

# Highlands Newspaper

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Volume 13, Number 2

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

Thurs., Jan. 14, 2016

## Room tax proceeds point to a healthy economy

*Highlands area accounts for more than half of the total room occupancy tax collected each year in Macon County.*

With pristine waterfalls, National Forests with miles of outdoor recreational opportunities, and lush views of some of the most beautiful mountains in the United States, it's understandable

why thousands of tourists from across the world travel to North Carolina each year for vacation.

As such, tourism remains one of the strongest industries in North Carolina and in Macon

County, and while other industries are still recovering from the recession, the tourism industry is booming.

In addition to being a multi-billion dollar industry across the

state, locally tourism accounts for thousands of jobs and revenue that benefits the county at large.

In 2014, Macon County generated \$148.78 million in direct

•See ROOM TAX page 7

## Franklin businessman and mayor of Highlands want to clean up Macon C.

Twenty-two years ago, Franklin business owner Jerry Anselmo searched all over the country for a place to move his family. After researching and visiting some of the best places in the world, Anselmo fell in love with Macon County and decided to start his business here.

"I believe we live in one of the prettiest places in the entire world, but it is such a shame that now we can't drive on our roadways and enjoy the view because the roads are littered with trash."

With a business on NC 28 which depends on tourism and the natural resources Macon County is known for, Anselmo

•See CLEAN page 4



Dry Falls is a popular visitor attraction on US 64 west. Since around Christmas, access to the path leading down to the falls from the parking lot has been chained off due to icy conditions. In addition, in the winter the path that leads under the falls is gated off due to ice that forms from the falls' spray.

— Photo by Kim Lewicki

## Visit to Dry Falls turns deadly

On Sunday, Jan. 10, around 1:30 p.m., rescue crews recovered the body of Sean Kasey, 45, of Villa Rica, GA, from the icy waters at the base of Dry Falls.

At 12:01 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 9, 9-1-1 received a call from a man who said he was with a group of people at Dry Falls and one of his friends had fallen off the falls and "they don't see him anymore."

According to Mike Wilkins, USFS District Ranger, Kasey, and the friends he was in town visiting, crossed the chain barricade at the parking lot blocking the falls path.

He said near the falls, Kasey hopped the gate blocking passage under the falls and slipped from a concrete pillar he had climbed upon. He fell into the water near where the falls crash into the river.

Highlands Fire & Rescue, Cullasaja Fire & Rescue, Cowee Fire & Rescue, Cashiers Fire Department and Glenville-Cashiers Rescue Department along with Macon County EMS units and the U.S. Forest Service were immediately dispatched to the area.

On Saturday, about 60 rescue, fire and EMS workers were on

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scene — 10 from Highlands.

Under water cameras were lowered into the water at the bottom of the falls until they hit bottom 20 feet below but due to the rain which caused muddy conditions nothing could be seen.

Around 12:30 p.m., 9-1-1 reports said bystanders saw Kasey floating down the river from the white water below the falls.

According to Highlands Fire & Rescue Assistant Chief Robbie Forrester they later confirmed that they only saw him float to a certain point near the falls and not down the river.

Regardless, all during the day and until night fall rescue and swiftwater crews scoured the river from the falls to Turtle Pond Road.

"Years ago there was a person who slipped into the river and clung to a rock, so who is to say that couldn't have happened. You just don't know so you follow protocol," said Forrester.

Due to dangerous water conditions, rain and very rough terrain, the search was suspended at

•See SUIT page 5

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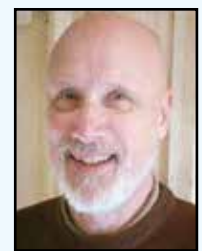


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# • THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

## • MAYOR ON DUTY •

### Trashy people

Let me talk about trash and trashy people who defile Highlands and Macon County. Trash and litter is a growing problem. With little green vegetation on highway right of ways this time of year, trash is very visible to residents and to our visitors.

Based on my participation in trash pickups, let me share several personal observations. I have noticed that while on trash patrol my bags fill up with two kinds of garbage.

One category is small, single items like beer and soft drink cans, tobacco packages, fast food containers, styrofoam cups, and plastic containers. This trash comes from workers and tourist who are simply "trashy people." This lower echelon of humanity think nothing of defiling and desecrating this magnificent landscape of creation.

I can't fathom how someone can consciously throw trash out of their vehicle, but it is done every day. Sometimes the painful truth needs to be said. In Highlands some people buy single cans of beer from stores at day's end to drink on their way home. To get around open container laws, these low class people simply toss the cans out the window. Left behind as evidence are the many Bud Light and Miller Light cans on



Mayor Pat Taylor

the side of the road.

As I frequently pick up trash, I will encounter one of these beer cans filled with tobacco spit. Yes, I put it in my trash bag. I guess in the perverted mind of the offender, they didn't want to defile the inside of their vehicle, just the public right of way.

A second category of trash purveyors are those ignorant people who think loose trash in the back of a pic up truck will stay there as they go 60 mph down the highway.



Photos by Pat Taylor

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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.

## • LETTERS •

### Stoking fear is not the solution

Dear Editor,

I am writing in reference to Griffin Bell's letter to the editor on page 18 of the Dec. 17 edition entitled "What are non-violent Muslims doing?"

