Highlands Police Chief Bill Harrell made no bones about it: the Highlands Police Department of today is nothing like the police department of yesterday.

At Monday night’s Planning Board meeting, members gathered at the police department to learn about public safety in regard to the town’s Comprehensive Plan which the group is updating.

Chief Harrell replaced Chief Jerry Cook 10 years ago this July. Cook retired from the position after 25 years.

In regard to the past, and a letter-to-the-editor from Retired Police Chief Jerry Cook that appeared in the newspapers last week, Harrell said much has changed.

For starters, every one of his 12 full-time officers and even the

Charter and public schools battle for same funding sources despite different regs

State leaders are looking to make a change in public education, and if the Governor's budget or the House budget is any indication of what is to come, big changes could be headed our way.

The North Carolina House education budget proposal calls for an increase to school spending in K-12 of $269 million, a 3.3 percent increase over the current year's budget.

While a significant portion of the House's budget includes $100.2 million to help fund enrollment growth in the state, one new item in the budget has caught the attention of Macon County school leaders.

The House budget includes $1 million to launch pilot programs of Macon County school leaders.

The House budget includes $1 million to launch pilot programs through Parents for Educational Freedom in North Carolina, a charter school advocacy group. The group would give out $200,000 grants for new charter schools across North Carolina.

Last month, the Macon County Board of Education sent a letter to state representatives opposing the measure, and instead asked the state to use those funds to fully fund public education.

Macon County Superintendent Dr. Chris Baldwin spoke to county commissioners and school board members earlier this month about the adverse effect the charter school “seed” money could have locally, as well as how the local charter school is inflating the budget.

Summit Charter School, located in Cashiers, currently has 36 students enrolled in its school from the Highlands area (Macon County). According to Baldwin, between the local, state, and federal dollars that follow the students to their school choice, Macon County loses about $200,000 for those students to attend the charter school.

“We need to start looking at Summit Charter School as being another small school funded through Parents for Educational Freedom in North Carolina, a charter school advocacy group,” Baldwin said. The group would give out $200,000 grants for new charter schools across North Carolina.

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By Mayor Pat Taylor

I have promised to keep citizens informed. In that spirit, I do a weekly radio show, “Ask the Mayor.” I have a monthly coffee hour at the Hudson Library open to all. At present I have written about 70 “Mayor on Duty” columns. Anyone can drop by my office or call me on my phone. The feedback is mostly positive, but then I receive some generally constructive criticism about me and the town. I look into valid concerns and respond.

Communication goes both ways.

Several opinions about the town have recently appeared in the local press. I want to share with everyone, as the late Paul Harvey put it, “the rest of the story.” Or at least my views.

One letter-to-the-editor charged that our police department did not show proper respect to the family at the funeral of a former Highlands police officer. The whole story was not told. Highlands officers Castle, Dowdle and Reynolds were at the funeral dressed in full uniform, and I attended the funeral as the Mayor of Highlands.

Furthermore, 25 regional law enforcement agencies have been consulted concerning the protocol for honoring deceased current and former officers. That policy is being drafted to be presented to the town commissioners for their review.

Another item I noticed was the cartoon of juxtaposing a picture of town electrical department truck near the words Bucket Truck next to a picture of a woman in Christmas regalia near the words Ice Skating. Other captions were Needs and Wants. The connotation was that the town might spend funds for an ice skating rink rather than buying a needed bucket truck. The real story is that the skating rink is a privately funded initiative, while the purchase of the truck will come from town funds. It is not an either or situation as implied by my cartoonist friend.

Finally, it was great to know my buddy Fred has come out of hibernation from poolside in Miami to take the town on about Monkey Hill sledding. Surprisingly, Fred is just now catching up on old news.

Yes, it is exasperating that the town constantly worries about law suits. On the other hand, there isn’t a week that goes by that someone isn’t threatening to sue the town, and some do. If anything in the least bit bad occurs on a Highlands street, lawyers are poised to intervene. As mayor I have stated the town, in many respects, should be operated like a business. I suspect there is not a town business that has a cavalier attitude about liability. Even columnists have to worry about liability.

My father-in-law, former Mayor Buck Trott, was once asked by a columnist to sign a release holding the columnist free of liability about anything he would write about the mayor. Actually, everyone is free to say pretty much anything about an elected official, including the mayor. Oh no, did I just say that?

To paraphrase Paul Harvey, that is my story. Good day!

Shame on Highlands

Dear Editor,

In response to Jerry Cook’s letter May 14. SHAME, SHAME, SHAME on the Town of Highlands and its police department!

Sharon Bowen
Highlands

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.

Letters-Two of the Editor

...RELIEF continued from page 1

as athletics were reduced by $70,351, while others, such as technology, were reduced by $243,315, based on Baldwin’s figures.

Like in the past, Baldwin drove home the point of how expensive it is to operate the Highlands and Nantahala schools, and hopes that state legislation introduced by Senator Jim Davis, would help alleviate some of that burden.

Both Highlands and Nantahala School cost the county school district significantly more to operate each year compared to the other schools in the district.

Together, Nantahala and Highlands house 483 students. If those students were transferred to schools located within Franklin, an additional 1.5 students would be added to schools. That addition wouldn’t require any additional teachers to manage the enrollment growth.

“Basically, Wayah Mountain and the Cullasaja Gorge cost us $2,173,500 a year,” said Dr. Baldwin.

Because of the geographical makeup of the county, Baldwin said that both Highlands and Nantahala are crucial for the district.

Earlier this year, Senator Jim Davis introduced legislation into the General Assembly that would provide Macon County with more money for the operational expenses associated with Nantahala and Highlands. The small school funding bill would need to make it out of committee, and according to Beale, if it does, it would be in the budget for the coming year.

The state’s budget is still being figured out, but according to a budget released by the House Appropriations subcommittee on Education, there could be some hope on the state level. One big factor comes in the funding for teacher assistants.

According to Baldwin, Macon County is bracing for a $279,000 budget shortfall just to keep the teacher assistants currently employed this year, next year.

According to the House budget, leaders are recommending $88.8 million in recurring funds be placed in the budget for teacher assistants. If that holds up when the budget gets sent to the state, half of the local budget shortfall would be eliminated.

The house budget also includes $26.4 million in non-recurring funds to restore driver education funding. Baldwin told county leaders that they were bracing for a $72,000 budget shortfall based on driver’s education. If the state was to restore that funding, Macon County would be on a coming year.
It’s a bear’s world in Highlands!

This cub was rescued by the crew of All Seasons Landscape while on the job in the Highgate community in Highlands. (See story in the May 14 edition.) Still on the job, they headed over to VZ Top to work at the Stewart’s place and took the cub along since the mother wouldn’t take it back.

While there Judith Stewart got a real “bear hug.” After a day’s work, the crew took the cub home to feed it. They tried to reunite it with its mother the next day when back on the job at Highgate but the mother rejected the cub and it is now in a rehabilitation center where it will get its “wildness” back before being released the summer of 2016.

