

Highlands Newspaper

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Thurs., Jan. 7, 2016

– Year in Review for 2015 –

The year 2015 certainly was “The Year that Was” for Highlands. From capital projects – enclosed year round pool, KH Founders Park, Lake Sequoyah dam repairs and the installation of a new water intake valve, the kick-off of a broadband system – to new commercial projects like the

Bryson building on the corner of 4th and Main, and renovations to Highlands School – to increased real estate residential and commercial sales, holding out against Duke’s strong arm tactics, a new Planning Director, numerous run ins with bears, juggling state policies that affected Highlands. All

this points to a vibrant ‘living’ town.

January

- RE/development 2015 predictions are good

- Dramatic increase in flu cases alarms health officials

- Upgrades in the works for Highlands School

- Changes happening fast at K-H Park

- Macon County seeks funds from Jackson County for services rendered

- Inmate caught attempting to escape Macon County jail

- Zoning Board affirms

•See REVIEW page 4

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Recent rains didn't affect county's Parker Meadows Park booked solid for 2016

Throughout Macon County in the days leading up to Christmas and beyond, torrential rains blanketed the area, causing historic flooding and unprecedented damage. Despite concern surrounding how the new Parker Meadows Recreation Park would hold up during a significant rain event, the park avoided any major damages and the fields were unharmed by the rain.

“Even with horrific rain and all the flooding, none of the ball fields were compromised,” said Macon County Commission Chair Kevin Corbin. “The grading worked exactly as it was

•See PARKER page 7

Ice skating in the park is a go



Thanks to Art and Angela Williams of Old Edwards Hospitality Group, on Monday, Jan. 4, the ice rink at K-H Founders Park on Pine Street officially opened with a ribbon cutting. Pictured from left are builder George Schmitt, Highlands Rec Park Director Lester Norris, Mayor Pat Taylor, OEI's CEO Richard Delaney, Architect Paul Schmitt, and Landscape Architect Hank Ross. The rink will be open Thursday 1-8 p.m., Friday and Saturday 1-10 p.m. and Sunday 1-8 p.m. The cost to skate is \$5 whether you have your own skates or use the town's. Coffee and hot chocolate will be on sale for \$1 a cup. The plan is to stay open at least through Valentines Day – maybe later if the weather cooperates. The Williams donated \$314,841 toward the project which included the rink, the building, skates and storage for the rink. In addition, they agreed to help make up any deficit between operating costs and the fees for skating and skate rentals for five years.

Photo by Jim Lewicki

MC BOE joins other districts in suit against state of NC

Improper equipment fines were diverted to the penal system

School districts across the state, including Macon County, are joining in a lawsuit against the state of North Carolina in hopes of receiving funds that were originally designated for schools, yet were never handed down from the state.

Macon County Schools attorney John Henning Jr. told the Board of Education last week Macon County has joined more than 80 districts in the state in the lawsuit. The money school systems are after totals nearly \$50 million.

A surcharge imposed on drivers for improper equipment in the amount of \$50 was supposed

•See SUIT page 9

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• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• MAYOR ON DUTY •

On occasions Sallie and I take short trips, mini-vacations of sorts. On New Year's Eve we found ourselves in downtown St. Simons, GA, a resort and second home community with similar issues as those of Highlands.

My intentions are to go off duty as mayor on these trips, but truthfully, it is hard for me to forget my job as mayor when away from Highlands. While away, I routinely check in with Town Hall, and monitor my email. I also take notes on what I observe as a tourist.

There was no surprise to Sallie when I began making comparisons as we walked in downtown St. Simons. By the time we reached our destination on Little St. Simons Island on New Year's Day, I had pretty much left the mayor's duty hat behind.

The first thing I noticed about downtown St. Simons was that it had the same "good" parking problem as Highlands. Some may say I'm crazy, that Highlands parking is terrible! St. Simons, like Highlands, has diagonal parking on their main street. Almost every spot was taken, and the sidewalks were crowded with shoppers. I'm sure their merchants, like ours, love to see those days when every parking space is filled.

One advantage for St. Simons is their



Mayor Pat Taylor

overflow parking area at the end of the business district next to a park and beach pier. I wish Highlands had an overflow parking area strategically located near Main Street. Overflow parking may be something to address in the future.

I did see severe parking problems while traveling. Small, dying rural Georgia towns had abundant downtown parking by vacant or rundown storefronts. Like other tourists, we quickly passed through these communities.

What I also noticed in downtown and around St. Simons was restrained signage. Like other quality resort towns, there was no proliferation of large, glaring or flashing signs. Nor were there massive displays of merchandise outside businesses.

Other things I noticed were numerous sidewalks, planned landscaping and very little litter.

Around gas stations and small shopping centers there were small vegetative buffers and landscaping around buildings. The landscaping did not obscure a business, but rather complemented its architectural presence. Like Highlands, a similar concern for the aesthetics was found in the downtown area where trees and landscaping embellished the sidewalks and streetscape.

So the visit to St. Simons reconfirmed many of the good qualities about Highlands. For communities based on a resort, tourist economy, careful planning and smart development are essential. I know some believe that Highlands has too many regulations and ordinances that hinder economic growth and development. On the other hand, the right balance of development ordinances serve to promote long-term economic prosperity. It gets back to that parking thing; some towns have parking issues because folks clamor to get to downtown businesses, while other towns are desperate for folks to fill their empty parking spaces.

The Highlands employee parking ordinances are not in effect between January 1st to April 1st.

Next related topic is litter and trash.

• MILESTONE •



Group hails in 2016 with annual Resolution Run early Jan. 1, 2016.

Photo by Bob Sutton

• OBITUARIES •

Michael John Blauer

Michael John Blauer died unexpectedly from natural causes on December 16, 2015 at his home in Highlands, NC.

Mike was born in Jacksonville, Florida on March 8, 1952 to the late John and Laura Blauer.

He graduated from Wolfson High School in 1970. Mike spent a quarter of a century as a bookstore owner in Jacksonville and became an expert in old, rare, and out of print books.

About 15 years ago he moved to Highlands, NC and lived there happily until his death. He had many friends in both Jacksonville and North Carolina. Mike worked as a caretaker for many people in



the Highlands area. He was extremely honest, dependable, and trustworthy, and he was highly skilled - he could fix anything.

