

Highlands Newspaper

FREE Every Thursday

Volume 12, Number 47

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

Wed., Nov. 25, 2015

Commissioners vote 4-1 not to plow Monkey Hill

At the Thursday, Nov. 19 Town Board meeting, Mayor Pat Taylor brought up what was a very contentious subject last year – the Highlands tradition of sledding on Monkey Hill – aka the Hickory Street hill.

“Last year, during a heavy snow, our town crews did plow the street and the telephones blew up quickly that morning. Some people had some very choice words to convey to the Town Manager and I got many calls,” said the Mayor.

“As we enter the winter season, I am looking for the Town Board to give the Town Manager guidance concerning what we should do about this issue.”

He cited articles supplied by Highlands Police Chief Bill Har-

rell that say municipalities and organizations throughout the U.S. are beginning to curtail the idea of inviting folks to sled on public and town properties because there are liability issues and lawsuits have

•See MONKEY page 9

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Tree Lighting and visits with Santa kick off the holiday season

The Annual Tree Lighting will be held November 28th at 6:30pm on Main Street in front of the Highlands United Methodist Church. Main Street will close at 6 p.m. and re-open at 8:30 p.m. The Chamber will be serving hot chocolate and cookies.

The Annual Sweatshirt will be on sale for \$20 and the winners of the sweatshirt, posters, and window decorating contest will be an-

nounced.

Be sure to visit Santa who will be on the lawn of the First Baptist Church after the Tree Lighting Ceremony. Santa will be on the Lawn of First Baptist Church Friday, November 27 11 a.m.-3 p.m., Saturday November 28 after Tree Lighting, then every Saturday until Christmas Eve from 11 a.m.-3 p.m.

Four-county region wins \$50,000 in ABC competition

Macon, Graham, Swain & Clay joined forces in America's Best Communities (ABC) competition's \$10 million initiative to stimulate economic revitalization in small towns and cities across the country

Macon County, along with Graham, Swain, and Clay counties want to be considered the

best community in America by the America's Best Communities (ABC) competition. So, they ap-

plied together as a “regional” community.

The ABC competition is a \$10

million initiative to stimulate economic revitalization in small towns

•See COMPETION page 6

If elected, Corbin would represent Macon, Graham, Cherokee, and Clay counties. While

•See CORBIN page 11

Corbin to run for open seat in NC House of Rep

After 16 years serving in the North Carolina House of Representatives, Representative Roger West announced Monday morning in Murphy that he will not be putting his name on the ballot when filing begins in December. West served eight two-year terms in the House and after spending his last term weighing his option, has decided to step aside, opening the seat for a new face.

That face might be Macon County Commission Chair Kevin Corbin. Hours after West announced he wouldn't be returning for a ninth term, Corbin held a press conference at the boardroom of the Macon County courthouse to declare his candidacy for the House of representatives for the 120th district.

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• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• MAYOR ON DUTY •

Remember our blessings

This week is a wonderful time for reflection and gratitude for the blessings God has given us.

I know all of us feel blessed to be in Highlands this coming holiday season with an opportunity to spend precious time with our family and friends.

So here is a concern about this special day on Thursday. Now don't get me wrong, I am for business and free enterprise, but I also see a creeping commercialization of



Mayor Pat Taylor

Thanksgiving, especially in our large metropolitan areas. Can't our nation have at least one holiday where we aren't constantly hawking goods and products? It is outrageous that some retailers will be open at some point on Thursday, thereby disrupting their employees' time to celebrate with their families. I hope Highlanders continue to keep Thanksgiving as a special time free of commercial

• See MAYOR page 19

• FORUM •

Being Thankful

By Lee Lyons

I recently went to New York City and to the 9/11 Memorial 15 years after the fact. Most people think of 2001 as the year of the terrorist attack but that is not my first thought. One month before 9/11, my son died in a car crash and in some ways I was in an antidepressant fog when the towers got hit. I remember thinking that the world was going to end and glad Hayden wouldn't have to see it or fight and die in a horrible war.

Once on the site, I feel selfish for wallowing in my own self-pity when so many others had it so much worse than me. It does give pause for reflection and meditation but it also resembles a bit of a tourist trap with the usual gift shop at the end of the museum and one of their new buildings is shaped strangely like the dome in Jerusalem. I suppose there is a demand for t-shirts, post cards, and key chains with the twin towers. It felt like several Holocaust Museums I have visited in Germany or Washington where you can see how awful it was but back out in the light of day, believe it will never happen again. Then, I got home and heard the news about the shootings in Paris. Frankly, it scares me to death but it also makes me thankful to live in a place too easy, to ignore the sufferings of the world.

Today, I walked along the beautiful streets in Highlands with Christmas lights in the windows, no traffic and exhaust fumes, no one sleeping on the streets, no stinking trash piled high on every corner. I walked to the new covered swimming pool and then over to the soon-to-be ice skating rink and then into the grocery store where I ran in to two friends and ate lunch. I thought how lucky I am to live in this town so far removed from places like New York and Paris and extreme Muslim terrorists. There, I am not afraid to say it especially in Highlands where I don't know any Muslims.

As I watched the ice rink's construction, I remembered how I used to ice skate in Highlands back in the 50s, 60s and early 70s. Mama and Daddy had a trunk full of ice skates and we often came up to Mirror Lake. I fell through the ice once. All of a sudden, I was looking at everyone's knees and my pants, the pants I had borrowed to go on a date, got ruined. I knew Daddy was going to kill me when I had to pay for them. Thankfully, I was in a shallow part of the lake and was standing on the bottom. It was hard to climb out of the hole with skates and wet pants and my friend yelling, "You have ruined my pants." I remembered hearing about a man, Jim Hines, a local Highlander who fell in the deep part and could not find the hole he fell through to get out. Ran Shaffner says in his book, Heart of the Blue Ridge, that Jim had to butt the ice so hard with his head to get out that he was never quite right after that. We won't have to worry about falling through the ice in town but maybe we should be proactive and program the orthopedic surgeon into our cell phones. I have my ice skates and they are one of the few things that still fit.

I thought about this winter. I'll be able to squirm out of a wet bathing suit and then wiggle into tights, drive to our nice park with big bathrooms and glide across the ice. I expect they will have music. After all, they have music at Rockefeller Center as the hoards skate one way in a circle. Surely, we won't be like that.

And with one little change, comes so many. Someone will have to rent the skates, sell the hot chocolate, make a t-shirt that says, Ice Skate Naked at 4,118 feet. The bars will have a fancy cocktail called a Zamboni and a salad called a Figure Eight made with eight healthy ingredients. I am sure some enterprising soul has already thought of the gift shop like at the end of the museum. Post cards, key

• See FORUM page 6

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Highlands Newspaper N.O.A.A. Weather Report For Highlands NC						
Wednesday	Wednesday Night	Thanksgiving Day	Thursday Night	Friday	Friday Night	Saturday
High: 47 °F	Low: 36 °F	High: 52 °F	Low: 44 °F	High: 55 °F	Low: 46 °F	High: 54 °F

• OBITUARY •

Merlin Mack Crowe



Merlin Mack Crowe, 75, of Highlands, NC passed away Saturday, November 21, 2015. A native of Macon County, he was the son of the late Alvin and Pearl Reed Crowe. He was a veteran of the United States Army and was a builder. He was a loving father and grandfather who loved to deer hunt, gardening and loved construction work. He was a member of First Baptist Church of Highlands where he served as a deacon.

Mr. Crowe is survived by his wife of 54 years, Agnes Gibson Crowe; one daughter, Tina Rogers and husband Michael of Highlands; two sons, Christopher Crowe and wife Melissa of Athens, GA and John Crowe and wife Marjorie of Highlands; one brother, Wayne Crowe and wife Geraldine of Highlands, seven grandchildren, Maggie Barden and hus-

band Chris, Courtney Rogers, Gypsy Boulden, Tyler Crowe, Travis Crowe, Ann Marie Crowe and Emily Crowe and a number of nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by three brothers, Joe Crowe, Junior Crowe and Morris Crowe and one sister, Doris Picklesimer.

A memorial service was held Tuesday, November 24, 2015 at 2 pm at First Baptist Church of Highlands with Rev. Mark Ford and Rev.

Paul Christy officiating.

In lieu of flowers memorial donations may be made to Highlands First Baptist Church Building Fund, PO Box 625, Highlands, NC 28741 or Catch- A- Dream, Attn: Dr. Marty Brunson, 2485 Ennis Rd., Starkville, MS 39759.

Bryant-Grant Funeral Home is serving the Crowe family. Online condolences are available at bryantgrantfuneralhome.com.

• MILESTONE •



Photo by Kim Lewicki

Mayor acknowledges student and coach

At the Thursday, Nov. 19 Town Board meeting, Mayor Pat Taylor acknowledged 1A Women's Cross Country State Champion Blakely Moore and her Coach Morris Williams.