Everyday this mama bear brings her three cubs to play in the yard of a residence near Fifth and Laurel streets.
Golden China
Listed in ‘100 Top Chinese Restaurants in USA’

**Lunch Buffet**

**LUNCH:**
11-2:30, M-TH $7.95
Friday: Seafood Buffet $8.95

Open Monday-Saturday
11a to 9:30p
Menu available, too
Wine & Beer • No MSG

**In-town delivery w/$15 order**
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**Lunch and Dinner:**
7 nights a week 5-9p
For reservations call: 526-4429
Main Street • Highlands

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

6”•10”•14”•16”•20”pies
Specialty Sandwiches, Hot Dogs & Salads,
Domestic & Imported Beers

Open 7 days a week from 11 a.m.
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Japanese • Asian • Thai • Hibachi Cuisine
Open Year Round 7 days/wk

Mon. – Thurs. 11a to 10p
Fri. & Sat., 11a to 11p
Sun., noon to 10p
828-787-1680 or 828-787-1900
We Cater!
151 Helen’s Barn Ave., Highlands

Buck’s Coffee Cafe

Coffee • Espresso Drinks
Smoothies • Hot Soup
Paninis • Baked Goods

On Main Street • Highlands
7 days a week • 7a to 6p • 526-0020

Asia House

Japanese • Asian • Thai • Hibachi Cuisine
Open Year Round 7 days/wk

Mon. – Thurs. 11a to 10p
Fri. & Sat., 11a to 11p
Sun., noon to 10p
828-787-1680 or 828-787-1900
We Cater!
151 Helen’s Barn Ave., Highlands
**Sports Page Sandwich Shoppe**

Serving Breakfast & Lunch.

**Monday-Saturday**

- Breakfast: 7:30-10:30am
- Lunch: Until 2:30pm

Full cooked-to-order breakfast & Daily Lunch Specials.

314 main Street, Highlands  
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Fun, Casual Fare

- Burgers of all kinds • Salads • Wraps
- Smoothies • Hot & Cold Soups
- Sweet or Savory Pastry Hand Pies • Desserts

Open 6 days a week

- Mon.-Fri.: 10:30a to 5:30ish
- Sat.: 9a to 5:30ish

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**Bistro ON MAIN**

- a restaurant

at The Main Street Inn  
270 Main Street (828) 526-2590

Serving Lunch

Sun., Mon., Thurs., Fri., & Sat.
Serving Dinner: Fri. & Sat.

Norma Jean on the guitar in the garden throughout Memorial Day Weekend!

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**Bella’s Junction Cafe**

Open for
Breakfast and Lunch EVERYDAY • 9a to 3p
Dinner, Thurs., Fri. & Sat. • 5:30p until Sunday 9a to 2:30p
(Closed Wednesdays)
Homemade Desserts • Gluten Free Pizza & Desserts Available • Catering, Too!

20 Old Mud Creek Rd, Scaly Mtn.

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**El Manzanillo**

100% Mexican Food!

Open
Monday-Sunday
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**Seafood Fridays at Creekside**

Introducing our Seafood Extravaganza

- Tender Lobster,
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- Shrimp Scampi,
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- Fries or
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Reservations necessary for this platter • 828-526-9822

Full Dinner Menu also available

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Mountain Brook Center  
Highlands

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Quesadillas • Tacos • Burritos
Homemade soups & freshly baked cookies

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Closed Sunday

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**Highlands Marketplace**

Local Artisans • Produce • Food • Crafts

Saturdays 8am-2pm
Next to Kelsey Hutchinson Park between Oak & Pine Streets
**UPCOMING EVENTS**

- **APPROPRIATION ART**: Join Margaret Browne, curator for The Bascom’s exhibition Contemporary College: Found Images, Mutable Meanings, as she addresses the question: How did we get from Picasso to Post-modernism? The audience will gain a greater understanding of Post-modern art by contrasting its characteristics and goals with those of Modernist art, illustrating concepts with examples of artworks at all points on the Modern-to-Post-modern spectrum. Thursday, May 28, 4-5 Cost $10

- **PRIVATE LIFE IN ANCIENT PHOENICIA**: Are you a lover of history? Don’t miss the lecture given by Helen Dixon, who is a professor in the History Department at NC State where she has spent 2 years teaching ancient Near Eastern and ancient Greek civilization. Dr. Dixon will share the details of the lives of one of our most influential ancient civilizations. Friday, May 29, 10-12. Cost $25/$35

- **EPIC RUSSIA THROUGH EPIC FILM**: Come see visions of the magnificence of Russia through the eyes of filmmakers both past and present. Colin Mackey has presented classes on film for CLE for the past four years. He begins the film tour of Russia with the revolutionary Soviet propagandists Vertov, Kuleshov and Eisenstein and will show how their work influenced the visions of Russia as seen in David Lean’s Dr. Zhivago, KingVisor’s War and Peace, Warren Beatty’s Reds and Joe Wright and Tom Stoppard’s Anna Karenina, with many other stops along the way. Monday, June 1, 2-4, Cost $25/$35

- **MOVIE – REDS**: Nominated for an Academy Award for Best Picture in 1981, Reds was co-written, produced and directed by Warren Beatty. The films centers on the life and career of journalist John Reed, who chronicled the Russian Revolution in his book Ten Days that Shook the World. Beatty stars in the lead role alongside Diane Keaton and Jack Nicholson. Tuesday, June 2, 2-4 Cost $10 Location: CLE Lecture Hall

- **BIRDING BEYOND THE FEEDER**: Your yard and the kinds of plants in it matter to birds! Curtis Smalling, a life-long bird watcher and current director of the Land Bird Conservation with Audubon will discuss why the Highlands Plateau is considered an “Important Bird Area” and explore ways to enjoy the birds in your own backyard. Friday, June 5, 10-12. Cost $25/$35

- **BRIDGE: POLISHING YOUR BASICS (INTERMEDIATE)**: Is your Bridge game a little rusty? If you need a little help in stepping up your game then join Bridge expert Duane Meeter for 4 sessions to help you improve your skills by practicing some simple rules and principles. Mondays, June 8, 15, 22, and 29 (4 sessions) 9:30-11:30 Cost $80/$100 Location: Highlands Civic Center

For information, advertising info, call 828-200-1371 or email: highlandseditor@aol.com

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**CLE Lecture Hall**

**YOGA HIGHLANDS**

_In-town studio one block east of Main Street on Carolina Way_

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International Association of Yoga Therapy

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**Yoga Highlands’ Playhouse**

_The Water Diviner_
_R 1 hr 41 min_
_Showtimes: May 22 – 5 & 8 pm, May 23 – 7 & 10 pm, May 24 – 7 & 10 pm, May 25 – 2 & 4 pm, May 26 – 7 & 10 pm, May 27 – 7 & 10 pm, 8 pm_
Highlands is a great place NOT to carry a gun.

I can’t remember exactly when, but it was mid-fall of last year. We were still in Highlands heading for a place I’ve long forgotten. I looked over at my lil’ missus and said, “When we get back to South Florida in a couple of weeks, I’m going to start carrying my weapon again.”

It has been over 25 years since I’ve retired from police work. Believe me when I tell you that not carrying a weapon has been one of the great pleasures of my retirement. I was sooooo tired of that friggin’ gun on my hip or stuck under my belt.

Most folks don’t realize the responsibility involved in carrying a concealed weapon. In most cases people are safer not carrying a weapon than with it. Carrying a gun can get you killed. Even though I have the proper permits, I knew my accuracy and efficiency with my weapon was rusty.

Maddy looked over at me, nodded, and looked back at the road without speaking. Like me, she also feels our nation is beginning to unravel. I know her well and knew her silence meant her approval. Even after all these years of marriage, she would fuss at me if she thought it was a bad idea.

After we had been back in North Palm Beach for a couple of weeks, I made arrangements to meet with my firefighter son for target practice at a gun range. As usual, he was late. But it gave me a chance to look around the store and see the vast array of weapons for sale. Gun buffs were everywhere. Even though my son was only 20 minutes late, I witnessed two sales. America is still arming itself.