Mike is survived by three siblings and their spouses: Connie and Richard Holzinger, Kay and Sergio Lopez, Robert Blauer and Cindy Adkinson. He was the uncle or great-uncle of 10.

Arrangements were made by Bryant Grant Funeral Home in Franklin, N.C. The family will conduct a grave side service in early 2016, in Melrose, FL. Online condolences are available at bryantgrantfuneralhome.com.

John Willard Johnson

John Willard Johnson, 87, husband of Evelyn Carver Johnson of Tamassee, SC, died Saturday, Dec. 19, 2015 at his home.

A native of Scaly Mountain, NC, Mr. Johnson was the son of the late Grover and Ada Nix Johnson. He was the former principal of Tamassee DAR School. Mr. Johnson was also a former member of the Wallhalla Lions Club and of the Baptist faith.

In addition to his wife, Mr. Johnson

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Letter Policy:

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

Highlands Newspaper N.O.A.A. Weather Report For Highlands NC						
Thursday	Thursday Night	Friday	Friday Night	Saturday	Saturday Night	Sunday
20%	60%	70%	20%	60%	80%	40%
High: 47 °F	Low: 40 °F	High: 40 °F	Low: 39 °F	High: 50 °F	Low: 38 °F	High: 44 °F

...OBITUARIES continued from page 2

is survived by his sons: Gary Johnson and wife Sandy of Tamasee and James (Buckshot) Johnson and wife Tammy of Seneca, SC; grandson reared in the home: Paul Johnson; grandsons: Jacob Johnson of Rock Hill, SC and James R. Johnson of Walhalla; sister Kathleen Wilson of Highlands, NC and great grandsons: Isaac and Dylan Johnson.

In addition to his parents, Mr. Johnson was preceded in death by 10 brothers and sisters.

Katherine 'Kitty' Byers

Katherine "Kitty" Byers was born June 12, 1943, in Hendersonville, N.C., and died Wednesday, Dec. 30, 2015. The daughter of William and Mary Belle Carpenter, she attended Hendersonville High where she was a member of the Honor Society, editor of the Laurette yearbook and a cheerleader. During her summers she worked for her aunt and uncle at Lee's Inn in Highlands. She received a nursing degree from Charlotte Memorial Hospital and married Lee Byers on June 6, 1964. She joined and served in the Army Corp of Nursing and was stationed in Wurzburg, Germany, with her husband, attaining the rank of captain.

Kitty lived in Greenville, S.C., and had two sons, Preston and Mark. She lived in New York, Chicago and Virginia and then Atlanta. She graduated Cum Laude from Nova University and was awarded an MBA from Georgia State. She was the Senior Health Care Specialist with National Linen Service, Director of Regulatory Affairs with the Red Cross, and a Director of the Medicaid Division with the State of Georgia.



Kitty spent summers at the family's cabin on Lake Sequoyah and retired permanently to Highlands in 2000. She served as Executive Director of Highlands Literacy Council, president of the Mountaintop Rotary Club, a board member of the Peggy Crosby Center, an inductee of Leadership Highlands, and she was an integral part of the Presbyterian Sunshine After School Program as well as managed Rosenthal Ladies Apparel. She was an active member of Highlands First Presbyterian Church and later the Highlands United Methodist Church.

Kitty is survived by her husband, Lee; her sons (her heart and soul) Preston and Mark and his wife, Jennifer; and grandchildren (the joy of her life), Kaylee, Elise, Mitchell, Taylor, Trey and Lawson.

Memorial services will be held at the Highlands United Methodist Church at 2 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 9, 2015.

In lieu of flowers donations may be made to Highlands United Methodist Building Fund, P. O. Box 1959, Highlands, NC 28741 and Four Seasons Hospice, 571 South Allen Street, Flat Rock, NC 28731.

• LETTER •

HANDS, Highlands Annual Christmas Day Dinner Thank You!

Dear Editor,

I am Laura Huerta, the new Director for H.A.N.D.S, Highlands Area Non-Profit Donation Sharing, a 501-C3. I inherited HANDS from Ricky Siegel of 4 1/2 Street Inn last year. HANDS hosts the fundraising event, Highlands Annual Christmas Day Dinner. I started volunteering for this event back in 2007. This dinner has become my tradition over the years and I've been blessed to watch so many families expand, grow up and start their own families. It's been truly a wonderful feeling to share Christmas memories with so many people while giving back to the Highlands community.

Most of the attendees of this event may know me as the reservation gal! I'm the one playing phone tag with everyone each year and collecting all the necessary information to make sure you're confirmed for a fabulous Christmas Day meal. I got involved with this event through friends who founded it back in 2001. Marty Rosenfield, Donna Woods, Ricky & Helene Siegel brought me into their circle and were gracious enough to pass me the torch once they were ready to add a little more leisure time into their lives. Well as I am now learning, these guys could certainly fundraise! They have been in this community for 20 plus years and have deep roots and lots of friends and supporters.

• See LETTER page 5



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...REVIEW continued from page 1



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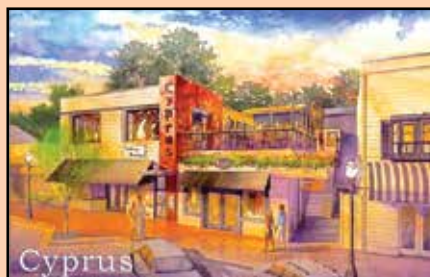
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town's ruling in Shearl case

- Macon County teacher bonus plan outlined by the state
- Eric Fielding was named "Fireman of the Year" at annual awards banquet
- Group unveils way to access Satulah Mountain Trail.
- Highlands School ranked in state's top 100 schools
- County and Board of Ed struggle to meet school system's needs.

February

- Tree stumps point to "health" of Lake Sequoyah
- Miranda Dotson of WRAL-TV wins 2 Emmys in Nashville
- New station to keep semis off Gorge Road.
- Killing of bear exemplifies the need for temperance
- Wintery mix of ice & snow closes schools/businesses in Highlands and Franklin

- What to do about moves on the old hydro plant?
- Lowered lake levels reveal a lost slice of history
- How much is/could/should MC invest in education?

