

Highlands Newspaper

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Thurs., Dec. 8, 2022

Community honors MC Sheriff Robert Holland for 30 years of service

By Brittney Lofthouse

After serving five terms as Sheriff, Macon County Sheriff Robert Holland retired from the

county's top law enforcement position on November 30, 2022. During a celebration on Wednesday afternoon, the public celebrated

Holland's three-decade career.

"It was Gen. Douglas McArthur who stated, "A true leader has

• See **HOLLAND** page 16

Trout are biting in Harris Lake

By Brian O'Shea

The North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission recently stocked Harris Lake in Highlands and Cashiers Public Pond (behind the library) with thousands of rainbow and brook trout.

"The public can fish for these trout and can harvest up to seven fish per day," said NCWRC Assistant Fish Hatchery Superintendent Austin Brooks. "They can use any lure or bait of their choice. Any person ages 16 or older must possess an Inland Fishing license in order to fish. Any youth ages 15 and younger do not need a license to fish."

Approximately 2,000 trout were put into Harris Lake and 1,000 trout into Cashiers Public Pond.

The fish were stocked using two methods. The first was to

• See **TROUT** page 7

King & Queen for the night!



The King and Queen: Nathan Keener and Bella Wilson. The dance was on Saturday, Dec. 3 in Coleman Hall at the First Presbyterian Church. See photos on page 11.

— Photos by the Sunset Yearbook Staff

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MC Schools' new leaders are sworn in, and more

By Brittney Lofthouse

Two new members of the Macon County Board of Education were sworn into office this week, taking their Oath of Office Monday morning in the central office board room. Diedre Breeden and Stephanie Laseter were sworn in by newly elected Clerk of Superior Court, Shawna Thun Lamb. After officially joining the board, the first order of business was

to elect Chair and Vice Chair for the upcoming year. Chairman Jim Breedlove was re-elected to serve as chair of the board and Melissa Evans was voted to serve as vice chair.

The new board held its first meeting Monday night where one of their first votes included hiring former Sheriff Robert Holland to serve as Safety Coordinator for

• See **LEADERS** page 22

Macon County BOC welcomes new members

Higdon elected chair, Young elected vice chair

By Brittney Lofthouse

The Macon County Board of County Commissioners opened their December board meeting Tuesday night, with outgoing Commissioner Ronnie Beale offering his final words before new members of the board were sworn in. Beale, who served on

the board of the past 16 years lost his reelection bid during the November election.

"It's been an honor and a privilege to serve the citizens of Macon County for the past 16 years," said Beale, "I am grateful for the opportunity to serve

• See **MC BOC** page 22

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• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• MAYOR ON DUTY •

Parade epitomized the Highlands spirit

It's a shame that Highlands ... I'm ashamed that Highlands... I get emails with these kinds of salutations on a routine basis.

Just this past week I received an email with the "shame" opening remark. Although I could not disagree more in their thoughts on their choice of words, I give them equal weight with all concerned citizens inquiries; I read them and ascertain if the town can take action to correct the problems expressed in these types of emails. In regards this particular email, I talked with the town manager, and we believe corrective action can be taken to address the minor problem cited in the email. My hope is the author of the email takes a more positive view on Highlands and our system of serving the community.

And in terms of serving, I was again honored to participate in the Highlands Christmas Parade. Ashamed of Highlands? Absolutely not! As I walked down Main Street on Saturday morning I was filled with pride and joy for our community. Highlands as a town has dealt with a fair share of controversy and dissension this year, but I am



Highlands Mayor
Patrick Taylor

still optimistic and humbly honored to be your mayor.

As I walked in the parade, I again had a sense of affirmation that this is the great place to live, a town where everyone can experience "a wonderful life" as that classic Christmas movie portrayed.

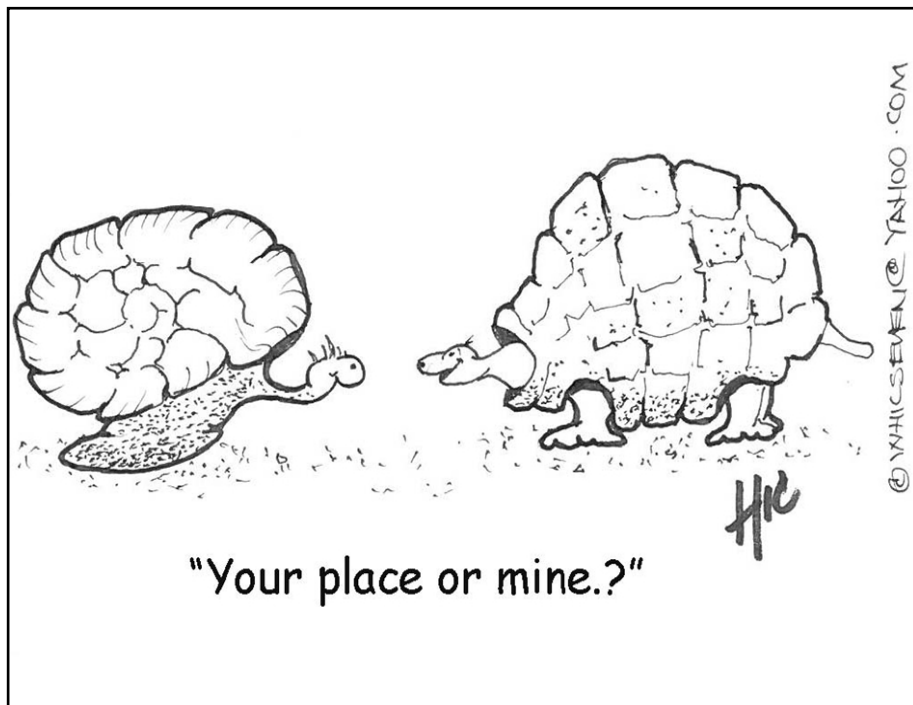
I was pulling my candy wagon loaded with about 20 pounds of candy. Our grandkids were running on both sides of the streets passing out the candy to children. I saw little children with their parents and grandparents standing on the parade route with their bags open hoping to be given a piece of candy. They all had angelic expressions on their faces. I urged Henry and Eliza, our grandchildren, not to miss or overlook any child. They did their job and at the end of the parade route, we had no candy remaining. We all had a great feeling of satisfaction as parade participants, and hopefully, everyone participating in the parade felt the same.

