Controversy spurs TB to amend UDO

Following a closed session at the Town Board meeting Jan. 24, commissioners voted unanimously to recommend amending and/or repealing sections of the Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) regarding changes to approved conditional use zoning districts.

They sent those proposed amendments to the Planning Board to be heard at its Monday, Jan. 28 meeting. However, due to the lack of an quorum, the meeting was rescheduled for Tuesday, Feb. 5, 5:30 p.m. at the Community Building. Only three of the seven members attended - Thomas Craig, Glenda Bell and Alan Marsh.

Town Attorney Bill Coward and Town Manager Bob Frye attended the Jan. 28 Planning Board meeting to explain the reason for the amendments. Commissioners Brian Stiehler, Eric Pierson and John Dotson were also there. Dotson regularly attends Planning Board meetings.

The Town Board's recommendations basically eliminate the amendments. Commissioners Brian Stiehler, Eric Pierson and John Dotson were also there. Dotson regularly attends Planning Board meetings.

Citizens take needs into their own hands

Thursday night citizens announced they were ready to pick up the reins to get projects done - as long as the town both supported their vision and might also help out financially.

During the public comment period, Thomas Craig, owner of The Ugly Dog, asked the Town Board to support a Concert Series in Kelsey-Hutchinson Park on Pine Street similar to Cashiers “Grovin’ on the Green” series which runs throughout the summer.

The purpose is to provide self-sufficient, free entertainment on a regular basis to the residents and visitors of Highlands. However, Craig said like any new enterprise, there are likely to be some shortages for the first few years.

“The Chamber of Commerce has committed $5,000 toward those shortages for the 2013 season. I am asking the Town of Highlands to commit $5,000 for 2013, $2,500 for 2014 and $1,250 for 2015. By 2016 this event needs to be completely self-sufficient, and if it’s not we will accept that and move on.”

Like the Cashiers series, the project would be nonprofit and the amount of money brought in through sponsorships would be the amount spent on expenditures - mainly the entertainers.

Craig proposed a budget of about $20,000 a year.

Eleven Saturday evening concerts are planned starting May 25 and ending on August 31. There would not be a concert on Saturday, July 6 and three other dates to be determined later. Concerts would start at 6 p.m. and end at 8 p.m.

“We are asking that the audience be allowed to bring their own food and beverages (alcoholic and non-alcoholic). Weekly sponsors may serve beer and wine (at no charge) if they so choose. We also ask the Town of Highlands to close off Pine Street between 5th Street and the Bank of America entrance for the duration of the concert,” he said.

President of the Chamber Board of Directors, Commissioner Brian Stiehler said the Chamber supports the concept.

Craig said funds raised through sponsorships would be run through the chamber.

Citizen Alice Nelson asked if proceeds would go to the Chamber.

Old delinquent accounts are subject of meeting

The Town of Highlands’ mid-year budget report echoes the county’s - things are looking up, but a fresh eye on the books indicates the town is plagued with delinquent property, tax and utility accounts that have passed the allotted time to collect, as set by the state.

At the Jan. 24 Town Board meeting, Town Manager Bob Frye said property tax collections are up slightly from Dec. 2011 to Dec. 2012 – an increase of $28,288 – and sales tax revenue disbursements from the state are showing a slight increase from the same period - up $13,136.

**Utility Delinquencies**

In November 2012 town staff was instructed to reduce utility customer delinquent balances by tightening up on collection procedure. Rather than letting people slide during the winter as in the past, payment is due as indicated or payment arrangements must be made and adhered to or utilities will be disconnected.

**Dotson wins Emmy**

WRAL-TV FOX 50 News Producer Miranda Dotson, daughter of John and Mary Dotson of Highlands, won an Emmy at the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences award ceremony this past weekend during the 27th Midsouth Emmy Awards.

Dotson and her associates won individual Emmys in the Newscast/Weekend category for their weekend coverage of Hurricane Irene Aftermath during the summer.
Dear Editor,

I just want to thank you for your website, and all the links and videos you provide. I have owned a small home in Highlands since 2004, have been coming to the area for over 35 years, and love exploring each time I am there. However, when I am away, I always look at your webcam to see what I can...the sunshine, rain, snow, color of the leaves, etc. I also watch the waterfall videos on your website when I need a little Highlands fix.

Watching your birds and squirrels are fun, too. I have a small deck and porch facing west and overlooking a meadow, and have birds, squirrels, chipmunks...love the hummingbirds.

This morning I am in Richmond, VA where it is snowing. Next week I will be on the GA coast, so no matter where I am I can always get a small glimpse of my favorite spot in the states, even though it makes me a little homesick. Looking forward to being back soon.

Thanks again for this little window into our wonderful world of Highlands.

Sunny Steele
Highlands second home owner
www.highlandsinfo.com/WebCam.htm

From Munger family

The family and loved ones of Carolyn Keener Munger wish to thank each and everyone who took the time to call, bring food, send cards, flowers or simply say a prayer during our time of sorrow. She will be greatly missed but remembered by those who loved and shared her life. Words are few but gratitude is unlimited. Jesus said unto her “I am the resurrection, and the life: He that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die.

- The Family of Carolyn Keener Munger

By Ryan Potts

Just four minutes into the game against Tallulah Falls, it looked as though things were going to be easy. Senior Taylor Osteen had outscored the Indians 11-2 and Highlands looked to be well on its way to an easy victory. Unfortunately for the Highlanders, the offense would struggle the rest of the way, despite limping to a 42-26 win.

While Osteen finished with 18 for Highlands, the Highlanders struggled in all phases on the offensive side of the ball. Highlands finished with an uncharacteristically high number of turnovers, as well as numerous missed layups.

Fortunately, the strong defense of the Highlanders carried them on the afternoon, holding the Indians to just 26 points.

Both Highlander teams will host Nantahala on Friday evening, starting at 6 p.m. Friday’s game is Senior Night for the Highlanders, so please come out as we honor our seniors.

Additionally, Friday night’s game is also Youth Night at Highlands, and Macon County League players will get in for FREE if they are wearing their jersey. We hope to have a great crowd on Friday night as we move into the end of the regular season.

Lady Highlanders stop skid with gritty road win

The Highlands Lady Highlanders trav-
... CITIZENS continued from page 1

... DOTSON from pg 1

News at 11 segment.

She said it was a huge honor and she was very surprised to have won. “I was hopeful, of course, but I didn’t know what to expect. I was so grateful that my whole family was there to celebrate with me.”

The awards ceremony was held in Nashville, TN at the Schermerhorn Symphony Center to a sold-out crowd. Nearly 800 entries were considered in the nomination process.

