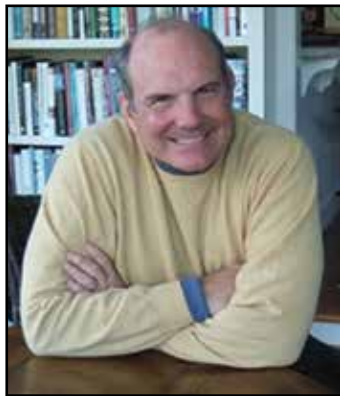
James "Jim" Davison Philips, Jr., 68, passed away suddenly in Highlands, NC on Tuesday, December 8, 2015. Born in Edinburgh, Scotland, he was the son of Katherine Wright Philips of Black Mountain, NC and the late Dr. James Davison Philips, Sr.

Jim married Donna Cowley of Augusta, GA on December 28, 1968 and they had three daughters, all of whom were the light of his eyes. He was a long-time resident of Decatur, GA and Highlands, NC.

Jim was a graduate of Decatur High School Class of 1965. He received his Bachelors of Business Administration from the University of Georgia in 1969 and played for the Bulldogs his freshman and sophomore years until a knee injury sidelined him. Jim had a long and successful career in real estate asset management and was most recently co-founder and partner in Hatfield-Philips from 1988 until his retirement in 2002.

Jim was determined to leave the world a better place and did so. He was involved in numerous charities and community organizations during his lifetime including Rotary International with a focus on polio eradication, Agnes Scott College, Columbia Theological Seminary, Atlanta Habitat for Humanity, and Decatur Downtown Development Authority. He was a community leader and philanthropist and took great pride in the grits that he cooked for the homeless on Sundays at church for many years. Jim was a member of First Presbyterian Church of Atlanta and affiliated with First Presbyterian Church of Highlands, North Carolina and Mercer Island Presbyterian Church in Washington.

Jim had an enthusiasm for life that those who knew him best found sometimes exhausting but ultimately inspiring. He was a mentor, confidant, and sounding board to many. There was no question that Jim was a true man's man, but that doesn't begin to capture the solid rock upon which his foundation was built. He loved his church and his God. He loved his country, his friends, and the University of Georgia Bulldogs. Despite once nearly burning the house down because of the improper assembly of a new grill, Jim loved to cook and was darn good at it.



His BBQ recipe was coveted by many but fiercely guarded. He was an avid reader and tirelessly curious learner. He had a special affinity for Winston Churchill and reveled in many of the quotes, such as when the Prime Minister disparaged a political rival as someone who "has all of the virtues I despise and none of the vices I admire."

Jim had many passions including working out, sailing, great food, travel, history, and art. He was a recognized connoisseur of fine wine, serving with distinction as the Grand Seneschal of the Atlanta Chapter of the Confrerie des Chevalier du Tastevin from 2001 – 2007. But above all, Jim Philips loved his family.

Jim is survived by his spouse, Donna Cowley Philips; his daughters, Jeanette Philips, Anna Moore, and Kate Philips; his grandchildren, Olivia Moore, Henry Moore, Jack Zombron, and Lucas Zombron; his mother, Katherine Wright Philips; brother, Graham Gordon Philips; sister, June Wright Peel; and sons-in-law Matthew Moore and Jason Zombron.

In the words of the late great Jim Philips, "That's just about gonna do it for me. You've been great!"

The Celebration of Life for Jim will be held at First Presbyterian Church of Atlanta at 1328 Peachtree Street at 11 a.m. on Thursday, December 17, 2015. Kilts are definitely welcome!

In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to: Hospice House Foundation of Western North Carolina, Inc. "For the Chapel" PO Box 815, Franklin, NC 28744 www.hhfwnc.org and/or MANNA Food Bank, "Packs for Kids" c/o MANNA FoodBank 627, Swannanoa River Road, Asheville, NC 28805 www.mannafoodbank.org

...LETTERS page 2

Camellias, endangered Green Salamanders, for which Highlands is known globally, and birds that require large trees or mature forest habitat, such as Golden Crowned Kinglets and Cerulean and Blackburnian Warblers.

With Wilderness designation, hikers, hunters, fishermen, birdwatchers, scientists, orienteers and all of the groups that

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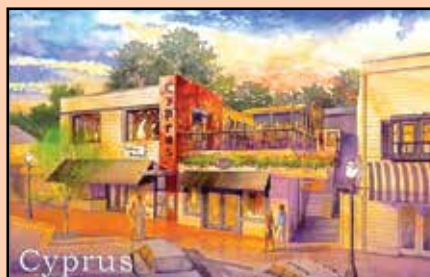
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have enjoyed the Blue Valley/Overflow Creek WSA would be able to continue these activities. So few places exist that offer these opportunities.

They say "if you are a hammer, everything looks like a nail." But not all forests are equal. Because the Overflow Wilderness Study Area is a unique and special place, I hope you will consider what would be the "highest and best use" for that forest. It would be sad, and a travesty, to yield to special interests and exchange it for a few more board-feet of lumber.

**Glenda Zahner
Highlands**

Thank you, H-C Hospital

Dear Editor,

On Nov. 8, 2015, we lost a most-loved member of our family to cancer.

After three surgeries and repeated stays at Mission Hospital in Asheville, we were told there was hope for recovery.

In order for her to be close to family, we wanted to move her back to Highlands to our hospital here. We called Dr. Patti Wheeler, who made herself available to us immediately. Dr. Wheeler issued the transport order and made all the arrangements here for us.

Following the merger of H-C Hospital and Mission we really didn't know what to expect when she arrived.

Let us assure you based on our experience, Highlands-Cashiers Hospital appears to be functioning very well. We as a family have experienced much hospital time in various locations. Nowhere has any family member received better care than was given to Janis here in Highlands.