Blakely recently beat three other runners to the finish line at Kenersville, NC. Interestingly, Williams is the coach of the runner hot on Blakely's heels. As shown in the

• See STUDENT page 18



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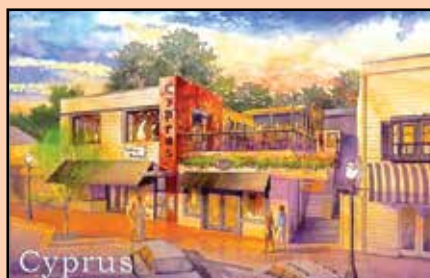
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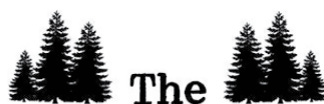
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...COMPETITION continued from page 1

and cities across the country. Macon, as well as Graham, Swain, and Clay counties who all applied together, was selected as one of 50 communities across the country.

The four-county community submission is the only multi-county submission in the competition and is one of the few communities located in the southeastern part of the country.

Since being named one of 50 communities moving on in the competition in June, local leaders in the region have been hard at work developing a Community Revitalization Plan to guide the region's economic future.

Last week, Ryan Sherby with the Southwestern Commission presented the

revitalization plan to the Macon County Economic Development commission, highlighting key areas of focus needed to move forward in the competition.

The comprehensive plan coordinated by the Southwestern Commission aims to fuel the momentum behind ongoing efforts to establish a recognized brand for the region, support and assist in the expansion of existing business and industry, create an environment which supports and fosters entrepreneurship, promote and expand regional tourism opportunities, reduce isolation, revitalize and strengthen communities, and expand community capacity. By putting this at the heart of the community's plan, local leaders believe they have constructed

a strategy that can drive the community forward.

"Whether we advance into the next round or not, we know we have a winning revitalization plan," said Ryan Sherby. "No matter what happens next, our journey to become America's best community will not end when the semifinalists are announced. This Community Revitalization Plan has set us on a bold course to a more vibrant, prosperous future, and I am excited for the opportunity to bring this vision into reality. The plan also identifies performance measures to ensure we are putting resources into activities that have a good return on those investments."

The four-county regional community

got \$50,000 for advancing to the quarter-finals and if the regional submission advances to the semifinals, the counties will receive \$100,000 to put towards the implementation of the Community Revitalization Plan.

In January 2016, Macon County will find out if it is one of the 15 communities to advance to the semifinals. Then, in April 2017, ABC will name its three competition winners — those with the most innovative proposals being effectively implemented.

The winning community will be awarded \$3 million, with \$2 million for second place and \$1 million for third.

Rick Davis, executive director of the

• See **COMPETITION** page 23

...FORUM continued from page 2

chains, t-shirts, earrings with ice skates, a Swarovski crystal charm. There will be toy Zamboni's for boys and ice skating dolls for girls. And of course, there will be a line of clothes, a pink princess outfit to match the doll. I expect lots of children in Highlands will get a starter kit that starts out around \$150 and includes a bag, skates, gloves, tights and soakers. Soakers are the things you put on the bottom of your skates to protect the blades and they come in a variety of school colors like Clemson orange and Carolina blue or in critters, the crazier the better: dogs, penguins, and bears which will probably sell big up here. Who knows, one day we might even have an Olympic skater right from our little town.

I had a brief image of me sporting a new Dorothy Hamill haircut and my short, georgette skirt flaring up in back as my fat ass goes around the rink. It was as bad as the image of me in a bathing suit. I once

said one of the things I liked about Highlands was that it was a place where you never had to wear a bathing suit but now I am wrong.

Well, I can always go to the Playhouse, watch a movie and eat buttered popcorn.

Then, I drove home and noticed that the walk-in-clinic had closed, gone out of business. How lucky are we to live in a place where there aren't enough sick people to support a doc-in-the box. Maybe they should have waited until the rink was finished to see if there would be more skate-in traffic.

The big news last week at the Town Board meeting was finalizing the plans for the Methodist Church expansion. It is kind of comforting to know some churches are actually growing and needing more room. Trust me, there are worse things to expand.

I know that no place is perfect but Highlands is more perfect than most. Even the mayor just said in the newspaper that he had no pressing problems to write about. Can you imagine any one running for President feeling like that?

I often feel guilty that somehow, as undeserving as I am, I live here and other people live in Afghanistan or the ghettos in New York or gang filled neighborhoods in Chicago. I have experienced loss but I have had the luxury of being able to mourn without worrying about starving or getting blown up or evacuating to another country.

If I keep watching the Hallmark Channel and leave off Fox news, I can probably finish the year immune to the horrors of this world. I really do wish everyone could experience what it is like to live in a town like ours where we are safe, where we are surrounded by nature, art and music. The worst thing I have to fight is boredom. Tis the season to be thankful and for that I am.

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• THE INK PEN •

Thanksgiving with Friends

We'll be spending Thanksgiving Day with friends this year. Our host will cook the turkey on his Green Egg, and we'll all bring side dishes. It may not be traditional holiday fare, but I've been asked to bring Greek salad, and I'm quite sure that another friend will bring the home-made cranberry salad he prepares every year. When we friends are together, there are certain dishes you can always count on.

Many years ago, a group of us were moaning about the stress of juggling schedules every year to eat two Thanksgiving dinners in a vain attempt to please all the parents and in-laws, and we came up with the idea of starting our own tradition instead. For nine years, we all traveled to Myrtle Beach to stay in a rambling beach house Wednesday through Sunday, sometimes longer. It always reminded us of The Big Chill house with its hardwood floors, rocking chair porch, and big rustic kitchen with a farm table. I have fond memories of seeing Dirty Dancing for the first time while vacationing there.

Depending on the weather, we walked on the beach while the kids surfed, or we stayed warm in front of the fire. The pictures we took over the years show us dressed in shorts and tee shirts and in jackets, scarves and hats. We cycled or ran or played tennis. We played Trivial Pursuit and Pictionary. We shopped at the outlet malls,



Kathy Penn

and we enjoyed the rockers on the big back porch. We started each morning in our rockers with our cups of coffee, as we looked over the sand dunes. For me, that was when my vacation officially started, with that first cup of coffee, as I took my seat in a rocker.

We interrupted this routine when the first child went to college, knowing that he'd want to come home to Atlanta to see his own friends rather than travel to the beach. How were we to know that hiatus would last for over 15 years? One child graduated, the next one went off to school, and so it went. We went our separate ways and did the family thing, but we always missed our annual retreat.

We were delighted two years ago, when one couple completed their mountain home and invited us all up for the Holiday weekend. It was just like old times. No, there wasn't a beach to walk on, but there was a gorgeous lake view, a roaring fire and plenty of good food and wine. Instead of keeping a watchful eye on small children, we chatted with adult kids and walked the four-legged ones.

We quickly fell into our old routine of divvying up the food assignments for the big meal. We drank our coffee viewing the lake from the many windows and the deck, and we added the new ritual of watching the sun set over the lake, glass of wine in hand, of course. This year, because

• See PEN page 23

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24 buffalo wings or 2 lbs chicken tenders and hand cut fries.
\$20.95 serves four.

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

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

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

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

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

Weeknight Pizza Special:

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

WINE MARKET

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

BUTCHER

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

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...MONKEY continued from page 1

occurred.

Commissioner John Dotson was the first to speak suggesting that the town allow the tradition to continue but to erect signs warning "Sled at Your Own Risk." However, after hearing from Town Attorney J.K. Coward, he changed his mind and in fact made the motion: "The town not plow Monkey Hill during times of snow, unless residents on the street are in residence and request it be plowed."

In addition to the signage suggested, Commissioner Amy Patterson suggested plastic webbing be erected down both sides of the hill.

"Granted most people will know it's a "sled at your own risk" situation but we can still take certain precautions." This is a small town, this is a tradition. I would love to keep it if we can," she said.

But Attorney Coward put an end to anything such as signage, hay bales or netting that could point to the fact that sledding on the hill is dangerous.

I don't think "sled at your own risk" means much. The town's going to be at risk if it does something that takes an affirmative step that causes the liability. I would think that everyone accepts the idea that sledding is dangerous where ever you

go. People get hurt on sleds all the time," he said. "So if you had a sign that said "Sled at Your Own Risk," it could possibly be saying that the town knows it is dangerous and it isn't doing anything about it because it put up a sign that said "Sled at Your Own Risk."

After a robust and healthy discussion, the motion passed 4-1 with Commissioner Brian Stiehler voting no.

"I am perfectly fine being the scrooge on this," he said. "I know it's a town tradition but my concern is if you put out hay bales and you block off 5th Street at the bottom you are just telling people to come and do it. As a former participant in Monkey Hill sledding I wouldn't go back. I was there one time and it was a sheet of ice and I left with my 5-year-old daughter in tears because the toboggan she was on veered off into the rhododendrons on the right side of the road. It was a mess. People were trying to go down the hill, people were trying to go up the hill, people were getting clipped at the knees.

