

Highlands Newspaper

FREE Every Thursday

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Thurs., Jan. 15, 2015

MC seeking funds from Jackson C. for services rendered

For decades the Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. has been trying to secure funds from Jackson County to offset the fire and rescue services it provides 332 Jackson County residents who live in the Highlands Township

and the Macon County service area.

Jackson County has given Macon County some money, however, and residents in the country clubs whose borders are also in Jackson County have do-

nated funds for services rendered. Though the funds are much appreciated, they don't come close to the money owed. The Highlands Township fire tax is .009 per \$100 value.

However, thanks to MC

Commissioner Vice Chair Jim Tate and a concerted effort by Macon County staff, it's possible that Macon County may get additional monies.

At Tuesday night's Macon
 • See SERVICES page 4

Urgent care option coming to Highlands

By Merritt N. Shaw

Soon there will be a new option for patients who get sick and need to see a doctor quickly in Highlands.

Family practice physician, Dr. David Castor, will be opening Smoky Mountain Urgent Care, a new urgent care and general practice facility at 155 Main Street in Wright Square. The projected grand opening will be in late February 2015.

According to Danielle Smiley, the Office Manager at Smoky Mountain Urgent Care, Castor is opening the urgent care facility in Highlands because he feels there is a need for high quality medical services with walk-in access in the Highlands community.

Castor is a family practice physician and has two other office locations in Bryson City and Andrews, NC. The clinic in Bryson City has been open for a year and a half and the one in Andrews has been open for seven months. "Both have been very busy and have been well received," said Office Manager Danielle Smiley.

The clinic, in Highlands, will be providing urgent care services as well as general practice services. Castor will be one of the rotating physicians. Walk-ins are welcome and appointments will be available. A self-pay visit will be approximately \$89. Labs and x-rays will be extra.

Currently, if someone finds themselves sick and don't have a regular doctor or can't get a same-day appointment with their regular doctor, they have an option to go to the emergency room at the Highlands/Cashiers Hospital, wait until the Community Care Clinic opens on Thursdays (must qualify), go to Franklin or Sylva to an urgent care facility or go to the walk-in, low-cost Walmart Care Clinic in Clayton, GA.

Costs vary for a visit to a general practice physician in Highlands, but the Angel Urgent Care Center in Franklin has a basic cost of \$98 for an office visit. Exams, labs and x-rays are extra. They give a 20% discount if paid in cash upon services rendered. The

• See CARE page 2



NC-Chapel Hill Global Gap Year Fellow Emily Gabbard at Machu Picchu in Peru. This is part 2 of her story. See the Oct. 30 edition for part 1.

From Peru to Kathmandu

By Emily Gabbard
 NC-Chapel Hill Gap Student

Four days...26 miles...hiking six to nine hours a day. Reaching altitudes of 13,800 feet. Climbing to an altitude of 4,000 feet in five hours. Meeting a lot of new peo-

ple. No showers. The best meals I've experienced in Peru. The hardest, most rewarding thing I have ever done in my life. This describes my time on the Inca trail to Machu Picchu

• See PERU page 9

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Inmate caught attempting to escape MC jail

At approximately 8:15 the morning of Saturday, Jan. 10, officers at the Macon County Detention Center discovered an inmate attempting to escape.

A detention officer was in the process of booking another inmate when he heard a strange noise coming from another area of the jail.

At the time of the incident, Detention Officers had a total of five inmates waiting to be processed who had just been brought in by various officers and additional agencies.

When the detention officer went to investigate the strange noise, he discovered that inmate Cameron Paul Schaffer, age 21, had crawled up into the drop ceiling of his cell and had disappeared into the crawl space.

The officer immediately called for assistance of other officers including MCSO Patrol Deputies and Franklin Police

• See ESCAPE page 5

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• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• MAYOR ON DUTY •

On the agenda for tonight's TB meeting

Tonight will be the first Highlands Town Board meeting of the new year -- 2015. As usual, it will be at the Highlands Community Building next to the ball field at 7 p.m. We have a full meeting agenda.

In the area of financial matters the board will review and approve bids for landscaping and mowing of town properties such as the ball field. A number of years ago the town adopted a policy of requesting bids for these contracts. Costs have been cut in half since the bidding process was implemented.

The board will also review a modification in the Duke Energy contract. Our electrical utility consultant states the change will result in a minuscule saving for the town over the remaining life of the contract. It is related to a fund Duke established to decommission their nuclear power plants.

Last year the board approved a Salary/Position Classification Study. David Hill, the representative of the company that conducted the study, will present their findings. I believe the report will show the town is in a "Goldilocks" zone, not too high, not too low, just about right in employee classifications and compensation.



**Highlands Mayor
Patrick Taylor**

The board will also discuss the salary compensation of the School Resource Officer. Years ago, the town was proactive and funded the SRO position for the Highlands School, the only municipality to do so for the Macon County School System.

Since the tragedy at Sandy Hook, the Macon County Commission has begun funding and placing SROs in the schools. The Town Board will be requesting to enter agreement for the county to fund the Highland School SRO position. The Highlands Police Department will continue to staff the position. It is a good example of how the county and town can work together in providing services to all our residents.

The Town Board will also review a request by Planning Director Josh Ward, to hold a public hearing in regard to reaffirming the town zoning map and districts. This request is an administrative, procedural matter that needs to be done periodically to be in compliance with state statutes. Frankly, we have not done a good job in the past in maintaining and updating our records in this area. The purpose of this hearing will not be for rezoning properties, but rather a re-verification of the current zoning map that the town has used for a number of years.

Other items on the agenda will be a discussion of compact car parking spaces and an appointment to the ABC Board. I will also make appointments of commissioners to the various town committees.

It will be great to see you at the meeting.