I am not a history expert, but I consider myself reasonably well versed. I am told the Civil War ended in 1865. If so, why haven't I seen or heard stories about what non-secessionist Southerners are doing about the secessionists in their midst, the "Confederates in the Attic," as coined by one book title?

Are they alert for Ku Klux Klan members?

Are there organizations formed to preach Unionism and racial harmony?

Do they kick secessionist leaders out of their churches and Waffle Houses?

Do the non-secessionist Southerners pledge allegiance to the United States of America and all the benefits they accrue by living in a free and generous country, or instead to the Confederate States of America and their lost ability to own other human beings as property?

Do they proudly wave the Stars and Stripes and celebrate July 4th, or instead wave the Stars and Bars and celebrate the founding of the Confederate States of America?

Do they acknowledge our black, African, Hawaiian by way of Indonesia, possibly, not really, but are we really sure he's not, Muslim President?

Just curious.

The absurdity of the above should be apparent, just as the flawed reasoning of Griffin Bell's recent letter regarding non-violent Muslims should be as well. Not to the extent Mr. Bell calls for non-violent Muslims to call out, stand up to, and take action against violent extremists, a proposition with which I am in agreement, but for the tired implication that unless we hear otherwise, all Muslims are the same and intend us violent harm. Another tired notion is that pledging allegiance to the flag, or otherwise waving it around, is a measure of Americanness.

Mr. Bell has not seen or heard stories about non-violent Muslims. Maybe it is just hard to see or hear those stories from an ivory tower in Highlands, North Carolina. Or, more likely, it is because you do not see or hear stories about ordinary, law-abiding Americans going about their lives, whether they are Muslim, black, purple, Martian, gay, transgender, or anything in between. You do not see or hear stories about such people promoting non-violence or helping law enforcement, even if they are. Because fear is what sells.

Stoking that fear is not a solution. Painting every person in a particular group with the same brush is not a solution. Xenophobic hysteria is not a solution. That is the kind of mindset that led to the internment of Japanese-Americans and countless other epic mistakes. Let's focus on the bad guys, who, though they may adhere to a particular creed or ideology, and may be senseless, are individuals all.

Just saying.

Sabin Maxwell  
Manchester, NH

### An annual whack at Al

Dear Editor,

With turning the page on the calendar, it's time to take our annual whack at Al Gore. Fortunately, he has been mostly quiet of late, however, he is learning you can run, but you can't hide.

Ten years ago, as of January 27, he peered into his crystal ball and announced that unless drastic action transpired, our globe would be, in a word, history. So, if you are a believer,

better get right with the Almighty, because drastic action has been absent.

So, while Al's carbon footprint is about the size of Montana, he is likely sitting in the sun, which, in reality determines the heat of the planet, counting his green (isn't that ironic) and living large.

Happy New Year, Al.

Don Swanson  
Franklin, NC





# • OBITUARY •

## Clara Belle Gregory Setser

Clara Belle Gregory Setser, 97, of Franklin passed away Thursday, January 7, 2016. A native of Macon County, she was the daughter of the late Pink and Martha B. Holland Gregory. She was preceded in death by her husband, Wade Edwin Setser, who died in 1988.



Mrs. Setser was a homemaker and it was well known that you never went to her house without having a great meal. She loved to raise a garden and she enjoyed making beautiful quilts.

She is survived by special sister-in-law, Linda Corn Gregory; one daughter, Doris Chambers (Bruce) of Bethel, NC; two sons, Dennis Setser (Mary) of Canton; David Setser (in memory of wife Sheila Moffitt) of Scaly Mtn.; three granddaughters, Kathy Lawrence (Steven), Amanda Chambers and Angela Chambers; one grandson, Scotty Setser (Kari), two great granddaughters, Sara Lawrence and Izzy Setser and one great grandson, Hayden Setser.

In addition to her parents and husband she was preceded in death by four brothers, Ray, Roy, John, and Bob Gregory and three sisters, Estelle Kiser, Tressie Hoilman and Betty Keener.

A funeral service was held Saturday, January 9, 2016 in the chapel of Bryant-Grant Funeral Home with Rev. Steve Reeves officiating. Burial followed in Sugarfork Baptist Church Cemetery. Pallbearers were Scotty Setser, Mike Gregory, Mike Erwin, Wayne Chambers, Dennis Setser and David Setser.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the charity of your choice in the memory of Clara. Special thank you to Silver Bluff Nursing Home of Canton for taking wonderful care of her for so many years.

Bryant-Grant Funeral Home is serving the Setser family. Online condolences may be made at [bryantgrantfuneralhome.com](http://bryantgrantfuneralhome.com).

# • MILESTONES •

## Hawkins graduates from WCU

Corbin Hawkins, son of Billy and Sabrina Hawkins and 2013 graduate of Highlands School, graduated Dec 12, 2015 from Western Carolina University with a B.S. In Biology. He plans to begin medical school in the fall.



## Puchacz makes Dean's List

Danielle Puchacz of Scaly Mountain, NC was named to the Dean's List for the fall 2015 semester at Newberry College in Newberry, SC. The Dean's List is an academic honor awarded to students who achieved a semester GPA of 3.5 or higher on a 4.0 scale.

## Tournament Champions!



Highlands Junior League Girls team won the Macon County Girls Basketball end of the season tournament.

After going 5-4 in the regular season won the end of the season tournament.