Once we were buzzed into the range section of the store, the smell of burnt gunpowder filled my nostrils. It brought back memories….some good, some bad. After stapling the large paper image of a faceless black person, I pushed a button sending it down range. My lil’ missus took up a position so she could see the firing range through a large plate glass window. I’ll admit to being a little nervous.

One hundred rounds later I retrieved my target and stared at the bullet riddled silhouette. While some of the shots were scattered I had not lost my touch. Every hole was somewhere on the silhouette. My 28 years of training had not abandoned me. If needed, I will be able to hit my target. I am good to go!

So for me, one of the great pleasures is spending the summer without carrying a gun. Highlands is truly a safe place to live. Instead, we carry bear whistles when we walk the back roads. Ah yes, the comfort of not being armed. I love it. Count your blessings, Highlanders!

I guess I should mention that most all gun targets are black in color and should not reflect any bigotry or prejudice on my part against African Americans. Isn’t it sad I have to explain that to protect myself from the progressives?

Oh, and speaking about progressives and such, here’s my political quip for this week: Never underestimate the ability of the Republican Party to promote another losing candidate for the 2016 national election. They’ve done it twice now with great success.
MOUNTAIN FRESH GROCERY
COOKING FOR HIGHLANDS

BREAKFAST
FULL BREAKFAST MADE TO ORDER EVERY MORNING UNTIL 11:00AM
CAGE FREE EGGS, WAFFLES, FRENCH TOAST, BACON, SAUSAGE, HAM,
BISCUITS, MUFFINS, CROISSANTS
ESPRESSO BAR AND COFFEE ROASTED IN-HOUSE

LUNCH
GRILL - EVERY DAY OF THE WEEK STARTING AT 11:00 UNTIL CLOSE
FRESH ANGUS BURGERS, FRESH NATURAL CHICKEN BREASTS, GRILLED FISH,
CHICKEN TENDERS, COOKED TO ORDER HAND CUT FRIES, SALADS,
HOMEMADE SOUPS, DAILY SPECIALS, SALAD BAR

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

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

DINNERS TO GO
A DIFFERENT FULL DINNER FOR TWO EVERY NIGHT, MONDAY THROUGH SATURDAY FROM 4:30 UNTIL WE SELL OUT. CALL AHEAD TO RESERVE...

MONDAY - LOW COUNTRY LOBSTER / SHRIMP BOIL, MAIN LOBSTER TAILS, WILD CAUGHT LARGE SHRIMP, RED BLISS POTATOES, SUMMER CORN, HOUSE MADE SAUSAGE, ALL STEEPED IN OUR SEASONING, SERVED WITH DRAWN BUTTER AND COCKTAIL SAUCE. $33.95 SERVES TWO

TUESDAY - OVEN OFF NIGHT TWO NATURAL CHICKEN BREASTS GRILLED WITH OUR TUSCAN HERB INFUSED OLIVE OIL, SERVED ON A BED OF GREENS WITH STUFFED BRIE, SPICED PECANS, OUR EXTRA VIRGIN OLIVE OIL AND BALSAMIC VINEGAR ON THE SIDE WITH TWO CUPS OF HOMEMADE GAZPACHO AND A BAGUETTE FROM OUR BAKERY. $23.95 SERVES TWO

WEDNESDAY - PRIME RIB WITH BAKED POTATOES AND SALAD. PREMIUM ANGUS STANDING RIB ROAST, COOKED MEDIUM RARE WITH RED WINE AU JUS. TWO BAKED POTATOES AND A LARGE CAESAR SALAD. $33.95 SERVES TWO

THURSDAY - TWO RACKS OF BABY BACK RIBS - COOKED UNTIL FALL-OFF-THE-BONE TENDER. SERVED WITH HOUSE MADE BACON/APPLE BAKED BEANS AND POTATO SALAD. $25.95 SERVES TWO

FRIDAY - WILD CAUGHT SHRIMP; FRIED OR STEAMED. WILD CAUGHT NORTH CAROLINA SHRIMP EITHER LIGHTLY BREADED IN OUR SEASONED CORN FLOUR MIXTURE, AND THEN PROPERLY FRIED IN PEANUT OIL AND SERVED WITH HUSH PUPPIES; OR STEAMED TO ORDER IN OUR LOW COUNTRY SEASONING. BOTH COME WITH COLESLAW AND ROSEMARY SEA SALT BROILED RED POTATOES, TARTER AND COCKTAIL SAUCE. $26.95 SERVES TWO

SATURDAY - IN-HOUSE SMOKED BBQ. HAND RUBBED PORK BUTT, PIT-SMOKED OVER NIGHT AND HAND PULLED TO ORDER. COMES WITH COLESLAW, APPLE BACON BAKED BEANS, AND YEAST ROLLS $22.95 SERVES TWO

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

Bakery
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...CHARTER continued from page 6

given for applicants. The legacy preference allows siblings of students who completed the eighth grade at Summit and were enrolled at least since fourth grade to receive sibling preference.

After those preferences are given, remaining slots are open for new enrollment. Those students are then placed in a lottery until the 24 student max is reached in each grade.

For this school year, there were two students in first through eighth grade who were admitted based on the lottery and one student was admitted based on sibling preference. Because kindergarteners are all new students, none of which are considered returning, the enrollment breakdown varies from the other grades.

For the 24 spots available, Summit received 33 applications for enrollment. Those spots were filled based on one spot for a faculty child, 15 spots for siblings, and the remaining 17 applications for the eight remaining spots went through the lottery process.

According to Talmadge, the local success of Summit, as well as the push on the state level to increase charter schools in the state is all about offering families a choice.

“Our program at Summit is unique and special,” he said. “The factor of ‘choice’ helps facilitate a culture where our parents are invested in what we do, and they want their child to be engaged in the Summit experience.”

According to Talmadge, the number one reason he hears from families making the transition to Summit is based on the school’s small class sizes. The school’s charter only allows the school to serve 24 students per class, something traditional public education can’t do; instead each student who comes to the door must be educated regardless of how it could affect class sizes.

Interestingly, the only class over 24 students in grades K-8th at Highlands School is the 4th grade at 27 students.

Macon County Commissioner Ronnie Beale spoke to a joint meeting between commissioners and Highlands and Franklin leaders on Tuesday night about the importance of ensuring that if charter schools receive state dollars, they should be held to the same standards as traditional public schools in terms of things such as class sizes.

Summit Charter School operates with an annual budget of $1.96 million, which is comprised of federal, state, and local dollars. According to Talmadge, $46,519 of the school’s budget comes from federal funds, $1,103,948 comes from state, and $369,474 comes from local funds.

“The remaining income needed is obtained through grants, PTA events, Taste of Plateau, bequests, and fundraising in the community. The deficit is nearly $2,200 per child.”

Talmadge said that additional funds from the state for charter schools would help account for the school’s operating deficit.

“Summit is also big on community stewardship and partnerships,” he said. “We promote parent volunteerism and involvement with the school, service-learning components in all grades, and a strong character education program, as the core of our school culture. Our class sizes are small, and we place two teachers in each class (grades K-5), as well as section our middle school classes.”

Charter schools are not required by law to have state certified teachers, but traditional public schools are. But despite not having to have certified teachers, charter school students are required to take the same state exams and meet the same growth expectations of the state.

With a 10 to 1 teacher ratio, Highlands School sports a 53 percent advance placement participation rate and was identified as exceeding the state standards of academic growth last year.