March

- New trail to Satulah Summit hits headwinds
- Highlands School writers win big in the Western Mountains Reading Council's Young Writers Contest
- K-H Park design expands to include ice rink and more
- Highlands School track & field redo is pending
- Lowered lake reveals discarded gun
- Town is considering getting into the Wi-Fi Broadband business

• Dr. Mark Heffington nominated for NC Doctor of the Year

April

- First reading of county's nuisance ordinance gets a 'yes' with 4-1 vote
- FBI arrests Sapphire, NC man for fraud. Later jailed in Florida for faking death in insurance fraud scheme
- Easter is alive in Highlands on April 5
- Senate rolls out plan to eliminate proceeds from most local sales taxes
- Study shows student suicide risk on the rise in Macon

•See REVIEW page 5

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...REVIEW continued from page 4

County

- Man running for Fallen Heroes runs through Highlands on route across NC
- Indications are H-C Hospital's future is bright
- State education cuts puts pressure on county coffers
- Founders Coalition gets go-ahead for K-H Park expansion design, plaques and name change
- Highlands School seniors Jessica Tilson and Philip Murray crowned King & Queen at 2015 Junior-Senior Prom

- Town property tax to increase from 15.5 cents to 16.9 cents

May

- Highlands School athletes to compete in NCHSAA tournaments: golf, track and soccer excel
- Town Board considers tax and fee increases while finalizing 20-15-'16 budget.
- Thanks to tourism, Maconians pay less in taxes.
- Cub stranded in tree is rescued
- Highlands Police Department sheds the past; is poised for the future
- Charter and public schools battle for same funding sources despite different regulations
- Mama bear with cubs kills dog; wounds two others
- Richard the bear cub is doing well
- Jackson County agrees to pay Highlands for fire protections
- Highlands School math teacher Gina Billingsley is named Fan of the Year

June

- Mayor responds to allegations against Chief Harrell levied by previous chief
- Community turns out for Captain R.L. Forrester's retirement send-off

...LETTER continued from page 3

To date, HANDS has distributed roughly \$275,000.00 to Highlands' non-profits, something that we are very proud of. In 2015 alone, due to the generosity of a true friend of Highlands, we were given a matching \$30,000 grant which enabled us to share \$62,000 to Highlands's non-profits. What a blessing!

As I reflect on this year's event I realize that this is now my baby and responsibility and it's extremely important for me to blossom into this new role so that the event continues to grow, prosper and bring on board new supporters.

An event like this doesn't just happen with a few helpers. I have a huge list to be thankful for. I must say that Highlands Country Club allowing us to use their main Club House was a Big Bonus! Thank you to their Board of Directors, Club Director Greg Crawford and their amazing security team for their generosity and sense of community. I will now attempt to THANK everyone who played a role in this year's event and hopefully not forget anyone. You guys are The Greatest and seriously appreciated:

Food Preparers and Food Donations: Chef Chris Arnold, Lakeside Restaurant, Holly Roberts, Let Holly Do The Cooking, JT Fields, Mountain Fresh Grocery, Martha Porter, Jan Zehr, US Foods, Old Edwards Inn, Bryson's Food Store, August Produce.

Volunteers: Shelley Walker, Ricky Siegel, Helene Siegel, Peter Ray, Martha Porter, Marty Rosenfield, Jim Oes-

- Suicidal students alarm Board of Ed
- Bus Driver's actions stop possible shooting at South Macon Elementary
- Kenau Lewis is named Valedictorian and Philip Murphy is named Salutatorian Class of 2015
- J&R Racing team wins; puts Highlands on the map
- Local quilters, Liz View and her team, go national

July

- School to start Aug. 24 and end May 27 for Highlands
- 10-pt grading system in place for 2015-'16 school year
- Citizens help police catch one of two wanted in robbery

- Bird flu affecting NC; precautions in the works
- Competition begins for Highlands Hurricanes
- North corner of 5th & Main streets to get a face lift with Bryson's new building
- Pool opens with free swimming until August 10
- Donations expand Highlands Police Dept's canine unit

- Concrete dump defiles Greenway 'sled' trail

August

- Mayor suggest skatepark at the Rec Park
- One case of La Crosse Encephalitis is confirmed in MC
- Highlands rallies for Hospice House of WNC
- Town Planner Josh Ward leaves Highlands for Bryson City Town Manager job
- Highlands School welcomes four new teachers; two graduated from Highlands School
- Jackson and Macon counties border negotiations continue

- Parker Meadows economic impact expected to be huge for Macon County
- Sales tax legislation is a moving target

September

- Traffic checkpoint enrages citizen; mayor and chief

terle, Joan Marsden, Jim Nicolazzo, Dr. Baumrucker, Bill Edwards, Linda Edwards, Steve Day, Tom Hart, Kathy Hart, Lec Hobbs, Melissa Galt, Karen Hawk, Tammy Mobley, Pamela Leousis, Stewart Manning, Brenda Manning, Kathie Marsh, Ann Maxwell, Priscilla Flowers, Mandy Leviness, Moses & Family.

Raffle Ticket Prize Donations: Ristorante Paoletti, ... on the Verandah, Wild Thyme Gourmet, Cyprus International Cuisine, Lakeside Restaurant, Wolfgang's Restaurant and Wine Bistro & Kilwin's Chocolates

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Special Thank You: My handsome husband, Chris Huerta, for your love, support and encouragement with all my endeavors and my daughter, Stella Wilson, for putting up with having two very busy parents and allowing us to both do what we love.

Thank you patrons of this event for your attendance, support, gratuities and donations! You make my Christmas especially Merry!

For anyone who would like more information about HANDS or would like to make a donation please do not hesitate to contact me directly at 828.526.9419.

Sincerely,
Laura Huerta
 Director, HANDS &
 Owner, Lakeside Restaurant

weigh in

- School districts across the state wait for state to pass 2015-'16 budget
- Land Stewards urges town to continue to eradicate Japanese Knotweed and Kudzu
- New FCC ruling puts Highlands in the Internet business

- Work begins on Phase 2 of K-H Park
- Duke Energy uses strong-arm tactics with town to

•See REVIEW page 12



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

Wednesday: Chicken or steak pot pie and a large salad.
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Thursday: Roasted meatloaf with mashed potatoes, gravy and a large salad.
\$20.95 serves four

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



Parker Meadows Recreation Complex

planned to. There was some flooding on the very lower portion of the park with some damage to the walking trail, but overall the park is in great shape.”

The flooding around the base of the park broke up the pavement that outlines the park's one-mile long walking trail, but other than that, the grading and precautions taken by the park's engineers proved beneficial in protecting the park from damage, despite being located within the flood plain.

