

Highlands Newspaper

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Thurs., May 5, 2016

Work begins on 2016-'17 budget ... what will be funded?

When it comes to budget time, most citizens want to know two things – will taxes or utility costs increase?

At the first 2016-'17 budget worksession last Thursday, Town

Manager Bob Frye had good news on several fronts.

Even though the grand total for the 2016-'17 budget consideration during this first swipe is \$3,001,150, it's still \$600,000 less

than last year's budget and that includes the new Altitude Broadband department.

In other good news, property taxes, the fire tax and electric rates won't increase.

The bad news is the water/sewer and sanitation rates will likely increase.

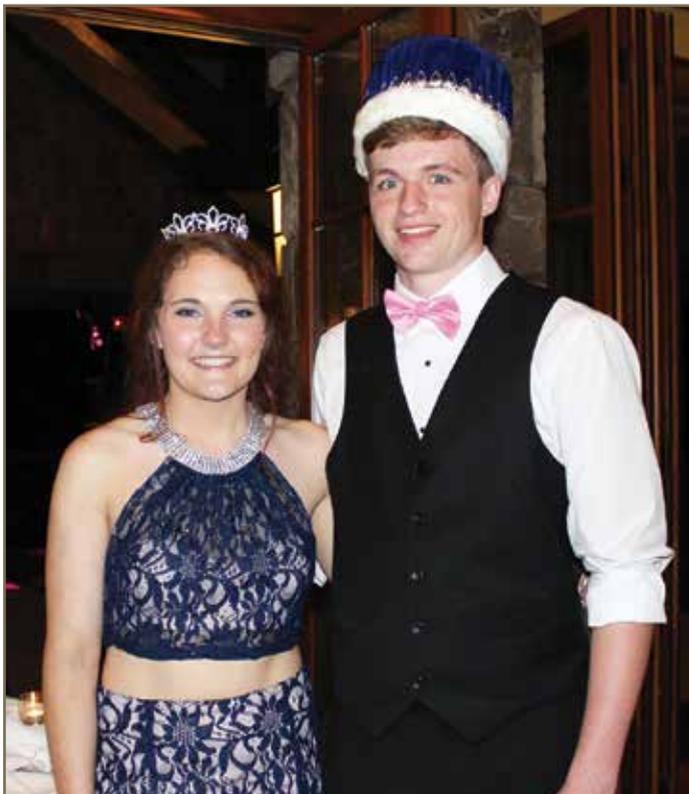
The water/sewer rate minimum charge will increase between

• See BUDGET page 5

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King & Queen for the night



This year's Highlands School Junior-Senior Prom was held in the main clubhouse of Highlands Country Club on Friday, April 29. Colin Weller was crowned king and Whitney Billingsley was crowned queen. The theme was "Around the World." Photos are by the Sunset Yearbook staff. For more see page 6.

Litter Lee

Remembering Highlands' cleanup day, Sat., April 23

By Lee Lyons

I just had the opportunity (I guess that is the right word) to take part in the Highlands community trash pick up sponsored by the mayor and Chamber of Commerce. I made the mistake of being flattered when the mayor gave me a warm, welcoming smile and acted as if he was hand selecting me for his special trash warrior team. I thought I was past the age of being taken in by a handsome man's smile but apparently not.

Almost a hundred volunteers, ranging in age from teens to 80 something (Luther Turner is amazing), met at the Visitor Center for this well-run community event. It was like old home week, a true sense of camaraderie prevailed. We got our - shirts, gloves, spears or pinchers, orange vests, orange trash bags and our assignments at 9 a.m. My assigned area was down the Franklin Road from Bridal Veil Falls to Dry Falls. I headed out with Sarah and Ken Knight for a glorious day of picking up trash!

• See LEE page 3



Members of the Highlands School Track team. Some members of the team aren't pictured.

HS Track team exemplifies good sportsmanship

When HS Track Coach Ryan Kean witnessed what his team did for another, he posted a heartfelt piece

"Take a look at these track kids. Each of them is a terrific athlete in their own right, but at a recent competition in Franklin last week, something incredible happened.

"A competitor was hurt and

clearly struggling in a two-mile race that he usually won easily. These track kids went out to run with their rival and talk him through his last half-mile. It didn't matter that they were all dead tired – some just ran the same race.

"When their rival finally finished, they cheered his finish as

• See TRACK page 3

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• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• MAYOR ON DUTY •

Here's to a successful and prosperous Highlands season.



Highlands Mayor
Patrick Taylor

It's that time of year when the town will soon be packed with visitors and seasonal residents. I will receive a lot of feedback about the operation of the town. Some folks will tell me Highlands has too many regulations and ordinances. Others will tell me we need stronger ordinances, enforcement and penalties. There is a constant struggle to find a balance between the two extremes. The goal of having ordinances and zoning codes is to make Highlands an attractive community in which to live, visit and work.

So as we approach the beginning of an active season in Highlands, let me take this opportunity to kindly remind everyone about some ordinances and rules that are enforced by our zoning administrator, town staff and the police department.

The first reminder concerns parking. The police enforce all local and state parking ordinances. The town ordinance requires downtown employees to park in designated off-street parking April through December. Main Street is re-

served for our visitors and local residents. The concept behind the ordinance is to give customers the best parking spaces. Also, state parking codes, such as for handicapped parking and parking in no-parking zones or near fire hydrants, are also enforced. Please heed stop signs, and the Main Street U turn signs, as well as not driving over the speed limit. I personally try to avoid going over 35 in Highlands. I drive at a crawl down Main Street and other congested areas for fear of a child or elderly person stepping out in front of me.

A second reminder concerns signs. We have ordinances prohibiting sandwich board signs and similar temporary signs. Highlands also does not allow off-premise signs. I know this irritates some merchants who want to direct customers to their store and some Realtors. The concept behind the off-premise regulation is to avoid cluttering every intersection with temporary signs.

There are certain types of temporary signs that can be permitted. Please contact Town Hall before erecting any sign. We are happy to guide and advise folks about signage.

A third reminder concerns truck deliveries on Main Street. During this time of year, deliveries and unloading on Main Street and 4th can only be done before 10 am and after 5 pm. Deliveries to side and back streets can be done all day.

A fourth reminder is that construction work in the business district during the season can only be done under certain circumstances. A permit is issued by the town based on the need and merit of the request. The concept behind this ordinance is to not block pedestrian and vehicle access during business hours. Similarly, merchandise cannot be displayed on town sidewalks.

Finally, Highlands has a tree cutting ordinance that applies to all business districts, but not residences. Please consult the town zoning administrator prior to removing any trees from a business area.

For questions please call Town Hall at 526-2118. Here's to a successful and prosperous Highlands season.



They're baccckkkk.....

...and they are hungry. Remember to keep your trash inside until pick-up day and to keep bird feed and pet food out of reach, too. This photo of a mama and a yearling was taken at the home of Jeff Schenck and Rachel Friday on Sequoyah Woods Drive off Wyanoak in Mirror Lake.

• THANK YOU •

Thank you for a Successful Clean Up!

I would like to thank all the volunteers that came out for the Gorge Clean Up and Plateau Pick-up. We had a record setting day with 100 volunteers and over four tons of trash collected. We were able to clean NC 106 from town down to the Scaly Mountain Post Office, Hwy 64 West from town to Pine Creek Church, and the streets in town. This could not have been done without the help of the community. I would also like to thank Mayor Pat Taylor for and Kristen Bowen for taking action against the litter problem and bringing more awareness to get out to the community.

– Jennifer Cunningham
Director of the Highlands Visitor Center

• WEEKEND WEATHER •



For real-time weather and the extended forecast go to www.highlandsinfo.com and click on Weather

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Letter Policy:

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Truth is, I had no idea what this trash pick-up thing was all about. My great grandmother use to say, "Many hands make light work," but there is too much trash for this to be considered light.

Most of the trash is not right off the road. Wouldn't it be nice if the culprits would toss trash where it could easily be picked up? Instead, bottles and cans are tossed down steep embankments. We were told to pick up trash we could easily reach, but if you are like me and have to vacuum in every corner, you cannot just leave those cans way down the side of a ravine. Sarah Knight and I kept together. A buddy system is a good idea. Sarah would slide down on her butt and I'd traverse the slope behind her. Sarah is one of those people who sees all the good around her. She said, "Have you noticed all the Galax and Trillium?"

"No," I said. "I've only seen beer cans and beer bottles. If I am given the choice of bears or humans, I'll take bears any day." No wonder bears scatter our trash. They probably think it is what humans like. I wonder if a mother bear feels as sad as I do walking her cubs through all this litter and broken glass.

I found out quickly that the mayor's cool looking orange-striped spears did not work as well for me as the pinchers. Trying to spear a beer can on a hill is like trying to spear a fish and it doesn't work on glass bottles. Still, they make a tribal statement.

Most of the trash I found was from alcohol. Sure, there were some coke cans and Java Monsters but by and large, it was beer cans and beer bottles, the regular and large sizes. Budweiser is without a doubt the King of Trash and then Modelo, Corona,

Best from Milwaukee, Coronita and liquor bottles, especially miniatures of Crown Royal and Goldschlager Cinnamon Schnapps. I guess it stands to reason no one wants to get stopped by the police with a bunch of empty beer cans in the back seat so out the window they go. Interestingly, I did not see one wine bottle. I am not sure what that says about wine drinkers but thankfully; they are not throwing bottles down the Gorge Road.

I did not know you need to be in shape. I pictured a nice little stroll with friends, but Sarah and I got in some places we could hardly get out of. We got in places where only a snake or a bear might live. When I got stuck with a wedgie from a briar branch, I realized neither of us had cell phones or water. Although they had wonderful volunteers driving by with water, you had to be on the road to get it.

So many bottles are tossed over the fence at Dry Falls like coins in a fountain. If only they were pennies! Kathleen Daley from Franklin said she cleaned out the creek in town by the old Sweet Treats. It was full of trash. What made me the maddest was finding signs for people running for office. Judge Cressie Thigpen, Court of Appeals, Judge Dana Vanhook, District Court, Elaine Marshall, U.S. Senate. I do not know if any of them got elected, but anyone running for office needs to make sure their signs do not litter our countryside. I really admire Mayor Patrick Taylor for not putting yard signs all over Highlands.