...CARE continued from page 1

walk-in clinic in Walmart costs \$49 to see a nurse practitioner, get an exam and be diagnosed. These urgent care clinics are usually open during regular business hours, have evening and weekend hours, have posted, more affordable fees and typically have services such as wellness and primary acute care, management of chronic conditions, referrals to specialists, lab tests and immunizations and injuries that need immediate attention that are not considered emergencies.

• TELL TALES •

Freedom of the press

By Bob Wilson

We've all seen what happened in Paris, France when a group of radical Muslims decided that a news outlet had gone too far in publishing cartoons about Mohammad.

France, of course, has a long history of lampooning politicians, religion and any group that dares present themselves as having all the answers.

In America, we too have a long history of lampooning those in power. This is what keeps us safely in a Democracy as we freely debate questions of both religious faith and political ideology. No political or religious leader is above being questioned or lampooned.

We can lose all that in a flash if we don't protect our right of free speech. Howard Dean just told the media that we should be politically correct and not refer to the terrorists as radical Muslims and just call them terrorists. One must ask whether he would apply the same rule to an extremist Christian group?

In Egypt, journalists are sitting in jail for daring to question their leadership and in Russia the opposition is also jailed. Unfortunately, there are many countries where any opposition to political or religious leadership is a crime, resulting in a police state.

My recent comments drew a lot of flak because I don't belong to a political party and am free to state my criticism of either the Republicans or Democrats. Most just don't know what to make of someone who isn't



Bob Wilson

loyal to one team or the other.

They have a problem following logical arguments outside of their political ideology and blindly root for their team, right or wrong, mentally blocking out anything that conflicts with their party line.

But party loyalty prevents us from finding the root causes of our problems.

We have leaders who are convinced that they alone have the answers to society's problems and wish any dissent would

simply evaporate and not bother them with questions.

Many would happily push a button to stop any opposition conflicting with their opinions and eliminate freedom of speech entirely.

Indeed, there would only be a one party system and there would be no Republicans or Democrats, just a "Dear Leader" as in North Korea.

Sounds neat and orderly but at a high cost to our freedom of speech and the advancement of new ideas and the progress we so sorely need.

Fact is, no one individual or political/religious group has all the answers to society's problems. Although we keep looking for one, humanity has no messiah to lead us. We have to find our own way through debate and perhaps more importantly, learning to think clearly, free of politically correct propaganda.

Freedom of thought and speech clearly keeps us safe from becoming a police state.

It is then our duty to protect that right of free speech and take pokes at those who claim to know more than the rest of us. I do not apologize to those offended by my continuing to ask hard questions of our leaders.

though they are not affiliated with Mission Health.

Urgent care facilities have emerged as an alternative to the high cost of an emergency room visit because of consumer demand for convenient, affordable access to care. According to a study done by the Center for Studying Health Care Change, "Hospitals view urgent care centers as a way to gain patients, while health plans see opportunities to contain costs by steering patients away from costly emergency department visits."

Highlands Newspaper

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Letter Policy:

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

• OBITUARIES •

Susan Lee Bezemer

Susan Lee Bezemer, age 77, of Highlands, NC passed away Friday, January 09, 2015 at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. She was born in St. Paul, MN, the daughter of the late Edward A. and Jean Short Murray. She was a loving wife, mother, grandmother and dear friend to many.

She is survived by her husband of 55 years, Richard C. Bezemer; two sons, Richard C. Bezemer, Jr and his wife Laura and Thomas E. Bezemer and his wife Susan of Park City, Utah; a brother, Edward A. Murray, Jr of Georgia; four grandchildren, Olivia, Ava, Haley and Brooks. She was preceded in death by a daughter, Jean Murray Bezemer and a brother, Thomas Edward Murray.

Memorial services will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Charity of one's choice.

Bryant-Grant Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. Online condolences may be made by visiting www.bryantgrantfuneralhome.com.

• ENGAGEMENT •

Ashburn/Hyduke

Mr. and Mrs. William Warren Ashburn, III of Highlands, North Carolina are happy to announce the engagement of their daughter, Rebecca Cubbedge Ashburn to David Colby Hyduke. Colby is the son of Mr. and Mrs. David Allen Hyduke, of Bennettsville, South Carolina.

Becca graduated from Highlands School and attended Newberry College, and is employed by The Ugly Dog Pub in Highlands. Colby graduated from Marlboro County High School and Newberry College, is employed by American Tire and is currently living in Pawley's Island, South Carolina.

An April wedding is being planned at Bear Lake Reserve, Tuckasee, NC.



• MILESTONE •

Moore awarded scholarship



Davis Moore.

Photo by Bob Sutton

High School Senior Davis Moore has been awarded a \$500 scholarship by the Highlands Roadrunners Club at its recent annual meeting.

"Davis just completed his first and only season of Cross Country for the Highlanders," said HRC Vice-President Morris Williams, "and before June he had never run in a race. But in November he finished in 3rd place at the N.C. State Cross Country Championship meet, and in December he qualified for the N. C. State Championship Indoor Track Meet. His running goals are coming to fruition because of his hard work." Davis recently accepted a scholarship to run cross country and track at Lee University in Cleveland, Tennessee.

This was the 22nd scholarship awarded by the Roadrunners. Club.

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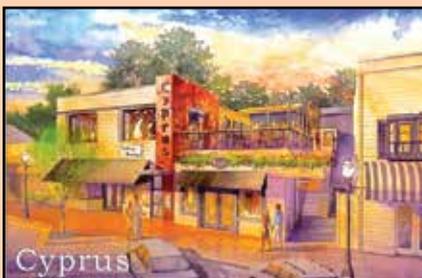
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...SERVICES from page 1

County Commission meeting, County Manager Derek Roland told the board he had been in contact with Jackson County Manager Chuck Wooten concerning the services Macon County renders Jackson County citizens for fire protection, EMS/9-1-1, and landfill usage and has assigned what he considers a fair reimbursement value of \$159,811 for 2014-'15.

