

# Highlands Newspaper

FREE Every Thursday

Volume 11, Number 4

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

Thurs., Jan 23, 2014

## TB makes board appts.; tables ABC board appt.

*Allegations by ABC Store employees concerning board behavior causes TB to pause*

Board appointments at Town Board meetings are usually OK'd with little fanfare, but last Thursday the issue got more airtime than usual.

Michael Rogers was reappointed to the Zoning Board for his second term – by NC statute members are allowed two, three-year terms.

Term limits for the town's other boards aren't mandated; and last year the board adopted the one-year policy so each January members can either be reappointed

or new members appointed.

Applications for the Planning board included Ashley Hagan-Binder, David Bee, Sam Edgens,

•See APPTS. page 4

• INSIDE •	
Letters.....	2
Dining.....	4
Investing at 4,118 Ft. ....	7
Spiritually Speaking.....	10
Service Directory.....	12
Police & Fire Report.....	13
Classifieds.....	14

## Landscaping awards questioned

Town mowing and landscaping bids are usually "no news" items at Town Board meetings, but last Thursday, there was a lot to say on the subject.

Town Manager Bob Frye said to get the best price, the town bids the jobs out and normally the town awards the bids to the lowest bidder.

Bids are for contracts for Highlands Recreation Park properties, Zachary Park, Highlands Memorial Park (the cemetery), Town General Landscaping and Kelsey-Hutchinson Park.

Town Attorney J.K. Coward said by NC law the town wasn't required to bid out landscaping contracts but since that is the town's policy, he suggested the commission consider the awards carefully.

"There is a possible conflict of interest with one of the low bidders," he said. "There is an active lawsuit with the town in Shearl vs. Town of Highlands and Shearl [J&J Landscaping] is one of your bidders. I am not recommending that he be removed from the bidding process, I am just

•See AWARDS page 11

## PB to consider extending downtown parking restrictions

A 'changing' Highlands initiated discussion about extending downtown parking restrictions through the end of each year.

At the Jan. 16 Town Board meeting, Jerry Moore, owner of Kilwins in Town Square on Main Street said a bustling downtown through the holidays warrants changes to the parking restrictions.

"Highlands is changing. In

eight years, I've watched the months of November and December get significantly busier, especially on the weekends -- Friday and Saturday in December and just before Christmas well into Jan. 5th or 6th depending upon when kids from Georgia and surrounding areas go back to school," he said. "One thing that frustrated me this December, particularly on the weekends, was so many employees of shops and owners parked on Main Street. About 25 cars that I knew of belonged to merchants."

Moore said people won't do their Christmas shopping if they can't pull in and get a parking space especially if it is raining – which happened twice on weekends toward the end of the year.

"On December 30, I was

•See PARKING page 2



Fireman of the year, David Leffler with Fire Chief Ryan Gearhart at the annual Highlands Fire & Rescue Award Dinner Saturday night.

## Fireman of the Year and more subject of annual awards banquet

At the Jan. 18 annual fire department awards dinner, volunteers and guests enjoyed a meal prepared by Bob and Kristy Lewis of The Sports Page and much needed down time together.

Each year the department recognizes their own where the Fireman of the Year is declared, years of service recognized, as well as officers and those with perfect attendance at the weekly meetings held every Tuesday night.

This year David Leffler was voted Fireman of the Year by his peers. Chief Ryan Gearhart said

he epitomizes all that is good in the department and "leads by example."

Service pins and certificates were presented to five, 10, 15 and 30 year members – Chris Barden, Hunter Leffler and Ryan Perkins have served for five years; Buddy Miller has served for 10 years, Jim Tate and Ryan Gearhart have served for 15 years and Gary Ammons has served for 30 years.

New members to the department were welcomed – Kelly Dendy, Eric Fielding, Robby Reed, Austin Reese, Seth Schmitt

•See FIRE page 3

## SBI called in to investigate MC BOE

Last Thursday evening, Jan. 16, 2013, Macon County Sheriff Robert L. Holland was contacted by County Manager Derek Roland regarding some questionable business practices and some possible irregularities with some records from the county Board of Election's Office.

Sheriff Holland met Roland and County Attorney Chester Jones at the County Board of Election's office and after a brief investigation recommended the locks be changed to deny access to the office until further notice.

Friday morning there was another meeting which included the county manager, the county Finance Director Lori Hall, the county attorney and Sheriff Holland who recommended that the State Board of Elections be contacted as well as the District Attorney's Office. Holland also requested the assistance of the State Bureau of Investigations (SBI). It agreed and has initiated its investigation.

The Sheriff's Office will not release any other information regarding this matter and all other inquiries should be directed to the SBI's Asheville Office or the District Attorney's Office.

"At my request, the SBI is

•See SBI page 11

The  
**SUMMER HOUSE**  
*'Home Furnishing Center'*  
Mon.-Sat. 9-5  
2089 Highway 106  
828-526-5577

# • THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

## • LETTERS •

### Shining a light on God, part 2

Bob Lambert's letter in the January 9<sup>th</sup> issue of the Highlands Newspaper was well written and thoughtful, which tells me that it just might be possible for religion and science to find some common ground.

We must, however, keep in mind that other religions have their own Holy Books so the Bible is not unique.

There is another factor that one must consider and that is the religion we belong to is entirely a matter of where we were born. We have no choice either while still in the womb or as children and God certainly does not play games with human life. If you were born in Saudi Arabia, you most certainly would be a Muslim and understanding this requires us to keep an open mind.

When we refer to science, we must also keep in mind that science represents what we know about the world and universe around us, keeping in mind that new science discoveries occur almost daily.

Since the known universe is governed by the laws of physics no one can break, it seems to me dangerous to ascribe magic to God and this is where we have problems with the Bible as translated. (Or the Torah or Koran for that matter) Does God really need magic in order to function? Would it not be better to assume that God simply uses the laws of physics much in the same manner as we did when we invented airplanes or electromagnetism but with far more knowledge than we currently possess?

Surely a God learned in physics need not resort to magic. Even the inference of magic takes us into a treacherous path logical people resist. In one African country recently a goat was jailed for stealing a car because the local people believed that the goat was really a man who turned into a goat to escape the police. This is what magic brings us when we ignore science.

Every new discovery draws us closer to God which should be our ultimate goal, to understand God, and I firmly believe that that's what She wants. (We only assume God is a man because ancient tribal leaders thought of women as inferior)

At this time in human history, we aren't doing too well when it comes to finding peace on this planet and much of the division involves religion and it looks like things are going to get a lot worse be-

fore they get better. A world religion based on science and knowledge, free of magic, could prevent turning ourselves into toast and going extinct.

I've seen no empirical evidence that God has given us any instructions for around 2,000 years which implies that if we are to have a destiny for ourselves, it's going to be up to us to make that destiny and the way to do so is to understand nature and the sciences, both of which are probably God anyway."

Bob Wilson  
Franklin, NC

### The unemployment rate

Are you concerned if you are in your 50s or late 40s that the social security fund

could be running out of money a lot sooner than you think?

In December only 74,000 people found jobs and some of those may have been part-time jobs. The USA is going into the sixth year of high unemployment. Millions have left the work force which means they have not been putting money into the fund. Employers only pay into the fund when people are employed. Yet thousands of people could have been working building the Keystone Pipe Line and drilling for oil and natural gas. We could have been well on our way to being energy self-sufficient. Instead of putting millions on welfare and food stamps we could have hired people to build roads and bridges.

We will never be able to recover all of the lost money that could have gone into the Social Security fund had we put people

to work. In November let's elect people who believe in putting people to work. Keeping social security solvent should be a high priority for all of us, especially if you are counting on it.

Jim Mueller  
Glenville, NC

## • THANK YOU •

### From the Owens Family

Words cannot describe the gratitude we feel during the passing of our dear mother, Martha Munger Owens. For all the prayers, kind words and generosity expressed by our community, the wonderful bounty provided by Bryson's Food Store and many friends and family members, the amazing performance by Gibby and Savannah Shaheen and the special eulogy presented by both Oliver Rice and Clinton Owens. We are blessed beyond words to live in a community that will always hold us up when we are weak and hope that we can display the same kindness in return. Thank you for honoring my mother's memory in a way we will never forget.

### ...PARKING continued from page 1

heading out of town and I was amazed at how many cars were coming into town; it was like summer. I think it would behoove us to consider extending restrictions until the end of the year – only 30 more days. Parking is already restricted through November," said Moore. "The town is changing and we are getting more and more visitors. Obviously it's not an issue now, but April through December merchants and employees should stay off Main Street."

Moore said he has asked shop owners why they are parking on Main Street on a Saturday when there are still plenty of people in town and they say, "It's all right to park here now."

"Of course, that's true, but logically it's not a good idea because they are keeping people from coming into their shops," he said.

Currently merchants and their employees are restricted from parking in designated areas on Main Street, S. 4<sup>th</sup> Street, parts of 5<sup>th</sup>, Church and Third streets so there will be convenient and

## LETTERS-TO-THE EDITOR-POLICY

We reserve the right to reject or edit submissions.

**NO ANONYMOUS LETTERS WILL BE ACCEPTED.**

Views expressed are not necessarily those of Highlands Newspaper. Please EMAIL letters by Sunday at 5 p.m. There is a 500-word limit without prior approval.

