

# Highlands Newspaper

FREE Every Thursday

Volume 11, Number 47 Real-Time News, Weather & WebCams: HighlandsInfo.com Thursday, Nov. 21, 2013

## This week's events

**Thurs., Nov. 21**  
 • Last showing of the movie Last Vegas at The Highlands Playhouse. Showtimes are 4 and 7 p.m. Tickets are \$8.

**Fri.-Sun., Nov. 22-24**  
 • Movie at Highlands Playhouse. The Hunger Games: Catching Fire. Showtimes are 4 & 7 p.m. Tickets are \$8.

**Call Fri., & Sat., Nov. 22-23**  
 • A Quilts of Valor Block Party at the Cut n Patch Quilt Shop. Come help make quilt blocks for Quilts of Valor. Fabric and pattern provided. Drop in to make a block or spend the day to make a lot of blocks! Go is 100 blocks in two days. These blocks will make 5 quilts to be given to wara veterans.

**Sat., Nov 23**  
 • The Nantahala Hiking Club will take 4.5 mile moderate hike to Round Mt. with lots of ups and downs on a Forest Service road and views from the top. Meet at Cashiers Rec Center at 10 am, drive 12 miles round trip. Call leaders Mike and Susan Kettles, 743-1079, for reservations. Visitors welcome, no pets please.

**Tuesday, Nov. 26**  
 • Community Thanksgiving Dinner at the Highlands Civic Center at 6 p.m. All invited. Free. Donations accepted.

**Wed., Nov. 27**  
 • The Eastern Star will be selling its pumpkin rolls and pecans in front of Bryson's Food Store. Pumpkin Rolls are \$15. Pre-order both at 526-9582 or 342-4378.

The  
**SUMMER HOUSE**  
*'Home Furnishing Center'*  
**Mon.-Sat. 9-5**  
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## Leasing town fiber could be a 'win' for all: citizens, providers and the town

Since September, the Town Board has been hearing about and considering the prospect of leasing out its "extra" dark fiber to possibly expand cable/internet/phone access to areas of town currently in the "dark."

This scenario would be a win/win – citizens benefit and it wouldn't cost the town anything.

A dark fiber or unlit fiber is an unused optical fiber available for use in fiber-optic communication.

The town's fiber currently running from Town Hall to the Rec Park, the baseball field, the

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## Robinson to challenge Jim Davis for NC Senate seat

By Avram Friedman  
 Last week, Sylva resident Ron Robinson announced that he is challenging incumbent North Carolina Senator Jim Davis for the District 50 seat in the 2014 election.

The setting for Robinson's announcement set the tone for his candidacy in stark contrast to his Republican opponent.

At a Move-to-Amend event at the Jackson County Public Library Complex, the local Move to Amend affiliate was video-recording a historical timeline of court decisions and legislative acts that led to the 2010 Supreme Court's "Citizen's United" edict that "corporations are people and money is speech." This logic

•See **SENATE SEAT** page 21

## Highlands readies for the holidays!



On Wednesday town crews decorated the tree on the lawn of the Highlands United Methodist Church which put the finishing touches on the town's holiday decorations. On Saturday, Nov. 30, at 6 p.m., the town will welcome in the season with its annual lighting of the tree and caroling. Photo by Kim Lewicki

## Public forum outlines devastating impact state's education cuts have had on Macon County education

By Brittany Burns  
 Parents, teachers and concerned community members gathered in the Franklin High School Fine Arts Center last Thursday for a public education forum held by the League of Women Voters and the Macon County Democratic

Party.  
 With a panel of guest speakers including teachers and administrators in the Macon County School System, educators touched on ways that the classroom has recently been affected due to legislative changes and ways to fix the

problems while keeping the best interest of the students in mind.  
 Macon County Schools Superintendent Dr. Chris Baldwin was the first to speak during the forum and touted the success and improvements the district has

•See **CUTS** page 4

The only place to watch the Georgia Bulldogs is at The Lost Hiker!  
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# • THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

## • LETTERS •

### Remember Gettysburg for America

Dear Editor,

In July of this year, Gettysburg, PA commemorated the 150th anniversary of the battle of Gettysburg. In three days, approximately 50,000 men died. Bodies and horses were piled so high in some streets, you could not walk. The smell did not recede until after the first hard frost.

November 19, 2013 marked the 150th anniversary of the dedication of the Soldiers National Cemetery in Gettysburg where President Lincoln gave the Gettysburg address.

In June of this year as I stood at the monument itself (the only monument in the nation dedicated to a speech and not the person who gave it) and walked among the many graves, I prayed for our nation and its leaders. Today it seems that is all we can do. Is our great nation now lost? Have all these men and the ones who have fought in the wars since, died in vain? Our leaders are tearing this country apart, some Americans are speaking loudly, but they are not heard.

Today in the new Obama Common Core Program being taught to your children, the Gettysburg address is to be taught with no background information, in other words...just another speech. I would ask everyone to read the Gettysburg address again, it is still inspiring after 150 years. Or maybe go to Gettysburg yourself and experience the battlefield firsthand. It will be truly awesome.

Stand behind the statue of General Warren at Little Round Top where you can see the Devil's Den or a beautiful sunset at days end. Stop under a witness tree, watch and wonder what an old man leaning on his cane and looking out over Cemetery Ridge is thinking, stop at every monument you can, (North Carolina has one of the most beautiful ones on the battlefield and lost more men than any Southern state) certainly the Virginia one with General Lee atop his horse Traveler, ponder over the place and time Pickett made his last charge; listen and watch the reverence for this place; it is there; for the North and the South; for America!

It's also in the cemetery where I watched an older lady sitting on a bench

## The Gettysburg Address

Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent, a new nation, conceived in Liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.

Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation, or any nation so conceived and so dedicated, can long endure. We are met on a great battle-field of that war. We have come to dedicate a portion of that field, as a final resting place for those who here gave their lives that that nation might live. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this.

But, in a larger sense, we can not dedicate – we can not consecrate – we can not hallow – this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note, nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here. It is for us the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us – that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion – that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain – that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom – and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.

– President, Abraham Lincoln

crying for maybe someone she knew or for all 3,500 men buried there. Go and visit the cemetery at sunset, you will experience nothing quite like it. It will be a humble experience; and if you are a praying person, do some praying for America while you are there.

America needs our prayers. Let us all remember that we are Americans first, which so many people seem to forget these days.

Elizabeth Wilson  
Clemson, SC

## Free utilities to 3 nonprofits needs to be re-addressed

Dear Editor,

I appreciate the responses from Mr. Drake, Mr. Allbee, and the Highlands Playhouse Board of Directors regarding my concerns on the issue of free utilities for certain nonprofits.

I believe I have valid reasons for those concerns regarding the three nonprofits in question, but the reasons are far too lengthy to present here. The limits of space in the paper will not allow me to adequately address each situation.

The reasons I am against free utilities for the individual nonprofits are different for each. I am glad to share those reasons with anyone interested. I will share those reasons directly with Mr. Drake and The Playhouse Board by letter. I would hope The Playhouse Board, if asked, would share them also.

The Town Board will have a new makeup next month and a new administration under Mayor Elect Taylor. I have no idea of how the new administration will view the issue. I can only hope they will reopen the issue, have a good discussion on it, and then do what they think best.

Rick Siegel  
Highlands

## LETTERS-TO-THE EDITOR-POLICY

We reserve the right to reject or edit submissions.

**NO ANONYMOUS LETTERS WILL BE ACCEPTED.**

Views expressed are not necessarily those of Highlands Newspaper.  
Please EMAIL letters by Sunday at 5 p.m. There is a 500-word limit without prior approval.