The parade is a microcosm of what makes Highlands a special place. Over 60 groups including businesses, faith-based groups, nonprofit organizations, and clubs were in the parade. So, let's all be proud of this mountain community here on the plateau. Given all of our commitment, concern and support, Highlands is special, if you will, an exceptional place.





I want to give a special thanks to the marching bands in the parade, the Franklin and Rosman High School bands and the Pride of the Mountains Western Carolina Band. I am posting on my AskMayorPat.com website the mailing addresses of these bands for those who would like to send a contribution to their music programs.

Thursday, December 8, is the final Town Board meeting of the year. It will begin at 7 pm at the Highlands Community Center next to the ball field. The Town Board will hear a report concerning the recently completed annual town audit. We have a new auditor this year. The board will hear a proposal by representatives of the Highlands ABC Board. If you cannot come to the meeting it can also be accessed through YouTube on a link at the town website.

• HIC'S VIEW •



• WEATHER •

Thu, 8-Dec	Fri, 9-Dec	Sat, 10-Dec	Sun, 11-Dec
			
60°F 50°F	56°F 35°F	53°F 41°F	49°F 38°F
A little rain in the morning	Mostly cloudy with showers	Mostly cloudy	A bit of afternoon rain
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All About Books

• INK PENN •

Variety is the spice of life

Tis the season for relaxing by a roaring fire with a good book or two or three. Yes, a stack of books to choose from is a must for me. Believe it or not, I do read books that aren't set in England, though that is my preferred location.

This week I bring you my perspective on three novels – one, of course, set in England, another in Boston, and the third in Africa.

Darling Girl

by Liz Michalski

The author “brings all the magic of the classic Peter Pan story to the present, while also exploring the dark underpinnings of fairy tales . . .” As someone who fondly remembers Mary Martin’s Broadway portrayal of Peter Pan and the Disney animated version, reading this novel was at times disturbing.

I didn’t really want to give up the innocent fairy tale image of Peter Pan, but I was hooked on the book from the get-go. Nor did I want to set aside my image of the man who wrote Peter Pan. Having made J.M. Barrie’s real-life visits to the Cotswolds a plot point in my modern-day cozy mystery series, I plan to retain my view of him as a generous, quirky, fun-loving man. Still, the darker portrayal of him is intriguing.

The descriptions and the references to characters like Tinker Bell and Captain Hook bring the story alive. What really happened to the Darling children after they returned home? Where did J.M. Barrie get the idea for this tale? You’ll find tantalizing hints sprinkled throughout the book.

Blood Feud

by Mike Lupica

Does anyone else miss Robert B. Parker? I was hooked on his three series set in Boston: Spenser, Jesse Stone, and Sunny Randall. And I was always disappointed that he didn’t write more Sunny Randall books. She’s a female version of Spenser with all of his wit and pithy comebacks.

So, I was delighted when I found that Mike Lupica had picked up the Sunny Randall series with the blessings of the Parker estate. I loved this book and have already ordered the next one.

Sunny is a PI with a retired policeman



Kathy Manos Penn

for a father and gangster’s son as a significant other. Her relationships are complex and play a central part in this book as they do in the Parker versions. What’s different is the inclusion of more cursing and a bit more sex (though not graphic)—a sign of the times, I suspect.

If you like Spenser’s other series, you’ll get a kick out of Susan Silverman – Spenser’s girlfriend – showing up as Sunny’s therapist. And Jesse Stone gets his mention

too. I don’t want to be Sunny Randall, but I envy her way with words. I hope Mike Lupica continues this series for many years to come.

The Lioness

by Chris Bohjalian

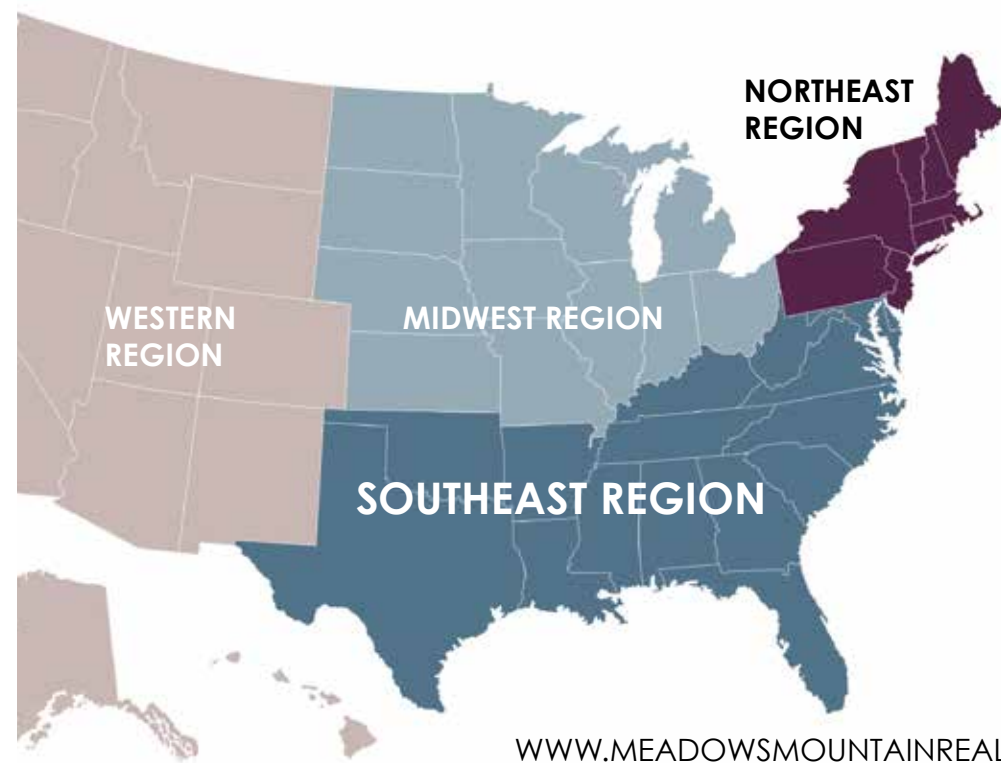
While I haven’t read every book by Bohjalian, I’ve been a fan since I read “The Double Bind” with its references to Fitzgerald. “The Lioness” is similar in its references to Hemingway and his novels set in Africa. Yes, most of the characters are Hollywood stars and players, but among them are likable people you can root for—they’re not all arrogant, demanding primadonnas.