While Highlands School exceeded growth, Summit Charter School did not meet academic growth expectations last year, something Talmadge said his school is looking at in depth. “We know who those students are and we are looking at why we didn’t meet that benchmark,” he said.

In the future, Talmadge said additional local support for Summit is something that may need to be explored.

“No state monies receive by the county are shared with charter schools that reside in the same county,” he said. “In addition, charter schools are responsible for funding their own facilities, and are denied access to the NC Education Lottery’s capital funding.”
• NOTE: The Recreation Department is now accepting application for Lifeguards for the Summer. We will be offering a Lifeguard course soon.

• NOTE: Anyone interested in putting together a softball team in the Highlands Spring League needs to contact Lester Norris at 828-526-3556 by Thursday, April 23rd before 4:30 pm.

Ongoing
• Church of the Incarnation and the First Presbyterian Church are collecting food items for the Highlands Emergency Council and the Food Pantry. Drop off boxes are in the Ravenel Room at First Presbyterian and in the downstairs lobby at the Church of the Incarnation. Monetary donations also accepted. Make checks out to Highlands Mountain Top Rotary.

• 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

Thurs.-Sun.

• Movies at the Playhouse: Thurs-Sunday. 2, 5 & 8 p.m. Call 526-2685 for weekly movie.

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

First Tuesdays
• FAMILY and Caregiver Support Group Meets: for individuals that have a friend, family member or loved one living with mental illness. Learn how peers deal with stress and emotional overload. First Tuesday of Every Month 7-8 pm. Call Ann for more info (828) 369-7385

Tuesdays
• Growing Stronger Together- A support and learning group for women who have physical or mental difficulties including depression or high stress. $5 per session. Meets weekly on Tuesdays beginning June 2 through August 4 at the Peggy Crosby Center, Rm. 203. Led by Bonnie Gramlich, LPC and supported by Highlands United Methodist Church and the Counseling

See EVENTS page 11
and Psychotherapy Center of Highlands. Call 828.342.0546 to register or for more info.

• FREE Yoga in the Park Tuesdays starting June 23 at the Highlands K-H Park on Pine Street. Bring the whole family (along with a towel and a bottle of water) for a gentle, community stretch! Yoga in the Park is offered for free every Tuesday from 6-7 pm until October 1st, weather permitting. Certified Yoga Teachers: sign up to teach by calling #828-526-8880.

2nd and 4th Tuesdays
• OccupyWNC meets at the Jackson County Justice Center. For more information, visit www.occupywnc.org or call 828.331.1524

Tuesday and Thursdays
• Zumba with Connie at the Rec Park at 8a. $5.

Mon., Wed., Fri.
• Heart Healthy Exercise Class Monday, Wednesday and Friday 8:30am-9:30am
• Aerobics with Tina Rogers 8-9a.
• Zumba at the Rec Park at 9:05a. $5

Wed. through June 3
• At The Bascom: After School Art Adventure, 3:15-4:30p. To register, call Anna Alig at 787-2865.

1st Wednesdays
• Family Movies at the Hudson Library at 3:15pm. Call 828-526-3031 for titles.

3rd Wednesdays
• General Audience Movies at Hudson Library at 2pm. Call 828-526-3031 for titles.

Thursdays
• Yoga at the Rec Park 8:15 a.m. $6 per class.
• Storytimes with Miss Deanna at Hudson Library 10:40am. Open to the public.
• Weight Watchers support group meets every Thursday at 6pm at the Cashiers Community Center. Questions? Call Lisa 828-506-3555.
• NAMI Support Group for individuals dealing with mental illness: depression, bipolar, schizophrenia, etc. and the family members of individuals dealing with these challenges from 7 – 8:15 pm. Call Donita for more info (828) 526-9510.

2nd Thursdays
• Sapphire Valley Needlepoint Guild meets at the Highlands Rec Park at 10 a.m. Newcomers welcomed.

3rd Thursdays
• Kidney Smart Classes in Franklin: Every 3rd Thursday of month, 4:30pm-6pm, Angel Medical Center, Video Conference Room, 3rd Floor, 120 Riverview Street, Contact Majestic 828-369-9474
• Kidney Smart Classes in Sylva: Every 3rd Thursday of month, 7:30am-9am, DaVita Sylva Dialysis Center, 655 Asheville Highway, Contact Sue 828-631-0430

Last Fri. of each month
• Community Coffee with Mayor Pat Taylor from 11a to noon at The Hudson Library.

Saturdays
• Highlands Marketplace in the vacant lot • See EVENTS page 12

Project Pill Drop


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• Once a prescription has expired or is no longer used, obscure any personal information on your prescription label with a black felt tip marker
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• Needles
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Medication Disposal Sites:
• Macon County Sheriff Annex, 18 Patton Avenue, Franklin, NC
• Franklin Police Department, 218 W Palmer Street, Franklin, NC
• Highlands Police Department, 372 Oak Street, Highlands, NC

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Located behind Highlands Decorating Center on NC 106 (the Dillard Road)
The Atlanta Boy Choir will present a concert Sunday afternoon, May 24 at The Church of the Incarnation at 5pm. The concert, free and open to the public, will include a piece which the choir has recently performed in a block buster Hollywood film. The choir was chosen for this great honor after the film producers heard one of their songs on the internet. After several visits from Hollywood personnel the choir was chosen to appear in this film whose title at this time cannot be disclosed by the choir pending a tremendous publicity campaign arranged for the release later this year.

Of great interest is the fact that the work chosen for the film is Gabriel Faure’s Pie Jesu. Maestro Wolfe, former student of the great French teacher Nadia Boulanger who was Faure's assistant collaborated with his accompanist, Assistant Conductor, Robert Henry in arranging it for boys only in this film production. Maestro Wolfe said Dr. Henry, who serves also as Incarnation’s music director has made an arrangement which totally captures the beauty of this masterwork. Maestro Wolfe says he is certain his long time mentor Mlle. Boulanger would be extremely pleased. For seat reservations please call the choir at 404.378.0064 or email them at info@atlantaboychoir.org
eight part-time officers who he can call upon when needed has a college education – masters, bachelor and associate degrees.

“There is nothing wrong with a high school diploma but you need more for this job. Having an education helps with effectiveness in the community,” he said.

In addition, his officers have exceeded continuing education requirements with thousands of hours of education.

“Virtually no continuing education training took place in the prior department,” he said. “A lot has changed in 10 years; things weren’t always as they seemed back then, but how can you fix something if you don’t know what’s going on?”

He said now on the job for 10 years, he knows people were reluctant to come forward in the past but he has an open door policy – in his office at the station, via email, text messages or phone calls – and he encourages feedback.

“There was no confidence in the old police department,” he said. “There were a lot of things going on that went unreported. Now we are very thorough and see cases through to prosecution.”

He said his officers work very hard and they are proud of who they serve in the community and he is proud of them.

“I have worked diligently to remove a certain element from your police department. That was not what you paid for. I will always do all I can to eliminate that element without costs to the citizens,” he said.

And that has started with restructuring and running a “lean machine.”

There are two patrol officers on duty for each 12-hour rotation and officers are rotated so they work equal days and nights – not just a set schedule of just days or just nights.

“This is good for the officers because they see different people and situations at different times of the day and night and it’s good for the community to see different officers,” he said.

Though the population swells from basically 1,000 to 20,000 for a 7-9 month period, through design he has placed the right people at the right places so it always looks like the department has more officers on duty than it does.

