

Highlands Newspaper

FREE Every Thursday

Volume 14, Number 4

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

Thurs., Jan. 26, 2017

So far no make-up days for Highlands School

While students in the Franklin-area and Nantahala area of the school system are making up snow days this Spring, Highlands is still on track to stick to the regular calendar. Winter weather earlier this month prompted school

closings, but due to extra days built into the calendar, Highlands students can continue business as usual.

On Monday night, the Macon County Board of Education approved make-up days for the

Franklin area (February 20 and March 10), Macon Early College (March 3 and May 30) and Nantahala School (May 5). Highlands School, which was able to operate on a delay, will not have to make up the one day missed.

Highlands school officials are responsible for making the call on whether or not to hold school in the event of winter weather, and with the help of the school board, law enforcement, and emergency

•See **MAKE-UP** page 6

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Corbin pledges to work for WNC

For the first time in decades, Macon County is home to representatives in both the House of Representatives and the Senate. Kevin Corbin was sworn into the House of Representatives on January 11, marking the beginning of his first term on the state level. At the same time Corbin was taking his first oath, Senator Jim Davis was reaffirming his oath to continue serving and representing Macon County.

“I see the opportunity to serve as being an honor and a challenge,” said Representative Corbin. “Having served in local government literally half my life, it has made me aware that I always need to be open to my constituents and be approachable all the time. I have always been that way and that will continue in this new role.”

•See **CORBIN** page 8

Thank you, congratulations, job well done and enjoy!



At Thursday night's Town Board meeting, Mayor Pat Taylor and Highlands Police Chief Bill Harrell ushered Master Officer Lt. Ronnie Castle into retirement. Over his 30-year career he served the Macon County Sheriff's Dept as its first full-time Student Resource Officer (SRO), taught the D.A.R.E. program, was a dispatcher and jailer, road officer, juvenile officer, and adult probation and parole officer. He also worked at Western Carolina University as its public safety and road officer. The last 11 years of his career have been spent here in Highlands where he was a Master Officer, Highlands School's first SRO, taught the D.A.R.E. program, was an evidence technician and Lt. of Support Services. Chief Harrell said he first met Castle when he was a senior at Franklin HS where Castle was the county's D.A.R.E. officer. He commended him for years of service during which he was an active servant of public safety – a profession that often requires confrontation and risk with very little reward or appreciation, he said. He thanked Castle, congratulated him and as his last directive as his chief said “Job Well Done and Enjoy!” Castle is pictured with his wife Phyllis, daughter Leigh and his comrades of the Highlands Police Dept.

– Photo by Kim Lewicki

Planning Board votes 2-2 on proposed renovation

Trying to get a viable, sustainable business occupant in the building at 221 N. 4th Street has proven to be almost impossible over the years. Once an occupant is found, the building is quickly vacated to await another.

Now the building is under contract and Michael Neiswander and Dominic Corsello, of Atlanta, want it to house a wine/coffee bar with light fare and two incidental apartments for vacation rentals.

The location is perfect – frontage on N. 4th St., backing up to Pine Alley and K-H Founders Park.

They want to build an apartment on the roof and one toward the back on the main floor and use what is considered the basement to house the restaurant

•See **RENOVATION** page 2

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• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• MAYOR ON DUTY •

A week of action and reflections

Sallie and I left for a Florida vacation immediately after the Thursday night Town Board meeting.

We drove for four hours and stopped at Perry, GA to get some rest.

On Friday, Inauguration Day, we resumed our trek to the beautiful resort of Siesta Key which is just below Sarasota. We were on I-75 all day so we did not see or hear the ceremony in Washington.

Saturday morning Sallie and I got up to a beautiful view of the Gulf and began to read the news of the previous day. We read the inaugural address delivered by President Trump. Both of us were anticipating reading a speech calling for unity and reconciliation as our nation moves forward with a new administration. As one writer put it, there was hope that the new president would extend an open hand to all people. Instead, to us the speech was a continuation of a raised fist held high in defiance.

Sallie noted that there was a Women's March like the one in Washington scheduled for noon in Sarasota. Now we don't have a history of protest marching, but we



Mayor Pat Taylor

both felt we had to participate. We drove to Sarasota and gathered with about eight thousand people.

The united group of diversified and cheerful people walked over the Sarasota Bay Bridge. As we walked, I thought to myself that it is better to build bridges rather than walls. I am glad we walked on this historic day.

Now I am not sharing our story to generate controversy, or to change folks' political views. I thought about whether I should even write this piece all weekend. My primary motivation is to be straightforward as an elected official. I want to be honest and let everyone in the community know what I did this past Saturday. My public actions, like participating in this march at an out of town venue, should be disclosed to the public.

I have concerns about equal rights, an economy that benefits all, accessible healthcare, the environment, education, and Amer-

...RENOVATION continued from page 1

kitchen, public bathroom, handicap access and an entrance from Pine Alley with some seating to take advantage of the proximity of the park.

The problem is the way the building was originally built and current ordinances that dictate what can be incorporated into the building as it now stands.

And that was the main subject of Mon-

ica's leadership role in the world. I hope our President will reach out to everyone with an open hand as he tackles these daunting issues. For instance, perhaps the new administration and Congress will improve the nation's healthcare system and embrace policies that truly strengthen the economy.

Nevertheless, I am glad I participated in the march. Citizen engagement is the cornerstone of a democratic republican form of government.

On another note, I issued two mayoral proclamations last Thursday. One was expressing appreciation for all the community work that Skip Taylor has done over many years. Skip and Mary Ann are moving this week to Tryon. They will be greatly missed.

The other proclamation was to honor the many years of service in law enforcement of Master Officer Ronnie Castle of the Highlands Police Department. Ronnie is retiring after many years of distinguished service to Macon County and to Highlands. We all wish him the best in retirement.

day night's Planning Board meeting.