I use to see prisoners picking up trash, but I am assuming they would rather stay in jail. It is not easy work. I have also seen volunteers cleaning the roads and I have to

• See LEE page 19

...TRACK continued from page 1

though the victory was their own.

"It's not that they won, but how they won that makes this team great.

"So, for the time being, my heroes are not grandiose historical figures, celebrities or other totems of vanity. No. My heroes are 'my track kids.' Go Highlands!"

"When I received this it made me realize what a special place we live in and what special young people we have," said Highlands School Head Coach Brett Lamb. "We try as coaches to get our kids to compete at the highest levels and also be humble. I think this exemplifies the compassion and care our athletes have for our fellow competitors, not as rivals but as people. Coach Kean and his High

School track team are to be greatly commended. Highlander Pride at is best," he said.

Dr. Chris Baldwin, Macon County Schools Superintendent said, "Great 'Win' in every respect!"

Mother of girl athletes Marjorie Crow said "Often times our students get ridiculed for being too 'nice' and not aggressive enough in athletics. I am so super proud of these amazing athletes for being too 'nice.' AllLife lesson for all of us!"

"What an absolutely beautiful and inspiring story!" said Sarah Hibbits, Middle School Math Teacher. "It really shows what great kids we have at Highlands! Way to go!"

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...BUDGET from page 1

\$1 and \$3; the sanitation minimum charge will likely increase \$1.50 to \$3.

In all three departments revenues and expenditures are extremely close "but we need a rate adjustment to keep the funds in the black," said Frye.

"Our electric fund is stable but based on what our Duke liaison is telling us, Duke could levy a coal ash surcharge at the end of the 2016 calendar year. The FERC and the state will decide if it has the right to do that and then we will have to decide if we want to join other municipalities to contest the surcharge," he said.

There will be a 1% COLA increase for all employees and there is a 50% rate increase projected if the town wants to continue with its current level of health insurance coverage for employees.

Commissioners Brian Stiehler and Eric Pierson were charged with working with town staff to study the health insurance situation.

Capital Projects

Everyone – citizens and department heads – have their "hopeful" capital project for the upcoming budget cycle.

Some projects have been on the back burner for years; others are new to the list.

Street Dept.

On the Street Dept. list there's paving, repairs and equipment.

Satulah Road is on the list for repaving for \$115,000, but so is the Buckhorn Tank Replacement and Design/Engineering for \$102,000. Since it is accessed via Satulah, commissioners reasoned that it should be done before the road is repaved because it's likely the road will get torn up in the process. "We don't want to throw good money after bad," said Frye.

"We can just do the design and engineering in 2016-'17 and the rest in 2017-'18 but this has to be done," he said. "The tank only has three years of life left and we can't afford to get behind the eight ball with this."

The design/engineering amount wasn't separated out on Thursday, but it will be less than the estimated budget

of \$102,000.

Satulah is off the paving list for 2016-'17 but Fifth Street was retained for now at \$176,000.

Repairs

Public Service Administrator Lamar Nix annually budgets \$50,000 for sidewalk repairs, \$18,000 for striping and \$30,000 for salt and so far those stay. The Oak Street wall in front of the Playhouse and the one alongside the Fire Department both need to be rebuilt. Since the town is considering major physical changes to the Fire Department, commissioners agreed to delete that wall for now – a \$30,000 savings – but at Commissioner Donnie Calloway's insistence the Playhouse wall will stay.

"It looks dangerous; like it's about to fall. It looks bad. Let's get it done," he said.

The estimated cost is \$110,000.

Also in the Street Department budget are funds for a replacement dump truck, a mowing tractor and a skid steer; a total of \$265,000.

Ten dumpsters and 20 bear resistant lids have been budgeted annually over the last few years for \$30,000. But as Mayor Pat Taylor said, they only way to keep bears out of the dumpsters is if people remember to close the lids.

Utility (water) Projects

This biggest and most important item on this list is the Bleach Treatment Project where equipment and a revamp to switch gas bleach to liquid bleach will be needed at the cost of \$580,000.

"This is due to safety issues and the fact that there has been a decrease in the number of gas bleach providers," said Frye. "It's something we have to do."

Moving underground utilities and access boxes away from the back of buildings on Helen's Barn Avemie was discussed a few months ago at a Town Board meeting. The cost is \$88,000 and would mean property owners were lose two parking spaces per unit. Nix said the job could wait until January. No decision was made.

An Automatic Bar Screening Device is needed at the Sewer Plant and will cost \$135,000.

The manual screening device is fine but the state is requiring all plants to have an automatic device. The town

• See BUDGET page 9

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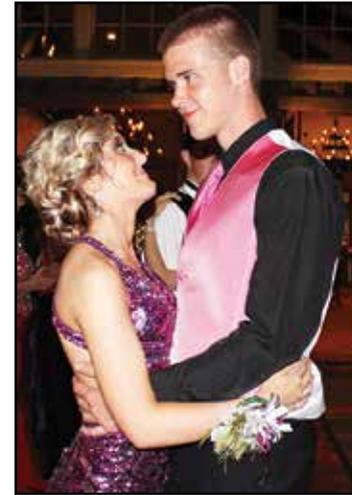
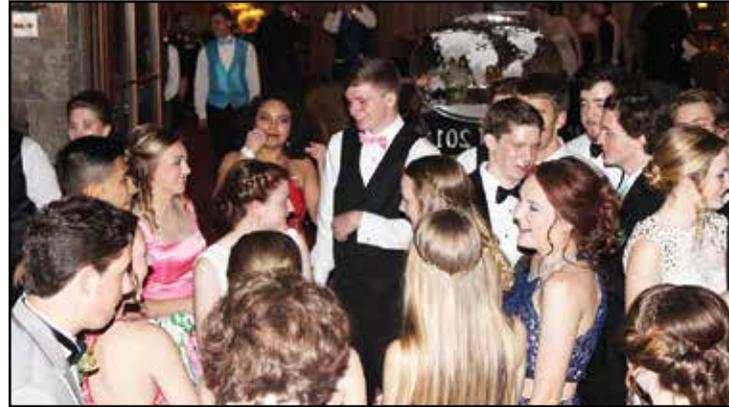
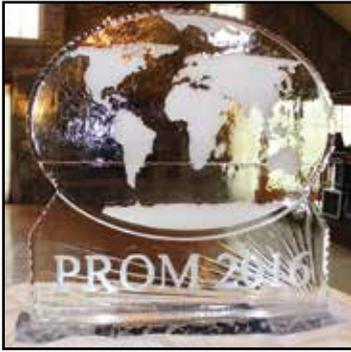
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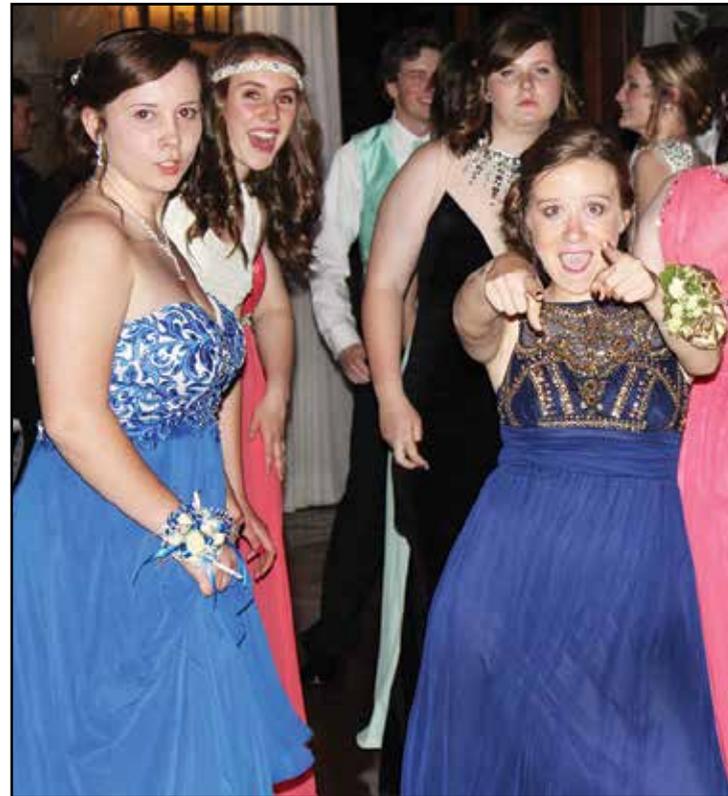
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Tuesday - Oven Off Night

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.

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Wednesday - Prime Rib with Baked Potatoes & Salad

Premium Angus standing rib roast, cooked medium rare w/ red wine au jus. Two baked potatoes & a large Caesar salad. \$34.95 serves two

Thursday - Two Racks of Baby Back Ribs

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Friday - Wild Caught Shrimp: fried or steamed.

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...BUDGET continued from page 5

had one year ago, but it didn't last long due to freezing and thawing so the manual operation was better. However, since it's being mandated by the state Nix has found a supplier in Canada – a place used to freezing and thawing.

Other vehicles were discussed for both the Electric and Police Dept. The replacement vehicle

and accessories needed in the Police Dept. is below last year's, and in many cases will be paid for with grant money.

MIS/GIS

If a grant doesn't cover the expense to upgrade the Police Dept. servers it would cost \$30,000 and the town has about \$40,000 on the list for an email and archiver

server and a document management system. MIS/GIS Director Matt Shuler also requested a computer support specialist at the pay level of \$43,000 plus benefits.

The Big Bear Pen extension is still in the works for \$50,000 as is a service pickup truck for \$40,000.

Parks and Recreation

The Civic Center Stage Ren-

• See BUDGET page 9

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...BUDGET from page 9

ovation has been cut from the capital project list for a few years but it just might make it this year. The cost is \$206,150 and would include a bathroom/locker room and classroom. The space would open up the downstairs for an expanded weight and exercise room.