With little damage, Parker Meadows is ready for business in 2016, and months before the first tournament is scheduled on the fields, the park is already booked solid. Parks and Rec Director Seth Adams said that tournament directors across the south praised Parker Meadows's facility layout and ease of operations. By the end of December, his department had already booked 23 tournaments on the fields.

Tournament season ranges from March to October, with 23 out of the 35 weekends within those months reserved for tournaments. Adams noted that the 2016 tournament schedule also includes open weekends for rain dates and at least one weekend each month reserved for local use.

County seeks aid after recent flooding

The damages to private homes and businesses caused by heavy rains and flooding around the Christmas holidays have been totaled and Macon County has sent a request to North Carolina Emergency Management for a State Damage Assessment to be conducted. This assessment could determine if any funds might be made available in the future for individuals or businesses that were affected by the flooding.

Preliminary estimates have so far shown damage to 29 residences with five determined unsafe to occupy. Damages are estimated to be around \$263,000. At least 23 private roads and bridges were damaged with 2 bridges completely destroyed with damages estimated to be around \$440,000. Damages to public facilities such as recreational complexes and the Greenway are still being compiled and will be submitted separately if damage total thresholds are met.

Macon County will provide more information concerning any application processes if the request for assessment is granted and any funding becomes available.

— Warren Cabe, Director MC Emergency Management

This year will be the first full operational season of the park. In 2015, Parker Meadows held two tournaments, which brought thousands of people to Macon County, many of which plan to return for tournaments in 2016. The 2016 schedule, which will need additional staff at the recreation department in order to properly manage the interest, will help the county get a better, more complete picture of how the park will operate in a season and how it can be best utilized to its fullest potential.

The 2016 tournaments stand to have a significant financial benefit for Macon County as a whole. While money for the actual tournaments isn't significant, about \$1,500 per tournament in fees, with 25 players, coaches, and fans per team, and tournaments averaging 30 teams each, Macon County could see as much as \$6 million put into the local economy in 2016. The tournaments scheduled are multi-day tournaments and include teams that are further than a day's drive. Players and their families will be staying in local hotels, dining in area restaurants, and shopping at area stores. The county expects to see an increase in sales tax revenue as a result of the park.

•CORRECTION•

In the Dec. 23/31 issue, in the article entitled “Developer gets reprieve after cutting down trees” we reported that the vote to give a fine reprieve was unanimous. It wasn't. The vote was 4 to 1 with Commissioner Donnie Calloway voting nay.

We regret the error and are happy to set the record straight.



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• RE TRANSACTIONS 2015 •

CONTINUED FROM DEC. 23/31

Town of Highlands and Highlands Township

PIN, PROP_ADDR,TOWNSHIP,ACREAGE,LAST_APPR_DATE,OWNER_NAME,DATE_RECORDED,SALES_PRICE,FIRST_GRANTOR_NAME,ASSESSED_VALUE

• 7551918015,46 MAPLE LN,HIGHLANDS,0.67,2/25/2015,BERSET, LINDA C. TRUSTEE,9/1/2015,1800
000,HERMESMEYER, SUSAN TR,1686760

• 7439465497,7 WHETSTONE DR,HIGHLANDS,0.82,2/23/2015,SPURLOCK,
BETTY,10/1/2015,605000,COOPER, JAY D,597010

• 7551947452,39 BEAR SHADOW RDG,HIGHLANDS,0.87,10/8/2014,POLLOCK, PENNY
SUZANNE,4/8/2015,0,SEASIDE REAL PROPERTIES, LLC,1612080

• 7551947528,51 BEAR SHADOW RDG,HIGHLANDS,0.82,2/25/2015,SEASIDE REAL PROPERTIES,
LLC,4/8/2015,0,CRANFORD, DANNY J,425740

• 7541780484,1322 SHORTOFF RD,HIGHLANDS,1.1,9/30/2014,ROYAL, CHARLES
A,4/9/2015,11000,KOXVOLD, BJORN,790900

• 7439558992,784 HOLT RD,HIGHLANDS,1.32,2/25/2015,HAM, WILLIAM F. JR,6/22/2015,0,HAM,
WILLIAM F. JR,824270

• 7551730653,104 MOUNTAIN ASH LN,HIGHLANDS,0.47,5/28/2015,GIBBS, CHARLES P.
SR,1/14/2015,400000,BINDER, GEORGE R,396920

• 7550040049,146 LAURELWOOD DR,HIGHLANDS,0.07,3/9/2015,HALL, HOWARD
S.,3/26/2015,280000,KNOX, R DAVE TRUSTEE,386380

• 7550051089,251 CHESTNUT CV,HIGHLANDS,0.03,10/8/2014,THE RANCH,
L.P.,9/17/2015,0,GOLDSBERRY, LINDA GAIL BAUCUM,319650

• 7550063688,105 RIVER CT,HIGHLANDS,0.47,10/13/2014,LANIER,MARY ANNE,10/1/2015,0,LANIER,
JAMES A. JR,612230

• 7439363504,GLEN FALLS RD,HIGHLANDS,1.1,10/7/2014,RAOUL, PETER
MICHAEL,9/11/2015,0,HEISS, JANE R,80670

• 7551854741,810 EAST OVER DRIVE RD,HIGHLANDS,0.6,2/25/2015,MAYHALL, JOHN M.
JR,10/20/2015,289000,ALAJAY INC,480590

• 7439450952,BROADVIEW CIR,HIGHLANDS,1.06,7/31/2014,KIRK, RANDAL F.,8/20/2015,0,KIRK,
RANDAL F.,87260

• 7439458970,124 WHETSTONE DR,HIGHLANDS,0.78,10/7/2014,MEHRE, MARY
ANN,8/4/2015,347500,MOSSLANDS, INC,461980

• 7541782739,SHORTOFF,HIGHLANDS,5.88,3/2/2015,FENWICK, CHRISTOPHER
D.,11/5/2015,325000,WATSON, JACQUELYN P,385260

• 7439569353,659 HOLT RD,HIGHLANDS,0.57,2/26/2015,CANARY,
DANIEL,4/20/2015,325000,CANARY, FRANKLIN O,373980

• 7439583246,192 HOLT RD,HIGHLANDS,0.7,2/26/2015,SCHAEFER, DOUGLAS
W.,3/20/2015,0,FEDERAL, NATIONAL MORTGAGE ASSOCIATION,375850