Tournament Champions! They are front row left to right: Alecia Chastain, Madalynn Coen, Karmen Jenkins, Ashlynn Wilson, Ali Buck; back row left to right Emma Minton, Gracie McCall, Anne Marie Moore and Haley Small with Coach Lester Norris. Coach Seth Wilson isn't pictured.



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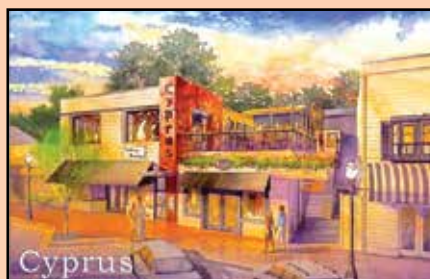
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## ...CLEAN continued from page 1

has taken it upon himself to begin a campaign to clean up Macon County and hopefully bring to the forefront the litter problem in the community.

"Tourism is a big part of my business," he said. "I have noticed more and more that we have a tremendous litter problem and it is not just a detriment to my business, it's detrimental to all businesses in Macon County and something needs to be done about it."

Launching an "Assault on Litter" campaign, Anselmo has been reaching out to businesses in the county that depend on tourism and the area's natural resources such as local Realtors and Outdoor 76 on Main Street in Franklin to help circulate a petition which will eventually be presented to local government officials.

"Realtors have been really helpful because they depend on the beauty of the area to sell houses," said Anselmo. "Since I started, a lot of people have told me that they, too, have noticed the litter problem and want to see something

done about it, and hopefully this is the first step."

The petition acknowledges the litter problem and urges county and town leaders throughout Macon County to work to increase awareness through penalties and signage promoting the consequences for littering.

"The litter is bad along NC 28 where my business is, but it is a countywide problem," he said. "My wife and I took a drive to Highlands recently for lunch and it was despicable to see the trash and beer cans along the banks of the Gorge Road. You can't enjoy the waterfalls because of all the litter on the road."

Highlands Mayor Pat Taylor agrees that litter is an increasing problem in the area.

"Trash and litter is a growing problem," he said. "With little green vegetation on highway rights-of-way this time of year, trash is very visible to residents and to our visitors."

"Based on my participation in trash pickups, I fill up bags with two kinds of garbage.

"One category is small, single items like beer and soft

**•See CLEAN page 5**

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## ...DRY FALLS continued from page 1

dark and resumed around 8 a.m. Sunday, Jan. 10.

"Higher than average water conditions, gusty winds and near freezing temperatures made searching difficult," said Forrester.

At 10:51 a.m., Sunday, Asheville Fire & Rescue's Dive Team of 10, plus officers, arrived and began preparing for the search.

They joined 75 other rescuers on scene — 14 from Highlands.

Highlands Fire & Rescue members are open water

## ...CLEAN continued from page 4

drink cans, tobacco packages, fast food containers, styro-foam cups, and plastic containers. This trash comes from workers and tourists who are simply 'trashy people.' This lower echelon of humanity thinks nothing of defiling and desecrating this magnificent landscape of creation. I can't fathom how someone can consciously throw trash out of their vehicle, but it is done every day. Sometimes the painful truth needs to be said. In Highlands some people buy single cans of beer from stores at day's end to drink on their way home. To get around open container laws, they simply toss the cans out the window. Left behind as evidence are the many Bud Light and Miller Light cans on the side of the road," he said.

Anselmo suggested the increase in trash could be attributed to the fact that Macon County inmates are no lon-

•See CLEAN page 10

certified, but according to Forrester this incident required a more specialized group.

"We don't have rescue divers and these were special circumstances," he said.

Asheville began its search at the base of the falls because it's best to start at the last seen area, said Forrester.

An inflatable raft holding five divers was lowered into the water to the base of the falls.

Lead lines held by rescue workers along the cliffs held the raft as steady as possible in the turbulent waters.

Cameras lowered that day revealed clear water.

"On Sunday, the mud had cleared out," said Forrester. "The Asheville crew checked the water. We were worried about turbulence, but the clarity is what they were worried about."

The plan was for divers to go down one at a time. But around 1:30 p.m. Sunday, after being in the water 19 minutes the first diver found Kasey.

"While it ended in tragedy, I appreciate the dedication of everyone involved and their agencies," said MC Sheriff Robert Holland. "I am honored to work alongside each and every one of them."

A portion of Highlands Road from near the town limits to Turtle Pond Road was closed on Saturday and remained closed until Kasey was found. Traffic was detoured to Buck Creek Road.

"It is a tragic loss and our condolences go out to the family, said Mike Wilkins, USFS District Ranger. "At the same time it is a sobering reminder that our fences and

posted instructions must be followed if visitors are to have a safe experience while visiting their treasured National Forest."

Forrester summed up the tragedy. "Stay away from where you aren't supposed to be," he said.

The last tragedy on the Cullasaja River occurred six years ago when a father drowned saving his son at Bust Your Butt Falls.

— Kim Lewicki



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## ...ROOM TAX continued from page 1

tourist spending; produced \$25.26 million in worker income; created 1,220 jobs and reduced the average household local and state tax bill by \$716.

While 2014 was a tremendous year for tourism, the industry has continued to grow through 2015 and is higher than ever before in Macon County.

"The steady increase in room occupancy tax collections over the past three years is indicative of a strong and growing economy in Macon County," said Macon County Manager Derek Roland. "I am confident we will see these numbers continue to increase, especially as Parker Meadows has its first complete tournament season in FY '16-'17."