Frye said it's mandatory that the Civic Center windows be replaced to the tune of \$52,000. Still on the list is renovating the lower level for \$202,000 but Rec Park Director Lester Norris said the upstairs stage should be done first.

"If we renovate the downstairs first, then where will we put the 14 classes we now have downstairs? There isn't a place for them," he said.

About \$51,750 was requested for parks and recreation equipment – floor scrubber, pool vacuum, elliptical bike, replacement tractor K-H Founders Park plaza furniture as well as money for a sidewalk addition in the park.

Altitude Broadband

To accomplish everything intended for the town's broadband enterprise \$443,000 is needed.

"The goal is to complete the wireless deployment around town and to complete fiber downtown," said Shuler. "We can't get fiber to each home, so we are pushing to broaden our scope with wireless."

This is where the extension to the Big Bear Pen Tower comes in. Shuler said it points towards town which is great but he is also looking for an option on Brushy Face to point back the other direction.

He said there is a 10-week lead time for needed fiber and so if allowed to order will work on the "make-ready" until it comes in. He requested permission to hire a Broadband Technician who could help hook people up to wireless. He said he has money in last year's budget to cover two months of salary and if he knew he could hire someone than the wireless hook up back log could be addressed.

There are 70 people on the waiting list and only two can be done a day.

The board OK'd the hiring of a Broadband Technician I.

He also suggested revamping the town's pole attachment agreement – currently it costs companies \$10 a pole rather than the \$17 per attachment as elsewhere in the country. "Pole space is valuable," he said.

To expedite the moving of attacheses out of compliance, Shuler said the state said a trained town employee could do that instead of waiting for companies to do it themselves. "In other words, we can hire a contractor to put everyone in compliance," he said.

Fire Dept.

Becoming a department less dependent

• See BUDGET page 15



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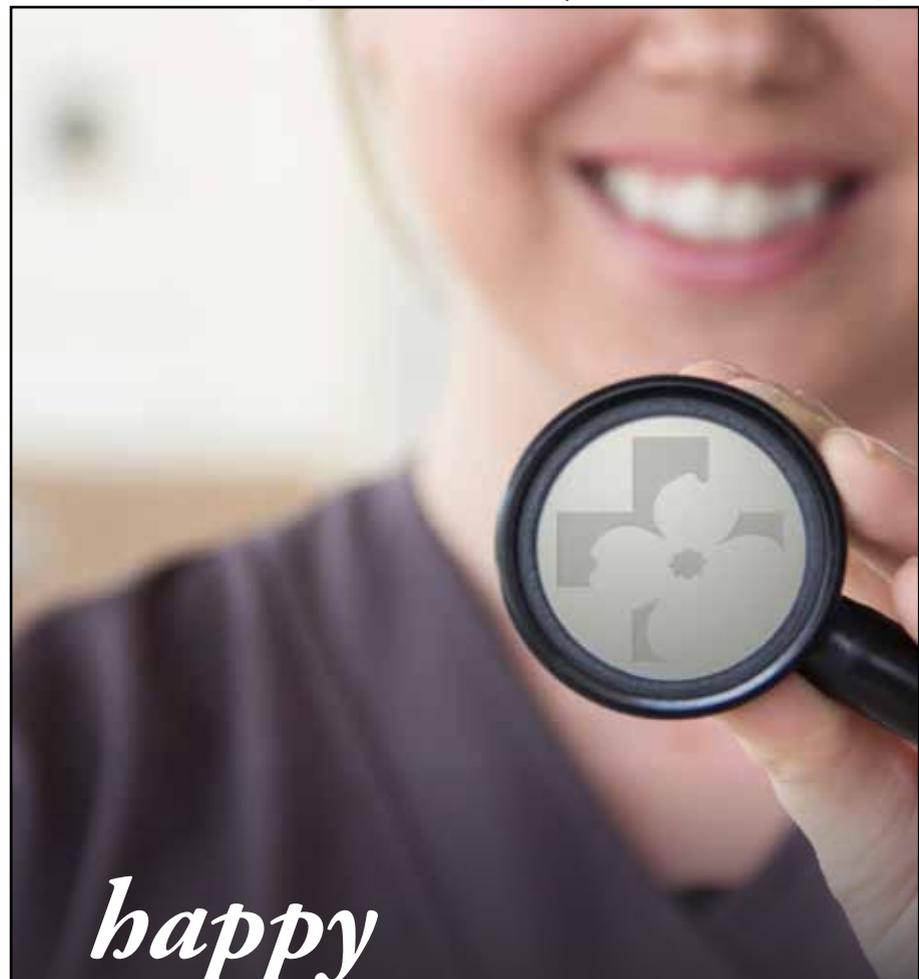
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**MISSION
HEALTH**

• HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

Upcoming Choral Workshop and Concert



At 7pm on Saturday, May 7, approximately 50 singers from many area churches and groups will perform in a sacred choral concert at Highlands First Presbyterian Church - after participating in an afternoon Choral Workshop.

The event will be facilitated by Master Composer/Conductor Philip W.J. Stopford, a close friend of First Presbyterian Church Chancel Choir member Nan Hunter who is underwriting the event. Participating are singers from many Highlands churches, St. Philip Episcopal Church in Brevard, Resurrection Lutheran Church in Franklin, Asheville Symphony Chorus, Western Carolina Community Chorus, Jackson County Community Chorus, Western Carolina University Concert Choir, and also from Atlanta and Florida. Concert repertoire will consist of Philip Stopford sacred compositions. Accompanist for the event will be Organist/Pianist Ann Tiner of Sylva, NC.

In addition to being a highly acclaimed composer of choral music, Mr. Stopford is also an accomplished organist, conductor, and choral trainer. He has recently accepted a position as Director of Music at Christ Church in Bronxville, NY, and just relocated there from his home in Chester, England.

You definitely won't want to miss this delightful event! Mr. Stopford will also participate in the May 8 11:00am worship service at Highlands First Presbyterian Church as Guest Choir Master and Organist. Highlands First Presbyterian Church is located at 471 Main Street at the corner of Main and Fifth Streets. Handicap accessible entrances are located on Church Street and on Fifth Street.

Ongoing

- Highlands Hurricanes Swim Team is open to all levels of swimmers ages 6-18. To sign up contact Coach Steve Hott at 828-421-2121.

Mondays

- Shortoff Baptist Church non-denominational Men's Meeting at 7 pm first Mondays.
- High Cardio Zumba Fitness with Certified Instructor Tiffany Austin at 5:25 p.m.

Mon. & Wed.

- Zumba with Mary K. Barbour at the Rec Park from noon to 1p. For more information, call 828.342.2498.

Mon., Wed., Fri.

- Heart Healthy Exercise Class 8:30am-

Winter Pool Schedule

Through May 26, 2016

LAP SWIM - ADULTS ONLY

Monday thru Friday

7 - 10 am, 6 lanes

AND Monday thru Thursday

5 - 6 pm, 1 or 2 lanes

Sharing pool with water

aerobics @ 5:15 on

Mondays, Tuesdays, and

Thursdays

PUBLIC SWIM

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday
3 - 5 pm

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday

6 - 8 pm

Saturday 11 am - 6 pm

Sunday 1 - 5 pm

WATERAEROBICS

Monday-Friday

10:15 am

Monday - Thursday 5:15

(Sharing pool for public swim)

Saturday 11:15

(Sharing pool for public swim)

Fee: \$4 per class or

\$30 for 12 classes

POOL PARTIES

Pool available on

Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays

6 - 8 pm

Fee: \$75 / \$50 deposit required

\$50 non-refundable deposit if party is cancelled or a no show less than 2 days before

1st Wednesday of the month—

Kayak Clinic

2nd Wednesday of the month—

Youth Night

3rd Wednesday of the month—

Water Volleyball

4th Wednesday of the month—

Senior Night

6:00 - 7:30 pm

Call us about membership fees

9:30am at the Rec Park.

- Aerobics with Tina Rogers 8-9a.

First Tuesdays

- The monthly family support group for those with family members, friends, or loved ones living with the challenge of mental illness meets at 7 p.m. at Memorial United Methodist Church, 4668 Old Murphy Road, Franklin. For info call 828 369-7385.

Tuesdays

- The Humanist Discussion Group meets every Tuesday morning from 10:30-11:30a in the Meeting Room in the back of Hudson Library,

- FREE Community Table Dinner at the Community Bldg. at 6p.

- The Beyond the Walls Book discussion group meets at 4 PM at The Ugly Dog Public House. Each week a short story discussed.

2nd and 4th Tuesdays

- OccupyWNC meets at the Jackson County Justice Center. For more information, visit www.occupywnc.org or call 828.331.1524

Every 3rd Tuesday

- The Macon County Poultry club in Franklin meets at 7 pm at the Cooperative extension office on Thomas Heights Road. For more information call 369-3916.

Tuesday and Thursdays

- Zumba with Connie at the Rec Park 8:15 a.m. \$5.

- Pickle ball is played from 11:30a to 1p in the gym at the Rec Park.

Wednesdays

- Open Duplicate Bridge at the Rec Park at 9 a.m. Be seated by 8:45.

1st Wednesdays

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

3rd Wednesdays

- Recently released movies at Hudson Library at 2pm. Call 828-526-3031 for titles.

Thursdays

- Storytime with Miss Deanna at Hudson Library 10:40 am. Open to the public.

- Weight Watchers support group meets every Thursday at 5 pm at Christ Church of the Valley 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. at First United Methodist Church Out Reach Center on West Main Street beside Bryant's Funnel Home and across the street from the Lazy Hiker Brewery Call Donita for more info (828) 526-9510.

2nd Thursdays

- Sapphire Valley Needlepoint Guild meets at the Highlands Rec Park at 10 a.m.

3rd Thursdays

- Kidney Smart Classes in Franklin: from 4:30pm-6pm, Angel Medical Center, Video Conference Room, 3rd Floor, 120 Riverview Street, Contact Majestic 828-369-9474
- Kidney Smart Classes in Sylva: from,

7:30am-9am, DaVita Sylva Dialysis Center, 655 Asheville Highway, Contact Sue 828-631-0430

Fridays - Tuesdays

- Movies at The Highlands Playhouse, 3 and 7 p.m.

