The year 2015 certainly was “The Year that Was” for Highlands. From capital projects – enclosed year round pool, KH Founders Park, Lake Sequoyah dam repairs and the installation of a new water intake valve, the kick-off of a broadband system – to new commercial projects like the Bryson building on the corner of 4th and Main, and renovations to Highlands School – to increased real estate residential and commercial sales, holding out against Duke’s strong arm tactics, a new Planning Director, numerous run-ins with bears, juggling state policies that affected Highlands. All this points to a vibrant ‘living’ town.

January
- RE/development 2015 predictions are good
- Dramatic increase in flu cases alarms health officials
- Upgrades in the works for Highlands School
- Changes happening fast at K-H Park
- Macon County seeks funds from Jackson County for services rendered
- Inmate caught attempting to escape Macon County jail
- Zoning Board affirms

• See REVIEW page 4

Recent rains didn’t affect county’s Parker Meadows
Park booked solid for 2016

Throughout Macon County in the days leading up to Christmas and beyond, torrential rains blanketed the area, causing historic flooding and unprecedented damage. Despite concern surrounding how the new Parker Meadows Recreation Park would hold up during a significant rain event, the park avoided any major damages and the fields were unharmed by the rain.

“Even with horrific rain and all the flooding, none of the ball fields were compromised,” said Macon County Commission Chair Kevin Corbin. “The grading worked exactly as it was.

• See PARKER page 7

Ice skating in the park is a go

Thanks to Art and Angela Williams of Old Edwards Hospitality Group, on Monday, Jan. 4, the ice rink at K-H Founders Park on Pine Street officially opened with a ribbon cutting. Pictured from left are builder George Schmitt, Highlands Rec Park Director Lester Norris, Mayor Pat Taylor, OEI’s CEO Richard Delaney, Architect Paul Schmitt, and Landscape Architect Hank Ross. The rink will be open Thursday 1-8 p.m., Friday and Saturday 1-10 p.m. and Sunday 1-8 p.m. The cost to skate is $5 whether you have your own skates or use the town’s. Coffee and hot chocolate will be on sale for $1 a cup. The plan is to stay open at least through Valentines Day – maybe later if the weather cooperates. The Williams donated $314,841 toward the project which included the rink, the building, skates and storage for the rink. In addition, they agreed to help make up any deficit between operating costs and the fees for skating and skate rentals for five years.

Photo by Jim Lewicki

MC BOE joins other districts in suit against state of NC

Improper equipment fines were diverted to the penal system

School districts across the state, including Macon County, are joining in a lawsuit against the state of North Carolina in hopes of receiving funds that were originally designated for schools, yet were never handed down from the state.

Macon County Schools attorney John Henning Jr. told the Board of Education last week Macon County has joined more than 80 districts in the state in the lawsuit. The money school systems are after totals nearly $50 million.

A surcharge imposed on drivers for improper equipment in the amount of $50 was supposed
Mayor on Duty

On occasions Sallie and I take short trips, mini-vacations of sorts. On New Year's Eve we found ourselves in downtown St. Simons, GA, a resort and second home community with similar issues as those of Highlands.

My intentions are to go off duty as mayor on these trips, but truthfully, it is hard for me to forget my job as mayor when away from Highlands. While away, I routinely check in with Town Hall, and monitor my email. I also take notes on what I observe as a tourist.

There was no surprise to Sallie when I began making comparisons as we walked in downtown St. Simons. By the time we reached our destination on Little St. Simons Island on New Year's Day, I had pretty much left the mayor's duty hat behind.

The first thing I noticed about downtown St. Simons was that it had the same “good” parking problem as Highlands. Some may say I'm crazy, that Highlands parking is terrible! St. Simons, like Highlands, has diagonal parking on their main street. Almost every spot was taken, and the sidewalks were crowded with shoppers. I'm sure their merchants, like ours, love to see those days when every parking space is filled.

One advantage for St. Simons is their overflow parking area at the end of the business district next to a park and beach pier. I wish Highlands had an overflow parking area strategically located near Main Street. Overflow parking may be something to address in the future.

I did see severe parking problems while traveling. Small, dying rural Georgia towns had abundant downtown parking by vacant or rundown storefronts. Like other tourists, we quickly passed through these communities.

What I also noticed in downtown and around St. Simons was restrained signage. Like other quality resort towns, there was no proliferation of large, glaring or flashing signs. Nor were there massive displays of merchandise outside businesses.

Other things I noticed were numerous sidewalks, planned landscaping and very little litter.

Around gas stations and small shopping centers there were small vegetative buffers and landscaping around buildings. The landscaping did not obscure a business, but rather complemented its architectural presence. Like Highlands, a similar concern for the aesthetics was found in the downtown area where trees and landscaping embellished the sidewalks and streetscape.