"I would respectfully request for the Jackson County Board of Commissioners to consider reimbursing Macon County in the amount of \$159,811 (13% of the \$1,215,092.38 in projected tax revenue to Jackson County from the 332 properties) for landfill utilization, fire protection, 911 Communications, and EMS services which we continue to provide those properties located in the Macon County Service Area for FY 14-'15," wrote Roland in an email to Wooten. "Furthermore, I would request that we begin discussing an acceptable method to ensure that this reimbursement continues to be provided on an annual basis."

He said even though Macon County has been providing these services to the residents of Jackson County for many years, the county isn't looking for retroactive payments, just payments beginning with the 2014-'15 budget year and moving forward.

In response, Wooten said the matter will be discussed at his board of commissioners' annual retreat Jan. 20 where the formation of districts within the county will be discussed.

"We have begun the discussions of establishing service districts in Jackson County for the purpose of fire protection and Highlands is one of those districts that we tentatively would establish," responded Wooten in an email. "If that is the case, then we may begin levying taxes for fire protection in some parts of the county and the Highlands service district could be one of those areas. Obviously, we have a lot of work to do before a district can be established."

Wooten forwarded Roland's proposal to Jackson County Emergency Management Director Todd Dillard our Emergency Management Director who will be the one to determine the boundary lines and parcels within each of the service districts.

"I'm sure he will need to get with you or someone with the Highlands Fire & Rescue Department to identify

• See SERVICES page 13

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...ESCAPE continued from page 1

Officers.

Within a few moments, Detention Officers were able to convince Schaffer to come back down out of the ceiling at which time he complied.

The area he escaped into is 100% surrounded by several inches of solid concrete. Inmates wouldn't know that because the concrete is not visible due to the dropped ceiling.

Schaffer did comply with the orders of the officers and came back down moments later.

Prior to the attempted escape, Schaffer had been brought in after being arrested earlier in the morning by deputies.

Deputies had located him in a resi-

dence hiding inside a box spring under a mattress.

In the previous days, Florida authorities had contacted the MCSO and provided a possible location of Schaffer.

Schaffer was a wanted fugitive from Florida for "Armed Burglary" and "Aggravated Assault with a Weapon." His bond has been set at \$150,000 and he remains in the Macon County Detention Center.

When Sheriff Holland asked what he was doing in the ceiling Schaffer's response was, "I was trying to get to a phone and make a call."

Schaffer was brought into the Detention Center approximately 30 minutes pri-

• See ESCAPE page 6



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...ESCAPE continued from page 5

or to his attempted escape.

Savannah Monteith age 24 of Franklin and Schaffer's sister was also arrested along with Schaffer and is facing charges by the U.S. Marshals and MCSO for "Felony Harboring a Wanted Fugitive" and "Resisting of Public Officer."

Monteith was warned earlier in the week that this would happen if she assisted Schaffer in any manner. Her bond has been set at \$10,000.

"Following a preliminary review of

the incident it appears all procedures were followed. I will order a full review to take place on Monday morning. Based on what I have seen first hand this morning during my review, I am confident my staff was doing its job proficiently," said Sheriff Holland. "It was a hectic morning leading up to this incident. The staff were going about their day conducting business as usual and serving the community proudly."

– Facebook posting by Sheriff Holland



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• HS SPORTS •

Middle School Basketball

The middle school basketball teams hosted Blue Ridge on Tuesday, Jan. 6. The girls lost 39 to 12. The boys lost 33 to 15.

On Thursday, Jan. 8, both teams hosted Tamassee-Salem. The girls lost 34 to 19, but the boys played a very intense game winning 36 to 33.

Varsity Basketball

On Monday, Dec. 22, the varsity teams hosted the Murphy Bulldogs for the last game of the 2014 school year.

Although they kept their fouls under control, the Lady Highlanders didn't come out playing strong defensively or offensively. They ended the first half behind 27 to 18 with Ann Marie Crowe high scorer with 6 points.

They came out in the second half playing more aggressively on offense and defense, but took a close loss 46 to 42. Ann Marie Crowe was high scorer with 8 points and Madison Lloyd with 6 points.

The boys came out in the first half and like the girls, kept their fouls under control. They went into halftime behind 31 to 24 with Brent Amundrud high scorer with 12 points and Johnny Lupoli with 10 points.

The second half they played stronger and more aggressively and won 65 to 56. Brent Amundrud was high scorer with 20 points and Johnny Lupoli with 11 points.

On Tuesday, Jan. 6, the Highlanders varsity teams hosted the Rosman Tigers for the first game of the 2015 season.

The Lady Highlander came out strong and went into half time with a close 23 to 22 lead. Madison Lloyd was high scorer with 6 points and Ann Marie Crowe and Whitney Billingsley scoring 4 points each.

The second half they came out just as strong, paying neck and neck the whole game but unfortunately took a 55 to 50 loss. Ann Marie Crowe was high scorer with 10 points and Madison Lloyd with 7 points.

• See SPORTS page 11



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16" NEW YORK STYLE PIZZA WITH UP TO FIVE TOPPINGS AND A LARGE HOUSE SALAD \$19.99 OR BAKED PASTA, WITH GARLIC BREAD AND SALAD FOR 19.95 PASTA, TOMATO SAUCE, AND CHEESE WITH A CHOICE OF ITALIAN SAUSAGE, MEAT BALLS OR CRISPY CHICKEN. AVAILABLE MONDAY THROUGH THURSDAY 4:30 TO CLOSE

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.

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

STORE HOURS: 7AM-8PM MON - THURS, FRI & SAT 7AM-9PM, 8AM-6PM SUNDAY

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HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS

Ongoing

• The Cub and Boy Scouts of America have three drop offs for worn and tattered flags. They properly retire them. Drop offs at Highlands Doors and Windows 2242 Dillard Road, the Highlands Fire Station or Highlands United Methodist Church office. Contact Phil Potts for more information 828 526-3719

Monday

• Shortoff Baptist Church hosts a non-denominational Men's Meeting the first Monday night of each month at 7 pm and all men are invited to attend.