As nominees, Dotson and other associates acted as liaisons for those nominees from the station who couldn’t attend. “There were three nominees in our category so I was focusing on other people’s names and awards to see if I had to go up for them so I didn’t have time to get nervous until my name was called,” she said. “I was immediately shocked, excited and very nervous. It was such an honor. This was my first nomination and my first Emmy and that doesn’t happen every time.”

Dotson has worked as a News Producer at Raleigh’s WRAL-TV since March 2011. The renowned CBS affiliate is the number one station in the 24th largest television market in the country. In all, WRAL accepted 14 Emmys at the ceremony. Miranda previously worked as News Producer for WLOS ABC 13 in Asheville.

“Sometimes the best television coverage comes from tragedies, which is sad, but it’s nice that we can tell those stories and let others know what people are going through,” she said.

Dotson graduated from Highlands School Class of 2004 and earned a BA in Communication with a minor in Political Science from Wake Forest University in 2008.

The Nashville/Midsouth Region, founded in 1984, encompasses the states of North Carolina (except Asheville) and Tennessee, and the television market of Huntsville, Alabama.

– Kim Lewicki
The greatest generation... the winter of 1945 - Part 3

(It's the winter of 1945. World War 2 has just ended. I am nine years old and live in the Highlands area of Louisville, KY. My parents own and operate a mom and pop restaurant in a working class neighborhood. My best friend is my dog, Frisky, a mutt terrier mix.)

The doors to my parents’ restaurant were unlocked promptly at 7 a.m. each morning, excluding Sundays. There were always several customers huddled together in our outside vestibule, trying to stay warm and wanting to grab a quick breakfast.

After eating a hot, delicious breakfast cooked by Lucinda, my workday started when I turned on the red neon "OPEN" sign and unlocked the door. Stomping snow from my boots, customers headed in to be seated. I knew most of the early morning group by their first names, as they were regulars. Once seated, all I had to do was point to them and ask, "Same thing?" They would nod and I'd write the order, turning it in to my dad.

One customer laughed and remarked, "Tell your dad the war is over," pointing to the poster in the front window depicting Santa stomping Hitler, Tojo and Mussolini.

I laughed and said, "You tell him." Another customer blurted, "I love that poster. Leave it up." My weekday morning job usually came to an end at exactly 7:30 a.m. when it was time to head for school. But on this day, with snow a foot deep, there was no school. My usual replacement, my older sister, called from a pay phone to say her car wouldn't start after stalling in the middle of the street. By 8 a.m., the restaurant would be full of hungry customers and I would have to handle the load with my mom, a major task for a nine-year-old.

"Freddy, you work the counter and your mother will work the booths. When your sister gets here, if she ever does, you can go and play," my dad ordered. Hey, I was making 50 cents an hour and it was still too early to head out sledding.

"OK, Dad, but can I turn Frisky loose?" I asked. "I just know he has to pee."

I headed for the storage room, opened the door and Frisky completely ignored me, bolting past me and out into the deep snow. As I watched him attend to his duty, I remembered what a buddy jokingly told me. "Never eat the yellow snow."

"Go play, boy, go play," I ordered. Nose buried in the snow, Frisky headed out across the vacant lot behind our restaurant, eager to sniff whatever he could find not covered with snow and maybe even meet up with another friendly dog. He had several girlfriends who lived in the neighborhood.

When I got back inside the store, three customers were standing at the front register waiting to pay their bills. "Where's your sister?" a customer asked.

"Broke down with a dead battery," I shot back, pushing hard on just the right keys of our mechanical cash register. The register bell rang, the amount owed popped up in the window at the top of the register and the cash drawer flew open. 'What technology,' I thought as I took the money and made change, amazed at how it all worked. As I handed the customer his change, I remembered what Sister Marianne had said about the importance of math.

I guess I was a pretty good waiter, as my tips were always abundant. The reason I remember this particular morning was because it was our first big snow and I earned over four dollars in tips plus my salary. I was a rich little boy.

My sister finally arrived just before 10 and I lit out for home. I found Frisky sitting on our covered front porch, high and dry. When he saw me, he jumped to his feet and headed toward me. "No, Frisky…no, boy….down….don't trash my school clothes again….down," I ordered, pointing my finger. Frisky knew the "no" word and decided to obey.

After changing clothes, I headed for the cellar to find my sled. It was covered with coal dust, as was most everything in that cellar. When the coal truck came to dump a full load of coal through a trapdoor just off the sidewalk, you didn't want to be anywhere near that cellar.

After cleaning my sled, I headed for Tyler Park about a half-mile up Baxter Ave. from my home. Once the sled hit the snow, Frisky hopped on, knowing I would give him a ride to the park. It was hard going through the deep snow so I headed out into the street and used tire trails that cars had made in the snow. Usually I didn't even have to get out of the way for an approaching car as the driver...
The popcorn revolution

B
ack when Jiffy Pop was introd
uced, it seemed like it was the be-all-and-end-all of popcorn. Unfortunately, the product was as flawed as it was fas
cinating. At that moment, it seemed the development of popcorn couldn't get and higher. There was no need to dirty a pan, to open the lid just enough to permit the escape of steam without precious kernels spraying all over the kitchen.

In case any of you don't know about Jiffy Pop, it consisted of pre-mixed oil and popcorn, dispensed in a thin aluminum pan. A pleated, expandable sheet of aluminum foil covered it. Simply put the pan on the burner, shake vigorously, and be rewarded with not only the best popcorn you ever tasted, but also a dramatic presentation.

As the oil heated and the corn popped, the top started to unfurl. When it was fully deployed it formed a magnificent dome, or it was supposed to. I never personally saw one work properly. The outcome was actually a good number of unpopped kernels, scorched corn, and worst of all, a partial inflation of the dome, like a hot air balloon that was strafed by a Fokker.

Even if the popcorn had been wonderful, it wouldn't have ended popcorn research, because the balloon was the real attraction. It is what separated Jiffy from all other corn. It was able to “brand” a commodity. Fifty years later, Jiffy Pop still exists, although as a novelty, like gummy candy in a open barrel.

Next came “air poppers.” If they hadn't come along when people still cared how they looked, they would never have gotten of the ground. But it was a time influenced by an awakening health consciousness. Why cook the corn in oil? Why add those unnecessary calories? Why not experience the true taste of popcorn? Because popcorn cooked in air tastes more like a cereal than a satisfying treat.

My 90-pound sister used one for years. After a while I stopped pretending I enjoyed it. I suspect people who still use air poppers are at the the opposite end of some ideological spectrum from the people who still buy Jiffy Pop.