Room Occupancy tax collection through November for 2015 alone was \$402,918.76, a \$36,213.96 increase over 2014's collection during the same period which was \$366,704.80. And 2014's collection was a \$41,923.94 countywide increase over 2013's collection of \$324,780.86.

Since the state returns a portion of the room occupancy tax to the county in

which it is collected, Macon County and the towns collecting the tax -- Highlands, Franklin, and Nantahala -- are seeing additional revenues and the tourism industry growing.

While Franklin's and Nantahala's combined room occupancy tax collections increased in 2015 by \$10,879.43 over 2014, the Highlands area accounts for more than half of the total room occupancy tax collected each year in Macon County.

In 2013, the Highlands area saw \$224,484.65 in room occupancy tax, \$262,964.74 in 2014, and through November of 2015 saw \$288,299.27.

Highlands Mayor Patrick Taylor believes the increased revenue speaks to the overall economic improvements in Highlands.

With additional room occupancy taxes being collected, the Highlands Chamber of Commerce, the Macon County Tourism Development Commission and the Franklin Tourism Development Authority will each have additional revenues to invest in promoting Macon County as a destination.

"The tax numbers underscore the economic impact Highlands has for the area when it comes to tourism," said Mayor Taylor. "The Highlands Chamber of Commerce directs much of that room tax rebate to promote tourism here in the area. These increases in occupancy tax are reflective of a stronger economy. People are traveling more, taking vacations and spending more. Also, the Highlands area has had increases and upgrades in hotel room capacity. I see these trends continuing," he said.

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# AUDITIONS

FOR

## "MARCH MEDLEY"

Four One-Act Plays

Highlands-Cashiers Players' Winter Production

A Dinner Theatre

Directed by Donna Cochran

**828-526-2080**

**When:** Sunday, January 24  
2:30 p.m.

**Where:** Downstairs in the PAC  
(Performing Arts Center)

**Performance Dates:**

**March 11, 12, 13 & March 18, 19, 20**



**Taming of the Shrew**

Sunday  
January 24  
12:55pm  
Adults: \$22  
PAC Members: \$19  
Students: FREE

*Live in HD Series*

**Les Pêcheurs de Perles**  
by Bizet

Saturday  
January 16  
12:55pm  
\$26 Adults  
\$22 Members

Highlands Performing Arts Center 507 Chestnut Street  
Tickets available online: [highlandspac.org](http://highlandspac.org) or by calling 828.526.9047

