

Highlands Newspaper

FREE Every Thursday

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Firefighters battle blazes & subzero temps

By Brian O'Shea
Plateau Daily News

Highlands and Cashiers fire departments responded to a myriad of calls throughout the Christmas holiday, but freezing temperatures at -6 degrees made

battling two structure fires especially difficult.

The first call was made just before midnight on Dec. 23 of a structure fire on Mountain Moorings Drive near Mirror Lake. The building was an apartment complex

with multiple units connected like townhomes.

Isaac Plouse lives in the adjacent unit and said he smelled plastic burning and went to investigate.

"I went looking for the source

• See **FIREFIGHTERS** page 15

List personal property with the tax office by Jan. 31

According to Macon County Tax Administrator Abby Braswell, a personal property listing form that ran in the local subscription papers the week of Dec. 12, 2022, may have caught some people off guard.

"Many taxpayers do not realize that if they have personal property, they need to list it with the tax office every year, said Braswell. "The tax office is governed by N.C. General Statutes which means this process is statutorily driven."

Chapter 105 in the N. C. General Statutes deals with taxation in N.C. The county tax office falls under what is called the Machinery Act under Chapter 105 Subsection II Article 11 which starts with G.S. § 105-271 t.

• See **TAX OFFICE** page 7



Dry Falls frozen in motion.

- Photo by Brian O'Shea, Plateau Daily News

Freezing temps, busted pipes reduce town's water supply

By Brian O'Shea
Plateau Daily News

Highlands water supply took a dip after freezing temperatures over the Christmas holiday burst pipes throughout the area.

The reduction to the town's

reservoir was enough for Highlands Mayor Pat Taylor to post an emergency message on Dec. 27 asking the community to check on unoccupied homes and report signs of leakage to Town Hall so

• See **WATER SUPPLY** page 14

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Man arrested for attempted robbery at Wells Fargo Bank

On December 13, the Jackson County Sheriff's Office responded to an attempted bank robbery at Wells Fargo Bank on 107 south in Cashiers, N.C.

At 11:18 a.m., a masked Hispanic male, who spoke broken English, initiated an attempted bank robbery. After he gave the teller a bag he said, "Put the money in the bag."

Instead, the bank teller activated the burglar alarm at which point the man fled on foot without any money.

According to Sheriff Doug Farmer, based on the photos taken from the bank video, he may have been wearing a detonator device on his chest.

"You can see something metallic on his chest and a cord in his hand," said Farmer.



Esli Hernandez Nolasco

After a two-week investigation, the Jackson County Sheriff's Office made an arrest.

On December 29, the operation moved to River Park mobile home park in Cullowhee, where additional information and evidence was collected resulting in the arrest of Esli Hernandez Nolasco on December 30 by Jackson County Deputies.

Nolasco was charged with attempted arm robbery and hoax/false bomb in a public building. He was issued an \$80,000 secured bond and was placed in the custody of Jackson County Detention Center.

The Jackson County Sheriff's Office was assisted by the NCSBI, FBI, NC Probation/Parole, Jackson County Emer-

• See **ARRESTED** page 10

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• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• MAYOR ON DUTY •

Results of the 'big freeze'

After difficult events, it's wise to review and reflect. Case in point, "the big freeze" just before Christmas.

Highlands hasn't had extreme below -0 temperatures in over a decade.

Visitors are now in Highlands year-round. The full parking on Main Street in December underscores that shift. Our peak electric and water usage is no longer around July 4th, or October, it occurs around Christmas. Many people were in Highlands during the holiday when maximum power demand and water usage occurred.

Our seasonal residents used to winterize their houses before leaving in late fall while never returning until spring. Our tourist season ended after Halloween, so the only people in town were a small cadre of locals who were accustomed to brutal winters.

Second homeowners now tend to come and go year-round, therefore the house winterizing ritual has declined. Many new homeowners had never experienced a



Highlands Mayor
Patrick Taylor

subzero cycle. At 4,118 feet high winds, snow, and heavy summer rains are expected, but sustained temperatures at 7 or 9 below zero were not.

The full water lines in unoccupied houses where thermostats were set very low to save energy was a widespread practice. On the other hand, occupied houses had thermostats turned up high to counter the subzero temperatures that pushed demand.

Highlands struggled to keep the power grid operative. Our electric crews did a magnificent job of managing loads in extreme temperatures and high winds to keep the power connected, all amid the Duke Energy rolling blackouts, and never before demand loads.

This high statewide demand underscores Duke's generating capacity challenges. An impending grid upgrade goes hand-in-hand with increases in generation capacity.

The Highlands electric system will have to make similar upgrades. This cold event underscored the need to improve our electric grid to carry much higher loads.

The town will have to enter a new wholesale electric contract in the next five years. We will expect the new provider, whomever it may be, to of course provide ample and reliable power.

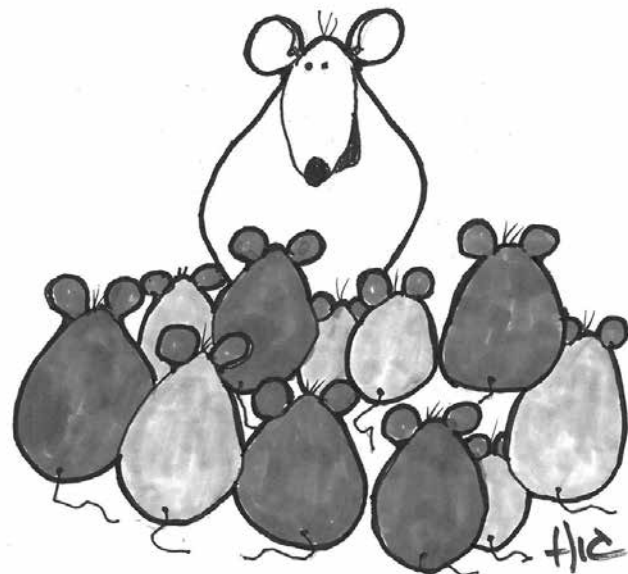
When the Highlands hydroelectric plant was built in 1929, Highlands could generate on a good day about 1 megawatt. This past month the town was knocking at the door of using 15 megawatts. A decade from now that number will be even higher.

As electric vehicles increase, there will be an increased need for electricity and an upgraded grid. Duke and other energy suppliers will have to significantly expand generation capacity. With concerns for climate change, I believe nuclear power generation has to be reconsidered as one piece of the emerging energy puzzle. Research suggests that small, safe nuclear package plants might be a game changer in meeting our insatiable demand for electric power.

The second outcome of "the big chill"

• See **MAYOR** page 4





• HIC'S VIEW •



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• WEATHER •

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|---|--|--|--|
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• INVESTING AT 4,118 Ft •

All in a day's work - Strange Realtor encounters

A lot of what we do as Realtors is pretty conventional, and sometimes the paperwork borders on mundane. Once in a while, something strange or unusual happens and everyone gets a laugh (though not always while it's going on!) I have interviewed some Realtors about some of their more interesting experiences. The names are withheld to protect the guilty!

We all have those stories about how many years we worked with someone until they bought, or how many years we worked and they never bought ... or bought from someone else. Or which relative or best friend never listed or bought from us. Those experiences come with the territory.

But one agent, after being out of the business for several years, received her first Zillow call. She recalls that the guy sounded a little creepy over the phone, so she began to feel anxious about meeting him alone at property in Cashiers. In fact, she was nervous enough to tell her family and co-workers where she was going. She had pretty much worked herself up into a frenzy when this 22-year-old drove up in a nice truck. Imagine her surprise when he got out of the truck looking like Tom Cruise! The prop-



Betty Holt
Broker

Berkshire Hathaway Home-
Services Meadows Mountain
Realty
Betty@bhhsmmr.com

erty wasn't so great, so nothing further happened, but her anxiety melted into a thrill of the day.

Another agent had a friend who was always looking for a deal. They were riding around in the car one day when the friend said she wanted to look in the window of what appeared to be an abandoned house. The Realtor waited in the car. Her friend walked up to the window and cupped her hands on either side of her ears and pressed her nose against the glass to see in better. The owner on the other side of the glass was in the exact same position staring back at her!

Along those same lines ... another broker was going to preview a house. She had cleared it with the listing agent, who said the owner was in the hospital and the family was coming in the next day. The agent got out of the car, and on the way to the front door, looked in the window. What she saw was two people in a bed, and it was

clear they weren't sleeping! The wife makes eye contact with the agent, then promptly pulled the cover up over her head. The agent practically ran back to the car, had her hand on the door handle when the husband, a good-looking shirtless man, wearing only his shorts, came to the door and asked if she needed something? The agent was mortified. "No!" she practically screamed as she in her car and sped away.