Over 10 Years Of PDFs Now Searchable

Go To [www.HighlandsInfo.com](http://www.HighlandsInfo.com)

## Highlands Newspaper LLC

"Our Community Service - A Free Local Newspaper"

FREE every Thursday on the street and on the web;  
Circulation 10,000

Toll Free FAX: 866-212-8913 • (828) 526-3228

Email: [HighlandsEditor@aol.com](mailto:HighlandsEditor@aol.com)

Publisher/Editor – Kim Lewicki; Reporter: Brittany Burns

Copy Editor – Glenda Bell; Digital Media - Jim Lewicki

Locally owned and operated Kim & Jim Lewicki

Adobe PDF version at [www.HighlandsInfo.com](http://www.HighlandsInfo.com)

265 Oak St.; P.O. Box 2703, Highlands, N.C., 28741

All Rights Reserved. No articles, photos, illustrations, advertisements or design elements may be used without permission from the publisher.



• See PARKING page 8

# ...FIRE continued from page 1

and Taylor Parrish. They bring the department total to 28 members.

For 24 years running Roger L. Wilson has had perfect attendance; joining him this year was Jimmy Petrone and Jason Tardo.

Bob Houston, who is retiring after 50 years of service with the department was presented several plaques and words of appreciation from the department, Highlands Mayor Pat Taylor, President of the Macon County Fire Commission Dave Cabe, Fire Marshall Jimmy Teem, Director of Emergency Dispatch Todd Seagle and past chief James "Popcorn" Manley.

"Bob is the backbone of the fire department and he will be missed," said Manley who retired last year after 33 years

of service. "You made me what I am today. Congratulations for all the years you served. I love you."

The total number of calls for 2013 was 478 an increase of 47 calls from 2012; fire related calls including alarms was 248 of that total – 25 more than in 2012.

There were 92 calls within the town limits and 156 calls outside the town limits.

Rescue and first-responder calls came in at 230 – an increase of 22 from 2012. Calls within the town limits were 106 and outside 124.

Major equipment purchases included a 2013 Chevy utility service truck, an all-purpose gas detector and two portable generators.

Concerning annual training and man-

• See FIRE page 13



On Saturday night, the HF&R department, the town, the MC Fire Commission, the MC Fire Marshall and the MC Emergency Dispatch honored Bob Houston for 50 years of service. He is retiring at the end of the month. Left, Mayor Pat Taylor presents Bob with a plaque of appreciation. Below: President of the MC Fire Commission Dave Cabe, Fire Marshall Jim Teem and Director of MC Emergency Dispatch Todd Seagle presented Bob with a plaque. Photos by Kim Lewicki



2014 Officers front from left: Chief Ryan Gearhart, 1st Lt. Roger L. Wilson, Secretary Lenny Metrick, Rescue Capt. Jim Tate. Back from left: Asst. Chief Robbie Forrester, Fire Captain Matthew Wilson, 2nd Lt. Jimmy Petrone and Rescue Capt. Eric Pierson.



From left: Jimmy Petrone, Roger L. Wilson and Jason Tardo were recipients of Perfect Attendance awards.



**THE BASCOM**  
A CENTER FOR THE VISUAL ARTS

323 Franklin Road  
Highlands, NC 28741  
828-526-4949  
[www.thebascom.org](http://www.thebascom.org)

## New Exhibitions @ The Bascom



**Regional Art Leagues**

**The Bascom Instructors**

**The Bascom Youth Instructors**

**January 11 to March 30**

**January 18 to April 13**

**January 18 to April 13**

The Bascom is open 7 days a week and exhibitions are always free.

# • HIGHLANDS DINING •

## ...APPTS. from page 1

Dan Chapman, Dixie Barton, Mary Bynum, Tony Potts, Thomas Craig, Glenda Bell, Alan Marsh, Steve Abranyi III, Chris Boltz, and Patrick Leonard.

The only person not reappointed for 2014 was Alan Marsh. Landscape architect Ashley Hagan Binder was recommended to take his place. Commissioners voted 4 to 1 to accept the Planning Department's recommendation.

Commissioner Donnie Calloway voted against Hagan-Binder's appointment on the grounds that she is too new to town.

She and her husband have lived in Highlands over a year – which is a stipulation when applying to boards.

Planning Director Josh Ward said that according to her application she has a lot of experience in design work. Since the Planning Board has assumed the duties of the dissolved Appearance Commission, her background was considered useful.

Commissioner Eric Pierson said the Land Use Committee (he and Commissioner John Dotson are on the Land Use Committee) took her background into consideration.

"It is pretty extensive and we are trying to get different aspects on boards. Besides these are just one year terms so boards can change next year," he said.

The 2014 Planning Board is Tony Potts, Thomas Craig, Glenda Bell, Steve Abranyi, Chris Boltz, Patrick Leonard and Ashley Hagan-Binder.

Susie deVille and Jack Calloway were reappointed to the Scholarship Committee.

### ABC Board

Georgia Sanders' term on the ABC Board has expired, but the board agreed to table the pending appointment due to concerns about that board.

According to ABC Board minutes, disputes among ABC Board members and employees about employee duties, manager duties, hours of employment, as well as conduct during board meetings have been brewing since January 2013. At that time board member Jack Calloway suggested the newspapers attend meetings to ensure they are conducted in a civil manner.

"ABC Board meetings have become so contentious that having an outside agency present would hopefully mean that discussion of issues would be carried out in a

• See APPTS. page 6

Hand-tossed - thick, thin, pan  
Gluten-free & Whole Wheat, too

# The Pizza Place

Main St. • Highlands, NC  
Elevation 4118

6"•10"•14"•16"•20"pies

Specialty Sandwiches, Hot Dogs & Salads,  
Domestic & Imported Beers  
Open 7 days a week from 11 a.m.  
365 Main Street • 526-5660



Coffee • Espresso Drinks  
Smoothies • Frozen Yogurt  
Paninis • Baked Goods  
On Main Street  
7 days a week • 7a to 6p • 526-0020

Featuring WEEKLY SPECIALS and  
refreshing drinks in our  
Rainforest Margarita & Mojito Bar!  
Go to [www.elaztecahighlands.com](http://www.elaztecahighlands.com)  
for more information.

**THE RAINFOREST**  
MOJITO & MARGARITA BAR  
&  
**El Azteca**  
Mexican Restaurant  
*your clubhouse in the mountains*

Serving Lunch & Dinner

70 Highlands Plaza NC 28741 Reservations 828-526-2244  
[WWW.ELAZTECAHIGHLANDS.COM](http://WWW.ELAZTECAHIGHLANDS.COM)



828-526-4035

Serving Lunch and Dinner Year-Round!  
Gourmet Foods, Full Service Bar  
NEW LOCATION in Town Square at 343-D Main St.



Serving Lunch Daily  
11:30a to 4p  
(Closed Wednesday)  
Serving Dinner  
Mon-Sat, beginning at  
5:30p  
(Closed Wednesday)



Winter Hours: Tues.-Sun. 5-9p

# Cyprus

International Cuisine

THE MOST EXCITING DINING DESTINATION IN HIGHLANDS!

526-4429 • Dinner Nightly 5pm-10pm  
Open Late on Weekends • NC 106, Dillard Shopping Center

# Caffé REL

"It's about the food!"  
Pasta Sandwiches Sauté

**Annual Winter/Spring Vacation**

**Closing:** Wednesday, January 29th

**Re-Opening:** Wednesday, February 12th

**Resuming Our Winter Hours:**

**Open**

Wednesday through Saturday

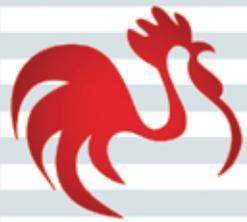
11a to 8p

(Closed Sunday, Monday and Tuesday)

Follow us at [www.Facebook.com/CaffeRel](http://www.Facebook.com/CaffeRel)  
for weekly specials and updates.

459 East Main Street, Franklin, NC 28734

**828-369-9446**



# MOUNTAIN FRESH GROCERY

## COOKING FOR HIGHLANDS

BREAKFAST • LUNCH • DINNER • GRILL  
WOOD FIRE PIZZA • COFFEE ROASTER  
ESPRESSO • WINE • CRAFT BEER • BUTCHER  
ARTISAN CHEESE • OIL AND VINEGAR

### BREAKFAST

FULL BREAKFAST MADE TO ORDER EVERY MORNING UNTIL 10:30 FRESH EGGS, WAFFLES, FRENCH TOAST BACON, SAUSAGE, HAM BISCUITS, MUFFINS, CROISSANTS ESPRESSO BAR AND COFFEE ROASTED IN-HOUSE

### LUNCH

#### GRILL

MONDAY THROUGH SATURDAY STARTING AT 11:00 UNTIL CLOSE, SUNDAYS FROM 11:00 TO 4:00 FRESH ANGUS BURGERS FRESH NATURAL CHICKEN BREASTS CHICKEN TENDERS COOKED TO ORDER HAND CUT FRIES, SALADS, HOMEMADE SOUPS, DAILY SPECIALS

#### DELI

SERVING ALL DAY FRESH CUT NATURAL MEATS, HOMEMADE DELI SALADS PANINI, MELTS, HOMEMADE POTATO CHIPS, DAILY SOUP SPECIALS

#### WOOD FIRE PIZZA OVEN

EVERY DAY FROM 11:00 TO CLOSE AUTHENTIC NEAPOLITAN PIZZA MADE FROM SCRATCH FRESH MOZZARELLA, BASIL, CRUSHED TOMATOES HOMEMADE ITALIAN SAUSAGE, PANCETTA, AND DAILY SPECIALS