Though coming to the Planning Board to consider the appearance was supposedly the first step toward obtaining a Special Use Permit (SUP) from the Zoning Board – needed due to the addition they wanted to make on the roof – it quickly became clear there were a few obstacles that had to be cleared before an SUP could be requested.

•See RENOVATION page 5

• LETTERS •

Why women must continue to march

Dear Editor:

On Sunday, January 22 Facebook was alive with quite a bit of commentary, mostly about the women's marches.

Certainly, some pretty bold and frank comments.

Apparently, lots of good women in this town feel they are NOT discriminated against and have never been.

Another comment was for all those whiny women to basically "get an education and then you would not be in that pitiful position".

Interesting.

So, from a woman who was blessed to get an education with the help of a loving supportive family I can say -- discrimination is alive and well and lives here.

Medical School at UNC was generally quite good. I was in my third year of medical school doing a rotation in the neonatal intensive care unit. I worked hard. On the last day of my rotation, my attending or doctor in charge of that rotation, rode the elevator down with me. He told me I would make a good WIFE someday! Well, we all know that wasn't correct.

Residency was fabulous. In Asheville – a forward thinking place even then. I still see my residency program director regularly, Dr. Richard Olson. He grounds me. He reminds me who I really am.

Moving to Highlands brought a bit of adjustment. A tiny hospital- only 4 doctors. Even after my divorce, I worked hard. I was asked by a hospital administra-

•See LETTERS page 3

Highlands Newspaper

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Locally owned and operated by

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Adobe PDF version at

www.HighlandsInfo.com

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• OBITUARY •

Joan 'Punkin' Edwards Pieper



back to Alabama where Punkin completed nursing school and in 2000 she graduated from Auburn University at Montgomery with a BS Microbiology.

Once graduated, she and Paul and their two sons, James and Robert, moved to Wisconsin where she worked for the University of Minnesota before moving back again to Alabama.

After James and Robert graduated from high school and joined the service themselves, Paul and Punkin moved to Palmer, Alaska for Paul's work.

Punkin was a great communicator. She loved to talk and keep up with everyone. If she asked you how you were she meant it, and she really wanted to know. She was also a singer. She didn't do it near enough, but she had an incredible set of pipes. She loved to sew and quilt, and she was really, really good at that too! She was also good at making cakes, cooking, and countless other things.

When she left this world on January 11, 2017 at the age of 48, she left a hole in many hearts and they are as follows: her husband, Paul, her two sons, James (Ali) and Robert. Her mother Judy Ford (Pete), sisters Gay Rienartz, Jamie Loeb (Ricky), Jeanie Edwards-Bozeman (Greg) and brothers Daniel, Joey (Jamic), and Pete Ford (Deanna). She

also will be missed by her in-laws Robert and Ellen Pieper, brother-in-law Perry (Traci). There are many nieces and nephews as well, Nathaniel (Jamie), Caitlin, Dani, Drew, Carrie, Case, Clay, Ransom and Paige.

She will join in heaven her Daddy, Dick Edwards, both sets of grandparents, Dr. James and Joan Mracek and Dan and Hazel Edwards and several uncles and aunts.

We all miss you Punkin, and give Daddy a hug for us.

The service will be held at 10 a.m. January 28, 2017 at Highlands First United Methodist Church with internment at Horse Cove cemetery following a short reception in the Fellowship Hall. In lieu of flowers you may make gift donations to the Highlands United Methodist Church.

...LETTERS continued from page 2

tor why I was still in Highlands, after all there was "no one here for you to date". He did not say anything to Mark or Dave!

I stayed, I worked and I did date.

Another professional at a meeting told me I knew NOTHING about a woman's pelvic anatomy!

Subsequently a professional and peer, told the hospital board and anyone that would listen that I did not work full time. I only really worked PART time. As my family and friends and significant other will tell you- I do not work part time.

Finally, accusations and rumors of me screaming and throwing things at hospital staff led me to leave the campus and disassociate myself. I WITNESSED my male counterparts doing exactly that and yet NO discussion, no significant repercussions for them. I was also NOT included in the generous compensation package of the hospital when everyone else was "put on staff".

I have learned to survive -- as so many women do --I have tried hard to "land on my feet" even at significant emotional cost and constant work on myself.

I have recently been excited to be valued by the Mission Health System, even though there remains some local distrust toward them. They, too, are trying to navi-

gate an ever-changing climate. I can certainly appreciate and identify with that!

The truth -- Mission is trying to do exactly what they promised two years ago. No surprises, no lists.

Finally, to the middle aged man who said "if you don't like it get an education" I'll say even THAT does not level the field. Several people ask why I stay. God sent me and, so far, hasn't told me to go- even though it has been hard.

So, be aware that statements you make on Facebook---judging the recent women's march.

A LOT OF WOMEN STRUGGLE day after day and year after year. If you haven't you are most fortunate. That is NOT the way of the WORLD unfortunately and not my experience here. Respectfully...

Patti Wheeler MD

Community Coffee starts back soon

Dear Editor,

With the start of a new year, 2017, Hudson Library begins its 4th year of Community Coffee.

Those of you who have gathered past

•See LETTERS page 4

• CORRECTION •

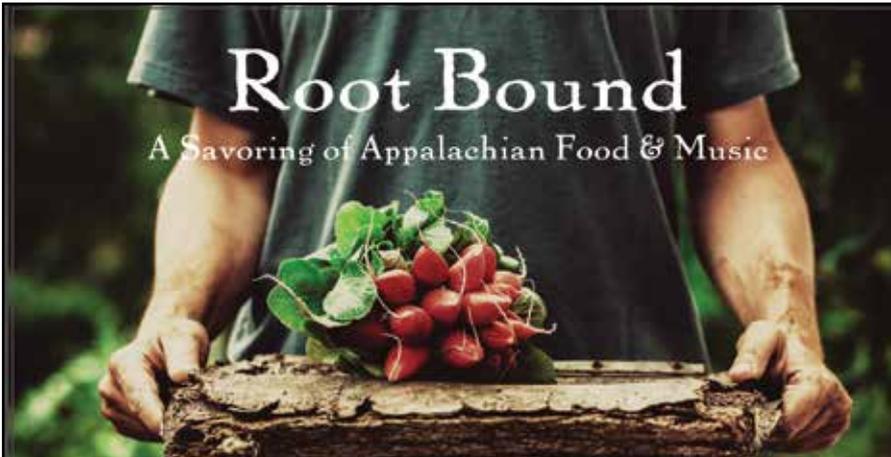
In last week's article "Excursions soothe the body and soul," we reported that Justin Kingsland fought in the Falkland War. He did not. His regiment did, but at that time he was fighting in Northern Ireland.