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# • OBITUARY •

## Gail Marie Walton



Gail Marie Walton, 69, died of lung and bone cancer on November 10, 2013 at her home in Franklin, NC. She was born in Caribou, Maine to Mabel and Merle Walton. She worked as a veterinary surgical technician in Brockton, MA before joining the U.S. Army during the Vietnam era, serving as a military policeman (M.P.) at Fort Indiantown Gap, PA. After discharge she moved to Florida and became a respiratory therapist working at Manatee Memorial Hospital for ten years. In 1988 she moved to North Carolina where she worked at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital as director of cardio-pulmonary services. She was an avid outdoors woman and enjoyed camping, hiking and kayaking. She became NC 28734.

disabled in 1998 at which point she was able to pursue her interest in animal rescue services. She owned and operated The Animal Barn at the Franklin Flea Market for several years. She enjoyed travelling, cooking, photography, reading and a wide range of other interests. She is survived by her partner of 34-years, Bonnie Powell, her cousin Susan Seifert, and Lola Powell, all of whom live in Franklin; numerous cousins; her beloved dogs Murphy, Tico, Buddy, and Sweet Pea; and her cat, Slick. A celebration of her life will be announced at a later date. Memorial contributions can be made to: Macon County Humane Society Inc., 851 Lake Emory Rd, Franklin,

...CUTS from page 1



Education panel included MC Superintendent Dr. Chris Baldwin, second in from right.

made despite being underfunded by the state.

“The Macon County School system and our students have not received their full state funding allotment in several years,” said Dr. Baldwin. “Most folks in our county, regardless of background or party affiliation, understand that this is not fair to our children and want this trend to end.”

Dr. Baldwin cited that Macon County currently has the highest graduation rate in the district’s history despite receiving less funds than ever before. He also pointed out that despite changes to the teaching standards, more than 70 percent of Macon County Schools met or exceeded the educational improvement targets they had set.

Iotla Valley Principal Gary Brown spoke to the devastating impact that the reduction in staffing levels due to budget cuts has had on the educational process.

“I would want to say that education is a people business and at the elementary level we simply need more

people,” said Brown. “We had more adults inside the typical elementary school classroom in Macon County 20 years ago than we do today. We spend a lot of time and energy trying to create opportunities for small group or individual instruction; but to do so now we are forced to “borrow” assistants from other classrooms. It’s not a very effective solution.”

Speaking specifically on Iotla Valley, Brown explained that whereas in past years he has had teaching assistants for each grade on the elementary level, with more and more budget cuts coming every year, he no longer has enough assistants to cover his four kindergarten classrooms.

“Decisions about providing resources and staffing to public schools are based as much on funding availability as on educational needs,” said Brown. “It’s the nature of the beast I suppose but I think that we as citizens need to understand that it’s a bit like that old commercial that

• See CUTS page 7

# • DINING •

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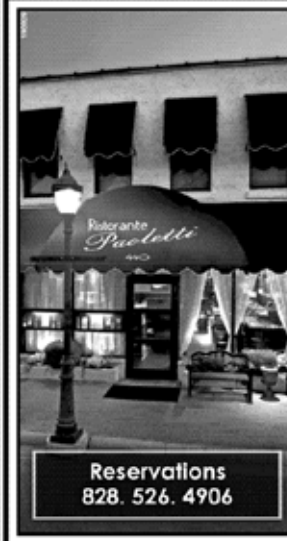
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## ...CUTS continued from page 4

said, 'you can pay me now or you can me pay later.' That payment will likely come in the form of increased taxes to provide support to a populace that is less prepared than they could be for the realities of a changing economy."

Brown explained the vital importance of teacher assistants and all they do for the classroom. In addition to preventing the ratio of 25 students to one teacher, an assistant not only puts an extra body in the classroom for supervision, but it also allows for small group intervention and a better opportunity for one on one specialized instruction for students.

"Education is a people business," said Brown. "And people cost money. Past Superintendent Lonnie Crawford mentioned to me several years ago that he was occasionally criticized for the (large) amount of money our system spent on teacher assistants. He said he thought that was money well spent. I suspect a comparison of our test scores with the western region and the rest of the state during his tenure would lend a great deal of validity to his statements."

Macon County Darlene McDowell spoke to the detrimental impacts of budget cuts by explaining that her students do not have history books. McDowell also said that the new tenure laws are pitting teachers against each other and are taking the best interest of the students out of the equation.

The new tenure laws will eliminate teacher tenure and require school districts to somehow determine the top 25 percent of teachers districtwide and award those teachers with a special bonus.

McDowell explained that in the past, she would share her lesson plans and other classroom ideas with her coworkers, but with the new laws, teachers are forced to be competitive and instead of working together for students, some teachers consider working to achieve the bonus for themselves.

Macon County Teacher of the Year Melissa Faetz spoke during the forum and addressed every topic from the impact of large class sizes, the elimination of teaching assistants and the lack of resources available to her students. Faetz ended her discussion with a quote from Diane Silvers Ravitch, who is an historian of education, an educational policy analyst, and a research professor at New York University's Steinhardt School of Culture, Education, and Human Development.

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sources, well-prepared and experienced educators, community support, and a clear vision of what good education is. The purpose of elementary and secondary education is to develop the character of young children and adolescents and help them grow up to become healthy, knowledgeable, and competent citizens."

Franklin High School teacher John deVille utilized a power point presentation to show how the new academic standards -- which were given by state legislation not by the North Carolina Department of Instruction -- are adversely affecting student growth.

"The General Assembly has raised the performance bar with high stakes testing beyond what it has been the past 18 years," said deVille. "We are now saying we will not promote third graders who can't pass a standardized reading test.... we're doing that to eight-year olds with fewer resources, and if they fail, we have no extra resources in terms of physical plant and personnel to accommodate the backlog of students."

DeVille also spoke on behalf of teachers by explaining that with the new state mandates in academic standards comes no additional funds to implement the remedial courses that are required and expectations for teachers are higher than

ever before despite teacher pay remaining stagnant.

"We are being asked to do more with fewer resources with a new high-stakes evaluation based on student growth on standardized tests, all while our due process rights have been stripped away, contrary to assurances Speaker Tillis gave NC teachers," said deVille. "Teachers and administrators are pushing themselves as they never have before, all while our salaries have been frozen for five years, bonuses statutorily guaranteed to us by ABCs legislation have not been forthcoming, millionaires have been given lucrative tax breaks (only so the General Assembly can inform us 'we're broke'), while we have been stripped of most of our textbook and supply money. We are watching many of our colleagues leave the profession and/or leave the state for greener pastures."

According to deVille, in the past, countries around the world have modeled their school systems after that of North Carolina's, but now the state is headed in a downward spiral.

"K-12 public education is in crisis and approaching catastrophic failure along the lines of the Philadelphia school system," said deVille. "That's heartbreaking because of NC's historical role in being a progressive leader in public education and we do have the resources within the state to reclaim that mantle...the only thing missing is political will in Raleigh. If there is any systemic problem with our youth in NC it traces back to poverty, not to lack of quality public education systems and institutions. Fixing the blame on teachers is twice over the worst thing to do -- we are the ones most able to help at-risk children, if we have the resources; and if we don't focus on poverty, the underlying causal factor of failure and long-term unemployment and incarceration, which is poverty, will only get worse."

It's hoped that the forum will initiate some serious conversations about positive education reform in North Carolina.