So the visit to St. Simons reconfirmed many of the good qualities about Highlands. For communities based on a resort, tourist economy, careful planning and smart development are essential. I know some believe that Highlands has too many regulations and ordinances that hinder economic growth and development. On the other hand, the right balance of development ordinances serve to promote long-term economic prosperity. It gets back to that parking thing: some towns have parking issues because folks clamor to get to downtown businesses, while other towns are desperate for folks to fill their empty parking spaces.

The Highlands employee parking ordinances are not in effect between January 1st to April 1st.

Next related topic is litter and trash.

MileStone


Obituary:

Michael John Blauer

Michael John Blauer died unexpectedly from natural causes on December 16, 2015 at his home in Highlands, NC.

Mike was born in Jacksonville, Florida on March 8, 1952 to the late John and Laura Blauer.

He graduated from Wolfson High School in 1970. Mike spent a quarter of a century as a bookstore owner in Jacksonville and became an expert in old, rare, and out of print books.

About 15 years ago he moved to Highlands, NC and lived there happily until his death. He had many friends in both Jacksonville and North Carolina. Mike worked as a caretaker for many people in the Highlands area. He was extremely honest, dependable, and trustworthy, and he was highly skilled - he could fix anything.

Mike is survived by three siblings and their spouses: Connie and Richard Holzinger, Kay and Sergio Lopez, Robert Blauer and Cindy Adkinson. He was the uncle or great-uncle of 10.

Arrangements were made by Bryant Grant Funeral Home in Franklin, N.C. The family will conduct a graveside service in early 2016, in Melrose, FL. Online condolences are available at bryantgrantfuneralhome.com.

Obituary:

John Willard Johnson

John Willard Johnson, 87, husband of Evelyn Carver Johnson of Tamasee, SC, died Saturday, Dec. 19, 2015 at his home.

A native of Scaly Mountain, NC, Mr. Johnson was the son of the late Grover and Ada Nix Johnson. He was the former principal of Tamasee DAR School. Mr. Johnson was also a former member of the Walhalla Lions Club and of the Baptist faith.

In addition to his wife, Mr. Johnson...
...OBITUARIES continued from page 2

is survived by his sons: Gary Johnson and wife Sandy of Tamassee and James (Buckshot) Johnson and wife Tammy of Seneca, SC; grandson reared in the home: Paul Johnson; grandsons: Jacob Johnson of Rock Hill, SC and James R. Johnson of Walhalla; sister Kathleen Wilson of Highlands, NC and great grandsons: Isaac and Dylan Johnson.

In addition to his parents, Mr. Johnson was preceded in death by 10 brothers and sisters.

Katherine ‘Kitty’ Byers

Katherine “Kitty” Byers was born June 12, 1943, in Hendersonville, N.C., and died Wednesday, Dec. 30, 2015. The daughter of William and Mary Belle Carpenter, she attended Hendersonville High where she was a member of the Honor Society, editor of the Laurette yearbook and a cheerleader. During her summers she worked for her aunt and uncle at Lee’s Inn in Highlands. She received a nursing degree from Charlotte Memorial Hospital and married Lee Byers on June 6, 1964. She joined and served in the Army Corp of Nursing and was stationed in Wurzburg, Germany, with her husband, attaining the rank of captain.

Kitty lived in Greenville, S.C., and had two sons, Preston and Mark. She lived in New York, Chicago and Virginia and then Atlanta. She graduated Cum Laude from Nova University and was awarded an MBA from Georgia State. She was the Senior Health Care Specialist with National Linen Service, Director of Regulatory Affairs with the Red Cross, and a Director of the Medicaid Division with the State of Georgia.

Kitty spent summers at the family’s cabin on Lake Sequoyah and retired permanently to Highlands in 2000. She served as Executive Director of Highlands Literacy Council, president of the Mountaintop Rotary Club, a board member of the Peggy Crosby Center, an inductee of Leadership Highlands, and she was an integral part of the Presbyterian Sunshine After School Program as well as managed Rosenthal Ladies Apparel. She was an active member of Highlands First Presbyterian Church and later the Highlands United Methodist Church.

Kitty is survived by her husband, Lee; her sons (her heart and soul) Preston and Mark and his wife, Jennifer; and grandchildren (the joy of her life), Kaylee, Elise, Mitchell, Taylor, Trey and Lawson.

Memorial services will be held at the Highlands United Methodist Church at 2 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 9, 2015.

In lieu of flowers donations may be made to Highlands United Methodist Building Fund, P. O. Box 1959, Highlands, NC 28741 and Four Seasons Hospice, 571 South Allen Street, Flat Rock, NC 28731.

Dear Editor,

I am Laura Huerta, the new Director for H.A.N.D.S, Highlands Area Non-Profit Donation Sharing, a 501-C3. I inherited HANDS from Ricky Siegel of 4 ½ Street Inn last year. HANDS hosts the fundraising event, Highlands Annual Christmas Day Dinner. I started volunteering for this event back in 2007. This dinner has become my tradition over the years and I’ve been blessed to watch so many families expand, grow up and start their own families. It’s been truly a wonderful feeling to share Christmas memories with so many people while giving back to the Highlands community.