"If this was a grassy hillside at the Rec Park to me it would be another story. But telling people it's OK to sled down a hill that is steeper than any hill around and then cross two lanes of traffic at the bottom that

• See MONKEY page 23

Summit One
Art Consultants

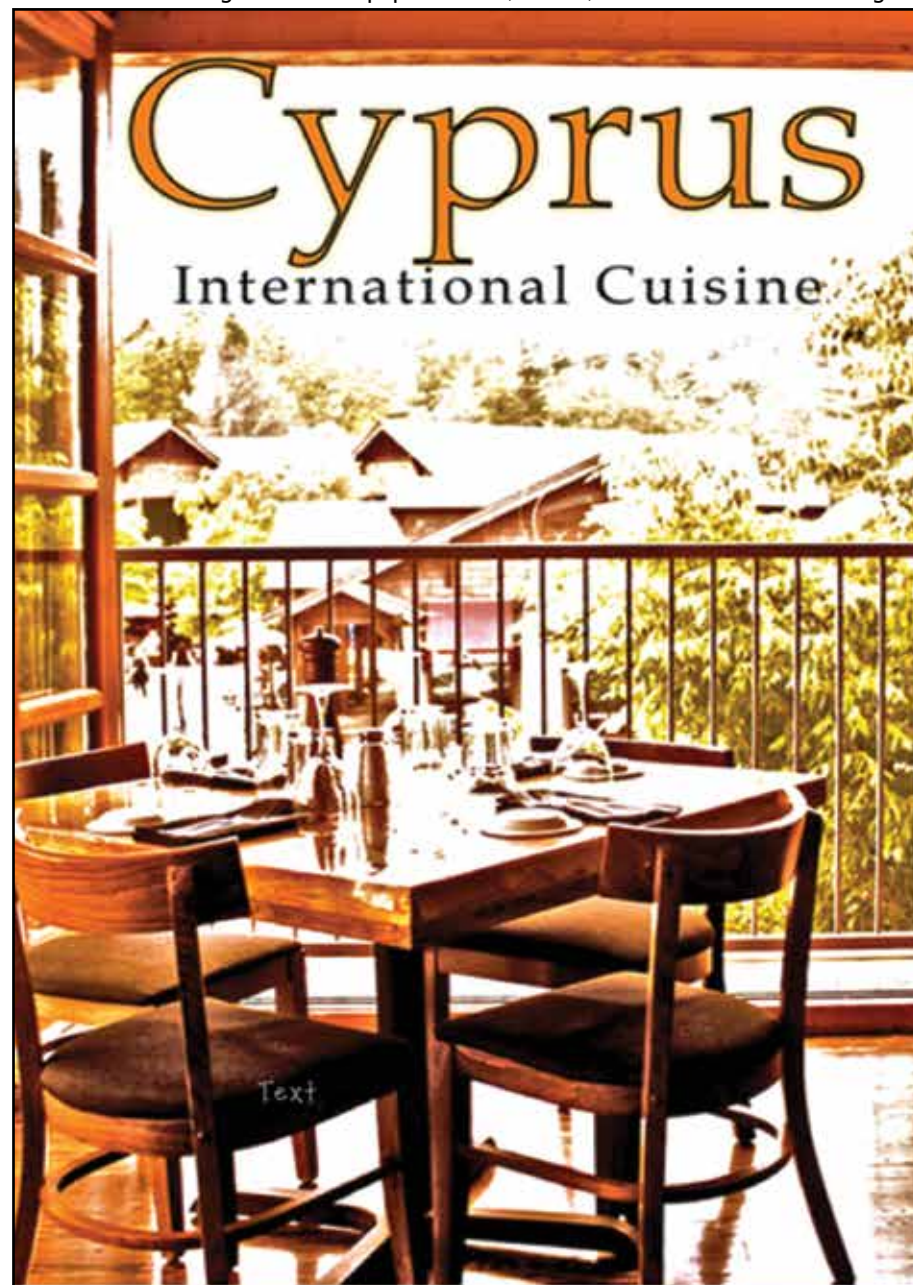
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PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that at the regular Board of Commissioners' meeting of February 20, 2014, the Town Board voted to list all Town of Highlands Delinquent Accounts in the newspaper every 6 months. The following accounts are over 60 days past due.

Delinquent Utility Accounts

Gates Nursery	\$6,426.23	Due 06/15/2012	Cory Allen Talbot	\$916.42	Due 06/16/14
Gates Nursery	\$1,344.72	Due 06/15/2012	Stuart Thompson	\$214.93	Due 03/15/13
Jeremy Skipper	\$1,000.77	Due 06/15/2012	Timothy Vos	\$184.45	Due 08/15/14
Jeff Andresen	\$804.53	Due 02/15/2013	Charles Weatherly	\$672.08	Due 05/15/14
Carlton Barker	\$1,458.67	Due 10/15/2012	Charles Weatherly	\$233.48	Due 05/15/14
Robert Carlton	\$748.08	Due 02/15/2013	Jeannette Chidsey	\$378.26	Due 11/15/14
Kristina Crosby	\$133.57	Due 12/15/2012	John Clyatt	\$2,017.78	Due 12/15/14
Sarah Freeman	\$67.99	Due 10/15/2012	Melba Egan	\$394.31	Due 11/15/14
Randall Hawks	\$731.48	Due 11/15/2012	James M. Johnson	\$3.46	Due 09/15/14
William Horne	\$5,968.88	Due 01/15/2013	Pamela Lomba	\$572.73	Due 12/15/14
Robert Moreno	\$278.75	Due 11/15/2012	Pamela Lomba	\$68.27	Due 12/15/14
Elisa Espinosa Parra	\$858.05	Due 07/15/2013	Charles Tolliver	\$231.89	Due 11/15/14
Andrew Quintero &			Jason Williams	\$272.68	Due 10/15/14
Fiorella Moscoso	\$811.80	Due 01/15/2013	Samantha McCall	\$866.39	Due 07/15/15
Bob Stephenson	\$590.12	Due 11/15/2012			
Suzi's on Spring	\$53.98	Due 12/15/12			
Claudia Thompson	\$2,171.88	Due 12/15/12			
To the Nine's	\$2,519.75	Due 01/15/13			
Valentine's Photo Studio	\$150.50	Due 02/15/13			
Ellen Agee	\$346.05	Due 06/16/14			
Thomas Batson	\$102.16	Due 01/15/14			
Joanne Baro	\$899.79	Due 03/18/15			
Binder Biomedical	\$407.87	Due 05/15/14			
Khyle &					
Carolina Bonczkowski	\$5.74	Due 09/15/13			
Spencer Ford	\$82.61	Due 03/17/14			
Dennis Franklin	\$781.18	Due 08/15/14			
Melanie Griffin	\$503.70	Due 05/15/14			
Highlands Quick Mart	\$2,995.44	Due 05/15/14			
L K Partners	\$1,024.77	Due 05/15/13			
John Mutter	\$46.94	Due 11/15/13			
Randall Peterson	\$307.02	Due 12/15/13			
Connie Smith	\$97.71	Due 01/15/14			

Delinquent Sewer Connection Agreement Accounts

Peggy Hopes	Mirror Lake Sewer Project
	\$2,400.00 Due 03/31/2013
Aliaksandr Kikoin	Harris Lake Sewer Project
	\$2,500.00 Due 12/31/2011
Williams & Williams Inc.	Harris Lake Sewer Project
	\$2,500.00 Due 12/31/2011

Delinquent Accounts Receivable Accounts

Bates Septic Tank & Concrete Product Sludge	
	\$385.00 Due 12/31/2013
Mountain Septic Service Sludge	
	\$1,295.00 Due 12/31/2013

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

Published this 25th day of November, 2015.

Town of Highlands

...CORBIN continued from page 1

Corbin has served the last six years as a Macon County Commissioner, he also served five terms on the Macon County Board of Education, 16 years of which he served as chairman. He also currently serves as the Chairman of the Region A Council of Government, which represents Macon, Clay, Graham, Cherokee, Jackson, Swain, and Haywood counties. On the state level, Corbin served on the legislative goals committee for the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners for two years.

Filing for the 2016 election cycle begins at noon December 1, 2015 and closes December 21, 2015 at noon in North Carolina.

In Macon County, open seats for filing are: County Commissioner District 2 (one seat open), Corbin currently holds this seat. County Commissioner District 3 (one seat open), Paul Higdon currently holds this seat. NC Senate District 50 seat which Jim Davis currently holds and NC

House of Representatives District 120 currently held by Roger West.

Representative Roger West, along with commissioners and leaders from counties within the 120th House district were in attendance for Corbin's announcement and expressed their support.

"I don't think there is a better man for the job," said Rep. West.

Corbin noted that by filing for office on December 1 at noon, the day filing opens, he will officially start his campaign. If elected to the House, Corbin would not start his term in Raleigh until 2017, which would be the end of his current term as commissioner.

"I wouldn't be running for office if I didn't think I could win, and that is exactly what I plan to do," said Corbin. "I have been very fortunate to work with incredible leaders in our region as a commissioner and I am looking forward to taking those relationships with me to the state to be a voice for western North Carolina."