### SUNDAY SKILLET FRIED CHICKEN

EVERY SUNDAY FROM 11:00AM UNTIL WE SELL OUT FRESH ORGANIC HAND CUT, HAND BREADED CHICKEN COOKED IN A CAST IRON SKILLET. SERVED WITH GREEN BEANS, MASHED POTATOES AND GRAVY WITH A WARM HONEY BISCUIT...\$8.95

### DINNER TO GO

A DIFFERENT FULL DINNER EVERY NIGHT. SERVES FOUR SERVING MONDAY THROUGH SATURDAY FROM 4.30 UNTIL WE SELL OUT - CALL AHEAD TO RESERVE

**MONDAY:** CHOOSE EITHER: FOUR CHICKEN AND FOUR CHEESE ENCHILADAS REFRIED BEANS, MONTEREY RICE, HOMEMADE TORTILLA CHIPS, SALSA, SHREDDED LETTUCE, TOMATOES, SOUR CREAM **OR...** 24 BUFFALO WINGS OR 2 LBS CHICKEN TENDERS AND HAND CUT FRIES \$18.95 SERVES FOUR

**TUESDAY:** MADE IN-HOUSE ITALIAN SAUSAGE LASAGNA AND A LARGE HOUSE SALAD \$18.95 SERVES FOUR

**WEDNESDAY:** CHICKEN OR STEAK POT PIE AND A LARGE SALAD \$18.95 SERVES FOUR

**THURSDAY:** ROASTED MEATLOAF WITH MASHED POTATOES, GRAVY AND A LARGE SALAD \$18.95 SERVES FOUR

**FRIDAY:** WILD CAUGHT FRIED SHRIMP, BAKED POTATOES, HUSH PUPPIES, AND COLESLAW \$21.95 SERVES FOUR

**SATURDAY:** IN-HOUSE SMOKED BBQ, COLESLAW, APPLE & BACON BAKED BEANS, AND YEAST ROLLS \$18.95 SERVES FOUR

MONDAY THROUGH THURSDAY: TWO WOOD FIRE PIZZAS, FOUR HAND-MADE BREAD STICKS WITH HOUSE TOMATO SAUCE, AND A HOUSE SALAD \$19.99 SERVES FOUR

### WINE MARKET

AN EXCELLENT, COMPREHENSIVE SELECTION OF WINE WITH THE BEST PRICES IN TOWN, AND RUN BY A KNOWLEDGEABLE STAFF. BEER AND WINE AVAILABLE BY THE GLASS WHILE YOU SHOP AND DINE.

### PREPARED FOODS

A LARGE SELECTION OF TAKE-AWAY ITEMS FULLY PREPARED, READY TO TAKE HOME INCLUDING GRILLED PORK LOINS, HOME MADE MAC AND CHEESE, MASHED POTATOES, HERB RUBBED CHICKEN, MADE IN HOUSE BBQ, CHICKEN SALAD DELI SALADS AND MUCH MORE

### BUTCHER

WE SELL ONLY 100% PREMIUM ANGUS BEEF, HAND CUT IN HOUSE. STOCK UP FOR THE WEEKEND EVERY THURSDAY WITH 35% ALL STEAKS AND GROUND BEEF. THEN STOP BY THE TAKE OUT CASE TO COMPLETE YOUR DINNER WITH TWICE BAKED POTATOES, FRESH SALADS AND MORE.

### ARTISAN OIL AND VINEGAR

OVER 40 EXTRA VIRGIN OLIVE OILS AND VINEGARS TO CHOOSE FROM - ALL AVAILABLE TO SAMPLE.

### SPECIALTY CHEESES

DOZENS OF CHEESES, TAPENADES, OLIVES AND SPECIALTY ITEMS TO CHOOSE FROM INCLUDING OUR MADE IN HOUSE CRACKERS.

MOUNTAIN FRESH GROCERY

OPEN MONDAY THROUGH SATURDAY 7AM TO 8PM, SUNDAY 8AM TO 6PM

CORNER OF FIFTH & MAIN, HIGHLANDS NC • 828.526.2400 • www.mfgro.com

**The  
Pizza  
PLACE**  
Main St. • Highlands, NC  
Elevation 4118



## Pizza

### Specialty Pizzas

Greek Pizza, Philly  
Steak, Taco Pizza, White,  
Meat Lovers, Fajita,  
Vegetarian,  
Veggie Medley,  
Chicken Alfredo,  
Chicken & Pear White  
Pizza, BBQ, Margarita,  
Hawaiian BBQ, Mamma  
Mia Cranberry, Sicilian,  
Buffalo Chicken and  
Jalapeno Popper Pizza.

6" 10" 14" 16" 20"  
*Hand-tossed, Pan,  
Thin, Gluten-free and  
Whole Wheat crust.*

### Appetizers

- \* Breadsticks
- \* Garlic Bread
- \* Pizza Sticks
- Mozzarella Sticks
- Wings



### Oven-roasted Sandwiches

Grinder, Meatball Sub, Pizza  
Sub, Italian Steak, Italian  
Sausage, Cold Italian,  
Veggie, French Dip,  
Plowboy, Flatbread Veggie,  
Gyro, Muffaletta, Turkey  
Bacon Ranch, BBQ Steak  
and BBQ and Cheddar Sub  
& more!

**A Variety of  
Fresh Salads!**



### House Specialties *Calzone & Lasagna*



Open 7 days a week from 11 a.m.  
365 Main Street, 828-526-5660

*Domestic and Imported Beers!*

more professional manner," he said at the January 2013 meeting. "A way to keep the newspapers from attending meetings is for those in attendance to remember that members may not have the same opinion about all issues, but each member deserves the right to express his/her opinions as well as make motions as they see fit. As with any board, the majority rules when a vote is taken."

(It should be noted that ABC Board meetings are open meetings and as such the press and the public can't be barred from attending.)

During the Town Board's public comment period last May and again Thursday night, January 16, 2014, two ABC employees requested time to speak about issues at the ABC Store.

In May, then Mayor David Wilkes and Thursday, Mayor Pat Taylor, both denied the request on the grounds that the Town Board doesn't oversee activities at the ABC Store; it only appoints board members.

Though store manager Sandra Baty wasn't permitted to discuss concerns at the May Town Board meeting, the minutes from the May 2013 ABC Board meeting indicate that Baty and Finance Officer Skip Keener said they attended the May Town Board meeting to express concern about the possibility of the number of employees' hours being cut from 40 hours a week to 30 hours a week.

Last Thursday night, Assistant Manager Lisa Talley presented a letter to each board member and the mayor saying "there are some issues that need to be resolved."

Her letter outlines conduct at a Special Called ABC Board meeting on January 7, 2014 in which she accuses board member Jack Calloway of conduct unbecoming a board member – specifically cursing – conduct which she and Manager Baty consider grounds for removal. She says the outburst was heard in the sales room, as verified by Baty when a customer approached her about what they heard.

However, neither person was allowed to voice their concerns at Thursday's Town Board meeting.

"This board doesn't supervise employees. We do appoint the board that supervises you but it isn't appropriate for us to discuss personnel issues," said Mayor Pat Taylor. "With that said, we are aware of the paper you just shared with us and we will be meeting and looking at the concerns that have been expressed by different people."

However, Baty told the board that according to the ABC Commission, the Town Board both appoints members to the ABC Board and can also remove them. At the regular January ABC Board

meeting held Wednesday, Jan. 15, 2014 at the store, the minutes of the Jan. 7 Special Called meeting were presented but not accepted because according to Baty the one-sentence minutes were incomplete and didn't properly disclose the goings on at the meeting. Secretary Brenda Pierson, who prepared the minutes because recording secretary Jerry Talley wasn't able to attend the Special Called meeting, said she didn't know how "diplomatic" she should be concerning the verbal exchanges that took place that day. On the 15th, Baty called Assistant Manager Talley in to substantiate her claim concerning the incomplete minutes and the exchange between board members on the 7th.

Talley, who was in her adjoining office during the Jan. 7 meeting, said "she felt very uncomfortable overhearing the profanity."

"I went out to the showroom to wait on a customer and shut the door behind me all the while hearing him [Jack Calloway] continue ranting and cursing," she said.

However, a copy of the amended Jan. 7 minutes, which will be considered at the regular February ABC Board meeting, outlines unbecoming behavior of both Georgia Sanders and Jack Calloway. Due to profane language allegedly uttered by both, the meeting ended with Secretary Brenda Pierson saying she didn't feel like listening to this and refused to remain at the table "mainly in fear of what would happen next." She walked out first followed by Calloway and Sanders, according to the amended minutes. Pierson prepared the amended minutes as requested on the 15th.

The contentious changes in the ABC Store personnel policy, which according to Calloway would be one way to bring costs down, were precipitated by the pending Cashiers ABC Store, which has yet to break ground.

At the regular January ABC Board meeting, Baty said that since Calloway has been on the board numerous policies have been changed. "If what we are doing was good enough for David Wilkes, Eric Pierson, Lynn Magner, Mike Thompson and Georgia Sanders why isn't it good enough for Jack Calloway?" she asked. "If it's something personal you should put it under the table."

Calloway said changes have nothing to do with displeasure with Baty whatsoever. "It has to do with the items I put in writing in a memo in Oct. 2012 – things I thought could improve the operation of the store."