The story unfolds in alternating chapters told by the various characters as the reader experiences the immediate danger but also bits of each one’s back story. The descriptions of the Serengeti’s breathtaking beauty stand in stark contrast to the perils that await the travelers—from both animal and human predators.

The comparisons to Hemingway and Agatha Christie are well-deserved. I couldn’t put the book down, and the interlocking clues kept me guessing until the end. Well done all the way around.

As I glimpse the glowing embers in our woodburning stove, I realize it’s time to choose a new book and put another log on the fire. ‘Tis the season, after all.

• Award-winning author Kathy Manos Penn is a Georgia resident. Find her cozy mysteries in Franklin at Franklin Office Supply & Gifts and Shakespeare & Company in Highlands, and on Amazon. Contact her at inkpenn119@gmail.com, and follow her on Facebook, www.facebook.com/KathyManosPenn.Author/.



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Nothing was overlooked when the owners designed this dream home! The entrance hall separates the bedrooms from the central living spaces. The kitchen boasts top end appliances, an oversized island, and granite countertops. The dining room and living room flow seamlessly to the large sun room and out to the inviting stone patio with another outdoor kitchen. A wine cellar accommodates 1,600 bottles; just outside is a wet bar. Three en suite bedrooms are on the main floor. The master bedroom opens to the stone terrace.



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...TROUT continued from page 1



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Austin Brooks transferred the trout from two tanks carrying about 1,000 trout each into Harris Lake.

shoot the fish out of a tube into the water from a truck parked near the shore. However, Brooks and NCWRC Fish Culturalist Jillian Osborne didn't like how shallow it was near the shore, so they began manually launching the fish from nets to send them out to deeper waters making it easier to acclimate to the new environment.

The fish came from the NCWRC's Bobby N. Setzer State Fish Hatchery located in the Pisgah National Forest near Brevard.

Brooks said the hatchery stocks trout as part of the NCWRC's "Winter Impoundment Program" when there are surplus trout available to provide additional angling opportunities to the public.

Surplus trout are extra fish that exist at the hatchery once they have met all existing requests for fish. The hatchery in Brevard exists to provide trout for 86 different bodies of water in 12 western North Carolina counties per the requests of Fisheries Management staff.

Licenses can be purchased online at the NCWRC's website.



The trout were thrown from nets to deeper water to make their habitat transition easier.

Photos by Brian O'Shea



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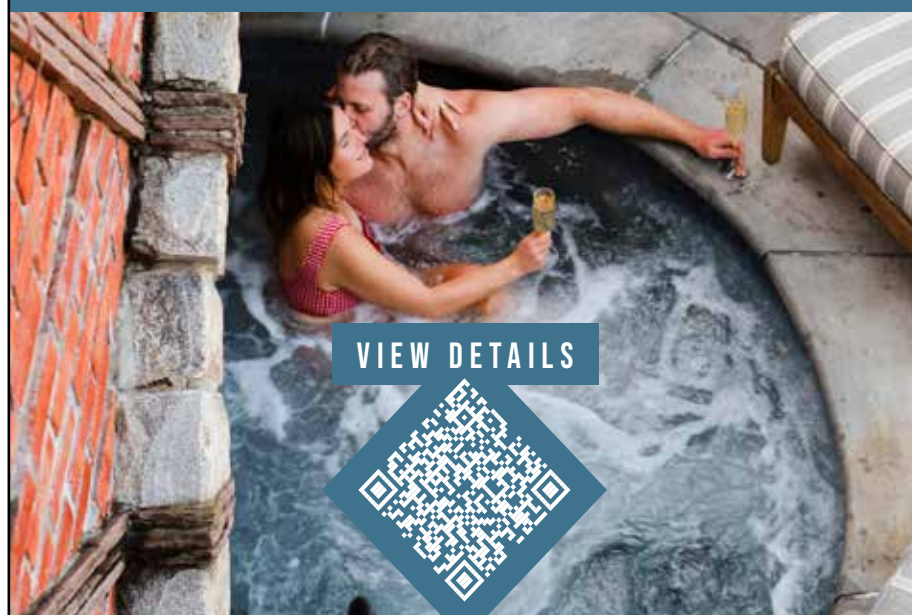


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The Gift of a Smile

Laugh and the Whole World Laughs with You; Weep and You Weep Alone

These lines first appeared in "Solitude," a poem written in the February 25, 1882 issue of the New York Sun. The author was Ella Wheeler, who received \$5.00 for her work.

It's important to laugh but it is also important to smile. Studies have proven there are a number of reasons we should smile. Just to name a few:

1. Perhaps the most compelling reason to smile is that it may lengthen your lifespan. Studies have shown that genuine, intense smiling is associated with a longer life.

2. Smiling reduces stress. Believe it or not, smiling reduces stress, even if you don't feel like smiling, or even if you fake it.

3. Smiling elevates mood. Next time you are feeling down, try putting on a smile. A simple smile can trigger the release of neuropeptides, which can boost your mood.

4. Smiling is contagious. Smiling not only has the ability to elevate your mood, but it can change the moods of others for the better.

5. Smiling boosts the immune system. Studies have shown that when you smile, immune function improves because you are more relaxed (thanks to the release of certain transmitters).