# • RE TRANSACTIONS 2015 •

## Flats Township

PIN, PROP_ADDR, ACREAGE, LAST_APPR_DATE, OWNER_NAME, DATE_RECORDED, SALES_PRICE, FIRST_GRANTOR_NAME, ASSESSED_VALUE									
• 7409679631	BUCK KNOB RD	6.22	10/15/2014	TAMM I, LLC	CLARENCE	125310			
3/9/2015 20500	SOUTH STATE BANK FKA	74940			• 7408396045	245 FALLS RD	5.3	10/2/2014	D E I M L E R ,
• 7409705522	OFF HWY 106	0.78	10/16/2014	WARTH, DA-	DIAN E. TRUSTEE	8/26/2015	0	DEIMLER, MICHAEL S	540650
VID W 5/5/2015	45000 FASCETTI, DOMENIC TR	19630			• 7408595540	OFF HWY 106	13.84	10/13/2014	SOUTH SPACE
• 7409775554	1655 BUCK KNOB RD	1.22	9/15/2015		II, LLC	7/28/2015	400000	HARMON, JACK C	209260
SCHANDOLPH, KRISTIE KNIGHT	8/19/2015	125000		LESLIE, MARCIA S TRUST-	• 7419040161	50 BILLINGSLEY RD	1.18	10/22/2014	HOLT, STEVE
EE	131990				NEWTON	11/6/2015	0	BILLINGSLEY, EUGENE	84500
• 7408124593	177-203 WOOD VALLEY RD	0.48	9/25/2014		• 7419112903	199 TALL PINES RD	1.84	10/22/2014	WALDEN, LIL-
DIRT POOR, LLC	10/7/2015	100000		CHARLES BISHOP PROPERTIES, LLC	LIAN HAYES	9/15/2015	0	WALDEN, PHILIP M JR	109060
174490					• 7419302658	92 & 98 FOSTER RD	0.84	10/23/2014	F O S T E R ,
• 7408125411	177-203 WOOD VALLEY RD	0.94	9/25/2014		LYNNE M. TRUSTEE	10/2/2015	0	FOSTER FAMILY LIMITED PARTNERSHIP	
CHARLES BISHOP PROPERTIES, LLC	10/7/2015	100000		CHARLES BISHOP PROP-	105830				
ERTIES, LLC	183580				• 7419302869	156 FOSTER RD	0.59	10/23/2014	F O S T E R ,
• 7409840302	116 SHOAL CREEK RD	0.78	9/15/2015		LYNNE M. TRUSTEE	10/2/2015	0	FOSTER FAMILY LIMITED PARTNERSHIP	
USKIEWICZ, MICHAEL D. SR	8/28/2015	188000		JACKSON, CHRISTOPHER D	102240				
200270					• 7409119260	HIGHLAND GAP RD		12.75	10/2/2014
• 7418565062	OFF RD 1625	1.31	9/25/2014	CAMPBELL,	CENTER, JERRY H TRUSTEE	3/24/2015	0	CENTER, JERRY H TRUSTEE	
MARGARET A. TRUSTEE	8/7/2015	0		CAMPBELL, META A TR	519710				
• 7500511994	1000/1246 EVANS CREEK RD	4.5	11/13/2014		• 7409200550	GRANDDADDY STILL RD		3.02	3/3/2015
WALBOLT, SYLVIA H. TRUSTEE	8/13/2015	0		WALBOLT, SYLVIA H 813430	DENCE, NATIONAL BANK	11/19/2015	0	INDEPENDENCE	INDEPENDEN -
• 7408535159	152 MEADOW CIR	2.64	9/24/2014	CAIN, D. PAT-	INC.	80860			BANCSHARES,
RICK	11/10/2015	0		BLUE LITE, LLC	• 7419179712	MILLER RD	5.91	10/20/2014	MILLER, EVER-
• 7408698967	215 RAVEN RIDGE RD	0.84	10/15/2014		ETTE RAY	1/12/2015	0	MILLER, EVERETTE	138290
PARROTT, GREGORY RANDALL	4/7/2015	0		PARROTT, GREGORY RANDALL	• 7419545689	304 KING CIR	1.36	8/3/2015	CLARK, WILLIAM H
208070					1/30/2015	25000	WILLIAMSON, BERNIE L TRUSTEE	100000	
• 7419033959	RD 1622	0.62	10/22/2014	HOLT, STEVE NEWTON	• 7419177515	644 MILLER RD	2.4	10/14/2014	MILLER, EVER-
11/6/2015	0				ETTE RAY	1/12/2015	0	MILLER, EVERETTE RAY	125590
• 7419043862	111 BAILEY RD	4	10/22/2014	HOLT, JAMIE	• 7419304907	OFF HWY 106	0.72	10/23/2014	F O S T E R ,
11/6/2015	0				LYNNE M. TRUSTEE	10/2/2015	0	FOSTER FAMILY LIMITED PARTNERSHIP	7740
• 7419045175	ON RD 1622	2.72	10/22/2014	HOLT, STEVE	• 7409100273	2919 HIGHLAND GAP RD	6.7	5/29/2015	EIS -
NEWTON	11/6/2015	0			TER, CRAIG V.	2/5/2015	1650000	GIBBS, GARY M., SR.	1593850
• 7418249675	515 HIGHPOINT DR	1.13	9/24/2014	LAPE, WIL-	• 7409245278	391 NATURAL BRIDGE RD	3.71	10/7/2014	
LARD O. JR	9/9/2015	0		OUTSTANDING PROPERTIES, LLC	DURDEN, KENNETH W. JR. TRUSTEE	8/17/2015	0	DURDEN, KENNETH W	
• 74098756695	184 RUNKEN LN	0.94	9/15/2015	HURST, WIL-	JR	366510			
LIAM R. JR	6/10/2015	210000		AMPUJA, SHANNON MARIE	• 7409309583	1480 HIGHLAND GAP RD	3.84	10/3/2014	WIL-
• 7418368279	170 OSAGE LN	0.67	10/8/2014	REYNOLDS,	SON, DAVID W.	8/20/2015	375000	NATIONSTAR MORTGAGE	628310
SUSAN	11/5/2015	109500		LEONARD, MARGIT	• 7419535128	551 KING GAP RD	1.44	10/20/2014	WALKER, AN-
• 7409874967	RD 1622	1.91	11/12/2015	WILLIAMS, DWIGHT R.	DREW K. 8/3/2015	0		WALKER, JANETT	637020
JR	9/29/2015	0		DSDA PROPERTIES, LLC	• 7419559514	222 POND RD	0.74	10/10/2014	CLARY, JAMES
• 7418556808	275 ROCKY KNOB LN	1	9/25/2014		C JR.	3/6/2015	0	CLARY, JAMES	313600
CAMPBELL, MARGARET A. TRUSTEE	8/7/2015	0		CAMPBELL, META A TR	• 7419643711	1245 KING GAP RD	0.9	9/15/2015	Y O U N G -
461170					BLOOD, SAMUEL P. JR	7/6/2015	265000	BULLOCK, MORRIS J	359810
• 7408450584	9468 DILLARD RD	1.71	10/16/2014	VOS, TIMO-	• 7419644899	1135 KING GAP RD	0.61	11/17/2015	CAHILL, GER-
THY PAUL	3/24/2015	145000		NATIONSTAR MORTGAGE LLC	ALD R. TRUSTEE	7/6/2015	0	CAHILL, GERALD R	125000
281540					• 7418059938	125 PINES RD	8.72	10/23/2014	VAUGHAN,
• 7408744213	OFF RD 1626	2.65	9/23/2014	WAYT, CHRIS-	WILLIAM B.	11/10/2015	0	FEDERAL, NATIONAL MORTGAGE ASSOCIA	
TIAN STEVENS	4/10/2015	42500		RAMSEY, THOMAS O.	TION	435840			
• 7408744611	MARTINS TRL	7.41	9/23/2014	WAYT, CHRIS-	• 7408126185	25 CREEKSIDE COVE S	0.08	11/12/2015	DIRT
TIAN STEVENS	5/1/2015	0		WAYT, CHRISTIAN STEVENS	POOR, LLC	7/28/2015	160000	GOODWIN, JOHN RICHARD	119200
• 7419010978	41 WILDFLOWER RD	0.09	8/3/2015	WELLEN, DA-	• 7408127511	71 CREEKDSIDE COVE N	0.1	9/25/2014	
VID R. TR	8/14/2015	110000		WILDFLOWER CREEK LLC	WYLAND OF KEY WEST, INC.	6/24/2015	150000	SHEPARD, STEVE	103500
• 7419029649	441 BROWN LAKE RD	4.13	10/21/2014	REX,	• 7418443941	OFF RD 1625	1.77	9/25/2014	C A R S O N ,
CHARLES W. TRUSTEE	8/26/2015	0		REX, CHARLES W	ROBERT JR	1/28/2015	21500	MOWEN, CATHERINE	31540
• 7408863406	ON RD 1627	1.53	10/23/2014	WILKS, IN-	• 7409957082	870 BUCK KNOB RD	0.98	10/21/2014	BUR-
VESTMENTS, L.L.L.P.	9/24/2015	0		WILKS, VAN C	TION, BETH R.	5/6/2015	0	BURTON, BIDD EARNST	170180
• 7408865312	244 RITCHIE RD	1.36	10/23/2014	WILKS, IN-	• 7408425927	700 HAPPY HILL RD	14.74	11/5/2015	WILKINSON
VESTMENTS, L.L.L.P.	9/24/2015	0		WILKS, VAN C	INVESTMENT LIMITED PARTNERSHIP	3/10/2015	0	WILKINSON	INVEST-
• 7408933643	ON RD 1627	3.72	11/12/2015	BILLINGSLEY,	MENT LIMITED PARTNERSHIP	1867530			
ANDREW LAMAR	8/14/2015	0		BILLINGSLEY, ANDREW	• 7408525823	300 THOMAS KNOB TRL	2.88	9/23/2014	
• 7418191319	RD 1625	4.25	10/23/2014	NICHOLSON, JESSICA	CAIN, D. PATRICK	11/10/2015	0	BLUE LITE, LLC	491600
JAMES	1/26/2015	35000		JAMES, KENNETH LAMAR	• 7408541445	HWY 106	21	9/25/2014	BILLINGSLEY, JACK L
• 7409759986	RUNKEN LN	1.73	10/17/2014	KELLER, AL-	1/26/2015	70000		BILLINGSLEY, JACK L	244640
LEN JR	9/25/2015	13000		RUNKEN, JOHANNA TRUSTEE	• 7419007196	162 DRYMAN RIDGE RD	0.21	9/29/2014	
• 7409808174	334 HICKORY RIDGE RD	2.14	10/20/2014		LOCKRIDGE, ART JR. TRUSTEE	2/9/2015	0	LOCKRIDGE, ARTHUR	40000
NEELY, CONSTANCE LEVERING	1/9/2015	22500		PARROTT, DOUGLAS L.	• 7419055979	287 MILLER RD	2.78	10/20/2014	MILLER, EMMA
193690					JANET TRUSTEE	1/12/2015	0	MILLER, EVERETTE	219620
• 7409850744	185 RUNKEN LN	0.93	10/17/2014	RUNKEN, JO-	• 7419540983	OFF 106	1.06	10/10/2014	MORRISON, J. DAVID SR.
HANNA TRUSTEE	9/25/2015	0		RUNKEN, ROY G TRUSTEE	TRUSTEE	11/9/2015	0	COLONY PROPERTIES INC	75000
• 7418514617	509 BOOGER HOLLOW TRL	2.06	9/24/2014		• 7419646923	1111 KING GAP RD	0.65	10/9/2014	CAHILL, GER-
SHERBURN, THOMAS CLARENCE	7/16/2015	0		SHERBURN, THOMAS	ALD R. TRUSTEE	7/6/2015	0	CAHILL, GERALD R	794620



# • HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

## 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 7 p.m. at Memorial United Methodist Church, 4668 Old Murphy Road, Franklin. Sponsored by the local affiliate of NAMI. 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](http://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 3:30pm. Call 828-526-3031 for titles.

## 3rd Wednesdays

• Recently released movies at Hudson Library at 2pm. Call 828-526-3031 for titles.

## Thursdays

• Storytime 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. 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.

## Last Fri. of each month

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

## Fri., Jan. 15

• The High Mountain Squares will host their "Winter Dance" Friday night, at the Macon County Community Building, GA Road (441 South), Franklin NC from 6:30 to 9:00 PM. Jim Duncan from Otto, NC will be the caller. We dance Western Style Square Danc-

ing, main/stream and plus levels. You are in luck, new dancer lessons have just begun, join us.

## Sat., Jan. 16

• The Highlands Plateau Greenway will conduct its monthly work day 9a to noon this Saturday. Email Ran Shaffner at [highlandsgreenway@nctv.com](mailto:highlandsgreenway@nctv.com) or leave a message at 828-482-1451.

• Live in HD at PAC, a new production of Bizet's Les Pêcheurs de Perles (The Pearl Fishers), will be screened Live in HD at the Highlands Performing Arts Center on Saturday at 12:55pm. Tickets are available online: [highlandspac.org](http://highlandspac.org), at the door or by calling 828.526.9047.

## Fri., Jan. 22

• Community Coffee with Mayor Pat Taylor 11a to noon in the Hudson Library Meeting room. The mayor will discuss his trash initiative.

## Sun., Jan 24

Auditions for HCP's March Medley, 4 one-act plays, at 2:30 pm. at PAC.