An agent fairly new to the business went to preview a house that was in the middle of nowhere. She was nervous to be alone so far out with no cell service. She left the front door open in case she had to make a quick exit. She entered the house, headed upstairs to look at the bedrooms when she heard a noise downstairs. She saw that some big chickens had entered the house. (They may have been turkeys but she calls them chickens). Remembering that her daddy had told her that "chickens will peck your eyes out," she became frightened. There was no way to leave the house without walking by the chickens. She sat down and tried to make friends with the chickens, who were clucking around the living room. She grabbed a shirt off the back of a chair to protect herself, which upset the chickens who started to spread their wings, get big, fly around and poop in the living room! Finally, one chicken went back out the door. The agent put the shirt over her head and followed the chicken out. The other chicken followed. Later she went back and cleaned up the poop in the living room.

After this terrifying experience this same agent was previewing another house alone. She personally hadn't had any encounters with bears, but she had heard sto-

• See INVESTING page 16

...MAYOR continued from page 2

is that the Town of Highlands and its residents will have to continue to maintain the water system. Maintenance will have to be done at the provider and user ends.

On Tuesday morning after the freeze, water plant operators could not fill town water tanks. It wasn't because operators were unable to produce water, the problem was the unoccupied homes that had frozen waterlines were gushing water. The computer system that monitors tank levels began reporting alarming water loss data. Fortunately, folks in neighborhoods called into to Town Hall to report homes where there was evidence of major leaks. Our

crews worked long hours turning off water service at the meters of affected homes.

Many residences and businesses will now need to make sure their water systems are upgraded to handle these super-cold events.

The town will be working on a system to better locate leaks.

Highlands has a long history of uncertain and extreme weather. But, for certain we have a town utility staff that will always do everything possible to keep the town up and running. We should all be grateful for their dedication and service.

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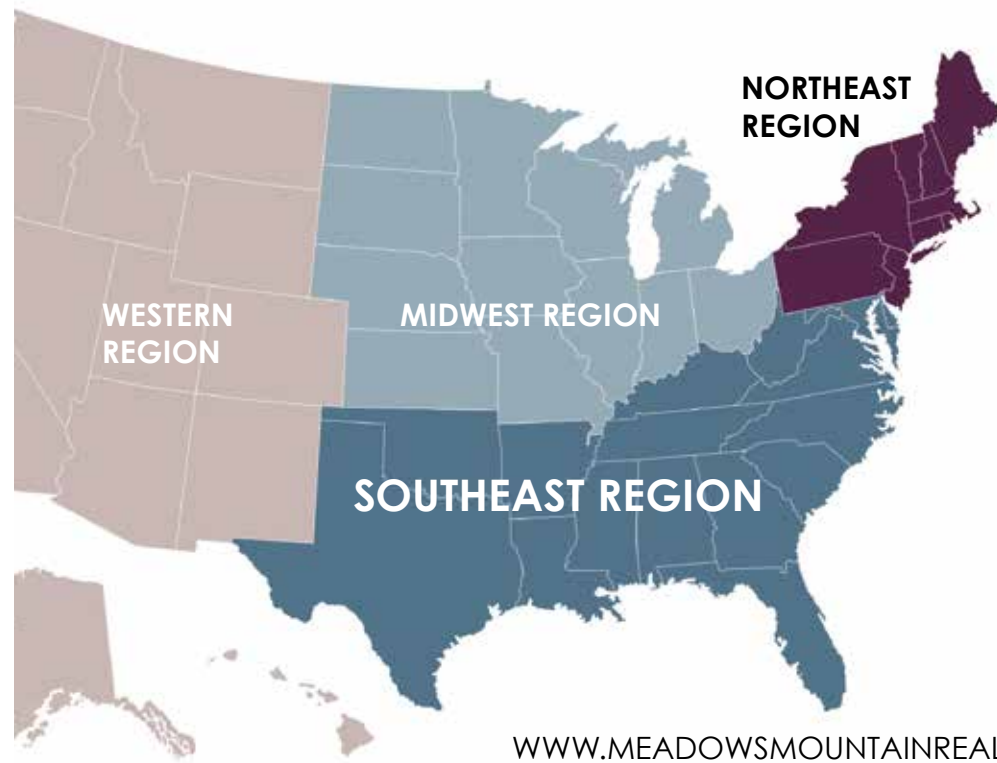
2023

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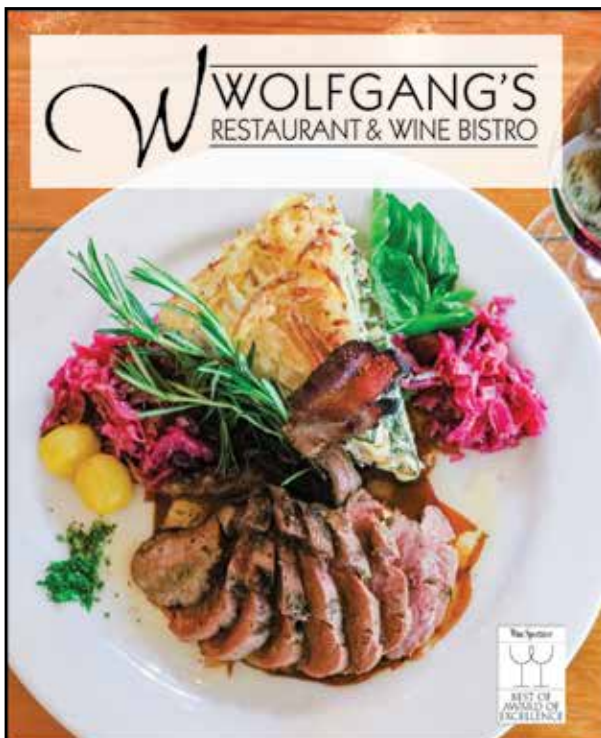
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The newer house was built around 1990 and has two bedrooms, two baths, and a bonus room. The great room opens to an expansive deck that has amazing mountain views. The kitchen is a cook's dream with a six-burner gas range/oven, a wall oven, an additional gas cook top, granite countertops, and cherry cabinets. The older home boasts two bedrooms and baths, a living room with a brick fireplace, a large eat-in kitchen, and a one-car garage. This home would be perfect for anyone who needs live-in help or wants a rental situation.



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...TAX OFFICE continued from page 1

Article 12 gives the statutes that define what property is subject to taxation and the many exemptions and exclusions.

As stated in that article all property, real and personal, within the jurisdiction of the State shall be subject to taxation unless it is:

(1) excluded from the base by a statute of statewide application enacted under the classification power accorded the General Assembly by Article V, §2(2) of the North Carolina Constitution or

(2) exempted from taxation by the Constitution or by a statute of statewide application enacted under the authority granted the General Assembly by Article V §2(3) of the North Carolina Constitution.

Macon County has a permanent tax listing for its real estate, with ownership being certified by deed transfers.

However, the owner of real estate must report any changes to the property including new construction, deletions, and acreage changes.

Owners must also list Personal Property which includes: Mobile homes, boats, motors, jet skis, aircraft, hot air balloons, gliders, and all UNTAGGED automobiles, trucks, trailers, campers, motor home, and motorcycles.

- All farm equipment that is used to produce an income. If you claim farm deferments, you must list your equipment.

- Household furnishings used in rental property.
- Tools and equipment used by contractors and mechanics.

- All machinery and equipment used in a business.
- All leased equipment or leasehold interest.

But licensed vehicles (Tagged) do not need to be listed.

Listings were accepted at the MC Tax Office at the Courthouse Annex on Main Street in Franklin in person or by letter beginning Jan. 1, 2023 and ending January 31, 2023. Office hours are Mon.-Fri., 8a to 5p.

Meanwhile, interest on 2022 tax bills begins on January 6, 2023. New owners who have purchased property between January 1, 2022 and December 31, 2022 may need to contact the Tax Collector at 828-349-2149 to check the status of any outstanding taxes or visit: <https://maconnc.org/Tax.html> (Then click on user friendly tax record lookup)

If your total income is less than \$33,800 you may qualify for an exclusion of \$25,000 or 50% of your permanent residence tax value. For more information, contact the tax office at 828-349-2182 for an application. To see if you qualify, applications must be submitted before June 1, 2023.

- Kim Lewicki

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• OBITUARIES •

Sue Story Schulte



Sue Story Schulte, 86, of Highlands, NC, formerly of Atlanta, GA passed away on Thursday, December 22, 2022.