Orville Redenbacher was a genius. He created a brand in a commodity that was in America before Europeans. I can imagine Cortes saying, “Man, what a treat.” All of a sudden people were passing up the Safeway store brand and paying a premium for one that claimed, “You'll like it better, or my name isn't Orville Redenbacher.” Orville didn't rest there, didn't stretch out under a palm tree and relax. He brought out flavored popcorn, kettle and cheddar, and others. “Movie Theater” is hard to beat.

Orville wasn't done. About two years ago, Orville introduced the pop-up bowl. It's a bit of packaging magic. The corn pops in the bag, like any other microwave corn. However, there is a plastic film top. When the popping is complete, one need only turn the bag upright, remove the plastic, and enjoy straight from the bowl, without oil up to the elbow. It's a marvelous invention, and if I didn't know better, I might think popcorn couldn't get better than this.

... UDO continued from page 1

The Planning Board’s power to make changes of any kind to the conditions assigned a conditional zone by the Town Board. Instead, any changes would go to the Town Board and be treated as any other ordinance change or change to the Zoning Map.

According to Commissioner Amy Patterson, the proposed changes were suggested by Attorney Coward because there is no place in the NC General Statutes that allows anyone other than an elected board to make zoning changes.

A change to the conditional use plat at Town Place Condominiums initiated the amendment.

At the November 2012 Planning Board meeting, adjoining neighbors to the Town Place Condominium parcel objected to proposed changes to the district that changed a single-family structure to a multi-family structure and moved that structure closer to adjoining boundaries.

Their pleas fell on deaf ears, and the Planning Board voted unanimously to allow the changes. The board saw the changes to the plat as “administrative” in nature, which according to the UDO is within the purview of the Planning Board.

The situation was compounded when Stephen Ham, owner of an adjoining property, appealed the Planning Board’s decision to the Town Board on Dec. 6, 2012, but the Town Board upheld the Planning Board’s decision 3-2.

Commissioners Patterson and John Dotson voted not to uphold the Planning Board’s decision because they thought the changes to the plat were substantial and not

See UDO page 11

Creative Concepts Salon, Inc.

Dr. Joseph H. Wilbanks, D.D.S.
278 East Doyle St. • Toccoa, GA
COMPLETE DENTAL CARE UNDER ONE ROOF!
706-886-9439 • 800-884-9439
www.WilbanksSmileCenter.com

 Eliminate Mold, Mildew, & Radon Immediately!

Bill Barber’s
Dry CrawlSpaces
Crawl Space Environment Specialists”
Free Inspections!
Call 828-743-0900
www.drycrawlspace.com

Taylor Barnes
Open: Tues - Sat. at 10 a
Located behind Highlands Decorating Center on Highway 106 (The Dillard Rd)
NC LMBT #1429
(828) 526-4192

Shear Elevations
Color, Cuts, Up Do’s, Highlights, Massage, Facials, Manicures, Pedicures, Reflexology, Personal Training
OPEN: Tues - Sat. at 10 a
828-526-9477 • 225 Spring Street, Highlands

Creative Concepts Salon, Inc.

Open: Tues-Fri: 9-5 • Sat. 10-2
Owner/Style: Lacy Jane Vilardo
Stylist: Heather D. Escandon
Stylist: Christa Hooper
Walk-Ins Welcome!
549 East Main Street “Falls on Main” Highlands (828) 526-3939

Creative Concepts Salon, Inc.
Hibernation

Highlands is a wonderful seasonal town. It’s getting less seasonal every year, but the majority of homeowners go back to warmer climates, and put their Highlands home to sleep for the winter. Hibernation. Just the very thought of hibernation gives me a warm snuggly feeling, what about you? In fact, it’s far from warm and snuggly— it can be downright brutal.

Hibernation can be defined as a state of inactivity. It is often associated with cold temperatures, and its purpose is to conserve energy during the time of year that necessary supplies (foods) are low.

Many people think that the Highlands real estate market hibernates during the winter, when in fact I’ve always thought the serious buyers are in more close contact with their Realtors than ever.

Here are some tips to help you sell/buy your Highlands home this winter:

1) For Sellers: Avoid ‘closing down’ your home. It’s OK to turn the water off (either by hiring a plumber to winterize or making sure the water is turned off ‘at the street’), but remember to leave the utilities running, and the heat on low. Make sure if your water has been turned off, that you let your Broker know. It’s OK to have nice looking signs taped to the toilet to let people know NOT to use the facilities. (I just wonder how may Brokers after spending the day with clients, have had to return to the scene of the crime with gallons of water to be able to flush.)

2) For Sellers: Make sure your home doesn’t look like a ‘ghost town’. I’ve shown some homes that looked like the owners had left for greener pastures— a very long time ago. If your home is for sale, it needs to continue to be ‘staged for sale’ even during the winter. If the Broker has to go in with a flashlight and hunt for the main breaker, or the prospects have to crawl over outdoor furniture that’s been brought in for the winter— the first impression will not be a good one.

3) For Sellers: You don’t have to take your home off the market for the winter. Many Sellers think that if they take their home off the real estate market for the winter, that it will appear like a ‘new listing’ when they re-list in the Spring— not so.

4) For Buyers: If you are coming to Highlands to look at real estate— keep an open mind regarding number 1 and 2 above. Plan your trip around Highlands’s weather if possible, and be flexible. Just because there aren’t residents in the home you want to see, doesn’t mean it’s available...

Falling Waters

...is a newer 52-acre community with 8 homes all built after 2000, just 2.5 miles from Main Street, Highlands. Secluded but not remote, no road noise, underground utilities, paved roads, well maintained ... peaceful, quiet & private.

Gentle land makes for easy building and fewer erosion problems. Plenty of parking, child friendly; a great place to walk.

Come Visit!

From Main St., take Hwy. 106 (The Dillard Road) 1.8 miles just past the Glen Falls sign, turn right on Mt. Laurel Dr., go 3 tenths of a mile turn left on Moonlight. The entrance is on the right.

www.highlandsnchomesites.com

Contact (onsite owner) or your broker for plats, prices & a guided tour.

828-508-9952.
Hurricanes make statement against Duke

After getting destroyed by 30 points at Miami Wednesday night, Duke coach Mike Krzyzewski paid Miami a great deal of respect by calling them “old.” While that may not seem like a typical compliment, in the world of college basketball, older is better. The Hurricanes feature six seniors, including a 6th year senior and a 5th year senior. While Miami struggled a bit early in the season due to the suspension of star guard Durand Scott and an injury to center Reggie Johnson, they are now back to full strength and are leading the ACC with a 6-0 record after annihilating both Duke and FSU this week.