When Baty asked just what he wanted improved he said the board has already made some improvements. "For one thing we have cut employee hours by 25%."

Baty went on to say in her 27 years at the store she has never been so put down

# • INVESTING AT 4,118 FT. •

## Highlands Real Estate Market Report for 2013

Usually it gets pretty quiet for real estate when the weather gets cold, but thanks in no small part to the Old Edwards Inn and Spa, weekends during November and December were packed with shoppers and those looking for a respite from the hustle and bustle of big cities. Thus, we continued to remain busy and productive through the end of the year.

As Realtors, we are often asked about the changes in the real estate market from year to year. I am passing on the statistics since 2008, thanks to Judy Michaud, Owner/Broker of Meadows Mountain Realty. These were taken from the Highlands-Cashiers MLS as of the end of December for Highlands Township single family residential sales:

Year	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Number of sales	95	103	77	102	121	155
Days on market	294	1166	619	528	513	430
Median price	\$490,500	\$550,000	\$550,000	\$440,000	\$425,000	\$399,000
Avg. price	\$676,757	\$688,179	\$679,078	\$572,129	\$565,586	\$572,481
List to sale ratio	89.08%	87.29%	86.52%	86.68%	87.27%	88.21%
Foreclosures/ Short sales	0	11	8	27	29	20

As you can see, although the number of sales are continuing to increase year over year along with the list to sale ratio, prices have not rebounded and actually the median prices have declined. We expect that this trend will continue until our inventory of unsold homes begins to decrease.

Following is the breakdown by price range for 2013 residential closed sales compared to 2012.

Highlands	2013	2012
	\$300K and under	52
\$301K-\$500K	48	30
\$501K-\$750K	21	30
\$751K-\$1M	13	4
\$1M-\$2M	16	18
\$2M and over	5	0
Totals	155	121

In addition to the sales above, currently there are 13 homes which are either under contract or pending. Looking back at our banner year of 2007, there were 165 sales with an average selling price of \$815,580 and a median price of \$550,000, with a 91.78% list to sale ratio and an average of 240 days on market. We have a long way to go with pricing to come even close to those numbers. I believe we have a couple more years of soft prices.

There were 32 land sales last year, with an average selling price of \$221,391, average days on market of 572 and a list to sale ratio of 78.99%. There is one sale pending and 221 unsold homesites/acreage on the market.

There were 17 condominium sales last year at an average sales price of \$309,559, average days on market of 614 and a list to sale ratio of 90.18%, There are four pending sales and 67 unsold condo listings on the market.

There were 20 foreclosure/short sales with 11 (6 homes and 5 home sites) on the market. Distressed properties are definitely on the decline as well.

Here are the numbers of current unsold residential listings by price range compared to the end of 2012:

	Current Unsold Homes	Unsold Homes end of 2012
\$300K and under	69	65
\$301K-\$500K	120	121
\$501K-\$750K	74	64
\$751K-\$1M	66	64
\$1M-\$2M	67	72
\$2M and over	26	30
Totals	422	415



Lynn Kimball  
Broker in Charge  
Meadows Mountain Realty

The most important factor in selling a property today is to price it "right" in the market over the short term (six months to a year), which means pricing com-

petitively with other like unsold properties. The most important factor in buying a property today is to look over the long term before prices increase and interest rates rise even higher.

Lynn Kimball has 40 years of real estate experience, with 29 years serving the Highlands area. Whether you are interested in searching properties or comprehensive information about our area, you are invited to visit her user friendly website at [www.signatureproperties-nc.com](http://www.signatureproperties-nc.com). Meadows Mountain Realty has two locations, at 41 Church Street in the Old Edwards Inn complex or visit Lynn at 2334 Cashiers Road across from Highlands Falls Country Club. Lynn Kimball can be reached at 828-421-8193 or by email at [Lynn@MeadowsMtnRealty.com](mailto:Lynn@MeadowsMtnRealty.com).

### Falling Waters is a 52-acre community



A peaceful sanctuary tucked in the mountains just 2.8 miles from Main Street, Highlands, NC. Secluded but not remote. Well forested with mature hardwoods, Rhododendron, Mountain Laurel and wild flowers that take turns showing off through the seasons; two waterfalls & several creeks. Gentle land, easy building sites, and a great place to take a walk.

**Falling Waters** is protected by the North Carolina Planned Community Act and our own covenants designed to enhance your enjoyment and future property values. Owner financing available.

**Welcome...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](http://www.highlandsnchomesites.com)

Contact (onsite owner) or your broker for plats,

prices & a guided tour.

828-508-9952.

# ...APPTS. continued from page 6

and led on as in the last year and a half. "I'm not appreciated, I don't have a job and Jack Calloway... you can't please him with a golden platter. He has told me that everything I do does not suit him. I don't know what to do to please the man so I'm out of here. I hope you can find someone who can. And good luck because a manager's job is a whole lot more than

what you all expect. "For 27 years this store has run flawlessly. All of a sudden no one does anything right. All this commotion over nothing. I mean our benefits, our pay, our hours ... big deal. It's been fine for 27 years, why does it have to change now? I think the Town Board needs to know this and I think the public needs to know this. I'm not going

to leave here just saying 'I'm retiring.' I'm going to let you all know why I'm retiring at my last meeting. Hope the next person doesn't get the treatment I've gotten in the last year and a half," she said.

When asked what other changes bothered her, she said for one thing the manager has been in charge of hiring and firing with board's approval but now the board has first option on that.

"The manager has no job. If you ask me what my job is, I don't have a job. And that's one reason I'm retiring. I can do a budget for you, but it's not good enough [Jack Calloway]."

Sanders agreed saying the criticism of Baty by Calloway has been relentless for a year and a half. Consequently,

In the memo Calloway referred to at the January regular meeting, which is in the October 2012 minutes, Calloway suggested changes to store operations and policies to "provide convenient access to alcoholic beverages, operate in an efficient, effective manner and maximize the amount of funds earmarked for the beneficiaries."

"The store is facing several challenges today that could have a profound effect on its viability including a continuing sluggish economy, unprecedented high rent (though since then, the board has extolled the generosity of landlord Margaret O'Donnell who decreased its rent from \$6,500 a month to \$4,000 a month through June 2014) and the likelihood of a competing store in Cashiers," he said in the memo. "In reviewing data from this store, data from stores throughout the state system and an onsite visit from ABC consultants Sara Brewer and Mike Myrick, I'm convinced that we as board members aren't upholding our responsibilities to the Highlands Town Board nor to the citizens of Highlands if we don't address various issues."

In the memo, he went on to cite 11 stores with equal or greater gross revenues and lower expenses than the Highlands store. Of the 161 boards in the state, about 93% use part-time employees. Highlands is one of 7% that doesn't; being paid weekly rather than every two weeks, which he said is considered grossly cost inefficient. He said the employee benefit package has evolved

over time without taking into account what is prudent, affordable within community and industry standards.

For instance, he said an employee with 15 years of service could miss four months of work in one year and be paid for it under the existing benefit package.

"I believe the great majority of the business people within the community would be appalled to learn that the current sick leave policy allows up to 320 hours to be taken annually," he said. "Another area of concern is that all benefit days not taken are credited toward the employees' retirement, which when looked at statewide may help to explain why the state legislature struggles with continued funding of the retirement system."

Specific recommendations of October 2012, some of which have been put into effect, include: no more overtime unless OK'd by a board member; cutting 40 hours of employee time from the current 160 hours; two weekends off per month per employee; adjust staffing hours – one employee from 9a to 1p four of the five week days for at least six months of the year; employ and train two people to work part-time when needed for vacations; institute and adhere to seasonal and non-seasonal work schedules; pay every two weeks; have the sick leave policy mirror the policy of the Gastonia employee handbook; discuss vacation leave; update job descriptions; get feedback from employees on how to cut expenses; and continue to work with Margaret O'Donnell to keep rent manageable.

"I believe with these changes and additions, the store can operate more efficiently and effectively which should help ensure it as an ongoing entity," said Calloway. "The amount of funds distributed to the beneficiaries should increase substantially."

Meanwhile, the Town Board is considering concerns involving board behavior and other issues.

– Kim Lewicki  
**Note: At press time, Wed, Jan. 22, Georgia Sanders submitted her letter of resignation to the Town Board, effective immediately, citing personal conflicts.**



- Gourmet Cookware
- Fine Bakeware
- Quality Cutlery
- Gadgets & Utensils
- Countertop Appliances
- German Stemware
- Full Bath & Body lines!
- And MUCH MORE!