Her entire nursing staff was very skilled, professional and caring. Janis' comfort and pain management was no less than amazing. We as family were treated with the utmost respect and courtesy as we stayed at her bedside.

Because of Dr. Wheeler and the nursing staff who attended Janis here at H-C Hospital, her last days were met with the dignity she deserved. For this, we are grateful.

For the family
Terry Wilson and Mrs. Neville Wilson

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...NO continued from page 1

the United States was adopted in 1782. It first appeared on U.S. coins in 1864 and has appeared on paper currency since 1957 when it appeared on the one-dollar silver certificate.

A law passed in a Joint Resolution by the 84th Congress and approved by President Dwight Eisenhower on July 30, 1956 declared "In God We Trust" must appear on currency.

Highlands Town Board voted 3-2 not to incorporate the slogan on police vehicles. The issue hasn't been discussed by the Franklin Board of Aldermen, but Franklin Mayor Bob Scott, who is against it for the same reasons cited by Highlands' commissioners, has made his opinion clear on FaceBook.

Citing the first amendment, as well as taxpayers' rights, Commissioners Amy Patterson, Brian Stiehler and Eric Pierson voted no. Commissioners Donnie Calloway and John Dotson voted yes.

"I don't agree with it because one of the blocks this country was built on was Freedom of Religion. That meant the government would never ever tell its citizens who or how to worship. So that's why government stays out of this type of stuff," said Commission Patterson. "If you put a

motto on a car, a car that belongs to the government you are implicitly suggesting that this is the correct religion. If you wanted to say in 'Our Gods We Trust' that's one thing, but when you say 'In God We Trust,' you are basically saying this is a Christian country."

Patterson went on to say that the country's founding

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...NO continued from page 5

fathers did not want government to ever tell its citizens what they were allowed to believe in or how they were allowed to worship.

"So, this is the first step. If we start letting groups tell us to use these symbols on our government vehicles, this is the first step in the government telling us how we should worship and who we should worship. So to me, this is a no go," she said. "I know it's been the motto of the U.S. for the last 50 years but it's not North Carolina's motto, and it's not the Town of Highlands' motto."

Patterson said in this instance the majority doesn't get to rule. "Everybody gets to say how they want to worship. They don't get to say 'We are going to vote and how we vote is how we are going to worship.' That's not how it works. Religion is a very personal thing; everyone has a personal right to worship the way they want to. If government starts putting these phrases on things, it is implying that this is the official recognized religion and I don't believe in that."

Chief Bill Harrell reminded the board that all of his officers took an oath of office which included the reference to "In God We Trust."

"Plus, we just swore three new members in tonight with their hand on the Bible. And I think they showed their faith in God tonight," said Commissioner Calloway.

When asked his legal opinion, Town Attorney J.K. Coward said that Commissioner Patterson was absolutely right – separation of church and state is one of the country's founding principles.

"Thomas Jefferson said he thought there should be a wall of separation between church and state. He also wrote the Declaration of Independence and was our third president. He was a very patriotic man. He believed that Jesus Christ was a very important philosophical person. In the Jefferson Bible, he extracted all instances from the New Testament where Jesus did anything miraculous or was referred to as God's son and he translated it into English, Latin, French and Greek. He agreed that Jesus was a great man but he did not believe he was divinity.

"I understand the constitutional principles and the first amendment that our government would not impose religious tests on any of its citizens as a constitutional principle. However on the other hand, we consistently ignore that principle. It's on our money, we open Congress with a prayer, and a lot of our local councils open their meetings with prayer, so it's an issue that is going to be debatable and talked about a long, long time.

"There is no clear definitive answer as to whether or not it's proper or improper," he said.

Concerning religion and expression, the First Amendment reads: Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

Referring to Commissioner Calloway's remark about being sworn into office with hands on the Bible, Commissioner Patterson said it's fine to feel that way as an individual, but as a collective governmental group the board shouldn't impose individual beliefs on its citizens.

"This is not a case where majority rules. The founding fathers made it clear that citizens have the right to practice religion any way they want and that's because they came from places – places they left – because there was an official religion they had to but didn't want to practice," she said.

Commissioner Stiehler said he had his own feelings about the issue but felt the movement to install the motto everywhere is indicative of the current political climate in the country.

"You have some people who are very upset with President Obama; you have some people who love the president; you have some people who think he should be doing more with ISIS and now Donald Trump is talking about Muslims as a whole. I think the

timing of this is more about trying to make a political statement then just about putting the motto of the U.S. on cars. If that's the purpose, then put an American flag on

the car. So the people who are really, really pushing this are doing it to make a political statement.

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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

WATER AEROBICS

Monday, Wednesday, Friday

10 – 11 am

Saturday 11:15 – noon

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday

5:15 – 6 pm

(sharing pool with

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Fee: \$4 per class or

\$30 for 12 classes

*Beginning in January, we will

be adding Tuesday and

Thursday 10 – 11 am*

POOL PARTIES

Pool available on Fridays,

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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.

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, Mon. & Wed.

• Zumba with Mary K. Barbour 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 at 7p.m. at Memorial United Methodist Church, 4668 Old Murphy Road, Franklin. 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 at 4 PM at The Ugly Dog Public House. Each week a short story discussed.

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 at 7 pm. at the Cooperative 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. 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 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: from 4:30pm-6pm, Angel Medical Center, Video Conference Room, 3rd Floor, 120 Riverview Street, Contact Majestic 828-369-9474

• Kidney Smart Classes in Sylva: from, 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 at 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 May- or 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**

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.

Sat., Dec. 19

• The Highlands Plateau Greenway will conduct its monthly work day from 9a – noon. If you are interested in participating, please email Ran Shaffner at highlandsgreenway@nctv.com or leave a message at 828-482-1451.