Born in Fulton County, she was the daughter of the late Travis L. and Sue Pelot Story. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by a daughter, Katherine Turner, and a brother, Pat Story. Mrs. Schulte was a member of the Our Lady of The Mountains Catholic Church in Highlands.

She is survived by her husband of 42 years, James David Schulte; their children, Thomas Lane Turner of Warren, MI, James David Schulte Jr. of Sky Valley, GA, Mary Karen Rabun of Roswell, GA, and Elizabeth Ann Wetering of Florence, AL; two grandchildren, Callie Hsiang, Lexie Conway; and three great grandchildren, Luke Hsiang, Virginia Conway and Knowles Conway.

Funeral Mass will be 11am on Saturday, January 7, 2023, at Our Lady of the Mountains Catholic church in Highlands. Father Jason Barone will officiate.

Online condolences can be made at www.maconfuneralhome.com.

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.

Donald Eugene 'Blue' Miller

Donald Eugene Miller aka "Blue," age 66, native of Macon County, NC, passed away on December 27, 2022, two days following his 66th birthday in Gainesville, GA.

Blue is survived by wife, Tammy Miller of Franklin, NC and son, Steven (Sarah) Miller of Knoxville, TN, brother, Dale (Lisa) Miller of Scaly Mtn, NC, two sisters, Sheila (Deed) Kinsey of Cashiers, NC and Teresa Miller Holbrooks of Scaly Mtn, NC. Blue has four grandchildren and a large extended family and friends.

He is preceded in death by his parents Richard and Alice Miller and his daughter Patricia Ann Thurmond.

In lieu of flowers, please send donations for funeral expenses to Beck's Funeral Home P.O. Box 326 Clayton, GA 30525.

Beck Funeral Home, in Clayton, Georgia, is in charge of the arrangements. If there are any questions, please call 706-782-9599. An online Memorial Register Book is available at www.beckfuneralhome.com.

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• INK PENN •

Do you prefer to read a standalone novel or a series?

I'm an avid reader and can't say that I have a preference, but I hear that many folks do. When I was a new cozy mystery author, I was advised that cozy fans were series addicts and wouldn't pick up Book I unless they knew several more books were available in the series. Me? I'll happily grab any book whose description appeals to me.

As for reading a series, when I find one I like, I don't binge-read it. Instead, I space out the books and return to the series time and time again. Perhaps I find that easy to do because years ago, many authors only put out one book a year, so I'm accustomed to waiting. Whatever the reason, there are several series that I follow, and I'll be hugely disappointed when they run out.

The Clare Ferguson /Russ Van Alstyne series by Julia Spencer-Fleming

I discovered this series last year and found Book I, "In the Bleak Midwinter," in the library. A reading friend lent me several more, and they sat on my bookshelf for me to pick up whenever the mood struck. I'm not sure what happened, but when I picked up Book VI a few weeks ago, I couldn't stop there. I turned the last page and moved on to Book VII, the last on my bookshelf. Before I knew it, I'd ordered Book VIII from the library, and I'm now eagerly awaiting the arrival of the email that says, "Come by to get Book IX," the last one in the series. I've got my fingers crossed that there are more coming.

Clare Ferguson is an Episcopal priest and Russ Van Alstyne is the sheriff in Millers Kill, NY, where the books take place. The mysteries are well-plotted and intriguing, but I read the novels more for the evolving relationships in small-town America than for anything else.

Though I'll tell you that you can pick up anywhere in the series I write, this is one series I strongly recommend you start from the beginning. You just don't want to miss any of the twists and turns and witty conversations among the cast of characters. Warning: If you start somewhere in the



Kathy Manos Penn

middle, you will find yourself searching for Book One soon after!

The Woman in the Library by Sulari Gentill

This mystery is a standalone novel What a fascinating story within a story. Four people are sitting at a library table in Boston when they hear a scream. What transpires from there is one story, a mystery as to who screamed and why. Is someone hurt? Was someone killed? If someone was killed, who-

dunit?

And then there's the other story--that of an author sharing bits of her book with a beta reader, perhaps a fan, who gives her feedback. That concerns the relationship that develops between them--long distance.

I was intrigued by both and was especially hooked on the tale of the library foursome because one of them is an aspiring writer who uses her new-found friends as characters in her book. She has a neighbor who is also a writer, and I was struck by his opinion that all stories are romances at heart--though I disagree with that premise. To me, all stories are mysteries at heart--perhaps not about murders or crimes but instead the mystery of relationships--friends, family, and co-workers. It's always a mystery as to how those relationships will turn out.

The author built interesting backstories for the characters, and I couldn't put the book down until I knew whodunit and why. As the story unwound, I suspected all four from the library as well as the neighbor. I predict you'll be as surprised as I was.

If you're looking for a mystery to while away the winter hours, either a series or a singleton, I suggest you try one of these.

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

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• FINANCIAL MATTERS •

Waiting for a Hurricane

Before writing this, I went back and read the article I wrote for this paper last May entitled Clear and Opaque. At that time, it was clear interest rates were going higher, but the speed at which they would rise and the effect it would have on the economy was still opaque. Things are a bit clearer now, but when (and if) we'll enter a recession is still somewhat opaque.



Michael P Henderson,
CFP® CKA®
Founder/Wealth Advisor
Crossover Point Advisors

Earlier this year, Jamie Dimon, CEO of JP Morgan/Chase said at a financial conference in New York we need to “prepare ourselves for an economic hurricane” and while conditions seem fine, nobody knows if the hurricane is “a minor one or Superstorm Sandy.”

As most of you probably know, we had 2 hurricanes in Florida this year, Ian, and Nicole, with Ian being particularly nasty. My heart goes out to the people of SW Florida (which includes my brother-

in-law) as they continue to cleanup and rebuild.

Like all hurricanes, the stronger they are, the most distance it takes over land for them to dissipate. This economy is proving itself to be the same. We came into this period with robust growth and very low unemployment, so like a hurricane making landfall, the economy is just now showing signs of slowing.

If we end up in a recession – and I’m still holding out a little hope of a “soft landing”, one thing’s for sure, nobody knows if it’s going to be a hurricane Ian or Nicole but as a Floridian and wealth advisor, I can honestly say waiting for this recession is as grueling as waiting for a hurricane.

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I recently attended a breakfast where the keynote speaker was David Altig, Executive VP and Director of Research at the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta. He made it clear the Fed is much more concerned about inflation remaining higher longer than they are a recession and becoming embedded in our economy and the American psyche. In other words, if we get accustomed to paying more for labor, goods, and services, it will be much harder to get back to the 2% target which is a mandate of the Fed.

While Chair Powell has made it clear the Federal Reserve is bent on crushing inflation, there remains fear they will overshoot causing a recession that’s deeper than necessary and at the same time, a skepticism by the markets that the Fed will see inflation dropping enough to take their foot off the gas.

Just Wednesday, Dec. 14th, The Federal Open Market Committee raised the Fed Funds rate another half a percent to 4.25% – 4.50%, which is a 15 year high, with no indication of an easing or a pivot.

While some inflation has proved to be “transitory,” (i.e., oil prices have come down and supply chains have opened somewhat), we still have a tight labor market, and wage inflation continues to be one of the Fed’s main concerns.

Meanwhile, experts and pundits continue to tie themselves in knots trying to predict the future.

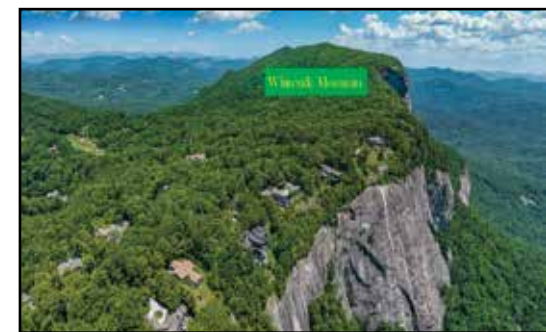
...ARRESTED continued from page 1

agency Management, Jackson County Transit, Cullowhee Baptist Church, Cullowhee Fire Department and Harris EMS.

Sheriff Farmer would like to thank the community and all the agencies for their as-

sistance and also recognize the Investigators for all of the hard work they put in on this case.