• 7541829984,170 BUCKBERRY RD,HIGHLANDS,1.09,3/13/2015,BAUGHMAN, ALVIN F.
TR,7/16/2015,0,BAUGHMAN, ALVIN F,752230

• 7540177036,574 BONNIE DR,HIGHLANDS,1.07,9/19/2014,OWINGS, PATRICK
MATTHEW,11/24/2015,479000,HALL, DEBORAH ANNE,316430

• 7540185145,805 BILLY CABIN RD,HIGHLANDS,16.22,9/19/2014,WELLS, FARGO BANK,
NA,10/6/2015,1008000,WALSH, STEPHEN R,2340700

• 7540195021,165 JACK WILCOX RD,HIGHLANDS,1.71,11/25/2015,JAENSCH, PETER CHRISTOPHE
R,3/16/2015,210000,SNYDER, ALAN NEWELL,610980

• 7439661276,707 HOLT RD,HIGHLANDS,0.74,2/26/2015,RAS CLOSING SERVICES,
LLC,6/17/2015,533000,SCHENCK, ANNE M,412700

• 7540260264,RD 1546 MIRRORMONT,HIGHLANDS,0.12,9/19/2014,WESTMAN, JAMES
C.,2/12/2015,0,DOVER, SHARON D.,100

• 7531816338,OFF 1544,HIGHLANDS,1.10,14/2014,WOOTEN, TIMOTHY
L,6/17/2015,66000,NEWTON, TIMOTHY D.,50400

• 7540367665,SENNING DR,HIGHLANDS,0.71,9/16/2014,SCHIENER, JOHN
E.,11/20/2015,575000,O'NEIL, ROBERT E,145080

• 7540367725,BIG PINE LN,HIGHLANDS,0.54,9/16/2014,SCHIENER, JOHN
E.,11/20/2015,575000,O'NEIL, ROBERT E,138760

• 7439569456,BONANZA CR,HIGHLANDS,0.45,2/26/2015,CANARY,
DANIEL,4/20/2015,325000,CANARY, FRANKLIN O,95990

• 7531609365,COTSWOLD WAY,HIGHLANDS,2.15,9/26/2014,BUTTINO, LOUIS JR.
TRUSTEE,7/13/2015,0,BUTTINO, LOUIS JR,437530

• 7540179343,524 BONNIE DR,HIGHLANDS,1.1,9/19/2014,MALIK, RAJEEV,10/8/2015,475000,WILLI
AMS, ROBERT C,438820

• 7541956285,212 PHEASANT RUN,HIGHLANDS,1.06,9/25/2014,HICKS, DAVID
L.,3/13/2015,335000,ROBBINS, PHILP MARK,381720

• 7540262475,80 MIRRORMONT DR,HIGHLANDS,1.06,12/10/2015,WESTMAN, JAMES
C.,2/12/2015,950000,DOVER, SHARON A,1015160

• 7540263267,75 MIRRORMONT DR,HIGHLANDS,1.5,29/2015,ALLEN,
TODD,1/16/2015,287000,BECERRA, GAYLE & ELPIDO A,286290

• 7448248606,HIGHLANDS VIEW RD,HIGHLANDS,0.35,8/8/2014,WINTER, GREGORY
S.,4/22/2015,20000,TITCOMB, KENT,30320

• 7550496935,709 CULLASAJA CLUB DR,HIGHLANDS,0.71,10/17/2014,SAND CREEK RANCH,
INC.,2/19/2015,702000,REILLEY, JANE HEAGLER,952590

• 7448258133,ELM DR,HIGHLANDS,0.77,8/7/2014,JACKSON, EDWARD
K.,8/19/2015,45000,CLAXTON, JOSEPH Z,31250

• 7448258338,ELM DR,HIGHLANDS,1.18,8/7/2014,JACKSON, EDWARD
K.,8/19/2015,45000,CLAXTON, JOSEPH Z,36990

• 7550583282,871 GARNET ROCK TRL,HIGHLANDS,0.84,10/20/2014,SANNEMAN, DONALD
L.,11/30/2015,2300000,INGRAM, J D,1651180

• 7540369546,24 SENNING DR,HIGHLANDS,0.79,9/16/2014,DEGRAFFENRIED, JEFFRIES BLUNT
JR,10/29/2015,297500,SCHIENER, JOHN,327530

• 7439489590,150 HOLT RD,HIGHLANDS,1.01,10/9/2014,INGRAM, KIMBERLY
S.,12/9/2015,225000,NIX, L C,276440

• 7550266823,264 KELSEY CT,HIGHLANDS,1.26,10/17/2014,ADAMS, JANE H.
TRUSTEE,3/16/2015,0,ADAMS, ANDREW,2600410

• 7448092045,1634 CLEAR CREEK RD,HIGHLANDS,1.09,8/26/2014,SMITH, DOUGLASS W.
TRUSTEE,6/18/2015,0,SMITH, DOUGLASS W,165280

• 7448092461,1669 CLEAR CREEK RD,HIGHLANDS,0.77,8/26/2014,MYERS, LISA
A.,12/10/2015,220000,MANUEL, MICHELLE MILJANICH,224360

• 7541819536,CASHIERS RD,HIGHLANDS,0.83,3/3/2015,HODGSON, THOMAS L.
TR,7/31/2015,70000,GUNTER, SAM,81570

• 7439582597,42 HOLT COTTAGE LN,HIGHLANDS,0.4,2/26/2015,BRANDON, CHARLES,8/4/2015,
339000,BRANNEN, JOHN J,323150

• 7530109593,OWL GAP RD,HIGHLANDS,0.99,9/30/2014,EQUITY TRUST COMPANY, CUST
FBO,3/4/2015,21000,SOUTH STATE BANK FKA,146990

• 7540364662,101 SENNING DR,HIGHLANDS,0.63,9/16/2014,CASSIDY FAMILY PROPERTIES,
LLC,10/1/2015,0,CASSIDY, THOMAS,539490

Youngsters (and eat) with a cop!



Highlands police officers grabbed lunch at Zaxbys after this year's Shop with a Cop. The event, in its 19th year, was the largest to date. Macon County Sheriff's Office, with the help of community volunteers, law enforcement agencies from Macon and Jackson counties, firefighters, emergency personnel, members of the National Guard, SBI agents, and county leaders, were able to provide Christmas for 405 children in the community.