• "Bear Essentials" at the Nature Center at 2 p.m. Come see Arthur the rescued cub!

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, at 5 PM. Everyone is welcome to attend this ministry of our local churches.

The Bear Essentials at the Highlands Nature Center



On Saturday, December 19, from 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Highlands Nature Center will be open and hosting the Bear Essentials, an event focused on black bears. Co-sponsoring the event will be the B.E.A.R. (Bear Education And Resources) Taskforce and they will be presenting, "Bears in the Backyard" at 2 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 19. Arthur, the black bear, will be on site to welcome both children and adults to the event and there will be activities for the kids. The North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission has information about black bear management throughout the state. Come out and join us for a fun and informational afternoon! For more information, please visit www.highlandsbiological.org or call the Highlands Biological Foundation at (828) 526-2602.

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



The 40-voice new regional chorus – Mountain Voices – who will sing at the Highlands Cashiers Players Holiday program at Highlands Performing Arts Center on Chestnut Street on Thursday, December 17 at 7 p.m.

...CHURCH continued from page 1



Photo by Bob Sutton

worship service that is over capacity in the church's current fellowship hall. It will also house the weekly Wednesday night suppers, studies, and various community activities and organizations that HUMC hosts for children and youth activities.

Once the expansion is complete, the existing fellowship hall will be reconfigured to provide additional office and work space for staff as well as a new area for music ministry. The vision, at this time is to also have a new space for the community's food pantry that is currently located in one of the church's buildings on Third Street. The current food pantry has limited space for food and for the patrons that visit the facility each week.

The church says the possibilities for this new space are endless and only God knows the ministry that will happen in and for this community.

Chair of the Facilities Expansion Committee Wiley Sloan, Chair of the Building Committee Mike Bryson, and Finance Chair Ed Mawyer were all in agreement that this was a big day in the life of Highlands United Methodist Church.

They thanked all who have prayed and worked diligently to make this vision a reality and they thanked the town for allowing the B1-conditional zone so the church can continue to reach out to the Highlands community.

A journey to lands rarely travelled

By Penny Pollock Mawyer

On October 29, my husband, Ed and I headed to Cascais Portugal, a small quaint fishing village, for a little rest and relaxation before we embarked on a 25-day cruise from Lisbon to Cape Town, South Africa.

It was to be my dear husband's 70th birthday and he was over the top excited to visit West Africa, a part of the world he had on his bucket list.

So off we went for his birthday trip of a lifetime!

The Oceania Marina cruise ship was our home for the next 25 days with stops in 13 ports – two in the Canary Islands which are Spanish principalities. They are lush, beautiful, pristine and export bananas.

Then to Cape Verde Islands only slightly larger than Rhode Island which boasts a mixture of Portuguese and African cultures.

These islands were prosperous centers for slave trade but suffered economic decline after slavery was abolished in 1876.

Our ship of 800 passengers of mostly Canadians and Europeans started our journey south down the west coast of Africa, seven ports of call: Dakar, Senegal; Banjul, Gambia; Abidjan, Ivory Coast; Sekondi, Ghana; Lome, Togo and the island country of Sao Tome and Principe, the smallest country in Africa.

It is not my intention to group these seven countries together, but due to space, I will try to give you an overview through my lens.

The history of these countries primarily involved rounding up the indigenous people and putting them in holding areas – basically dungeons – then shipping them off to the Americas to become slaves for the remainder of their lives; that is if they survived the horrid conditions of the ships' close quarters and the lack of food and water.

We saw these facilities which are now museums that immortalize all the bitter reminders of the horrific slave trade business.

Most of the population lives on \$1.25 a day; below the international poverty line.

Senegal and Gambia and the Ivory Coast are 99% Muslim. Ghana and Sao Tome are 68% Christian and Togo is Christian, Muslim and mostly Voodoo, which happens to be the birth place of Voodoo.

Our next port was in South West Africa, Luanda, Angola the most expensive city in the world as everything, except oil must be imported. We learned that the United States gets much of its oil from Angola not Saudi Arabia.

Angola is called the new Dubai, but it has a long way to go. The Chinese have the monopoly on construction and import Chi-

nese workers and do not hire the local citizens. With an unemployment rate of 48%, Angola is besieged with discord and crime.

Namibia was our second to last country and a welcoming sight. Ed and I had spent a week there in 2012 and we loved it.

The terrain resembles that of the moon – austere with very little vegetation and lots and lots of sand.

It is also home to the largest population of white and black rhinos in existence.

Last but not least, Cape Town, South Africa the oasis of our long and arduous sojourn – ahhh Paradise!

Cape Town was named the best place to visit in the world by The New York Times in 2014 and I am in complete agreement. There is so much to see you need a week to relish it.

The must see and do list is the Kirstenbosch National Botanical Gardens, the native penguins and whales, a hike to the Cape of Good Hope and a short boat ride to explore Robbin Island where Nelson Mandela was incarcerated for 18 years.

As we live in Highlands and most of us seem to partake in a bit of vino libation, I must tell you the Winelands of Cape Town surpass most of the many wine regions I have been to in the world!

Nestled in the foothills of Table Mountain are the towns of Stellenbosch and Franschhoek with breathtaking views, excellent wine and farm-to-table fare. The winelands' architecture has taken the local elements of stone, wood and metal and incorporated them into works of art.

One final reflection on our adventure is the most paramount and that is our eyes and hearts were sponges with which we soaked in the hardships and the beauty of the African people – their resilient nature and warm, welcoming spirit we were so blessed and honored to experience.