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## ...FIBER continued from page 1

Community Building, Highlands School, and the water and wastewater treatment plants began with a donation of fiber from Gilliam's Promise.

"The initial cable to the Rec Park, the school and the ballfield was strung to have cameras on line to help keep drugs out of the school and recreation areas," said Matt Shuler, MIS/GIS director. "When we expanded the system, we simply matched it."

The cable Gilliam's Promise paid to string has 48-fibers. Turns out the cost of six-fiber cable and 48-fiber cable costs just about the same, so when the town decided to string cable to the Community Building and its water and wastewater treatment plants it, too, went for the 48-fiber bundle.

Currently, the town uses between six and eight of the 48-fibers in its cable which has opened the door to leasing out unused fiber to other entities that could expand services to citizens.

"The taxpayers paid for the cable so it makes sense to benefit the citizens in some way – to make services better or available if not an option before," said Shuler.

By law set in the General Assembly, municipalities can't sell bandwidth but they can lease dark fiber.

Shuler said leasing dark fiber can be looked at as a revenue maker, but if a municipality makes the lease rate too high, companies will likely just run their own

• See FIBER page 11

## Ray Pottery at The Hen House

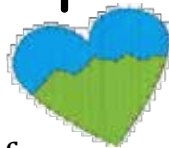


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*(Gluten-free, Whole Wheat, too)*

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## WINTER DINNER SPECIAL

2 WOOD FIRE PIZZAS, 4 HAND-MADE BREAD STICKS  
WITH HOUSE MADE TOMATO SAUCE & A LARGE  
HOUSE SALAD. SERVES FOUR.....19.99  
AVAILABLE MONDAY THROUGH THURSDAY 4:30 TO 8

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#### RED MARGHERITA

TOMATO SAUCE, FRESH MOZZARELLA, PECORINO, FRESH  
BASIL AND OLIVE OIL.

#### WHITE MARGHERITA

GARLIC INFUSED OLIVE OIL, FRESH MOZZARELLA,  
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#### TUSCAN

TOMATO SAUCE, GRANDE MOZZARELLA, BASIL,  
ROASTED RED PEPPERS, SWEET SAUSAGE, HOT PEPPER  
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#### FIG & PIG

TOMATO SAUCE, GRANDE MOZZARELLA, GORGONZOLA,  
FIGS, PANCETTA, RED PEPPER FLAKES, PECORINO,  
OLIVE OIL AND ARUGULA

#### BUFALINA

TOMATO SAUCE, FRESH MOZZARELLA, HAM, PECORINO,  
ARUGULA AND OLIVE OIL, BLACK PEPPER

#### PEPPERONI

TOMATO SAUCE, GRANDE MOZZARELLA, PECORINO,  
PEPPERONI

#### PANCETTA

TOMATO SAUCE, GRANDE MOZZARELLA, ROASTED RED  
PEPPER, MUSHROOMS, PANCETTA,

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Newly published author Angie Jenkins recently donated a copy of her new coffee table book, Highlands, North Carolina...The Early Years Volume II to Highlands School Media Center Director, Carol Bowen, for inclusion in the school library - in honor of her seven grandchildren who are all students at Highlands School. Pictured front row: (From left) Cam Ramey and Aiden Crook-Jenkins. Back row: (from left) Karmen Jenkins, Ella Crook, Kadence Ramey, Angie Jenkins, Carol Bowen, Briana Jenkins, and Analyse Crook. The children are all 9<sup>th</sup> generation Highlanders.

# Tree of Lights



## This December At Highlands-Cashiers Hospital

Place an ornament on the Hospital Christmas Tree in memory of, or in honor of, a family member or friend with a gift of \$10.00 or more. These bells (in honor of) and stars (in memory of) will display the name of your friend or loved one. Your tax-deductible donation will go toward nursing scholarships offered by Highlands-Cashiers Hospital.

Given in memory or honor of \_\_\_\_\_  
(Circle one)

Given by: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount donated \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Send acknowledgement to: \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ A donation in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ has been made by:

(Name of Donor)

(Address of Donor)

To Highlands-Cashiers Hospital

Signature of Hospital Auxiliary member receiving donation

## ...FIBER continued from page 9

cable, which they can do by law.

"Since we already have the fiber, it's more sensible for us to entice folks to lease rather than stringing more fiber," said Shuler. "Our poles are already 'busy.' Leasing our fiber means our poles won't be crowded out."

According to the town's pole ordinance, the last guy on a pole that puts the pole out of compliance must pay to put a taller pole in which also means the town must maintain a taller pole.

"It's better if we simply lease our extra fiber which is in one cable versus having the potential of more cables being attached to a pole," said Shuler.

According to Shuler, leasing won't be a huge money-maker but the services which could become available to citizens without encumbering poles outweighs any potential revenue.

At the Thursday, Nov. 21 Town Board meeting, Shuler will present an ordinance in the works since the September meeting which will regulate the leasing of town fiber.

He will also present a price breakout for leasing one to six fibers at 1,000-ft. increments up to 10,000 feet.

He is suggesting \$5 per month for one fiber per 1,000-ft. run.

At the September meeting, Commissioner John Dotson requested more research as to pricing to make sure Highlands wasn't underselling its commodity.

Shuler's research shows that the proposed prices for Highlands are in the mid-range for areas like Highlands. A Midwest suburban/small town charges \$1.30 per

fiber for 1,000 feet; Burbank charges \$2.13 to \$2.76 per 1,000 feet and a small town in Tennessee charges \$7.87 to \$15.72 per 1,000 feet.

At the \$5/month rate, an entity that leases six fibers for 10,000 feet would pay \$300 a month.

So far three entities have expressed interest in leasing town fiber – Highlands Cable Group that wants to use it to get from Mirror Lake to downtown and more populated areas and a company named ERC on Buck Creek who wants to build to the city limits where it would pick up town fiber.

Shuler said there is possibly one more in the Buck Creek area who may be interested but they have to build 11,000 feet to meet get to the town limits.

He said most of the large providers in the area run from Asheville to Brevard to Cashiers and then they turn down Buck Creek where there is a route of poles going down to Franklin -- basically paralleling the Gorge Road.

"Most dodge Highlands," said Shuler. "For instance, Morris Broadband isn't interested in Highlands; it goes down Buck Creek simply so it has redundancy should something go down in Franklin."

He said Northland Communications hasn't expressed interest because it already has its own fiber on poles throughout the area.

The Town Board will likely make a decision on the ordinance and the leasing rates at Thursday night's meeting at 7 p.m. in the Community Building.

– Kim Lewicki

## Antique & Designer Furniture **SALE!**

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## Holiday Fun at The Bascom!



### Gingerbread House Workshop

Nov. 29 and 30

10 am to noon and 1 to 3 pm

All ages

Participants will be given all the sweets and confections they need to create their own house. Children under 10 must be accompanied by an adult. \$45 per house.

Ongoing weekly afterschool and weekend classes for children continue through mid-December with open enrollment. For more information, call Jessica Hauser Flinchum, Education Coordinator, [jflinchum@thebascom.org](mailto:jflinchum@thebascom.org), 828-787-2879.

# HIGHLANDS AREA UPCOMING EVENTS •

## Bluegrass at PAC with David Holt, Friday night after Thanksgiving



Kick off your Holiday Season at PAC on Friday and the Tree Lighting on Saturday.

Four-time Grammy Award winner David Holt is a musician, storyteller, historian, television host and entertainer, dedicated to performing and preserving traditional American music and stories. Holt plays ten acoustic instruments and has released numerous award winning recordings of traditional mountain music and southern folktales.