...RE TRANS continued from page 8

- 7540365693,71 SENNING DR,HIGHLANDS,0.67,9/16/2014,SCHIENER, JOHN E.,11/20/2015,575000,O'NEIL, ROBERT E,556460
- 7531853001,2528 FLAT MOUNTAIN RD,HIGHLANDS,1.38,10/14/2014,HIGHLANDS BIOLOGICAL FOUNDATION,4/20/2015,0,SATO, NATHALIE,160810
- 7541824270,3340 CASHIERS RD,HIGHLANDS,2.85,9/29/2014,SIBLEY,ROBBIE P.,9/28/2015,0,SIBLEY, QUINTUS W,382530
- 7541910971,3387 CASHIERS RD,HIGHLANDS,2.41,10/8/2014,LANGFORD, J. MICHAEL,12/10/2015,0,LANGFORD, NECEBIE M.TRUSTEE,280820
- 7541911657,CASHIERS RD,HIGHLANDS,0.82,3/3/2015,HODGSON, THOMAS L. TR,7/31/2015,53500,DYER, CHRISTOPHER TOWNSEND TR,85150
- 7541927630,3566 CASHIERS RD,HIGHLANDS,0.47,11/17/2015,RLR I,LLC,6/9/2015,380000,STEIMLE, ROGER LINN,414890
- 7448252378,573 HIGHLANDS VIEW RD,HIGHLANDS,0.65,11/18/2015,YOUNG, JOSHUA,6/30/2015,22000,GRINDLE, DANNY,309500
- 7458564468,WALKINGSTICK RD,HIGHLANDS,216.16,3/5/2015,HAWKINS, WILLIAM C. II,1/8/2015,66000,HAWKINS, LARRY JASON,2036630
- 7540362712,60 BIG PINE LN,HIGHLANDS,0.94,9/16/2014,PARKS, EDWARD,11/4/2015,0,PARKS, MIRANDA D,392280
- 7448369333,130 COBBLESTONE DR,HIGHLANDS,1.37,8/8/2014,FRONEBERGER, JENNIFER,11/13/2015,249000,PICKLESIMER, ARCHIBALD LYMAN,336450
- 7531904868,OFF RD 1544,HIGHLANDS,1.37,10/14/2014,CR PROPERTIES 2015, LLC,11/19/2015,3500,PNC, BANK, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION,82280
- 7531904969,127 VIEW POINT RD,HIGHLANDS,0.63,10/14/2014,CARSTARPHEN, JAMES D.,9/3/2015,258500,MANNING, SCOTT B,212000
- 7531915472,1640 FLAT MOUNTAIN RD,HIGHLANDS,2.27,10/14/2014,ALLEN, RON,10/23/2015,85000,KEENER, CATHERINE A,207830
- 7520055107,230 SHADOW CREEK LN,HIGHLANDS,4.04,9/8/2014,GRINSTEAD, DALE A.,7/13/2015,465000,RICE,WILLIAM E,447540
- 7540471183,214 HALF MILE DR,HIGHLANDS,12.33,9/16/2014,HALF MILE PROPERTIES, LLC,7/17/2015,1775000,HALF MILE FARM OF HIGHLANDS LLC,3878550
- 7540471478,23 SMITH LANE,HIGHLANDS,0.52,3/16/2015,FISH CAPTAINS, LLC,10/26/2015,0,RATHBURN, ROBERT,637180
- 7542205542,259 COLE MOUNTAIN CIR,HIGHLANDS,0.83,10/20/2014,COHEN,ALFRED TRUSTEE,12/10/2015,210000,OLIVER, DELNO D,275970
- 7530319273,26 SUMMIT TRL,HIGHLANDS,0.6,9/30/2014,BORNHEIM FAMILY TRUST,6/15/2015,0,BORNHEIM, RALPH,1013770
- 7561000807,2564 MAGNOLIA DR,HIGHLANDS,0.63,10/9/2014,WOODS, JAMES E. TRUSTEE,9/4/2015,0,WOODS, EUGENE CO TRUSTEE,743730
- 7540560778,343 HEMLOCK CIR,HIGHLANDS,0.87,9/16/2014,SHIMSKY, FRANK,11/9/2015,0,SHIMSKY, FRANK E,594140
- 7550795949,51 OLD DUFFERS LN,HIGHLANDS,1.6,3/11/2015,BYRD, CHRISTOPHER,12/3/2015,500000,GODSHALL, MILDRED H.TRUSTEE,749440
- 7540572150,135 HOLLY BERRY LN,HIGHLANDS,0.39,9/17/2014,GLATTHORN, KENNETH W.,7/24/2015,179000,MAYS, ANN E,371130
- 7448578301,HIDDEN CREEK RD,HIGHLANDS,0.62,8/19/2014,YOUNG, TINA L. MOREHOUSE,5/11/2015,13500,HAMILTON, LYNDA SKELTON,13480
- 7542314069,165 HAWKS NEST LN,HIGHLANDS,0.01,2/26/2015,DESROCHES, JOHN F.,9/24/2015,30000,BRADY, JAMES E TR,49580
- 7531921156,103 FLAT MOUNTAIN ESTATES RD,HIGHLANDS,1.07,10/14/2014,PARKER, WILLIAM S-B,5/20/2015,463000,HOOTEN, DENNIS R,472930
- 7540463620,HEMLOCK CIR,HIGHLANDS,1.86,9/16/2014,KATSIYANNIS, ANTONIS,7/30/2015,35000,CALVARY CHAPEL OF FORT LAUDERDALE INC,182800
- 7542224359,79 LOST HORSE TRL,HIGHLANDS,3.33,10/20/2014,CREIGHTON, TERESA H.,9/4/2015,0,CREIGHTON, TERESA H,300740
- 7540564607,90 NANTAHALA LN,HIGHLANDS,0.73,9/17/2014,MARCH, CARL R. TRUSTEE,9/4/2015,260000,LUTHER, GEORGE A.,390330
- 7448557323,643 QUEEN MOUNTAIN RD,HIGHLANDS,1.38,8/7/2014,RAY, H. GENE,6/30/2015,0,RAY, MARTHA BEATY TRUSTEE,747440
- 7448558449,QUEENS MTN RD,HIGHLANDS,0.84,8/7/2014,RAY, H. GENE,6/30/2015,0,RAY, MARTHA BEATY TRUSTEE,107180
- 7448571269,130 HIDDEN SPRINGS RD,HIGHLANDS,1.09,8/19/2014,WILLIAMS, RICHARD,8/20/2015,0,FEDERAL, NATIONAL MORTGAGE ASSOCIATION,141060
- 7540566530,391 CROWE DR,HIGHLANDS,1.27,9/17/2014,CROWE, HAROLD M.,11/5/2015,0,CROWE, MORRIS HAROLD & MARY ANN,154010

See Flats Township Real Estate Transactions for 2015 in the Jan. 14 edition.