'The Nutcracker' Live in HD at PAC Sunday

The Highlands Performing Arts Center on Chestnut Street will present The Bolshoi Ballet's production of The Nutcracker Live in HD on Sunday, December 20 at 12:55pm. Start a new family tradition with this classic holiday favorite. On Christmas Eve, Marie's godfather Drosselmeyer offers her a nutcracker. At midnight after the celebrations are over, all the toys come to life. The Nutcracker, at the helm of the tin soldiers, flies to rescue Marie who is threatened by the army of the Mouse King. After victoriously defeating the mouse army, the Nutcracker, now a handsome young prince, whisks Marie away into their magic boat to the Land of Sweets. Marie and the Nutcracker-Prince are radiant with happiness: they have reached the kingdom of their dreams. Joyous celebrations can now begin. Yet, it appears it was all just a dream... Ticket are available online: highlandspac.org or by calling: 828.526.9047 Adults: \$22 PAC Members: \$19 Children: FREE





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...NO continued from page 7

“So what is my job as a commissioner? Is this something we should be putting on our cars? If it’s your private police car or mine, and if I want to do then I’m going to do it. But is it something a government should be doing?” he asked.

Commissioner Dotson was the last to speak on the issue.

“I agree to an extent with what Commissioners Stiehler and Patterson are saying – we certainly are in a situation in this country where there is a lot of derisiveness and religion is certainly a driving factor in that derisiveness. But despite the fact that people want to cite separation of church and state, separation of church and state is a tenant. It was never put into any sort of law; it’s something that Mr. Jefferson actually wrote in a letter to Mr. Madison and at the time his intent was that the federal government shouldn’t implement a law defining religion. It had nothing to do with the states themselves, it was the federal government and it’s

all been twisted and turned.

“I think we avoid the recognition of a supreme being at our own peril. Each religion does in fact have one supreme being and whether or not you call it Allah or whatever, in the English language that being is called God. So the timing isn’t the best, but I don’t have a problem with having this statement on police vehicles.

“As the chief said, it’s on our money, it’s a part of this country and I think part of the derisiveness we have is fear that we are going to offend someone. At some point, we need to stop being afraid of offending someone with our beliefs,” he said. “I’m not usually a religious fellow in public; I am certainly not at this point a church going fellow, but I don’t have a problem with saying ‘In God We Trust.’”

Stiehler ended the discussion saying he didn’t think the board has the right to put the motto on taxpayer-funded vehicles.

– Kim Lewicki

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Changing Times in our World

What a mess the world is in these days! Hatred has become rampant or perhaps, with sophisticated communications, we are just more aware of it. Terrorists are out to kill us and other countries want to ruin us financially to the point we are dependent on them.

Political candidates are destroying each other and it is apparent that the rhetoric is about them and not the country as a whole. This will continue until the election is over and then smolder again with a new president and administration. There seems to be no end in sight or a solution to the stress we all feel as a culmination of current events. Well, actually there is and we, in Highlands and Cashiers, live it each and everyday. It's almost as if we live on a different planet.

Having lived in Highlands full-time for 21 years, I have been socialized to a different way of life. To wake up each day in an area where I can revel in nature's beauty with mountain views that are a reminder that there is still good and beauty in the world, or rushing waters of the Cullasaja River that offer solace that life will go on – sometimes faster than we would choose – but will be there for the next generations to appreciate.

A town where sunrises and sunsets turn from reds to pinks on a golden palate giving promises of a new day to follow – offering us a new beginning. We can either focus on our days that remain on earth and choose to be grateful for our blessings or bitter with current circumstances and those of the past. It is made clearer here the road we should choose.

I choose to be grateful to live in a town where I can walk into Mountain Fresh Grocery each morning and Dustin starts my Cappuccino (skinny with 1 Stevia) without me saying a word. And Sherry greets all with a smile and you know her faith is rock solid. Sheila genuinely cares for people and it shows, as the pain in her feet is a daily challenge. JT's creative

mind, pleasant smile, and entrepreneurial spirit is an inspiration to us all.

I choose to be grateful when restaurateurs come out to talk with you and welcome you by name. Managers, such as Jacque at Wolfgang's, is always smiling and accommodating. Chef Wolfgang makes an appearance to make sure everyone is happy and well fed. Jason, at the Log Cabin Restaurant, is genuinely happy to see you and aims to please. The hostesses and wait staff at On the Veranda are so very nice and Lexi, the bartender makes sure your drink of choice is perfect. Taylor at Meritage always has a joke for you.

I choose to be grateful to live in a town where you can enjoy a favorite libation at our pub, the Ugly Dog, and clog or watch cloggers on Wednesday nights or stop in the Hummingbird Lounge at Old Edwards Inn and listen to the soothing voice of Cy Timmons, who takes you back with the sounds of Johnny Mathis, Elton John, Barry White and more. His humor is sure to cheer you as well. Steve Day, on our wonderful radio station, WHLC 104.5, keeps us informed of weather, events and lost cats and dogs. The music is relaxing and memories are jogged many times a day.

I choose to be grateful for our two newspapers whose police reports consist of dogs barking or a door blowing open and extremely rare crime of any sort. Where candidates for political offices don't destroy each other but meet in church and sit down to lunch to congratulate their opponents. I'm grateful for a town where three traffic lights control the traffic flow in the busy season.

I choose to be grateful for our Performing Arts Center and Mary Adair Leslie who brings in fantastic talent with Chamber Music, Opera, and foot-stomping blue grass music as well. The Hit Men (Four Season's



Pat Allen
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music) and music of the Beatles are two of my favorites. I love that the Playhouse now offers first run movies, complete with popcorn and wine! Where art galleries and boutiques offer their finest. I still must check out Nancy's Fancy's where she and Bob have underwear they swear is "life-changing!"

I choose to be grateful for our small town Christmas parades in Highlands and Cashiers, where you are taken back to a more innocent time when kids' eyes light up seeing the floats, horses, camels and of course, Santa, all the while gathering candy being thrown their way. I love a town that still does traditional Thanksgiving, where families gather to reminisce.