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Ted Keegan

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Home for the Holidays

Friday After Thanksgiving

November 27 8pm

Broadway: Sweeney Todd, Camelot,
Cyrano: the Musical, Phantom of the Opera

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Join us Now through
Saturday, December 6th

TENT SALE opens Friday, Nov. 27 until it is empty!
Great discounts throughout the store and warehouses!

This is a special time of year to offer our greatest savings to you – our most valued customers.

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• HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

Winter Pool Schedule

Through May 27, 2016

LAP SWIM - ADULTS ONLY

Monday thru Friday
7 - 10 am, 6 lanes

AND Monday thru Thursday

5 - 6 pm, 1 or 2 lanes

Sharing pool with water
aerobics @ 5:15 on

Mondays, Tuesdays, and
Thursdays

PUBLIC SWIM

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday
3 - 5 pm & 6 - 8 pm

Wednesday 3 - 5 pm

Saturday 11 am - 6 pm

Sunday 1 - 5 pm

WATER AEROBICS

Monday, Wednesday, Friday
10 - 11 am

Saturday 11:15 - noon

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday
5:15 - 6 pm

(sharing pool with
lap swimmers)

Fee: \$4 per class or
\$30 for 12 classes

*Beginning in January, we will
be adding Tuesday and
Thursday 10 - 11 am*

POOL PARTIES

Pool available on Fridays,
Saturdays, Sundays

Ongoing

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

• Anyone interested in tak-
ing Adult, Child and Infant First
Aid/CPR/AED certification class
needs to contact the Highlands
Recreation Department and get
on the list for the class. You will
learn how to respond to first aid,
cardiac and breathing emergen-
cies. Upon completion attendees
receive certification from the
American Red Cross. Please pre
register we need a minimum of
6 for the class and a maximum
class size of 16. Once we have
enough signed up for a class we
will schedule the class.

Mon.-Sat.

• Nantahala Tennis Club

meets at 9a.m to noon each day.
All visitors welcome.

**Mon. Thurs., Fri., Sat.,
Sun.**

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

Mondays

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

• The Humanist Discussion
Group meets every Monday
morning from 9:30 to 10:30 in
the Meeting Room in the back
of Hudson Library, All are wel-
comed

Mon. & Wed.

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

828.342.2498.

Mon., Wed., Fri.

• Heart Healthy Exercise
Class 8:30am-9:30am at the Rec
Park.

• Aerobics with Tina Rogers
8-9a.

First Tuesdays

• The monthly family sup-
port group for those with family
members, friends, or loved ones
living with the challenge of men-
tal illness meets the first Tuesday
of each month, 7p.m. at Memorial
United Methodist Church, 4668
Old Murphy Road, Franklin. This
group is sponsored by the local
affiliate of NAMI (National Alli-
ance on Mental Illness). For info
call 828 369-7385.

Tuesdays

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

• The Beyond the Walls
Book discussion group meets
every Tuesday at 4 PM at The
Ugly Dog Public House. Each
week we read a short story and
then discuss its insights for our
lives and spiritual wisdom.

2nd and 4th Tuesdays

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

Every 3rd Tuesday

• The Macon County Poul-
try club in Franklin North Caro-
lina meets on the third Tuesday
of each month 7 pm. Meetings
are open to the public and are
held at the Cooperative exten-
sion office on Thomas Heights
rd. For more Information call
369-3916.

Tuesday and Thursdays

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

• Pickle ball is played from
9:30-11a in the gym at the Rec
Park.

Wednesdays

• Donation Based Medita-
tion Wednesday nights w Chris-
topher Baxter at 6:30. Getting
a little chilly for outside classes
;) held at The Wellness Place.
468 Dillard Road Highlands
8285269698

1st Wednesdays

• Family Movies at the Hud-
son Library at 3:15pm. Call 828-
526-3031 for titles.

2nd Wednesdays

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

Thursdays

• Storytimes with Miss
Deanna at Hudson Library
10:40 am. Open to the public.

• Weight Watchers support
group meets every Thursday at
6pm at the Cashiers Communi-
ty Center. Questions? Call Lisa
828-506-3555.

• NAMI Support Group for
individuals dealing with men-
tal illness: depression, bipolar,
schizophrenia, etc. and the fam-
ily members of individuals deal-
ing with these challenges from 7

'Hard Candy Christmas' Art & Craft Show at WCU Fri. & Sat.



The "Hard Candy Christmas" Art & Craft Show is a Mountain Christmas Tradition in this neck of the woods! It opens for its 27th year inside the Western Carolina University Ramsey Center in Cullowhee, N.C. November 27-28. The show is always held the Friday and Saturday after Thanksgiving. Hours are 10-5 each day with convenient free parking. Admission is Adults \$4, children under 12 free. For more information: www.mountainArtisans.net or djhunter@dnet.net 828 524 3405

Annual Carol Sing after the Parade



There will be a Christmas Carol Sing at First Presbyter-
ian Church at 2pm on Saturday, December 5, after the
parade. Stell Huie will be the song leader with Angie Jen-
kins at the organ. If you enjoy singing familiar Christmas
carols, you will definitely want to make this a part of your
Christmas tradition. The church is located at the corner of
Main and Fifth Streets. Handicapped accessible entrances
are located on Fifth Street and on Church Street. Come
and join us for a wonderful time of singing and Christian
fellowship!

• HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

– 8:15 pm. Call Donita for more info (828) 526-9510.

2nd Thursdays

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

3rd Thursdays

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

• Kidney Smart Classes in Sylva: Every 3rd Thursday of month, 7:30am-9am, DaVita Sylva Dialysis Center, 655 Asheville Highway, Contact Sue 828-631-0430

Fridays

• 99ers Bridge at the Rec Park 9a to noon.

Every 3rd Friday

• Senior Dinners are held the third Friday of each month at 12 noon November through April. For any other information contact Lester Norris or Maxine Ramey at 828-526-3556.

Last Fri. of each month

• Community Coffee with Mayor Pat Taylor from 11a to noon at The Hudson Library.

Fridays and Saturdays:

• The Highlands Historical Museum is open every Friday and Saturday from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.. On display is a Botanical History of the Highlands Plateau, a gallery of local photographs by George Masa, and presentations of Mary Lapham's TB Sanatorium, the Moccasin War of 1885, Abraham Lincoln's alleged origins, Joe Webb's tools, and books and DVDs about Highlands history. For more information, email highlandshistory@nctv.com.

Saturdays

• At the Rec Park, MMA Fitness Class is being offered Saturdays at 1:30pm with Moses Machida. NHB Pankration, Muay Thai, Boxing and BJJ combined into an hour long fast paced interactive class. The class combines plyometric, strength training, MMA techniques, explosive

cardio and self-defense into one class. • At MountainTop Wine Shoppe on Main Street, free wine tasting from 1-3 p.m.

Through Nov. 23

• Operation Christmas Child. Samaritan's Purse Shoebox Gifts for Children Drive. Drop Off at HUMC in Highlands on Main Street. For more information about how to participate in Operation Christmas Child email: wncocc@yahoo.com. With a computer or mobile device, anyone can conveniently pack a personalized Operation Christmas Child shoebox gift on the Samaritan's Purse website. Go to samaritanspurse.org/occ to select toys and gift items, write a note of encouragement and "pack them in a shoebox. Using special tracking technology, participants can follow their box to discover where in the world their gift is delivered by using the donation form found at samaritanspurse.org/occ. These gifts of hope will go to children in some of the hardest-to-reach countries.

Fri. & Sat., Nov. 27-28

• Hard Candy Christmas Art & Craft Show at WCU Ramsey Center. 10a to 5p both days.

Fri., Nov. 27

• The Highlands Performing Arts Center will present the MET Opera Live in HD production of LULU by Berg on Saturday at 12:30pm with the pre-opera discussion beginning at 12 noon. Lulu is irresistible to all who meet her and she wreaks havoc on the lives of all who can not resist her. Tickets are available online: highlandspac.org or by calling: 828.526.9047

• At PAC, "Home for the Holidays" with Ted Keegan the Friday after Thanksgiving at 8 p.m. Ted Keegan is a Broadway Tenor, having performed as the 12th Phantom in Phantom of the Opera on Broadway. And later in Phantom, the Las Vegas Spectacular and has the distinction of being the actor who has sung the role in front of the largest audience ever, when he made a spectacular flying en-

trance from the dome of Madison Square Garden singing "The Phantom of the Opera" during the half-time show of the NBA All-Star Game. Home for the Holidays will include Christmas and Holiday music ...and music from Broadway. Tickets are available online: highlandspac.org or by calling 828.526.9047.

• At The Bascom, Black Friday Pottery Sale, 10a to 5p at the Dave Drake Studio Barn.

• At PAC, "Home for the Holidays with Ted Keegan at 8 p.m.

Thurs., Nov. 26

• The Rec Park and Civic Center will be closed for Thanksgiving. It will reopen on Friday.