A smile with love behind it has so many positive effects on us; It stimulates the brain, makes you come across as friendly, and brings joy to those around you. Whether you say hello to a stranger you pass in the



Kenny Youmans

grocery store or wave to your neighbor on the run, adding a smile to these simple acts of kindness can make someone's day go from drab to fab. Try it. It works.

"A smile will do so many things,
It seems almost divine;
I wish they all had angel wings,
And everywhere could shine

A smile is cheer to you and

me

The cost is nothing - it's given free
It comforts the weary - gladdens the

sad

Consoles those in trouble - good and bad

bad

To rich and poor - beggar or thief

It's free to all of any belief.

A natural gesture of young and old

Cheers on the faint - disarms the bold

Unlike most blessings for which we

pray

It's one thing we keep when we give away"

A smile is a very inexpensive way to improve your looks instantly

If you see someone without a smile, give them one of yours. It will make a positive difference in both parties

Don't forget to smile, it builds trust -

However, some may wonder what you are up to.

One of my favorite quotes - Don't

judge each day by the Harvest you reap but

by the seeds you plant.

- Robert Louis Stevenson

"Treasure Island" 1882

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Paradise is Personal

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some questions to focus your quest:

1. What type of home speaks to you? Is the architectural style important such as arts and crafts, modern mountain, contemporary, traditional, farmhouse? Does it need to be younger than two years or are you will-

ing to take on a fixer upper?

2. What home features must you have: the number of bedrooms, number of baths, type of kitchen, living areas, primary bedroom on main, fireplaces, outdoor living space, garage? One of my listings does not have a garage. When brokers show it, and I gather feedback for the seller, several of them said it does not work for their client because it doesn't have a garage. When I share this with the seller, it infuriates the seller who spent time preparing the home to show the house when all the public information states it does not have a garage. Be sure to inform your broker of features that are dealbreakers so that you don't waste your time and the sellers' time;

3. What kind of area do you prefer to live? Are you a hermit who wants to be in the middle of the woods with no neighbors? Do you want to be in a gated neighborhood? Do you want to be in a country club community with lots of amenities such as golf, tennis, swimming and dining? Do you want to be close to town?

4. Is nature important to you? Do you need to be close to hiking trails and fishing streams? Do you want to live on a lake for boating? Do you want to be adja-



Jody Lovell
Highlands and Cashiers
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cent to the National Forest? This area has it all, so you can choose your venue;

5. Do you want to be a short driving distance to go to dinner at night? Some of our mountain roads are windy and narrow. When I take clients to see a home, they say that they would never drive that road at night. Ask your broker about access to homes before you set up a showing. Find out before you go if it is more challenging than you

desire;

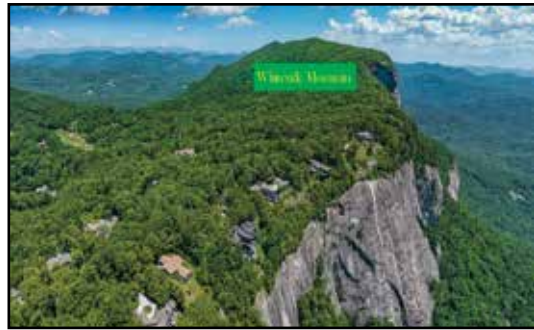
6. Is the distance from your primary residence important to you? Where you choose a home on the Plateau can add another hour to your travel time. Be clear if you have travel time requirements from your "other" home;

7. Do you need to be close to an airport? Find out where the public and private airports are, if so, and determine where on the Plateau is better for your trips;

8. Do you want the highest altitude for the best cool temperature in the summer? Find out the altitude of homes before you tour.

A unique aspect of this section of Western North Carolina is that we do not have cookie cutter homes. We have tiny cabins in the woods to sprawling estates on waterfalls with views. Only you know what the dream retreat is for you and your family. Discuss these factors and any other special wishes with your broker upfront, and you will find your sanctuary sooner and with less frustration. Happy house hunting!!

• Jody and Wood Lovell own Highlands Sotheby's International Realty, the Number One Producing Firm on the entire MLS in 2021 and again in 2022 with over thirty brokers in three offices across the Plateau. When choosing a real estate firm or agent, ask to see the rankings which tell you who is implementing the best tools and resources for their clients and determine for yourself who is the honest and real Luxury Leader in sales on the Plateau. Call us today to show you how we can release the Power of Sotheby's International Realty for you! 828.526.4104.



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HS Homecoming Dance Dec. 3, 2022



**Photos
by the
Sunset Yearbook
Staff**



Highlands rings in the Christmas season



Photos
by
Kim Lewicki



Highlands rings in the Christmas season



• HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

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Friday 3:30-10pm; Saturday 1-10pm; Sunday 1-5pm. \$5 for skate rental & skating

NEW Rec Pool Schedule

• Public Swim: Sat. 11a-6p; Sun., 1-6p. Adult Swim: Tues & Wed 11a-5p and Mon., Thurs., Fri., 11a-2p. Lap Swim: MOn-Fri 6a-9:45a and Sat. 10-11a. 828-526-1595.

Mondays

• ESL classes are held at the Presbyterian Church in Highlands from 5:30-6:30pm. No registration required – just show up and participate. Questions? Visit www.maconncliteracy.org, call 828-526 – 0863 or email info@maconncliteracy.org

Second Mondays

• The local chapter of PEO, an off-campus sorority founded in the 1800s that provides grants and loans to women with financial need who want to return to school or further their education meets at 10

a.m. More meeting places call president Paula McDonald at 706-372-3004

1st Tuesdays

• Indivisible Highlands from 5-6:30 pm at the Hudson Library.

2nd Tuesdays

• Highlands Writers Group meets on alternate Tuesday afternoons at 3pm. Writers still uncomfortable with in-person gatherings may participate via Zoom meetings held on the second or third Tuesday of each month at 3pm. Members receive weekly notification regarding when and how the group will assemble. For more information contact Bud Katz at either 828-526-3190 or at budandlynn@me.com

Tuesdays

• Strength Training 8:15-9:15am. Aim for strong, lean muscles using light weights, body weight, and high repetition to shape and tone.