Fridays

- Open Duplicate Bridge at the Rec Park at 1 p.m. Be seated by 12:45 p.m.

Every 3rd Friday

- Senior Dinners are at noon November through April.

Every 2nd Saturday

- A group that will meet every 2nd Saturday of the month at Highlands Hudson Library at 10am. Group will have speakers, videos, recipes, health tips, and more to educate people about any health issues. Group is a non-profit. Contact Kelly Woods 828-421-3520 or live4above@aol.com

Saturdays

- Zumba with Connie at the Rec Park at 10 a.m.. \$5.

- At The Bascom, Pottery Sale in the barn from 10a to 5p.

- Highlands Marketplace at K-H Park 8a to noon.

Sundays through May 29

- Change Your Money, Change your Life. Applying God's word to your money... This 9-week class will show you how to get rid of debt, manage your money, spend and save wisely and more. 3pm-5pm at the Highlands Rec. Park. To sign up go to: www.daveramsey.com/fpu/classes/1017675. For more information contact Emily Chastain at [\(828\) 200-6277](mailto:eh.chastain86@gmail.com)

Thurs., May 5

- Chestnut Hill Retirement Center Wellness Fair 10a to noon, at the clubhouse on Clubhouse Terail. Have your blood pressure checked, get a hand massage and a snack. After stay for a free lunch in the dining room. Dr. Sue Aery, DC, MS will speak briefly on Cellular Health and Whole Food Nutrition. Call 828-526-5251.

- Chamber of Commer Spring Fling at OEI's Half-Mile Farm, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

May 6-7

- Wildflower Whimsey -- a fundraiser for the Highlands Biological Foundation -- at the Highlands Biological Station. May 6, 6:30-8p and May 7, 10a - 2p. Tickets are \$75 for members and \$100 for nonmembers. Call (828)526-2221.

Sat., May 7

- A choral workshop hosted by Highlands First Presbyterian Church's Chancel Choir. For more details, call Nan Hunter at 828-526-1881 or 828-200-3101.

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate 6-mile hike on the Kimsey Creek Loop in the Standing Indian area, elevation change 700 ft. Wildflowers may still be in bloom. If you want ramps, bring a digging tool. Meet at Westgate Plaza in Franklin at 9 a.m., drive 35 miles round trip. Call leader

• HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

Gail Lehman, 524-5298, for reservations.

• Holistic Highlands Wellness Fair, at Village Creek Plaza at 468 Dillard Road. 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. A full day of family fun and education. Lectures, with healing arts, crafts, music and more. Pets welcome, too. Call 828-526-9698.

Sat., May 14

Rabies Clinic at Highlands Conference Center 9–10:30 am with Highlands Cashiers Animal Clinic for cats, dogs and ferrets over 4 months of age, as required by NC state law. The cost is \$10 (cash only) per pet and all pets should be kept in vehicles, on leashes, or in carriers. Call 349-2490 for any questions.

Wed., May 18

• At Wolfgang's Restaurant & Bistro, a 5-course dinner & wine starting at 7 p.m. \$125 per person. Featuring Venge Vineyards. Reserve seating. 526-3807.

Thurs.-Sun., May 19-21

• At The Bascom, Collective Spirits.

Thurs-Sun, May 19-22

• At PAC, Highlands Community Players presents "A Game's Afoot. For tickets call 828-526=8084.

Sat., May 21

• Craft Fair and Auto Show at the Memorial United Methodist Church at 4668 Old Murphy Road in Franklin. 10a to 2p. Profits from food and the bake sale will go to fund Cartoogechaye Christian Fellowship community projects. Artists and crafters and antique auto enthusiasts who want to participate should call 828-369-5834. No booth fees. Crafters and artists keep 100% of profits.

Thurs. - Sun., May 26-29

• At PAC, Highlands Community Players presents "A Game's Afoot. For tickets call 828-526-8084.

Sat., May 28

• "Run for the Park 5K begins at 9 a.m. For more information, call Ski Taylor at 526-4280, or email stmas4280@gmail.com. Proceeds go to the K-H Founders Park and local athletic scholarships.

• Mountain Garden Club Plat Sale at the ballfield 9a to noon.

Tues., May 31

• Village Nature Lecture Series. Dig deeper and learn more about our natural and cultural heritage at these free family friendly programs, at The Village Green Commons in

Cashiers. Programs begin at 5:30 PM, rain or shine. No reservations required Masters of the Sky- Meet the Raptors and Discover What Makes Them Unique with Michael Skinner.

Mon., June 6

• The Plateau Fly Fishing Club will meet at the Albert Carlton-Cashiers Library in Cashiers, NC at 6 p.m. After the presentation a raffle will be held



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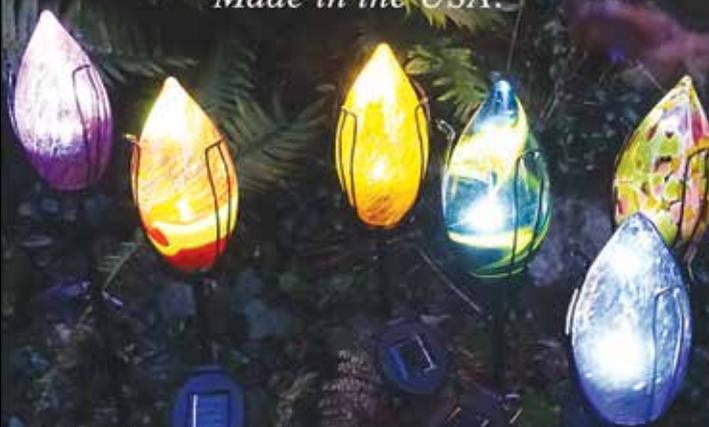
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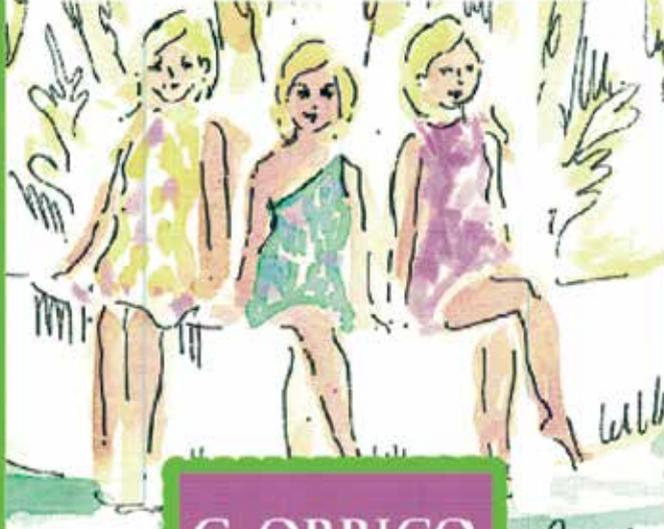
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Privacy with some winter view from this 2br/2ba home close to Town. A third room furnished as a den. Split bedroom plan with garage and workshop/studio space. \$339,000. MLS #82099.



Highlands Falls Country Club 2br/2ba condo (only 7 steps) in with sweeping views of the 13th Fairway. Vaulted ceiling in main living area with stone fireplace, spacious kitchen with breakfast nook, sun-room and deck. \$229,000. MLS #83675



Sequoyah Point Way. Homesite on Lake Sequoyah with exceptional views of the lake, privacy, city water and sewer. Great reduced price! \$347,000. MLS# 77522



3 bedroom, 3 1/2 bath home in Highlands Falls Country Club Community. Raised ceilings in the upstairs living areas, a 3 car garage plus golf cart storage and the possibility of a great golf course view make this a fantastic opportunity. A wonderful wrap-around glassed/screened covered porch is perfect for entertaining. \$777,000. MLS #81880



Highlands Mountain Club with great mountain view. Spacious 3br/2ba, two bath spacious condo. Enjoy the pool, tennis, and clubhouse. It comes furnished, with dishes and linens, so just move in. \$249,000. MLS #82270



Highlands Falls Golf Villa has the best view of all with golf, lake and mountains plus an easy walk to all amenities. Golf or Social Membership is available but optional. Easy living, all on one floor with a large kitchen and open greatroom. MLS #78264 \$350,000



Wonderful home in prestigious Wildcat Cliffs CC. Just a two minute golf cart ride to the club house. Fantastic views from the back porch of Whiteside Mountain and Cullasaja Club golf course. MLS#82872 \$375,000



Highlands Falls condo with 3br/3ba and great golf course view, sunroom, stone fireplace, vaulted ceiling. Just reduced to an amazing \$295,000! MLS# 73808



Amazing waterfalls and bold streams with 700 feet on Buck Creek and 700 feet on other side of the creek and bordering USFS. Exceptionally built home on 5.48 acres with all the bells and whistles. \$995,000 MLS #82444

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One Fish, Two Fish, Red Fish, Blew it Fish

Not exactly Dr. Seuss, but the writing on the wall may be easy enough for a child to read – no matter how big water, little fish survive right along with the big fish. Nobody said it better than Dory in Finding Nemo- “Just keep swimming, just keep swimming.”

From Dr. Seuss, to the not so Grimm fairy tale: Have you heard the one about the little fish that could?

Once upon a time, there was a little fish that lived in a small pond. The pond was in a high elevation causing hard winter freezes. Some of the fish chose to leave for warmer waters in the winter. The remaining local fish knew each other, went to fish school and worked with each other, keeping to themselves when they wanted.

Some of the fish made their living by inviting fish from other places to come visit the much loved pond during the summer, and the pond became very popular among fishes of all varieties. Life was good. There were some fish that sold their homes, while some rented their homes to the visiting fish. Life was still good. And then the Internet came; it started with a little splash, and almost beached some fish, but they adapted. Life got better. Local fish swam a little faster in the summer because the visiting fish had to have places to eat, swim and socialize. In fact, they worked very hard to make sure the summer fish would be happy because the local fish wanted the visiting fish to return each year. And they did.

