

Highlands Newspaper

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Thurs., Nov. 5, 2015

New Town Planner will be on the job mid-November

Once Highlands' administrators settled on the candidates who fit its strict criteria for the job of Town Planner and Code Enforcement Officer, it took the Town Board just a couple of days to make an offer.

On Monday, Mayor Pat Tay-

lor and Town Manager Bob Frye announced that Randy Feierabend had been offered and had accepted the job. He was one of four candidates interviewed last Wednesday.

Feierabend comes with a list of credentials which made him a perfect fit for Highlands.

He has more than 25 years experience as a North Carolina and South Carolina planner, Planning Director and Town Manager. During his career he has written and implemented comprehensive plans – something the Highlands Planning Board is currently work-

ing on.

He has written and implemented corridor beautification plans and recreation plans and helped create the Caldwell County Pathways Group which promotes bikeways and greenways in that

•See **PLANNER** page 17

• INSIDE •

Mayor on Duty.....	2
Letters.....	2
Forum.....	2
Events.....	12
Shopping Pullout.....	11-13
RE Snapshots.....	15-18
Investing at 4118 ft.....	16
Classifieds.....	21

Health Depts. may sue state for lack of payment

The North Carolina Association of Local Health Directors are holding off on a law suit against the state as years of medicaid cost settlement dollars are starting to roll in.

Last week the Macon County Board of Health got a check from the state in the amount of \$400,000, which is \$100,000 less than health director Jim Bruckner said it should have been. Last week's check is the second check the state has sent since the health directors association began talking about filing a lawsuit due to the state illegally withholding federal medicaid cost settlement reimbursement dollars.

In addition to the \$400,000 last week, Macon County also received a check for \$33,000 from the North Carolina Department of Medicaid Assistance (DMA), but other than that, DMA hasn't

•See **SUE** page 6



John Dotson



Eric Pierson



Brian Stiehler

Incumbents retain their seats

Highlanders are pretty apathetic when it comes to voting ... particularly in a municipal election. Of the 874 registered voters only 157 turned out to vote. Regardless, the incumbents on the Town Board will sit for another four years. Eric Pierson got 121 votes, Brian Stiehler got 112 votes, John Dotson got 110 votes and Michael Rogers got 56 votes.

Domestic dispute ends in shooting

On Saturday, Oct. 31, at 12:39 p.m., the Macon County Emergency Operation Center received a 9-1-1 call reporting an active domestic dispute at a residence on 24 Buttermilk Lane.

Upon the officers' arrival, information was gathered from other parties and family members who were at the scene outside the home.

The suspect, Joseph Lee Baty, 28, who had a 12-gauge shotgun, had barricaded himself in the bedroom with his girlfriend and their one-year-old child.

Officers immediately took tactical positions on the property surrounding the house and established a perimeter.

While law enforcement used a loud speaker to talk Baty out of

the house, he and the girlfriend began scuffling. The girlfriend took possession of Baty's shotgun and fired a single shot, striking him in the face with birdshot.

The unarmed girlfriend immediately exited the home with the child and rendered themselves into the care of officers on scene.

Baty was incapacitated in the

•See **SHOOTING** page 3

More state money helps lessen MC Schools woes

Nearly three months after students returned to the classroom for the new school year, the Macon County Board of Education was finally able to vote on a budget proposal at its October board meeting.

The budget, which tops \$45 million, included an increase in state funds that allowed the school system to put funding back into programs that had been scraping by over the last few years.

Throughout the summer school system officials were put on hold waiting to hear how the state was going to fund teacher assistants and driver's education programs in local districts. The programs are considerable portions of the budget and both necessary for day-to-day operations. Without adequate funding for the programs on the state level, the school system could have poten-

•See **STATE** page 6

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• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• MAYOR ON DUTY •

A new face about town

The interviews for the Town Planner and Code Enforcement Director were completed last week.

The Town Manager, members of the Town Board and myself interviewed four very qualified candidates. The decision came down to the person that was the best fit for Highlands.

I am delighted to announce that Randy Feierabend was selected for the position. He accepted the position and will start in mid-November.

Randy has over 25 years experience and holds a certification from the American Institute of Certified Planners. AICP certification is the expected "gold" standard requirement for town planning directors.

Before coming to Highlands, he served

as the Town Manager for six years for the town of Beech Mountain, NC.. There are several similarities between Beech Mountain and Highlands in that both are resort mountain communities with similar demographics. During the year, both towns see strong swings in seasonal populations. Both communities are located in beautiful, natural settings.