...SUIT continued from page 1

to be designated for schools. If a ticket for improper equipment was given in Macon County, that money was supposed to go back to Macon County Schools. Instead, the funds were diverted from schools and used to house inmates in county jails rather than state institutions since 2011. Statewide, the surcharge fines total more than \$46 million over the last four years.

On average schools throughout the state lost about \$11 million in a fiscal year. According to Henning, if the lawsuit is successful, Macon County stands to receive \$50,000. Due to the statute of limitations, schools can recover only three years' worth of the back fines.

The Richmond County School District opened the door for other districts to take legal action after filing a suit against the state to recover the surcharge fines back in 2011.

According to Henning, an appeals court already ruled in favor of the Richmond County district in September, finding that the state wrongfully provided funds meant for schools to the Statewide Misdemeanor Confinement Fund. The state's argument against the Richmond County case, centered around the fine for improper equipment violations not being a fine. The state called it a "surcharge."

But the N.C. Court of Appeals disagreed and ruled against the state in September. Although the appeals court ruled in favor of Richmond, Henning noted that the ruling was not applied to all districts in the state and for other districts to recoup their losses, they have to file a suit of their own.

"The state constitution says all fines and forfeitures must go to the local school board," explained Henning.

Macon County Schools Attorney works out of the Asheville-based firm, Campbell Shadley, which is handling the lawsuit for more than 30 school districts across the mountains — including Haywood, Jackson, Macon and Swain. The Raleigh-based firm, Tharrington Smith is handling a similar case for nearly 40 school districts in eastern North Carolina.

State legislators established the fine of \$50 for an improper equipment charge in 2011 and State statute says surcharges are to be given to schools, not county jails. When the error was brought to the state's attention, the surcharge was corrected, but still millions of dollars were diverted from public education, when districts were seeing substantial cuts and the average teacher pay was \$10,000 less than the national average.

The fine for improper equipment is only \$50, but hundreds of tickets are written in counties across the state over the course of a year. Improper equipment could be as simple as a busted headlight, but the major-

ity of improper equipment charges actually stem from speeding tickets. Drivers often plead down to improper equipment charges for first offenses.

According to Henning, even if the courts rule in favor of the new lawsuit, getting the state to actually pay up could be an entirely different battle, which is something he plans to address when it reaches that point.

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• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

Do You Fear God?

By Pastor Sam Forrester
Whiteside Presbyterian Church
Cashiers

Love when expressed concerning God brings the fear of God. We find love and fear together in Deuteronomy 10:12 "And now, O Israel, what does the Lord your God ask of you but to fear the Lord your God, to walk in all his ways, to love him, to serve the Lord with all your heart and with all your soul." God is the sovereign Lord Almighty, the One who created you and sustains your life.

Fear can be expressed as either a reverence or a terror. Fear comes from love, either for yourself or for another. Self-love brings fear when things endanger your well-being. Fear can come when someone you care about is being mistreated. Fear of God comes from love also. It is a fear of respect, a fear of disappointing one you need and care about.

God created you and his providence is guiding your life. You could say your very life is in his hands. A good reason to be respectful. God requires this of all men. Deuteronomy 6:13 "Fear the Lord your God." The Teacher in Ecclesiastes concludes his book with these words in 12:13 "Now all has been heard; here is the conclusion of the matter; Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man." To have reverence you must be endowed with the knowledge of God and the majesty of God. II Peter 1:16 "We were eyewitnesses of his power." Jesus Christ came into this world to do for mankind what they could never do for themselves. Man because of his sin and the darkness of his heart cannot know God. II Corinthians 2:14 "The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from God."

Herein is the problem we face in this world today. Men have little or no fear of God. Sadly, this is not just true of those outside of the church. Too many in the church are just as fearless before God as are those who make no claim of believing in him. The blessings of God will not come to those who do not believe or recognize his majesty. Psalm 2:11 clearly says all men are to "Serve the Lord with fear, and rejoice with trembling."

What shows the majesty of this great God? Creation in all of its wonderful intricacies and mysteries can show that there is a God but only through his special written revelation can you truly see his greatness. No better picture of his majesty can be found than the life and works of Jesus Christ. He was sent into this sinful world by God the Father to do for men what they could never do for themselves. He came and lived the perfect life you could never live. He died the atoning death to pay for your sins. He won the resurrection victory to give you a way into heaven.

You must ask yourself: Do I see God's majesty and do I fear him. Only those who see and fear will find comfort in their relationship with him. Only those who show respect and love for him will be given a place in eternity with him. Jesus declared "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." To come you must have a healthy dose of respect and fear of God. Do you fear God?

Proverbs 3:5

BLUEVALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH

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

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

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

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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.

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www.cbchighlands.com • 526-4685

3645 Cashiers Rd, Highlands, NC

Senior Pastor Gary Hewins

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

10:45am: Worship Service

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

University

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

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

Wednesday: 10 a.m., Morning Prayer

Thursdays: Holy Eucharist, (chapel), 10 am

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH HIGHLANDS

828-526-4153 • www.fbchighlands.org

Dr. Mark Ford, Pastor

220 Main Street, Highlands NC 28741

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

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

Choir 5 pm

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Curtis Fussell & Emily Wilmarth, pastors

526-3175 • fpchighlands.org

Sun.: Worship: 8:30a and 11 a.m.; School: 9:30

Monday: 8 a.m.: Men's Prayer Group & Breakfast

Wednesdays: Choir: 5:30p

GOLDMINE BAPTIST CHURCH

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Sunday School: 10 am, Worship Service: 11 am

Bible Study: 6 pm

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• PLACES TO WORSHIP •

John 3:16

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Pastor Nathan Johnson

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

Wed. Kidsquest 6p.; Worship 7p.