There were different types of visiting fish. Some swam through for the day or weekend, but some liked to stay all summer, because they liked the cooler waters. Before the Internet, there was one fish family that took care of most of the summer vacation rental fish. but soon there were others that sold and rented to the visiting fishes. It became a necessity for the fish to buy rental software in order to keep up with all of the comings and goings of the visitor fish, and



**Jeannie Chambers
Chambers Realty &
Vacation Rentals
828-526-3717**

because ponds all over the nation were being flooded with visiting fish every tourist season, the BIG FISH government passed an act of Congress called the Vacation Rental Act, just to make sure the waters didn't get muddied. There were good years with clear waters, and there were murky years. Some years so murky that a few fish left the pond for bigger waters, while others stuck it out. There was an Internet 'new guy' called VRBO that allowed fish to

rent out their own properties online without the aid of the middle man (the little pond fish broker). Not to worry, the little pond fish had listened to one of the other fish “Just keep swimming, just keep swimming”, and they did. VRBO was bought by Homeaway in 2006- just keep swimming. The fish learned that in a bad economy, murky waters very rarely invaded their near perfect pond, but there were a few stagnant years. It was during those stagnant years and due to circumstances completely out of the fish's control that in 2010, the rental software company they used was bought out by Homeaway Software. The rental software company- Instant Software was the largest rental software on the market. Just keep swimming. Late in the year 2015, another giant fish, Expedia bought out Homeaway. Gulp, Glup, Gulp, Glup. Just keep swimming. In February 2016, all the little fish that had been swimming, swimming were told that Homeaway fish was going to start charging rental fees to the renters coming to stay in the pond for the summer. Just keep sw....NO. Stop. Some fish stopped swimming – some fish questioned the big fish Expedia (still using the Homeaway name). They asked the BIG FISH, “Why do you charge the renting fish? You already get paid from us – you already take a goodly portion of what the renters are paying to us for using your software? They replied, “It's the cost of doing

• See INVESTING page 15


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...INVESTING continued from page 14

business. It takes a lot of money to be a strong presence on the Internet you know."

Hook. Line. Sinker.

But wait, that's not the end of this fishtail, I mean tale.

If fairy tales DO come true, then surely this could happen. What if the fish that lived in ALL the ponds across this great nation in which we live (Hear the patriotic music yet? Listen...) What if the fish decided they should revert to the old fish school way of thinking? If all the fish would learn to search the way they used to before the BIG FISH took control of the Internet, then ALL the little fish would have an equal opportunity. Expedia and Homeaway Fish aren't going anywhere, just like AirBNB, and others that will come along, but that doesn't mean all the fish HAVE to use those services all the time. If you have a chance to go somewhere, consider scrolling

...BUDGET continued from page 9

on volunteers is behind the renovating of the Highlands Fire & Rescue Department building – it may even entail building an entirely new building.

The department has enlisted the services of Stewart, Cooper, Newell Architects for \$14,865 to help determine the best route to take. The department earmarked \$30,000 for this first phase which came in under budget.

on down your Internet search to find your accommodations, don't take the easy way out, because now, we ALL pay.

This little pond called Highlands is such a special, unique place that fish from all over will come here just like they have for well over a hundred years because they want to 'swim in the cool waters' that helped make Highlands famous.

The moral of this story? Just keep swimming, not because you have to swim faster to keep from being eaten up by a bigger fish, but because you know you are doing what you do best- SWIM.

• *Jeanne and Tucker Chambers, owners of Chambers Realty & Vacation Rentals invite you to come swim with them, whether you want a home to call your own, or if you want to test out the waters by trying out one of their vacation rental homes. 401 N. Fifth Street, Highlands, NC 828-526-3717 getit@chambersagency.net chambers-realty.com*

The firm has designed fire departments in numerous areas but they have all been flat. They and town representatives will visit Biltmore Forest to see what a fire department building on sloped land looks like.

The next 2016-17 Budget worksession is Thursday, May 12 at the Community Building from 3-5 p.m.

– Kim Lewicki

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Beautiful Building Site, Near Apple Lake



These lots (comprising .52+/- acres) offer a lovely site for building the ultimate mountain home. A long, gentle driveway is already in and is surrounded by lush rhododendron. The building site features level topography just a short walk to Apple Lake. Community water system. Buyer would obtain a septic permit. Fantastic value!

Offered at \$78,000. MLS #82890.

Contact Susie deVile (828) 371-2079.

Historic Home in Center of Town



The one-two combination that is an absolute rarity in Highlands: privacy + fabulous downtown location. On 1.53 +/- acres (comprising two lots), this charming & stunning, historic home is the perfect place to build new memories. Features include clear chestnut paneling, granite fireplace, oak flooring, an artist's studio, storage galore, lovely grounds (complete w/trails, springs & a pond), granite foundation, paved access & workshop/potting shed areas.

Offered at \$769,000. MLS #81480.

Contact Susie deVile (828) 371-2079.

Tony Highlands Townhouse



Rustic elegance w/easy access to Highlands' Main St. This renovated 3BR/3BA townhome features wood flooring, updated kitchen w/granite and stainless steel, gorgeous fireplace w/gas logs & rustic mantle, expansive master suite w/office area & bay window, and open decking overlooking common area grounds. At the end of a cul-de-sac w/easy walk to the tennis courts. Great rental history and offered furnished!

Offered at \$328,000. MLS #83640.

Contact Susie deVile (828) 371-2079.

Commercial Property with Great Visibility



5-Star, undeveloped commercial property with excellent visibility from Hwy 64 West, egress/ingress from Hwy 64 West & Oak Street, and gentle topography for easy building sites. Zoned B-3, this 2.48 +/- acre parcel affords numerous opportunities for development. Comprised of two parcels [PINs 7540-22-2080 (.65 +/- acres) and 7540-21-4736 (1.83 +/- acres)].

Offered at \$4,100,000. MLS #82404.

Contact Susie deVile (828) 371-2079.



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

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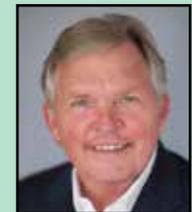
Highlands-Cashiers NC • Elevation 4118



Deborah Gleeson
404.307.1415
beeglee4@gmail.com

Pat Allen
REALTY GROUP

828.526.8784
patallenrealtygroup.com



Pat Gleeson
828.782.0472
patrickgleeson4@gmail.com



Immaculate home just a short distance from down town Highlands. Vaulted ceilings, stone fireplace in living room. Lovely porches on upper and lower levels. Hardwood floors throughout, granite counter tops in kitchen and baths. MLS #81406 \$265,000



Wildwood Forest home with beautiful mature landscaping. Open deck and covered porch. Features 2 master suites. Home is fully furnished, well maintained and would be a great investment opportunity. MLS #81577 \$400,000



The perfect walk to town cottage, minutes from Main Street and Harris Lake. Totally updated with two living areas in this open floorplan. Upscale kitchen, two bedrooms, three baths. \$549,000 MLS #81068

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 #68782



Rocky Knob. A gated lake community. Exceptional mountain view, 3br/2ba with fireplace, vaulted ceilings, covered and open decks and meticulously maintained. \$355,000. MLS #81329



Highlands Country Club. Lovely, immaculate 4 br/5 ba home with 4 ensuites and a great open floor plan.. Update large kitchen featuring granite countertops Offers lots of storage space, 2 car garage, workshop, numerous decks and porches off of most rooms. \$949,000. MLS #81619



Great starter house with over 8 acres of very usable land. Could be a wonderful private estate or farm or could be subdivided. MLS #78581 \$298,000



Great starter house with over 8 acres of very usable land. Could be a wonderful private estate or farm or could be subdivided. MLS #78581 \$298,000



Great in town location, completely remodeled in 2008 on nearly 2 acres. 3BR, 3BA, 2 Half BAs plus an office and 2 car garage. New kitchen, hardwood floors, new custom cabinets with granite countertops, SS appliances, French doors and new baths. MLS #66051 \$697,000



Cullasaja Club On the 6th fairway of with mtn and lake views. 5br/4ba + 2 1/2 baths, sunroom, home office, upper level loft with 2nd office/hobby and kid's room. Lower level family room with wine room & climatized cellar; 3 ensuites & billards room. \$1,390,000. MLS #83731



Great Home, in Webbmont area with open floor plan! Master Suite on main level, easy level entry, expansive back deck and private pond. Ideal for those who like to entertain friends and family. Broker Owned MLS#82545 \$485,000

41 Church Street
2334 Cashiers Road
488 Main Street
Highlands NC 28741
(828) 526-1717
(828) 526-4101
(828) 526-1762

TOWN OF HIGHLANDS JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

FINANCE DIRECTOR – Grade 31 – Salary Pay Range: \$55,790 - \$83,685

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.

- Must have a thorough knowledge of North Carolina General Statutes and of local ordinances governing municipal financial practices and procedures.
- Knowledge of paraprofessional GASB and GAP protocols of accounting principles and practices.
- Assists the auditor during the annual audit of Town financial records; follows up on findings to improve financial systems.
- Directs and supervises the Town's utility billing system and reconciles the customer deposit balance to the General Ledger after each monthly final billing cycle.
- Serves as a town liaison to the Macon and Jackson County Tax Departments and DMV for billing and collection regarding town taxes.
- Accounts for and manages receipt of Town revenues and makes deposits appropriately Insures proper insurance coverage for all Town properties and equipment.
- Reconciles monthly receivable and reserve accounts, completes state required cash reports and prepares and makes daily deposits in the absence of the Administrative Assistant.
- Files annual NC Sales Tax refund requests.
- Manages and is responsible for bank accounts and enters all cash and billing transactions into computer system, as well as performs reconciliation of bank accounts.
- Oversees the processing invoices and weekly Accounts Payable checks and maintains all Accounts Payable records.
- As Finance Administrator, ensures the maintenance of a central double entry journal accounting system; prepares monthly financial statements and monitors budget; amends the budget in accordance with the Town's budget ordinance.
- Must be able to evaluate financial systems, formulate and install accounting methods, procedures, forms, and records.
- Must be able to apply information technology and office technology systems to an ongoing maintenance of official town financial documents.
- Responsible for finance procedures and policies for all town purchasing transactions.
- Considerable knowledge of the principles, practices and operation of automated financial systems and their use in a municipal environment.
- Must apply knowledge of the principles and practices of public finance administration, including principles and practices of municipal accounting and investments.
- Must be able to make budget projections by applying relevant data to appropriate computer programs. Oversees the Town's, purchasing, and budgeting policies and procedures.
- Responsible for maintaining a general accounting systems including software for the town. Responsible for maintaining financial records for each town department.
- Responsible for maintaining separate accounts for items of appropriation in the budget.
- Reviews and monitors ongoing administration of the budget, including monitoring revenues and expenditures. Must be able to interact with a wide range of contacts with courtesy and patience.
- Administers cash investments in concert with town manager.
- Advises the Town Manager on fiscal issues including assisting the town manager in developing the annual town budget.
- Work is performed under the supervision of the Town Manager. FLSA Status: Exempt – Executive

Qualifications

• Position requires a bachelor degree preferably in accounting, finance or business administration plus two to five years of experience in a financial institution cashier or accounts receivable function, or an equivalent combination of work experience and education. Experience in North Carolina governmental budget, finance and accounting procedures required. Additional education may substitute for some experience. Expectation is for the finance director to hold, or will hold, North Carolina Finance Certification within a year to 18 months.