In comparison, the Town of Franklin has 20 full-time police officers who cover a 3.2 square mile area; Highlands has 12 full-time officers who cover a 6.1 square mile area. “Double the territory using half the force,” he said.

“We run a lean, mean machine and do well with what we have because we have the right people at the right times to take care of you,” he said.

The eight part-time officers, who are certified and trained, can step in when a full-time person can’t come in. They don’t get benefits and they are only paid when they are needed, which keeps the budget lean.

“But they are still experienced, certified and trained officers. They work for other agencies or have flexible jobs. Three are deputies with the MC Sheriff’s Dept., two are instructors and one is the dean of the Public Safety Center for SCC,” he said.

None of Highlands full-time officers can afford to live in Highlands, but they live within a 10-16 mile radius. To be allowed to drive a police vehicle home, they need to live within 20 miles.

Over the last 10 years, the town has put a system in place where each year two police vehicles are replaced; replacements are bid locally and each vehicle has the extended 7-year warranty, “because that’s about as long as they last,” said the Chief.

Looking toward the future
Ruby Canine (the police dog), who is trained for drug enforcement and tracking, came on the job in 2008 and in 2017 she retires. Consequently, Chief Harrell is investigating grants to get a replacement -- possibly two canine “officers.”

It cost $15,000 to get Ruby and outfit the vehicle for her but that was a one-time cost and that vehicle will be kept in service.

It currently costs the town and its citizens nothing for Ruby because her handler, Officer Thomas Parker, never turns in receipts for her upkeep and Dr. Amy Patterson donates her services to the department.

Canine officers live with their handler and become part of that family. When Ruby retires, with the Town Board’s OK, she can stay with the Parker family.

“Dogs usually retire to the home and family they have been living with,” said Harrell.

This time around Harrell

•See POLICE page 25
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Highlands Falls Country Club. Incredible value for a 3/2 freestanding, furnished Golf Villa, stone fireplace, solid surface countertops and vaulted ceilings. $235,000. MLS# 78712

Wildcat Cliffs Country Club. Fully remodeled 4br/4ba home with open living spaces, large kitchen, rustic details and quality finishes. Great rental history! $695,000. MLS #80111

Holt Knob. Just what everyone wants! Walk to town with a great mountain view. 3br/2.5 furnished with a large deck. $353,000. MLS# 76583

Highlands Country Club and full of surprises! This immaculately maintained 4/5 features open floor plan, granite kitchen countertops and wonderful guest suites and lovely touches in each room. $1,100,000. MLS# 81619

Hard to find Mirror Lake frontage. Cute 1920's two bedroom cottage with great potential. Needs some TLC, but has great spaces and a gentle site down to the lake where you can fish or feed the ducks. $295,000 MLS # 78726

This 3/2 pristine villa at Highlands Falls has a wonderful covered and open deck over the 11th green. The greatroom has vaulted and beamed ceilings with built-ins next to the stone fireplace. $325,000 MLS # 73139

Adorable 2/2 cottage located 2.5 minutes to town on a nicely landscaped level lot with garden space and shed. Covered rocking chair porch and open deck for enjoying the outdoors. Offered furnished. $268,000 MLS # 77499

Arts and Crafts style home with lots of character and wonderful spaces for extended family to enjoy or is perfect when it is just for two with everything you need on the main floor. On the Atlanta side of Highlands adjacent to National Forest. 4/4/1 $867,000 MLS # 81748

Close to all the amenities of Mountain Top Golf and Lake Club. This wonderful new mountain home was designed by Summerour and built by JT Turner of Savannah GA. Incredible kitchen with massive island. Deck with fireplace and mountain view. $2,295,000 MLS # 88782

The perfect walk to town cottage, just minutes from Main Street and Harris Lake. Totally updated with two living areas in this open floorplan. Upscale kitchen, two bedrooms, three baths. $575,000 MLS # 81068

Close to to Town and pristine privacy, this completely remodeled 3/2 has stone fireplace, vaulted ceilings, family room and sun room on the lower level and completely furnished. $249,000. MLS #81554

Old Highlands Charm on Lake Sequoyah. Adorable 3br/2ba furnished cottage with lake view, wood floors, stone fireplace, family room and lovely yard. $349,000. MLS# 81623

Situated in Highlands Falls Country Club, this amazing 4/4/1 home on over 3.5 acres and boasts outstanding quality and finishes throughout. Norton Mill Creek flows by the home creating an idyllic setting. Light, bright, spacious and private. $898,000 MLS # 79622

Little Bearpen in Highlands City limits. Long mountain views from two covered decks, 2/3, 2 guest rooms, lower level family room, 2nd kitchen and hobby room. $729,000. MLS# 81446

Highlands Condo with a garage. You won't believe the price! Relax on the porch of this small but tidy 1br/1ba condo. Furnished and move-in ready. $48,500. MLS# 81737

This striking 1930's home is hidden behind a mature native hedge and is loaded with character reflecting its vintage. Three bedrooms and an office. Large half acre lot, beautiful lawn, quiet neighbors, easy distance to town. $497,000 MLS # 81462

Old Highlands Charm On Big Bearpen Mtn with a spectacular view of Whiteside and Chimney Top Mountains. This vintage 3 bedroom/3 bath home sits on a .93 acre near level lot with a lovely porch on the back of the home to take in the view. $898,000 MLS # 79622
Welcome back to all of our homeowners of second or third homes! And what a glorious time it is to return! Our rhododendrons are ablaze with color, dogwoods restore our faith, and ferns spread their lace. Our mild temperatures rival the best places in the country and are one reason to own a home and invest in Highlands and Cashiers.

I have lived in Highlands for twenty years and have always heard that from Memorial Day until November we are in “season.” We have slowly become a year-round destination, due in part to the many activities and weddings through the Old Edwards Inn and Spa and other Chamber and Bascom events. The Playhouse movies and plays and events at the Performing Art Center keep us entertained year-round.

The most asked question I now hear from summer residents is: “How is the market? Is it coming back?” Well, yes and no. At Pat Allen Realty Group, sales were strong during the winter and early spring and we currently have several homes ready to close. Buyers are contacting us and sellers feel the urge to sell. There are homes pending in the $160,000 - $3,800,000 range so quite a diverse range of buyers are interested in owning here. Investors are also becoming more involved.

So why are some homes selling and others sitting there? We, as brokers, have a responsibility to our clients to price CORRECTLY and make suggestions regarding repairs, clutter etc. that should eliminate this issue in part. Unfortunately, that doesn’t always happen. When a home is over-priced it is guaranteed to stay on the market for years! Other sellers see a home comparable to theirs and think it should be priced that high as well —even though it hasn’t sold. This hurts us all—sellers and brokers. The market is still “soft” in our area—unlike many areas in Florida where inventory is low. That is simply not the case here. We have homes that have been on the market 5-6 years! Most were over-priced initially and have not been maintained. Sellers must do their homework or else price them low enough “as is” that someone will buy their homes.

When you interview brokers ask for a current CMA and evaluation or your home…not what is current but what has SOLD…AND how many days was it on the market before it sold? What was the ORIGINAL price and how many times was it lowered?

We all must cooperate and price realistically to eliminate our surplus and allow our prices to rebound. I can tell you from my experience, if your home is well maintained and priced right, it will be the first to sell! Let us guide you.

Pat Allen
Broker-in-charge
Cell: 828-200-9179
Office: 828-526-8784

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

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From Highlands:
Dillard Road (NC 106) to Scaly Mountain, left at Hale Ridge Road, about 3 miles to Scenic Drive on the right.