While some of you may see this as an overthrow to a thorough spanking of a Duke team missing Ryan Kelly, I’m here to argue that Miami has been criminally underrated all season (and no, I didn’t use the words criminally and Miami in the same sentence intentionally.) Miami has all of the pieces necessary to be a great team, and the experience that many teams lack in the current college game. Scott is a knockdown shooter and Johnson provides interior beef, but it is the emergence of waterbug PG Shane Larkin and 6’11” Swiss-army man Kenny Kadji that has made Miami offensively balanced. Larkin, the son of MLB shortstop Barry Larkin, was in the paint the entire night against Duke and provided the dribble penetration that current offenses need in today’s game. Kadji is a matchup nightmare because he shoots over 40% from the three point line and yet is 6’11”. Julian Gamble gives the Canes an additional rebounding presence and high quality defender to compliment the other Miami players.

While the Miami offense gets the publicity, it is the improvement on defense that has propelled Miami into the front of the ACC. The credit for that goes to new Miami coach Jim Larranaga. Basketball fans may remember Larranaga from his Final Four run with George Mason, and his hire to replace Frank Haith has given the Hurricanes a new identity on defense this season, and have held all six ACC opponents below 63 points. Larranaga’s presence gives the Hurricanes a veteran coach who has been to the Final Four and his knowledge combined with the experience and senior leadership that Miami has made them the new favorite to win the ACC this season.

...INVESTING continued from page 6

able to see without effort. We may live here year round, but we may also forget about possible treacherous access to the home you want to see.

5) For Buyers- please don’t think that because there is a slight less inventory of listings (see #3 above) shown in the real estate magazines, that there is a shortage of inventory. Also, don’t think for a second that the Highlands area is depressed in the winter and Sellers are willing to accept anything.

6) For Prospective Sellers: Winter is a great time to list property! The brokers may even have a little more time to devote to marketing and staging for ‘the season’, but don’t think they wait until Spring to market your home. Highlands brokers have already been active in 2013 holding ‘Open Houses’ so all Brokers have the chance to see their listings. Most Brokers check the local MLS listings daily to check for price changes, new listings and homes that have sold. Information from our local market gives us the information we need to make sure your home is priced according to the current market values right here in Highlands.

It may appear that some of the Brokers in Highlands are hibernating (they’re in a state of inactivity) because of the lack of food supply (buyers), but that couldn’t be further from the truth. The stats have shown productive real estate activity in the Highlands – Cashiers area already for 2013. If you are interested in Highlands real estate (either buying or selling), call a Broker today, we can ‘bearly’ wait, and we promise – we won’ bite!

• Jeannie and Tucker Chambers are Broker/Owners of The Chambers Agency, REALTORS and specialize in investment sales and vacation rentals. 828-526-3717 401 N. Fifth Street www.chambersagency.net

...RECORD continued from page 2

elected to Tallulah Falls on Saturday needing a win, and they were able to get one after a thrilling comeback victory.

The Lady Indians from Tallulah Falls played Highlands tough in Highlands earlier this year, and they used hot three-point shooting and some sloppy play from the Lady Highlanders to build a two-point halftime lead. That lead would balloon to as many as seven in the third quarter, but the Lady Highlanders were able to mount a furious comeback on the strength of a 1-2-1-1 press and some Dutch freethrow shooting.

17-2 run put the Highlanders up eight and allowed them to escape with a 38-30 win. Kirstyn Lamb led all scorers with 16 points for the Lady Highlanders.
I learned a new term this past week. I think it is good to learn something new each and every day, but this was a term I had never heard before in the context that it was used. The term is called Catfishing.

I grew up here in these mountains and when I heard the term Catfishing I knew what that meant. In fact, there were two kinds of fishing: trout fishing and catfishing. But the media has coined the phrase Catfishing to mean an internet hoax or a person taking advantage of another by social media. And who hasn’t seen the Manti Te’o story? This seemingly strong, confident, and smart young football star hoaxed over someone pulling a hoax over the internet. This is called Catfishing. Seemingly there are a lot of folks who have suffered a hoax over the internet.

Now you may wonder why we begin here this week. I want to share a story with you. I had a man in the church I was serving years ago who seemed to have everything going for him. He had a great job at a furniture plant and a family. From the outside looking in, he would have been considered successful. Yet, one day he came to the church to seek me out so we could talk. He began by saying, “Paul, I am so lonely. I come home from work each and every day and after supper my wife cares for the kids and I sit in den and think there has to be more to life than this.

After the kids are in bed my wife comes in to tell me how tired she is and she goes to bed and I sit there all alone. I get on the internet and try to find some old college friends. I have more conversations with people on the internet than I do with my own family.

Sometimes I sit in the den all night on the internet talking with people in chat rooms. It is sad that I am more comfortable talking with people in cyber space than I am talking with my own family.

I just sat and listened and he continued; “You see Paul, I am afraid I have more trust in a chat room than I do in real life. I find truth in my relationship online and I know is not a great thing so I know I need help.”

I tell you that story to remind us all that sometimes it is easier to talk online than face-to-face. It is easier to text someone than it is to simply call them on the phone. I am also convinced that when it is all said and done, at the end of the day, what matters are the relationships we have with one another face to face.

I want to encourage us all to nurture the relationships we have with family and friends face-to-face be-

Let’s go people fishing

Pastor Paul Christy
Highlands United Methodist Church

I want to encourage us all to nurture the relationships we have with family and friends face-to-face because we have with family and friends face-to-face be-

John 3:16

Places to Worship

Proverbs 3:5

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

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, 828-743-9814
Services: Sundays 10am - Wed. - 7pm
Catered dinner - Wed. 6pm

CHAPEL OF SKY VALLEY
Sky Valley, GA
Church: 706-746-2999
Sundays: 10 a.m. – Worship
Holy Communion 1st Sunday of the month
Wednesdays: 9 a.m. Healing and Prayer w/Holy Communion

CHRIST ANGLICAN CHURCH
Rector: Jim Murphy, 252-671-4011
Worshipping at the facilities of Whiteside Presbyterian Church,
Cashiers
Sun.: Holy Communion 9 a.m.; Adult Forum - 10:45 at Buck’s
Coffee Cafe, Cashiers
Mon.: Bible Study & Supper at homes - 6 p.m.
Wed.: Men’s Bible Study 6:30 a.m., First Baptist Church
Thurs.: Women’s Prayer Group - 10 a.m., Whiteside Presbyterian
Church; Healing Service at noon