**Open Mon - Sat 10am to 5pm & Sun 1 to 5pm**  
450 Main St. Highlands, NC 828-526-5226



**Carrying a wide variety of natural products for your Mind, Body & Home.**



**Organic Fresh Juices & Smoothies and Salads To Go!**  
526-5999  
Corner of Foreman Road & Hwy 64 east  
Mon-Sat 10a to 5:30p

## Shear Elevations

**Color, Cuts, Highlights, Perms, Manicures, Pedicures, Acrylics & Gel Enhancements, Up-dos and Facial Waxing**

*Call for an appointment TODAY!*

**Owner/Stylist: Lisa L. Shearon; Stylist: Jane B. Earp; Stylist/Nail Tech: Kristi Billingsley; Nail Tech: Katie Baker Passmore**  
828-526-9477 • 225 Spring Street, Highlands

## Creative Concepts Salon, Inc.



Owner/Stylist: Lacy Jane Vilardo  
Stylists: Heather D. Escandon  
Maggie Rogers and Jenna Schmitt

**Open: Tues-Fri: 9-5 • Sat. 10-2**  
Walk-Ins Welcome!

549 East Main Street "Falls on Main" Highlands (828) 526-3939



**Color, Cuts, Up Do's, Highlights, Massage, Facials, Manicures, Pedicures, Reflexology, Personal Training**

**OPEN: Wednesday - Saturday at 10a**

Located behind Highlands Decorating Center on Highway 106 (The Dillard Rd)  
NC LMBT #1429  
**(828) 526-4192**

# ...PARKING continued from page 2

plenty of parking for customers and visitors. Mayor Pat Taylor agreed with Moore's findings.

"As new mayor, I have been driving around and I can confirm what he said and I was delighted to see the influx of tourists."

Commissioner Amy Patterson said since Highlands now has a retail season through the holidays it would be a good idea to extend parking restrictions for merchants and their employees but suggested getting a

recommendation from the Planning Board.

Bob Keiltyka, president of the Chamber of Commerce said his board had discussed the issue at its last meeting and will likely poll its business owners to see if they have any comments on the issue.

It's likely parking restrictions throughout town – not just those on Main Street – will be considered by Planning Board at its meeting Monday, Jan. 27.

– Kim Lewicki



# HCH Saves Lives.

Stroke is the third leading  
cause of death in  
America and the  
number one cause of adult  
disability.



Thankfully HCH now has Telestroke!

..... Call 9-1-1 immediately if you have any of these symptoms. ....

Know the warning signs. Stroke Symptoms include:

- SUDDEN numbness or weakness of face, arm or leg - especially on one side of the body.
- SUDDEN confusion, trouble speaking or understanding.
- SUDDEN trouble seeing in one or both eyes.
- SUDDEN trouble walking, dizziness, loss of balance or coordination.
- SUDDEN severe headache with no known cause.

*\*National Stroke Association*

Telestroke technology is now available 24-7-365 through HCH's state-of-the-art Emergency Care. Patients who exhibit signs of stroke will be evaluated quickly and accurately via live interaction between HCH Physicians and Mission Health Neurologists.

Join us for "Meet the Robot Day" Thursday, January 23 from 2-3pm.  
Call (828) 526-1313



**Highlands-Cashiers**  
HOSPITAL

*The healthcare partner to whom you can entrust your life.*  
[www.highlandscashiershospital.org](http://www.highlandscashiershospital.org)

# My vote for biblical marriage and family values

By Pastor Mark Ford  
First Baptist Church

The concepts of Christian marriage and family have been under attack for some time now. Anyone over the age of 30 would have to be in a self-induced coma not to realize the radical changes and challenges that have confronted what have been called "traditional values" of home life and definitions of marriage. The reality is that these cultural shifts are about three generations in the making, and numberless people no longer identify with or even remember what the Bible teaches about the covenant of marriage and God's blueprint for the home. A vote to return to those Scriptural teachings, and reject present day challenges and assumed "new norms" for relationships and sexuality will quickly get you placed in the proverbial categories of irrelevant, uncharitable, and narrow minded. So be it.

Scriptural marriage is an intimate and complementing union between a man and a woman in which the two become one physically and in the whole of life. The purpose of marriage is to reflect the nature of the Godhead and glorify our Creator. Humankind was created in God's image with a plural composition of male and female. The bringing together of male and female in the covenantal bond of marriage was to reflect "oneness" and yet "diversity" in complementary union - a relational unity-in-plurality. Male and female are distinct in their gender and roles, but equal in nature, essence and purpose. Like the Trinity, oneness in marriage is a mystery, but each member functions in concert to make a beautiful whole.

Marriage between a man and a woman is the most basic and significant social relationship to humankind. When nurtured by the Spirit and guided by the Word of God, it serves society as no other social institution. Without it, history has proven time and again that society will fail. It is not humanities prerogative to arbitrarily separate or redefine what God has ordained to be put together as one (Mt. 19:6). The Scriptural nature of marriage is that it is to be complementary, permanent and intimate in a manner that is treated with dignity, honor and purity. In this unique relationship between a man and a woman, there is a counterbalance of each other's strengths and weaknesses. And because of this "one flesh" relationship that is God's ideal, there is a disallowance in God's Word of perversions like polygamy, adultery, pre-marital sex, incest, homosexuality, and prostitution that undermine and distort what marriage is to reflect - the nature of the Godhead as an exclusive unity-in-plurality. But as the Bible testifies to time and again, sin has marred God's ideal, infecting not just the world in general, but even God's people. The Bible is not shy about revealing how even the people of God have allowed our fallen natures to encroach upon this Divine institution of marriage and family, producing distortions and painful consequences because of our compromise and rebellion.

Simply and directly stated, God has a plan for the relationships of men and women, and it does not allow for redefinitions or challenges to God's Word. Sin as pride and lust is the culprit. Marriage commitments forsaken, living together out of wedlock, and perversions of the plurality-in-unity are the by-products. The world may change the rules, but my vote is to remain with our Lord's Word which changes not and whose plan is for our best, the good of society, and God's glory.

**BLUE VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH**  
Rev. Oliver Rice, Pastor (706) 782-3965  
Sundays: School - 10 a.m., Worship - 11  
Sunday night services every 2nd & 4th Sunday at 7  
Wednesdays: Mid-week prayer meeting - 7 p.m.

**BUCK CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH**  
828-269-3546  
Rev. Jamie Passmore, Pastor  
Sundays: School - 10 a.m.; Worship - 11  
**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  
464 US Hwy 64 east, Cashiers

Sun.: Christian Education, 9 a.m. (Bucks in Cashiers) Family  
Worship with music and Communion, 10:30 a.m.  
Mon.: Bible Study & Supper at homes - 6 p.m.  
Wed.: Men's Bible Study - 8:30 a.m., First Baptist Church  
**CHRIST CHURCH OF THE VALLEY, CASHIERS**  
Pastor Steve Kerhoulas  
Sun. 10:45am, S.S. 9:30am. Wed. 6pm supper and teaching.

Tue. Guys study 8am, Gals 10am.  
**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: Holy Eucharist Rite I (chapel), 8 am, Education and  
choir rehearsal, 9 am, Holy Eucharist Rite II, (sanctuary), 10:30  
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., Choir - 5 p.m.

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
Dr. Lee Bowman, Pastor • 526-3175  
Sun.: Worship - 11 a.m.; 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

**HIGHLANDS ASSEMBLY OF GOD**  
Randy Reed, Pastor  
828-421-9172 • 165 S. Sixth Street  
Sundays: Worship - 11  
**HIGHLANDS CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH**  
Pastor Dan Robinson  
670 N. 4th Street (next to the Highlands Civic Center)  
Sunday: Morning Worship 10:45 a., Evening Worship, 6:30 p.  
Wednesday: Prayer Service, 6:30 p.  
**HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
Pastor Paul Christy 526-3376  
Sun: School 9:45a.; Worship 9:09 & 10:50.; Youth 5:30 p.  
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  
Choir - 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**  
743-2583

Independent Bible Church  
Sundays: 10:30 a.m. at Big Ridge Baptist Church, 4224 Big  
Ridge Road (4.5 miles from NC 107)  
Weds: Bible Study 6:30 p.m.; Youth Group 6 p.m.  
**OUR LADY OF THE MOUNTAINS CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
Parish office: 526-2418  
Mass: - Sun: 10:30 a.m.; Thurs & Fri.: 9 a.; Sat., 4p  
**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**  
Rev. Sam Forrester/Cashiers  
Sunday School - 10 am, Worship Service - 11 am

## ...AWARDS continued from page 1

bringing that to your attention. If you decided to remove him, I would support that decision."

Coward said if the town issues a contract to Shearl, the commissioners need to understand that the conflict of interest is due to Shearl's adverse interest and the active lawsuit against the town that will cost Highlands money if he wins.

Mayor Patrick Taylor said the litigation has been going on for years, and J&J Lawn Services has had contracts with the town in the past.

"Has there ever been any record of him not executing the contract properly?" he asked.

Public Service Administrator Lamar Nix said the only contract he has been involved with concerning Shearl is the cemetery contract.

## ...SBI from page 1

the lead agency and we are assisting," said Holland. "We have been instructed not to discuss the case."

Macon County Commissioners have been instructed to do the same. However, Tuesday night, Chairman Kevin Corbin had this to say:

"After County Manager Derek Roland got a tip from an internal source involving a situation with the Board of Elections, he contacted Sheriff Holland. Each of the commissioners were then informed of the circumstances and agreed with the manager and sheriff's recommendation to close the office and to allow the SBI to conduct an investigation. It is our hope to have the office open as soon as possible."

Vice Chairman Ronnie Beale said he hoped more information will be available soon.

"As you know, we have been instructed not to comment other than what was said in the press release. However, I will say this is a very serious matter. Hopefully more on this will come forth soon"

When contacted, District Attorney Bonfoey's office said there wasn't anything to report yet, but hopefully there would be something before the week's end.

**Highlands to get one-stop voting**

"He has done that for many years, though Zoellner Landscaping got it last year. But I have never had any issues with J&J Lawn Services."

Shearl vs. The Town of Highlands is now in the appeal process.