Holt is well known for his television and radio series. He is host of public television's Folkways, a North Carolina program that takes the viewer through the Southern Mountains visiting traditional craftsmen and musicians. David also currently hosts the PBS series Great Scenic Railway Journeys and the PBS series Great Scenic Railway Journeys. He served as host of The Nashville Network's Fire on the Mountain, Celebration Express and American Music Shop. He has been a frequent guest on Hee Haw, Nashville Now and The Grand Ole Opry. David can also be seen as a musician in the popular film, O Brother Where Art Thou.

He brings to the concert

stage the fun and spirit of old-time music and storytelling. An evening with David Holt offers tales, ballads and tunes told, sung and played on the banjo, slide guitar, guitar, harmonica, bones, spoons and jaw harp. His audiences are constantly involved, learning to play the paper bag, applauding the vitality of his clog dancing, listening to the haunting sound of a 122 year old mountain banjo, or being spellbound by a ghost story.

The songs and tales Holt has collected for the past 20 years have become a part of the permanent collection of the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C. He was awarded a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts to learn the unique music from the South's last traditional hammered dulcimer player, Virgil Craven. Says Holt: "Many of the people I learned from saw wagon trains; now they are watching space shuttles. They're the last of the pioneer generation. Their music and stories still hold a great deal of meaning and pleasure for us today."

Josh Goforth will be performing with David Holt at the Highlands PAC on Friday, November 29, at 8pm. Tickets are \$25 and available online: [www.highlandspac.org](http://www.highlandspac.org) or by calling 828.526.9047.

### Through Tues., Dec. 3

• Bosnia Mission Fundraiser. Help build Barns in Bosnia. \$10 per ticket and win an iPad and more! A 32GB Wifi + Cellular iPad: Value \$729, a 32GB iPod Touch: Value \$299, an iTunes Gift Card: Value \$100. All proceeds to fund the Highlands United Methodist Church Bosnian Mission Trip scheduled for May 2014. Limited to only 1000 tickets sold. You do not have to be present to win. All items shipped directly to you. Tickets can be purchased at the Methodist Church Office at 315 Main Street.

### Through Nov. 27

• Macon County Boys Basketball Registration Time (ages 6-14) Sign your son up for Macon County Community Basketball. building memories, connecting with friends, and, running up and down a court learning fun skills and how to be a part of a team. Register online 24/7 by visiting [www.MaconCountyBoysBasketBall.com](http://www.MaconCountyBoysBasketBall.com) or register in person at the Highlands Recreation Park. Deadline is November 27. For more information, call Michelle Munger at (828) 342-3551 or the Highlands Recreation Park at (828) 526-3556.

### Beginning Friday, Nov. 22 through Sun., Dec. 22

• The movie Hunger Games: Catching Fire at The Highlands Playhouse. Showings are Thurs.-Sun., 4 and 7 p.m. Tickets are \$8. Call 828-526-2695 for advance tickets.

### Mon/Thurs.

• Hatha Yoga. 10:45a at the Episcopal Church. 828-482-2128. RYT, YA

### Wed.

• Hatha Daybreak Yoga. 7:45a. Coleman Hall in the First Presbyterian Church. 828-482-2128. RYT, YA.

### Thurs., Nov. 21

• Last Showing of Last Vegas at The Highlands Playhouse. Showtimes are 4 and 7 p.m. Tickets are \$8. Call 828-526-2695 for advanced tickets.

• Franklin community blood drive at First Baptist Church. 12:30 to 5p. Go to [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org) to schedule an appt.

### Fri., & Sat., Nov. 22-23

• A Quilts of Valor Block Party at the Cut n Patch Quilt Shop. Come help make quilt blocks for Quilts of Valor. Fabric and pattern provided. Drop in to make a block or spend the day a make a lot of blocks! Go is 100 blocks in two days. These blocks will make 5 quilts to be given to wara veterans.

### Fri., Nov. 22

• Rock bands "Soul to Keep" and "React" at the Nichols Center, behind Blue Ridge Music, Clayton, Georgia at 7p.m. Admission \$10. Call 706/782-9852 for more information.

### Sat., Nov 23

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take 4.5 mile moderate hike to Round Mt. with lots of ups and downs on a Forest Service road and views from the top. Meet at Cashiers Rec Center at 10 am, drive 12 miles round trip. Call leaders Mike and Susan Kettles, 743-1079, for reservations. Visitors welcome, no pets please.

### Mon., Nov. 25

• The monthly meeting of Jackson County GOP and last formal meeting in 2013 is on Monday at 6pm to eat; 6:30 pm to meet at Ryan's in Sylva, Special guests and speakers are District Judge Kristina Earwood and District Judge Roy Wijewickrama. For Jackson County GOP information call Ralph Slaughter @ 828 743-6491, email: [jacksonctygop@yahoo.com](mailto:jacksonctygop@yahoo.com) or go to the website: [jacksoncountygop.com](http://jacksoncountygop.com) for news items, email and phone numbers for elected officials and announcements of coming events.

### Tues., Nov. 26

• Community Thanksgiving Dinner at the Highlands Civic Center at 6 p.m. Free. Donations accepted.

### Wed., Nov. 27

• The Eastern Star will be selling its pumpkin rolls and pecans in front of Bryson's Food Store. Pumpkin Rolls are \$15. Pre-order both at 526-9582 or 342-4378.

• Everyone is also invited on the day before, Wednesday to Christ Anglican Church for the fifth annual Cashiers' Community Thanksgiving Worship Service. In Greek, the word for "thanksgiv-

ing" is "eucharist." We often call it the Lord's Supper or Holy Communion. By whatever name you may call it, we will celebrate God's goodness with singing, readings from the Bible, and Eucharist. Please come and join the people of Christ Anglican at 6 pm for this service of celebration and Thanksgiving.

• Raffle tickets on sale now through Nov. 27th to support the shelter pets at the Cashiers-Highlands Humane Society. Tickets available at the CHHS shelter (2 miles east of the Cashiers Crossroads on Highway 64), and Chivaree Southern Art & Design (on Highway 107 N. next to Zoller Hardware). First prize: an engraved painting with collage on Masonite with antique printed materials by renowned artist Aaron Hequembourg. Estimated retail value: \$1,500. Second prize: \$100 store credit at Chivaree. You don't need to be present at the drawing to win, but it's going to be on Nov. 27th (Wednesday before Thanksgiving) -- wine & cheese reception with the artist at Chivaree, 4pm-6pm! Raffle tickets are \$5/each, 100% of ticket proceeds go to CHHS. You can buy them by phone, too: 828-743-6195, 10am-5pm Mon-Sat.

### Thurs., Nov. 28

• "Upcoming Thanksgiving Feast!" The Gathering Table, a local Thursday hot-meal and fellowship ministry, in combination with their host, Christ Anglican Church, is planning a "Feast of Food Fit for Thanksgiving" on Thanksgiving Day. Everyone is invited to the Gathering Table at Christ Anglican Church from noon until 3 pm to enjoy a free, home-cooked Thanksgiving dinner. Christ Anglican's facilities are located ¼ mile east of the Cashiers' crossroads, at 464 U. S. Hwy. 64E. Freewill offerings will be accepted, To-Go dinners will be available, and a free, winter weather clothing distribution will be offered on a first come, first served basis.

### Friday, Nov. 29

• Josh Goforth will be performing with David Holt at the

# HIGHLANDS AREA UPCOMING EVENTS •

Highlands PAC on Friday at 8pm. Tickets are \$25 and available online: [www.highlandspac.org](http://www.highlandspac.org) or by calling 828.526.9047.