CLEAR CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH
Pastor Jim Kinard
Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11
Wednesdays – 7 p.m

COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH
www.cbchighlands.com • 526-4685
3645 Cashiers Rd, Highlands, NC
Senior Pastor Gary Hewins
Sun.: 9:30am: Sunday School
10:30am: Middle & High School; 10:45am: Children’s Program.
10: 45am: Worship Service
Wed.: 5pm Dinner ($7 adult, $2 child), 6pm CBC University

EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE INCARNATION
Rev. Bruce Walker • 526-2968
Sundays: Education and choir rehearsal, 9 am, Holy Eucharist Rite II, (sanctuary), 10:30 am
Thursdays: Holy Eucharist, (chapel), 10 am

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
Dr. Mark Ford, Pastor • 526-4153
Sun.: Worship 10:45 a.m.; School – 9:30 a.m.
Wed.: Men’s Bible Study 8:30 a.m., Prayer Meeting – 6:15 p.m.,
Church – 5 p.m.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Dr. Lee Bowman, Pastor • 526-3175
Sun.: Worship – 11 a.m.; Sun: 8:30a communion service June-
Labor Day; School – 9:30
Mondays: 8 a.m. – Men’s Prayer Group & Breakfast
Wednesdays – Choir – 7

GOLDMINE BAPTIST CHURCH
(Off Franklin/Highlands Rd)
Rev. Carson Gibson
Sunday School – 10 am, Worship Service – 11 am
Bible Study – 6 pm

HIGHLANDS ASSEMBLY OF GOD

Randy Reed, Pastor
828-421-9172 • 165 S. Sixth Street
Sundays: Worship – 11

HIGHLANDS CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH
Pastor Dan Robinson
670 N. Fourth Street (next to the Highlands Civic Center)
Sunday: School 9:30 a.m.; Morning Worship 10:45 a.m., Evening
Worship, 6:30 p.m.
Wednesdays: Prayer Service, 6:30 p.m.

HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Pastor Paul Christy 526-3376
Wed: Supper; 6; 7:15 – children, youth, & adults studies; 6:15 –
Adult choir (nursery provided for Wed. p.m. activities)
Thurs:12:30 – Women’s Bible Study (nursery)

HOLY FAMILY LUTHERAN CHURCH – ELCA
Chaplain Margaret Howell
2152 Dillard Road – 526-9741
Sundays: Sunday School and Adult discussion group 9:30 a.m.;
Worship/Communion – 10:30

HEALING SERVICE on the 5th Sunday of the month.

Macedonia Baptist Church
8 miles south of Highlands on N.C. 28 S in Satolah
Pastor Roy Lowe, (828) 526-8425
Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11
Church – 6 p.m.
Wed: Bible Study and Youth Mtg. – 7 p.m.

Mountain Synagogue
St. Cyprian’s Episcopal Church, Franklin
828-369-9270 or 828-293-5197

Mountain Bible Church
Pastor: Clayton Lopez • 828-743-9704
Independent Bible Church
Sundays: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.

Our Lady of the Mountains Catholic Church
Rev. Dean Cesa, pastor – Parish office: 526-2418
Mass – Sun: 11 a.m.; Thurs & Fri: 9 a.m.

Scaly Mountain Baptist Church
Rev. Dwight Loggins
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 Alfred Sizemore • 526-3212
Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 10:45 a.m.; Worship – 6
p.m.
Wed: Adult Bible Study & Youth – 7 p.m.

Shortoff Baptist Church
Pastor Rev. Andy Cloer
Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11
Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study – 7

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
85 Sierra Drive • 828-524-6777
Sunday Worship - 11 a.m.
Child Care - 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Religious Education - 11 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.
Youth 8th - 12th grades meet the 2nd Sundays 5 - 7:30 p.m.

Whiteside Presbyterian Church
Cashiers, Rev. Sam Forrester, 743-2122
Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11
As a result, Frye said the total balance of current delinquent accounts on active accounts has dropped from $85,717 to $38,433 in the first month.

There were 129 people on the disconnect list for December and 48 for January. “We currently still have 27 from the past two months who haven’t settled their accounts and who are still disconnected but we are assuming the remaining ones are out-of-town residents as we have not heard anything regarding them. As you can tell the disconnect policy has helped as the numbers have dropped a good bit,” said Town Clerk, Rebecca Shuler.

The town runs a delinquent report every month for the people who don’t pay their bills by the due date and they are sent a Disconnect Notice.

In December there were 520 delinquents and for January the number is 276. The next cut-off date is Feb. 7.

Though in November 2012 Frye outlined a procedure including contacting people by phone and not just by mail prior to disconnection, so far that hasn’t happened.

“We have not started courtesy calls yet. That will come in the next month or so. The new staff person is being trained on the system. Once that is complete we will start the courtesy calls,” he said.

Old Property Tax & Utility Delinquencies

The town has $34,998.85 in un-paid property tax bills that date back to 2000-’01.

This happened when the town transitioned from collecting its own taxes and began contracting with Macon County for property tax collection services.

Under State Law, the town can only attempt to collect an un-paid property tax bill less than 10 years old.

“As these bills are all older than the 10-year limit, they are uncollectible and there is no reason for us to continue to carry them on the books as an encumbrance. Our auditors recommend that we write these bills off so we can clear up the books,” said Frye. The board voted unanimously to do so.

... ACCOUNTS continued from page 1
The Agony and the Ecstasy

In Britain, they are often referred to by the colorful term “agonies.” In America, we call them advice columnists, and they’ve been around for years. These confessors have been looking into our souls for years, providing us with entertaining, thoughtful, and often hilarious, commentary on the human condition.

We recently lost one of our most famous advice columnists when Pauline Friedman Phillips – better known as “Dear Abby” – died last week. Interestingly, she had an identical twin sister, Esther Pauline Friedman, who was better known as the columnist Ann Landers. For years, the two sisters were engaged in an often bitter rivalry, each accusing the other of having stolen the idea of writing their column.

What draws us to these advice columns? Without a doubt, there is a certain schadenfreude – pleasure derived from the misfortune of others – involved. But I think there’s more to it than that. The universality of bratty children, hateful in-laws, and cheating husbands comforts us in the knowledge that we are not alone in dealing with these issues. It’s human nature to give advice to others, but to be blind to one’s own foibles and failings. Seeing others in situations similar to our own can bring a smile to our personal lives. And if they don’t bring enlightenment, they can certainly make us smile. To critics who claim that some letters must be fiction, I reply that you can’t possibly make it seem that several years later, the widower had decided to start dating again, and he did not feel comfortable bringing ladies into his bedroom with Ethyl still on the walls. The advice was brief and to the point: “Repaint the walls. Ethyl will understand.”