Fri. & Sat., Nov. 27 & 28

• The Annual Tree Lighting will be held November 28th at 6:30pm on Main Street in front of the Highlands United Methodist Church Main Street will close at 6 p.m. and re-open at 8:30 p.m. The Chamber will be serving hot chocolate and cookies. The Annual Sweatshirt will be on sale for \$20 and the winners of the sweatshirt, posters, and window decorating contest will be announced. Be sure to go visit Santa who will be on the lawn of the First Baptist Church after the Tree Lighting Ceremony. Santa will be on the Lawn of First Baptist Church Friday, November 27th 11 a.m.-3 p.m., Saturday November 28 after Tree Lighting, then every Saturday until Christmas Eve from 11 a.m.-3 p.m.

Sat., Nov. 28

• Highlands Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony at 6:30 p.m. on Main Street in front of the Methodist Church.

Sat., Dec 5

• Highlands Olde Mountain Christmas Parade at 11 a.m. on Main Street.

• At First Presbyterian Church Hymn Sing after the parade at 2 p.m.

Sat., Dec. 6

• The Bolshoi Ballet at PAC, Live in HD at 12:45 p.m.

Thurs., Dec. 10

• The Macon County Cancer Support Group will meet Thursday at 7 p.m. in the cafeteria of Angel Medical Center, Riverview Street, Franklin. We will be focusing on Lung Cancer since November is recognized as Lung Cancer Awareness Month.

Anyone who has been affected by lung cancer is especially invited to attend. There will be free gifts for everyone. Light refreshments will be served.

Sat., Dec. 12

• At PAC, Live in HD, National Theatre of London at 1 p.m.

The Highlands Performing Arts Center presents Home for the Holidays Concert

Broadway veteran Ted Keegan will be singing your favorite Christmas and Holiday songs and a little bit of Broadway the Friday after Thanksgiving at the Performing Arts Center at 8pm. Ted Keegan is



proud to be Broadway's Number 12 Phantom! Ted is a native of Watertown, New York with an undergraduate degree from Ithaca College and a graduate degree from UNC Greensboro. He was last seen as the Phantom in Phantom, the Las Vegas Spectacular. He starred in a very successful run of The Phantom of the Opera in the Broadway Company and followed with the National Tour. Ted has performed the role in over 24 States across the country. He has had the great pleasure of appearing as The Phantom on television, performing live from Rockefeller Center for the "Today Show" on NBC. And he has the distinction of being the actor who has sung the role in front of the largest audience ever, when he made a spectacular flying entrance from the dome of Madison Square Garden singing "The Phantom of the Opera" during the half-time show of the NBA All-Star Game.

Ted was deeply involved in the George Gershwin Centennial Celebration. He performed

unpublished Gershwin at the opening of the George and Ira Gershwin Room at the National Archives in Washington, DC, which The New York Times reviewed as one of the ten best musical events of the year. He has

also sung Gershwin with Audra McDonald in New York and with Marin Mazzie at the opening of the Santa Fe Chamber Music Festival. Ted appeared in the Frank Loesser Celebration at Symphony Space in New York City and was a soloist at Lincoln Center's Avery Fisher Hall, singing Unheard Bernstein. Ted has hosted Christmas Celebrations with the Omaha Symphony, Baltimore Symphony and the Yuletide Celebration in Indianapolis, singing with the 90-piece Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra. A few of the orchestras Ted has performed with as a solo performer include the Detroit, Syracuse, Charleston WV, Portland, Pittsburgh, Ottawa, Omaha, Baltimore, Las Vegas, Fort Worth, Edmonton Symphonies and the Dayton Philharmonic, as well as the National Symphony at the Kennedy Center.

Home for the Holidays tickets are available online: highlandspac.org or by calling 828.526.9047

Sheriff Office to follow county's lead: 'In God We Trust' to be added to patrol vehicles

For nearly 60 years, the United States of America has recognized "In God We Trust," as the national motto of the country. Dating back to the Cold War when the 84th Congress passed a resolution declaring the phrase the national motto, the law was signed by President Dwight Eisenhower on July 30, 1956. The United States Code at 36 U.S.C. § 302, now states: "In God we trust" is the national motto."

As such it is on coins since 1864 and was added to paper money from 1957-1966. The national motto isn't just on United

States currency, but also above the United States House and Senate

Now, with a resolution passed by the Macon County Board of Commissioners in October, it will soon be displayed on the courthouse in Macon County.

The resolution was passed unanimously and declared, "In God We Trust" became the United States national motto on July 30, 1956, shortly after our nation led the world through the trauma of World War II; and whereas, the words have been used on United States currency since 1864; and whereas, the same inspiring slogan is engraved above the en-

trance to the Senate Chamber as well as above the Speaker's dais in the House of Representatives; and whereas, in both war and peace, these words have been a profound source of strength and guidance to many generations of Americans; and whereas, the county desires to display this patriotic motto in a way to solemnize public occasions and express confidence in our society."

Following the commissioner's resolution, and after receiving a private donation, Macon County Sheriff Robert Holland asked his deputies if they would like to add the phrase to their patrol vehicles.

After giving deputies the choice, all patrol deputies voted to add the national motto to their cars.

"We had an agency meeting in October and I brought up the subject to my deputies. I passed around a document for the deputies to read and sign if they wanted to participate," said Sheriff Holland. "I made it very clear from the beginning that the decision to participate, or to not participate was an individual decision and there wouldn't be any repercussion for opting out."

Holland noted that by the end of the meeting, deputies turned in the document, which

ultimately signed them up to have an "In God We Trust" decal added to their patrol vehicles. "Every deputy present signed the document requesting to have the 'In God We Trust' motto placed on their assigned vehicles," said Holland. "Those deputies not present for the meeting have since requested to sign the document as well. This makes 100 percent of my deputies with marked patrol vehicles participating."

Just like the national motto that will appear on the Macon

• See SHERIFF page 30



Stunning Ravenel Estate

This Estate, known as Buena Vista, is sited on one of the very best lots in Ravenel with sweeping, panoramic views. The home is completely private and features stunning mature gardens and landscaping and a short walk to Main Street. The main house includes 5 bedrooms and 4.5 bathrooms. There is an attached, two car garage with separate guest quarters, complete with full bath and kitchenette.

DOUG HELMS, BROKER
828.226.2999
doug@doughelms.com



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REALTY GROUP

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Happy Thanksgiving SALE!

Western art, bronzes, paintings, furnishings,
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(Corner of 3rd and Spring behind the Methodist Church)



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Cabin Casuals
Highlands Get High 4118!



Happy Thanksgiving!
Storewide Sale – 20% OFF
Friday ONLY

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www.cabincasuals4118.com


pursecase.

As Seen on Shark Tank!



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Next to The Toy Store
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**FALL SALE
UP TO 75% OFF**
Selected Merchandise


BEAR MOUNTAIN OUTFITTERS

An interesting mix of clothing and footwear to fit your lifestyle.
Casual • Resortwear • Activewear • Accessories
Stroll • Jog • Hike • Train



BEAR MOUNTAIN OUTFITTERS
"We Outfit You for Life"

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Highlands, NC 28741
Open Year Around • 828-526-5784




Art Glass Creations



Black Friday Special
20% Off
In-Store Items
Nov. 27 & 28 only
Some exclusions may apply

260 Franklin Rd
828-526-9292
Open 1 - 4 PM

**We give thanks for you!
Come see us!**



Oakleaf
flower & garden

133 S. 4th St., Highlands
828-526-8000

Y N x D J
LOS ANGELES




Nancy's & The Exchange
Fancys
for Men

322 Main Street & Oak Street
828-526-5029 or 828-526-1029

Allen Edmonds
The Great American Shoe Company



30% off All In-stock Allen-Edmonds shoes



ALBERTO
Pants We Love

Happy Thanksgiving! Shop Local!



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Thank You for your
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HAPPY THANKSGIVING**

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468 Carolina Way**

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**446 Main Street
828-526-3963**

**Storewide
SALE!
Happy
Thanksgiving
and
remember....
Shop
Local!**



**S. 4th Street
526-4473**

**APPAREL
Storewide
SALE!**



- Free People
- BB Dakota
- Michael Stars
- Tees
- CP Shades
- THML

Jeans by:

- Joes
- 7 for All Man-kind
- Citizens
- AG
- Hudson
- Mother

Shoes & Sales Room Upstairs:
• Bedstu • Free People & More!

**355 Main Street
(in The Galax Theatre)
526-4660**

OLIVE + OAK



JOHNNY WAS



ELAN™



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the boutique

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...STUDENT continued from page 3

photo above, Williams points out a knee and an elbow behind Blakely – that of Shawnda Martin of Robbinsville who lost by two seconds.

Mayor Taylor read a resolution ticking off Blakely's accomplishments:

Among other things, only been running cross country at Highlands School for three years and the only female runner in that time; when she was a freshman she qualified for the state's cross country and placed second in conference and 8th in state and is the first state champion in any sport in the history of Highlands School.

Williams said Blakely epitomizes the combination of talent and discipline. When he realized what she was capable of he wondered if she was ready for the next lev-

el. "She was committed and over the last six months she performed every workout and now she is a state champion and that's something she will have for the rest of her life," he said.