- Santa in Town Square to hear Christmas wishes.

## **Fri. & Sat., Nov. 29-30**

- At The Bascom, from 10a to 5p, Artists Marketplace at the Dave Drake Studio. Features a wide variety of homemade original artworks by many of the region's finest artisans, priced to fit any budget. Call 526-4949.

## **Sat., Nov. 30**

- Town of Highlands Christmas Tree Lighting festivities beginning at 6 p.m. on Main Street at the Highlands United Methodist Church. Carols and visit from Santa.

- Santa in Town Square to hear Christmas wishes.

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a 7-mile moderate-to-strenuous hike to Albert Mt. Via Yellow Patch, returning on the Appalachian Trail to Betty Creek Gap. Meet at Westgate Plaza in Franklin at 9:30 am, drive 44 miles round trip. Call leader Gail Lehman, 524-5298, for reservations. Visitors welcome, no pets please.

## **Tues., Dec. 3**

- How to sign up for the Affordable Care Act presented by Cynthia Solesbbe with Mountain Projects, at 2 p.m. at the Hudson Library. For more information call 828-400-4177.

## **Thurs., Dec. 5**

- Taize at Episcopal Church of the Incarnation at 5:30p.

## **Saturdays, Dec. 6 & 13**

- The Franklin Chamber of Commerce will host Franklin's 1st Annual Gingerbread House Competition. The competition will be an added feature of Franklin's Winter Wonderland Celebration December 6 and 13 from 5pm until 9 pm. The gingerbread creations will be located in the Board Room at Franklin's Town Hall (lower level) on Main Street. Entry forms and rules for the competition can be picked up at the Chamber and are available on the Chamber's website at [www.VisitFranklinNC.com](http://www.VisitFranklinNC.com).

Deadline for registration is Monday, November 25 and can be mailed or delivered to the Chamber. For additional information call the Chamber at 828-524-3161.

## **Sat., Dec. 7**

- Town of Highlands Christmas Parade at 11 a.m.

- Santa in Town Square to hear Christmas wishes.

- Highlands Nature Center will open for a special afternoon of winter natural history fun and learning. This free event will have activities for all ages from 1-3:30pm followed by a lecture for mature audiences at 4 pm by James Moore on Darwin's 'Sacred Cause.'

## **Tues., Dec. 10**

- At the upcoming December 10, Ladies Night Out Program, the topic will be Stress and Depression. Guest speaker will be Cindy Miles, Certified Laughter Yoga Teacher. Stress causes many illnesses in today's world. This program will be held two times this date in the cafeteria at AMC. One will be at 4p.m. and one will be at 6:30 p.m., so you can choose which one you want to attend. The same presentation will be given at both meetings. All women are invited to attend one of these meetings and are asked to encourage all the women in their life, who are over the age of 13 years, to attend with them. For more about Ladies Night Out, please contact Dawn Wilde Burgess at (828)349-2426.

## **Sat., Dec. 14**

- Santa in Town Square from 11a to 3p.

## **Sat., Dec. 21**

- Santa in Town Square to hear Christmas wishes from 11a to 3p.

## **Monday, Dec. 23**

- Red Cross Blood Drive at Lowe's, 0717 Franklin Blood Drive (Georgia Highway; Franklin, NC, 11 am – 3:30 pm. Please call Stacy Lawson (828) 349-4654 for further information or to schedule an appointment.

## **Saturday, Dec. 28**

- Red Cross Blood Drive at the Otto Community Blood Drive at the Otto Community Center - Meeting Room (Highway 441

South; Otto, NC) 8 am – 12:30 pm. Please call Phyllis Castle at (828) 524-3473 for further information or to schedule an appointment.

## **Sat., Dec. 30**

- Small business Saturday. Remember to Shop Local!

## **Free Holiday-related Support Group forming**

Bonnie Gramlich, Licensed Professional Counselor at The Counseling and Psychotherapy Center of Highlands is offering a free support group for those feeling lonely or troubled at this time of year. The group will meet on Tuesdays at 6p. for one hour beginning on Nov. 26 through Jan. 7. The group will meet at the Peggy Crosby Center. This free group is open to all but registration is required, Call Bonnie at 828-342-0546.

## **Playhouse showing**

### **'Hunger Games: Catching Fire'**

**Fri. Nov. 22 thru Sun.**

**Nov. 24**

**(Thurs., Nov. 21 is the last showing of Last Vegas)**



**Fri.-Sun, Nov. 22-24**

At Highlands Playhouse: Hunger Games starring Jennifer Lawrence, Josh Hutcherson, Liam Hemsworth. Showtimes are 4 & 7pm. Thursdays through Sundays. For tickets in advance call 828-526-2695. Hunger Games will show each week Thurs.-Sun through Dec. 22.

## **Eastern Star Pumpkin Roll and nut fundraiser coming up**

### **Pumpkin Rolls**

Highlands Chapter #284 Order of the Eastern Star is once again selling pumpkin rolls. We will be selling pumpkin rolls in front of Bryson's Food Store on Wednesday, November 27. Pre-orders may be made by contacting Paula Gordon, Secretary, at 526-9582 or 342-4378 and leaving a message with your name and phone number. Pre-orders are requested as this will be the ONLY time in 2013 that you will be able to purchase a pumpkin roll, but -- you don't have to pre-order to be able to get one. Don't miss out. Pumpkin rolls are \$15 each.

### **Pecans**

Eastern Star will also be selling pecan pieces and pecan halves from the 2013 crop. The pecans are in 16 oz bags and will be on sale. Please call Paula Gordon, Secretary, at 526-9582 or 342-4378 and leave a message with your name and phone number.

## **Welcome Winter with the Highlands Nature Center**

On December 7 the Highlands Nature Center will open for a special afternoon of winter natural history fun and learning. This free event will have activities for all ages from 1-3:30pm followed by a lecture for mature audiences at 4 pm by James Moore on Darwin's 'Sacred Cause.'

Join us from 1 pm until 3:30 pm to "welcome winter." The afternoon will be full of a variety of activities from which to choose. Test your knowledge of winter botany with a scavenger hunt in the Highlands Botanical Garden and receive a prize. Sip on hot cider while you create your own holiday ornaments using natural materials, or vote on your favorite photograph by our middle school Backyard Naturalists. Books and merchandise, which make great gifts, will also be on sale. From 1:30-2:00pm Nature Center Director Patrick Brannon will do a program on animal winter survival strategies. From 2:30-3:15pm Highlands Biological Station Executive Director Jim Costa will do a program on insects in winter. Both programs are suitable for all ages.

At 4 pm James Moore will give a lecture on Darwin's 'Sa-

cred Cause.' Why did Charles Darwin, a rich and impeccably upright gentleman, go out of his way to develop privately a subversive image of human evolution in 1837-39? Why did he pursue the subject with tenacity for three decades before publishing 'The Descent of Man in 1871? A radical reassessment of the basis of Darwin's achievement provides the answer. James Moore is co-author with Adrian Desmond of the best-selling biography Darwin (1991) and Darwin Sacred Cause: Race, Slavery and the Quest for Human Origins (2009), hailed by the London Review of Books as the 2009 Darwin anniversary year's "most substantial historical contribution." He is currently researching Darwin's colleague, Alfred Russel Wallace.

The public is invited to participate in this free event. The activities from 1-3:30pm will be held at the Highlands Nature Center, 930 Horse Cove Road in Highlands. James Moore's lecture at 4:00pm will be held in the Coker Laboratory of the Highlands Biological Station at 265 North Sixth Street in Highlands, and is tailored for a mature audience.