Where the 4th of July fireworks light up a small town to "oohs and ahhs" and everyone lines the streets with blankets and lawn chairs.

I choose to be grateful for our wonderful small inns with heavenly breakfasts and front porches. For the Old Edwards Inn and Spa where you can rejuvenate your skin and spirit after a massage of choice and sit by the fire and read with a glass of wine or relax in the whirlpool to your heart's delight. I am grateful for Art and Angela Williams who continue to improve our town and to Richard and Melissa Delany who keep the plans in motion. I'm grateful for Larry and Mary Roberts who saw the need for a dog-friendly hotel, the Park on Main, and another coming soon.

More importantly, I am grateful to live in a town where there is genuine concern for

• See INVESTING page 19

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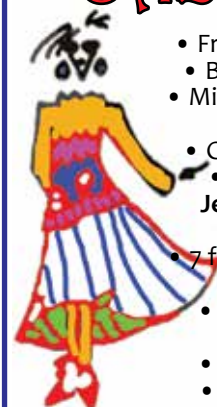
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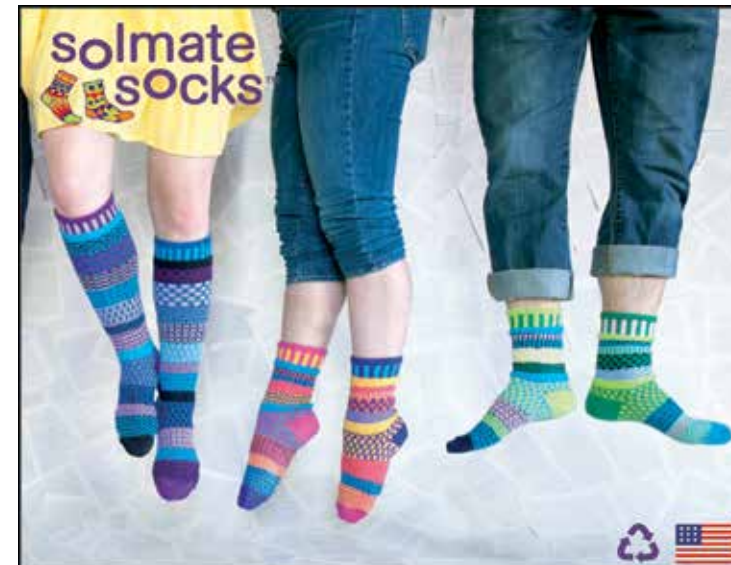
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...BROADBAND continued from page 1

Shuler discussed US Cellular's proposal which requests the \$2,000 a month rent to the town be abated until it can recoup the \$200,000 it will cost them to erect the tower and build the generator structure. Though a monopole was originally discussed, the state historical commission won't allow one in Highlands' downtown area due to the aesthetic impact it would have on surrounding historic buildings. Therefore, a camouflage tower system in the form of a large Western Carolina white pine will be designed which costs more than a monopole.

Shuler said camouflage tree towers have come a long way since the "Charlie Brown Christmas Tree" on the top of Satulah," and though it will tower 40 feet above some neighboring trees it will blend in relatively well. Shuler provided photos of areas in town projecting the height of the tower in relation to buildings and as a tree, it wasn't obtrusive.

"There will be some places in town where it won't even be seen," he said.

There will be room on the tower for two other providers and Shuler suggested Verizon might prefer this location to the one on Bear Pen which means it may move faster expanding its services.

The board voted 4-1 to accept U.S. Cellular's proposal but to have Town Attorney J.K. Coward go over the contract and also requested U.S. Cellular to return in February to present the proposal as well as visuals so the board and the citizens of Highlandsso they can see exactly what is planned.

Commissioner Donnie Calloway voted against the motion for two reasons. One, he is opposed to the tower idea whether a monopole or a tree and second, he wasn't sure a U.S. Cellular tower would be beneficial to citizens since most people in Highlands use Verizon.

However, with increased data plans crowding the airwaves, Shuler said when Ve-

erizon customers are forced to roam they are often picked up by U.S. Cellular.

In addition, upon completion of construction and installation of US Cellular's equipment, the ownership of the tower and all other improvements, including the new generator, will transfer to the town. However, U.S. Cellular's tower-mounted equipment and shelter will remain as personal property of U.S. Cellular.

If all goes as planned, the tower will be erected Spring of 2016.

The other big news out of the Town Board meeting was the roll out of the town's newest utility – Altitude Community Broadband.

Fiber optic cable is available in the downtown area, but due to the topography of the area, a fixed wireless option will likely be requested by those customers both in town and out of town who are in the line of sight for broadcasting.

With this fixed wireless option, a receptor will be mounted on homes and hardwired to a wireless router in the home.

All installation is free and there are several package options.

The Basic: "Just Give me Internet" is for 4Mbps and costs \$34.99 per month.

The Better: Supports some streaming video with 10Mbps for \$39.99 per month.

The Video Streaming Package comes with free Roku has 25Mbps and costs \$59.99 month.

The Extreme Package, where everyone in the home is connected, also comes with free Roku has 50Mbps and costs \$119.99 per month.

Altitude Community Broadband also offers a "Carefree in home Wi-fi" for \$9.99 per month and a static IP address for \$9.99 a month.

The Town Board voted to create a new Telecommunications Department using

• See BROADBAND page 22

Live in HD Series The Nutcracker

Sunday, December 20 12:55pm

Adults: \$22
PAC Members: \$19
Students: FREE

Highlands Performing Arts Center 507 Chestnut Street
Tickets available online: highlandspac.org or by calling 828.526.9047

• THE INK PENN. •

Tales of Christmas Past

I seem to have a problem keeping watches, and I had a sudden aha today that my problem began the Christmas I was eight years old. That year, my youngest sister was born on December 23rd. Those were the days when mothers spent several nights in the hospital after giving birth, so my mom missed Christmas morning with her other two daughters, and my father had to play Santa that year.