Mon-Fri

• Water Aerobics 18 years plus 10-11am. Contact the Recreation Department at 828-526-3556 for more information.

• Pickle Ball inside and outside. 10am-1pm, everyone is welcome so come out and enjoy a game of Pickle Ball.

Mon., Tues., Thurs.

• The Food Pantry behind the Methodist Church on Spring Street is open from 10a to 6p.

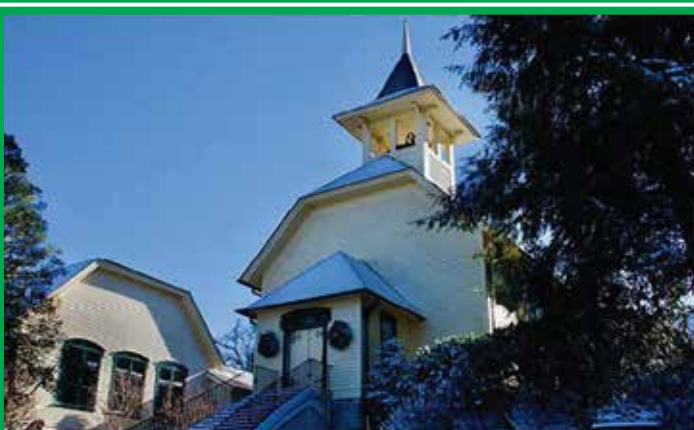
Mon. & Wed.

• New Mobility Class with Anna Norton It's all about movement. 5:30-6:30pm and Wednesday 6:45-7:45. For more information, call Anna 267-825-0716.

Mon, Wed, Fri

• Heart Healthy Exercise Class 8:30-9:30am. \$25 a month, The class is led by Cathy Hodgson. Contact the Recreation Department at 828-526-3556 for more information.

• Aerobics w/Tina Rogers 8-9a. Contact the Recreation Department at 828-526-3556



*Join us as we journey to the manger with the characters of the Christmas Story at
First Presbyterian Church of Highlands*

Sunday, December 11	11:00am	Lessons & Carols
Sunday, December 18	11:00am	Sunday Celebration - <i>The Shepherds</i>
	12:00pm	Congregational Luncheon
Saturday, December 24	4:30pm	Prelude by John Wickey, <i>Harpist</i>
	5:00pm	Christmas Eve Service with Candlelight - <i>The Angels</i>
Sunday, December 25	11:00am	Christmas Stories & Songs
	12:00pm	Congregational COOKIES!!!

*All are welcome!
Todos son bienvenidos!*

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520 Main Street



**SUNDAY,
DECEMBER 18
10:30 A.M.**

• HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

for more info.

Tues. & Thurs.

• New Zumba class with Gay Chalpin from 4:30-5:30p. Contact the Recreation Department at 828-526-3556 for more information.

• Exercise Class with Michelle Lane at 5:30. A combination class with different types of exercise. Contact the Recreation Department at 828-526-3556 for more information

Thursdays

• Kickboxing 8:15-9:15am.

An exhilarating and fun mix of martial arts for a calorie-burning workout. Contact the Recreation Department at 828-526-3556 for more information.

• At Hudson Library, Kids Zone at 3:30 pm with a wide variety of STEAM, nature, and craft activities. For more information about any of these summer activities, contact Hudson Library at 828-526-3031.

2nd Saturdays

• The Western North Carolina Woodturners Club meets in Highlands at The Bascom at 10 a.m. March thru November.

3rd Saturdays

• The American Legion Post 370 meets at the First Methodist Church at 315 Main Street in their Community Room/909 Chapel. We serve breakfast at 9am and hold our monthly meeting at 10am. We invite ALL Veterans to attend. Contact Ed McCloskey, Commander for any information @828-787-1660.

• At the Rec Park, Senior Lunches noon in the meeting room. For any other information call Lester Norris or Maxine Ramey at 828-526-3556.

Saturdays in December

• Santa in the Park in Kelsey-Hutchinson Founders Park. Santa will appear in the park each Saturday to hear wishes from children of all ages. He will also periodically stop by to retrieve letters placed in a special mailbox in the park.

Sat., Dec. 10

• At the Highlands Performing Arts Center Live via Satellite Met Opera The Hours at 1p. For more information call 828-526-9047.

Sun., Dec. 11

• At Wayfarers Unity Chapel, Death Cafe, a group-directed discussion with no agenda, objective or themes — and no intent to lead participants to any conclusion, product or course of action. Please come enjoy tea and cake (a nod to Death Cafe's British origins) and talk openly and confidentially about all things death related. The session is facilitated by Jan Brewer, M.A., CMT and Teresa Weiser, Ed.D. For further information please contact Jan at 510-684-5555 and/or visit www.deathcafe.com. 2-4 pm. 182 Wayfarer Lane, Dillard, GA.

Mon., Dec. 12

• HMH Salon Series with Patterson Hood of the Drive-by Truckers 7-9pm. Patterson Hood, of the Drive-by Truckers, is playing a fireside show at the Highlander Mountain House.

Thurs., Dec. 15

• At The Bascom, Exhibition Reception for Listening to the Land | Free. 5-6:30 pm

Dec. 16-31

• The Mountain Theatre Company presents Home for the Holidays, a Christmas Tradition. Celebrate the season as we make magic in the moun-

tains this holiday. at The Playhouse on Oak Street. Wednesday - Saturday @ 7:30p and Saturday & Sunday @ 2p. For tickets go to www.mountain-theatre.com.

Sat., Dec. 17

• Ceremony and wreath laying at noon in the cemetery. Ceremony is at the Community Building and shuttles will take volunteers to and from the cemetery to lay veteran wreaths. For more info, call Phil Potts at 828-200-9753 or email ppotts63@frontier.com

Sat. & Sun, Jan. 28-29

• Snow Fest in Kelsey-Hutchinson Founders Park. It's back and better! Bring friends and family for guaranteed winter fun (courtesy of snow blowers, if needed) in the park. A snowball toss, a merry-go-round, a snow slide, s'mores, "snowga" (a twist on yoga) and more.