- Kim Lewicki



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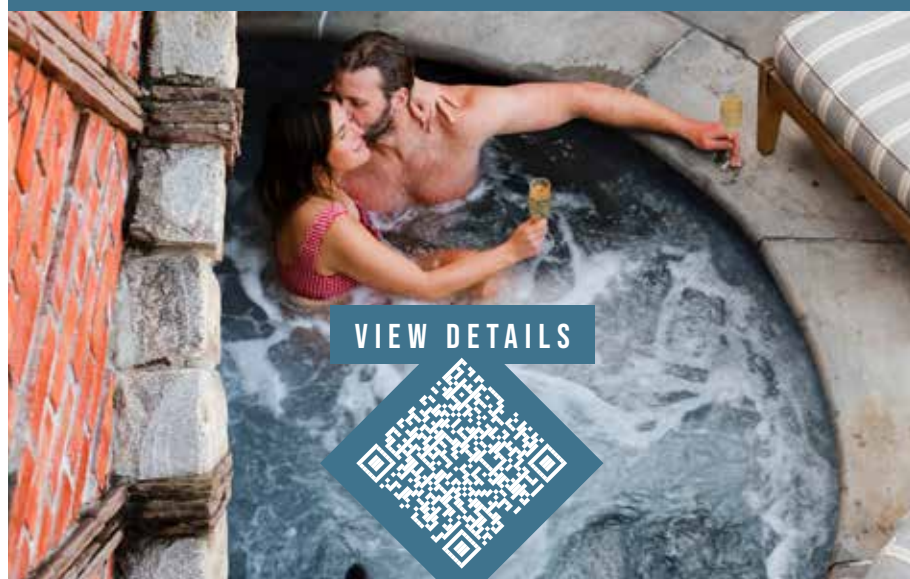
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• HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

ICE RINK SCHEDULE

(Through March 5)

• Thursday: 3:30-8 p.m.; 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 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.

Sat. & Sun., Jan. 7-8

• At PAC, from the writer of One Man, Two Guvnors comes a hilarious new play, set in 1940s British summer time. After an aerial dog fight, Pilot Officer Jack Absolute flies home to rejoin his fearless young Hurricane squadron at RAF Fontwell. Once back on British soil, Jack is shocked to find his old flame, Lydia, on the base. He sets his sights on winning her heart, but with turbulence and hilarity never far away, his advances quickly turn to anarchy. Showtimes: 1 p.m. both days. For tickets, email highlandspacnc@gmail.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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Highlands Township RE Transactions (cont.)

Jan. 1 - Dec. 6, 2022

| Parcel # | Deed Date | Sale Price | 2019 Assessed Value | Name |
|------------|------------|------------|---------------------|------------------------------------|
| 7530991101 | 9/22/2022 | 800,000 | \$27,300 | SKYLINE LODGE AND RESTAURANT, INC. |
| 7530996481 | 9/22/2022 | 800,000 | \$58,000 | SKYLINE LODGE AND RESTAURANT, INC. |
| 7530996583 | 9/22/2022 | 800,000 | \$693,490 | SKYLINE LODGE AND RESTAURANT, INC. |
| 7540578316 | 8/2/2022 | 800,000 | \$403,800 | HENDERSON, BLAYNE J |
| 7550141940 | 8/11/2022 | 760,000 | \$473,860 | MARTIN, JEFFREY K |
| 7530643219 | 11/15/2022 | 750,000 | \$595,320 | ARNOLD RD, LLC |
| 7541319145 | 9/12/2022 | 750,000 | \$723,830 | CLARY ALLEN, LLC |
| 7530895127 | 8/25/2022 | 739,000 | \$359,720 | CARPENTER, JAMIE RUPPEL |
| 7459273961 | 10/27/2022 | 725,000 | \$357,270 | SANDVOS, JOEL |
| 7540945286 | 4/13/2022 | 690,000 | \$350,320 | DELLATORE, SCOTT |
| 7540964184 | 8/11/2022 | 668,000 | \$612,780 | NORTON, SANDRA S TRUST |
| 7541617689 | 6/30/2022 | 665,000 | \$283,190 | WILLIAMSON, JAMES H |
| 7551538841 | 5/25/2022 | 660,000 | \$322,140 | SLOOP, JEREMY SCOTT |
| 7541680355 | 9/27/2022 | 650,000 | \$525,620 | RANKIN INVESTMENTS LP |
| 7439582597 | 4/14/2022 | 650,000 | \$282,810 | MORLEY PROPERTIES, LLC |
| 7531924106 | 1/28/2022 | 645,000 | \$299,740 | LORING, NEELY N |
| 7449412135 | 2/22/2022 | 625,000 | \$426,820 | WATERS, MARGARET H |
| 7449414333 | 2/22/2022 | 625,000 | \$76,490 | WATERS, MARGARET H |
| 7550041906 | 11/14/2022 | 615,000 | \$233,960 | BRADLEY, ISABELLA JOCELYN |
| 7551332462 | 11/9/2022 | 615,000 | \$289,770 | COMPTON, M KATHERINE |
| 7551704301 | 6/16/2022 | 614,000 | \$436,070 | SWANSON, MARK |
| 7540892636 | 11/2/2022 | 607,500 | \$427,010 | WELCH, ISABELLE |
| 7550694739 | 5/17/2022 | 604,000 | \$250,000 | PETERSON, HUNTER R |
| 7540674582 | 7/14/2022 | 600,000 | \$183,210 | WILLIAMSON, DAVID G |
| 7449309621 | 6/28/2022 | 599,000 | \$529,180 | YOTHER, BENJAMIN ESTES |
| 7541730358 | 5/27/2022 | 595,000 | \$297,700 | HARRIS, VIRGINIA LYNN |
| 7550051074 | 5/23/2022 | 595,000 | \$256,660 | BAVELY, KATHLEEN |
| 7458493785 | 9/27/2022 | 590,000 | \$329,310 | DOCKINS, TERRY M |
| 7541304802 | 6/9/2022 | 576,000 | \$242,300 | OLSON, RICHARD H JR |
| 7550051073 | 9/26/2022 | 575,000 | \$213,650 | NORMILE, HURBERT C |
| 7438991696 | 2/22/2022 | 575,000 | \$373,120 | CARTER, MIKE |
| 7541953295 | 9/19/2022 | 560,000 | \$400,670 | WILSON, MICHAEL JAMES |
| 7540269515 | 1/3/2022 | 555,000 | \$278,500 | MOORE, MARK REXFORD JR |
| 7448373082 | 12/2/2022 | 550,000 | \$181,350 | SELLARS, RYAN A |
| 7540959324 | 7/25/2022 | 550,000 | \$231,760 | FLAMMER, MARK R. |
| 7540567388 | 2/14/2022 | 540,000 | \$241,960 | SILVER DREAMS, LLC |
| 7541636454 | 11/1/2022 | 525,000 | \$292,230 | HAEGER, BEVERLY J REV. TR |
| 7540083724 | 6/30/2022 | 500,000 | \$387,110 | WARD, GREGORY L |
| 7541639432 | 6/15/2022 | 500,000 | \$271,590 | CAROLINA MTN COTTAGE, LLC |
| 7541636373 | 8/10/2022 | 485,000 | \$264,260 | HOLLAND, HOLDEN R |
| 7541805663 | 1/25/2022 | 485,000 | \$380,650 | VIKING BLUE, LLC |
| 7540491568 | 2/11/2022 | 480,000 | \$262,750 | AUTUMN HIGHLAND LLC |
| 7541504418 | 10/18/2022 | 470,500 | \$138,570 | HIGH CAMP, LLC |
| 7541509585 | 10/18/2022 | 470,500 | \$771,620 | HIGH CAMP, LLC |
| 7541638316 | 3/15/2022 | 465,000 | \$256,500 | HOLTZMAN, STACI F |
| 7540791262 | 3/9/2022 | 465,000 | \$362,790 | VERMA, AMIT |
| 7448145449 | 3/11/2022 | 460,000 | \$361,450 | BRANLY, NELSON E JR |
| 7448149188 | 3/11/2022 | 460,000 | \$88,540 | BRANLY, NELSON E JR |
| 7541045567 | 1/14/2022 | 450,000 | \$147,560 | ICHOCUNNO FOREST HOLD LLC |
| 7541731227 | 1/13/2022 | 430,000 | \$322,730 | LABOUNTY, R MICHAEL |
| 7551704301 | 2/18/2022 | 425,000 | \$436,070 | SWANSON, MARK |
| 7541804495 | 2/4/2022 | 420,000 | \$410,200 | LUPOLI, JOHN R III |
| 7531924468 | 8/31/2022 | 400,000 | \$278,000 | RIDEOUT, CHRISTOPHER NEAL |
| 7542228966 | 8/29/2022 | 399,000 | \$260,470 | MACKINNON, ASHLEY J |
| 7542311819 | 5/2/2022 | 372,000 | \$180,140 | PRIME DINING, LLC |
| 7551638327 | 8/30/2022 | 360,000 | \$290,490 | CARLISLE, RICHARD |
| 7459836887 | 10/18/2022 | 358,000 | \$238,180 | THOMPSON, SHANNON LORI |
| 7542206790 | 1/5/2022 | 358,000 | \$231,480 | CHLIP1117, LLC |
| 7540889254 | 8/5/2022 | 355,000 | \$242,270 | VIKING BLUE, LLC |
| 7438939119 | 11/8/2022 | 350,000 | \$234,880 | PIACENTINO, VALENTINO |
| 7541637445 | 3/16/2022 | 350,000 | \$288,730 | GOODFELLOW, SCOTT ALAN |
| 7448323836 | 9/23/2022 | 300,000 | \$172,110 | HOLDER, TODD DONALD |
| 7448111965 | 5/23/2022 | 295,000 | \$58,830 | USONIAINC, LLC |
| 7448124147 | 5/23/2022 | 295,000 | \$157,790 | USONIAINC, LLC |
| 7520483440 | 6/30/2022 | 285,000 | \$118,800 | SUMPTER, JAMES H |
| 7551607422 | 9/26/2022 | 279,000 | \$200,000 | PIPER FAMILY REVOCABLE TRUST |



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Each class lasts approximately 90 minutes and provides 25 meals locally for each item made.