We lived in Queens, NY, and even though my mother didn't drive at the time, she had purchased and wrapped all of our gifts so everything would be ready. According to family legend, my father rarely participated in Christmas shopping and certainly not in wrapping. In his defense, he did travel a good bit for business back then, and he did pay for all the gifts.

In the North, the presents from Santa were wrapped like all the other presents, unlike the South, where Santa's gifts are arranged beneath the tree unwrapped. My mom always wrote "From Santa" on those packages. Christmas morning, my four-year old sister and I tore into our presents as children do. When there was nothing left but mounds of wrapping paper and ribbon, Daddy called Mom in the hospital. I'm not sure whether we all got to speak with her, but I do recall she asked if I liked my new watch. My response was "what watch?" Not only had my father not participated in shopping and wrapping, he



Kathy Penn

had no idea what we were supposed to find beneath the tree. We dug frantically through the piles of wrapping paper until we found the tiny watch box. Phew!

I'm not sure how long I managed to hold on to that watch, but when I was in high school, I lost a watch I'd gotten for my birthday one year. It was a scarab watch, which was all the rage back then. I took it off while shopping with my Mom, as it kept getting hung up in the sleeves as I was trying on clothes. I only realized it was gone when I was trying on something in another shop. We rushed back to the first store only to discover that whoever found my watch in the dressing room had decided to keep it. My mom was furious at my carelessness and loudly declared that she was never buying me another watch. That seems a tad dramatic, but that was the proclamation.

Fortunately for me, my dad disagreed and I received a lovely gold watch for graduation that year. I guess I've pretty much managed to hold on to my watches since then until recently. For my 25th anniversary at the bank, I got to choose a gift and chose the proverbial watch. That was almost six years ago, and now I've misplaced it somewhere. Honestly, I know I wore it Thanksgiving Day, but have been unable to find it since. I wear my exercise watch most days, so I can't say when I really saw it last. I've searched the jewelry drawer and

all over the house to no avail.

This time, I'm blaming our cat Puddin'. The only thing I can think is that I removed the watch and put it on the end table near my chair one evening. Puddin' is known to bat things off the table—pens, coasters, you name it. When she does, those items usually land in the basket beside my chair, the one I put the newspapers in as I finish reading them. I can only think that the watch landed in the basket and was buried in the papers, which I then scooped up and put in the recycle bin. Who knows?

I keep thinking maybe it will turn up in one of the places where I've looked over and over again.

I may have lost a watch, but there's always a silver lining: I'm smiling as I reflect on family memories of Christmases past and other times. And I can even smile at Puddin'.

• 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.

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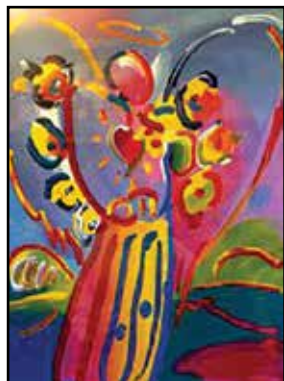
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Mon-Sat 10a to 5p

Where there is a will, there is a way.

As an Army Ranger, Kevin Dylus has always fought to protect the lives of others. He never imagined that trimming a tree for his in-laws would lead to the battle of his life.

A branch broke, twisting downward into Kevin, and crushed his pelvis and leg.

When told that walking might be a challenge, Kevin fought on with help from the rehabilitation specialists and Home Health nurses at CarePartners.

Not only did Kevin walk – he ran. He climbed, and ultimately he passed the Army physical required to return to active duty.

Whether you're trying to be well, get well or stay well, Mission Health and CarePartners offer you and your family access to the best people, resources and advanced technology to help you achieve and exceed your goals.

To hear more personal stories like Kevin's, visit:
mission-health.org/KevinHN



Be Well. Get Well. Stay Well.



...SCHOOL continued from page 1

from Christmas break,” said Macon County Schools Superintendent Dr. Chris Baldwin. “Both of these facilities are up to date and provide outstanding environments for our students. These ‘new’ schools will serve our students for many years to come. We are extremely proud of these facilities and very grateful to the county commissioners and the citizens of Macon County for making these improvements a reality.”

The project was made possible with a

\$2.9 million QZAB (Qualified Zone Academy Bonds) loan. QZAB is a pot of state dollars that can be used for school capital outlay projects and was allocated to Macon County with zero percent interest.

The projects included improvements to Union Academy, which hasn't seen any significant work in 50 years, and to renovate the high school wing at Highlands School. Both projects include new HVAC systems,

•See HS page 17



**Celebrate the Season at
Highlands United Methodist
Church**

Main Street • 526-3376

Wednesday, Dec. 24

Christmas Eve Worship Services

5 pm a Family-Friendly Service

Drop-in Communion between 7 & 8pm

11pm a Candlelight Service

Church of the Incarnation

Corner of Main & 5th streets



We welcome all visitors to our Christmas services!

Sunday, December 20 • Advent 4

8 a.m. Rite I in the Chapel

10:30 a.m. Rite II in the Nave

Greening of the Church following 10:30 service

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

...SCHOOL from 16

improving insulation in the ceilings and replacing hardware and electrical systems. Highlands is also getting new windows to improve heating and cooling efficiency and Union Academy will have tiles containing asbestos removed.

According to Bell, windows at Highlands are the only significant delay. The company handling the windows didn't get them delivered on time. He expects the windows to be delivered on Dec. 17 and they will take three of four days to install.

Furniture has already been put into the renovated classrooms and the finishing touches will be completed when school resumes after the new year.