From Dillard:
Highlands Road (GA 246) to a right at Mountain Junction (Old Mud Creek Road), about 2.5 miles past Sky Valley Entrance to Scenic Drive on the left.

Call (706) 746-0077 to schedule a viewing or visit us during our OPEN HOUSE
BY APPOINTMENT
May 23-25
10 am to 2 pm For a Virtual Tour or Visit our website at
OurMountainHome.net
Top of Photo Gallery Page

INVESTING continued from pg 19

you through the process – no one knows our market like an experienced and full-time broker.

I do want to thank all of our veterans and current men and women in the military for their sacrifices on this Memorial Day. Hats off to all of you.

Pat Allen is Broker-in Charge and owner of Pat Allen Realty Group. She is consistently a top producer in the area, having won numerous awards. Her experience, knowledge of the area, and full time career as a real estate broker assure you needs are met, whether as a buyer or seller. Pat Allen Realty Group is located at 295 Dillard Road across from Highlands Decorating Center. Call 828-526-8784 or visit www.PatAllenRealtyGroup.com. You can email Pat at pat.f.allen@gmail.com.

Highlands Mountain Club

Lowest priced unit in Highlands Mountain Club. Don’t miss this chance for a lower level unit with a lovely wooded lake view.

$195,000 MLS #80958

HeatherStone (Highlands Tops)

10 am to 2 pm For a Virtual Tour or Visit our website at
OurMountainHome.net
Top of Photo Gallery Page

Come walk/run for the K-H Park

Organizers are encouraging walkers and runners to turn out in support of Kelsey-Hutchinson Founders Park at next week’s Walk/Run for the Park 5K. – Sat. May 30 at 8 a.m.

Two legged walkers can also bring their four-legged friends but they must line up at the back of start line for the safety of other runners and walkers (as well as the pets).

The bulk of the proceeds from the event will go toward completion of Phase II of the park.

The entry fee for those that pre-register is $25 for adults, $20 for students (13 and older) and $10 for those 12 and under. Race day registration is $35 for adults, $30 for students, and $15 for those 12 and under. Participants can register on line at a www.active.com or www. webscorer.com, or by using printed forms available at the front desk of the Highlands Recreation Park or the new Cashiers Glenville Recreation Center or Highlands Decorating Center. Race day registration begins at 6:45 a.m. under the breezeway of the new park entrance and restrooms.

For more information, contact Skip Taylor at 526-4280, or email stmas4280@gmail.com.

...INVESTING continued from pg 19
Lake House in Heatherstone

Seven miles from Highlands. 5 bedroom, 3 bath. Large Rec Room plus Bonus Room. Health Forces Sale. $199,000 — By Owner • 706-746-3046.

Two NC & GA land parcels joined

NC tract consists of 25.75 acres and a farm house. GA parcel consists of 54.18 acres, 3 bed/2 bath, full basement, two car garage, 2 barns and 2 outbuildings. Land has pasture, agricultural forestry and 2 creeks. Located in Clear Creek area. $925,000.

For more information contact Fran Wilson at 304-615-3553.

Adorable Streamfront Cottage

Nestled amongst a magical forest of rhododendron, this sweet getaway features lovely waterfall and stream views. 2BR/2BA with a little sleeping loft for children. Open living, kitchen and dining area that flows out to an expansive, open deck overlooking the stream. Price recently reduced, making this property this season's best buy and investment. $162,500. MLS #77322.

Contact Susie deVille (828) 371-2079.

You will LOVE this adorable, updated 2BR/2.5BA cottage in the Mirror Lake area! Situated on Netsi Place, a paved road lined with rhododendron, this sweet home 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! $349,000. MLS #80713.

Contact Susie deVille (828) 371-2079.

The Best of Both Worlds

This is a gorgeous, custom 4BR/3.5BA home and long-range mountain views! Situated in a private setting with views of Shortoff Mtn and the Smokies, this home boasts wonderful indoor and outdoor living spaces. Features include a gourmet kitchen w/granite counters & custom cherry cabinets; living room w/cathedral ceilings, surround sound & fireplace; master on the main; private office over the garage; and a fireplace on the deck. Gated and paved access. $1,450,000. MLS #77628.

Contact Susie deVille (828) 371-2079.

Absolutely Gorgeous Acreage

Absolutely GORGEOUS, 30.51+/- acres nearly level, commercial property (may be used for residential), fronting on Hwy 64 E and East Over Drive. Numerous streams throughout the acreage with lush, native plants and shrubs. Easy access off Hwy 64 and East Over Drive, with an old road bed in place. Multiple building site options and possibilities! $1,500,000. MLS #80842,80851.

Contact Susie deVille (828) 371-2079.

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WhiteOakRG.com

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3BR/3.5BA; wraparound porch; outdoor fireplace; bright interiors, 9&10-ft. ceilings; 2 car garage.

Highlands Mountain Realty

MLS # 79354 • $493,000

3BR/2BA home in gated community. USFS hiking trails; deeded lake access; 2 car garage.

MLS# R81387A • $328,000

The perfect log cabin; long range view visible from ... everywhere.

Andréa Gabbard

828-200-6742

andreagabbard@gmail.com

MLS# 81738 • $597,500

3BR/2BA “grand sporting lodge” with club house across the street.
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**Close to town in Shelby Place, this spacious home has quality finishes, easy living plan. Huge screened porch and 2 car garage make this a great family home. Offered at $595,000. mls #74675**

**5/BR/4BA home. Unique with heavy logs, lots of stone and wood in this Octagon 2 story. Lovingly restored with central heat and air and meticulously maintained by the current Owner. Offered at $875,000. mls #81152**

**Walk to town 3BR/3BA condo Covered parking, patio. Step to Harris Lake park and Main Street. The condo is move in ready even for designer tastes. Offered at $729,900. MLS # 81145**

**Walk to town 3BR/3BA home sits on almost an acre. 2-story great room w/stone fireplace, wood floors and opens to large deck overlooking pond. Lots of mountain charm in this upscale cabin. Detached 1 car garage. Offered at $269,000. MLS #80360**

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**Walk to town 3BR/3BA custom home on Bowery Road on 1.5 +/- acres. Close to town and in move in condition. Hardwood floors, an open great room/dining room and kitchen. Master bedroom is on the main level. Glass sunroom on the main floor. Offered at 795,000. mls #80309**

**3BD/2.5BA custom log home on Bowery Road on 1.5 +/- acres. Close to town and in move in condition. Hardwood floors, an open great room/dining room and kitchen. Master bedroom is on the main level. Glass sunroom on the main floor. Offered at 795,000. mls #80309**

**Lovely 2BR/2BA has had some upgrades and features a view overlooking Tug Wa Ridge Lake. Amenities include clubhouse, swimming pool, tennis courts and reasonable HOA fees. A great weekend getaway or summer retreat. Offered at $225,000. mls #81541**

**3BE/3BA tongue and groove pine paneling, wide southern pine flooring, beams, fireplace and a large master bath. Easy walk to town and Mirror Lake located on Cullasaja Drive. An exceptional offering priced at $485,000. MLS # 81355**

**This one-level charmer has been renovated. 3BR/2BA, plus den/ sleeping room with a bath. Stone fireplace, covered porch and deck, garage. Lovely mature grounds. Offered at $579,000. mls #81503**

**Great year round bright and light home. Level lot. Split bedroom plan with 3 BR/2.5 BA on the main level, 2-car garage. Vaulted living room with gas fireplace, kitchen and huge enclosed loft with storage. Offered at $575,000. mls #81022**