"It has gone through the administrative process with the town and that has been affirmed by Judge Downs in a court proceeding. Shearl has appealed that to the NC Court of Appeals, so the next move will be to go to Raleigh to argue it," said Coward.

For Commissioner John Dotson, the issue was black and white.

"We are providing the funds to essentially afford the lawsuit against the town. Should the town lose at some point in the future,

Tuesday night, the MC Board of Commissioners voted unanimously to open a second early-voting location in Highlands.

Due to recent changes in NC legislation regarding the length of time one-stop voting can operate, members of the MC Board of Elections requested funds from the county to open a second location.

Luke Bateman, chairman of the Board of Elections, spoke to commissioners about state-

we have supplied the money in essence for our own lawsuit; we certainly will have a group of taxpayers who are displeased."

Commissioner Amy Patterson's view was the opposite.

"Citizens should have the right to question what their government does. That's the way it's done and I'm not sure you should penalize someone who does a good job and fulfills their contracts because they disagree with the government," she said. "I understand that it does sound like we are funding his lawsuit, but at the same time if I disagreed with one of the government's decisions, I would want the right to take it to the next step. That is what our government is for. We are not autocrats. We have an opportunity to refute that and that doesn't necessarily mean you can't go on

mandated changes to voting that will be implemented over the next few years. This year, new legislation will effect one-stop voting whose period will be shortened by one week, however the hours of operation must remain the same.

With a week less to be open, Bateman said 123 hours need to be made up elsewhere and the shortened one-stop voting window will impact the upcoming

• See SBI page 14

with your normal job."

Commissioner Brian Stiehler said he saw both sides but seconded Commissioner Patterson's motion to award the landscaping contracts to the lowest bidder. The final vote was 4-1 with Commission Dotson voting "nay."

Highlands Rec. Park was awarded to Zoellner Landscaping at \$18,482; Zachary Park was awarded to J&J Lawn and Landscaping

Services at \$14,283, Highlands Memorial Park was awarded to J&J Lawn and Landscaping Services at \$31,318, Town General Landscaping was awarded to Tate Landscaping at \$17,100, and Kelsey-Hutchinson Park was awarded to J&J Lawn and Landscaping Services for \$2,982.

The total is \$84,165 down from last year's total of \$86,428.

— Kim Lewicki

### Dr. Joseph H. Wilbanks, D.D.S.

278 East Doyle St. • Toccoa, GA

#### COMPLETE DENTAL CARE UNDER ONE ROOF!

- Dental Implants • Root Canal Therapy
  - Single Visit Crowns
  - Orthodontics including Invisalign
  - Wisdom Teeth Extractions
- and of course Fillings and Cleanings! (IV Sedation, too)



You are only 50 miles away from 30 years experience in top-notch, high-tech, one-stop dentistry known for its gentle touch.

**706-886-9439 • 800-884-9439**

[www.WilbanksSmileCenter.com](http://www.WilbanksSmileCenter.com)



## Nip & Tuck

*If you'd like to smooth away lines, enhance curves, or fine tune your features in a subtle way, call the Center for Plastic Surgery.*

*We'll help you look as great as you feel.*

Robert T. Buchanan, MD  
Board Certified Plastic Surgeon

### The Center for Plastic Surgery

209 Hospital Drive • Suite 202, Highlands, N.C 28741  
828-526-3783 • toll free 877-526-3784  
[www.PlasticSurgeryToday.com](http://www.PlasticSurgeryToday.com)

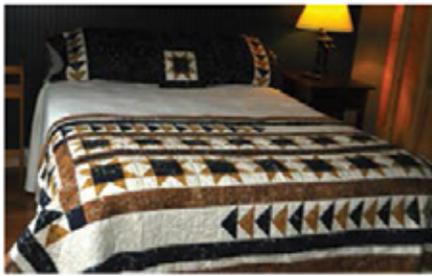


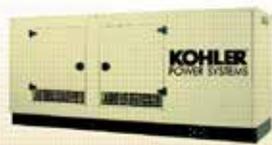
**Cut N Patch Quilt Shop**  
160 Strawberry Lane  
Highlands, 526-9743

**Fabric and quilting supplies. Please call for hours and directions.**

**Quilt of the Month**

**Queen size Bed runner with pillowcases Hand quilted \$350.00**





ATLANTIC SOUTH  
**POWER**  
SYSTEMS

**LIGHTNING PROTECTION  
EMERGENCY GENERATORS**

Electrical License # NC 18822U KOHLER Dealer # 2584990

www.ASPowerSystems.com | 828.526.0070

**J&J Lawn and Landscaping**

Serving Highlands & Cashiers  
for since 1988!

Phone: 526-2251

Fax: 828-526-8764

Email: JJlawn1663@frontier.com



John Shearl, Owner • 1663 S. 4<sup>th</sup> St. Highlands

Total House Cleanout Services, Attics, Basements, Garages,  
Yard Debris, etc. We'll take your Trash & Save you some  
Cash! Cheaper than a Dumpster & we do all the work -

**We also Specialize in Small Demolition**  
and Removal of Mobile Homes, Barns, Sheds,  
Above Ground Swimming Pools, etc.

**We also Cater in Minor Landscaping,**  
Small Tree & Brush Removal and all types of Yard Debris,  
including Metal, Wood, etc.

**If You Need it Gone,  
Call Today for a Cleaner Tomorrow!**  
(828) 200-5268



**J&M Towing  
Service**

24-Hour Towing  
Local and Long Distance Hauls

Owner-Operator Jeff Miller  
526-0374 • 342-0583

**Highlands Automotive**

Service  
&  
Repair



NC  
Inspection  
Station



828-787-2360

2851 Cashiers Road • highlandsautomotive.com



**Larry Houston  
Rock Work**

Walls • Fireplaces • Patios • Piers  
All Rock Work • Stucco

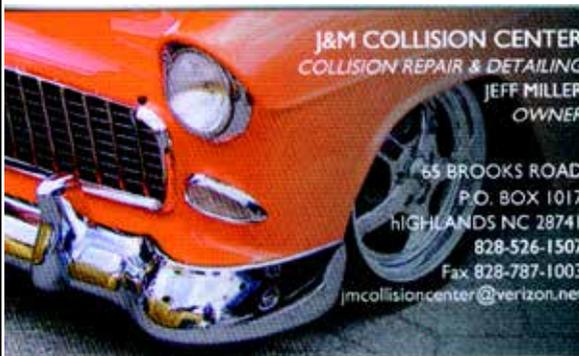
(828) 526-4138 or (828) 200-3551

Grading & Excavating • Certified Clearwater Contractor  
www.wilsongrading.com



Edwin Wilson  
wilsongrading@yahoo.com

Phone (828) 526-4758  
Cell (828) 421-3643



**Allan Dearth & Sons**

**Generator**

Sales & Service, Inc.

828-526-9325

Cell: 828-200-1139

email: allandearth@msn.com

**Miller's Plumbing Service, LLC**

Buddy Miller, Owner

- Water Cop Installation & Winterization
- Remodels & New Construction

Cell 828-371-1707

NC Lic. # 28972

millersplumbing99@yahoo.com



Deluxe, Indoor  
Climate Controlled Self Storage  
With covered loading zone



• Units Available •  
Highlands Storage Village  
526-4555 • Cashiers Rd.



**Need quality asphalt paving?**

Call Bryson Grading & Paving – now a full  
service asphalt company specializing in  
commercial and residential asphalt services.

**Also available:**

Gravel, brown decorative gravel, boulder  
walls, fill dirt, sand, topsoil, red clay.

**Other services?**

Utility installation and repair, driveways,  
ponds, dams, hauling and lot clearing.

**Call 828-526-9348.**

Brysongrading@gmail.com

**American Upholstery**

- Residential or Commercial
- Over 40 Years Experience
- Fast & Dependable
- Free Estimates
- Free Pick-up & Delivery  
(Owners: Morris & Rachel Bible)



(864) 638-9661 cell: (864) 710-9106

...FIRE continued from page 3



Service Awards for 5, 10, 15 and 30 years of service were awarded to front from left: Chris Barden (5), Jim Tate (15), Buddy Miller, (10), Gary Ammons (30). Back from left: Ryan Perkins (5) Hunter Leffler (5) and Ryan Gearhart (15).

Below left: Austin Reese received the Stork Award from Bob Houston who is the only other department member to help deliver a baby on the job. This past October Austin aided in the birth of Michael Passmore. In 1993, Bob helped deliver Michael Shearl.

• POLICE & FIRE REPORTS •

Highlands PD log entries from Jan. 6. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor, or public officials have been used.

Jan. 6

- At 1 p.m., officers responded to a report of shoplifting at the Farmers Market where a \$1.39 beef stick was taken.
- At 7 p.m., officers responded to a report of trespassing by a 23 year old male at Neumann Law Office on N. 4th St.

The Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. log entries from Jan. 15

Jan 15

- At 9:14 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Clear Creek Road. There was a problem with an alarm.

Jan. 16

- At 2:13 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Brushy Face Road where a 79 year old woman had fallen.

- At 4:30 p.m., the dept. responded to an alarm at a residence on Oak Street. It was due to burned popcorn and cancelled en route.

- At 11:21 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Blue Valley Road where a man had fallen.

- At 10:33 a.m., the dept. responded to an alarm at the hospital. It was false.

Jan. 19

- At 8:53 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Shelby Court.

Jan. 20

- At 1:26 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Hicks Road.