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

## Mon., Jan. 25

• The monthly meeting of the Jackson County Republican Party will be on Monday at Ryan's in Sylva 6 PM to eat, 6:30 PM to meet. Come meet the two Republican candidates who will be running for Commissioner in Jackson County. Mickey Luker is running for the District 4 seat now held by Mark Jones and Ron Mau is running for the District 3 seat held by Vicky Green. Say hello to and visit with For Jackson County GOP information, please call Ralph Slaughter @ 828 743-6491 or email: [jacksonctygop@yahoo.com](mailto:jacksonctygop@yahoo.com). Like us on Facebook at Jackson County Republican Party

## Sat., Jan 30

• At PAC, The Met Live in HD at 12:45

## The Pearl Fishers Live in HD at PAC on Sat.



A new production of Bizet's Les Pêcheurs de Perles (The Pearl Fishers), will be screened Live in HD at the Highlands Performing Arts Center on Saturday, Jan. 16 at 12:55pm. The opera, conducted by Gianandrea Noseda and directed by Penny Woolcock, tells the story of a beautiful Hindu priestess pursued by rival pearl divers competing for her hand. Highlights of the score include "Au fond du temple saint," perhaps the best-known duet for two male voices in the operatic repertoire. Diana Damrau leads the cast as the priestess Leila, opposite Matthew Polenzani as Nadir, Mariusz Kwiecien as Zurga, and Nicolas Testé as the high priest Nourabad. Tickets are available online: [highlandspac.org](http://highlandspac.org), at the door or by calling 828.526.9047.

p.m.

## Sat., Feb. 27

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

## Sat., March 16

• At PAC, The Met Live in HD at 12:45 p.m.

## Fri.-Sun., March 11-13

• At PAC, Highlands Community Players presents a Mystery Dinner Theatre.

## COREY JAMES GALLERY

### Winter Sale

### 25% to 75% OFF



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Open Mon-Sat 10a to 5p

## HHS Varsity Basketball scores

**Highlands Boys vs. Walhalla: HHS 44 – Walhalla 76**  
Top scorers: Jose Jimenez with 12 points  
and Johnny Lupoli with 10 points

**Highlands Girls vs. Walhalla: HHS 26 – Walhalla 47**  
Top scorers: Abby Olvera with 13 points and Madison  
Lloyd with 9 points

**Highlands Boys vs. Hiwasee: HHS 53 – Hiwasee 48**  
Top scorers: Dylan Vinson and Jake Billingsley with 11  
points each and Remy Adrian with 8 points.

**Highlands Girls vs. Hiwasee: HHS 24 – Hiwasee 68**  
Top scorers: Whitney Billingsley with 9 and Emily  
Crowe with 5

**Highlands Boys vs. Andrews: HHS 67 – Andrews 56**  
Top scorers: Dylan Vinson with 19 points and Johnny  
Lupoli with 14 points

**Highlands Girls vs. Andrews: HHS 34 – Andrews 63**  
Top scorers: Emily Crowe with 12 points and Whitney  
Billingsley and Courtney Henry with 7 points each.

Both Highlands teams play Tallulah Falls away on Friday,  
January 15th.

## ...CLEAN continued from page 5

ger allowed work release to clean up the roads.

“Maybe it’s time for people serving community service  
for things such as D.U.I.s to serve their time by helping to  
keep our roads clean,” he said.

Anselmo said another solution would be to begin a lit-  
ter awareness campaign in local schools to education stu-  
dents on littering, its impact and maybe start a program for  
students to help keep roads clean.

Stricter enforcement of litter violations is also some-  
thing Anselmo thinks could help the problem.

“Our Sheriff does a tremendous job in the county and  
I would like to work with him to talk about ways to give out  
tickets or raise awareness and work with his department to  
see what we can do,” said Anselmo.

Mayor Taylor is taking his own approach to getting  
community input on litter in Highlands.

The first Mayor’s Coffee for the year is scheduled for  
Friday, January 22, at 11 p.m. at the Hudson Library. The  
topic will be how to address the problem of trash in the  
community. “There is an emerging coalition of citizens in  
Macon County who want to seek solutions to this chronic  
problem. Please join us. Bring your ideas and a commitment  
to action,” said Taylor. “Together we can fight this blight on  
our community and land.”

Advertising in Highlands Newspaper  
and online at

[www.highlandsinfo.com](http://www.highlandsinfo.com) WORKS.  
For information, call 828-200-1371  
or email:

[highlandseditor@aol.com](mailto:highlandseditor@aol.com)

## Proverbs 3:5

## • PLACES TO WORSHIP •

## John 3:16

**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](http://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  
**EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE INCARNATION**  
Rev. Bruce Walker • 526-2968  
Sundays: Education for Adults, 9 a.m.  
Holy Eucharist Rite II, (chapel), 10:30 a.m.  
8 a.m., services and Healing services will resume in the  
spring.  
**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH HIGHLANDS**  
828-526-4153 • [www.fbchighlands.org](http://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](http://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  
**GRACE COMMUNITY CHURCH OF CASHIERS**  
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242 Hwy 107N, 1/4 miles from Crossroads in Cashiers  
[www.gracecashiers.com](http://www.gracecashiers.com) • Pastor Steve Doerter: 743-9814  
Services: Sundays 10am - Wed. - 7pm; Dinner - Wed. 6pm  
**HAMBURG BAPTIST CHURCH**

Hwy 107N. • Glenville, Nc • 743-2729  
Pastor Nathan Johnson  
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Wed. Kidsquest 6p.; Worship 7p.  
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Sundays: Worship: 11  
**HIGHLANDS CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH**  
Pastor Dan Robinson  
670 N. 4th Street (next to the Highlands Civic Center)  
Sun.: Morning Worship 10:45 a., Evening Worship, 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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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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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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Rev. Douglas E. Remer  
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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.  
**UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP**  
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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 Dec. 28. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor or public officials have been used.**

## Dec. 28

• At 10 a.m., officers responded to a one-vehicle accident at Main Street and NC 106.