HIGHLANDS ASSEMBLY OF GOD

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

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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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Rev. Marty Kilby

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

Wednesdays: Prayer Mtg.: 7 p.m.

SCALY MOUNTAIN CHURCH OF GOD

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

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

SHORTOFF BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Rev. Andy Cloer

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

Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study: 7

THE CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

1448 Highway 107 South, Office: 743-2359

Rev. Douglas E. Remer

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

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

Nursery available for Rite II services

Sept 6-Oct 25- Informal Evening Eucharist- 5:30 p.m.

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 Dec. 14. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor or public officials have been used.

Dec. 14

• At 1:10 p.m., an incident of fraud where property was obtained by false means was reported at Entegra Bank.

Dec. 16

• At 4 p.m., vandalism was reported at a residence on Williamsburg Court where a rose bush was cut.

Dec. 17

• At 2:25 p.m., a burglary with forced entry was reported at a residence on South Drive.

• At 2 p.m., a larceny of wreaths from on the Verandah restaurant was reported.

Dec. 18

• **At 9:25 a.m., an incident** of forgery and obtaining property by false means was reported at Wells Fargo Bank when a person changed the name on a check and tried to cash it.

Dec. 22

• At 1 p.m., fraud at an ATM machine was reported and larceny when a person took personal information from a mail box at a residence on Mountain Shadow Road and attempted to use it at Regions Bank.

Dec. 26

• At 6:20 p.m., officers responded to a 2-vehicle accident at the Farmers Market Exxon Station.

• At 12:30 p.m., a breaking and forced entry with a larceny was reported at a residence on Upper Lake Road. A radio was taken.

Dec. 27

• At 2:11 a.m., Evan Cole Thrift, 24, of Mountain City, GA, was arrested for DWI, driving during revocation and escaping from custody and resisting arrest. He was issued a \$3,000 secured bond. His trial date is Feb. 16, 2016.

The Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. log from Dec. 16

Dec. 16

• At 11:41 a.m., the dept.

provided mutual aid to Cashiers FD.

Dec. 17

• At 4:34 a.m., the dept. responded to a Co2 alarm at a residence on Foreman Road.

• At 11:11 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Sassafras Lane.

• At 6:24 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Chestnut Street.

Dec. 18

• At 10:41 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence at VZ Top.

Dec. 19

• At 12:59 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to Dry Falls.

• At 5:05 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Oak Lane.

• At 6:09 p.m., the dept. responded to a chimney fire at a residence on Walhalla Road.

Dec. 20

• At 3:59 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to the White-side Mountain Parking lot.

Dec. 21

• At 6:26 p.m., the dept. was

first-responders to a residence on Clubhouse Trail.

• At 10:50 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Shortoff Lane.

Dec. 22

• At 1:56 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Moorewood Road.

• At 5:10 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Oak Street.

• At 3:03 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Crescent Trail.

Dec. 24

• At 1:41 p.m., the dept. was called to investigate at a resi-

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...REVIEW continued from page 5

recoup losses

- Bel Canto nets \$107,000 for area music programs
- Macon County Commissioners consider request to affix motto "In God We Trust" to county buildings
- Highlands holds out against Duke's strong arm demands
- Tourney at Parker Meadows proves to be economic boon to county and area businesses

October

- Board of Ed gets final word on budget from state; restores teacher assistant positions and allocates textbook funds

- Study predicts increased fall tourism in Western NC
- Andrea Chalker named Macon County Teacher of the Year

- Fall foliage forecast one of the best in recent years
- Macon Bank donates property to town for K-H Park
- Charity dining event at Paolettis Restaurant raises \$175,000 for Hospice House

- Matching grant could complete K-H Founders Park
- Man charged with rape is on the run
- Special waiver opens school sports to HS 6th graders
- Coalition urges eradication of Oriental Bittersweet
- Lucky the hound saved by a Good Samaritan
- Board hires FERC lawyer to fight Duke
- Golf tourney nets \$20,000+ for Highlands Scholarship Fund.

- HC Hospital honors benefactor Jane Woodruff and Charlie Sheehan

- Highlands School hits 100% graduation rate for 2013-'14; recognized by NC State Superintendent
- Four run for Highlands Town Board
- New Planning Director is hired.

November

- Three incumbents retain seats on board
- More state money helps lessen MC Schools woes
- Domestic dispute ends in shooting
- Highlands School Varsity Soccer wins Smoky Mountain Conference on Senior Night at home
- Highlands Blakely Moore is 1A NC State Cross Country Champ

- American Legion Post 370 & Scout Troops 207 join forces to erect flag pole
- Commissioners vote 4-1 not to plow Monkey Hill
- Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust gets 63 acres on Brushy Face Mountain

- Swimmer found dead of natural causes in Town Pool.
- Seniors Colin Weller and Whitney Billingsley named King and Queen at Homecoming Dance
- Town Board says no to "In God We Trust" on police cars.

- HUMC gets B-1 conditional zone for addition
- Commissioners are sworn in for another four years
- Highlands' cell service and broadband options to expand with Altitude Community Broadband.
- Highlands School renovations to be completed with installation of windows.

- Room Tax proceeds way up in 2015
- Town to stock Lake Sequoyah with more "resident" fish
- Builder cited for tree violation given reprieve
- 2015 ends with major rain and wind.

– Kim Lewicki

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...CLASSIFIEDS from page 19

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LOT. 10 MINUTES FROM DOWNTOWN HIGHLANDS. 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 - MIRRORMONT 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)

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ON LAKE SEQUOYAH. 3BD/2BA. Full kitchen, family room, W/D. Fishing off the deck. \$900 a month plus utilities. CALL Tony at 828-783-0701. (st. Jan. 7)

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• See CLASSIFIEDS page 14

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(st. 1/7)
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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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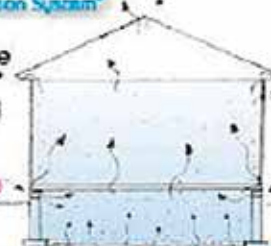
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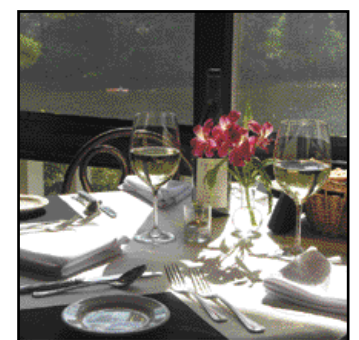
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