...FIRE continued from page 3

hours, 26 firemen completed training at 15 fire and rescue schools at various community colleges for a total of 1,054 hours. In addition, 1,433 manhours were logged at local training/meetings and 2,186 manhours were spent on fire, rescue and first-responder calls.

A final good-bye and celebration of his 50 years of service will be given Bob Houston Friday, Jan. 24 from 2-4 p.m. at the Highlands Fire and Rescue Department on Oak Street.

- Kim Lewicki



**KOSTER STOCKYARD SALES**  
**& EQUIPMENT SALES & RENTAL**

• Gravel / Mulch / Topsoils	• Pine & Wheat Straw
• Seed & Fertilizer	• Erosion Control
• Garden Supply	• Equipment Rental

[www.KosterStockyard.com](http://www.KosterStockyard.com)

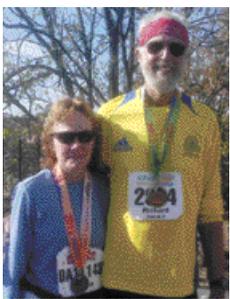
*Loma Linda Farm*

Dog Boarding • Day Care • Pastoral Parks  
 In Home and Leash-Free Lodging  
 in the Lap of Luxury!

**(828) 421-7922**

Highlands, North Carolina  
 LomaLindaFarm@frontier.com  
[www.LomaLindaFarm.com](http://www.LomaLindaFarm.com)

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

**Highlands-Cashiers HOSPITAL**

Fidelia Eckerd Living Center  
 US 64 Between Highlands & Cashiers, NC

**Positions Now Available**

- ER and Med/Surg Registered Nurses
- Medical Laboratory Technologist
- Inpatient Coder
- Activities Assistant

Full benefits available after 60 days of full time employment

in pay, available after 60 days of full-time employment. Pre-employment substance screening. Call Human Resources, 828-526-1376, or apply online at [www.hchospital.org](http://www.hchospital.org).

**Nantahla Tire & Car Care**

- Oil changes • Brakes • Tires
- Light Car & Truck Repair

**828-526-0283**

**518 Dillard Road, Highlands**  
**nantire1@aol.com**

**Whiteside Cove Cottages**

5 new log cabins nestled in the hemlocks on 25 acres at the base of Whiteside Mountain.

800-805-3558 • 828-526-2222

**Service Directory Ads**  
**\$17/wk BW**  
**\$22/wk/color**

**Classified Ads**  
**\$6 for 10 words, 20**  
**cents for each word**  
**thereafter**  
**\$2 extra for yellow**  
**highlight**

### **HELP WANTED**

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF HIGHLANDS** is currently seeking a part-time, responsible person to keep the nursery on Wednesday nights. \$ 10.00 per hour. Please stop by the church office for an application. 828-526-4153. (1/30)

**IMMEDIATE EMPLOYMENT OPENINGS AT THE HIGHLANDS ABC STORE.** Applications available at the store in Highlands Plaza. (st. 1/9)

### **RES / COMMERCIAL FOR RENT**

**APARTMENTS FOR RENT** 2/2 (\$875) and 1/1 (\$650); fireplace, washer/dryer, fully furnished, includes all utilities on beautiful Cheney Lane, seven minutes from town. (1/23 pd)

**COMMERCIAL FOR RENT.** Great location on Carolina Way between 64E and 5th St across from Bank of America. ±1480 sqft. Office or retail. \$1500/month. Call Tom Clark(404)210-7979 or (828)526-4646(st. 9/19)

**COMMERCIAL BUILDING,** 365 Franklin Road. Over 170 ft. of Hwy frontage and large parking area. Street level: 3 offices with LR/KIT/BA. Lower Level: 2BR/2BA apartment. Laundry & central gas heat. \$415,000. Call TLC Associates. 828-371-2485 or 828-526-2919. (12/19)

### **ITEMS FOR SALE**

**GOLF CART.** 1996 Club Car. New batteries with less than 5 miles on them. Four seats. Full all weather canopy. Double bag rack. Storage bin/cooler under rear seats. From an absentee third home

owner. Has seen very little use. Always dealer serviced and kept in a heated garage. Charger and manual included. Close to pristine condition. Save thousands. \$2,995.00. 828-421-7886. (2/6 - pd)

**20" DELL MONITOR,** used one year. \$85. 526-5558 (1/23)

**2006 JAYCO, JAYFLIGHT 27.5 BHS 5TH WHEEL CAMPER WITH GOOSENECK ADAPTER.** Split sleeping areas with bunk beds and queen masterbed. Sleeps 8 to 9. Very clean. Like new with all the luxuries of home. \$9,000. Call to view. 828-526-8373. ((st. 1/9)

**1995 BMW 325i,** 4-door sedan. Maroon. \$2,500. OBO. 828-526-8373. (st. 1/9)

**PEARL RIVER UPRIGHT PIANO** – Like new. \$1,500 or OBO. Call Mark. 828-526-4563. (Jan 30) Source Green Heat Efficient Electric Heater w/remote, wood grain cabinet pd. \$179 - like new, only used 4 months - \$100 200-0183)

### **SERVICES**

**WHIRLPOOL** apt. size stackable, w/d. like new. white. \$600. 828-200-0044. (st. 1/23)

**HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS HANDYMAN** – Repairs, remodeling, painting, pressure washing, minor plumbing and electric, decks and additions. Free Estimates. Insured. Call 421-4667. (7/25)

**MOUNTAIN MAID HOUSE CLEANING SERVICE** – Call Amy at 828-342-2279, references available. (12/19)

**HIGHLANDSTAXI & SHUTTLE** – Let Charlie Dasher handle your transportation whether it's to the airport, a special event, or just around town. He provides van service for weddings, and is licensed and insured. 526-8645. (st. 7/18)

**MOLD AND MUSTY SMELL IN YOUR HOME?** Call for free inspection. 828-743-0900.

**J&J LAWN AND LANDSCAPING SERVICES** – Complete Landscaping Company, Design, Installation and Maintenance. Also featuring Plants, Trees, Hardscapes, Water Features, Rockwork, Fencing, Drainage, Erosion Control and RR-Tie work. Serving the Highlands/Cashiers area since 1988. 828-526-2251.

## **...SBI continued from page 11**

primary election.

"This makes finding a solution more pressing," he said. "We could stay open for 10-15 hours a day at the courthouse for the entire one-stop voting period, but we just don't think that is feasible," said Bateman.

Currently, voters wishing to participate in one-stop voting have to go to the courthouse on Main Street in Franklin. Members of the Board of Elections decided that a second location in Highlands would not only meet the state requirements, but will hopefully generate more interest for early voting in Highlands.

"A second locations will allow more people to vote and will allow us to be in compliance with the new law," said Board of Elections member Gary Dills. "We can do it cost effectively, too."

The second one-stop voting location will be in the Highlands Civic Center and will hopefully give Highlands residents and

people who work in Highlands, easier access to one-stop voting.

"Because it's so hard for people living in Highlands and people who live in Franklin and work in Highlands to get to the courthouse for one-stop voting, this second location will help get more people to the polls," said Bateman.

Highlands is the largest precinct in the county, but despite the numbers of eligible voters, the one-stop voting numbers have been historically low, causing the polls on election day to be overwhelmed with voters causing a backup and long wait times.

Though equipment isn't needed, Bateman said for the second site to meet state requirements \$7,500 will be needed to change locks to a room in the center of the building to ensure only the Board of Elections would have access to it, as well as getting secured internet and phone access to the room.

– Brittany Burns

# Have you Fixed Your Dirt Crawl Space?

## Dry Crawl Spaces

Crawl Space Encapsulation System®

There are three things that destroy materials in general and wood in particular: water, heat, and ultra-violet radiation, of those, water is by far the most destructive!

Protect your home from:

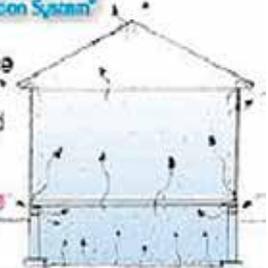
- Mold
- Bugs
- Structural Damage
- Smells & Odors
- Loss of Storage Space
- Radon Gas
- Rising Energy Costs



**CleanSpace**  
Crawl Space Encapsulation System®

The earth in your dirt crawl space is the major source of moisture in your home! This moisture is carried up into your house from the natural upward air flow created from rising heat. CleanSpace® is the answer.