Tuesdays

• Reading dog "Beebles" will be at Hudson Library every Tuesday at 3:30pm. Please call (828)526-3031 to register.
• Free Community Table Dinner at the Community Bldg. at 6p.

• Zumba at the Rec Park at 8:05a. \$5.

Mon., Wed., Fri.

• Aerobics with Tina Rogers 8-9a.
• Zumba at the Rec Park at 9:05a. \$5

Wednesdays

• First Baptist Church is happy to present a new season of X-treme Games at the Highlands Rec. Park. The games will be held Wednesday nights from 6 to 7:15 pm. For more information or to pre-register your k - 6th grade child, please call 526-4153.

1st Wednesdays

• Family Movies at the Hudson Library at 3:30pm. Call 828-526-3031 for titles.

3rd Wednesdays

• General Audience Movies at Hudson Library at 2pm. Call 828-526-3031 for titles.

1st & 3rd Thursdays

• Free local ongoing support group for caregivers. Are you involved with the care of a loved one who is physically

or mentally facing challenges? Sponsored by The Counseling and Psychotherapy Center of Highlands and the Highlands United Methodist Church, this group meets at 4 p.m. at Room 203 at the Peggy Crosby Center. Facilitated by Bonnie Gramlich, a licensed professional. Drop in or call for further info, 828.342.0546.

Thursdays

• Storytimes with Miss Carol at Hudson Library 10:40am. Open to the public.

• Highlands Writers' Group meets every Thursday from 1-3:30 pm at Hudson Library. Writers of all genres welcome. For info call 526-8009 or 526-2295.

• NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) offers a peer support group for individuals that are dealing with depression, anxiety, PTSD, bipolar, schizophrenia, etc. and the family members or friends of loved ones dealing with these challenges. Join us in a safe, confidential environment to share concerns and gain insight. Join us for our Weekly Support Group from 7 - 8:15 pm @ 14 West Palmer Street in Franklin NC, email dcwithnami@yahoo.com, Donita (828) 526-9510.

2nd Thursdays

• Sapphire Valley Needlepoint Guild meets at the Highlands Rec Park at 10 a.m. Newcomers welcomed.

Last Fri. of each month

• Weight Watchers support group meets every Thursday at 6pm at the Cashiers Community Center. Questions? Call Lisa 828-506-3555

Sundays

• At the Mountain Laurel Tennis Club at 4:30 pm. Multi-denominational, Interactive Bible Study and Fellowship. Open to all.

Jan 9-Jan 16

• The movie, Theory of Everything at the Highlands Playhouse, 8p Friday, Saturday and Thursday. The movie Exodus at 2p and 5p. Fri- Sun. and Thurs.

Fri., Jan 16

• The High Mountain Squares will host their "Western Dance" Friday night at the Macon County Community Building, GA Road (441 South), Franklin NC from 6:30 to 9PM. Jim Duncan from Otto, NC will be the caller. We dance Western Style Square Dancing, main/stream and plus levels. New dancer lessons have just begun, join us. Everyone is welcome. For information call 828-371-4946, 828-342-1560, 828-332-0001 or www.highmountainsquare.com

Sat., Jan. 17

• At PAC, The MET Opera's 'Merry Widow' at 12:55p, with pre-opera discussion lead by Beverly Pittman at 12:30p. Tickets are available online: highlandspac.org or by calling 828.526.9047. Performing Arts Center: 507 Chestnut Street Highlands

Sunday, Jan. 18

• The next Bolivian Mission fundraiser will be the Pizza dinner during the conference NFL playoffs on January 18, 2015. As usual you can order a pizza and it will be delivered or can be picked up at the Highlands United Methodist Church between noon and 8PM. Pizzas can be ordered by calling the church secretary at 526-3376 or Dr. Baumrucker at 526-3605.

Saturday, Jan. 24

• American Legion Post 370 Special Called meeting at 2 p.m., at the Highlands Civic Center on N. 4th St, Highlands. The purpose is to discuss the continuation of the post and to offer all veterans a chance to become familiar with the Legion's programs and possible membership. For more information, call Ed Jones at 828-743-0986 or Jack Greve at 828-389-0263.

• The Friends of the Scottish Tartans Museum and Heritage Center present THE BURNS NIGHT DINNER honoring the 255th anniversary of the birth of poet Robert Burns

on Saturday at 5:30 pm in Tartan Hall, Franklin Presbyterian Church. Tickets available at the Scottish Tartans Museum (828-524-7472) or tartans@scottishtartans.org. Reservations by January 20, 2015

Tues., Jan. 27

• Two Ladies Night Out Programs on Healthy Eating. The guest speaker will be Jeffrey Whitridge, RD, CSO, LDN. Healthy eating starts with learning new ways to eat. One will be at 4 p.m. and one will be at 6:30 p.m.

• At the Tuesday Men's Night Out Program, the topic will be Financial/Investments. The guest speaker will be Russell W. Hawkins, II, Financial Advisor with Edward Jones. The meeting will be at Angel Medical Center in the Video Conference Room on the 3rd floor, at 6:30 p.m. For more info call Don Capaforte at 349-6887 or Dawn Wilde Burgess at 349-2426.

Sat., Jan. 31

• At the Satolah Fire Dept., chili, music and more. Eating begins at 5p: \$6 plate includes chili, cornbread and a drink. Take out available. Music begins at 6p. Oliver Rice and Mark Visage. Auction items. Cake Auction. All money raised goes to the Clear Creek Baptist Church to help with its furnace replacement cost.