Highlands Township RE Transactions (cont.) Jan. 1 - Dec. 6, 2022

| Parcel # | Deed Date | Sale Price | 2019 Assessed Value | Name |
|------------|------------|------------|---------------------|---------------------------------|
| 7540376646 | 5/12/2022 | 250,000 | \$171,590 | LESS THAN THREE, LLC |
| 7541340921 | 2/15/2022 | 230,000 | \$199,420 | ENTREKIN, DAVID |
| 7459932718 | 5/23/2022 | 229,500 | \$179,600 | WEBB, CECIL |
| 7551904703 | 7/22/2022 | 227,500 | \$100,000 | FOWLER, ROBERT T JR |
| 7429550277 | 7/13/2022 | 205,000 | \$247,590 | SCHMIDT, DAN |
| 7439575739 | 5/16/2022 | 200,000 | \$102,850 | CARTER, MICHAEL E |
| 7439583033 | 5/16/2022 | 200,000 | \$64,600 | CARTER, MICHAEL E |
| 7439584093 | 5/16/2022 | 200,000 | \$19,750 | CARTER, MICHAEL E |
| 7541043621 | 1/14/2022 | 192,000 | \$186,260 | FERN RIDGE, LLC |
| 7448021252 | 8/26/2022 | 190,000 | \$137,460 | VIVES, CRISTINA M |
| 7448024440 | 5/25/2022 | 190,000 | \$118,080 | DECKER, ZACHARY |
| 7540584517 | 7/11/2022 | 180,000 | \$121,910 | LOPEZ, BRENDA H |
| 7458535443 | 6/29/2022 | 160,000 | \$114,830 | HAWKINS PROP. OF HIGHLANDS, LLC |
| 7458622317 | 3/23/2022 | 160,000 | \$212,370 | PENDLETON, EDITH |
| 7551310614 | 6/29/2022 | 150,000 | \$100,000 | WARD, TOM |
| 7438894772 | 5/20/2022 | 150,000 | \$56,580 | NELTHROPP, CHERYL NIBLACK TR. |
| 7438896389 | 5/20/2022 | 150,000 | \$23,720 | NELTHROPP, CHERYL NIBLACK TR. |
| 7551434900 | 5/5/2022 | 140,000 | \$49,970 | LEE, RICHARD J |
| 7448149866 | 9/14/2022 | 135,000 | \$124,920 | FITZPATRICK, THOMAS R |
| 7551716957 | 3/17/2022 | 135,000 | \$25,000 | WILDCAT COTTAGES, LLC |
| 7550478763 | 9/9/2022 | 125,000 | \$100,000 | HUFSTETLER, STEVE |
| 7550478763 | 5/16/2022 | 125,000 | \$100,000 | HUFSTETLER, STEVE |
| 7448421560 | 11/14/2022 | 120,000 | \$139,830 | DENDY, KELLY WAYNE |
| 7530686220 | 2/1/2022 | 112,500 | \$91,210 | HERZ, ANNA |
| 7530687203 | 2/1/2022 | 112,500 | \$105,030 | HERZ, ANNA |
| 7530799141 | 8/10/2022 | 110,000 | \$154,810 | BECERU, CONSTANTIN |
| 7551803320 | 6/9/2022 | 100,000 | \$25,000 | TORK, GORDIAN |
| 7551304691 | 4/28/2022 | 100,000 | \$100,000 | DYER, RICHARD |
| 7551321591 | 11/17/2022 | 95,000 | \$70,200 | CHARKOWICK, ROBERT |
| 7439581285 | 11/4/2022 | 92,000 | \$76,230 | BIDWELL, SCOTT |
| 7520368616 | 10/25/2022 | 89,000 | \$96,900 | BAUKOVIC, MICHAEL |
| 7530109593 | 8/1/2022 | 87,000 | \$117,810 | FALLING WATERS DEV., LLC |
| 7551762704 | 5/2/2022 | 86,000 | \$85,510 | WILSON, DENNIS F |
| 7551636386 | 11/16/2022 | 75,000 | \$25,000 | RICHBOURG, SCOTT C |
| 7550890736 | 8/8/2022 | 75,000 | \$100,000 | TORK, GORDIAN |
| 7541818509 | 7/15/2022 | 70,000 | \$63,480 | HERNANDEZ, FROILAN RAMIREZ |
| 7542320590 | 6/29/2022 | 67,000 | \$106,640 | RIGO'S STONEWORKS & SER., LLC |
| 7540376368 | 8/12/2022 | 65,000 | \$57,960 | DRAKE, KIM CARPENTER |
| 7550481623 | 1/20/2022 | 65,000 | \$100,000 | BARBER COMMERCIAL, LLC |
| 7551434134 | 10/27/2022 | 62,000 | \$39,870 | MEI CONSTRUCTION, INC |
| 7438982289 | 9/9/2022 | 60,000 | \$46,710 | HOLBROOK, GEORGE M |
| 7459521912 | 2/18/2022 | 55,000 | \$32,200 | LITTLE BEAR PROPERTIES, LLC |
| 7459522939 | 2/18/2022 | 55,000 | \$31,880 | LITTLE BEAR PROPERTIES, LLC |
| 7459530102 | 2/18/2022 | 55,000 | \$31,880 | LITTLE BEAR PROPERTIES, LLC |
| 7550690612 | 3/31/2022 | 50,000 | \$150,000 | ROUBO, LLC |
| 7520358755 | 9/30/2022 | 40,000 | \$54,420 | CARR, CHRISTOPHER J |
| 7542314138 | 8/8/2022 | 40,000 | \$74,240 | HURT, PAUL |
| 7540879976 | 3/17/2022 | 38,500 | \$588,100 | MORRIS, GLENN GREGORY |
| 7521201554 | 1/10/2022 | 37,000 | \$92,490 | BROOKS, WILLIAM D |
| 7448853856 | 5/17/2022 | 30,000 | \$35,750 | TROTTER PROPERTY INVEST., LLC |
| 7448857539 | 5/17/2022 | 30,000 | \$37,990 | MASON, KAYLA CHRISTINE |
| 7530656216 | 4/28/2022 | 30,000 | \$57,560 | THE PJD TRUST |
| 7541615569 | 8/1/2022 | 27,500 | \$29,990 | MOSS, JAMES MICHAEL |
| 7459537300 | 7/12/2022 | 25,000 | \$31,430 | SPAIN, ROGER A |
| 7541874011 | 2/2/2022 | 24,000 | \$51,510 | THOMPSON, MICHAEL S |
| 7551603142 | 9/20/2022 | 21,000 | \$100,000 | CIARAMETARO, DAN |
| 7459429862 | 6/23/2022 | 20,000 | \$31,880 | LITTLE BEAR PROPERTIES, LLC |
| 7459633629 | 4/8/2022 | 17,500 | \$31,880 | WOOD, SHAYNE |
| 7459631681 | 4/8/2022 | 17,500 | \$31,880 | WOOD, SHAYNE |
| 7458721301 | 2/2/2022 | 15,000 | \$34,000 | PENDLETON, EDITH |
| 7541645954 | 3/23/2022 | 7,500 | \$460,950 | OESTERLE, JAMES L. |
| 7541031453 | 4/19/2022 | 5,000 | \$113,980 | ARMITAGE, FRANK W |
| 7540880294 | 5/24/2022 | 4,000 | \$20,040 | JOHNSON, LINDA C. TR |
| 7541523743 | 6/9/2022 | 1,000 | \$57,000 | CRAWFORD, ERIC CHARLES |
| 7541526707 | 6/9/2022 | 1,000 | \$339,090 | CRAWFORD, ERIC CHARLES |
| 7448875243 | 3/23/2022 | 1,000 | \$83,980 | CHASTAIN, WILLIAM DENVER |

• BIZ/ORG NEWS •




'Trim Our Town' winner announced!