Call for a **FREE Estimate on the CleanSpace® Crawl Space Encapsulation System**



DryCrawlSpaces.com •

828-743-0900

## Larry Rogers Construction Company, Inc.

Excavating • Grading • Trucking Trackhoe  
 Backhoe • Blasting • Utilities  
 (828) 526-2874



Available  
Call  
828-526-3228  
or email  
highlandseditor@  
aol.com

**Country Club Properties**  
"Your local hometown  
Real Estate professionals."  
2  
3 Offices 828-526-2520  
www.CCPHighlandsNC.com



**Main Street Inn & Bistro on Main**  
526-2590 • www.mainstreet-inn.com



**The Chambers Agency Realtors** 11  
Homes and Land For Sale  
Vacation Homes for Rent  
526-3717 OR 888-526-3717  
401 N 5th St, Highlands  
www.chambersagency.net



**MEADOWS MOUNTAIN REALTY**  
Mount Lori renovated & remodeled retreat w/ large master suite & guest suite on the main, lower fam room w/ 2nd fireplace & 2 guest rm. Wine room, kitchenette. Amazing grounds & view of Mirror Lake!  
\$627,000. MLS# 75832



Available  
Call 828-526-3228  
or email  
highlandseditor@aol.com



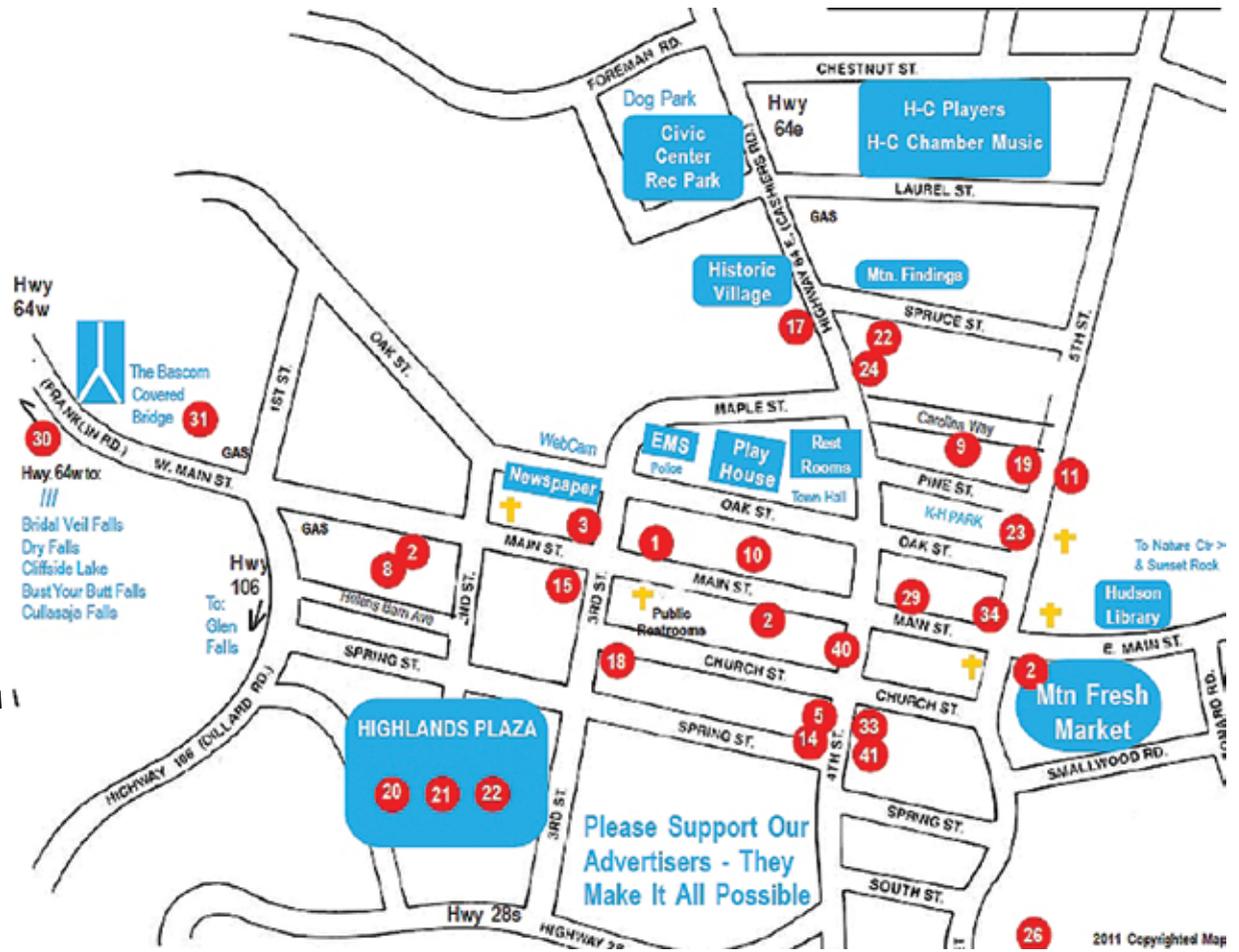
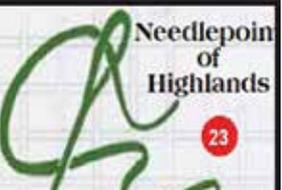
**Cabin Couture**  
Home Gifts, Art & Antiques  
9  
526-3909 • 468 Carolina Way



**SILVER EAGLE**  
Authentic Native American  
Jewelry Arts & Crafts  
10  
JEWELRY • GEMS & MINERALS  
MINNETONKA MOCCASINS  
NATIVE AMERICAN ART  
BOOKS • KNIVES  
370 Main Street  
Highlands, NC 28741  
www.silvereaglegallery.com



**Oriental Rug Gallery**  
526-5759  
Main St, Oak Square,  
Mon-Sat, 10-5  
Sun. 12-4 1

**Needlepoint of Highlands** 23  
Barbara B. Cusachs  
526-3901 • 800-526-3902  
Village Square • Oak at 5th

"Ace is the Place!"  
**Reeves**  
15 Hardware  
At Main & 3rd streets  
Highlands 526-2157



Walk to Main St from this Old Highlands Park Condo. 3br/3ba, outdoor living space w/ fireplace. Granite throughout kit & baths, hardwood floors. Includes Old Edwards Inn Membership. Covered car parking w/ storage area.  
\$874,900. MLS# 77670



**MACON BANK** 19  
THE PEOPLE YOU TURN TO.  
THE BANK YOU TRUST.  
800.438.2265  
WWW.MACONBANK.COM  
MEMBER FDIC  
EQUAL HOUSING LENDER

**Golden China & Sushi Bar**  
Listed in  
'100 Top Chinese Restaurants in USA'  
Lunch Buffet: 11 -2:30, M-F  
Dinner: 3-9:30, 7 days  
Wine & Beer  
Highlands Plaza  
526-5525  
20  
Delivery in town w/\$15 order

**The Computer Man!**  
But you can call me James!  
• Computer Sales  
• Computer Services  
• Computer Parts 21  
526-179€  
68 Highlands Plaza • Highlands NC

**Cosper Flowers**  
Where Smiles are in Bloom All Year  
Tues-Fri: 11a to 5:30p  
Sat: 10a to 1p  
Orders & Deliveries Daily  
In Highlands Plaza 22  
between Bryson's & cleaners  
& cleaners  
(828) 526-8671

CONTACT US AT:  
Old Edwards Inn Complex  
41 Church Street - Downtown  
828.526.1717  
Highlands Falls CC  
2334 Cashiers Road  
828.526.4101  
www.MeadowsMtnRealty.com



*Pat Allen*  
REALTY GROUP

www.patallenrealtygroup.com

pat. f. allen @ gmail. com  
jajosborn@gmail.com

Julie Osborn  
Broker Associate  
Cell: 828-200-6165  
Office: 828-526-8784



Pat Allen  
Broker-in-charge  
828-526-8784 (office)  
828-200-9179 (cell)

REALTOR OF THE WEEK

David Bock  
BROKER

"Your Source for Real Estate"

LANDMARK  
REALTY GROUP  
A ROYAL LEPAGE COMPANY

www.LandmarkRG.com  
888-743-0510 | 225 Main St.



C: 828-526-2240  
david.bock@outlook.com

Building Green Building Value



CIMARRON  
BUILDERS

828-526-2240  
www.cimbuild.com



Highlands

Sotheby's  
INTERNATIONAL REALTY

#1 Broker Highlands  
Cashiers 2013 per  
HCMLS

Text SIR to 87778 to download  
our app for any mobile phone.



Jody Lovell  
828-526-4104  
exurbiasothebysrealty.com

JACKSON HOLE

Open  
7 Days a Week!  
10a to 4p

828-524-5850

www.jacksonholegemmine.com

*Gem Mine*  
...on the Gorge Road



WILD THYME GOURMET  
RESTAURANT

Open Year-Round!  
NEW LOCATION in Town Square!



343-D  
Main Street!  
526-4035  
Serving  
Lunch and  
Dinner  
Closed Wed.

www.wildthymegourmet.com



www.firemt.com • (800) 775-4446



WHITE OAK  
REALTY GROUP

"Invest in Highlands, NC Real Estate ... and Invest in Your Life!"™



Susie deVille,  
Broker-in-Charge  
(828) 371-2079



Sheryl Wilson,  
Broker  
(828) 337-0706



Mal Phillips,  
Broker  
(828) 200-2642



Leslie Cook,  
Broker  
(828) 421-5113



Wick Ashburn,  
Broker  
(828) 421-0500

WhiteOakRG.com

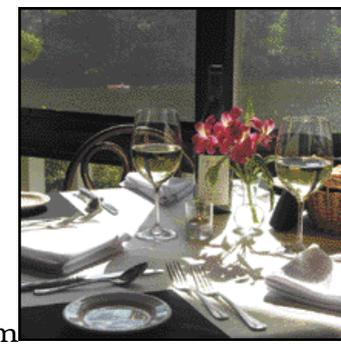
(828) 526-8118 • 125 South 4th Street

...on the Verandah  
Restaurant  
on Lake Sequoyah  
828-526-2338



Closed for  
Winter Break

www.ontheverandah.com



MCCULLEY'S  
CASHMERE



Scotland's Best Knitwear  
Open 7 days a week  
526-4407  
"Top of the Hill"  
242 S. 4th St.