Prior to serving Beech Mountain, Randy was the Planning Director for Caldwell County, NC for eight years. He also served for 10 years as Planning and Development Director for York County, SC. In this position he worked with 34 employees in sub-departments of planning, zoning,



Mayor Pat Taylor

building inspections and erosion/storm water-management.

Mr. Feierabend has experience in all areas of town planning, zoning and code enforcement. The job description that was advertised requested a strong preference for candidates with knowledge and experience in North Carolina zoning and environmental regulations. Our new town planner clearly meets these

requirements.

But, there is another aspect of his candidacy that was very important. He has been involved in developing comprehensive plans for Beech Mountain and Caldwell County. In his interview he stressed that a town planner has to work with the various community stakeholders in developing, refining and implementing comprehensive planning policies that are equitable and for the overall good of the community. He went on to state that economic development and the preservation of the environment in places like Highlands, Beech Mountain, or in the historic areas of

Caldwell County, are not mutually exclusive.

He wrote the Beech Mountain Corridor Beautification Plan, and has worked with citizens to secure grant funding for such things as dog parks, mountain biking trails and nature based playgrounds. Randy is especially proud of his involvement in the development of the Wilson Creek Corridor Recreation Plan. Wilson Creek was designated as a Wild and Scenic River in 2004.

Members of the board have stressed the need for a planner who will get out within the community, meet people, track projects and monitor critical environmental areas. As mayor I have embraced a MBWA style that might also work in planning at appropriate times. That approach is Managing by Wandering Around. This simple process gives one a perspective beyond just analyzing paper work from an office.

Don't be surprised to see Randy soon wandering around town and informally talking with folks. He won't be goofing off. On the contrary, he will be a planner on duty.

• FORUM •

New Power Plant Proposal: Duke Energy Profits vs. the Public Interest

By Avram Friedman

Executive Director of the Canary Coalition

By proposing to replace its Lake Julian coal plant with a new natural gas/fracking-fired mega power plant in western North Carolina, Duke Energy is moving in an anachronistic direction that inhibits the transformation to energy efficiency and renewable energy needed to address rising energy costs and climate change.

Massive investment in energy efficiency is a much more economical way to meet energy demand than building, operating and continually fueling a new power plant of any kind. No one knowledgeable in the field of commercial energy production can argue with this assertion. The cheapest kilowatt is the one that isn't needed due to efficiency improvements on the user end. Energy efficiency programs aimed at reducing energy waste cost utilities only about three cents per kilowatt hour, while generating the same amount of electricity from sources such as fossil fuels can cost two to three times more.

Given the negative economic, health and environmental impacts of burning fossil

•See FORUM page 3

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20%	40%	50%	60%	60%	40%	
High: 62 °F	Low: 57 °F	High: 67 °F	Low: 58 °F	High: 62 °F	Low: 42 °F	High: 51 °F

...FORUM continued from page 2

fuels or using the nuclear fuel-fission-waste cycle to generate electricity, it would be logical for public policy to require maximization of efficiency and minimization of production capacity. But, due to the terms of an antiquated public utility system of regulated monopoly in North Carolina, the reverse incentive currently applies. Under this system Duke Energy is currently granted a rate of return of 10.2% on infrastructure capital expenditures, assuming the project is self-financed. This means that if the company spends one billion dollars on building a new power plant, the law requires that rates will be adjusted to ensure that Duke Energy realizes a profit of one hundred and two million dollars on this expenditure. Get it? This is a no-risk "investment" with a huge return for Duke Energy shareholders, at the expense of the ratepayers (you and me) who foot the bill for the construction and legally-required profit even if it isn't the best or most economical way to meet energy demand.

At one point in our history this type of regulated monopolistic arrangement may have been advantageous to guarantee the economic health and stability of a new and growing energy industry that promised to provide reliable electricity to light homes and run factories. In that era the promise of reliable electricity over-shadowed any health or environmental concerns that weren't as fully understood as they are today. The priority, then, was to incentivize growth in the energy industry to bring modernization to North Carolina.

While providing electrical energy to all North Carolinians is still essential today, circumstances have changed substantially, not only in our awareness of the health and environmental impacts of conventional electrical energy production, but, also because of the quickly evolving energy efficiency revolution. The highly-centralized and rapid-growth model of the regulated-monopoly utility system no longer meets the criteria of sensible public energy policy in the year 2015. This system from a different era is a vestige that has become counter-productive today.