The MET Opera presents The Merry Widow at PAC on Sat., Jan. 17th



Renée Fleming adds a new role to her extensive repertory when she sings her first-ever performances of Hanna Glawari, the title role in Lehár's The Merry Widow. Four-time Tony Award winner Susan Stroman makes her Met debut as director and choreographer of a new production of the comic operetta, in which a wealthy widow's countrymen launch a romantic plot to keep her—and her tax dollars—within their borders. The Merry Widow, Saturday at 12:55pm with a pre-opera discussion lead by Beverly Pittman at 12:30pm. Tickets are available online: highlandspac.org or by calling 828.526.9047, Performing Arts Center: 507 Chestnut Street Highlands



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Playhouse**

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January 16-22

Showtimes: Jan 16, 17 & 22 @ 2, 5 & 8
Jan 18 @ 2 & 5

No movies Mon-Wed during the winter

Downton Abbey on the big screen Sundays
at 9pm throughout the new season!
Free Admission



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showtime app for up to date showtimes



362 Oak St

(828) 526-2695

...PERU continued from page 1

My alarm went off at 4:30 am to begin the journey. I hopped on a bus and two hours later I reached the beginning of the Inca trail. I hiked with 15 other people, yet I was still alone. Everyone in the group was paired with their best friend, their girlfriend, their husband or son. The point is: everyone had someone to share this amazing experience with, everyone except me.

I was trying to enjoy the beautiful scenery that the Inca trail offers, but I could not stop thinking about how it would be even better if someone was there with me. However, the more and more I hiked the more and more I came to enjoy being alone.

On the third day of the hike the oldest man (68 years old) asked me if I would rather be alone or if I would like someone to talk with. I told him that I actually preferred being alone, not just because he was walking a lot faster than me, but also because I took pleasure being by myself. I enjoyed the peace that I could deeply experience when I was alone. This was the perfect time for me to reflect on my past

two months in Peru - the friendships and relationships that have changed my life forever.

Finally, on December 4th, 2014, I made it to Machu Picchu. Four, long days of hiking, finding out how mentally, emotionally, and physically strong I am, and I was finally there!

Machu Picchu was of course breathtaking. In the old days, people would hike the Inca trail to 'cleanse the soul and sacrifice the body' for Machu Picchu. I had definitely sacrificed my body, but I also felt like I had cleansed my soul. I learned so much about myself throughout those four days. I also learned that I missed my family and although I did not want to, it was time for me to leave Peru.

I said my good-byes to all my friends, then got on a plane for the United States. After a sleepless night and 15 hours of travel time, I was finally back home. It was amazing to see my family, but I admit that I still felt sad about leaving Peru. It took me a couple of days to adjust back into the American culture. An example: I met a woman on my first day back. In Peru it is the custom to kiss everyone you meet on the cheek. I leaned in to kiss this woman hello, but I stopped to shake her hand instead.

When I was home over the holidays, all I keep thinking is: "I love being home." I love the cozy, warm feeling of being with my family. I love seeing old friends. Highlands during Christmas time is magical and I am very happy that I get to experience another Christmas here with my High-lands family.

I left for the second part of my gap year on January 6. I jumped on another plane and headed to the other side of the world for Nepal. I am stationed in Kathmandu, hopefully recording the oral traditions of the elders. I hope to make a difference in people's lives while greatly impacting my own. I hope to visit the beautiful, fascinating temples that are in Nepal, and of course climb a little of Mt. Everest. I'm very excited about this next part of my journey, however; what I have learned on my gap year so far is that nothing ever goes as planned.

Note: Emily is on the second leg of her journey as a GAP student she will live in three countries over the 2014-2015 school year. During the first leg she was in Trujillo, Peru where she taught English.

A gap year through UNC-Chapel Hill is when students take a break from formal classroom-based education to travel, volunteer, intern, or work. Typically, it is taken between high school graduation and entry into college. Students gain real-world experience, life skills, independence, and personal growth.

ATTENTION:

Fuel Assistance signups will be held at the HEC office located at 71 Popular Street on the following dates:

Friday, January 16

10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Wednesday, January 21

10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Please bring proof of income. Identification is also required if signing up for the first time.

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CHOOSE CLASSICS LIKE:

RED MARGHERITA: FRESH MOZZARELLA, CRUSHED TOMATO & FRESH BASIL

PANCETTA: PANCETTA, ROASTED RED PEPPERS, MUSHROOMS, CRUSHED TOMATO & GRANDE MOZZARELLA

PROSCIUTTO ARUGULA: PROSCIUTTO DE PARMA, MUSHROOMS, GARLIC INFUSED EVVO, PECORINO, & FRESH ARUGULA TOSSED WITH EVVO

OR MODERN INTERPRETATIONS:

FIG & PIG: FIGS, PANCETTA, GRANDE MOZZARELLA, CRUSHED TOMATO, GORGONZOLA, TOPPED WITH ARUGULA TOSSED IN EVVO.

BBQ CILANTRO CHICKEN: PULLED CHICKEN, BBQ SAUCE, GRANDE MOZZARELLA, RED & GREEN ONION, FRESH CILANTRO.

...OR BUILD YOUR OWN.

N.Y. DECK OVEN PIZZAS

10 INCH \$10.95 / 16 INCH \$19.95

CHOOSE YOUR SAUCE:

ITALIAN RED TOMATO, ITALIAN WHITE CREAM, PESTO BASIL, OR BARBECUE

CHOOSE UP TO 5 TOPPINGS:

PEPPERONI, ITALIAN SAUSAGE, GROUND BEEF, HAM, BACON, CHICKEN, CARAMELIZED ONION, FRESH ONION, ROASTED RED PEPPERS, GREEN PEPPERS, BANANA PEPPERS, OLIVES, MUSHROOMS, PINEAPPLE, SPINACH, EGGPLANT, ARTICHOKE, ANCHOVIES, GRANDE MOZZARELLA, GORGONZOLA, PROVOLONE, FETA, AND PARMESAN

ITALIAN STREET FOOD \$10.95

LEMON ROSEMARY SAUTÉED CHICKEN, CRISPY CHICKEN FRITTE, ITALIAN SAUSAGE OR MEDITERRANEAN STEAK

ADD YOUR SAUCE: POMODORO, PESTO BASIL, ITALIAN WHITE CREAM, CREAMY PESTO

THEN IT'S ALL SAUTÉED WITH FRESH ANGEL HAIR PASTA, TOPPED WITH PARMAGIANO & SERVED WITH FRESH BAKED PIADINA

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• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

Muslim vs. Muslim

By Steve Kerhoulas

Christ Church of the Valley, Cashiers

Radical Islam is back in the news with the recent attack in Paris killing twelve persons. Like most Americans I am concerned over the war on terror and worry about when and where the next 9/11 assault will take place. It seems that World War III has begun and the enemy isn't a "nation" as much as a "belief."