Congratulations to Allen Tate/Pat Allen Realty Group on winning the top People's Choice Award in Visit Highlands' "Trim Our Town" contest.



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 Church of the Good Shepherd Bazaar Barn

 GoodShepherd_BazaarBarn

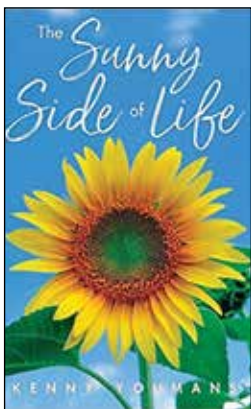
Shoppes on the Green | 94 US HWY 64 W | Right behind the Crossroads
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Pick up a copy of 'The Sunny Side of Life' and prepare to smile

Highlands Newspaper columnist Kenny Youman's book 'The Sunny Side of Life' is now available from Amazon and Barnes & Noble.

It's available in paperback for \$19.99 and hardback for \$25

The Sunny Side of Life is a compilation of real-life stories that will inspire, comfort, support, motivate, encourage, entertain and warm the hearts of readers of all ages and genders. Some of these stories will cause readers to laugh at loud and others will inspire hope. But whether they create laughter or tears of joy or relief, all of these uplifting stories are just what we need during these troubling times we face in America today.



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• BUSINESS / ORGANIZATION NEWS •

Wein to retire; search is on for HCLT's next executive director

After 16 years of leading HCLT as our first ever full time executive director, Dr. Gary Wein, recently officially announced his plans to retire in June of 2023.

Dr. Wein is widely recognized as a renowned expert in our regional ecology. His work at the Land Trust, conserving the Plateau's most ecologically valuable places an acre at a time, will leave a lasting legacy that positively impacts us all.

In recognition of his many contributions, long time donors and friends of the Land Trust, Alice and Kent Nelson are making a generous gift to the Land Trust in honor of Dr. Wein.

"We want to thank Gary for his excellent and productive leadership during his tenure as the executive director and would hope to encourage others to support the Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust which protects and conserves these very special and sublime



Dr. Gary Wein leads an Eco Tour to the Satulah Mountain summit

mountains," Alice explains.

In 2006, Dr. Gary Wein, a highly accomplished PhD botanist took the helm as Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust's (HCLT) first full time executive director. As the only nonprofit land conservation organization focused on conserving land in Southern Macon and Jackson Counties, HCLT's roots run very deep, all the way back to 1883. But it wasn't until Dr. Wein came on board that the Land Trust really began to gain ground. When Dr. Wein came on board, the Land Trust had conserved 650 acres and today, they have conserved over

3,700 acres in more than 130 places in and around Highlands and Cashiers.

Now a nationally accredited Land Trust with a growing staff, two additional hiking preserves and a robust education program, Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust has flourished under Dr. Wein's leadership. To learn how you can be a part of the legacy, contact HCLT's development director, Julie Schott at julie@hcltnc.org.

If you would like to discuss a donation in honor of Dr. Gary Wein, please contact Julie Schott at julie@hcltnc.org.

...WATER SUPPLY continued from page 1

crews could turn off the meters at the street level, and it worked.

"Checked with the water plant this morning," said Taylor the following day. "The water tanks are now making progress on filling back up. We are still getting calls at Town Hall about burst water pipes. Our crews continue to go to homes and cut off the water at the meter when a problem is reported."

Highlands Public Works Director Lamar Nix said they received more than 100 calls reporting burst pipes.

"A lot of it occurred during the holidays, dispatch called them, sanitation crews, electrical crews, police, neighbors, and some they

just found," said Nix.

Burst pipes meant running water was literally draining the town's three water tanks.

Freezing pipes not only threatened, but also caused problems for businesses and organizations throughout the area, including Highlands Cashiers Hospital and Old Edwards Inn & Spa.

"Highlands-Cashiers Hospital did experience some water pipe breaks from the recent weather event and while we did have damage, patient care was not affected and no patients have been moved because of this water issue," said HCH CEO Tom Neal. "We had some appointments that were re-

scheduled for next week. HCH is open and ready to care for our community!"

OEI President Richard Delaney said burst pipes and power outages did cause some issues.

"We did have major issues with Duke Power's brown outs causing our heating systems to go down," said Delaney. "We also had five rooms flooded with burst pipes on our sprinkler system. All in all, I think we fared pretty well."

There were also reports of the Highlands Literacy & Learning Center flooding as well as the Peggy Crosby Center but details were not available by press time.

...FIREFIGHTERS continued from page 1

and outside in front of my neighbor's was glowing orange with smoke pouring out of the house," he said. "People started panicking and I thought, I got to stay calm or we're going to lose this."

Plouse called 911 and Highlands Police Sgt. Thomas Parker and Master Officer John Cherry were the first to arrive at the scene. Plouse said the first couple of minutes were terrifying.

"We saw my neighbor's car out front and we just weren't sure if she was in there or not, and that was the scariest feeling," said Plouse. "We were piling up fire extinguishers and grabbing pitchers of water, anything we could get our hands on."

Parker, Cherry, and Plouse assumed the worst and began using fire extinguishers and pots of water through a window in an attempt to slow the blaze.

Minutes later, officers received confirmation from the building manager that the tenant was out of town for the holidays. That threat was alleviated, but there was still a burning unit in the middle of an apartment building with no signs of slowing down.

Cashiers-Glenville Volunteer Fire Department and Highlands Fire & Rescue arrived minutes later.

HFR Chief Ryan Gearhart said cold weather causes several issues when battling a blaze.

"It was -6 when Cashiers trucks got on scene with the wind blowing," said Gearhart. "Not sure of the wind chill. Low temperatures just bring a whole different dimension to fire fighting. Obviously, everything freezes. Hoses freeze up, pumps can freeze up if they are not being used, wet gear freezes making it harder on the firefighter wearing it."

Gearhart said the efforts of Parks, Cherry, and Plouse made all the difference.

"The police department being on scene using extinguishers and the valiant efforts of the neighbors throwing water from buckets into the laundry room onto the fire kept the whole place from going up, I feel certain," said Gearhart.



The house on Mountain Brookings Way was completely destroyed.

- submitted photo

"To be honest, that is probably one of the best saves I have ever seen in 24 years of firefighting. There is a lot of smoke and water damage but no structural damage that I could see. A great job done by all involved."

The second call was to a house fire on Mountain Brookings Way off Turtle Pond Road on Dec. 24, which then rekindled Christmas Day. The home was a complete loss, but the family of five and two dogs were able to make it out of the house uninjured.

A friend of the victims said the family went to sleep on Christmas Eve and woke up to the smell of smoke. The parents immediately got all of the children and pets to safety but could not save their home. In the aftermath, they lost savings, job equipment, vehicles, and all their physical possessions.

The community has rallied to help. To donate via venmo send to @Alejandra-Tentle. A GoFundme page has also been set up.

CGFD Chief Randy Dillard said the department responded to 38 calls between Dec. 23-27, including the fire on Mountain Brookings Way in Highlands.

"We have had two house fires, and helped Highlands with two also," said Dillard on social media. "At -6 degrees and 40 mph winds it was tough. We have a number of buildings with major water damage with some having the power cut off. Besides the heartache of seeing people lose everything on Christmas, we have had no injuries. I am proud of all our firefighters who never complain. Thank you to EMS for always keeping a check on our crew. Thanks to all

the great help from our mutual aid. Thanks to our new Sheriff Doug Farmer and his deputies for the help on the calls. The real heroes are the power company crews who worked tirelessly to get the power back on. We live in a great community. It is a true honor to serve in any weather."

In addition to structure fires, freezing temperatures, and bursting pipes; many in Cashiers were without power over the holiday weekend. In response, Glenville Cashiers Rescue Squad set up an emergency warming station on Christmas Eve to help.

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Karen Wallace of Fontana Regional Library is named 2022 NC Public Library Director of the Year

Karen Wallace, Director of Fontana Regional Library, has been awarded the most prestigious statewide honor by the NC Public Library Directors Association (NC-PLDA). The award was presented at their 2022 Awards Banquet in Winston-Salem.