We regret the error and are happy to set the record straight.

To see the entire article go to www.highlandsinfo.com, click on News and then click on the Jan. 19 edition.

• MILESTONE •

Danielle Lee Puchacz, daughter of Tom Puchacz and Jennifer Royce of Scaly Mountain, NC was named to the Newberry College Dean's List for Fall Semester 2016 with a 4.0 GPA.



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...LETTERS from page 3

years in the Hudson Library meeting room on the last Friday of each month, we thank you for your participation.

You may be curious as to its history. Community Coffee began as a Hudson Library goal of becoming a community center.

When we found our goal overlapped Mayor Patrick Taylor's desire to keep the people of Highlands abreast of the issues, the collaboration began.

Pat has invested a great deal of time and effort in Community Coffee by furnishing the topics and/or guest speaker while facilitating the discussion.

Along with Pat, we wish to thank the guest speakers he's introduced to the community, Franklin Mayor Bob Scott and former Town Manager Bob Fry.

The next layer was a host organization (a different non-profit group each month) who furnish refreshments.

Our host groups for this past year deserving a warm thank you for their collaboration are the Bear Task Force, the Bookworm, Hudson Library Board of Trustees, the Rotary Club of Highlands, the Land Stewards of Highlands Plateau (CNIPM), Appalachian Humanist Group, Studio Alive, Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Highlands, and Mountain Top Rotary.

The Hudson Library Staff thank all for their collaborative investment in Community Coffee. The first Community Coffee of 2017 is Friday, February 24 from 11-12.

On behalf of the Hudson Library,

Karen Hawk

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...RENOVATION continued from page 2

The subsequent discussion evolved largely on the layout and use of the various floors – a discussion that was needed for possible future amendments to the UDO, said Town Manager Josh Ward later, because the Planning Board does make recommendations to the Town Board regarding possible amendments.

But the appearance was the real subject for the board.

As described by the applicants, “The wine/coffee bar will feature a rustic, modern design with local and Japanese influences...The intent is to draw passers-by through the unique architecture which will draw people to the shop.”

The rendition depicted a modern façade with a mullioned glass, garage-type door which could be opened for outside dining set back from the sidewalk – similar to the set up seen at Bardo on Main Street.

Though the materials would be dark, rough-sided, rustic wood, it couldn't hide the “modern” look under it all and that bothered half the Planning Board in attendance.

“Though I think it would be a great addition especially that close to the park, the design doesn't look like historic downtown Highlands,” said member Glenda Bell. “It doesn't fit at all.”

Member Chris Boltz agreed. “It is out of character with the village atmosphere.”

They agreed that adding a gable structure on the roof to allow for an apartment on the third floor could possibly soften the look, but that wasn't in the plan presented and wasn't really something the applicants wanted to do anyway. Their plan was to basically build a third floor.

Adding a gable, but one without any new exterior walls as per UDO, would be the only way an apartment could be made on the third floor – which is actually the existing roof.

The town's UDO says in the B1 district, retail space isn't allowed on a third floor, but apartments are as long as they are within an attic space. The building doesn't have an attic – the roof is flat so an addition to the building was planned.

Member Steve Abranyi, who later voted for the proposed façade design, said “regardless of the appearance, the plan is not in

• See **RENOVATION** page 6

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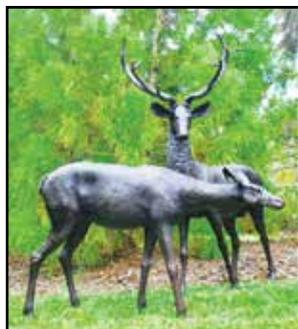
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...MAKE-UP continued from page 1

personnel, the school staff travel the roads around Highlands to determine if it is safe for travel to school.

In hopes of better informing the community of the process, the district works to determine whether to hold school during inclement weather. Dr. Baldwin held a meeting with members of the media earlier this month to outline the process school officials go through.

Dr. Baldwin emphasized the importance of safety when making the call, which is a decision that often causes backlash for the school system.

"Last year it started snowing around 11 a.m. and we made the decision not to let school out at that time," said Dr. Baldwin. "If we would have released school, students would have been on the road while it was snowing, which would have been dangerous. We decided to wait, and the snow quit and it warmed which meant it was safer."

Throughout the entire county, 2,200 students use yellow school buses to get to and from school. The district runs 52 buses each day that travel a combined 2,932 miles all over Macon County. With so many different roads and routes, making the call to hold school can be challenging. While Main Street in Highlands may be clear, the roads buses travel to pick up or drop off students may not be safe, prompting a delay or school closing.

"Our goal is to provide parents with accurate information as soon as possible," said Dr. Baldwin. "Bus drivers need to be notified prior to 5:15 a.m. Parents also need time to arrange for someone to be home for small children. Finally, buses are on the road for up to two hours per route. We are not always going to be accurate, but our goal is to err on the side of safety."

Dr. Baldwin stressed that determining

whether to have school is more complex than just monitoring weather reports. While the district does check weather forecasts such as the Weather Channel, the final call is usually made on what is happening at the time. When snow is predicted, the decision to delay or cancel school will be made prior to the time that buses are scheduled to depart. Once buses are on the road, officials must weigh the dangers of travel against leaving students at bus stops, or at home unattended.