I just finished reading a book that has brought some balance to my concerns that most Americans might be feeling right now. We wonder just how many Muslims have been radicalized. The fact is, according to research, around 150 million or about 10% have. While the vast majority of Muslims, about 1.35 billion, are not jihadist. Missionaries in Muslims countries report that most adherents to Islam abhor the violence and are concerned that "all" Islamists will be lumped into the extremist camp.

The danger for the world is real. There is an enemy who is determined to destroy anyone who does not convert to its form of Islam. But most Muslims are not they. I was surprised to learn that many within the Islamic world have been experiencing "Dreams and Visions". Thousands upon thousands report having numerous visitations in their dreams and by visions with Jesus. David Garrison states that the annual growth rate for Christianity among Muslims is currently 1.9%. That might not seem like a lot. But the rate of growth for evangelicals is 2.6%. If these figures are correct, around 82,000 people become Christians everyday and many of them are former Muslims.

It makes perfect sense that the terrorist goal is not just the spreading of their extremist theology. But must include the stopping of the thousands upon thousands who were followers of Mohamed but have found lasting peace through faith in Jesus Christ.

All Muslims are not terrorists! Most are kind and caring people whose faith in Allah is being challenged, not by might, but by His love. It's what changed me.

Proverbs 3:5

• PLACES TO WORSHIP •

John 3:16**BLUE VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH**

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

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

Sunday night services every 2nd & 4th Sunday at 7

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

BUCK CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

828-269-3546 • Rev. Jamie Passmore, Pastor

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

CHAPEL OF SKY VALLEY

Sky Valley, GA • 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.: 9:15a Christian Education at Buck's Coffee Cashiers

Crossroads; 10:30a Faithful, Family Service w/ Music & Communion.

Mon.: Bible Study & Supper at homes - 6 p.m.

CHRIST CHURCH OF THE VALLEY, CASHIERS

Pastor Steve Kerhoulas • 743-5470

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

Tues. 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: Child. 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: Eucharist Rite I 8a in chapel; Education

and choir rehearsal, 9 am, Holy Eucharist Rite II, (sanctuary), 10:30

Wednesday: 10 a.m., Morning Prayer

Thursdays: Holy Eucharist, (chapel), 10 am

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH HIGHLANDS

828-526-4153 • www.fbchighlands.org

Dr. Mark Ford, Pastor

220 Main Street, Highlands NC 28741

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

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

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Curtis Fussell & Emily Wilmarth, pastors

526-3175 • fpchighlands.org

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

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

Wednesdays: Choir: 5:30p

GOLDMINE BAPTIST CHURCH

(Off Franklin/Highlands Rd) • Rev. Carson Gibson

Sunday School: 10 am, Worship Service: 11 am

Bible Study: 6 pm

GRACE COMMUNITY CHURCH OF CASHIERS

Non-Denominational-Contemporary Worship

242 Hwy 107N, 1/4 miles from Crossroads in Cashiers

www.gracecashiers.com • Pastor Steve Doerter: 743-9814

Services: Sundays 10am - Wed. - 7pm; Dinner - Wed. 6pm

HAMBURG BAPTIST CHURCH

Hwy 107N. • Glenville, Nc • 743-2729

Pastor Nathan Johnson

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

Wed. Kidsquest 6p.; Worship 7p.

HIGHLANDS ASSEMBLY OF GOD

Randy Reed, Pastor 828-421-9172 • 165 S. Sixth Street

Sundays: Worship: 11

HIGHLANDS CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Dan Robinson

670 N. 4th Street (next to the Highlands Civic Center)

Sun.: Morning Worship 10:45 a., Evening Worship, 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: 5:15; youth, & adults activities: 6; Handbell

rehearsal, 6:15; Choir Rehearsal 7. (nursery provided)

HOLY FAMILY LUTHERAN CHURCH: ELCA

Chaplain Margaret Howell • 2152 Dillard Road • 526-

9741

Sun: School and Adult discussion group 9:30 a.m.;

Worship/Communion: 10:30

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 Troy Nicholson, (828) 526-8425

Sundays: School: 10 a.m.; Worship: 11, Choir: 6 p.m.

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

MOUNTAIN SYNAGOGUE

St. Cyprian's Episcopal Church, Franklin

828-369-9270 or 828-293-5197

MOUNTAIN BIBLE CHURCH

743-2583 • Independent Bible Church

Sun: 10:30 a.m. at Big Ridge Baptist Church,

4224 Big Ridge Road (4.5 miles from NC 107)

Weds: Bible Study 6:30 p.m.; Youth Group 6 p.m.

OUR LADY OF THE MOUNTAINS CATHOLIC**CHURCH**

Parish office (Father Francis): 526-2418

Mass: Sun: 11 a.m.; Sat. at 4p

SCALY MOUNTAIN BAPTIST CHURCH

Rev. Marty Kilby

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

Wednesdays: Prayer Mtg.: 7 p.m.

SCALY MOUNTAIN CHURCH OF GOD

290 Buck Knob Road; Pastor Alfred Sizemore • 526-3212

Sun.: 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

THE CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

1448 Highway 107 South, Office: 743-2359

Rev. Dr. Virginia Monroe

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

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

Nursery available for Rite II services

Sept 7- Oct 26- Informal Evening Eucharist- 5:30 p.m.