Coach Williams was with Blakely every step of the way ... so much so that Drew Rooney, wondered if Williams was stalking her.

Mayor Taylor said one day Rooney saw Blakely running in town and noticed a vehicle slowly patrolling behind her.

He approached the driver and asked why he was following the girl. Of course Williams explained and a laugh was had by all; but Mayor Taylor said such intervention speaks to the spirit of the town and its people.

Tell your Thanksgiving guests to bring their bathing suits!

Highlands new enclosed swimming pool will be open Friday afternoon after Thanksgiving and on Saturday from 11a to 6p and Sunday from 1-5p.

The air inside is toasty and the water is warm. Tell your holiday guests to bring their bathing suits.

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...MAYOR continued from page 2

With that spirit in mind, our sanitation crews have Thanksgiving off to be with their families.

Now Black Friday is another matter! The trucks will be rolling to pick up garbage that was not collected on Thursday and to do the Friday pick up in both the commercial and residential areas. I also appreciate the first responders and law enforcement officers who will be on their posts during this holiday.

I am thankful that our businesses have had a strong year as indicated by sales tax collections. I am hopeful the Friday after Thanksgiving will be the launching of a tremendous Christmas Season. I am also thankful that the NC Legislature did not decimate our town sales tax revenue and that a compromise was reached.

Given the tragic events in France, Lebanon, Mali and over Sinai, I am thankful we live in a country where the right to pursue our own, individual happiness is a sacred trust. No religious extremist, whether Islamic Jihadists or others, can dictate how we shall live under an insane delusion that they have the divine authority to slaughter those perceived not to be in compliance. That perverse view of religion cannot be tolerated anywhere, especially in a free, modern society.

Finally, I am thankful for all the wonderful, caring people in our little community. While we live in a breathtakingly beautiful part of the world, the people here in Highlands make it the special place we all love. As mayor I constantly see tremendous generosity, acts of compassion and dedicated service to the community. For that I am thankful everyday.

See you at the Christmas Tree and Town Lighting Saturday night.

Holiday Postscript:

I have been searching for ways to rehab my knee after surgery for a torn quadricep. It is Sunday afternoon, and I just returned home from our enclosed pool at the Highlands Recreation Center. While it was cool outside, inside the pool it was over 90 degrees and the water was 86. Gentle swimming was a great exercise for my knee.

The pool will be open Friday afternoon after Thanksgiving and on Saturday and Sunday. Tell your holiday guests to bring their bathing suits. If you see an old guy wallowing around in the kiddie pool with a 2 and a 3 year old, it's me playing "alligator man" with my grandchildren.

The enclosed pool will be a special community place this winter. Come in from the cold and enjoy.

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Highlands Falls Country Club. This lovely 3br/3ba home lives large all on one level with tall ceilings, lots of glass and an expansive deck. \$497,000 MLS#82682



Holt Knob. Just what everyone wants! Walk to town with a great mountain view. 3br/2.5 furnished with a large deck. \$499,000. MLS# 78446



Great 2/1 1/2 bath cabin. A perfect weekend retreat - or enjoy the mountains full time from your huge open air front porch. Rustic wood floors in this open plan with large fireplace. MLS#790163 \$184,500



Charm exudes from this 2013 remodel. 3/2 Main house with fantastic Master Suite plus a studio bedroom cottage with full bath for guests. Very private setting on road with more expensive homes. MLS #82269 \$399,000



This four bedroom/five bath beautiful home is located in the desirable Highlands CC. Home is immaculate and features a fabulous kitchen that opens up into the dining area great for entertaining. MLS # 81619 \$999,999



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



Rocky Knob - a gated lake community. Exceptional mountain view, 3br/2ba with fireplace, vaulted ceilings, covered and open decks and meticulously maintained. \$385,000. MLS #81329



Wonderful 2/2 condo on the 13th fairway in Highlands Falls CC. Hardwood floors, nine foot ceilings, office & covered deck. MLS #81336 \$245,900.



This 5/5 home was remodeled in 2012. Great master bath. Large covered deck. Light and bright on both levels and in immaculate condition. The lot is lovely and has a walking path around. MLS #79794 \$1,200,000.



Highlands Mountain Club with great mountain view. Spacious 3br/2ba, condo. Pool, tennis, and clubhouse. Furnished. \$249,000 MLS #82270



Highlands Falls Country Club beauty! Exceptional 3br/3.5ba with 3-car garage, listen to the waterfall on the 15th hole, golf course view, wrap-around porches. \$777,000. MLS# 81880



Simply Amazing. This wonderful 5.7+/- acre lot has a fantastic long range view. These long range views stretch all the way to the mountain ranges in Georgia MLS#81103 \$290,000



A lovely 3/3 home on nearly 2 acres in a semi-wooded private setting with two large, stream-fed ponds with young, golden Koi and a beautiful recirculating waterfall. Safe, quiet Wildwood neighborhood only 4.5 miles to Highlands & 5.5 miles to Cashiers. MLS #81836 \$524,000



Little Bearpen in Highlands City limits. Long mountain views from two covered decks, 2br/2ba main level, lower level guest suite w/ family room, 2nd kitchen and hobby room (could be separate living area). \$695,000. MLS# 81446



Highlands Falls Country Club. Incredible value for a 3br/2ba free-standing, furnished Golf Villa. Lake & #10 green view w/ tree trimming. Stone fireplace, solid surface countertops and vaulted ceilings. \$249,000. MLS# 78712



4/3 home located in the private gated community of Whiteside Estates. Home features beautiful hardwood floors throughout with pine wood walls and brick fireplace. Great deck with a covered area of the master bedroom. MLS #82461 \$347,500



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



Highlands Falls Country Club home with 2br/2ba plus a den on main level, wood floors in main living area, vaulted ceilings, eat-in kitchen plus dining room, tile baths. Lower level has a family room with fireplace, full kitchen plus a bedroom and a bonus room (could be separate living area). \$695,000 MLS#80446



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



Every space in this 3/3 home was updated. Two tiered deck with views of the mountains the lake and the 5th fairway at Highlands Falls Country Club. The floorplan is perfect for entertaining. In addition, there is a one bedroom guesthouse with a new kitchen. MLS #82523 \$797,000



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A Season of Helping All Year Long

"My mother used to say, a long time ago, whenever there would be any... catastrophe ..., 'Always look for the helpers. There will always be helpers....'"

"Because if you look for the helpers, you'll know that there's hope."

~ Mr. Fred Rogers
On the evening of November 13th, I learned of the Paris terrorist attacks while waiting to pick up my son at the bus stop. I immediately felt waves of nausea and fear as I scrolled through the news on my phone, trying to find out what was going on. It became clear the attacks were coordinated and extensive; details were painfully fuzzy as the situ-



Susie de Ville
Owner
Broker-in-charge
White Oak Realty

ation was unfolding. I began reaching out to friends in Paris to verify their safety. Many hours later, I had heard from each of them. I exhaled.

During my search for my friends, I heard stories of incredible courage, generosity, selflessness, and heroism in the face of incomprehensible terror and danger. Parisian resolve and spirit were evident in every story, and I was immediately reminded that even when things are at their worst, we may always choose to be at our best. A few days later, I came across the above quote from Mr. Rogers; his mother's words (and his) cemented for me the power of looking for help

and hope in any and all circumstances, but most especially during the darkest of hours.

It is most timely now, as we celebrate Thanksgiving, to immerse ourselves fully in gratitude

for our vast blessings. We may choose to focus solely on the gifts in our lives: the loving people in our midst; the breathtaking beauty of where we live; the health of our bodies, minds, and spirits; and

the service-minded soul of our mountain community.

We may also choose to look for and support the helpers in the Highlands-Cashiers area – those

• See **INVESTING** page 23

• REAL ESTATE SNAPSHOTS •

Commercial: Zoned B-3 with I/I Apt.



Excellent opportunity to own commercial property in downtown Highlands. Zoned B-3 commercial. Commercial/retail/professional space on the main level w/ office area, storage space, and half bathroom. Upper level is a newly-renovated, charming, one bedroom, one bath apartment with hardwood floors throughout. Garage may be used for extra storage space. Gas log fireplace on both levels.

Offered at \$349,000. MLS #69631.
Contact Susie deVille (828) 371-2079.

Main Street's Best Commercial



Highly-visible, Highlands Main Street real estate. 4 retail units on the lower level and 3 apartments on the upper level comprising an impressive 6,400 +/- square feet. Between Paoletti's and Wolfgang's restaurants. Reserved parking behind the building, new exterior paint, updated central HVAC and sealed basement.

Offered at \$1,180,000. MLS #81486.
Contact Susie deVille (828) 371-2079.

Commercial with Stream Frontage



Absolutely stunning commercial building. Soaring ceilings, light & bright, hardwood floors, gas log fireplace, and on a gorgeous lot with rushing stream. The open and airy floor suits multiple uses: retail, professional, and/or office space. Outstanding visibility from the highway on the ATL side of town. Finish the lower level for residential use. Area is stubbed out for bathroom and laundry. Priced to SELL! Display racks, shelving, counters, and equipment are negotiable.