Dr. Baldwin said sometimes, if inclement weather arrives while students are in school, the safest place for students to be at the time, may be in a school building rather than on the road.

For students and teachers wanting to know as soon as the district makes a call, the school system posts all closings on the district's website, on Facebook, and it notifies local media outlets.

To help school system staff understand the weather delays, an inclement weather guide is posted on the school system's website that explains the various options for school closings or delays.

Option A: School is closed to students and the day is designated as an Optional Workday for all personnel.

Option B: School is closed to students and building level staff. Central services staff, principals and 11- and 12-month personnel should report to work.

Option C: School is closed for students and all personnel.

Option D: School is delayed one/two hours.

Option E: School is closed early for students.

In addition to each option for staff, the staff guide outlines how and who are affected by each option.



Quilts of Valor wrap recipients in love and gratitude

On Dec. 15, 2016 the Blue Ridge Lodge of Highlands along with Mountain Valor Quilters, who are a part of the Quilts of Valor Foundation, honored eight veterans and Masons. Each veteran was awarded a quilt wrapped with love and gratitude for their service to our country.

Each quilt is constructed of three layers. The top of the quilt with its many shapes, colors and fabrics, represents the communities and its many individuals.

The batting, the filler, is the center of the quilt and represents hope that the quilt will bring warmth, comfort, peace and healing to

the individual who receives it.

The backing is the strength that supports the layers. It represents the strength of the recipient, the support of family, communities and the nation.

Each stitch that holds the layers together represents love, gratitude and sometimes the tears of the maker.

Liz View, Linda Maddox, and Mary Keener of the Mountain Valor Quilters were present to award the quilts.

For information about nominating a Veteran, or making a contribution please contact Liz View at 828-526-9743

...RENOVATION continued from page 5

compliance with the code."

He and Chairman Thomas Craig liked the modern design, though.

"The building was cutting edge when it was built [in the '60s] – it's always been a contemporary building," said Craig.

One of the problems is using the lower floor – the basement – as a habitable space. In the B1 district there can only be two habitable floors with a third habitable floor as a residence if it is an attic.

"The fact is every basement in town is being used for something other than just storage and mechanicals – they are being used and provide some sort of service to that business," said Craig.

As per the UDO, using the basement isn't a problem as long as the basement isn't being used by the public.

Craig suggested a proposal to the Town Board to rethink what constitutes a basement.

"Right now, downtown is vibrant and compact and we want people living down-

town. We need to promote that compactness to keep people downtown," he said.

Interim Planning Director Randy Feierabend said in lieu of the way the building currently looks it's a great improvement while piggy backing on the original architecture.

In the end, the motion the board voted on was "for the appearance, knowing that it may not fit with the current ordinance but that it is within keeping and in scale with the area where it is located."

The vote was 2-2 with Bell and Boltz voting no and Craig and Abranyi voting yes.

That said, since there were numerous issues to contend with prior to requesting a Special Use Permit or even a possible variance from the Zoning Board of Adjustment – something that would likely not be issued – as well as meeting county building codes, Town Manager Ward talked to the applicants Tuesday morning and suggested more work on the plan was needed.

– Kim Lewicki



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• BIZ/ORG NEWS •



'Sundays at Sotheby's' is all about art

The Bascom and Highlands Sotheby's International Realty partner each month to showcase local artists. This past Sunday kicked off the exhibit of Western Carolina Woodturners. Don Marks and Tom Garrett are two of the artists whose work will be on exhibit all month at the Sotheby's office at the corner of Main Street and Highway 64 across from The Old Edwards Inn. Jody Lovell, owner of Highlands Sotheby's, is holding a chalice made by Don Marks. Will Barclift is the Director of Community Outreach for The Bascom and coordinates these fun receptions. Look for the calendar on The Bascom website.

MC Commissioners participate in Legislative Goals Conference

Macon County Commissioners Karl Gillespie, Ronnie Beale, and Gary Shields, and Macon County Manager Derek Roland attended the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners' 2017 Legislative Goals Conference as a voting delegate when it was held at the Raleigh Marriott Crabtree Valley Jan. 12-13.

The Legislative Goals Conference represents the culmination of a thorough, deliberate and inclusive process to set the Association's legislative agenda for the 2017-'18 Legislative Biennium. The complete set of Association legislative goals is available at <http://www.ncacc.org/620/2017-18-Legislative-Goals>.

Every county in North Carolina has the opportunity to send a voting delegate, and many others attend this important event for the Association. More than 200 county officials from across North Carolina attended this year.

"There are 100 counties in North Carolina and 82 were present at this conference," said Shields, who attended the conference for the first time. "To see a body of individuals and leadership move through a process where the end result is that a packet of goals are voted on in a professional manner to present to our legislatures is impressive."

North Carolina's newly elected Governor Roy Cooper addressed commissioners during lunch on the opening day of the conference. Cooper spoke with the group about his commitment to finding ways to

help with issues important to counties including school construction, internet access and economic development.

Beale, who serves as the vice chair for the Macon County Board of Commissioners and a past president of the NCACC, believes Macon's involvement in the legislative goals conference is crucial. Beale was elected by his fellow commissioners to serve as the voting delegate during the legislative goals process.

The NCACC goals-setting process begins in August of each even-numbered year and consists of five stages, beginning with the solicitation of proposals from counties and ending with the adoption of the legislative agenda at the Legislative Goals Conference.

"It very important to be involved at this level since there is a very good chance a large number of these goals will become law if passed by the legislature and signed by the governor and anything that passes in Raleigh will affect Macon County," said Beale.

An important goal that the NCACC supported statewide that could have long-standing implications for Macon County surrounded broadband and increased access.

"I felt a number of goals approved would be beneficial to all 100 counties," said Shields. "Under general government, the goal to 'Seek legislation, funding, and other efforts to expand digital infrastructure/broadband capability to the un-served and under-served areas of the state' is just one of those goals."



PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that at the regular 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

Ellen Agee	\$372.64	Alicia Tremblay	\$459.40
Thomas Batson	\$123.85	Mary Propst	\$804.54
Binder Biomedical	\$494.44	Tokyo Restaurant	\$341.56
Dennis Franklin	\$946.96	Elisa Espinosa Parra	\$1,040.14
Highlands Quick Mart	\$3,631.16	James Blyther	\$342.98
L K Partners	\$1,242.25	Cheryl Carlton	\$438.87
John Mutter	\$56.89	Sarah Anderson	\$132.73
Randall Peterson	\$372.17	Athens Leasing	\$8,567.42
Connie Smith	\$118.42	John Bryant	\$173.15
Cory Allen Talbot	\$1,110.91	Frank Cassiano	\$2,031.19
Stuart Thompson	\$260.53	Mike Chatlos	\$600.48
Charles Weatherly	\$814.74	TL Coffeen	\$1,054.81
Charles Weatherly	\$238.02	Denise Cook	\$112.33
Jeannette Chidsey	\$458.54	Michael & Maxine Davidoff	\$48.86
John Clyatt	\$2,445.99	Michael Hammond	\$671.35
Melba Egan	\$477.98	Thomas Littlejohn	\$63.22
Pamela Lomba	\$694.28	Joshua Mendenhall	\$142.60
Pamela Lomba	\$82.78	Prudential MB Realtors	\$82.68
Jason Williams	\$330.54	Dallas Reese Jr.	\$233.49
Samantha McCall	\$1,050.27	Schmitt Building	\$1,155.86
Sandra Gauthier	\$300.53	Bob Stephenson	\$48.95
Kristin Araujo	\$1,502.05	Tonya Wales	\$329.53
Rachael Evans	\$307.20	Devonta "Ladarius" Wilson	\$603.33
Highlands Smokehouse	\$1,351.78	Deborah & Ross Young	\$6,181.83
Alan James	\$1,720.15		
Samantha Stauch	\$454.40		

Delinquent Accounts Receivable Accounts

Bates Septic Tank & Concrete Product	Sludge	\$385.00
Mountain Septic Service	Sludge	\$1,295.00
Highlands BBQ	False Alarms	\$600.00
Roto Plumbers	Sludge	\$6,300.00

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 26th day of January, 2017.



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exhale slowly.*

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...CORBIN continued from page 1

Corbin was elected overwhelmingly to serve in the House District 120 in last November's election. As the representative for District 120 he will serve the 85,000 citizens in Cherokee, Clay, Graham and Macon counties.

Corbin has served the citizens of Macon County for over three decades. He began his service to

Maconians on the Macon County Board of Education. He served 20 years on the school board, 16 of which were served as chair of the board.

Following his service to the school board, Corbin served as a county commissioner for the last six years serving as chairman for the last five years. Corbin leaves

behind a legacy of many accomplishments for the benefit of Macon County citizens.

While serving as commissioner, he maintained his commitment to public education in Macon County working to help meet the facility needs of the school system including the construction of several new schools. He also remained dedicated to improving the quality of life for Maconians by meeting their recreational needs with the complete renovation of both the Highlands and Macon County recreation pools and the construction of the Parker Meadows Recreational Complex.

"Knowing every day that I am representing some of the best 85,000 people in the state of N.C. is what I am looking forward to the most," said Corbin. "Every legislator represents approximately the same number of people per district. Just because we are rural does not minimize needs here and I will work every day to make sure Western North Carolina has a voice in Raleigh. I have come to realize that I am the only voice those 85,000 people have."

Even before being sworn in, Corbin started to reach out to his fellow legislators to ensure his first two years in office are spent working for people in Macon County. Continuing his commitment to education, Corbin is already working to secure funding for Highlands and Nantahala schools, two of the state's last three k-12 schools.

"I plan to introduce legislation to bring increased funding to small K-12 schools that have small populations, like Highlands and Nantahala in Macon County. Honestly, as a freshman, it is difficult to get legislation through committee and passed on the floor. It is almost impossible some say. I have already begun to 'grease the skids' and have had conversations with the Speaker of the House and other leaders in the House and Senate, so we will see."

Corbin has the support of Senator Davis, who has worked for several years to try to get additional small school funding for both Highlands and Nantahala.



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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 weeknight 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.

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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.

\$21.95 serves four.

Tuesday: Made in-house Italian sausage lasagna and a large house salad.

\$21.95 serves four

Wednesday: Chicken or steak pot pie and a large salad.

\$21.95 serves four

Thursday: Roasted meatloaf with mashed potatoes, gravy and a large salad.

\$21.95 serves four

Friday: Wild caught fried shrimp, baked potatoes, hush puppies & coleslaw. *\$24.95 serves four*

Saturday: In-house smoked bbq, coleslaw, apple and bacon-baked beans, and yeast rolls. *\$21.95 serves 4*

Weeknight Pizza Special:

Available Monday -Thursday 4:30 to close
 16" NY style pizza with up to 5 toppings.
 Comes with garlic bread & salad *\$21.95*

or

Baked Linguini: Meatballs, tomato sauce & cheese. Comes with garlic bread and salad *\$21.95*

or

Baked Penne Pasta: Italian sausage, onion, bacon and mushrooms in white sauce. Comes with garlic bread & salad *\$21.95*

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There is a method to working with real estate agents and upon your first meeting you will be asked to sign a pamphlet that explains their role and defines the agency.

When a broker shows a property he/she represents the seller – even if it's another broker's listing. Most potential buyers aren't aware of that. If you are in their car and they show you property it is logical to think the broker is working on your behalf...not true.

However, if you are a buyer, there is a separate agreement you can sign that allows the broker to represent you and ultimately work on your behalf. This is called a Buyers Agency Agreement. There typically is

no fee paid from you but it is paid from the commission portrayed in MLS -- namely the seller. This allows confidentiality of any information you reveal to the broker and allows the broker to research every detail of the property on your behalf as well as guide you on the home's value and where the offer should begin.