Most of the attendees of this event may know me as the reservation gal! I’m the one playing phone tag with everyone each year and collecting all the necessary information to make sure you’re confirmed for a fabulous Christmas Day meal. I got involved with this event through friends who founded it back in 2001. Marty Rosenfield, Donna Woods, Ricky & Helene Siegel brought me into their circle and were gracious enough to pass me the torch once they were ready to add a little more leisure time into their lives. Well as I am now learning, these guys could certainly fundraise! They have been in this community for 20 plus years and have deep roots and lots of friends and supporters.

HANDS, Highlands Annual Christmas Day Dinner Thank You!

Free Wine Tasting Saturday 1-3p.m.
Join us as we pour some fantastic Winter wine values!

SPECIAL EVENT
Matt Meyer – Winemaker
Meyer Family Cellars
The First Family of Silver Oak!
Tuesday, January 26, 4-6 p.m.

Winter Inventory Sale
Best prices of the year on many items!

Open Tuesday - Saturday
269 Oak Street
Across from Reeves Hardware (828) 526-4080

Your local wine shoppe
with over 750 hand-selected wines and the best prices in town!

See LETTER page 5
...REVIEW continued from page 1

town’s ruling in Shearl case
• Macon County teacher bonus plan outlined by the state
• Eric Fielding was named “Fireman of the Year” at annual awards banquet
• Group unveils way to access Satulah Mountain Trail.
• Highlands School ranked in state’s top 100 schools
• County and Board of Ed struggle to meet school system’s needs.

February
• Tree stumps point to “health” of Lake Sequoyah
• Miranda Dotson of WRAL-TV wins 2 Emmys in Nashville
• New station to keep semis off Gorge Road.
• Killing of bear exemplifies the need for temperance
• Wintery mix of ice & snow closes schools/businesses in Highlands and Franklin
• What to do about moves on the old hydro plant?
• Lowered lake levels reveal a lost slice of history
• How much is/should/MC invest in education?

March

Open Tues.-Sun. • 11a to 10p
526-0608 • 30 Dillard Road • Highlands

Every Wed. and Thursday FREE SOUP

Open Tues.-Sun. • 11a to 10p
526-0608 • 30 Dillard Road • Highlands

Cyprus International Cuisine

Open Tues.-Sun. • 11a to 10p
526-0608 • 30 Dillard Road • Highlands

The LOG CABIN
Serving comfortable Italian, steaks & seafood

Casual dining in an historic 1924 log cabin
Just off Main Street at 130 Log Cabin Lane
Dinner Wednesday – Sunday nights at 5 PM
828 526-5777
reservations recommended
www.LogCabinHighlands.com

The Pizza PLACE
6•10•14•16•20pies
Specialty Sandwiches, Hot Dogs & Salads,
Domestic & Imported Beers
Open 7 days a week from 11 a.m.
365 Main Street • Highlands • 526-5660

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

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

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

• New trail to Satulah Summit hits headwinds
• Highlands School writers win big in the Western Mountains Reading Council’s Young Writers Contest
• K-H Park design expands to include ice rink and more
• Highlands School track & field redo is pending
• Lowered lake reveals discarded gun
• Town is considering getting into the Wi-Fi Broad-band business
• Dr. Mark Heffington nominated for NC Doctor of the Year

April
• First reading of county’s nuisance ordinance gets a ‘yes’ with 4-1 vote
• FBI arrests Sapphire, NC man for fraud. Later jailed in Florida for faking death in insurance fraud scheme
• Easter is alive in Highlands on April 5
• Senate rolls out plan to eliminate proceeds from most local sales taxes
• Study shows student suicide risk on the rise in Macon

*See REVIEW page 5


• See REVIEW page 5
...REVIEW continued from page 4

County
• Man running for Fallen Heroes runs through Highlands on route across NC
• Indications are H-C Hospital’s future is bright
• State education cuts puts pressure on county coffers
• Founders Coalition gets go-ahead for K-H Park expansion design, plaques and name change
• Highlands School seniors Jessica Tilson and Philip Murray crowned King & Queen at 2015 Junior-Senior Prom
• Town property tax to increase from 15.5 cents to 16.9 cents

May
• Highlands School athletes to compete in NCHSAA tournaments: golf, track and soccer excel
• Town Board considers tax and fee increases while finalizing 2015-16 budget.
• Thanks to tourism, Maconians pay less in taxes.
• Cub stranded in tree is rescued
• Highlands Police Department sheds the past; is poised for the future
• Charter and public schools battle for same funding sources despite different regulations
• Mama bear with cubs kills dog; wounds two others
• Richard the bear cub is doing well
• Jackson County agrees to pay Highlands for fire protections
• Highlands School math teacher Gina Billingsley is named Fan of the Year

June
• Mayor responds to allegations against Chief Harrell levied by previous chief
• Community turns out for Captain R.L. Forrester’s retirement send-off

...LETTER continued from page 3

To date, HANDS has distributed roughly $275,000.00 to Highlands’ non-profits, something that we are very proud of. In 2015 alone, due to the generosity of a true friend of Highlands, we were given a matching $30,000 grant which enabled us to share $62,000 to Highlands’s non-profits. What a blessing!