• 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

Applications are available at Town Hall or downloaded from the Town's website at www.highlandscnc.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@highlandscnc.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 May 19, 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.



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HomeServices

Meadows Mountain Realty

www.MeadowsMtnRealty.com

• TOWN OF HIGHLANDS JOB ANNOUNCEMENT •

BROADBAND TECHNICIAN I – Grade: 20 – Salary Range: \$32,552.00 - \$48,817.60

The Town of Highlands is accepting applications for the position of Broadband Technician I. This position is responsible for performing specialized technical duties in the repair, maintenance and installation of the town's broadband network. This position reports to the Lead Broadband Field Technician.

MAJOR DUTIES:

- Performs installation of Fixed Wireless antenna at customer premise, completes in-premise cabling, installs router. This includes cabling in crawl spaces, fishing walls, placing cut-in box in customer walls, and all other duties related to customer install.
- Aids in construction, splicing, installation of ONT units at customer's homes and places of business.
- Performs installation of transmitters on new tower sites, including cabling and positioning of transmitters, setup of enclosures for transmitting equipment.
- Aids in construction, splicing, and distribution changes of the OSP fiber optic cables.
- Performs tower climbs to install and maintain tower and tank-based fixed wireless transmitters.
- Assures network is functioning properly before leaving customer site.
- Assists in maintaining inventory and notifies appropriate personnel when OSP materials need to be ordered.
- Attends safety and OSHA compliance meetings; attends training sessions as required.
- Will be trained to complete fusion splices of fiber optic drop, mounts splice closures and ONT's or fixed wireless customer premise equipment, installs routers, Wi-Fi equipment, set top boxes, ATA's and other devices in customer's homes and businesses as necessary to provide all services, current and future, that Town of Highlands may offer.
- Installs cabling, (fiber, COAX, CAT5), and other data / communications cables as required by the service / trouble ticket orders or as assigned by the supervisor.
- Provides customer education on all services and equipment that Town of Highlands offers during the time of installation or during service calls.
- Performs other OSP functions as directed by the OSP Operations Supervisor.
- Responds to emergency and non-emergency repair calls regarding all aspects of the town's broadband network.
- This position will be subject to call outs to meet service requirements and stand on call duty. Weekend and holiday work may be required as service demands dictate.
- Performs other related duties as assigned.

KNOWLEDGE REQUIRED BY THE POSITION:

- Knowledge of the standards, materials, techniques and equipment used in the installation, maintenance, and repair of OSP fiber optic equipment.
- Knowledge of PON networks and fiber optic transmission.
- Knowledge of fixed wireless equipment, transmission and frequencies.
- Knowledge of department and town policies and procedures and relevant federal, state, and local laws and regulations.
- Skill in the operation of specialized maintenance, test and fusion splicing equipment.
- Skill in operating specialized test equipment and ability to interpret test results. Knowledge in taking and understanding loss measurements. Documents all splicing information and provides to appropriate town personnel.
- Skill in oral and written communication.
- Skill in working with the public, both at customer's homes and in large corporate settings.
- Skill in reading and interpreting engineering drawings for fiber optic and fixed wireless networks.

SUPERVISORY CONTROLS: The Lead Broadband Technician assigns work in terms of general instructions. The supervisor spot-checks completed work for compliance with procedures, accuracy, and the nature and propriety of the final results.

GUIDELINES: Guidelines include department standard operating procedures, state and local laws, town, state, and federal laws, and regulations.

Understands fiber optic construction, fixed wireless construction and maintenance procedures as well as PON network installation. These guidelines are generally clear and specific, but may require some interpretation in application.

COMPLEXITY: The work consists of related technical duties and is considered complex. Fiber optic construction and splicing can be complex and skills should be kept up to date. Fixed wireless speeds change with many factors, including tree growth, and other obstructions. Skills to troubleshoot these issues are critical. This position is considered an entry level position.

SCOPE AND EFFECT: The purpose of this position is to perform specialized technical duties in the repair, maintenance, construction and splicing of the town's fiber optic network, installation of the PON equipment and services as it relates to OSP as well as the town's fixed wireless infrastructure. Successful performance results in a highly reliable broadband communication network for employees and citizens.

PERSONAL CONTACTS: Contacts are typically with co-workers, other town employees, vendors, contractors, and the general public.

PURPOSE OF CONTACTS: Contacts are typically to give or exchange information, resolve problems, provide services and install services and equipment for the public, both at their homes and businesses.

PHYSICAL DEMANDS: The work is typically performed while intermittently sitting, standing, stooping, bending, crouching, crawling, climbing or walking. The employee frequently lifts light and heavy objects, climbs ladders and towers, uses tools or equipment requiring a high degree of dexterity, and must distinguish between shades of color. This position requires work on both aerial and buried facilities. Hand digging to install or repair buried cables or replace vaults will be required.

WORK ENVIRONMENT: The work is typically performed outdoors, possibly in cold or inclement weather but indoor work will also be required. The employee may be exposed to noise, dust, dirt, grease, irritating chemicals or other substances. Installation of the network services will require working from heights, both ladders, bucket trucks and towers, and in confined spaces such as in crawl spaces under homes,

businesses as well as attic spaces or small equipment rooms / closets. Splicing fiber optic cable may be performed in a confined splice trailer or other space. The work will often be performed near busy town, state or federal streets and highways. The work requires the use of protective devices such as masks, goggles, and gloves.

SUPERVISORY AND MANAGEMENT RESPONSIBILITY: None.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

Ability to read, write and perform mathematical calculations at a level commonly associated with the completion of high school or equivalent.

Sufficient experience to understand the basic principles relevant to the major duties of the position usually associated with the completion of an apprenticeship/internship or having had a similar position for one to two years.

Possession of or ability to readily obtain a valid driver's license issued by the State of North Carolina for the type of vehicle or equipment operated. Ability to work comfortably and effectively with the public is a must.

FLSA STATUS: Non-Exempt (eligible for overtime or equivalent compensatory time at 1 ½ times the employee's regular weekly rate).

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. 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.highlandsc.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@highlandsc.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 May 20, 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.

– May 12, 2016

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• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

Women, Gender, Politics & Mother's Day

By Pastor Gary Hewins
Community Bible Church

Gender is a huge deal today. Politically speaking, culture often wants to group people together by gender. We like categorizing and generalizing people by gender and gender preferences. Some are accused of playing "gender cards" to their own political gain. Vice-presidential running mates are seemingly chosen with a high premium on their gender.

Socially speaking, many are quite settled as to what their gender is and what it shall remain. Conversely, some people are unsettled concerning their long-term gender orientation, so they are making changes. Culture is now trying to decide where people should go to the bathroom. Like I said, gender is a huge deal today.

Though America is the most highly individualistic nation in the world, when convenient, culture still tends to talk to one another as parts of a group with its own ideology, preferences and needs. I guess we could each debate the merits of grouping people in society and attributing to each group an agenda. Sociologists make careers out of such debate.

It is not my desire to have such a debate. However I do realize that men and women are different, physically, emotionally and chemically. Hopefully, we can all agree on this? When someone wants to change genders, chemicals and physical changes are introduced because such a change is necessary.

While our culture is progressively evolving or spiraling downward, depending on how you look at it, one thing is for sure this Mother's Day week.... Moms can and often do ROCK! Where would you be without your mother? Answer: You wouldn't be.

Mother's Day is so sweet for so many and so bitter for many others. Some women desperately want to be moms and can't be. This is very painful. Some mothers were moms only to lose their child. Some women were mothers and intentionally chose to cease motherhood. After 20 years in ministry I can tell you, these particular women experience deep emotional pain. Some women have poor relationships with their moms. Some moms want a relationship with their kids and it just isn't there. Mother's Day is on one hand a great celebration. Mother's Day on another hand is a day to stay in bed and endure. Mother's Day is a day to be careful about lumping women together into a common status. Mother's Day is a day to celebrate and be very sensitive. Let's honor all women this Sunday with love, honor, respect and sensitivity that we all carry our own individual burdens at times. Let's celebrate the gift of motherhood while realizing, too, that some "non-Moms" may need a hug as well.

The Bible puts it this way... "Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ" (Gal. 6:2). The Bible is in many ways a love letter to women in culture. The ministry of Christ is a demonstration of a unique approach to women. The Bible is really the only religious text that specifically honors women and their special place in our lives. May you be loving, very sensitive and very biblical this Mother's Day and everyday!

Proverbs 3:5

• PLACES TO WORSHIP •

John 3:16

BLUEVALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH

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

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

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

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

BUCK CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

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

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

CHAPEL OF SKY VALLEY

Sky Valley, GA • 706-746-2999

Sundays: 10 a.m.; Worship

Holy Communion 1st Sunday of the month

Wednesdays: 9 a.m. Healing and Prayer w/Holy Communion

CHRIST ANGLICAN CHURCH

Rector: Jim Murphy, 252-671-4011

464 US Hwy 64 east, Cashiers

8:30 a.m. 1928 Prayer Book Service (no music); 9:30a

Sunday School; 10:30a Worship Service w/ Music

CHRIST CHURCH OF THE VALLEY, CASHIERS

Pastor Steve Kerhoulas • 743-5470

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

Tues. Guys study 8am, Gals 10am.