"Speaking as a science teacher, now the science lab at Highlands is top notch and is an excellent addition for our students," said Bell.

The Highlands renovation project is under budget and has \$20,000 left in contingency funds. Because the project is funded through a QZAB loan, the funds allotted have to be used within the scope of work outlined in the plans. Bell said there may be additional items that could be done with the remaining contingency funds.

Highlands Board of Education Stephanie McCall praised the project and said the upgraded facilities have boosted morale for teachers and will help students in the long term.

Bring in the New Year at ...on the Verandah Restaurant!

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END OF YEAR



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• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

Remembering the prisoners

By: Pastor Dan Robinson
Highlands Central Baptist Church

I slept on a new mattress last night. Upon awakening this morning three thoughts were prominent in my mind:
1) Countless numbers of men, women and children around the world slept on the ground last night, not on a new mattress,

2) I remembered my first trip to Zambia some 15 years ago. I stayed in an African village with none of our modern conveniences. I soon saw a man carrying a mattress on his head. He had secured it from somewhere. The mattress, not a new mattress, was for me to sleep on. It was an expression of Christ-kindness to me. I will not forget that incident... ever.

3) Christians around the world who are being persecuted, tortured and even killed for their faith in Jesus Christ.

We are told in Hebrews 13:3, "Continue to remember those in prison as if you were together with them in prison."

Among the nations of the world, North Korea is the worst persecutor of Christians. According to the Voice of the Martyrs Ministry, "Experts estimate that of the hundreds of thousands incarcerated in labor and concentration camps, about 30,000 are Christians. Possessing a Bible, saying the words God or Jesus and meeting together are all offenses punishable by death."

The incongruence is overwhelming isn't it?

We are comfortable and well fed, yet some Christians will die today because of their Faith in Jesus. I hope you will pray for them. As you purchase every Christmas gift, I hope you will do so with humility. You can buy and give. Our persecuted brothers and sisters cannot, and yes, to whom much is given, much is required.

We are in a position to do something. Prayers, official correspondences and financial contributions to particular ministries all help. Keep the persecuted church on your heart this Christmas Season. It is certainly on our Lord's heart, "Who had no crib for a bed...and who was asleep in the hay."

...LETTERS from page 5

What are non-violent Muslims doing?

Dear Editor

I keep up with the news as much as anyone. I am told that the vast majority of Muslims in the United States are non violent. If so, why haven't I seen or heard stories about what these non-violents are doing about the violent ones in their midst?

Are they alert for Jihadists?

Are there organizations formed (a la Martin Luther King) to preach non violence?

Do they kick the Jihadist leaders out of their mosques?

Do the non-violent Muslims pledge allegiance to our flag and proclaim their love for America and all the benefits they accrue by living in our free and generous country?

Do they proudly wave the American flag in their yards and celebrate our Independence Day?

Do Muslims cooperate with our law enforcement?

Just curious.

Griffin Bell, Highlands

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

CHAPEL OF SKY VALLEY

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

www.cbchighlands.com • 526-4685

3645 Cashiers Rd, Highlands, NC

Senior Pastor Gary Hewins

Sun.: 9:30am: Sunday School

10:30am: Middle & High School; 10:45am: Child. Program,

10:45am: Worship Service

Wed.: 5pm Dinner (\$7 adult, \$2 child), 6pm CBC

University

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Rev. Bruce Walker • 526-2968

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

Education and choir rehearsal, 9 am,

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

Wednesday: 10 a.m., Morning Prayer

Thursdays: Holy Eucharist, (chapel), 10 am

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH HIGHLANDS

828-526-4153 • www.fbchighlands.org

Dr. Mark Ford, Pastor

220 Main Street, Highlands NC 28741

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

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

Choir 5 pm

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Curtis Fussell & Emily Wilmarth, pastors

526-3175 • fpchighlands.org

Sun.: Worship: 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

(Off Franklin/Highlands Rd) • Rev. Carson Gibson

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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MOUNTAIN BIBLE CHURCH

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Sun: 10:30 a.m. at Big Ridge Baptist Church,

4224 Big Ridge Road (4.5 miles from NC 107)

Weds: Bible Study 6:30 p.m.; Youth Group 6 p.m.

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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.

SHORTOFF BAPTIST CHURCH

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

Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study: 7

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

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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 18. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor or public officials have been used.

Nov. 18

• At 3:45 p.m., Adam Lee Harner, 36, was arrested for forced entry and burglary and criminal damage to property and

...INVESTING continued from page 11

each other...where we know people's troubles - health wise and otherwise, You walk down Main Street and shopowners come out to say "hello" and chat. Where everyone knows your dog and stocks up on treats for them! Where everyone knows your name and shares your concerns as well as your triumphs. Where those of us fortunate enough to "give back" can experience first hand the needs of others and know who to help or which cause to support.

With all this being said, it explains why more and more people are choosing to live here full time versus only having a summer place. New beginnings allow for better endings. Come and explore and let us help in your search for the right home for you in our magical place on earth. I wouldn't live anywhere else!

Merry Christmas from all us at Pat Allen Realty Group. Remember today and everyday - the best gifts are tied with heartstrings.

• Pat Allen is owner of Pat Allen Realty Group and a Certified Luxury Home Marketing Specialist. She chooses to remain an independent firm, allowing for personalized service and decision making - welcomed and needed in a small town. She is consistently a top producer and award-winning broker on the plateau. Visit her on the web at Pat Allen Realty Group.com or call 828-526-8784. Conveniently located at 295 Dillard Road.

larceny.

Nov. 25

• At 8:30 a.m., officers were called about a trespassing incident at the Hardscrabble subdivision where someone left a utility trailer when told not to.

• At 2 p.m., officers received a call about someone leaving property at a residence on Paul Walden Road for several months.