In 2011, 2013 and 2015 a growing group of NC state legislators in both the House and Senate have sponsored a bill entitled "The Efficient and Affordable Energy Rates Bill." The 2015 versions are House Bill 377 and Senate Bill 483, sponsored by 15 state legislators. The core purpose of the bill is to steeply incentivize private investment in energy efficiency to enable a dynamic reduction in statewide energy consumption and production. The new utility rate structure would substantially lower monthly energy bills for those who make the investment in efficiency, aid-

ed by low-interest loans from a dedicated Energy Efficiency Bank. Similar measures have been successfully implemented in at least seven other states and several nations to successfully reduce energy consumption while fostering the growth of new industries in energy efficiency and rooftop solar energy, creating thousands of new jobs in the process. Arizona, New Mexico, California, Nevada, Vermont, Iowa, Washington State and Nova Scotia, Canada are among the states and nations where this type of program has been implemented in North America.

Protecting its sweet deal as a regulated monopoly, as you might expect, Duke Energy has brushed aside H377/S483 as unworkable in North Carolina. The real bread and butter for their shareholders is in the guaranteed profit realized from building more power plants and infrastructure, while nurturing a steady growth in energy consumption. But, a continuation of this business model is in conflict with the public interest. The public policy that would most benefit residents and ratepayers is the implementation of programs that reduce energy consumption and eliminate the need to build more centralized power plants.

Reversing Duke Energy's plans for building a new natural gas, fracking-fired mega power plant in western North Carolina will require the public to rise up and demand a basic change in our state's public energy policy. It will be necessary to adopt the type of measures introduced in the Efficient and Affordable Energy Rates Bill. If you really want to stop this power plant construction, tell your state legislator, the Governor and the Utilities Commission to push for the passage of H377/S483.

...SHOOTING from 1



The Macon County Sheriff's Office supplied mug shots of Baty from previous arrests; this one is from a 2014 arrest.

bedroom.

After officers secured the scene, Baty was tended to by the Macon County EMS and was then air-lifted by MAMA to Mission Memorial in Asheville where he is healing and will undergo some reconstructive surgery to his face.

At this time, based on the outcome of interviews and the collection of evidence, charges are pending.



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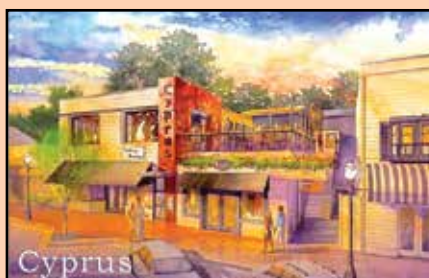
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...SUE continued from page 1

paid counties in the state the correct amount of Medicaid Cost Settlement Funds since 2011, which leaves \$200,000 owed to Macon County.

Members of the Macon County Board of Health were notified of the funding situation in July, when Bruckner cautioned the board against a possible budget shortfall due to the lack of funds coming from the state.

According to Bruckner, it is not clear why the state hasn't allocated Medicaid Cost Settlement Funds yet, or if the DMA will. Medicaid funds originate on the federal level and are then given to the DMA to distribute to local departments. The funds are for services that have already been rendered -- is a reimbursement not a projected amount for what local departments might spend.

"The N.C. Health Directors Association has hired a legal firm out of Charlotte to represent us," Bruckner said. "There are a couple of different things in our favor in terms of a law suit. First, the state deviated from its approved formula without informing health directors, which by law, they have to. Also, the DMA is only allowed to withhold funds for five months; 2011 was more than five months ago, 2012 was more than five months, and so was 2013 and 2014."

During the October Board of Health board meeting, Bruckner noted that although some funds have been sent to the county, the full amounts owed have not been sent and because of that, the health directors association is still considering a lawsuit.

While the lawsuit was originally going to be filed at the beginning of October, Bruckner said it was delayed while the association was working to gain support from other counties in the state who like Macon County, are experiencing budget constraints due to lack of funds.

Another issue plaguing Macon County is what to do

with the \$400,000 from the state. Medicaid cost settlement dollars can only be spent on Medicaid funded programs in which the funds are earned. So the money cannot be spent elsewhere in the health department's budget.