# • INVESTING AT 4,118 FT. •

## Waking Up

This is the season of Thanksgiving, and while I am very thankful to wake up PERIOD, waking up in Highlands, NC multiplies that feeling. The flora and fauna in these mountains never ceases to amaze, as well as the people that inhabit it, whether they come from generations of belonging, or have just discovered the area. We have much to learn from all things living.

Washington Irving published a short fairy tale in the early 1800s titled Rip Van Winkle. Now, we've all

probably been guilty of 'laying down on the job' from time to time, but Mr. Van Winkle took it to the extreme and slept for twenty years! What have we learned from Mr. Van Winkle? You don't have to literally sleep to miss out on what's going on in the world.

As far as real estate in our area, let's just say the past few years we've been in a Van Winkle state of mind, and if that means sleep, then we'll call the sensationalist media (right and left sides of the coin) as the bad dreams that cause fitful sleep, and disrupt normal sleep patterns. Our sleep pat-

terns tend to run in cycles, but that's not the only thing that runs in cycles. Our Nation's economy and the real estate market runs in cycles as well.

The Highlands real estate market is waking up. If there's one thing most people notice when they stay in Highlands long enough is that their sleep is much more sound, and some say they sleep longer. We sleep better and longer because we are at rest here in the mountains. It's very similar to the real estate market; our area 'wakes up' a little later. 'Off the mountain', and especially in larger real estate mar-

kets such as parts of Florida, and Texas, real estate Brokers have witnessed an abundance of investment buyers.

In Highlands, we have seen prospects all season looking, and looking, and looking. Some are buying, and while those buyers are getting some really good bargains, they also seem to understand you can't buy something for nothing. Many of the lookers haven't figured that part out yet, but I hope they wake up soon or they will find that while they were in their Van Winkle syndrome, the property values and prices have crept up on them. One of the most prevalent statements a Highlands real estate broker hears is "I could just kick myself, I should



have bought a home here 5,10,15,20 (fill in the blank) years ago."

So, what have we learned from Rip Van Winkle? I believe Mr. Irving had it right naming his protagonist R-I- P as in REST IN PEACE. Let's let Mr. Van Winkle sleep as long as he wants, but as for you and me? It's time to WAKE UP and live in the present. There are sellers in Highlands that are ready to move on, and for you buyers out there, that really should be a wake up call.

**Jeannie Chambers.**

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### Town Place Residences

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6 REMAINING



9 Custom Built Townhomes - Short Walk to Town - Old Edwards Club Membership

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Casual mountain elegance featuring rustic textures, native stone and reclaimed timbers.

### FEATURES

- ◆ Old Edwards Club Membership Included
- ◆ 3 BR /3.5 Bath or 4 BR /4.5 Bath (With Optional Lower Level)
- ◆ One Car Garage with Every Home
- ◆ 10' Ceilings Main & Lower, 9' Ceilings Upper
- ◆ Master on Main Floor
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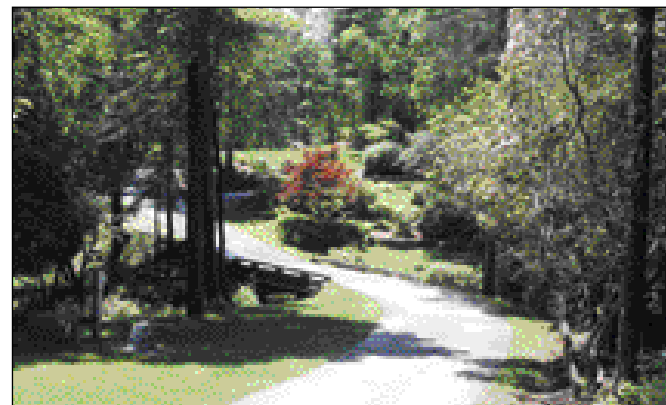


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# • BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NEWS •

## Highlands Historical Society welcomes new members; bids farewell to others

The Highlands Historical Society had its final meeting of 2013 at the Historical Society on Monday night Nov. 11th. The Board of Directors welcomed new members who are seated: Glenda Bell, Mike Thompson, Rya McArthur, and Linda David. Other board members are standing. They are: Brian McClellan, outgoing board member Sandie Trevathan, President Ann Sullivan, Judy Taylor, Ran Shaffner (ex-officio), Dennis Leftwich, Linda Clark, Carolyn Tanner, Bill Edwards and Kitty Moore

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## Welch announces candidacy for office of District Attorney 30th district

At the November 16th Macon County Republican General Meeting, Assistant District Attorney Ashley Welch announced her candidacy for the Office of District Attorney, 30th Prosecutorial District, in the 2014 election. The 30th District consists of the following counties: Macon, Swain, Clay, Cherokee, Graham, Haywood and Jackson.

Welch has been a North Carolina Assistant District Attorney for over a decade and has been in the 30th District since May of 2005. She has a strong record of successful prosecutions and is currently assigned to prosecute major felony cases in the seven counties of the District.

Welch is endorsed by Macon County Sheriff Robert L. Holland, Swain County Sheriff Cur-



tis Cochran, and numerous other Law Enforcement Officers.

Welch is a Western North

Carolina native and has resided in Macon County since 2005. She is married to Western North Carolina native Brian Welch. She is a graduate of William and Mary School of Law, the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill and East Henderson High School.

Welch completed the National District Attorneys Association Career Prosecutor Course and the North Carolina Conference of District Attorneys Capital Prosecutors School.

Welch received a Drug Enforcement Administration Certificate of Appreciation For Outstanding Contributions in the Field of Drug Law Enforcement in 2011 and a North Carolina State Bureau of Investigation Letter of Appreciation in 2012.

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## Jesus A Socialist?



Father Jim Murphy  
Christ Anglican Church  
Cashiers

Do you remember the “WWJD” bracelets? The acronym was short for “What Would Jesus Do?” Those who adorned themselves with one of the bracelets were implicitly reminding themselves and all who took notice, to ask themselves that question before making any decision.

I wore one of those wrist bands and it was the cause of much soul-searching thought on my part and of not a little discussion with others. It is a worthwhile question for anyone to ask especially if they desire to act in concert with the Lord and Architect of the universe.

In light of the decidedly socialistic trajectory being imposed on our nation, I was recently asked a WWJD? type of question. “Do you think,” the inquirer wanted to know, “whether or not Jesus had a socialistic trajectory (tendency) or a mindset that was guided by a socialistic ideology?” After giving the idea some prayerful thought and asking myself, “WWJD?” I was persuaded that Jesus would find the idea of imposed socialism repugnant.

If we correctly understand “socialism” to be a political and economic system characterized by increasing, centralized, collective ownership and further, by growing government control or influence in the day to day lives of its citizenry, then the Lord was opposed to it.

You see, Jesus was all about equality and he was decidedly against the imposition of anything. “Come unto me, ALL who are weary..., and I will give you rest.”(Matthew 11:28, NIV, emphasis added) Herein we can learn that the Lord of all creation was invitational rather than impositional and that his invitation was made to all comers. “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son that WHOEVER believes in him... shall have eternal life.”(John 3:16, NIV, emphasis added) Again, the Savior of the world is a confirmed practitioner of equality and an advocate for free choice. He didn’t want followers who had to believe in and follow him. He wanted those who desired and decided to believe and willingly follow of their own free will.