As I reflect on this year’s event I realize that this is now my baby and responsibility and it’s extremely important for me to blossom into this new role so that the event continues to grow, prosper and bring on board new supporters.

An event like this doesn’t just happen with a few helpers. I have a huge list to be thankful for. I must say that Highlands Country Club allowing us to use their main Club House was a Big Bonus! Thank you to their Board of Directors, Club Director Greg Crawford and their amazing security team for their generosity and sense of community. I will now attempt to THANK everyone who played a role in this year’s event and hopefully not forget anyone. You guys are The Greatest and seriously appreciated:

Food Preparers and Food Donations: Chef Chris Arnold, Lakeside Restaurant, Holly Roberts, Let Holly Do The Cooking, JT Fields, Mountain Fresh Grocery, Martha Porter, Jan Zehr, US Foods, Old Edwards Inn, Bryson’s Food Store, August Produce.

Volunteers: Shelley Walker, Ricky Siegel, Helene Siegel, Peter Ray, Martha Porter, Marty Rosenfield, Jim Oes...

...See REVIEW page 12
**BREAKFAST**

Full breakfast made to order every morning until 11:00 am
Cage-free eggs, waffles, french toast, sausage, ham, homemade biscuits, muffins, croissants. Espresso bar and coffee roasted in-house.

**LUNCH & DINNER**

Grill
Every day from 11:00am - close
Fresh angus burgers, fresh Natural chicken breasts, fish or chicken tenders, cooked to order, hand-cut fries, salads, homemade soups, daily specials.
See our website for more info.

Pizza
Every day from 11:00am - close
Authentic Neapolitan and NY deck oven pizzas made from scratch. Pasta bowls, daily specials and weekend dinner specials.
See our website for more info.

Soup & Salad Bar
Mon-Sat 11:00am - close
Fresh salads, homemade dressings, soups, chili and more.
$9.99 each (dine in) or $9.99 a pound (to go)

Weekday Lunch Special
Monday – Friday 11am to 2pm
Pizza, pasta, soup and salad bar
Continuous fresh pizza from our pizza ovens, pastas, fresh breads from our bakery, plus the entire soup and salad bar... $9.99 each (dine in) or $9.99 a pound (to go)

**SUNDAY SOUTHERN BRUNCH BAR**

Every Sunday from 11am – 3pm
Skillet fried chicken, country angus steak, skillet corn, biscuits & preserves, mashed potatoes, veggies, cobbler, plus the entire soup & salad bar.
$11.99 (dine in) or $9.99 a pound (to go)

**PREPARED FOODS**

A large selection of take-away items fully prepared, ready to take home including grilled pork loins, homemade mac & cheese, mashed potatoes, herb-rubbed chicken, made-in-house bbq, chicken salad deli salads & much more!

**DINNER TO GO**

A different full dinner every night. Serves four serving Monday through Saturday from 4:30 until we sell out – Call ahead to reserve.

Monday: choose either:
Four chicken and four cheese enchiladas, refried beans, monterey rice, homemade tortilla chips, salsa, shredded lettuce, tomatoes, sour cream.
Or...
24 buffalo wings or 2 lbs chicken tenders and hand cut fries.
$20.95 serves four.

Tuesday: Made in-house Italian sausage lasagna and a large house salad.
$20.95 serves four

Wednesday: Chicken or steak pot pie and a large salad.
$20.95 serves four

Thursday: Roasted meatloaf with mashed potatoes, gravy and a large salad.
$20.95 serves four

Friday: Wild caught fried shrimp, baked potatoes, hush puppies & coleslaw.
$23.95 serves four

Saturday: In-house smoked bbq, coleslaw, apple and bacon-baked beans, and yeast rolls.
$20.95 serves four

**Weeknight Pizza Special:**
Monday through Thursday 4:30 to close
16 inch New York style pizza with up to 5 toppings or baked pasta with either italian sausage or chicken. Both come with garlic bread and salad. Serves four for $20.95

**WINE MARKET**

Browse our Wine Spectator award-winning selection of wines w/ the best pricing in town. Run by a friendly & knowledgeable staff. Beer & wine available by the glass while you dine & shop.