---

**Walk to town 3BR/1.5 cottage in a quiet part of town. Walk to Main Street. Stone Fireplace, great room open to kitchen and dining. Master suite on main with 2 guests upstairs. Decks on front and side. Low maintenance yard and home. Offered at $309,000. MLS # 81145**

**Quaint cottage with open living, dining, and kitchen areas. Double Sided Stone Faced Fireplace, 3BR/2BA in Trillium Links and Lake Club including clubhouse, deeded Lake Glenville access, golf course, RV/boat storage. Price $259,000. MLS 81546**

**On a wooded lot with flat usable grounds. Huge great room with custom kitchen, large covered porch. Main level master with gas log fireplace. Lower level has family room with fireplace, morning kitchen, 2BR/2BA, and a den with huge porch. Offered at $1,150,000. mls #81413**

**Next to guard gate on Rocky Hill Road, this home features light and great space. Main level has 3BR/3BA, Open floor plan. Cathedral living room with fireplace, huge covered porch. 2-car garage. 2BD/2BA, and family room downstairs. Offered at $617,000. mls #81337**

**Charming well-built cabin near USFS hiking and fishing lands. This 3BR/2BA home sits on almost an acre. 2-story great room w/stone fireplace, wood floors and opens to large deck overlooking pond. Lots of mountain charm in this upscale cabin. Detached 1 car garage. Offered at $269,000. MLS #80360**

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**Lovely 2BR/2BA with fireplace, morning kitchen, huge covered porch with some mountain view. Main floor master with gas log fireplace. Library/den and laundry upstairs. Lower level has family room with fireplace, morning kitchen, and master suite on main with 2 guests upstairs. Decks on front and side. Low maintenance yard and home. Offered at $729,900. MLS #81145**

**Upper level 3BD/3BA nicely furnished condo is move-in ready. Great views. Entry level condo at Old Edwards Club. Offered at $499,900.00 unfurnished or $515,000.00 Furnished mls #81414**

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**Close to town in Shelby Place, this spacious home has quality finishes, easy living plan. Huge screened porch and 2 car garage make this a great family home. Offered at $595,000. mls #74675**

**Offered at $729,900. mls #81600**

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**Offered at $579,000. mls #80351**

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**Offered at $309,000. MLS # 81145**

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**Offered at $579,000. mls #80351**

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**Offered at $309,000. MLS # 81145**
Come early to buy highly desirable native plants at the annual Mountain Garden Club plant sale on Saturday, May 23, at the Highlands Ball Park on Highway 64 from 9 a.m. until noon.

Mountain Garden Club Plant Sale is Saturday!

‘Mitford’ opens tonight at PAC

Highlands-Cashiers Players’ production of “Welcome to Mitford” opens Thursday night and runs through Sunday this week and runs again Thursday through Sunday next week.

Performances are at 7:30p and at 2:30 on Sundays at the Performing Arts Center on Chestnut Street. For tickets call 828-526-8084.

‘Mitford’ opens tonight at PAC

In-House Smoked BBQ
SERVES TWO

$22.95

Come by or call in your dinner order!
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Oven Off Night
2 Fresh Chicken Breasts, Grilled with Rosemary Infused Olive Oil. Served on a Bed of Mixed Greens, with Stuffed Brie, Spicy/Sweet Pecans, Mountain Fresh Oil and Vinegar on the Side and Two Cups of House Made Gazpacho, with a Mountain Fresh Bakery French Baguette

$23.95
Serves Two

Prime Rib with Baked Potatoes & Salad
Premium Angus Standing Rib Roast, Cooked Medium Rare with Red Wine Au Jus, Two Baked Potatoes and a Large Caesar Salad.

$33.95
Serves Two

Baby Back Ribs
Cooked Fall-Off-The-Bone-Tender. Served with House Made Bacon/Apple Baked Beans, and Potato Salad.

$25.95
Serves Two

Shrimp; Fried or Steamed Wild Caught Large Shrimp Either Lightly Breaded in our Seasoned Corn Flour Mixture, and Then Properly Fried in Peanut Oil and Served with Hush Puppies, or Steamed to Order in Our Low Country Seasoning. Both Come with Coleslaw and Rosemary Sea Salt Broiled Red Potatoes, Tarter and Cocktail Sauce.

$26.95
Serves Two

In-House Smoked BBQ
Served with Coleslaw Bacon/Apple Baked Beans and Yeast Rolls.

$22.95
Serves Two

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SAT

JAMES BEARD AWARD-WINNING CHEF, LOUIS OSTEEN’S LOW COUNTRY LOBSTER/SHRIMP BOIL FOR TWO LOBSTER TAILS, WILD CAUGHT LARGE SHRIMP, RED BLISS POTATOES, SUMMER CORN, HOUSE MADE SAUSAGE, ALL STEEPED IN LOUIS’S PROPRIETARY SEA- SONING. SERVED WITH DRAWN BUTTER AND COCKTAIL SAUCE.

OVEN OFF NIGHT
2 FRESH CHICKEN BREASTS, GRILLED WITH ROSEMARY INFUSED OLIVE OIL. SERVED ON A BED OF MIXED GREENS, WITH STUFFED BRIE, SPICY/SWEET PECANS, MOUNTAIN FRESH OIL AND VINEGAR ON THE SIDE AND TWO CUPS OF HOUSE MADE GAZPACHO, WITH A MOUNTAIN FRESH BAKERY FRENCH BAGUETTE

PRIME RIB WITH BAKED POTATOES & SALAD
PREMIUM ANGUS STANDING RIB ROAST, COOKED MEDIUM RARE WITH RED WINE AU JUS, TWO BAKED POTATOES AND A LARGE CAESAR SALAD.

BABY BACK RIBS
COOKED FALL-OFF-THE-BONE-TENDER. SERVED WITH HOUSE MADE BACON/APPLE BAKED BEANS, AND POTATO SALAD.

SHRIMP; FRIED OR STEAMED WILD CAUGHT LARGE SHRIMP EITHER LIGHTLY BREADED IN OUR SEASONED CORN FLOUR MIXTURE, AND THEN PROPERLY FRIED IN PEANUT OIL AND SERVED WITH HUSH PUPPIES, OR STEAMED TO ORDER IN OUR LOW COUNTRY SEASON- ING. BOTH COME WITH COLESLAW AND ROSEMARY SEA SALT BROILED RED POTATOES, TARTER AND COCKTAIL SAUCE.

IN-HOUSE SMOKED BBQ
SERVED WITH COLESLAW BACON/APPLE BAKED BEANS AND YEAST ROLLS.

$33.95
Serves Two

$23.95
Serves Two

$33.95
Serves Two

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Serves Two

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DINNERS-TO-GO
SUMMER MENU 2015

Highlands-Cashiers Play-ers’ production of “Welcome to Mitford” opens Thursday night and runs through Sunday this week and runs again Thursday through Sunday next week.

Performances are at 7:30p and at 2:30 on Sundays at the Performing Arts Center on Chestnut Street. For tickets call 828-526-8084.
Measuring Ministry Effectiveness

By Ted Schmidt

In the world in which we live, effectiveness is generally measured quantitatively. That is to say, we look at the numbers. We look at the sales, or profit numbers, of a publicly traded company. We look at the won-loss records of a coach or a team. We look at the number of graduates from our schools and universities. If the numbers are good, then we conclude that the company, or team, is an effective winner; but is this the way Christian Ministry should be measured?