Over the past 30 years Wallace has exemplified the very definition of leadership, not only for the Fontana Regional Library (FRL) but for libraries and librarians across the state. She became the Macon County Librarian in 1992 and since 2006, she has held the dual role as Macon County Librarian and Fontana Regional Library Director. She serves as a mentor for the profession, encouraging employee promotions from within FRL, giving staff opportunities to learn, giving support and encouragement,

and offering leadership and advice. Karen has contributed to the growth and development of FRL on multiple levels that transcend library walls and creates a stronger community through leadership, innovation, programming, customer service, access, and facilities.

Karen has consistently worked hard to achieve grants for projects that enhance library services in meaningful ways. FRL's Digital Seniors project was nationally recognized in 2022 by the Southeastern Association of Area Agencies on Aging (SE4A) who acknowledge services to older adults. The goal was to provide seniors with both the technology (including internet connectivity) and the skills they need to use digital devices to explore the internet in a way that is meaningful to them on an individual basis. The Library provided

initial home set-up and ongoing one-on-one instruction centered on using a Chromebook and wi-fi hotspot. Since 2020, FRL has received \$572,000 from local, state, and federal grants to support various projects that directly benefit residents of Macon, Jackson, and Swain counties.

Karen Wallace's impact on FRL's community has been enduring as well as significant. North Carolina libraries across the state have benefited from her experience, as she has served on the NC Cardinal Governance Committee, State Library Commission and as the Regional Library Representative for NCPLDA. The NCPLDA committee stated, "it is a privilege to acknowledge Karen Wallace as Director of the Year for her steadfast leadership, positive attitude, and commitment to serving others."



Karen Wallace receiving her award.



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...INVESTING continued from page 4

ries about the bear at Wildcat Cliffs Country Club that had broken into the house, opened the refrigerator and drank up all their beer. It was getting dark when she opened a bedroom upstairs and saw a bear on the bed with his mouth open and gleaming white teeth showing. She screamed, slammed the door, and ran downstairs. Then she started laughing at herself when she realized she had seen a bear rug laid out on the bed!

Speaking of poop, this kind of thing has probably happened to many of us. A seasoned agent was showing a house and her male client slipped into a bathroom and used the toilet without realizing the water was off in the house. The property had a creek and the agent found a bucket and made several trips to the creek to get enough water to flush the toilet!

Another broker was showing a house, and try as he might, he couldn't get the key to open the door. This agent was not a big man, but there was a doggie door there for a pretty big dog. The agent somehow managed to shove himself through the doggie door and open the house for his client. Once they were in, he realized they were in the wrong house!

An agent who had been in the business many years received a lead from Zillow. It was concerning a house on Duck Mountain in Scaly. She answered right away on her phone, giving information about the property. To her horror, instead of a D in Duck, she had accidentally hit the letter to the right of it, an F. She immediately sent a follow up email and apologized. Thinking that might not be enough, she sent another that said, "I

may get fired over this!" Needless to say, she never heard back from the people!

Yet another agent was showing a house that belonged to a man in his 80s. It was supposed to be unoccupied, but when he saw a light on in the garage, he thought he should check before he went in. No one came to the door, but when he started down the hallway, the owner came out of the bathroom, naked as a jaybird, and said, "Could I help you?"

Along those same lines, an agent was showing an 80-year-old woman around (you evidently have to watch those 80-year-olds!) and they were looking at a house that belonged to a preacher. The agent mentioned to the lady how good looking the preacher was and she said she never minded seeing a good-looking man! When they arrived, they didn't see the preacher anywhere, but there was food cooking on the grill, so they figured he wasn't too far away. The agent suggested the lady go on in the house and look around and he would look around the yard. Maybe the preacher was walking the dog. After the lady went in, he heard a blood curdling scream, and the lady came running out. She had opened the door to the bathroom and the preacher was just getting out of the shower. The lady exclaimed, "Yes! He sure is a good-looking man!"

• *Betty Holt is a Highlands native with over 30 years experience listing and selling real estate in Highlands. She can be reached at 828-526-4218 or Betty@bhbsmmr.com.*



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• BUSINESS / ORGANIZATION NEWS •



Rotary Club of Highlands' Officers and Committee Chairs who reported on the state of the Club on Dec. 6 included from left: Selwyn Chalker, Club Administration; Scott Carter, Club Services; Jessica Jenkins International/ Foundation; Ricky Siegel, Public Image; Chris Wilkes, President; Mark Chmar Program Chair; Dave O'Harra, President Elect; Jim Oesterle, Membership; Jerry Moore, Treasurer and Tracy Franklin, Interact Chair and Sergeant-at-Arms.

Rotary Club of Highlands Club Assembly: The State of the Club

President Chris Wilkes opened the meeting by thanking every member for their part in achieving the many successes of the Club. Participation is the most important part of membership and financial support is gratefully received. Success would not be possible without the work of officers and committee chairs, many of whom reported at this meeting.

Highlights of the Meeting included

President Elect Dave O'Harra said \$20K in sponsorship has already been given or pledged for 2023-2024; \$28K is very possible; O'Harra's personal goal is \$40K.

Sponsorship monies provide seed funds that enable us to support on-going needs and be nimble in responding to unexpected Community, National and International emergencies

Treasurer Jerry Moore reported the Club is in sound financial shape. In 2022-23 our Rotary Club Charities raised \$60K from Twilight 5K Race, Golf Tournament and Sponsorship. Additionally, the Duck Derby is now in its 5th year and has reached rock concert status with a live stream (pun intended) during the race.

The Derby raised \$12K to

help offset operating costs of the Club

Membership Chair Jim Oesterle noted that 11 new members have been inducted in the Club since July 1st.

Rotary Club of Highlands is now the 3rd largest Club in the District. New member Rachel Wavra was inducted to the Club on December 6.

Jessica Jenkins, Foundation Chair, awarded Lester Norris his first Paul Harris Fellowship. She also reported that \$7,300 was raised by the Club in the recent Giving Tuesday drive.

Interact Chair and Sergeant-at-Arms Tracy Franklin said 30 students are now enrolled in the Interact Club at Highlands School and nine students will participate in the 2023 Rotary Youth Leadership Academy this spring. Places are still available in RYLA - an intensive leadership experience organized by Rotary to help students develop their leadership skills, have fun and make connections.

Services & Project Chair Scott Carter thanked Doc Wilson and team for hot dog grilling and Wolfgang Green for hot dog contribution on the 4th of July and at Halloween. Carter also acknowledged all volunteers for their help at the Community

Thanksgiving and during Christmas Parade. More fun is ahead with a Spring Party and the Annual Academic Banquet and Athletic Banquet at Highlands School.

For more information, see www.highlandsrotary.org

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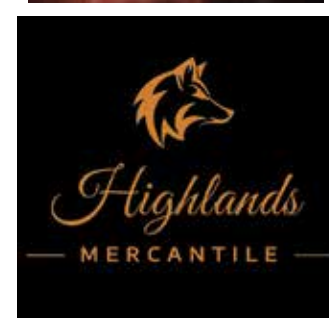


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• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

What is the Truth?



Pastor Mark Ford
First Baptist Church
Highlands

At his trial before his crucifixion, Jesus said to Pilate, "I have come into the world to bear witness to the truth, and everyone who is of the truth hears my voice." Pilate responds with a cynical question, "What is truth?" (John 18:37-38)

Earlier, Jesus had said to his disciples, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No man can come to the Father but through me" (John 14:6). Jesus is offering Pilate an opportunity to come to the truth. Truth is defined as "the true or actual state of a matter, or conformity with fact and reality." Jesus is declaring to Pilate that the path to reality and the actual state of genuine life, meaning, and purpose is to listen to Him, to hear His voice and His Word. Simply, Jesus says "Hear me and you will hear the truth." Pilate, still thinking in the abstract and skeptical about the real existence of truth in terms of absolutes, bluntly pushes Jesus aside with the rhetorical question, "What is truth?"

The spirit of Pilate is alive and well in our nation today. Cultural and religious studies by Pew, Barna, and others reveal the growing role of "nones" – those who reject all religious affiliation and even beliefs – with each succeeding generation. We are fast becoming a nation that rejects any form of absolutes or institutional claims to being arbiters of the truth. Therefore, the Bible and the Lord Jesus Christ revealed in it is out of hand rejected as the sole purveyor of spiritual truth moral values, and by default, the churches that advocate for the authority of God's Word and Jesus' teachings.

What has disappeared from American Christianity is a commitment to the revelation of God in Jesus Christ and God's precepts as given in the Word of God. Instead, we have completely yielded to the "Jamesian" (pragmatism of William James) individualism that everyone has a right to believe what they will.