**BUTCHER**

We sell only 100% premium angus beef, hand-cut in house. Stock up for the weekend every Thursday with 35% off all steaks and ground beef. Then stop by the take-out case to complete your dinner with twice baked potatoes, fresh salads and more!

**SPECIALTY CHEESES**

Dozens of cheeses, tapenades, olives and specialty items to choose from including our made-in-house crackers.

**BAKERY**

Fresh loaves, baguettes, pastries, pies, layer and specialty cakes. Everything made from scratch.
...PARKER continued from page 1

planned to. There was some flooding on the very lower portion of the park with some damage to the walking trail, but overall the park is in great shape.”

The flooding around the base of the park broke up the pavement that outlines the park’s one-mile long walking trail, but other than that, the grading and precautions taken by the park’s engineers proved beneficial in protecting the park from damage, despite being located within the flood plain.

With little damage, Parker Meadows is ready for business in 2016, and months before the first tournament is scheduled on the fields, the park is already booked solid.

Parks and Rec Director Seth Adams said that tournament directors across the south praised Parker Meadows’s facility layout and ease of operations. By the end of December, his department had already booked 23 tournaments on the fields.

Tournament season ranges from March to October, with 23 out of the 35 weekends within those months reserved for tournaments. Adams noted that the 2016 tournament schedule also includes open weekends for rain dates and at least one weekend each month reserved for local use.

This year will be the first full operational season of the park. In 2015, Parker Meadows held two tournaments, which brought thousands of people to Macon County, many of which plan to return for tournaments in 2016. The 2016 schedule, which will need additional staff at the recreation department in order to properly manage the interest, will help the county get a better, more complete picture of how the park will operate in a season and how it can be best utilized to its fullest potential.

The 2016 tournaments stand to have a significant financial benefit for Macon County as a whole. While money for the actual tournaments isn’t significant, about $1,500 per tournament in fees, with 25 players, coaches, and fans per team, and tournaments averaging 30 teams each, Macon County could see as much as $6 million put into the local economy in 2016. The tournaments scheduled are multi-day tournaments and include teams that are further than a day’s drive. Players and their families will be staying in local hotels, dining in area restaurants, and shopping at area stores. The county expects to see an increase in sales tax revenue as a result of the park.

County seeks aid after recent flooding

The damages to private homes and businesses caused by heavy rains and flooding around the Christmas holidays have been totaled and Macon County has sent a request to North Carolina Emergency Management for a State Damage Assessment to be conducted. This assessment could determine if any funds might be made available in the future for individuals or businesses that were affected by the flooding.

Preliminary estimates have so far shown damage to 29 residences with five determined unsafe to occupy. Damages are estimated to be around $263,000. At least 23 private roads and bridges were damaged with 2 bridges completely destroyed with damages estimated to be around $440,000. Damages to public facilities such as recreational complexes and the Greenway are still being compiled and will be submitted separately if damage total thresholds are met.

Macon County will provide more information concerning any application processes if the request for assessment is granted and any funding becomes available.

– Warren Cabe, Director MC Emergency Management

• Correction •

In the Dec. 23/31 issue, in the article entitled “Developer gets reprieve after cutting down trees” we reported that the vote to give a fine reprieve was unanimous. It wasn’t. The vote was 4 to 1 with Commissioner Donnie Calloway voting nay.

We regret the error and are happy to set the record straight.
Youngsters shop (and eat) with a cop!

Highlands police officers grabbed lunch at Zaxbys after this year’s Shop with a Cop. The event, in its 19th year, was the largest to date. Macon County Sheriff’s Office, with the help of community volunteers, law enforcement agencies from Macon and Jackson counties, firefighters, emergency personnel, members of the National Guard, SBI agents, and county leaders, were able to provide Christmas for 405 children in the community.

...SUIT continued from page 1

to be designated for schools. If a ticket for improper equipment was given in Macon County, that money was supposed to go back to Macon County Schools. Instead, the funds were diverted from schools and used to house inmates in county jails rather than state institutions since 2011. Statewide, the surcharge fines total more than $46 million over the last four years.

On average schools throughout the state lost about $11 million in a fiscal year. According to Henning, if the lawsuit is successful, Macon County stands to receive $50,000. Due to the statute of limitations, schools can recover only three years’ worth of the back fines.

The Richmond County School District opened the door for other districts to take legal action after filing a suit against the state to recover the surcharge fines back in 2011.

According to Henning, an appeals court already ruled in favor of the Richmond County district in September, finding that the state wrongfully provided funds meant for schools to the Statewide Misdemeanor Confinement Fund. The state’s argument against the Richmond County case, centered around the fine for improper equipment violations not being a fine. The state called it “a surcharge.”

But the N.C. Court of Appeals disagreed and ruled against the state in September. Although the appeals court ruled in favor of Richmond, Henning noted that the ruling was not applied to all districts in the state and for other districts to recoup their losses, they have to file a suit of their own.