CLEAR CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Jim Kinard

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

1st & 3rd Sunday night Service: 7 p.m.

Wednesdays - Supper at 6 p.m.

COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH

www.cbchighlands.com • 526-4685

3645 Cashiers Rd, Highlands, NC

Senior Pastor Gary Hewins

Sun.: 9:30am: Sunday School

10:30am: Middle & High School; 10:45am: Child. Program,

10:45am: Worship Service

Wed.: 5pm Dinner (\$7 adult, \$2 child), 6pm CBC

University

EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE INCARNATION

Rev. Bruce Walker • 526-2968

Sundays

Holy Eucharist Rite I, (chapel) 8 a.m.

Education for Adults, 9 a.m.

Holy Eucharist Rite II, (nave) 10:30 a.m.

Thursday

Healing services (chapel) 10 a.m.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH HIGHLANDS

828-526-4153 • www.fbchighlands.org

Dr. Mark Ford, Pastor

220 Main Street, Highlands NC 28741

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

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

Choir 5 pm

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Curtis Fussell & Emily Wilmarth, pastors

526-3175 • fpchighlands.org

Sun.: Worship: 8:30a and 11 a.m.; School: 9:30

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

Wednesdays: Choir: 5:30p

GOLDMINE BAPTIST CHURCH

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

Sunday School: 10 am, Worship Service: 11 am

Bible Study: 6 pm

GRACE COMMUNITY CHURCH OF CASHIERS

Non-Denominational-Contemporary Worship

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

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

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

HAMBURG BAPTIST CHURCH

Hwy 107N. • Glenville, Nc • 743-2729

Pastor Nathan Johnson

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

Wed. Kidsquest 6p.; Worship 7p.

HIGHLANDS ASSEMBLY OF GOD

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

Sundays: Worship: 11

HIGHLANDS CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Dan Robinson

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

Sun.: Morning Worship 10:45 a., Evening Worship, 6p.

Wednesday: Bible Study, 6:30p; Prayer Mtg., 7:30p.

HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Pastor Paul Christy 526-3376

Sun: School 9:45a.; Worship 8:30, 9:09, 10:50.; Youth 5:30 p.

Wed: Supper: 5:15; youth, & adults activities: 6; Handbell

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

7pm Intercessory Prayer Ministry

HOLY FAMILY LUTHERAN CHURCH: ELCA

Chaplain Margaret Howell • 2152 Dillard Road • 526-9741

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

Worship/Communion: 10:30

HEALING SERVICE on the 5th Sunday of the month.

MACEDONIA BAPTIST CHURCH

8 miles south of Highlands on N.C. 28 S in Satolah

Pastor Troy Nicholson, (828) 526-8425

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

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

MOUNTAIN SYNAGOGUE

at St. Cyprian's Episcopal Church, Franklin

828-524-9463

MOUNTAIN BIBLE CHURCH

743-2583 • Independent Bible Church

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

4224 Big Ridge Road (4.5 miles from NC 107)

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

OUR LADY OF THE MOUNTAINS CATHOLIC CHURCH

Parish office (Father Francis): 526-2418

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

SCALY MOUNTAIN BAPTIST CHURCH

Rev. Marty Kilby

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

Wednesdays: Prayer Mtg.: 7 p.m.

SCALY MOUNTAIN CHURCH OF GOD

290 Buck Knob Road; Pastor Jerry David Hall • 526-3212

Sun.: School: 10 a.m.; Worship: 10:45 a.m.; Worship: 6 p.m.

SHORTOFF BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Rev. Andy Cloer

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

Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study: 7

THE CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

1448 Highway 107 South, Office: 743-2359

Rev. Douglas E. Remer

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

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

Nursery available for Rite II services

Sept 6-Oct 25- Informal Evening Eucharist- 5:30 p.m.

Thursday: Noon Healing Service with Eucharist.

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP

85 Sierra Drive • 828-524-6777

Sunday Worship - 11 a.m.

WHITESIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Rev. Sam Forrester/Cashiers

Sunday School: 10 am, Worship Service: 11 am

• POLICE & FIRE REPORTS •

The Highlands Police log entries from April 30. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor or public officials have been used.

April 30

• At 8:30 p.m., officers received a call about a bear in a vehicle at a residence on Sagee Drive.

May 1

• At 11:10 a.m., officers received a call about the unauthorized use of a motor vehicle parked outside the Ugly Dog Pub.

The Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. log from April 24.

April 24

...LEE continued from page 3

admit, I was not appreciative enough. I was not like some drivers who actually seemed perturbed because they had to slow down, but I didn't yell out my window like others, "Thank you for your service." I will never again take for granted what it takes to keep Highlands beautiful.

After almost four hours, Sarah, Ken and I limped with the other volunteers into Cliffside Recreation Area for a much-appreciated hotdog. On the drive home, we saw trucks and dumpsters loaded with bags of trash and seeing the Gorge Road free of litter made us feel we had made a difference if only for a few days. Sadly, it seems to be a losing battle and that section will soon be covered in trash again. We wondered if there was any way to stop littering. It is against the law, but very hard to get anyone arrested. Obviously, a law can't make people respect the environment.

Ifwhen....I go again, I will take

• At 12:13 p.m., the dept. responded to a motorcycle accident on NC 28 south. There were minor injuries.

April 26

• At 4:10 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Shortoff Road.

April 27

• At 3:19 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Edwards Creek Road.

April 28

• At 10:18 a.m., the dept. responded to a vehicle accident on NC> 106.

• At 10:37 a.m., the dept. responded to a first alarm test on Country Club Drive.

• At 11:08 a.m., the dept. responded to a call about a tree on a power line on US. 64

water, my cell phone, and some smaller bags along with the big orange ones. Getting myself up a steep embankment is hard enough without hauling a big bag full of trash. I will take Aleve before I go and have the chiropractor's number on hand. I will not get a manicure the day before or wash my hair or even take a bath. I certainly will not wear my favorite pair of jeans. For a while, my romantic notions of hiking Machu Picchu are on hold.

I'd like to thank all the volunteers for a job well done and the mayor for enlightening me on the trash problem in our town. I did sign up to be on his "special" trash patrol, but nice smile or not, I don't think I'll fall for his flattery again.

• *Lee Lyons is a member of the Highlands Writer's Group which meets at the library on Thursdays at 1:30. Her book, Literal Lee, Mostly True Essays can be purchased at The Business Spot.*

west.

April 30

• At 11:12 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Brookside Lane.

• At 12:28 p.m., the dept. responded to a call about a brush fire on Netsi Place.



Whole Life Market
Natural Products Store

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



NECTAR Juice Bar

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526-5999
Located at 680 N. 4th. St., Highlands
Open Mon-Sat 10a to 5p

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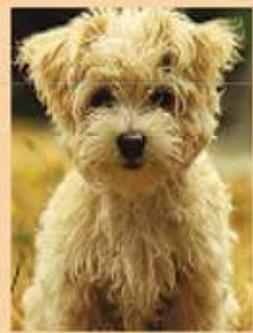
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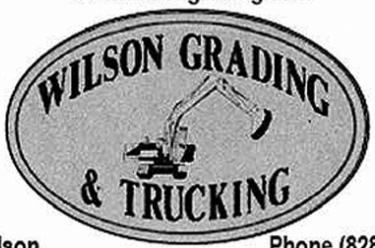


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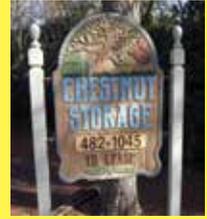
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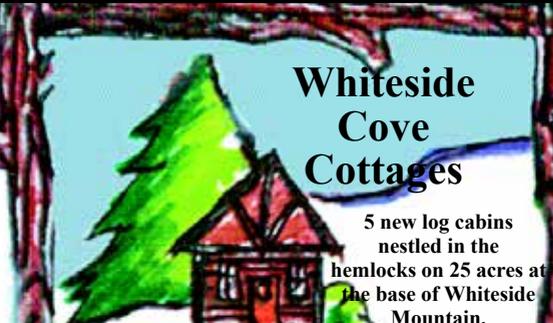
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• BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NEWS •

Walk the Red Carpet at Celebrity Collections ... replica jewelry of the rich and famous

Authentic licensed replicated jewelry from former First Lady Jacqueline Kennedy, popular BBC television series Downton Abbey and exquisite pieces that adorned Hollywood film legends Marilyn Monroe, Audrey Hepburn and Vivien Leigh, and others.

Inspired replicated collections include Kate Middleton, Princess Diana and current Hollywood collections.

All replicated collections are made of sterling silver, plated in 14 to 24k gold, adorned with either Swarovski crystals or laser-cut cubic zirconia.

Choose from more than 250 pieces of jewelry in the boutique's current anthology with new arrivals added continually. With prices ranging from \$80 to \$600, there is a special piece for everyone to own and enjoy!

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Easely An Artist is an art studio with something for everyone.

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When the sun goes down it's evening classes for adults: Vintage Night, Paint Your Pet, Date Night and Famous Art-Re-Creation.

They also do parties: Birthday, Bachelorette, Bridal or Baby Showers, Family Fun and Girls' Night Out.

Babysitting, too!

Easely An Artist is down the walkway next to Highlands-Sotheby's on the corner of 4th and Main.

For more information, call 828-526-2933.