Thursday: Noon Healing Service with Eucharist.

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP

85 Sierra Drive • 828-524-6777

Sunday Worship - 11 a.m. Child Care - 10:30a - 12:30p

Religious Education - 11 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

Youth 8th - 12th grade meets 2nd Sundays 5 - 7:30p

WHITESIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Rev. Sam Forrester/Cashiers

Sunday School: 10 am, Worship Service: 11 am



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Investing in Real Estate

By Jennifer Blake
Highlands Cove Realty
Broker-in-Charge

If you're thinking about purchasing an investment property, experts say low home prices combined with low interest rates make this the best time in years to become a real-estate investor. The real-estate market is starting to recover in our area so acting now could leave you with one of the best investments you've ever made. "When the money is cheap to borrow and the houses are cheap to buy, it's absolutely the best time to invest." While the timing may be right, these tips can help you take advantage of what might be the opportunity of a lifetime.

Determine the type of property you are looking for. Since not all investment properties are the same, it's important to determine what type of property you want to invest in. Do you want to own a vacation rental property where you have the benefit of using the property yourself and only have to rent a few weeks a year to cover your expenses? Or would you prefer to own commercial real estate and rent out to businesses? Those with a lot of vision and creativity may prefer not to rent but instead restore and resell properties? All are great options, but it is important to know what you are trying to accomplish before purchasing a property.

Find an experienced real estate Broker. A real-estate Broker who has experience in investment property will help you tremendously when searching for

the right property. Local Brokers with experience know the market better than anyone and will know immediately which areas are going to be the best fit for what you are trying to accomplish.

Look for the right location. Whether you are trying to rent or resell, location is and always has been key! Homes in high-rent areas with available amenities, view properties, or walk to town options tend to produce the most income. The more you have to offer, the easier it will be for you to rent and/or sell the property when you are ready.

Consider a Property Manager. Consider hiring a property manager who can oversee the property and ensure that it is well maintained and has tenant satisfaction during their time in your property. A good property manager will make sure to properly advertise your property, screen tenants, and help you stay on top of your bookkeeping and taxes. They will handle all of the scheduling as well as any issues that arise during the tenancy. Property managers have great contacts with trustworthy and reliable maintenance/service personnel and have the ability to coordinate services faster in a lot of cases because they do business on a regular basis with these individuals. A property manager can make the investors life a lot easier so that the investor can reap the benefits of the income produced and not have to worry about the day to day operations of that property. For a small fee, it is certainly worth the peace of mind!

There are many benefits to

purchasing an investment property such as potential huge tax deductions on your mortgage interest, insurance, maintenance and repairs, legal and professional fees, depreciation, property taxes

and more. Owning an investment property is a great way to create more wealth for yourself. If you are looking for an investment opportunity in our area, I have many years of experience with

both property management and investment properties and will be glad to help you find the perfect place! Please contact me at (828) 526-8128 or by email jennifer@highlandscove.com.

• RE SNAPSHOTS •

The Best of Both Worlds



Drastic Reduction! The perfect combination of a gorgeous, custom home and long-range mountain views! Situated in a private setting (complete with great garden area!) with views of Shortoff Mtn and the Smokies, this home boasts wonderful indoor and outdoor living spaces. Gated and paved access.

Offered at \$1,450,000. MLS #77628.
Contact Susie deVile (828) 371-2079.

Extraordinary Satulah Mountain Lot



Located on historic Satulah Mountain in the heart of Highlands, this truly unique, 1.1 +/- acre lot features easy access, a gentle building site, lush wooded views, and Town power and water. Recently surveyed and flagged, this unique parcel is easy to walk and see.

Offered at \$199,000. MLS #79578.
Contact Susie deVile (828) 371-2079.

Commercial Zoned B3 with I/I Apt.



Excellent opportunity to own commercial property in downtown Highlands. Zoned B-3 commercial. Commercial/retail/professional space on the main level w/office area, storage space, and half bathroom. Upper level is a newly-renovated, charming, one bedroom, one bath apartment with hardwood floors throughout. Garage may be used for extra storage space. Gas log fireplace on both levels.

Offered at \$395,000. MLS #69631.
Contact Susie deVile (828) 371-2079.

Adorable Updated Cottage



You will LOVE this adorable, updated 2BR/2.5BA cottage. Features great living spaces, with fireplaces in the living room and the master bedroom, wood floors, and a single garage. Enjoy some quiet time and relaxation in the private courtyard and sitting area behind the home. Sold mostly furnished with a few exclusions. EXCELLENT buy and value!

Offered at \$349,000. MLS #80713.
Contact Susie deVile (828) 371-2079.

...HS SPORTS continued from page 6

The boys came out playing a very intense close game. They ended the first half with a lead of 22 to 20.

They came out in the second half playing even more intensely but took a one point loss 44 to 43.

Johnny Lupoli was high scorer of the game with 17 points and Brent Amundrud with 15 points.

On Friday, Jan. 9 the teams travelled to Swain. The girls won their game 47 to 45. The boys lost 42 to 33.

– Sierra Nylund



Susie deVile
Broker-in-Charge
(828) 371-2079

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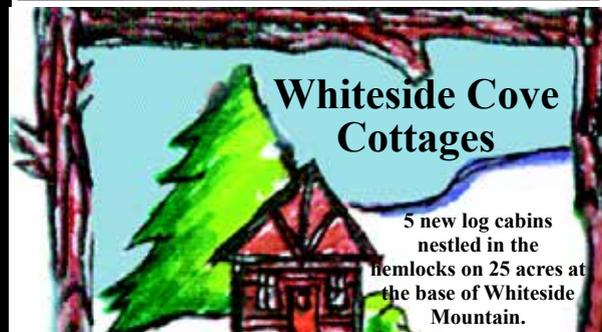
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• POLICE & FIRE REPORTS •

The Highlands Police log entries from Nov. 26 Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor or public officials have been used.