“The state constitution says all fines and forfeitures must to go to the local school board,” explained Henning.

Macon County Schools Attorney works out of the Asheville-based firm, Campbell Shutley, which is handling the lawsuit for more than 30 school districts across the mountains — including Haywood, Jackson, Macon and Swain. The Raleigh-based firm, Tharrington Smith is handling a similar case for nearly 40 school districts in eastern North Carolina.

State legislators established the fine of $50 for an improper equipment change in 2011 and State statute says surcharges are to be given to schools, not county jails. When the error was brought to the state’s attention, the surcharge was corrected, but still millions of dollars were diverted from public education, when districts were seeing substantial cuts and the average teacher pay was $10,000 less than the national average.

The fine for improper equipment is only $50, but hundreds of tickets are written in counties across the state over the course of a year. Improper equipment could be as simple as a busted headlight, but the majority of improper equipment charges actually stem from speeding tickets. Drivers often plead down to improper equipment charges for first offenses.

According to Henning, even if the courts rule in favor of the new lawsuit, getting the state to actually pay up could be an entirely different battle, which is something he plans to address when it reaches that point.
Do You Fear God?

By Pastor Sam Forrester
Whiteside Presbyterian Church
Cashiers

Love when expressed concerning God brings the fear of God. We find love and fear together in Deuteronomy 10:12 “And now, O Israel, what does the Lord your God ask of you but to fear the Lord your God, to walk in all his ways, to love him, to serve the Lord with all your heart and with all your soul.” God is the sovereign Lord Almighty, the One who created you and sustains your life.

Fear can be expressed as either a reverence or a terror. Fear comes from love, either for yourself or for another. Self-love brings fear when things endanger your well-being. Fear can come when someone you care about is being mistreated. Fear of God comes from love also. It is a fear of respect, a fear of disappointing one you need and care about.

God created you and his providence is guiding your life. You could say her very life is in his hands. A good reason to be respectful. God requires this of all men. Deuteronomy 6:13 “Fear the Lord your God.” The Teacher in Ecclesiastes concludes his book with these words in 12:13 “Now all has been heard; here is the conclusion of the matter; Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man.” To have reverence you must be endowed with the knowledge of God and the majesty of God. II Peter 2:14 “The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from God.”

Herein is the problem we face in this world today. Men have little or no fear of God. Sadly, this is not just true of those outside of the church. Too many in the church are just as fearless before God as are those who make no claim of believing in him. The blessings of God will not come to those who do not believe or recognize his majesty. Psalm 2:11 clearly says all men are to “Serve the Lord with fear, and rejoice with trembling.”

What shows the majesty of this great God? Creation in all of its wonderful intricacies and mysteries can show that there is a God but only through his special written revelation can you truly see his greatness. No better picture of his majesty can be found than the life and works of Jesus Christ. He was sent into this sinful world by God the Father to do for men what they could never do for themselves. He came and lived the perfect life you could never live. He died the atoning death to pay for your sins. He won the resurrection victory to give you a way into heaven.

You must ask yourself: Do I see God’s majesty and do I fear him. Only those who see and fear will find comfort in their relationship with him. Only those who show respect and love for him will be given a place in eternity with him. Jesus declared “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.” To come you must have a healthy dose of respect and fear of God. Do you fear God?
The Highlands Police log entries from Dec. 14. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor or public officials have been used.

Dec. 14
• At 1:10 p.m., an incident of fraud where property was obtained by false means was reported at Entegra Bank.

Dec. 16
• At 4 p.m., vandalism was reported at a residence on Williamsburg Court where a rose bush was cut.

Dec. 17
• At 2:25 p.m., a burglary with forced entry was reported at a residence on South Drive.
• At 2 p.m., a larceny of wreaths from on the Verandah restaurant was reported.

Dec. 18
• At 9:25 a.m., an incident of forgery and obtaining property by false means was reported at Wells Fargo Bank when a person changed the name on a check and tried to cash it.

Dec. 22
• At 1 p.m., fraud at an ATM machine was reported and larceny when a person took personal information from a mailbox at a residence on Mountain Shadow Road and attempted to use it at Regions Bank.

Dec. 26
• At 6:20 p.m., officers responded to a 2-vehicle accident at the Farmers Market Exxon Station.

Dec. 27
• At 2:11 a.m., Evan Cole Thrift, 24, of Mountain City, GA, was arrested for DWI, driving during revocation and escaping from custody and resisting arrest. He was issued a $3,000 secured bond. His trial date is Feb. 16, 2016.

The Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. log from Dec. 16

Dec. 16
• At 11:41 a.m., the dept. provided mutual aid to Cashiers FD.

Dec. 17
• At 4:34 a.m., the dept. responded to a Co2 alarm at a residence on Foreman Road.
• At 11:11 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Sassafrass Lane.
• At 6:24 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Chestnut Street.