The \$400,000 was a reimbursement for services rendered last year and because the health department and the county closed out their 2014-'15 budget in September, those funds cannot be retroactively applied. Bruckner was slated to meet with county finance director Lori Hall to work out the details on what to do with the funding now.

...STATE continued from page 1

tially faced a significant budget shortfall.

In September the school system received the 2015-16 planning allotment from the state, which allowed the county to rest a little easier. Both driver's education and teacher assistants were funded at current levels. Last week, as the school system adopted the \$45 million budget resolution that included \$3.1 million in federal funds, \$10.4 million from local fund sources such as the county, and \$25.6 million from the state, Macon County Schools finance director informed the board that the state's allotment included increases in line items such as textbooks, classroom materials and athletic officiating.

The state's budget pledged to continue funding driver's education at current levels for the next two years. Macon County has however increased the participation fee for the program from \$45 to \$65 to help cover the cost to maintain the vehicle and fund the driver's education teacher's salary. Even with the state's allotment for the program, local dollars are still needed to cover the overall expenses.

• See STATE page 9

 **PETER MILLAR**



**PETER MILLAR
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• REFLECTIONS •

Veterans Day through the prism of Normandy

Reflecting on Veterans Day comes easier to me this year, as our vacation last year to Normandy and the D-Day sites is a trip I'll never forget.

Our goal in choosing a Normandy cycling tour was to see the awe-inspiring WWII museums and monuments as part of our annual cycling vacation. I came away wishing every American could experience Normandy and reflect on the sacrifices made by so many to turn the tide in WWII and to defend the freedoms we quite often take for granted.

Perhaps the most striking and solemn site is The Normandy American Cemetery and Memorial at Omaha Beach, comprised of several sections, each of which leaves an indelible impression. First, the Visitor Center, as the brochure describes, "depicts the significance and meaning of Operation OVERLORD and honors the values and sacrifices of the World War II generation." The exhibit space recounts personal stories of our soldiers and combines text and photos on large panels, with, interactive displays and artifacts, but for me, it was stepping outside that was most overwhelming.

Outside the Visitor Center, the Overlook provides a view of the beach and the English Channel. Gazing at that peaceful scene and replaying in my mind the horrific invasion images I've seen through the years was almost surreal. There, we met our tour guide who escorted us to the Memorial with its statue, "The Spirit of American Youth Rising from the Waves." It is a fitting image to honor these men, many of them not yet 20 years old, who gave their all in the Normandy Campaign. Carved on the lintel above the statue is the inscription "This embattled shore, portal of freedom, is forever hallowed by the ideals, the valor and the sacrifices of our fellow countrymen." This is the gateway to the Garden of the Missing where the semi-circular wall is engraved with over 1,500 names of those missing in action.

As we moved from the Garden to the cemetery of 9,387 graves, this quote greeted us:

"If ever proof were needed that we fought for a cause and not for conquest it could be found in these cemeteries. Here was our only conquest: all we asked...was enough....soil in which to bury our gal-



Kathy Penn

lant dead."

General Mark W. Clark, Chairman, American Battle Monuments Commission (1969-84)

I was awestruck as I looked out at row upon row of headstones. Hearing our guide speak about just a handful of individuals brought home the reality of lives cut short. Each Cross and Star of David

has a story to tell. We heard one story of a pilot who wrote his family that he had completed his requisite number of missions and was awaiting transport back home. After writing that letter, he volunteered for another bombing mission and was killed. I can only imagine that his family must have reacted to that news with a mix of emotions ranging from sorrow to pride to perhaps some anger at his fateful choice.

It seems appropriate that we visited Omaha Beach on the final day of our tour to reflect solemnly on the debt we owe these brave men and women and to consider what the world would be like today if not for them. This Eisenhower quote inscribed in the Garden of the Missing says it all:

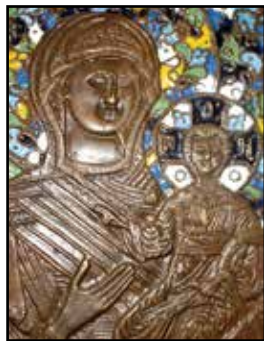
"To these we owe the high resolve that the cause for which they died shall live."

• Kathy Manos Penn is a Sandy Springs, GA, resident who works in corporate America and writes for the Dunwoody Crier. Read more of her musing at TheInkPenn.blogspot.com.