The fact of the matter is that our almighty Father had many thousands of years of experience with imposed regulations given to mankind. He knew that the two didn’t work well together, that commandments and

## Proverbs 3:5

## PLACES TO WORSHIP • John 3:16

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Sunday night services every 2nd & 4th Sunday at 7  
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Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11

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Catered dinner - Wed. 6pm

**CHAPEL OF SKY VALLEY**  
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Sundays: 10 a.m. – Worship  
Holy Communion 1st Sunday of the month  
Wednesdays: 9 a.m. Healing and Prayer w/Holy Communion

**CHRIST ANGLICAN CHURCH**  
Rector: Jim Murphy, 252-671-4011  
464 US Hwy 64 east, Cashiers  
Sun.: Chirstian Education, 9 a.m.(Bucks in Cashiers) Family  
Worship with music and Communion, 10:30 a.m.  
Mon.: Bible Study & Supper at homes - 6 p.m.  
Wed.: Men’s Bible Study -8:30 a.m., First Baptist Church

**CHRIST CHURCH OF THE VALLEY, CASHIERS**  
Pastor Steve Kerhoulas  
Sun.10:30am, S.S 9:30am. Wed. 6pm supper and teaching.  
Tue. Guys study 8am, Gals 10am.

**CLEAR CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH**  
Pastor Jim Kinard  
Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 11  
Wednesdays -- 7 p.m.

**COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH**  
www.cbchighlands.com • 526-4685  
3645 Cashiers Rd, Highlands, NC  
Senior Pastor Gary Hewins  
Sun.: 9:30am: Sunday School  
10:30am: Middle & High School; 10:45am: Children’s  
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 am, Education and  
choir rehearsal, 9 am, Holy Eucharist Rite II, (sanctuary),10:30  
Thursdays: Holy Eucharist, (chapel), 10 am

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH**  
Dr. Mark Ford, Pastor • 526-4153  
Sun.: Worship 10:45 a.m.; School – 9:30 a.m.  
Wed.: Men’s Bible Study 8:30 a.m., Prayer Meeting – 6:15  
p.m., Choir – 5 p.m.

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
Dr. Lee Bowman, Pastor • 526-3175  
Sun.: Worship – 11 a.m.; School – 9:30  
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Wednesdays – Choir – 7

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Pastor Dan Robinson  
670 N. 4th Street (next to the Highlands Civic Center)  
Sunday: Morning Worship 10:45 a., Evening Worship, 6:30 p  
Wednesday: Prayer Service, 6:30 p.

**HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
Pastor Paul Christy 526-3376  
Sun: School 9:45a.; Worship 9:09 & 10:50.; Youth 5:30 p.  
Wed: Supper; 6; 7:15 – children, youth, & adults studies; 6:15 –  
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Thurs:12:30 – Women’s Bible Study (nursery)

**HOLY FAMILY LUTHERAN CHURCH – ELCA**  
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2152 Dillard Road – 526-9741  
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Worship/Communion – 10:30

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Pastor Roy Lowe, (828) 526-8425  
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Choir – 6 p.m.  
Wed: Bible Study and Youth Mtg. – 7 p.m.

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**MOUNTAIN BIBLE CHURCH**  
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Weds: Bible Study 6:30 p.m.; Youth Group 6 p.m.

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**SCALY MOUNTAIN BAPTIST CHURCH**  
Rev. Dwight Loggins  
Sundays: School –10 a.m.; Worship –11 a.m. & 7  
Wednesdays: Prayer Mtg. – 7 p.m.

**SCALY MOUNTAIN CHURCH OF GOD**  
290 Buck Knob Road; Pastor Alfred Sizemore • 526-3212  
Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship – 10:45 a.m.; Worship – 6  
p.m.  
Wed: Adult Bible Study & Youth – 7 p.m.

**SHORTOFF BAPTIST CHURCH**  
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Religious Education - 11 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.  
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**WHITESIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
Rev. Sam Forrester/Cashiers  
Sunday School – 10 am, Worship Service – 11 am



# • POLICE & FIRE REPORTS •

**Highlands PD log entries from Sept. 17. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor, or public officials have been used.**

**Oct. 13**

• At 9:30 a.m., officers responded to call of criminal damage to property (vandalism) at a residence on Smallwood Ave., where someone keyed the right side of a vehicle.

**Oct. 19**

• At 1:09 p.m., officers responded to a one-vehicle accident on NC 106.

**Oct. 26**

• At 8:35 p.m., officers responded to a call of trespassing at the Lost Hiker when asked to leave the premises.

**Nov. 4**

• At 10 p.m., officers responded to a one-vehicle accident on US 64 east.

**Nov. 9**

• At 12:34 p.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident on US 64 between 3rd and 4th streets.

**Nov. 5**

• At 9:25 p.m., Ezequiel Lopez, 40, of Highlands, was arrested for DWI and driving without a license and for possessing drug paraphernalia when stopped on Oak Street. He was issued a \$1,000 unsecured bond. His trial date

is Dec. 11.

**Nov. 11**

• At 9 p.m., Carolyn M. Conner, 34, of Dillard, GA, was arrested for DWI when stopped on N. 5th Street. She was issued a \$1,000 unsecured bond. Her trial date is Dec. 11.

**The Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. log entries from Nov. 12.**

**Nov. 12**

• At 2:32 p.m., the dept. provided mutual aid to Cashiers/Glenville FD on a brush fire. The call was cancelled en route.

**Nov. 13**

• At 9:43 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm on the hospital campus. A sprinkler head had burst.

• At 10:16 a.m., the dept. responded to a chimney fire with minor smoke damage at a residence on Crowe Drive.

**Nov. 14**

• At 6:08 p.m., the dept. responded to a call about the smell of propane at a residence on Holt Circle. The tank was empty.

**Nov. 15**

• At 3:46 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm caused by a busted water valve at a residence on Country Club Drive.

• At 8:49 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to assist EMS with a medical call at Highlands School. EMS transported.

• At 9:56 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on County Club Drive. It was a test alarm.

## ...SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING continued from page 16

laws couldn't succeed where human beings were concerned, if they were simply imposed from above (pun intended). Maybe God was from Tennessee because he knew that "volunteerism" was the only way to go.

There are no circumstances in history or in the Bible where someone could build a case for God as suffering from a decidedly socialistic mindset. He was always clear. Yes, by all means, he had a heart for the poor, the children, and the aliens. He wanted his people to look out for the welfare of the marginalized, but he wanted the individual to DESIRE to do so from within their changed hearts. Therein they would be bearing the image of God, living according to his priorities, his heart.

And that's where God looks, at the heart. Do we have it in our heart to help thus and such? Has our heart been changed to be like our Savior's, an out-reaching heart of love, yearning of its own accord to touch the lives of the less fortunate? King David was known as a "man after God's own heart" because he was changed (repentant) after

his acknowledgement of a sinful past. David changed and followed the Lord of love thereupon, willingly.

Jesus, the God who is love, led the way by example, not coercion. "Greater love has no one than this," Jesus said, "that he lay down his life for his friends." (John 15:13, NIV) He laid down his life on the cross for any who would believe. As he had taught his disciples, "...and I lay down my life for the sheep... No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again." (John 10:13, 18, NIV) He did everything willingly, from a heart of love. Nothing was imposed upon Christ and he would have no part of imposing something on someone else. He was looking for an individual, personal decision wherein the disciple chose to lay down his own life.

Was Jesus a socialist? He never was or will be. The household (economy) of God doesn't work that way. His way is love, through a changed heart, that wills to sacrifice one life for the benefit of others, thereby bearing the image of God in our lives. Next time when you face a perplexing question, ask yourself, WWJD? and go from there.