In a liberal democracy this individualism and perspectivism are united in a radical insistence of the concrete value of a belief – whatever it is – for ME. As applied to eternal, spiritual truth, or morality and ethics, it is my feelings, perspective, experience, and ideas that guide my understanding of truth. All external claims to truth, even those of Jesus Christ and the Scriptures, are set aside or redefined to suit my own preferences. This "self-deification" is rampant in our culture and our churches. The "I" has replaced the "I AM" of the Word of God!

• See SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING page 19

Proverbs 3:5

• PLACES TO WORSHIP •

John 3:16

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Rev. Oliver Rice, Pastor (706) 782-3965
Sundays: School: 10 a.m., Worship: 11
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Wednesdays: Mid-week prayer meeting: 7 p.m.

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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

CHAPEL OF THE SKY

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

CHRIST ANGLICAN CHURCH

828-743-1701 • 464 Hwy 64E, Cashiers, NC 28717
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

COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH OF SKY VALLEY

706.746.3144 • 696 Sky Valley Way #447
Pastor Steve Kerhoulas
Worship: Sun. 10:30 a.m. Holy Communion 2nd Sunday
EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE INCARNATION
Rev. W. Bentley Manning, Rector • 526-2968
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

(Off Franklin/Highlands Rd)
Sunday School: 10 am. Worship Service: 11 am
GRACE COMMUNITY CHURCH OF CASHIERS
Non-Denominational-Contemporary Worship
242 Hwy 107N. 1/4 miles from Crossroads in Cashiers
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

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MACEDONIA BAPTIST CHURCH

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Sundays: School: 10 a.m.; Worship: 11 a.m. Choir: 6 p.m.
Wed: Bible Study and Youth Mtg.: 7 p.m.

MOUNTAIN SYNAGOGUE

Franklin • 828-634-1312 • mountainsynagoguewnc.com.
Services: 1st /Fri. and 3rd Sat.
and Rosh Hashanah & Yom Kippur.

MOUNTAIN BIBLE CHURCH

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)
Wed: 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

SCALY MOUNTAIN BAPTIST CHURCH

Rev. Marty Kilby
Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11 a.m. & 7
Wednesdays: Prayer Mtg.: 7 p.m.
SCALY MOUNTAIN CHURCH OF GOD
290 Buck Knob Road; Pastor 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 Dec. 16. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a summons/citation, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor or those of public officials have been used.

Dec. 16

• At 8:02 a.m., officers responded to a 2-vehicle accident on NC 106 near Talley and Upper Buttermilk roads.

Dec. 18

• At 6:50 p.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident on US 64 west at Mirror Lake Road.

Dec. 19

• At 1 p.m., Robert Jason Lang, 48, of Highlands was arrested for possession of methamphetamine. He was issued a \$2,500 secured bond. His trial date is Jan. 5.

• At 2 p.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident at Spring and W. Church Street.

Dec. 28

• At 1:15 p.m., officers responded to a 2-vehicle accident on Mirror Lake Road.

Dec. 30

• At 3:30 p.m., officers received a report of a woman being cyber stalked.

The Highlands Fire & Rescue log from Dec. 7

Dec. 19

• At 9:03 a.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on US

64 west.

• At 7:21 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Many Road.

Dec. 22

• At 1:50 a.m., the dept. responded to a Co2 alarm at Old Edwards Inn.

Dec. 23

• At 3:19 p.m., the dept. was first responded to a residence on Holt Circle.

• At 6:24 p.m., the dept. provided mutual aid at a structure fire in Jackson County.

• At 11:53 p.m., the dept. responded to a structure fire on Mountain Moorings Drive.

Dec. 24

• At 2:13 a.m., the dept. responded to a Co2 alarm at a residence on Big Bearpen Road.

• At 3:28 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Bobby Jones Road.

• At 12:20 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm set off by water flow at a residence on Hickory Lane.

• At 1:34 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on VZ Top.

• At 3:32 p.m., the dept. responded to a call of flooding due to busted pipes at a location on S. 5th Street.

• At 4:37 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on US 64 east.

• At 5:58 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Cobb

Road.

• At 6:05 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Moorewood Circle.

• At 7:48 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a location on Main Street.

• At 8:53 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Bobby Jones Road.

• At 9:45 p.m., the dept. responded to a water flow alarm at a residence on Falls Drive West.

• At 9:44 p.m., the dept. responded to a structure fire on Mountain Brook Way.

Dec. 25

• At 2:25 a.m., the dept. responded to the rekindling of a fire on Mountain Brook Way.

• At 3:02 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a location on W. Church Street.

• At 6:57 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a location on W. Church Street.

Dec. 26

• At 9:54 a.m., the dept. responded to a water flow alarm at a residence on Cullasaja Club Drive.

• At 11:38 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to residence on Song Bird Lane.

• At 2:28 p.m., the dept. provided mutual aid at a structure fire in Jackson County.

• At 6:20 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a location on Main Street.

Dec. 27

• At 12:38 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a location on Skyline Lodge Road.

• At 1:47 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to at residence on Panther Mountain Road.

• At 4:01 p.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on US 64 east and Cottage Row.

Dec. 28

• At 11:37 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Clear Creek Road.

• At 3:16 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Sassafrass Court.

Dec. 29

• At 2:48 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a location on Spring Street.

• At 4:50 p.m., the dept. responded to a water flow alarm at a residence on Country Club Drive.

Dec. 30

• At 8:01 a.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident with no injuries on Walhalla Road.

• At 5:47 p.m. the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on NC 106.

Dec. 31

• At 5:40 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Buckberry Falls Road.

• At 12:11 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a location on Main Street.

• At 3:16 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Pineland Drive.

• At 3:30 p.m., the dept. provided public assistance at a residence on Beaver Run Road.

• At 4:28 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Old Walhalla Road.

...SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING from 18

As Christians, we proclaim that we have no opinions or perspectives as it applies to eternal Truth in Christ and His Word. As best we can, we advocate for the clear teachings of our Lord and the ethical, moral, eternal teachings of the Holy Scriptures. Our conscience is not guided by tolerance for sin by “expanding our understanding” or loosening moral, Biblical boundaries. We are guided by the teaching of the Lord and His Word. For Christians, there are no alternative lifestyles and beliefs guided by the individual. It is Jesus Christ in the Holy Scriptures that offers

us the solid framework of Truth for all of life. “What is truth?” There is only One, and His name is Jesus Christ. “What is truth?” It is found in the Holy Scriptures, the Word of God and absolute of God’s people, found outside of my perspective or individualistic persuasions. Jesus is Lord! His Word is truth! What I think or want to believe is truth doesn’t matter. “What is truth?” It is not you or me. It is the Lord Jesus Christ and what He has to say on the matter. Follow His way, His truth, and you will find true life now and in eternity!

Highlands Fire & Rescue Department asks that you depose of ashes properly

Chief Ryan Gearhart and Asst. Chief Robbie Forrester ask that ashes gathered from fireplaces or grills or fire pits be deposited in metal containers.

So far this year, there have been a few fires started due to hot ashes not being deposited correctly.

Typically, there are several each year.



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HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS LAND TRUST IS LOOKING FOR AN EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR. Applications must be received by February 15, 2023. Start date is May 1, 2023.

The Executive Director is responsible for execution of strategic plans, donor education and development, land acquisition and stewardship, staff management, and office administration. The Director should embrace servant-leadership and will work closely with an involved Board of Direc-

tors and experienced staff. The full-time position includes benefits, and the salary will be commensurate with experience and comparable with non-profit executive director positions in the region.

POSITION OVERVIEW: The successful candidate will report to the Board of Directors. In addition to the HCLT staff include three full-time and two seasonal staff. At a minimum the successful candidate must demonstrate an appreciation for and curiosity about natural resources, and superior organizational skills. He or she should have experience with successful non-profits. Experience with other land trusts or other environmental non-profits is not required but would be helpful.

QUALIFICATIONS: Capacity to excel at influencing and leading the staff and the organization; Outstanding communication

• CLASSIFIEDS page 22

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skills and ability to work well with board, staff, the community and media; High executive functionality; Nature-oriented; Energetic, curious, and social; Passion for the mission and programs of HCLT; Experience in program planning and execution; Donor support and fundraising capabilities; Age-appropriate education programming; Fiscal and operational management; Environmental, property, and/or fiscal regulations

TO APPLY: Please send introductory letter and resume to: Carlton King, President, HCLT, P.O. Box 1703, Highlands, NC 28741. Or email to personnel@hcltnc.org

HCLT is an Equal Opportunity Employer and encourages diversity and equity in all facets of the organization's work. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, gender, national origin, disability status, protected veteran status, or any other protected class. (st. 1/5)

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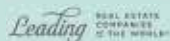


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