• At 1 p.m., larceny from a vehicle parked on Main was reported. A cell phone valued at \$650 was taken.

• At 6 p.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident on Spring Street.

## Dec. 30

• At 4:20 p.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident on Main Street.

## Dec. 31

• At 7:50 a.m., officers received a call about a service dog biting a man at a residence on Split Rail Road.

The Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. log from Dec. 24

## Dec. 24

• At 6:02 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Clubhouse Trail.

• At 6:03 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Clubhouse Trail.

## Dec. 25

• At 8:29 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Country Club Drive.

## Dec. 26

• At 5:37 p.m., the dept. provided mutual aid at a rescue at 3 Forks.

## Dec. 27

• At 6:34 p.m., the dept. was called to investigate at a location on Main Street.

• At 10:58 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on NC 106.

## Dec. 28

• At 10:27 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Chestnut Hill Drive.

• At 8:57 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Church Street.

## Dec. 29

• At 9:38 p.m., the dept. responded to a vehicle fire on US 64 east.

## Dec. 30

• At 2:34 p.m., the dept.

responded to a C02 alarm at a residence on Satulah Road.

• At 3:24 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Windy Top Road.

## Dec. 31

• At 4:17 p.m., the dept. responded to motor vehicle accident at Highlands Falls Country Club.

## Jan. 2

• At 1:32 p.m., the dept. provided mutual aid to Cashiers FD.

## Jan. 4

• At 10:55 a.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on NC 28 South.

## Jan. 5

• At 3:04 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Satulah Ridge Road.

• At 9:08 a.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on US 64 east.

• At 12:07 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Spring Street.

## Jan. 6

• At 11:14 a.m., the dept. stood by at the Hospital for the MAMA helicopter.

## Jan. 7



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• At 6:15 a.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on N. 4th Street.

• At 1:08 p.m., the dept. responded to a brush fire at a residence on Garnet Rock Trail.

## Jan. 9

• At 12:01 p.m., the dept. responded to a rescue/recovery at Dry Falls.

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### Real Estate Resolutions ... Happy New Year!

By Wanda Klodosky  
Landmark Realty Group

Let's begin 2016 on solid Real Estate footing. Below are some excellent ideas for achievable Real Estate Resolutions:

#### Home Already on the Market?

- Review your correspondence and conversations with your Realtor. Have you followed through with their suggestions? If not, research and begin that process.

- Have a meeting with your Realtor either in person, on the phone or even via email. Discuss the 2016 plan for marketing and selling your home. Discuss the past plans and the successes and failures of those plans.

- The Highlands-Cashiers Plateau market is constantly evolving. Ask your Realtor to give you a snapshot of what sold (and didn't sale) in 2015, especially in and around the price range of your property. Be prepared to adjust your pricing if necessary.

#### Looking for a Home in the Highlands - Cashiers Area?

- Don't fall into the internet trap. You can do a lot of the preliminary research on line when you begin the housing search, but you will need a local Realtor who is working with you and has a good idea of your requirements. The internet 'picture' of the homes for sale only go so far. To learn what is really on and around the property, you will need to either visit each site (which is difficult if you have limited time in the area) or have a local Realtor who either knows or can preview the properties for you.

- Have realistic expectations. Yes, this area is still an overall Buyer's market and yes, we do still have a large inventory of homes for sale. This doesn't mean that every Seller is ready to 'give away' the property that you want. This also doesn't mean that you will be able to find everything you are looking for at a discounted price. Make a list of the things you need, the things you want and the things you'd like to have in order of importance.

- Have your financial situation in order. If you will need a loan, get pre-approved. If you are purchasing with cash, have a proof of funds available. Even in a Buyer's market, homes that generate multiple offers become available. An offer that is presented with a strong statement of the Buyer's ability to follow-through with the purchase gets highest consideration.

The best Real Estate Resolution for 2016 is to find and closely work with a local Realtor to have your smoothest and most profitable real estate experience.

- Wanda Klodosky is the Broker in Charge of Landmark Realty Group's Highlands office. Landmark Realty has offices at 225 Main St Highlands, Cashiers (Cross-roads & Frank Allen Rd) and Burlingame/Lake Tox-away. Landmark's Brokers are committed to the highest level of professional real estate service and welcome everyone to visit our website at [www.landmarkrg.com](http://www.landmarkrg.com) to learn more about our company and the Highlands-Cashiers Plateau.

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• See CLASSIFIEDS page 14

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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](http://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](mailto: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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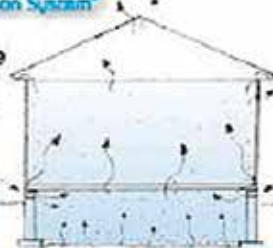
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