Dec. 18
• At 10:41 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at VZ Top.
• At 12:59 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to Dry Falls.
• At 5:05 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Oak Lane.
• At 6:09 p.m., the dept. responded to a chimney fire at a residence on Walhalla Road.

Dec. 20
• At 3:59 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to the Whiteside Mountain Parking lot.

Dec. 21
• At 6:26 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Clubhouse Trail.
• At 10:50 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Shortoff Lane.

Dec. 22
• At 1:56 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Moorwood Road.
• At 5:10 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Oak Street.
• At 3:03 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Crescent Trail.

Dec. 24
• At 1:41 p.m., the dept. was called to investigate at a residence on the Verandah restaurant.

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...REVIEW continued from page 5

recoup losses
• Bel Canto nets $107,000 for area music programs
• Macon County Commissioners consider request to affix motto “In God We Trust” to county buildings
• Highlands holds out against Duke’s strong arm demands
• Tourney at Parker Meadows proves to be economic boon to county and area businesses

October
• Board of Ed gets final word on budget from state; restores teacher assistant positions and allocates textbook funds
• Study predicts increased fall tourism in Western NC
• Andrea Chalker named Macon County Teacher of the Year
• Fall foliage forecast one of the best in recent years
• Macon Bank donates property to town for K-H Park
• Charity dining event at Paolettis Restaurant raises $175,000 for Hospice House
• Matching grant could complete K-H Founders Park
• Man charged with rape is on the run
• Special waiver opens school sports to HS 6th graders
• Coalition urges eradication of Oriental Bittersweet
• Lucky the hound saved by a Good Samaritan
• Board hires FERC lawyer to fight Duke
• Golf tourney nets $20,000+ for Highlands Scholarship Fund.
• HC Hospital honors benefactor Jane Woodruff and Charlie Sheehan
• Highlands School hits 100% graduation rate for 2013-’14; recognized by NC State Superintendent
• Four run for Highlands Town Board
• New Planning Director is hired.

November
• Three incumbents retain seats on board
• More state money helps lessen MC Schools woes
• Domestic dispute ends in shooting
• Highlands School Varsity Soccer wins Smoky Mountain Conference on Senior Night at home
• Highlands Blakely Moore is 1A NC State Cross Country Champ
• American Legion Post 370 & Scout Troops 207 join forces to erect flag pole
• Commissioners vote 4-1 not to plow Monkey Hill
• Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust gets 63 acres on Brushy Face Mountain
• Swimmer found dead of natural causes in Town Pool.
• Seniors Colin Weller and Whitney Billingsley named King and Queen at Homecoming Dance
• Town Board says no to “In God We Trust” on police cars.
• HUMC gets B-1 conditional zone for addition
• Commissioners are sworn in for another four years
• Highlands’ cell service and broadband options to expand with Altitude Community Broadband.
• Highlands School renovations to be completed with installation of windows.
• Room Tax proceeds way up in 2015
• Town to stock Lake Sequoyah with more “resident” fish
• Builder cited for tree violation given reprieve
• 2015 ends with major rain and wind.

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MANAGER, FULL-TIME-YEAR ROUND FOR BUSY INN/RESTAURANT IN HIGHLANDS. Mgmt exp. required, preferably restaurant mgmt. Email resume to info@mainstreet-inn.com. (st. 11/12)

THE HIGHLANDS BBQ CO. is seeking Servers, Hosts, Bartenders and Line Cooks. If Interested, Please call 828-200-1500 or Send a Resume to HighlandsBBQCompany@Gmail.com (st. 7/2)

SALES ASSOCIATE FOR HIGH END CLOTHING STORE IN HIGHLANDS, NC full time “with benefits. part time and seasonal. Must be available to work weekends. Retail clothing sales experience preferred. Please call 828-200-0928 (st. 4/30)

VAC/SHORT-TERM RENTALS


LOTS/LAND FOR SALE

LOT. 10 MINUTES FROM DOWNTOWN HIGHLANDS. 2.01 acres with Mountain Ridge and Meadow Views between Bridal Veil Falls, Dry Falls & Cullasaja Falls, Gorge. Lot cleared, driveway and new septic system. Tax Value is $89,410., Quick Sale at $49,900. Firm. 828-200-0949. (st. 9/3)

WOODED LOT W/ STREAM FOR SALE – MIRRORMONT AREA, Berit Ln., 1.45 acres, 4-BR septic permit, walk-to-town, Priced to sell. 770-861-4249. (st. 7/23)

ACRE LOT HIGHLANDS, NC Corner Lot Highlands Glen, level with some gentle slopes excavation and foundation expenses would be reasonable, underground power installed. Stream runs year round could be configured to make a small pond, good water sources for well. Space for outbuildings or RV, boat storage. 6 Miles to downtown. $27,000 possible owner financing 828-507-2066 (st. 7/2)

RESIDENTIAL FOR RENT

ON LAKE SEQUOYAH. 3BD/2BA. Full kitchen, family room, W/D. Fishing off the deck. $900 a month plus utilities. Call Tony at 828-783-0701. (st. Jan. 7)

FURNISHED HOME FOR RENT

2/2. Mt. Lori Dr. Quiet street with no through traffic. Minutes to town. Very well kept with nice furniture and pretty yard. Wood burning fireplace, open kitchen, deck in back, hardwood floors, garage. $1200 does not include...