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...HOLLAND continued from page 1



From left: Sheriff Roert Holland, ret., son Mason, daughter McKayla and wife Marci at the ceremony.

the confidence to stand alone, the courage to make tough decisions, and the compassion to listen to the needs of others. He does not set out to be a leader but becomes one by the equality of his actions and the integrity of his intent," said Macon County Manager Derek Roland as he opened the recent celebration. "It is an honor to join each of you here today as we celebrate the career of a true leader. For the past 20 years, while serving five terms as Macon County Sheriff, the ultimate responsibility for keeping the 37,000 men and women of this county safe has rested squarely on this man's shoulders. For two decades, we have held Sheriff Robert Holland accountable for meeting a need that is central to our ability to achieve anything else in life. Sheriff, we are here today to thank you. On behalf of our friends, on behalf of our families, on behalf of our Children...Thank you for assuming this responsibility, keeping us safe."

Sheriff Robert Holland was elected as Sheriff of Macon County in 2002 following the retirement of Sheriff Homer Holbrooks. Holland first began his career with the Macon County

Sheriff's Office in 1991, working his way through the ranks of the department, serving as Detention Officer, Deputy Sheriff, Juvenile Investigator, K-9 Handler, and Detective Sergeant.

Holland was re-elected each term while facing both primary and general election opponents and after the 2018 election, decided that it was time for him to retire and take time for his family.

Roland touched on the highlights of Sheriff Holland's career — which effectively changed not only local procedure but also helped to shape state policies.

"While we will never fully understand the difficulty involved in many of the decisions you have made or the courage it has taken to make these decisions, Macon County has certainly reaped the benefits of them during your tenure in office," said Roland. "More than anything, you have shown us that law enforcement is so much more than arresting criminals, it is an integral part of our local community. The SRO Program which you prioritized by placing officers in each of our schools has provided our children with a safe learning environment and promoted positive interaction between law

enforcement and our youth. The shop with a Cop program that you started long before becoming elected, has grown from a small group of officers donating \$20 each to provide to Christmas for three children to a community of 37,000 donating tens of thousands of dollars to provide Christmas to over 300 disadvantaged children in Macon County. If programs like the inmate rehabilitation program have led to one person turning their life around, or the Prom Promise program, giving students firsthand accounts of life-altering consequences one bad decision related to drugs or alcohol can have has prevented one student from drinking and driving, they have well served their purpose. Your community-oriented approach to law enforcement has truly set Macon County apart as a top-tier agency, leading to recognition from various state and federal agencies including the North Carolina Wildlife Commission, DEA, Marine Corps League Detachment 973, and the Fraternal Order of Police."

Many of those agencies joined in honoring Sheriff Holland. Holland received recogni-

• See HOLLAND page 17

...HOLLAND continued from page 16

tion from both the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Fraternal Order of Police. As a way to both honor Sheriff Holland and to help continue his legacy, Macon County Schools Superintendent Dr. Chris Baldwin and Macon County Board of Education Chairman Jim Breedlove announced the Sheriff Robert Holland Scholarship — which will be provided to local students who intend to pursue a career in law enforcement. Macon County Commissioner Jim Tate presented the scholarship's first donation — nearly \$5,000 — from members of the Highlands Community.

Holland, who was not afforded the opportunity to graduate college because he had to work to support his family said the scholarship was incredibly special.

North Carolina Senator Kevin Corbin and House Representative Karl Gillespie presented Sheriff Holland with the Order of the Long Leaf Pine, the highest honor available for citizens of North Carolina.

After family and friends shared memories and expressed their gratitude to Sheriff Holland, he and his wife Marci made their way to a patrol vehicle for Sheriff Holland to give his final call into

dispatch.

With the airways cleared, Sheriff Holland radioed to dispatch for the last time in his career.

"5701 to dispatch... it has been an honor. Thank you for the opportunity the citizens of Macon County have given me. Thank you to the officers. It has never been about me, it has always been us. We did it as a team. Thank you to all the men and women of the Macon County Sheriff's Office. Thank you to your families and the many sacrifices all of you have made. To my family, I say thank you. Dispatch, 5701. I'll be 10-7,10-42."

After Sheriff Holland signed off, two familiar voices were heard on the other end of the radio — his son Mason and his daughter McKayla.

"5701 and a half to 5701," said Mason.

"Go ahead son," said Sheriff Holland.

"Let's go fishing, dad," said Mason.

"We are so proud of you," said McKayla.

"We love you," Mason and McKayla said together.

"I love you too," said Sheriff Holland.



NC Senator Kevin Corbin and House Representative Karl Gillespie presented Sheriff Holland with the Order of the Long Leaf Pine.

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Choose from 5 different Bird House styles, 2 different Bird Feeder styles or a Bat House.
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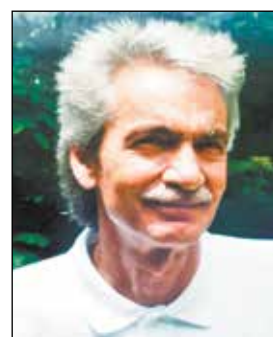
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• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •



Pastor Dan Robinson
Highlands Central
Baptist Church

Yesterday, December 7, was Pearl Harbor Day. It marked the 81st anniversary of the Japanese invasion of the US Naval and Air Forces stationed in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. The year was 1941.

It is a day (predicted by President Roosevelt) which has indeed lived in infamy.

My Uncle John M. Maltry Jr. was there.

Though ultimately rising to the rank of Major in the US Army, he was on that early Sunday morning serving as an MP. Countless times he told me of the absolute mayhem he encountered while desperately trying to somehow maintain and direct traffic control.

And that amidst falling bombs and diving airplanes. He survived.

Twenty-two years later he was working with the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association. It was at that same time (1963) that I was born again.

Uncle John placed into my hands the same follow-up material he had already distributed in many churches throughout the southeast.

It was discipleship material for a new Christian and geared toward a child. I still have the "Graduation" certificate indicating that I finished the course!