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

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...STATE continued from page 6

Due to a formula change for teacher assistants, where the state switched funding allotments to cover assistants in all kindergarten classrooms, Macon County received about a \$100,000 reduction. Last year, the state allotted Macon County \$1,116,415 but due to the new formula, this year Macon County had \$1,090,725 to work with.

With extra funding in the budget this year, MC Board of Education Finance Director Angie Cook told the board that half of the district's officiating budget was able to be restored. Dr. Chris Baldwin noted that between Highlands School, Nantahala, Franklin High and Macon Middle School, the district spent \$47,265.50 on officials last year.

Franklin High School alone uses officials for 19 different sports teams throughout the year. When budget reductions occurred in years past, the school district cut that budget line item to fund other programs in the school system. Individual schools and sports had been responsible for funding the officials out of their athletic reserve accounts. Cook noted that for the current year, \$23,632.75 was put back into that line item, with the remaining amount still being the responsibility of the individual schools.

Both the state's Average Daily Membership funds for maintenance and general operating expenses were also increased in

• See STATE page 12



Hamlet

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November 7
1pm
\$22 Adults
\$19 Members
\$12 Students

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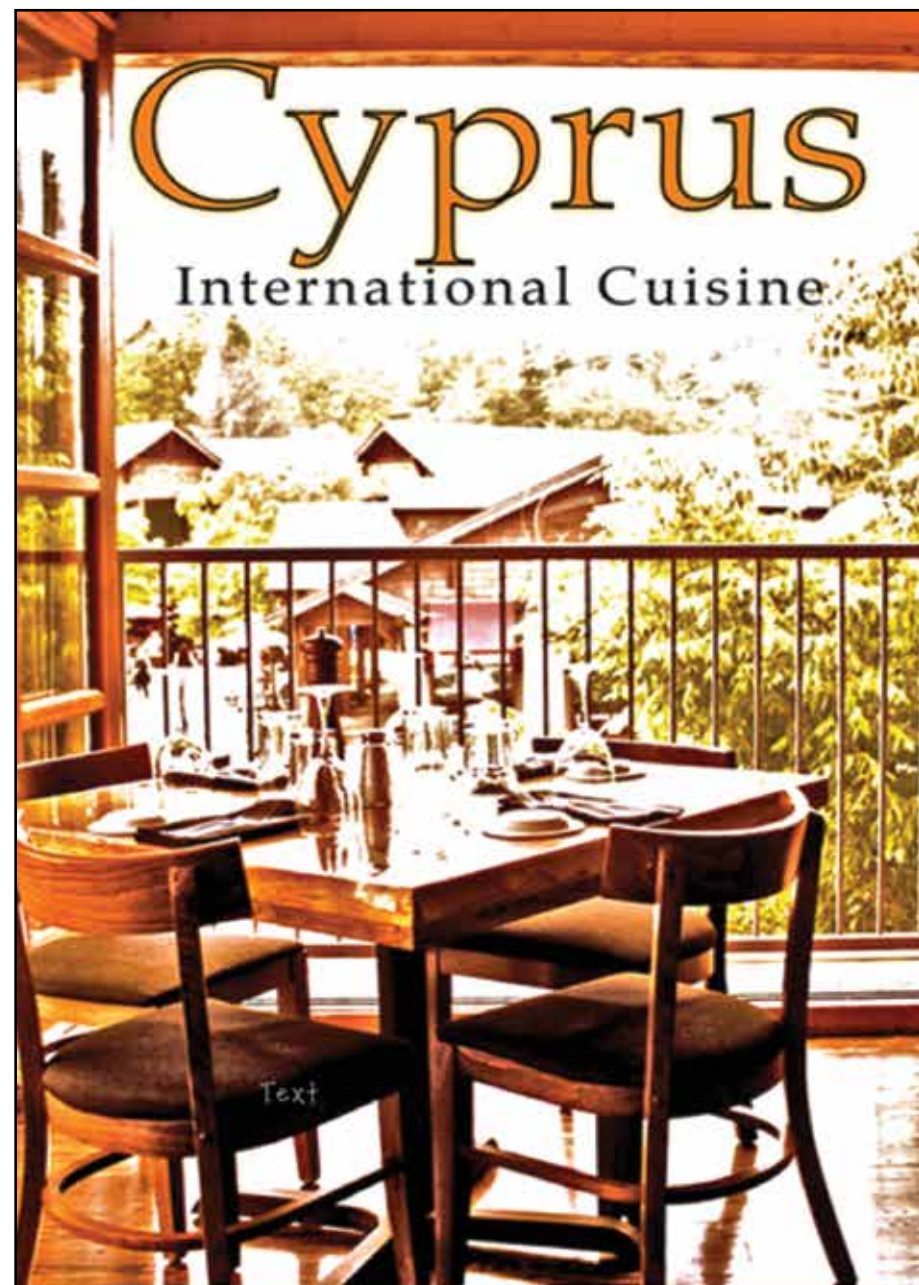