Offered at \$575,000. MLS #73176.

**This property is also available for rent*
Contact Susie deVille (828) 371-2079

Excellent Visibility



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

Offered at \$4,100,000. MLS #82404.
Contact Susie deVille (828) 371-2079.

Happy Thanksgiving
from



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In town on Chestnut Street with a flat building site Historical house to restore. Sidewalk in front and only 4 blocks to downtown. Offered at \$450,000. mls #78627



A top Moon Mountain, 3 miles from downtown Highlands. 3BD/3BA split level home has screened porch with a great view of Shortoff Mountain and more. Furnished. Offered at \$349,000. mls #82155



Atlanta side of Highlands. Comfortable plan has a bedroom wing design with master and guest bedrooms on main level, Living room, kitchen, and dining in a great room design. Lower level has recreation room, laundry and guestroom/storage. Large deck, acre lot. Offered at \$175,000. mls #78847



4BD/4 1/2 BA on over 2 acres with a super mountain view. 3 stone fireplaces, covered porch, custom kitchen all built by craftsmen Offered at \$2,250,000. mls #82408



1BD/2BA historic real log cabin with barn on almost 3.5 acres. Stone fireplace, wood floors, tile bath, laundry hook up. Offered at \$325,000. MLS



3BD/2BA one level home with 2-car garage in a quiet neighborhood with community pond, tennis courts and picnic area. Move in ready. Offered at \$335,000. mls #78785



Highlands Cove Views condo 3BD/3BA, 2 fireplaces. Great designer finishes! Condo with a view! Offered at \$579,000. mls #76930



Walk to town. 5BD/2BA. Flat lush yard. Frontage on Hwy 64. Ideal for a shop or home/office/retail. House is charming and in good condition. Offered at \$895,000. mls #77981



Civilized yet private compound on 7 plus acres off Flat Mountain Road. High quality finishes great scales and exceptional taste, 1BD/2BA Offered at \$895,000. mls #80371



Updated Mountain home features 3 bedrooms, plus a den and a huge multipurpose room in the main house and guest room and full bath above the 2-car garage. Large deck and covered porch. Distant mountain view. Offered at \$875,000. mls #73201



Fabulous views, open great room design, spacious bedrooms, custom kitchen, loft, lower level family/guest rooms. Huge Deck, guesthouse, garage with bonus room below. Offered at \$950,000. mls #82619



Great highway frontage, live and work with retail upstairs and apartment on the lower level. Near The Bascom art center. Offered at \$299,000. mls #80640



Spacious 3BD/3 1/2 BA has soaring ceilings, great outdoor living with huge covered deck with fireplace and view. Backs up to USFS lands. Master bedroom is fit for a king. Open great room with custom kitchen and custom wood floors. Offered at \$999,900. mls #78291



In historic Satulah Mountain area. Montana-style log home has 4BD/5BA and 2 half baths. Master and guest suites upstairs with private balcony. Dream kitchen. Huge great room plan with fireplace, elevator. Offered at \$3,999,000. mls #80392



Spectacular layered vistas on over 1.4 acres with usable yard on Brushy Face. Living essentials plus master on one level. Great room design with lovely kitchen with breakfast bar, with bedrooms and baths upstairs and down. Whole house generator and a 2-car garage Offered at \$1,900,000. mls #81498



Near Randall Lake 3BD/3BA. Cathedral ceilings in the great room. Three fireplaces. Wood floors on the main floor; open floor plan; unique rock shower in master. On 1.7 +/- acres. Offered at \$795,000. MLS # 81984



Horse Cove. Farmhouse on almost 5 acres with view of Black Rock and Sagee Mountains, heart pine floors, real masonry fireplaces, wonderful architectural details and covered porches. Abutts a common park and connects to network of trails into the USFS lands. Offered at \$1,900,000 MLS# 72825



Darling log cabin on a large private lot on Blackberry Lane. 2BD/2BA loft, workshop. Super glassed in porch. Offered mostly furnished at \$399,000. mls #76607



Beautiful and secluded 3BD/3BA 3,000 +/- heated and cooled sq ft. Deck looks over 1.2 +/- acres of wooded lot bordering the Nantahala National Forest. Open floor plan with new pine wood floors on main level, new carpet on lower level. Updated kitchen, huge master suite with updated bath and 2 great rooms. Vaulted ceiling, wood-burning fireplace, expansive deck, attached 2-car garage, fenced yard, W/D, HVAC. MLS # 82491 Price \$489,000.



Original home was built in the early 1900s with beams from the old mill on Mill Creek. 3BD/2BA, two fireplaces, two patios, deck off a bedroom upstairs and a detached garage. Within walking distance to town. Offered at \$389,000.00 with a furniture package available. mls #81852

...MONKEY continued from page 9

you hope are blocked off – how do you know someone isn't going to go around the barricade?" he said.

According to Lamar Nix, public service administrator, when it snows, the town puts up a barricade on Fifth Street just before the entrance of Monkey Hill with cones on either side that says "Road Closed."

"It's at the lower end of Fifth Street at the bottom of Hickory Street so vehicles can't turn up Monkey Hill," he said.

The parts of both Fifth and Hickory (Monkey Hill) streets that are blocked are streets that only have seasonal residents on them – residents who don't typically come to Highlands in the winter.

Commissioner Donnie Cal-

loway said Monkey Hill should not be plowed nor should the town shy away from everything.

"We also voted to put in brick sidewalks a long time ago without using concrete – using sand as the base instead – and we were told then that was a liability. We have had some issues because of the settling, but we didn't shy away from that. So, I don't think we can run in fear of everything. I am in favor of sledding on Monkey Hill," he said.

Since the town's insurance company hasn't weighed in on the issue, Town Clerk Rebecca Shuler was asked to check. For now the vote holds. When the snow falls, Monkey Hill will not be plowed.

– Kim Lewicki

...INVESTING continued from page 21

who serve others every day of the year – and stand with them in their quest to heal, to educate, to preserve, and to better the quality of lives. Think through which local nonprofit organizations and churches you would like to support with your time and treasure and pledge to give your vital support. If you would like a list of the opportunities for giving in the area, please reach out to me as I have a rather comprehensive list to share.

Even as global events may unsettle us, we may find security in these mountains and in the goodness of one another. We may choose to create pockets of greatness right here at home and share our blessings with those in need. Let's all become helpers, in good times and bad, and throughout

every month of the year. Let's be ever mindful of our blessings. Let's stay in gratitude. Let's shine hope in corners that have grown dim. And let's remember to serve with our whole heart.

Susie deVille, ME, ABR, SFR, is Owner/Broker-in-Charge of White Oak Realty Group. Her areas of expertise include real estate investments, niche marketing, social media, and strategic property positioning. An expert in entrepreneurship and anthropology, Susie applies her acumen in human behavior toward negotiating and advocating on behalf of her clients. White Oak Realty Group's sales office is located at 125 South Fourth Street in the heart of the retail district in Highlands. For more information, visit WhiteOakRG.com or call (828) 526-8118.

...COMPETITION from page 6

Graham Revitalization and Economic Action Team (GREAT), the non-profit applicant organization, said that "We're confident in our plan, and we know with our multi-county collaboration that we have what it takes to win the top prize."

"Rural America is a mainstay of the nation's broader economy and an essential source of food and energy for the entire world," said CoBank CEO Bob Engel.

CoBank is one of the corporate sponsors making the competition possible. "But rural communities also face a host of issues, including demographic challenges, a shortage of quality jobs and aging infrastructure. Rural economic development is the answer to many of these problems, and we are delighted to see the exciting proposals that have been put forward through the America's Best Communities program."

...PEN continued from page 7

the youngest child in the group is a senior in college and would prefer to spend the holiday in Atlanta seeing friends, we'll gather locally for the day. I suspect that once she embarks on a career, we'll head back to the mountains.

No matter the location, I always look forward to enjoying time with good friends, and I'm thankful to have them all in my life.

* Kathy Manos Penn is a columnist for the *Dunwoody Crier* and is

now happily retired from a corporate career in communications and leadership development. Find more of her musings at TheInkPenn.blogspot.com or contact her at kathymanospenn@gmail.com.

• REAL ESTATE SNAPSHOTS •



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3BR/2 bath, Elevation over 4000'
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• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

Are You Lingerin in the 'Half-Light?'

By Gary Hewins
Community Bible Church

The night that Jesus was arrested is a fascinating study of human motivation. Peter and John made their way to the High Priest's courtyard to see what had become of Jesus after he was abruptly arrested. In the courtyard there was not a wood fire, but a charcoal fire, the same type of fire on which we Americans grill our burgers. As you know, charcoal fires do not put off a great deal of light at night, but they do a pretty good job of cooking things. One could say they provide a "half light", something in between darkness and being able to clearly see. As John moved upward to pursue the Light of the world, Peter chose to linger down in the "half-light."