The bulk of the work is in the broker's hands as far as advising on a home inspection and survey if so desired.

Time spent with a broker is valuable, can be over weeks or months, and research on properties in MLS or otherwise, emails,



Pat Allen
Broker-in-charge
Pat Allen Realty
Group

texts and phone calls really do add up – especially for top brokers.

In other words, by signing a Buyers Agency Agreement, the broker knows you are committed to each other and the end result will be beneficial to both parties.

Being resort towns, Highlands and Cashiers attract many first-time visitors who fall in love with our charming towns...understandably so as I did 23 years ago.

Some walk into a real estate office or pick up a Buyer's Guide and call about ads that attract them. This can result in calling several different brokers and possibly meeting with various ones. Each broker then feels they have a new client and their involvement begins. This is why it is better to engage and work with one broker who can show you anyone's listings and with a Buyers Agent Agreement you will be guided and advised by one broker to a successful closing.

In our small town, many times different firms feel you are their client and

this causes confusion and disagreements among brokers. This shouldn't happen. A Buyers Agency Agreement eliminates any confusion. You should read it in full before signing and keep a copy showing the dates of the agreement.

As you can imagine, when many visitors go home and reality sets in they decide they don't really need or can't afford a home here or maybe the timing is not right. The broker has spent hours setting up appointments, driving many miles, preparing paperwork to show listings and prepared the homes for showing with lights on, temperature controlled, and possibly asking homeowners to leave while showing. There is a lot of work involved but that is our role.

A buyer's role is to select a broker they trust, who knows the market, and who they will enjoy spending time with. It should always be a win-win situation with good results for all.

You can visit Pat and her agents and brokers at Pat Allen Realty Group, 295 Dillard road or call Pat's cell at 828-200-9179, at the office at 828-526-8784 or by email at pat.f.allen@gmail.com

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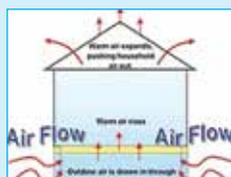
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• BIZ/ORG NEWS •



Rotary Club of Highlands honors teachers

On January 18, the Rotary Club of Highlands presented \$100 to each teacher at Highlands School. The money can be used for classroom materials not furnished by the school or for any purpose that helps the teachers enrich the education of the students. Pictured receiving their gifts from Rotary President Hank Ross are teachers Chris Green and Francie Jetter. Rotary members Brian Egler (far left) and Cynthia Dendy (far right) also attended the presentation.

Shopping for the real thing



By Dr. Mark Ford
First Baptist Church Highlands

For my article this week, I want to use in part the blog of Michael Svigel and his article "Peanut Butter Christianity: Is Yours a Cheap Imitation or the Real Thing?"

His said that one day he went to the store to buy peanut butter – specifically natural peanut butter. Simply, the real stuff with no additives or unnatural elements. But when he got to the store, he was confronted by the multitude of "peanut butters" – everything from natural to creamy, chunky, extra chunky, honey flavored, jelly-filled, low fat, no sugar and organic! And these were in countless sizes, shapes, brands and prices! Enough to make your head spin.

He stood paralyzed with indecision, and overwhelmed with a desire to snap up the cheapest jar and run to the checkout. But due diligence forced him to look for the natural peanut butter amidst the chaos of types and brands. Finally, he saw one – it had the keyword "natural" on it. But when he got home, feeling a sense of success, he read the label closer only to find out that it wasn't what he would call "natural."

The brand he picked up had roasted peanuts, but also sugar, palm oil and salt. All natural in their own way, but not what he was thinking about when he wanted natural. He wanted just roasted, pureed peanuts and nothing else! What he wanted was no salt, no oil, no emulsifier, no sweetener, no chemicals added to preserve freshness or enhance flavor. Just plain peanuts. His only comfort was that no words like monosodiumtriglyceratidipropylol were on the label.

His conclusion was that by and large, junk food peanut butter is – with a few changes – now worthy of the name "natural." What struck him in a deep moment of reflection was that the failure of most peanut butters to actually live up to genuine natural standards is an analogy of the state of most churches today.

Churches today have become accustomed to a less than "natural" expression of Christianity. They have, instead, become victimized by additives from non-Christian ingredients meant to enhance the faith. More to the point, churches have fallen into the trap of making the gospel more convenient, more palatable, and even more marketable so that customers will grab up what they have to offer, thinking they are getting the genuine expression of Christianity and faith. More additives, less gospel. More ingredients, and less genuine expressions of heart-felt worship.

Churches today are offering positive thinking, self-help, and behavior modification. In Svigel's exact words, "We are lured in by self-esteem best-sellers, do-it-yourself Christianity, and countless authors presenting the spiritual

• See SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING page 13

Proverbs 3:5

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

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

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

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464 US Hwy 64 east, Cashiers

Sun.: 9:30a Sunday School; 10:30a Worship w/ Music

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

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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

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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 U.

EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE INCARNATION

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

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

Choir 5 pm

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Curtis Fussell & Emily Wilmarth, pastors

526-3175 • fpchighlands.org

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

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

Wednesdays: Choir: 5:30p

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Pastor Nathan Johnson

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

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John 3:16

Wed. Kidsquest 6p.; Worship 7p.

HIGHLANDS ASSEMBLY OF GOD

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

Sundays: Worship: 11

HIGHLANDS CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Dan Robinson

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

Sun.: Morning Worship 10:45 a., Evening Worship, 6:30 p.

Wednesday: Prayer Service, 6:30 p.

HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Pastor Randy Lucas 526-3376

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

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

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

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Rev. Marty Kilby

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Wednesdays: Prayer Mtg.: 7 p.m.

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Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study: 6 p.m.

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

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

Thursday: Noon Healing Service with Eucharist.