Nov. 26

• At noon, a bounced check was reported at the Farmers Market and the case was closed Jan. 2, 2015.

Dec. 16

• At 4:30 p.m., officers were called about a person making lewd and obscene remarks at the Rec Park.

Dec. 17

• At 12:23 p.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident near Spring Street.

Dec. 19

• At 1 p.m., officers were called about a patron at Mitchell's Lodge making employees uncomfortable on several occasions.

Dec. 22

• At 4 p.m., Mario Escobedo, 40, of Franklin, was arrested for drunk and disruptive behavior and resisting arrest at the Farmer's Market at NC 106 and Main Street.

Dec. 21

• At 12:50 p.m., officers responded to a shoplifting call at Potpourri on Main Street where a pair of sunglasses were taken.

Dec. 30

• At 1:06 p.m., officers were called about drug paraphernalia found in the vicinity of a realty busi-

ness on Main Street

Dec. 31

• At 3 p.m., officers responded to a call of larceny of a golf cart from a home on Brushy Face Road.

The Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. log entries from Dec. 31.

Dec. 31

• At 12:51 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Summit Trail.

• At 1:07 p.m., the dept. stood by at the hospital for the MAMA helicopter.

Jan. 1

• At 4:49 a.m., the dept. responded to a vehicle accident on U.S. 64 west.

• At 8:49 a.m., the dept. re-

sponded to a chimney fire on south 4th street.

Jan. 3

• At 2:01 p.m., the dept. responded to Hospital Drive about a miscellaneous fire.

• At 11:21 p.m., the dept. responded to a vehicle accident on Blue Valley Falls Drive.

Jan. 4

• At 10:31 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Wingina Drive.

• At 7:59 p.m., the dept. responded to a search call in the vicinity of Holt Road.

Jan. 5

• At 12:11 p.m., the dept. stood by at the hospital for the MAMA helicopter.

• BUSINESS / ORGANIZATION NEWS •

Sheryl Wilson Joins Pat Allen Realty Group

Sheryl Wilson is originally from Asheville, NC and moved to Highlands in 2010 when she married Dennis "Doc" Wilson. She graduated from Mars Hill University with a degree in Business Administration and from Western Carolina University with a Masters of Accountancy.

Her career has been in the accounting, customer service, governmental auditing, and managerial areas. She was formerly employed as Supervisor with the North Carolina Department of Revenue.

She launched her real estate career in 2012 and is a dedicated person who serves individuals from any and all spheres with a degree of professionalism and advocacy to whatever interest(s) they are pursuing.

"I am so delighted to welcome Sheryl to Pat Allen Realty Group, says Pat Allen, owner. Not only is she smart but lovely inside and out. Her values, integrity and kindness assure you a pleasant real estate experience. I feel very fortunate to have her on our team."

She is a volunteer with the local food pantry and hospital located in Highlands, NC. She also serves on the Policies and Procedures Committee for the local MLS Board.

Sheryl may be contacted at Pat Allen Realty Group at 828-526-8784 or in the office at 295 Dillard Road.

...SERVICES continued from page 4

tify those parcels that receive fire protection from the Highlands Fire Department," he said. "I've also asked him to prepare a response for me concerning the 911 dispatch/EMS proposal."

Roland reminded Wooten that once the Highlands Fire Department Sub-Station at Cherrywood Drive is completed all of the 332 parcels in the Macon County Service area will lie inside the Highlands "5 mile district" which will afford homeowners a Class 5 insurance rating. This could save some homeowners which currently lie

outside the "6 mile district" and have a Class 10 insurance rating as much as \$6,000 annually.

Commissioner Tate said about 50% of what the substation would be servicing would be in Jackson County.

Highlands Fire Department conservatively estimate a 30% reduction in annual insurance premiums to all properties that come within the district of the new substation, said Roland.

As to the landfill issue, Wooten said he would suggest his board exempt the households served by Macon County's solid



Sheryl Wilson

waste provider from the fee Jackson County assesses for solid waste and allow Macon County to collect a fee from those households instead.

"As long as we have assurance from your provider that none of the solid waste is transported to the staffed recycling center in Cashiers, Jackson County would be relieved of providing all solid waste disposal to these parcels," he said.

Wooten said though further discussion is needed, he believes the two counties can reach a consensus for future budgets.

MC Commissioner Ronnie Beale thanked Jim Tate for stepping up and being the first to do something about this issue.

— Kim Lewicki

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

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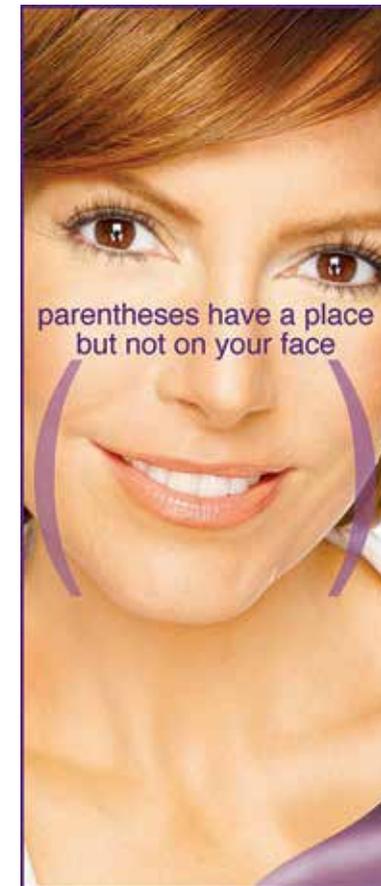
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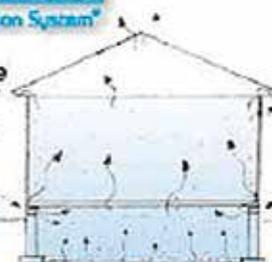
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