See CLASSIFIEDS page 19
utilities. 904-403-8090. (st. 12/10)

3/3 OLDER FURNISHED HOME, walk to town. $1050/month plus utilities. Call 828-526-5558.


RESIDENTIAL FOR SALE

2 B/R, 2 BA CHALET WITH LOFT AND LARGE SCENIC DECK. Neat, clean and ready to move in. Elderly, long-time owner must sell before Spring season. Selling as is and fully furnished. Priced below appraisal. $145K firm, but price will be reduced $3,000/month through the end of April. $600/month. Call owner at 770-393-4597 (Atlanta).

CALLER at 770-393-4597 (Atlanta)

CABINS FOR SALE/RENT. Located on Sawmill Road in Clear Creek. 4.63 acres. Call 828-526-2720. Price Negotiable. (st. 9/24)

2B/2B 1.20 AC. Fantastic views & Privacy $88,999. Call 606.782.9728. Cypresslanesale@facebook. (st. 8/7)

ITEMS FOR SALE

ANTIQUE LARGE COMBINATION SAFE, antique mammy bench; vintage 4-wheel farm scale; new G-scale train equipment; new 4 oak/steel vegetable stands – all in great condition and reasonably priced. Bruce 828-200-0228.

SERVICES


ALL AROUND OFFICE SOLUTIONS – Bookkeeping Services, Payroll Prep, Payroll Tax Prep, Billing Services, Virtual Assistant, Database Management, Administrative Services, Research Assistance, Quickbooks Set-up and Training. Call Mary James at 828-421-0002 or email mjames@allaroundofficesolutions.com (st. 1/15)

HIGH COUNTRY PHOTO/KEVIN VINSON: scanning photos, slides & negatives to CD or DVD for easier viewing. Video transfer to DVD. Everything done in house. Leave message at 828-526-5208. (st. 10/29)

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

TOWN OF HIGHLANDS JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

FINANCE DIRECTOR:

The Town of Highlands is accepting applications for the position of Finance Director. This position performs professional and supervisory work in planning, organizing, and executing the accounting functions for the Town of Highlands government, annual budget of approximately 13 million dollars.

The Finance Director is responsible for interpretation of local, state, and federal policies, statutes, and procedures and insures overall compliance, adherence, and accuracy in all financial activities.

Responsibilities include: purchasing, financial reporting, general ledger, funds and grants accounting, cash management and investments, accounts receivables and payables, debt service management, and related tasks. The Finance Director is responsible for the supervision of the finance staff, and work is performed in accordance with established Town finance procedures, local ordinances, and NC laws and General Statutes governing local government finance, generally accepted accounting principles, and GAAFR (Governmental Accounting, Auditing, and Financial Reporting). Work is performed under the supervision of the Town Manager.

Minimum requirements for the position include a Bachelor’s Degree from an accredited college or university, in accounting, finance, business or public administration; or equivalent experience; and ability to obtain a North Carolina Certified Public Finance Officer Certification. A minimum of 5 years’ experience in North Carolina municipal or county government administration, or financial management and accounting.

Preferred special requirements are a Master’s degree in accounting or financial management, certified as a Municipal Financial Officer by the North Carolina Local Governmental Finance Officers Association and certified as a Notary Public.

Salary will be commensurate with experience and qualifications. The Town of Highlands provides a competitive benefits package, which includes participation in NC Government Employees Retirement System membership and benefits in health, dental, life, vision, long term disability insurance; optional life and auxiliary coverages; 401K and 457 deferred compensation plans; paid holidays; and annual and sick leave. This is an exempt position. The successful applicant is subject to a criminal background check, a pre-employment drug screening and passing a physical examination.

Applications are available at Town Hall or downloaded from the Town’s website at www.highlandsnc.org under Employment. Resumes may be submitted in addition to applications. All completed and signed Employment Applications may be submitted in person to Sonjia Gibson, HR Director, at the Town Hall, 210 N. Fourth Street, Highlands, NC, by email to sonjia.gibson@highlandsnc.org, by fax to 828-526-2595 or by U.S. Mail to the attention of Sonjia Gibson, HR Director, at PO Box 460, Highlands, NC 28741. This position has a closing date of January 15, 2016, and applications will be reviewed as received. Only candidates selected for an interview will be contacted. The Town of Highlands is an Equal Opportunity/Drug-Free Employer. (1/14/16)