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(828) 526-4138 or (828) 200-3551**Macon County Employee Service Awards**

At its January meeting, the Macon County Commission recognized employees for 10, 15, 20, 25 and 30 years of service. Pictured with Commissioner Jim Tate for 15 years of service are: Thomas Allen – Tax Appraiser; Kristy Carver – Payroll Specialist – Finance; Chris Casses – Assistant Network Administrator – Information Technology; Tammy Collier – Income Maintenance Caseworker III – DSS; Jennifer Garrett – Nursing Supervisor II – Public Health; Josephine Jennings – Weighmaster – Solid Waste; Kimberly Jamison – Administrative Assistant I – Emergency Management; Wayne Pendergrass – Telecommunicator w/EMD – Emergency Management; Charles Donnie Seagle – School Resource Officer – Sheriff's Department; Lesa Southard – Accounting Assistant – Finance; Chris Stahl – Solid Waste Director. In the Jan. 19 edition, employees with 20, 25 and 30 years of service were noted.



Pictured with commissioners Karl Gillespie and Jim Tate are 10-year employees: Chris Allen – EMT Paramedic – Franklin Base; Josephine Alonso – Admin. Staff Assistant II/Foreign Language Interpreter – Sheriff's Office; Holly Bradley – Detention Officer Shift Supervisor – Sheriff's Office; Nathaniel Breedlove – EMT Paramedic/EMS Supervisor – Franklin Base; Jeremy Cabe – EMT Paramedic & Field Training Officer/EMS Supervisor – Franklin Base; Divina Chang – Dentist – Public Health; Brandon Crone – Telecommunicator w/EMD – Emergency Management; Greg Doster – EMT Paramedic – Franklin Base; Harold Faircloth – Environmental Health Specialist – Public Health; Betina Freeman – Deputy Tax Collector; Dianna Harkins – Processing Assistant IV – Public Health; Brent Hyatt – Animal Control Lead Officer – Public Health; Glenda Kelly – Income Maintenance Caseworker II – DSS; Mary Ledford – Community Social Service Assistant – DSS Senior Services; Dustin Pendergrass – EMT Paramedic/EMS Supervisor – Franklin Base; Todd Raby – Register of Deeds; William Rhoden – Detective Sergeant Supervisor – Sheriff's Office; Jamie Wiggins – 911 Communications Technician – Emergency Management; Joseph Zachary – EMT Paramedic – Franklin Base.

...SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING continued from page 11

life as an ascending ladder: seven steps to this, three keys to that, the one prayer that will revolutionize your world, expand your influence, fulfill your desire for happiness.

Let's just be honest. Much of the garbage stinking up the shelves of Christian bookstores is passed off as Christian Living, but it's mostly psychobabble or practical proverbs no better than what we find in the secular self-help or generic spirituality sections of our online bookseller."

Christians and churches who have become accustomed to this trendy, diluted form of Christianity have forgotten what the pure, "natural" faith actually tastes like! And because of the tasty nature of the additives, many exposed to this kind of faith are disgusted by the original, pure flavor of authentic Christianity! It is almost foreign and inferior to their spiritual palates. This is because this purer form of Christianity is the authentic faith where the whole Word of God is proclaimed, the ordinances rightly administered, discipline properly maintained, evangelism and discipleship emphasized, repentance preached—and there is nothing re-

ally fancy about these things.

In fact, these "ingredients" are so simple to identify and maintain that churches focusing on these fundamentals and refusing the frills of things like eye-candy media presentations appear to be washed-out has-beens or incompetent wannabes to most big-production glitz-and-glamour churches.

Many forms of Christianity and our churches have been so colored with dyes, so mixed with artificial ingredients, or so drenched in sugar that they are in danger of becoming cheap imitations that serve merely to distract from — not point to — the essential ingredients of the historical faith. Too many Christians shop for me-centered feel-good church experiences rather than Christ-centered worship, discipleship, the Biblical faith proclaimed, and authentic community. They would rather keep dabbling in the artificial than adjust their tastes to the real thing that is more nutritious.

• CLASSIFIEDS •

LOST

LOST DEC. 29TH on upper Fourth Street area a gold ring with 5 stones in a row. Please call 828-526-8860 or turn into Police Dept. Greatly appreciate your kindness!

ITEMS FOR SALE

MAYTAG GAS DRYER, \$100. Office furniture by Cashiers Custom Furniture. 2 desks, bookcase, file cabinet. Call 828-226-2083. (st. 7/28)

KOBALT DIAMOND SHIELD REGULAR TRUCK BED TOOLBOX. Deep low profile full size. 17"x69"x19" fits most full size trucks OBO. Call Frank in Scaly Mountain 828-526-1953. (st. 5/11)

HELP WANTED

OFFICE ASSISTANT: Seeking office assistant for small, friendly Cashiers office. Ideal candidate will have prior office experience and proficiency in Microsoft functions including Word, Excel, Outlook, excellent organizational and communication skills and attention to detail and accuracy, professional phone manner and personal presentation and friendly demeanor. Benefits include health insurance. Email resume, including references, to peter@peterapaul.com or call 828-743-5200. (st. 1/26)

TELL YOUR FRIENDS "I WORK

THERE!" That's right, you too can work at The Ugly Dog Pub in Highlands and Cashiers. Running a pub takes all sorts of people. People who are excited about food, wine, beer, and cocktails. People who are excited about working in a kitchen (because you want to own your own restaurant one day). People who enjoy giving excellent service to customers, whether it's delivering food to tables, cleaning up, taking orders, or mixing great cocktails. You might have a lot of experience or you might just be looking for new opportunities (that's why you're reading this, right?). Either way, at The Ugly Dog Pub we

value people for their unique personalities and qualities, not just for their prior experience. If this agrees with you give us shout, send us an email, or stop by and see us. theuglydogstaff@gmail.com 828-526-8364 If you don't know where we're located then look us up! www.theuglydogpub.com (st. 1/16)

PART TIME CLEANERS needed after hours cleaning banks. Please call Cathy @ 828 772 9831 (st. 12/22).