Another column was written by a woman who enjoyedfixing the morning meal in the nude, to the embarrassment of her spouse. Dear Abby’s advice was succinct and practical. She didn’t see any problem with breakfast in the buff, but “if you’re frying bacon, you might want to wear an apron.”

When I lived in Manhattan, circumstances put a very famous advice columnist in my path. As I sat in a communal waiting room, arriving early for an appointment with my primary care physician, I did a double-take as a tiny (47”), energetic woman breezed out of her office, and waited for the elevator. It turned out that my doctor’s next-door neighbor was Dr. Ruth Westheimer, the famous Dr. Ruth. As chance would have it, I had recently watched an A&E Biography of this very same woman! From the program, I knew that Dr. Ruth had lived in Paris for years, and had a degree from the Sorbonne. “Bonjour, Madame!” I called out. She spun around, and flashed me the most marvelous smile, coming over to exchange a few words. I mentioned the television program, and how I’d chuckled at her husband’s comments. The interviewer had said to her husband that it must be marvelous to be married to a famous sex therapist. He shook his head in dismay, muttering “The cobbler’s children have no shoes!”

It almost makes you wonder if history wouldn’t have been different if advice columns had existed years ago. Let me give you an example:

Dear Michie,
I am a normal girl from an otherwise ordinary family. Recently, however, I have started hearing voices telling me to form an army, and throw the English out of my country. I have also noticed an increasing desire to wear men’s clothing. Do you have any advice?

Joan, the Maid of Orleans

Dear Michie,
I am a popular college football player, and have recently found out that I have a non-existent girlfriend. People are laughing at me, and think I’m dumb. What do you think?

Manti

Dear Manti,
I know you must be feeling pretty stupid right now, but look on the bright side. As a professional football player, you are still going to be making millions of dollars in the future. No successful football player has ever been rejected for being too stupid. After all, nobody was counting on you to come up with the cure for cancer. You might want to try having a relationship with a real person this time, however. You might even like it. And don’t worry! Things could be worse. You could have had a fake marriage, and then you’d be a Kardashian.

Why, I might even write a letter myself. Why knows?

Dear Advice Columnist,
I write a column every other week for a local free newspaper. My late husband was very political, and loved to write controversial columns. Some people want to write the Great American novel. I don’t. I grew up on Erma Bombeck’s books, and all I’ve ever wanted to do was to entertain and amuse. Some folks think I should be more edgy and put my opinions out there more. While I’d love to get more letters from fans, I really couldn’t handle hate mail. Any advice?

Michie, from Highlands

Dear Michie,
Opinions are like butts. Everyone has one. If you don’t want to make an ass of yourself, keep doing what you’re doing.
would honk, wave and go around me.

As expected, several adults had lit a large fire with wood they had brought from home. Once we reached the top of the hill where the fire was crackling away, Frisky hopped off the sled and took up a sitting position near the fire where he would remain most of the day. I went right to work on my Flexible Flyer sled, checking the steering and getting the ropes just right.

The first run of the day was always the best. I decided since this was my first trip for this winter, I would avoid the hidden dip in the hill halfway down that would throw me into the air, slamming me into the deep snow as my empty sled continued its journey to the bottom. I hated it when wet snow went down my coat collar and onto my bare skin.

Hours later, I was cold and wet from the many trips down the Tyler Park slope. The fire had dwindled to just glowing coals and most all the adults had gone home. I always seemed to play too long and by the time I was exhausted and freezing wet, I still had the half-mile journey home. The trip home was always miserable.

Just as I left the park, a truck pulled over to the side of Baxter Ave. The male driver leaned over, cranking down the passenger window. He called out, “Hey, throw your sled in the back and I’ll give you a ride home.” Without hesitation, I did as he ordered and jumped in the front seat.

“When can my dog sit up here with me? I’ll keep him on the floor,” I promised. The driver nodded.

The heat inside the truck felt so good. I thought it would take a week for my toes to thaw. Never in a million years did I recognize the danger of my actions. Who knew? Halfway home, the driver said, “Your name is Freddy, right? You’ve waited on me several times. Your parents have good, inexpensive food. I should eat there more often.”

As the truck turned onto Hepburn Ave., I pointed to my house, thanked the man for the ride and hopped out. As he pulled away, I remembered I had not gotten his name. My dad always told me to ask the name of anyone who does you a favor. Since I forgot, I won’t tell him about this.

The End

“WOOLDRIDGE continued from page 4

would have come to the Town Board.

However, since definitions of “administrative” and “substantial” aren’t outlined in the UDO they are left up to interpretation.

Ham had 30 days to appeal the Town Board’s decision and on Jan. 4, 2013, he filed a suit against Mayor David Wilkes in Macon County Superior Court alleging “errors in legal procedure occurred.”

He alleges the Town Board wrongly took action when it upheld the Planning Board’s ruling without holding a public hearing on Dec. 6 which meant elected officials didn’t have the benefit of public input prior to making their decision. The court date is in February.

“ACCOUNTS continued from pg 9

Commissioner John Dotson was not present Thursday night.

Similarly, under state law, the town can only attempt to collect an unpaid utility bill that is less than three years old.

“We currently have $3,076.77 that is uncollectible due to having passed the three-year collection window so our auditors are recommending we write them off to get them off the books, as well,” said Frye.

The Town’s inactive utility accounts have a delinquent balance of $152,616 which town auditors want sent to Debt Setoff or

To Berek as an expense and a liability on the balance sheet. Frye said it may be necessary to appropriate additional funds from fund balance to cover these expenses.

Of that, $25,878.06 worth of bills are in bankruptcy, $90,691.28 are in the Debt Set Off Collection Program for recovery and $36,076.77 have passed the three-year collection window.

“It may prove necessary to write some of the above mentioned past due bills off at a later date,” he said.

Kim Lewicki

SPIRITUALLY continued from pg 8

cause what we find online may or may not be true. So what, right? I want to challenge us all to text less, Facebook less, chat online less, and meet face-to-face to establish personal relationships with one another.

So this week, I want you to take a friend out for coffee or a coke, and I want you to just sit and talk. I want you to turn off the TV at home and sit and talk to your spouse and children. It is amazing how a little face-to-face time will change your perspective and your attitude.

That is what I loved about Jesus. He went around meeting people face-to-face.

So go fishing; not catfishing, but people fishing. Try it and tell me how it works. It is amazing what human contact can do for your soul.

Kim Lewicki

UDO continued from page 5

Men’s & Women’s Clothing mostly
40% to 80% off.