Nov. 29

• At 2:19 p.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident on Wyanoak Road.

Dec. 1

• At 12:07 p.m., involuntary commitment papers were served during an incident at Town Hall.

Dec. 2

• At 2:43 p.m., officers responded to a call about a breaking and entering and larceny from buildings at a residence on Biscuit Rock Road where someone staying in the basement of the residence entered the living

space of the home and took a video, adult magazines, camera/optical equipment and binoculars. The total value was \$350.

• At 8:57 p.m., William Ruffin Johnson, Jr., 62, of Scaly Mountain, was arrested for DWI on Main Street.

Dec. 3

• At 10:15 p.m., James Chamberlain Wilson, 69, of Sarasota FL, was arrested for DWI on Hickory Hill Road.

Dec. 6

• At 1:32 p.m., officers were notified about a person getting bit by a dog at The Ugly Dog Pub on S. 4th Street.

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

Dec. 10

• At 9:14 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Clear Creek Road.

Dec. 11

• At 8:59 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Highgate Road.

Dec. 12

• At 3:22 p.m., the dept. assisted Cashiers in carrying a hiker with a broken ankle out on Bull Pen Road.

Dec. 15

• At 7:26 a.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on NC. 28 south.

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highlandseditor@aol.com****...CLASSIFIEDS from page 19****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)**CNA AND/OR MED-AIDE** wanted for Chestnut Hill of
Highlands Assisted Living. Apply at 24 Clubhouse Trail, Highlands,
NC. (828)526-5251. (st. 10/22)**FULL-TIME, YEAR-ROUND DISHWASHING
POSITIONS** - available at Mountain Fresh Grocery. Call 828-
526-2400 or apply in person.**THE HIGHLANDS BBQ CO.** Is seeking Servers,
Hosts, Bartenders and Line Cooks. If Interested, Please call
828-200-1500 or Send a Resume to HighlandsBBQCompa-
ny@Gmail.com (st. 7/2)**SALES ASSOCIATE FOR HIGH END CLOTH-
ING STORE** IN HIGHLANDS, NC full time "with benefits."
part time and seasonal. Must be available to work weekends.
Retail clothing sales experience preferred. Please call 828-200-
0928. (st. 4/30)**MOUNTAIN FRESH GROCERY** in Highlands is hir-
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- Baristas,
- Cashiers,
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- Pizza departments.

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jobs828@gmail.com**VAC/SHORT-TERM RENTALS****HIGHLANDS VACATION RENTAL DOWN-
TOWN.** 2/2 updated in 2014 with luxury master bath, king bed,
marble & SS kitchen. Second floor condo two blocks off Main.
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T.V., gas fireplace, off street parking. Available weekly \$1,000 plus
utilities. Call 828-352-8519. (st. 12/25)**LOTS/LAND FOR SALE****LOT. 10 MINUTES FROM DOWNTOWN HIGH-
LANDS.** 2.01 acres with Mountain Ridge and Meadow Views
between Bridal Veil Falls, Dry Falls & Cullasaja Falls, Gorge. Lot
cleared, driveway and new septic system. Tax Value is \$89,410.,
Quick Sale at \$49,900. Firm. 828-200-0949. (st. 9/3)**WOODED LOT W/ STREAM FOR SALE - MIR-
RORMONT AREA.** Berit Ln., 1.45 acres, 4-BR septic permit,
walk-to-town. Priced to sell. 770-861-4249. (st. 7/23)**ACRE LOT HIGHLANDS, NC** Corner Lot Highlands
Glen, level with some gentle slopes excavation and foundation
expenses would be reasonable, underground power installed.
Stream runs year round could be configured to make a small
pond, good water sources for well. Space for outbuildings or
RV, boat storage. 6 Miles to downtown. \$27,000 possible owner
financing 828-507-2066 (st. 7/2)**RESIDENTIAL FOR RENT****FURNISHED HOME FOR RENT** 2/2. Mt. Lori Dr.
Quiet street with no through traffic. Minutes to town. Very well
kept with nice furniture and pretty yard. Wood burning fireplace,
open kitchen, deck in back, hardwood floors, garage. \$1200 does
not include utilities. 904-403-8090. (st. 12/10)**REMODELED EFFICIENCY APARTMENT** River
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MOLD AND MUSTY SMELL IN YOUR HOME? Call for free inspection. 828-743-0900.

...BROADBAND continued from page 14

town enterprise funds – \$40,000 from the General Fund and \$210,000 from the Electric Enterprise Fund. These startup funds will be repaid when the department begins to make money.

Since allowing municipalities to get into the broadband business won the latest court battle, a window is open and they are jumping through before it closes.

Shuler said Altitude Community Broadband needs as many customers as possible which will not only keep the prices low but will give Highlands grounds for be-

ing grandfathered in should the courts turn the tables against municipalities.

Though the enterprise is initially being funded by in-town taxpayers, growing the customer base is paramount and so out of town customers are encouraged to sign up.

Commissioner Amy Patterson suggested incentives like the ability to purchase service annually to lock in prices which are likely to increase at some point.

To request an install call 828-526-2118.

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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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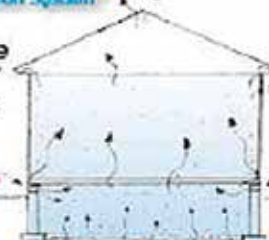


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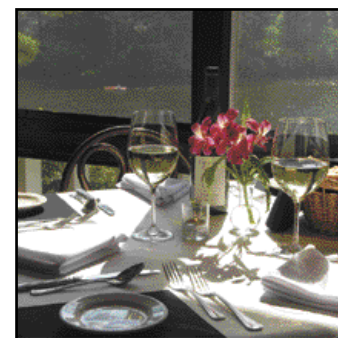
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