MOUNTAIN FRESH GROCERY IS HIRING FOR FULL-TIME positions in the Deli. Please come in person to 521 East Main Street in Highlands to apply, or call 828-526-2400.

PIANIST WANTED FOR SUNDAY SERVICES AT HOLY FAMILY LUTHERAN CHURCH, HIGHLANDS. One service per week, easy liturgy and 3 hymns, piano only. No choir, so no extra rehearsals. (keyboard available). \$85 per week. Please contact Pastor Margaret Howell at 704-516-7893. Students welcome! (st. 12/1)

EXPERIENCED ELECTRICIANS NEEDED. Call 828-526-5147. (st. 11/22)

HAVE OPENINGS FOR WAIT- STAFF AND COOK for Clubhouse dining. Also hiring for C.N.A. for Assisted Living. Apply at Chestnut Hill of Highlands, 24 Clubhouse Trail, Highlands NC. (828)526-5251. (12/24)

CHURCH OF THE INCARNATION IN HIGHLANDS is looking for a Nursery Attendant for the 10:30AM Sunday Service three Sundays a month for approximately 2.5 hours. Experience working with children 0-5 years old is required. Please contact the church office by phone 828-526-2968 or email at incarnation@incarnationwnc.org (st. 8/25)

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF HIGHLANDS, NC, is seeking a part-time director of music, salary DOE. Musical training and experience required. Resumes, including references, may be sent to FBC Highlands, POB

625, Highlands, NC 28741 or emailed to info@fbchighlands.org. 828-526-4153 (st. 8/4)

ITEMS FOR SALE

2010 FORD RANGER SPORT SUPER CAB 4X4. One Owner, 18,800 miles. V-6, Five speed manual transmission. New tires. Many extras. \$16,000. Call 526-2852. (st. 1/26)

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828-508-9952
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RESIDENTIAL/COMMERCIAL FOR RENT

SMALL OFFICE SPACE for rent, near the Bascom. Year lease, \$435/mo. 828-526-5558. (st. 1/26)

BEAUTIFUL 3/2 TIMBERFRAME HOME in in Horse Cove. \$1500 per month, minimum 6 month lease. No smoking & no dogs, please. Call 606-402-1213 for more details and/or showing. (2/2)

ONE BED/ONE BATH, furnished. All utilities paid. Call 828-371-0829. (st. 1/12)

REMODELED EFFICIENCY APARTMENT RIVER RUN II Washer Dryer Large Deck. Walking distance to Skiing, Swimming, Restaurants, Exercise Amenities, and Meeting rooms and Public Golf Course \$550 monthly annual rent plus utilities. 561-626-7467 (1/19)

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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. \$1,200/mth. Does not include utilities. 904-403-8090. (st. 12/8)

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CASHIERS/SAPPHIRE - Furnished Split level 3 Bed/ 3 Bath home. Year round Mountain Views. Yearly lease 1,850. per month. Will consider renting 2 Bed/2 Bath level for \$1,250. (561) 346-6400 Commercial for Rent. (1/26)

APPROXIMATELY 900 S/F AND RECENTLY UPDATED. Ideal for retail/professional/service. Plenty of parking + excellent visibility for \$1,750/ month. Contact Susie deVill at White Oak Realty Group for details, (828) 371-2079. (st. 7/29)

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ALL AROUND OFFICE SOLUTIONS - Bookkeeping Services, Payroll Prep, Payroll Tax Prep, Billing Services, Virtual Assistant, Data Base 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. 11/17)

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

• REC PARK NEWS •

• The pool will be closed Tuesday, January 31 and Wednesday, February 1 for scheduled maintenance.

2) The ice rink will remain open until the end of February instead of mid-February as originally scheduled. We will continue to monitor long range weather predictions and may be open even later than the end of February.

Ice Rink Schedule:

Thursdays: 1-8pm,
Fridays and Saturdays: 1-10pm,
Sundays: 1-5pm
Mondays 5-8pm (Ice Hockey only).

Admission is \$5, skates included.

Water, coffee and hot chocolate are available for sale.

For more information contact Lester Norris or Maxine Ramey at 828-526-3556.

• ART EVENTS •

Double Exhibition Reception

Western Carolina University Masters Students: 'The Magic Starts Here' and Bascom Winter Resident Artist, Teisha Holloway. Public Reception with Refreshments: Friday, February 10, 2 - 4 pm. The third annual group exhibition of graduate art students from Western Carolina University brings novelty and cutting edge contemporary practice into The Bascom's Bunzl gallery. Curators and mentors, Tom Ashcraft and Morgan Kennedy, showcase the students' accomplishments in this eclectic show.

Sunday at Sotheby's

Jordan Krutsch, Western Carolina University Masters Candidate Reception and Demonstration with Refreshments: Sunday, February 12, 3-4 pm Location: Highlands Sotheby's International Realty, 114 N. 4th Street (Main & 4th) in Highlands

Next on the calendar is the March painting exhibit by Bascom Community Artist in Residence, Kristina Rose Baker. Stay tuned for more monthly exhibits by local and regional artists in the Sotheby's storefront. 2017 featured artists include Bascom Resident Artists, the Art League of Highlands-Cashiers, Mayor Pat Taylor, Highlands High School students, and more.

For a complete listing of Sotheby's exhibits, visit www.thebascom.org or contact Will Barclift, Director of Community Outreach, at wbarclift@thebascom.org. 828-787-2897.



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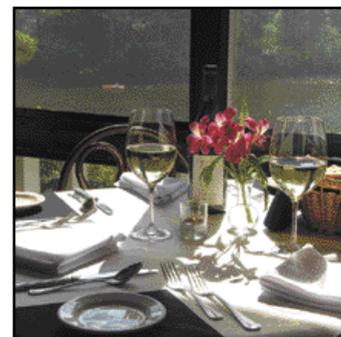
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