In the "half-light" Peter remained covert and scared. After all, he had just removed an ear of a soldier and his personal source of confidence and purpose was being interrogated. Peter didn't do well in the "half-light". The coals strangely warmed Peter as he was being raked over them. In the glow of the courtyard Peter himself was being flipped like a burger, He began to wonder what exactly was up and what exactly was down. The "half-light" was insufficient to truly see, discern, and act as his heart so wanted him to do. Soon the timer rang to end the grilling session. The rooster crowed, now Peter was sufficiently cooked.

The risks in the warmth of the "half-light" appear to be fewer than in the interrogation chamber, but that just isn't the case. We each have to make a daily decision as to whether we are to live beneath our holy potential in the "half light" or in the fullness of our personal potential in the upper Light. Are you serious about the calling of Christ in your life or are you rolling your dice in some sort of spiritual game? Is your love for him deeper and stronger than the pull of the world that tugs on your heart to hide him in the "half-light?"

There is a greater price to pay in the "glowing comfort" of the "half-light" than we realize. Disciples of Christ are called to walk in the light as he is in the light and fellowship one with another as the blood of Christ purifies us of all sin" (1 John 1:7). Walking in the Light is very different than standing in the glow. Disciples are called to get in the game - not remain on the sidelines.

Christ desires that we love him with all of our hearts and all of souls and all of our minds and all of our strength. (Mark 12:30). That is a lot of "all's" isn't it? Now is not a time for "half-light" Christianity. We Christians in America would be well served to observe the level of zeal that exists in the darkness of our culture so as to make sure it doesn't supersede our Zeal for Christ, the Light of the world. The colder our society gets the further from the charcoal we will be for the warmth of Christ is in us not in the courtyard. The double-mindedness of the "half-light" is dangerous, confusing, unstable and worrisome. The fullness of speaking the truth while one's beliefs are under scrutiny is nothing less than liberating, resilient and effective.

• See SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING page 27

Proverbs 3:5

BLUEVALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH

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

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

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

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Communion

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9:30a Sunday School; 10:30a Family Service w/ Music

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

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Tues. Guys study 8am, Gals 10am.

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Pastor Jim Kinard

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

Wednesdays - Supper at 6 p.m.

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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

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Holy Eucharist Rite II, (sanctuary), 10:30

Wednesday: 10 a.m., Morning Prayer

Thursdays: Holy Eucharist, (chapel), 10 am

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Dr. Mark Ford, Pastor

220 Main Street, Highlands NC 28741

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

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

Choir 5 pm

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Curtis Fussell & Emily Wilmarth, pastors

526-3175 • fpchighlands.org

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

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

Wednesdays: Choir: 5:30p

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Sunday School: 10 am, Worship Service: 11 am

Bible Study: 6 pm

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Pastor Nathan Johnson

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

Wed. Kidsquest 6p.; Worship 7p.

HIGHLANDS ASSEMBLY OF GOD

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

Sundays: Worship: 11

HIGHLANDS CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Dan Robinson

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

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

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

HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Pastor Paul Christy 526-3376

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

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

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

7pm Intercessory Prayer Ministry

HOLY FAMILY LUTHERAN CHURCH: ELCA

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

Worship/Communion: 10:30

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

Pastor Troy Nicholson, (828) 526-8425

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

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

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4224 Big Ridge Road (4.5 miles from NC 107)

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

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Rev. Marty Kilby

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

Wednesdays: Prayer Mtg.: 7 p.m.

SCALY MOUNTAIN CHURCH OF GOD

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

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

SHORTOFF BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Rev. Andy Cloer

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

Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study: 7

THE CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

1448 Highway 107 South, Office: 743-2359

Rev. Douglas E. Remer

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

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

Nursery available for Rite II services

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Thursday: Noon Healing Service with Eucharist.

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Sunday Worship - 11 a.m.

WHITESIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Rev. Sam Forrester/Cashiers

Sunday School: 10 am, Worship Service: 11 am

• POLICE & FIRE REPORTS •

The Highlands Police log entries from November 2. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor or public officials have been used.

Nov. 5

• At 6:05 p.m., officers responded to about a suspicious person loitering around shops in the Mountain Brook Center.

Nov. 15

• At 6:15 p.m., officers responded to a one-vehicle accident on US 64 west.

Nov. 18

• At 8:55 a.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident in the Post Office parking lot.

• A little past midnight, officers got a call about a bear getting into a vehicle at a residence on Sagee Drive.

The Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. log from Nov. 15.

Nov. 15

• At 9:05 p.m., the dept.

was first-responders to a residence on Clubhouse Trail.

• At 9:25 p.m., the dept. stood by at the hospital for the MAMA helicopter.

Nov. 19

• At 10:47 a.m., the dept. responded to a medical alarm at a residence on Shortoff Road.

• At 11:31 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Cullasaja Drive.

Nov. 20

• At 9:50 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on NC. 106.

Nov. 21

• At 9:39 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Sequoyah Point Drive.

Nov. 22

• A little after midnight, the dept. responded to a Co² alarm at a residence on Flat Mountain Road.

• At 8:50 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Oak Street.

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• BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NEWS •



Rotary honors 'Students of the Month'

Front: Emily Craig Elementary; Back: Brooklyn Houston, Middle School, Colin Weller, High School, Christy Kelly, President, Rotary Club of Highlands, and Nicole Lui, Highlands School Guidance Counselor. The November Students of the Month were recognized by members of the Rotary Club for their outstanding leadership, teamwork and friendship – qualities highly valued by Rotary Clubs around the world.



Greenway crew nearly completes Coker Trail

Except for a railing and the parking area, the Highlands Plateau Greenway has basically finished the Coker Rhododendron Trail extension, re-opening a beautiful connection of the Greenway through primeval forest between the Nature Center and the Bowery Road. Greenway volunteers during the November work day who completed the stone steps to the Bowery Road are (L to R) Kevin Gates, Emily Wilmarth, Brian Egler, Hillrie Quin, Drew Weigner, Tom Claiborne, John Akridge, and Ran Shaffner (not shown).

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Trip to Iran subject of talk

From left: Christy Kelly, President, Rotary Club of Highlands with Dr. Thomas Claiborne who spoke at the November 17th meeting of the Rotary Club. Dr. Claiborne described a recent trip to Iran he and his wife Ruth took with 25 other people as part of a group sponsored by the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

Traveling throughout the country over 2 1/2 weeks, the Claibornes were warmly welcomed by the people of Iran who noted "We are friends with Americans as people. It is our governments that have had problems."



...SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING

continued from page 24

Isn't there some major grilling going on today? Should you decide to linger in the "half-light"—listen closely for the "sizzle" and while you listen for the sizzle—listen too, for the eerie sound of an alarm sounding—it's a rooster alerting us to wake up, letting the church know that the nation we call home has been thoroughly cooked as many stood by to warm themselves in glow and "comfort" of the "half-light."

What are you going to do about it? Is your pastor calling you to a depth of

love, insight and action? If so—let's respond in faith.

If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you. But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. That person should not expect to receive anything from the Lord. Such a person is double-minded and unstable in all they do. (James 1:5-8)

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• See CLASSIFIEDS page 30

• CLASSIFIEDS •

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...SHERIFF continued from page 14

County courthouse, the decals on the patrol cars are funded using private donations and no tax dollars will be allocated for the move. According to Holland, he never received any funding for the decals, but rather, an anonymous donor paid for the decals specifically at the shop where they were printed.

County and town governments across the country have been joining the movement of adding the phrase to government buildings and patrol cars, but there has been controversy.

"In God we trust" as a national motto and on U.S. currency has been the subject of several unsuccessful lawsuits over the last 60 years. In 1970, the motto was first challenged in Aronow v. United States at which point the United States Court of

Appeals for the Ninth Circuit ruled: "It is quite obvious that the national motto and the slogan on coinage and currency 'In God We Trust' has nothing whatsoever to do with the establishment of religion. Its use is of patriotic or ceremonial character and bears no true resemblance to a governmental sponsorship of a religious exercise."

Additional court rulings since 1970 have also reaffirmed the phrase as the national motto and have made it clear that legally, governments wishing to display the phrase, can do so legally.

In addition to the decals being added to patrol cars, Holland has also printed stickers for the public to display on their personal vehicles that feature the national motto as well as expressed support for the sheriff's department.

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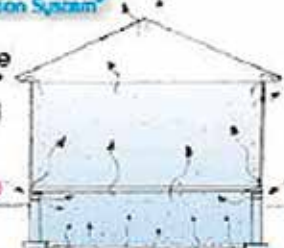
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- Bugs
- Structural Damage
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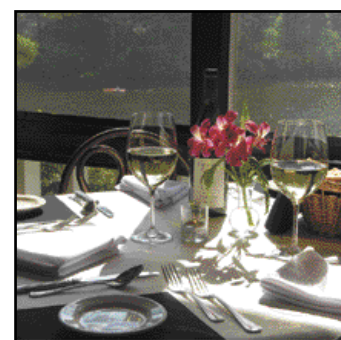
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