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HELP WANTED

FULL AND PART-TIME POSITIONS available at Nancy's Fancys. Saturdays a must. Come by 322 Main. Street, Highlands. (st. 4/28)

PART-TIME ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

First Presbyterian Church of Highlands is accepting applications for a part-time Administrative Assistant. Knowledge of Publisher and Microsoft Office a requirement. Please contact Jennifer at 828-526-3175. (st. 4/28)

WILD THYME GOURMET Now hiring experienced wait staff, bartender and hostess. Please Call at 526-4035 or apply in person. (st. 4/28)

SKYLINE LODGE IS HIRING HOUSEKEEPERS. Experience an asset but not required. Download applications at skylinelodge.com. 828-526-2121. (st. 4/28)

SKYLINE LODGE IS HIRING WAITSTAFF. Experience an asset but not required. Download applications at skylinelodge.com. 828-526-2121. (st. 4/28)

CONSTRUCTION COMPANY NOW HIRING A DRIVER WITH NC DRIVERS LICENSE. For more details, call 828-526-9719 or 828-200-0191. (4/28)

FULL AND PART TIME POSITIONS ARE AVAILABLE. Send resume to Bardo49nc@gmail.com Must be able to work weekends. And or Friday and Saturday nights. (st. 4/21)

FULL-TIME AND PART-TIME POSITIONS AVAILABLE AT MOUNTAIN FRESH GROCERY IN THE BUTCHER DEPARTMENT. Salary/pay will be commensurate with ability and/or experience. Contact Don at 828-526-2400 or jobs828@gmail.com

BISTRO ON MAIN IS NOW HIRING EXPERIENCED KITCHEN HELP. Apply at Main Street Inn, or email info@mainstreet-inn.com. (4/21)

FT POSITION AVAILABLE FOR EXPERIENCED OFFICE MANAGER. Friendly personality to greet customers and work closely with associates. Real estate experience helpful. Ability to multi-task, attention to detail, organization and computer/telephone skills required. Some event planning/coordination may be required at times. Email resume & cover letter to newhirecashiers@gmail.com. (st. 4/14)

ADDITIONAL SECRETARY NEEDED part or full time. Black Bear Construction, Highlands. Experienced/Good with QuickBooks. (828) 200-0949. (st. 3/31)

WAITSTAFF NEEDED FOR CHESTNUT HILL OF HIGHLANDS. Please apply at 24 Clubhouse trail, Highlands, NC (828)526-5251. (st. 3/31)

SCALY MOUNTAIN NURSERY & LANDSCAPING is now hiring for landscape division. Call 828-526-9269 or Matt at 828-371-2474. (st. 3/17)

POTPOURRI STORES IN HIGHLANDS looking for part to full time sales people. Must be able to work weekends, retail experience with women's clothing and accessories preferred. Eyewear sales experience a plus. Stop by Potpourri 2 to apply or email your resume to potpourrihighlands@yahoo.com (st. 3/10)

OPTICIAN WANTED. Part or full time position open for a NC licensed dispensing optician at Potpourri Eyewear of Highlands. Send resume to potpourrihighlands@yahoo.com (st 3/10)

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FULL-TIME AND PART-TIME POSITIONS available at Mountain Fresh Grocery. Grill, Deli, Bakery and Pizza departments. 828-526-2400 or email jobs828@gmail.com

WOLFGANGS RESTAURANT is looking for experienced waitstaff and bartender. Please call Jacque at 828.526.3807. (st. 1/21)

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

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)

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HANDI-MAN - Electrical, plumbing, painting, carpentry, yard work. Call Al at 828-332-7271 or 828-369-6245. (st. 4/7)

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.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that at the regular Town of Highlands Board of Commissioners' meeting of February 20, 2014, the Town Board voted to list all Town of Highlands Delinquent Accounts in the newspaper every 6 months. The following accounts are over 60 days past due.

Delinquent Utility Accounts

Gate's Nursery	\$7,790.04	Due 06/15/2012
Gate's Nursery	\$1,630.10	Due 06/15/2012
Jeremy Skipper	\$1,077.64	Due 06/15/2012
Jeff Andresen	\$866.33	Due 02/15/2013
Carlton Barker	\$1,570.71	Due 10/15/2012
Robert Carlton	\$805.55	Due 02/15/2013
Kristina Crosby	\$143.82	Due 12/15/2012
Sarah Freeman	\$73.20	Due 10/15/2012
William Horne	\$6,427.38	Due 01/15/2013
Robert Moreno	\$300.16	Due 11/15/2012
Elisa Espinosa Parra	\$923.95	Due 07/15/2013
Andrew Quintero		
& Fiorella Moscoso	\$874.17	Due 01/15/2013
Bob Stephenson	\$635.42	Due 11/15/2012
Suzi's on Spring	\$58.13	Due 12/15/12
Claudia Thompson	\$2,338.71	Due 12/15/12
To the Nine's	\$2,713.30	Due 01/15/13
Valentine's Photo Studio	\$162.05	Due 02/15/13
Ellen Agee	\$372.64	Due 06/16/14
Thomas Batson	\$110.02	Due 01/15/14
Joanne Baro	\$168.63	Due 03/18/15
Binder Biomedical	\$439.20	Due 05/15/14
Dennis Franklin	\$841.18	Due 08/15/14
Highlands		
Quick Mart	\$3,225.54	Due 05/15/14
L K Partners	\$1,103.49	Due 05/15/13
John Mutter	\$50.54	Due 11/15/13
Randall Peterson	\$330.60	Due 12/15/13
Connie Smith	\$105.21	Due 01/15/14
Cory Allen Talbot	\$986.81	Due 06/16/14
Stuart Thompson	\$231.44	Due 03/15/13
Charles Weatherly	\$723.71	Due 05/15/14
Charles Weatherly	\$251.41	Due 05/15/14
Jeannette Chidsey	\$407.32	Due 11/15/14
John Clyatt	\$2,172.77	Due 12/15/14
Melba Egan	\$424.59	Due 11/15/14
Pamela Lomba	\$616.72	Due 12/15/14
Pamela Lomba	\$73.52	Due 12/15/14
Jason Williams	\$293.63	Due 10/15/14
Samantha McCall	\$932.94	Due 07/15/15
Sandra Gauthier	\$266.95	Due 03/15/15
Kristin Araujo	\$700.78	Due 06/15/15
Rachael Evans	\$272.90	Due 04/15/15
Highlands		
Smokehouse	\$1,200.77	Due 07/15/15
Alan James	\$1,528	Due 11/15/15
Phillip Jennings	\$56.13	Due 10/15/15
Samantha Stauch	\$403.64	Due 11/15/15
Alicia Tremblay	\$426.54	Due 05/15/15
Mary Propst	\$1,005.91	Due 12/15/15

Delinquent Accounts Receivable Accounts

Bates Septic Tank & Concrete Product Sludge	\$385	Due 12/31/2013
Mountain Septic Service Sludge	\$1,295	Due 12/31/2013

Payments may be made to: Town of Highlands, PO Box 460, Highlands, NC 28741 to bring accounts to a current status to avoid further collection processes and public notice.

- Published this 5th day of May, 2016. Town of Highlands



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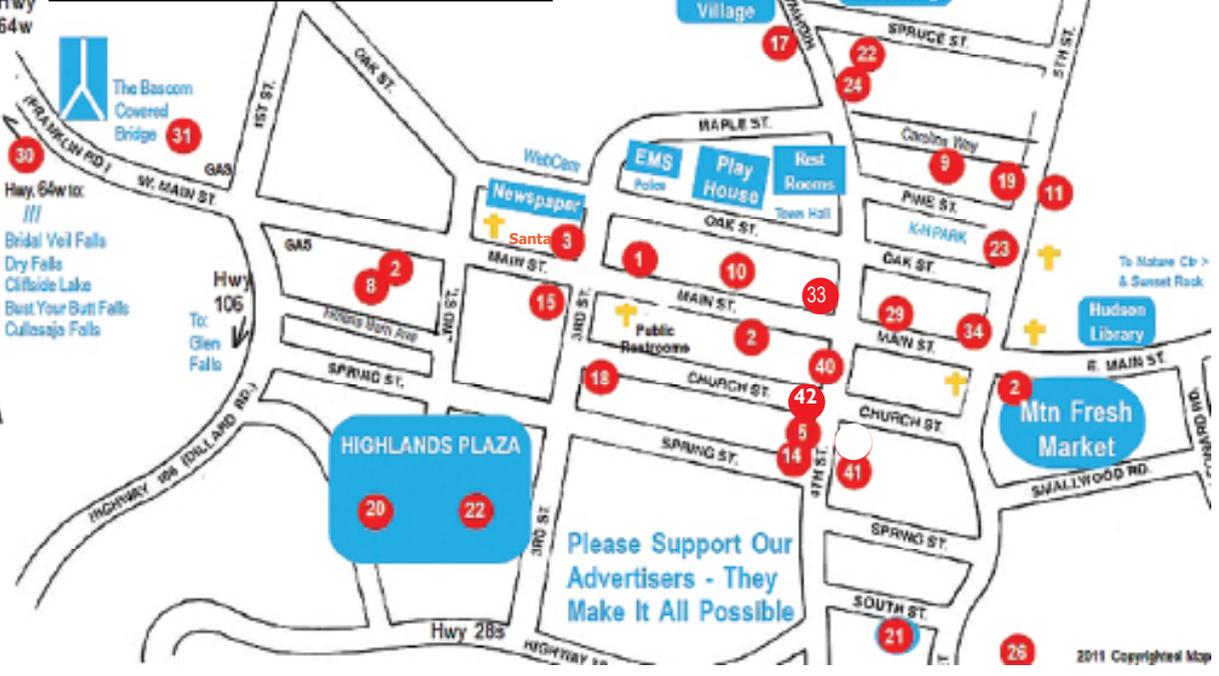
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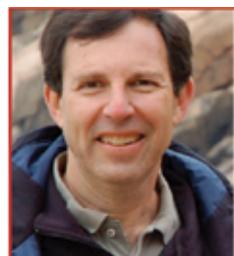
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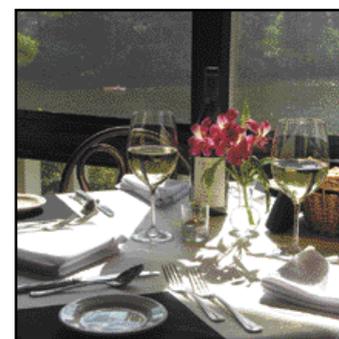
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