Open 7 days a week

Jolie’s ... Highlands Fun Place to Shop!
446 Main Street
828-526-3963
You know us as RUNNERS, but don’t forget we are also NC REAL ESTATE BROKERS. You can count on us every step of the way to get you to the finish line. We train hard for races, and we will work equally hard for you!

Richard Betz 828-526-5213
Martha Betz 828-200-1411
Country Club Properties
betzrealtor@gmail.com

Cut n Patch Quilt Shop
Custom Quilts
Fabrics, Notions

526-9743 • Highlands
Please Call for hours & directions

Michael David Rogers
Native grown trees and plants
Erosion Control Specialist
Landscape Installation & Maintenance
515 Wyanoak Drive • Highlands
828-526-4946 or 828-200-0268
tinacrogers@frontier.com

Allan Dearth & Sons Generator
Sales & Service, Inc.
828-526-9325
Cell: 828-200-1139
e-mail: allandeart@msn.com

Larry Houston
Rock Work
Walls • Fireplaces • Patios • Piers
All Rock Work • Stucco
(828) 526-4138 or (828) 200-3551

Manley’s Towing Service
24-Hour Towing
Local and Long Distance Hauls
Owner-Operator James Popcorn Manley
526-0374 • 342-0583

J&J Lawn and Landscaping
Serving Highlands & Cashiers for 20 years!
Phone: 526-2251
Toll Free: 888-526-2251
Fax: 828-526-8764
Email: JJlawn1663@frontier.com
John Shearl, Owner • 1663 S. 4th St. Highlands

Grading & Excavating • Certified Clearwater Contractor
www.wilsongrading.com
Edwin Wilson
Phone (828) 526-4758
Cell (828) 421-3643
wilsongrading@yahoo.com

Cut n Patch Quilt Shop
Custom Quilts
Fabrics, Notions

526-9743 • Highlands
Please Call for hours & directions

Michael David Rogers
Native grown trees and plants
Erosion Control Specialist
Landscape Installation & Maintenance
515 Wyanoak Drive • Highlands
828-526-4946 or 828-200-0268
tinacrogers@frontier.com

Allan Dearth & Sons Generator
Sales & Service, Inc.
828-526-9325
Cell: 828-200-1139
e-mail: allandeart@msn.com

Larry Houston
Rock Work
Walls • Fireplaces • Patios • Piers
All Rock Work • Stucco
(828) 526-4138 or (828) 200-3551

Manley’s Towing Service
24-Hour Towing
Local and Long Distance Hauls
Owner-Operator James Popcorn Manley
526-0374 • 342-0583

J&J Lawn and Landscaping
Serving Highlands & Cashiers for 20 years!
Phone: 526-2251
Toll Free: 888-526-2251
Fax: 828-526-8764
Email: JJlawn1663@frontier.com
John Shearl, Owner • 1663 S. 4th St. Highlands

Grading & Excavating • Certified Clearwater Contractor
www.wilsongrading.com
Edwin Wilson
Phone (828) 526-4758
Cell (828) 421-3643
wilsongrading@yahoo.com

Cut n Patch Quilt Shop
Custom Quilts
Fabrics, Notions

526-9743 • Highlands
Please Call for hours & directions

Michael David Rogers
Native grown trees and plants
Erosion Control Specialist
Landscape Installation & Maintenance
515 Wyanoak Drive • Highlands
828-526-4946 or 828-200-0268
tinacrogers@frontier.com

Allan Dearth & Sons Generator
Sales & Service, Inc.
828-526-9325
Cell: 828-200-1139
e-mail: allandeart@msn.com

PRO CLEAN SERVICES
Pressure Cleaning & More
Commercial & Residential
Specials every day on:
• Window Cleaning
• Janitorial Services
• Auto Detailing
• Free Estimates

JEFF NASS, Owner
828-455-6307

Russell Marling & Chris Hall, owners, welcome Tudor Hall, service manager
**Classifieds**

**Residential / Commercial for Rent**

**Commercial Retail** – Main Street, Highlands. Call (828) 371-2583. (2/7)

**Home/Waterfront** – trout stream, HVAC, fireplace, hardwood floors, new carpet, free water & lawn care. $750. (678) 488-9677. (st. 1/24)

**Clean Duplex** – close to town. 2 bed, 1 bath. Appliances, garage. $750/month plus utilities and security deposit. Nonsmoking. Pets? Call 828-508-0664. (st. 1/10)

**Downtown Condo for Rent** – Spacious 2 bedroom, fireplace, wood floors and a great deck to enjoy the views. 6 month minimum call 828-421-4681. (st. 11/28)

**Large 4Br/3Ba Home** – Close to town. Handicap accessible with large circular drive with ample parking. Long term lease. Furnished or unfurnished. $2,000/mth. Call 808-443-7353. (st. 11/15)

**Professional Office Space Rent** – Includes broadband internet, of street parking easy access. Color copier scanner fax. $250 per month. Two blocks off Main St. Call 828-342-1621. (9/6)

**Architects Private Home with Stunning Features**

Three bedrooms plus den with three full baths, an open living area, two, stone fireplaces, three decks overlooking stream and private stocked trout pond. Full Privacy. Designer furnished. Walking distance to town. Rate dependant on term. Non smokers only; not pets. Deposit required. Weekly, monthly or yearly rental. Call 677-358-9675 or 770-639-2662. (st. 8/16)

**3 Br, 2 Bath Home on Lake Sequoyah** – Unfurnished. Dock and boats. Nonsmokers. $1,000/mth utilities. (pets?) Call Tony 828-332-7830. (st. 7/12)

**Commercial Main Street Location** with plenty of parking. Great for retail or office space. For more information call 828-342-9158. (st. 7/12)

**Items for Sale**

**Classical Guitar** – Excellent condition, used very little, soft case. 828-526-4201. (st. 12/20)

**Mountain Dulcimer** – Made in Kentucky, never played, instruction book, soft case. 828-526-4201. (st. 12/20)

**Services**

**Handyman Service** – Electrical, plumbing, pressure cleaning, painting, carpentry, yard work. References. Call Al Edgar at cell: 332-7271 or 369-6245. (2/14)

** Highlands Home Care** – Home monitoring and cleaning. Pet Sitting, and Baby Sitting. Highlands family operated for 20+ years, call 828-421-4681. (st. 11/28)


**House Cleaning, Yard Work & Honey-Do Projects** – Done by Highlands couple with references. 828-482-2060.

**Mold and Musty Smell in Your Home?** Call for free inspection. 828-743-0900

**Home Maid Cleaning Service** – Who doesn’t want a clean house? For quality work, friendly service and free estimates, give “Home Maid” a ring. (828) 371-1702 (st. 8/22)