In April of 2013 I preached my Uncle John's funeral sermon. He was 92.

But the story doesn't end there. There was another one going on in the air.

Captain Mitsuo Fuchida of the Imperial Japanese Navy/Air Force was leading the aerial attack against Pearl Harbor.

Subsequent to the war in September 1949 Mr. Fuchida became a Christian. He traveled the USA and spoke on the subject, From Pearl Harbor to Calvary.

His conversion was significantly influenced by the kind and Christian treatment given to some of his fellow Japanese as they were incarcerated as POWs and then released.

He later gave his testimony on the Merv Griffith show. Mr. Fuchida died in 1976.

This month we celebrate Christmas. It may well be (and accurately) said that when God became a man in the person of Jesus Christ it was the greatest invasion in world history.

Jesus Christ entered the human race not with bombs and planes but in a stable.

He came as the Prince of Peace.

He came to die for your sins and mine.

• See SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING page 22

Proverbs 3:5

• PLACES TO WORSHIP •

John 3:16

BLUE VALLEY 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

CASHIERS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Rev. Aryn Williams-Reubel, Pastor 828-743-5298

Sundays: School at 9:30 Worship 10:30

Wednesday night Dinner and Service 5:30

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Sundays: 10 a.m. Worship; Holy Communion 1st & 3rd Sundays

CHRIST ANGLICAN CHURCH

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www.christanglicancashiers.com

9:30am Sunday School; 10:30am Worship Service. Mon. Night

Bible Study & Dinner, 6pm, call for details.

CHRIST CHURCH OF THE VALLEY, CASHIERS

Pastor Brent Metcalf • 743-5470

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

Tues. Guys study 8am. Gals 10am.

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE CHURCH

283 Spring Street - Sunday Service: 10:30 a.m.

Testimony meeting: 3rd Wednesday at 5:30 p.m.

CLEAR CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Jim Kinard

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

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

Wednesdays - Supper at 6 p.m.

COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH

www.cbchighlands.com • 526-4685

3645 Cashiers Rd. Highlands, NC • Sr. Pastor Gary Hewins

Sundays: Service 10:45am, Children's 10:30am

Wednesdays: Youth 5:30-7pm; Women's Bible Study: Mondays

4:30pm, Tuesdays 10am; Men's Bible Study: Wednesdays &

Thursdays 7am @ Zookeeper Bistro

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5th and Main streets • www.incarnationwnc.org

Sunday Services Chapel: Rite I spoken, 8a. Rite II with Choir in

Sanctuary 10:30a; Morning Prayer Mon-Thurs 8:30a in Chapel

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH HIGHLANDS

828-526-4153 • www.fbchighlands.org

Dr. Mark Ford, Pastor • 220 Main Street, Highlands

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

Wed.: Men's Bible Study 8:30 am; Choir 5p; Prayer Mtg 6:15p

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Curtis Fussell & Emily Wilmarth, pastors

828-526-3175 • fpchighlands.org

Sun.: Adult Ed.: 10 a.m.; Worship 11 a.m.

Tues: Men's Group 10 a.m. Wed: Bell Choir 4 p.m. Choir: 6p

GOLDMINE BAPTIST CHURCH

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Sunday School: 10 am. Worship Service: 11 am

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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 • 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

Wed. Bible Study: 6 p.m.; Sundays: Worship: 11

HIGHLANDS CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Dan Robinson • 11339 Buck Creek Road

The Highlands Central Baptist Church is temporarily

sharing the facilities of the Shortoff Baptist Church.

Sunday Worship is at 9a. Wednesday Worship is 6:30p

HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Rev. Dr. Randy Lucas, Pastor 526-3376

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www.highlandsmethodist.org

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Pastor Zane Talley

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Wed: Bible Study and Youth Mtg.: 7 p.m.

MOUNTAIN SYNAGOGUE

Franklin • 828-634-1312 • mountainsynagoguewnc.com.

Services: 1st /Fri. and 3rd Sat.

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743-2583 • Independent Bible Church

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. Fr. Jason K. Barone - 526-2418

Tues. - 9:30am Latin; Thurs. - 9:30am English; Sun. - 11am English

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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 Donald G. Bates • 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 a.m.

Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study: 6 p.m.

ST. JUDE'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

Mass: Tues. noon (Latin). Thurs. 9a.; Fri.: noon;

Sat. 5:30p; Sun. 9a

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WHITESIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Rev. Sam Forrester/Cashiers

Sunday School: 10 am. Worship Service: 11 am

• POLICE & FIRE REPORTS •

Highlands Police entries from Nov. 7. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a summons/citation, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor or those of public officials have been used.

Nov. 7

• At 8 a.m., officers responded to a 2-vehicle accident on NC 28 south.

Nov. 12

• At 5:40 p.m., officers responded to a one-vehicle accident on US 64 east.

Nov. 15

• At 9:40 a.m., officers responded to a one-vehicle accident on Poplar Street.

Nov. 16

• At 2:50 p.m., officers responded to a 2-vehicle accident on NC 106 and N. 1st Street.

Nov. 22

• At 11:21 a.m., officers responded to a 2-vehicle accident on US 64 east and Riverwalk Drive.

Nov. 26

• At 1:15 a.m., officers were notified of someone obtaining and consuming an alcoholic beverage at a bar on Carolina Way by using a fraudulent ID.

• At 2 a.m., Amalie Greer Harrison, 19, of Richmond, VA, was issued a summons/citation for obtaining and consuming an alcoholic beverage while being 19.

Nov. 28

• At 5:47 p.m., officers responded to a 2-vehicle accident in the back parking lot of

the Methodist Church.

Dec. 1

• At 1:38 p.m., Christopher Ray McCall, 38, of Highlands was arrested for resisting arrest, first-degree trespassing, violation of a court order and having a lethal cutting instrument. He was issued a \$2,000 secured bond. His trial date is Dec. 8.

Dec. 3

• At 5:40 p.m., officers responded to a call of someone walking away with jewelry valued at \$250 and not paying for it at Potpourri Eyewear on Main Street.