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# • HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS HOSPITAL NEWS •

## Hospital Re-accredited For Digital Mammography Imaging

Digital Mammography imaging at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital has been awarded full, three year re-accreditation by the American College of Radiology (ACR), the designated accrediting organization for medical imaging by The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services

(CMS).

The ACR headquartered in Reston, Va., awards accreditation to facilities for the achievement of high practice standards after a peer-review evaluation of the practice.

“Since installing the new Digital Mammography machine our

radiology department has maintained state-of-the art services. We are delighted to have received such great survey results,” said Radiologist Dr. Jerry Mitchell.

State-of-the-art digital mammography screenings require the Hospital’s radiology department to meet certain educational and training standards to earn ACR’s accreditation. Qualifications of personnel, policies and procedures, equipment specifications, and patient safety measures were included in the review to assure high quality standards in the new digital exams.

“During the evaluation process, our department has to submit an extensive application,

including credentials of our Radiologist, Technologists and Physicists”, said Radiology Director Laura Ammons. “We also submit samples of both dense and fatty breast tissue exams for review by the ACR’s reviewing radiologists. The reviewing radiologist evaluates the images for positioning, compression & exposure level to name a few,” she added

ACR’s evaluation is conducted by physicians and medical physicists who are experts in the field. They assess the qualifications of the personnel and the adequacy of the facility equipment. The surveyors report their findings to the ACR Committee on Accreditation, which subse-

quently provides the practice with a comprehensive report.

The ACR is a national organization serving more the 32,000 diagnostic and interventional radiologist, radiation oncologist, and nuclear medicine and medical physicists with programs focusing on the practice of medical imaging and radiation oncology and the delivery of comprehensive healthcare services.

“The accreditation demonstrates our commitment to quality patient care,” said Craig James, President and CEO. “We are proud of our staff for taking the necessary steps to achieve this certification.”

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## H-C Hospital and Blue Ridge Free Dental Clinic receive \$184,000 grant from The Duke Endowment

Highlands-Cashiers Hospital has received a \$184,046 grant from The Duke Endowment to expand dental services in Western North Carolina. The funds, to be paid in two installments, \$90,976 in 2013 and \$93,070 in 2014, will be directed for use by the Blue Ridge Free Dental Clinic to benefit the three county area of Macon, Jackson and Transylvania Counties.

More specifically, “These funds will be used to fund the costs of our expanded dental assistant staff and clinical supplies over the next two years, while we develop additional sources of funding to assure our long term growth and sustainability,” said Larry Ray, Vice President and Treasurer of the Dental Clinic Board.



Pictured from left: Craig James Hospital President and CEO, Larry Ray BRFDC Vice President and Treasurer, Duncan Whele BRFDC Board Member, Robin Taylor Hospital Foundation Executive Director, Lynne Keating BDFDC Past President, and Ron Freeman BRFDC Vice President and Secretary.

“The idea to collaborate on this project was initiated by Lynne Keating last summer. She was the brains behind this. She came to us with the initial plan and we moved forward with the application. The Hospital is delighted to be the qualifying agency to administer this grant because we believe the Blue Ridge Dental Clinic is a critically needed program for the health of our mountain communities,” said Robin Taylor, Executive Director of The Highlands-Cashiers Hospital Foundation.

In 2012, the dental clinic made a \$600,000 capital investment to expand facilities and

equipment to meet the growing needs for dental care by people who cannot afford services. With this recent investment, its 17 volunteer dentists, and the Duke grant to fund support services, the free dental clinic is poised to meet the increased forecasted needs.

“This collaborative dental health project also advances the Hospital’s mission to promote health and well being for our surrounding Cashiers and Highlands area. We could not be more pleased with the news of this

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# • HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS HOSPITAL NEWS •

## Eckerd Living Center Celebrates Vets

Eckerd Living Center's Veterans traveled to Franklin on Monday, November 11th, to participate in the town's Veteran's Day Parade. The Veterans received a warm welcome from the cheering crowd with heartfelt salutes, enjoyed a wonderful lunch hosted by VFW Post 7339, and later toured Franklin's Veterans Memorial. Our most sincere thanks to Michael Crane - (ARMY), William Creswell - (ARMY), William "Bill" Leonard - (NAVY), Herbert Reithemeyer - (ARMY), Carl Rogers - (ARMY), Miles Thompson - (ARMY), Richard Wertzler - (AIR FORCE) for their service to our country.

## • BIZ/ORG NEWS •



## Rotary Bingo benefits Cub Scouts

On Thursday, November 14, the Rotary Club of Highlands partnered with the Highlands Cub Scouts to sponsor Cub Scout Bingo. All proceeds went to support the activities of our local young scouts. Doris Long won multiple games and donated all of her winnings back to the scouts. She is shown with grateful cub scouts.



## ...CLINIC continued from page 18

generous grant from The Duke Endowment. The Hospital is proud to support the Blue Ridge Free Dental Clinic's exceptional programs that reach all ages from children to seniors throughout our service area," said Craig James, Hospital President and CEO.

The Duke Endowment, located in Charlotte, N.C., seeks to fulfill the legacy of James B. Duke by improving lives and communities in the Carolinas through higher education, health care, rural churches and children's services. Since its inception, the Endowment has distributed more than \$3 billion in grants.



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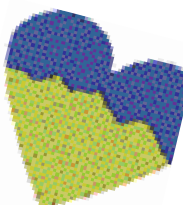


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**...SENATE SEAT continued  
from page 1**



### **WNC citizens produce film on rights; privileges**

Forty Macon, Swain, Jackson and Haywood County citizens of mixed races and backgrounds recently to watch a documentary about the connection between "personhood" law, human rights and "white privilege." Included were landmark court decisions comprising historical timelines which have advanced, but also moved backwards the civil rights of human persons. This information, they concluded, should be included in public school curriculum.

resulted in the high court's decision that corporate political campaign contributions cannot be regulated by local, state or federal government.

Jim Davis's last two election campaigns gained national attention for how corporate political campaign contributions can distort the democratic process, as he received and spent hundreds of thousands of dollars from multi-millionaire Art Pope front groups (Real Jobs, NC and Civitas Action) and other corporate special interests (The New Yorker, "State for Sale" Oct. 10, 2011).

Robinson's name will appear on the Democratic Party Primary ballot next May. To date there are no other Democratic candidates who have announced they are contending for the seat.

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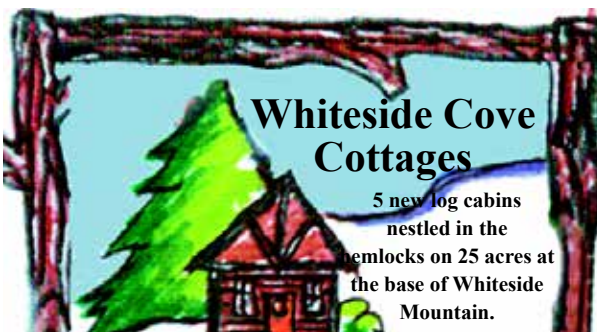
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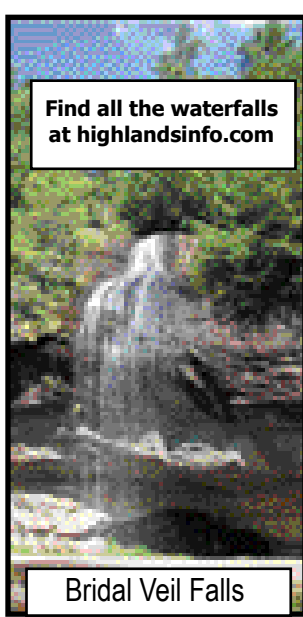


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