**Professional Commercial and Residential Cleaning** by Rondel Contract Services. Call today for all your cleaning needs. 828-342-4546. Ask for Paul. (st. 5/17)

**Crawlspace Moisture Problems?** Musty smell in your home? Call 828-787-1673. (st. 4/28)

HCP’s ‘Social Security’ cast hard at work

The Highlands Cashiers Players (HCP) will present their winter play, “Social Security,” February 21-24, and March 1-3, at the Performing Arts Center in Highlands. This appealing comedy, directed by Mary Adair Leslie, has been popular with audiences ever since it opened on Broadway in 1986 and will provide enough laughter to warm up the coldest winter season. Tickets will go on sale mid-February. Now in rehearsals, the cast includes Marsha Shmalo, Stuart Armor, Lance Trudel, Jennifer Royce (standing left to right), and Dean Zuch (kneeling) next to Nancy Gaddy (seated in chair).

Exhibitions, after-school activities, workshops at The Bascom

A sure cure for the winter doldrums is a visit to The Bascom. Whether for young or old, Highlands’ innovative visual arts center offers creative stimulations for everyone. And, before March 31, for members only, there’s an early bird discount of 10% off regular registration fees for all adult workshops and classes. Classes going on now through March include ceramics, creative writing, painting, printmaking and mixed media. Check out all of the possibilities at our updated website, www.thebascom.org or through the beautiful new 2013 catalogue, available free at The Bascom. Whether for young or old, Highlands’ innovative visual arts center offers creative stimulations for everyone. And, before March 31, for members only, there’s an early bird discount of 10% off regular registration fees for all adult workshops and classes. Classes going on now through March include ceramics, creative writing, painting, printmaking and mixed media. Check out all of the possibilities at our updated website, www.thebascom.org or through the beautiful new 2013 catalogue, available free at The Bascom.

Mark your calendar for the always-popular Barn Dance on Saturday, March 23, from 7 to 10 p.m. There will be country, contra, square dancing and more, complete with live bluegrass music and a world-class caller.

On view through March 10 is Polly Knipp Hill: Marking a Life Through Etching. This fascinating collection of works shows architectural scenes of Europe and glimpses of ordinary folks in the mountains and in Florida. Also, enjoy the art created by members of 14 arts organizations in Regional Arts Organizations: Selected Works. These groups foster artistic excellence and professionalism by promoting support of their members.

The Bascom is open year-round, Monday through Saturday, 10 am to 5 pm, and Sunday, noon to 5 pm. Visit www.TheBascom.org or call (828) 526-4949.

Police & Fire Reports

Highlands PD log entries from Dec. 29. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor, or public officials have been used.

Dec. 29
• At 5:20 p.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident at 1st and Main Street.

Jan. 1
• At 8 a.m., officers investigated a call about 24-hour parking on Main Street.

Jan. 3
• At 11:45 a.m., officers responded to Perquin Road regarding the death of a woman who appeared to have died in her bed.

Jan. 4
• At 11:59 p.m., two worthless checks in the amount of $230 and $260 were presented at the Farmers Market at Main and NC 106 by a 31-year-old male.

Jan. 6
• At 1 p.m., a burglary with forcible entry was reported at a home on Upper Brushy Face Road.
• At 10 p.m., nonpayment of a bill for $97.35 ws reported at The Lost Hiker.

Jan. 9
• At 8 a.m., officers responded to a call about a burglary with forcible entry and larceny from On The Veranda restaurant on US 64 west where handtools valued at $200 was taken in addition to $60 cash.

Jan. 15
• At 8:40 a.m., Joshua Warren McDowell, 31, of Highlands, NC, was arrested for failure to appear concerning an insurance violation for a previous drug charge. A secured bond of $500 was set. His trial date is March 6.

Jan. 16
• At 11:15 a.m., a breaking and entering of a residence on N. 4th Street was reported.

Jan. 17
• At 11 p.m., fraud/impersonation was reported when a woman’s sales tax number was used at 21 Steps Steakhouse to purchase $50,000 in items.

Jan. 18
• At 12:50 p.m., Tawny Perez, 20, of Scaly Mountain, NC, was arrested for possessing stolen property, accessory after the fact. An unsecured bond was set for $6,000. Her trial date was Jan. 28.
• During the week 3 citations were issued.

The Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. log entries from Jan. 16

Jan. 16
• At 9:51 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a call at a residence on Sassafrass Gap Road.

Jan. 18
• At 1:52 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm on Hudson Road. It was false.
• At 1:33 p.m., the dept. provided mutual aid to Cashiers FD and stoodby at their station while they fought a structure fire on Lost Trail.
• At 12:37 p.m., the dept. responded to a one-vehicle accident on US 64 west.

Jan. 19
• At 9:45 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to Clubhouse Trail to assist EMS.

Jan. 20
• At 9:40 a.m., the dept. provided mutual aid to Cashiers FD while they fought a structure fire.

Upcoming Events

Tuesday, Feb. 5
• The Highlands Dialogue Winter-Spring discussion series continues on Tuesday at the Hudson Library from 10–11:30 a.m. The topic: “Jefferson, Militias, the Second Amendment and its Possible Irrelevance for Private Gun Ownership.” Handout available at the Library. Coordinator: Rodney Roe.

Tuesdays, Feb. 12 to April 30
• A 12-week course designed for family members of individuals with serious mental illness. It will help you learn to cope successfully with this major challenge in your life, and that, in turn, will help your love one as he/she works toward recovery. Topics include facts about brain disorders, medications, communication techniques, problem-solving, stress reduction, community services and advocacy. Trained volunteers with lived experience teach Family-to-Family. All materials are provided free. Class size is limited. Free for families & friends of individuals with: Clinical Depression, Schizophrenia, Bipolar Disorder, Panic Disorder, Obsessive Compulsive Disorder, PTSD, Borderline Personality Disorder and Co-occurring Addictive Disorders. 6:30 to 8:30p. Pre-registration required. Call Ann 828-369-7385 or Mary Ann 828 524-1355.

Thursday, Feb. 14
• The League of Women Voters of Macon County will sponsor a program with County Commission Chair, Kevin Corbin. Mr. Corbin who will provide an update on important issues and plans for the coming year. The program will be at Tartan Hall in the Presbyterian Church in Franklin. Attendees are welcome to bring a bag lunch. The public is invited.

Tuesday, Feb 19

Saturday, March 23
• At The Bascom, Barn Dance from 7-10 p.m. Call 526-4949 for information.