Having sat in many board and staff meetings of various Christian ministries, I have found we attempt to measure ministry effectiveness in the same manner. In our attempt to manage ministry, we count the number of people in Sunday services. We count the number of people in our music, children, and youth ministries. (Sometimes we even count them twice!) We count the size of our staff and compare our budget numbers from one year to another. Then we compare our numbers to the numbers of other ministries, but is this the way ministry effectiveness should be measured? Should it be measured at all? Is ministry effectiveness quantitative? Is it possible to measure? Are we trying to measure the Holy Spirit?

A number of years ago, at a church growth conference, it was suggested that the measurement of a church’s health is its growth. The concept stated, just as a growing child is a sign of health, a growing church is a healthy church. It was further suggested that the way you measure a growing church is by counting the number of adult baptisms. The evangelical thinking being - you are really not a growing church, if you are just recycling another church’s members. What really counts is conversions, which can be documented by adult baptisms. While I admire the evangelical motivation to fulfill the Great Commission, I still sense there is something more. What about everyone else in the fellowship? What about those who are not part of the fellowship? Is evangelism the only means of measuring ministry effectiveness?

As I looked at the ministry of Jesus, I observed that most of his efforts were in small groups. He chose twelve...
Please join us in celebrating the retirement of Captain R.L. Forrester of the Highlands Police Department on May 28, 2015 from 6-7 p.m. at the Highlands Community Building 869 N. 4th Street Highlands, NC (Next to the Ballfield) Light Refreshments will be provided.

At 7 p.m., prior to dismissing guests, the Highlands Town Board meeting will begin, recognizing Captain Forrester for years of distinguished service.

Memorial Day Weekend SALE at Corey James Gallery 25% to 75% off bronzes, fountains, paintings, antiques & more!

Open everyday until sundown 828-526-4818 • 228 S. 3rd Street (Corner of 3rd and Spring behind the Methodist Church) We now accept and sell consignments
...SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING continued from page 24

disciples and poured into them. He taught in his daily comings and goings. There was the Sermon on the Mount and the feeding of the 5,000, but so much of what He did was on a one to one basis. In fact, he really only explains the parables to His disciples, the rest of the audience may have walked away thinking they were just nice stories. In the book of Acts, we see large groups of people being converted, but we also know people were meeting in their homes and breaking bread. So again, I would suggest, a ministry’s effectiveness is difficult to quantitatively measure.

When we consider the effectiveness of ministry, shouldn’t we also look at what the Holy Spirit is doing in the hearts and minds of God’s people? How do you measure this? Just as Jesus instructed Peter on the feeding and caring of the flock in John 21, are we not all called to do the same? This feeding and caring should be viewed as the feeding and caring of the whole individual - physical, mental and spiritual. Are God’s people being the parts of the Body of Christ that Paul refers to in I Corinthians 12? Are the people using the Gifts that God gave them, or are they just consuming the Word and enjoying a good show on Sunday? Are the teachers, teaching? Are those with the gift of hospitality, serving in the way God intended? Do those gifted with compassion, prayer intercession, or mercy have the opportunity to exercise their gifts?

Our human perspective prompts us to measure quantitatively, but how do you measure the effect of a hospital visit? Or a home delivered meal? Or a bag of groceries? Or a comforting word? Or a word of wisdom? Or a simple act of service? Or a word of knowledge or discernment? Should we even begin to try to measure the effectiveness of the Holy Spirit, or should we just be led by Him?

• Ted Schmidt facilitates a Multi-denominational, interactive Bible study discussion on Sunday evenings at 6 pm. Call him for details at 828-279-2732.
The Molly Grace opens full of color!

The Molly Grace shop on the corner of Oak and 4th streets across from Town Hall is operated by the mother-daughters team of Stephanie, Kedra and Marlee McCall.

It features an interesting array of local artisan gifts and goods for the mind, body and home.

Several items were designed by Marlee, who just graduated from UNC-Charlotte in architecture.

The shop is open Monday-Saturday from 10a to 5p.

For more information, call 828-526-8390.

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The Confederate Memorial Ceremony was held May 9

On Saturday, May 9 the Macon County Chapter 2005 of the United Daughters of the Confederacy gathered for its annual Confederate Memorial Day service which also marked the 150th anniversary of the end of the War Between the States at the monument in Rankin Square in Franklin.

Stories were told about the soldiers who served and the history of the monument. Saturday’s service ended with the laying of a wreath by Barbara Mellor, the reading of a moving poem by Chaplain Carolyn Crunkleton, the Lord’s Prayer and the final two songs played by Sam McQuitty, Amazing Grace and Dixie.

May is Skin Cancer Awareness Month

Protect yourself and your family from sunburn caused by UVB rays and from damage and premature skin aging caused by UVA rays.

All our sunscreens block both and are 10% OFF for the month of May.

‘Dental Exam Day’ at Highlands S.

On May 8, Drs. Dyer, Ricke, Stiefel and Walker volunteered their time and expertise to examine the students. After each student was examined, a form was completed and sent home to the parents indicating any potential dental problems. Students were also given a dental gift bag containing a toothbrush, dental floss and toothpaste. K-5. Dr. Ricke examines a student.
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TWO LAND PARCELS JOINED. NC tract consists of 25.75 acres and a farm house. GA parcel consists of 54 .18 acres, 3 bed/2 bath, full basement, two car garage, 2 barns and 2 outbuildings. Land has pasture, agricultural forestry and 2 creeks. Located in Clear Creek area. $925,000. For more information contact Fran Wilson at 304-615-3553. (st. 4/2).

LAND FOR SALE IN CLEAR CREEK: 2.18 acre parcel has road frontage on Mack Wilson Rd. $15,900. Any reasonable offers will be considered. Call 828-526-2874. (st. 4/23)

RESIDENTIAL FOR CABINS FOR SALE/RENT. Located on Sawmill Road in Clear Creek: 4.63 acres. Call 828-526-2720. Price Negotiable. (st. 5/7)

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young bucks who were raised watching, cop shows on TV,” said Harrell. “So we typically hire away from other agencies and who we get depends on how big a carrot we dangle.”

He said the hardest part to hiring is getting the right fit for Highlands: the right personality, the right set of skills and someone who wants to be here. There may not be a lot of action, but he tells them they can be as busy as they want to be.

“Don’t let the vehicle be a barrier. Walk, talk, associate. Community policing isn’t a waste of time or breath. It’s about communication and feedback,” he said.

According to Harrell, property and white collar crimes are the biggest crimes – particularly because Highlands is a seasonal town.

“A second home is broken into and we find out six months later when people return; try to solve that crime!” he said. “We aren’t perfect and can’t solve every crime … no one can … this isn’t CSI. But we are very effective,” he said.

Though the police department doesn’t make the ordinances the Planning Board and Town Board work on, they are charged to uphold them and so it is perceived as the “bad guy,” said Harrell. “But that’s part of the job.”

A lot of what the department responds to is complaint-driven – ordinance violations, parking violations, gas drive offs, someone sees or hears a couple in a domestic dispute or someone sees someone too drunk to drive.

“So the community helps with policing,” he said. “The perception is that this is Mayberry and nothing happens; that’s not true, but for the most part Highlands is a domicile community with a safe environment. We have a good team; we have assembled good people who I am very proud of.”

Harrell said Highlands is a model community in which to be the director of Public Safety and he loves it.

“I have enjoyed seeing this department and community move forward.”

In the near future, he plans on having community assemblies so people can voice concerns, ask questions and learn how the police department does its job.

– Kim Lewicki

BIG INDOOR YARD SALE SATURDAY, MAY 23 – 9:00 A.M.

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