• At 6:52 p.m., Britney Anne Chastain, 31, of Sorrento, FL, was issued a summons/citation for shoplifting.

The Highlands Fire & Rescue log from Dec. 1

Dec. 1

• At 11:26 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a location on Main Street.

Dec. 2

• At 8:51 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a location on Main Street.

• At 1:22 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a location on W. Church Street.

Dec. 4

• At 8:07 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Randall Road.

Dec. 6

• A little past midnight, the dept. responded to a structure fire on US 64 east.

• At 11:17 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a location on W. Church Street.



Thank you to everyone who helped us

Light Up the Park & Main!

Emcee Chris Duffy

Elves Michael Crows and Michael Bural

Highlands Fire Department and Fireman Jason Tardo

Highlands Police Department

Highlands School Interact Club

Old Edwards Inn

Rev. Randy Lucas of Highlands United Methodist Church

Rob Bennett

Santa and Mrs. Claus

Spruce Interiors

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...SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING continued from page 19

He came in order to restore our relationship with His Father which had been broken by our sin.

And appropriately the Bible calls this salvation a gift (Ephesians 2:8).

I hope that you will receive this greatest of all gifts this Christmas season.

No one knows you better and no one loves you more than Jesus Christ.

As you think about all these

things, I hope you will take time even in this busy month and make sure of your relationship with Jesus Christ and to thank Him for what He did for you not only by being born in Bethlehem but also for dying at Calvary and resurrecting the third day.

He will indeed return soon and then we will sing with new emphasis, Joy To The World, The Lord Has Come!

...LEADERS continued from page 1

Macon County Schools. According to Macon County Schools Superintendent Dr. Chris Baldwin, the newly created contract position will be paid in the first year using American Rescue Plan Act Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER Funds).

“Mr. Holland has an extensive knowledge of school security having served on the NC Governor’s Safe Schools Task Force as well as his experiences during his 30+ year career in law enforcement,” said Macon County Schools Superintendent Dr. Chris Baldwin. “I am excited to have a person with his qualifications serving our students in this important position.”

...MC BOC continued from page 1

this community and this county. We all care about Macon County, and I wish this board the best moving forward. It is time to do what boards should do – serve the community. To quote the late John Lewis: ‘It’s now time to build and not tear down, reconcile and not divide, and to love and not hate.’ At the end of the day, we are all Maconians.”

Following Beale’s comments, the meeting moved upstairs to a standing room only courtroom in the Macon County Courthouse, where the honorable Judge Roy Wijewickrama issued the Oath of Office to newly elected commissioners Danny Antoine and John Shearl as well as re-elected commissioner Gary Shields.

“I am honored and grateful for this opportunity to serve you as one of your new County Commissioners,” Antoine wrote on Facebook Tuesday following the swearing in. “But above all of that, I am grateful to my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ for all that He is to me, because without Him I can do nothing.”

Once the new board was in place, on a motion made by Antoine, Commissioner Paul Higdon was unanimously voted in to serve as Chairman of the Macon County Board of Commissioners.

According to Holland’s new job description, the Coordinator of School Safety will provide strategic direction and leadership for the overall administration and coordination of the Safety and Security program for the District including security, public safety, and emergency.

“In the school setting, safety and security for our children is paramount and it is something that continues to change,” said Holland. “As Sheriff I focused on increasing school safety in Macon County and am excited for this new role and to be able to continue that work for our children.”

He will serve under the broad guidance and administrative supervision of the Superintendent

or Superintendent’s Designee. Under limited supervision, Holland will perform supervisory and administrative tasks in developing, implementing, and managing programs designed to effectively address security and school safety needs and will work as a liaison between the school system and local law enforcement agencies in Macon County.

Holland will begin his role with the Macon County School system on January 3, 2023.

The Macon County Board of Education also voted to approve to allocate \$756,516 in state supplemental funds to pay each MCS employee \$1,472 in January. All 306 employees in the school system will receive the supplement with their January paycheck.

Commissioner Josh Young was then nominated and approved to serve as vice-chair of the board.

For the first time in the county’s history, all members of the Board of Commissioners are Republican, meaning it is also the first time that the Chairman and Vice-chair spots are held by the same party.

Historically, the board has voted to have the Chairman and Vice-chair members of different parties to ensure balance, however that is no longer the case.

Following the swearing in of the new commissioners, Judge Wijewickrama issued the Oath of Office to Todd Raby, who ran unopposed to continue serving as Macon County’s Register of Deeds.

To round out the new leadership representing Macon County,

Judge Wijewickrama issued the Oath of Office to Brent Holbrooks, Macon County’s first new Sheriff in 20 years. Sheriff Holbrooks laid his hand on his great-grandmothers Bible with his wife Sarah and three youngest children, Tripp, Saylor, and Knox, by his side and took the Oath of Office.

With Sheriff Holbrooks in office, he joined Judge Wijewickrama in swearing in all employees who will serve in the Macon County Sheriff’s Office under Holbrooks’ administration. Sheriff Holbrooks announced Adam Wishon’s promotion from Captain to Chief Deputy to help Sheriff Holbrooks lead the organization. Sheriff Holbrooks announced several other leadership changes and promotions, which will take effective in January 2023.



Sheriff Holbrooks laid his hand on his great-grandmothers Bible with his wife Sarah and three youngest children, Tripp, Saylor, and Knox, by his side and took the Oath of Office.

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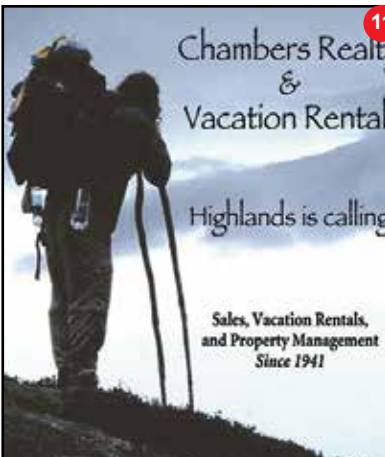
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