The Beaux Stratagem



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\$19 Members
\$12 Students

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• HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

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 taking 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 emergencies. 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 welcomed

Mon. & Wed.

• Zumba with Mary K. Barbour at the Rec

Park from noon to 1p. For more information, call 828.342.2498.

Mon., Wed., Fri.

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

• Aerobics with Tina Rogers 8-9a.

First Tuesdays

• The monthly family support group for those with family members, friends, or loved ones living with the challenge of mental illness meets 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 Alliance 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

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.

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...EVENTS continued from page 10

Wednesdays

• Donation Based Meditation Wednesday nights w Christopher 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 Hudson 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 Community Center. Questions? Call Lisa 828-506-3555.

• NAMI Support Group for individuals dealing with mental illness: depression, bipolar, schizophrenia, etc. and the family members of individuals dealing with these challenges from 7 - 8:15 pm. 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.

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 9 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.

Thurs., Nov. 5

• Rotary Bingo at the Community Building next to the ballfield. Proceeds will go to the Bolivia Mission.

Thurs. - Sun., Nov. 5-8

• Highlands 9th Annual Culinary Weekend at local restaurants, shops and inns.

Fri. & Sat., Nov. 6-7

• At TJ Bailey for Men. Brackish Bowtie Trunk Show. AND Peter Millar Truck Show.

Sat., Nov. 7

• The Christmas Tree - Highlands Original Christmas Shop, 357 Main Street, hosts a book signing about wine with "Saucy Sister" Beverly Wichman beginning 11AM. Free Champagne. (828) 526-3687.

• Fontana Regional Library will be hosting their 2nd Annual "Read Local Book Fair," an event which gives residents the chance to meet and support local authors at Macon County Public Library in Franklin on Saturday from 10am to 2pm. Many authors will read selections from their works throughout the day and will have copies of their works available for purchase, just in time for the holiday season!

Mon., Nov. 9

• The Battle of Sugartown Chapter of the North Carolina Society, Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), will hold its monthly meeting at 11:30 a.m. in the Boiler Room Restaurant at 1024 Georgia Road in Franklin. All DAR members and prospective members are welcome. For further information, please call 828-524-2673.

Tues., Nov. 10

• At The Highlands Playhouse, the movie "Fantasia" at 7 p.m. \$10 for adults and children are free. For tickets call 828-526-2695.

Wed., Nov. 11

• Boy Scout Troop 207 and the American Legion Post 370 will be dedicating the new flagpole at the town ballfield at 1 p.m. Public is invited.

Thurs., Nov. 12

• The Western NC Woodturners Club, Inc. meets at 6 p.m. at the Blue Ridge School in Glenville, NC at 95 Bobcat Drive. Drive to the back of the school to the woodworking shop. Visitors are always welcome.

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Hamlet Live in HD at PAC Sat.



Saturday, November 7 at 1pm The Highlands Performing Arts Center will present Hamlet starring Academy Award® nominee Benedict Cumberbatch (BBC's Sherlock, The Imitation Game, Frankenstein at the National Theatre) as he takes on the title role of Shakespeare's great tragedy. Directed by Lyndsey Turner (Posh, Chimerica) National Theatre Live will broadcast this eagerly awaited production Live in HD. As a country arms itself for war, a family tears itself apart. Forced to avenge his father's death but paralyzed by the task ahead, Hamlet rages against the impossibility of his predicament, threatening both his sanity and the security of the state. Tickets are available online: highlandspac.org or by calling 828.526.9047. Students will be admitted FREE of charge for this presentation.

Amended Police Report

Victim gave police the wrong address

Last week the Oct. 16 report in the Police & Fire Reports listed a larceny of jewelry valued at \$20,800 as being taken from a room in the Highlands Inn. In an amended report, the jewelry is listed as being taken from a room in the Main Street Inn. When reporting the crime to police, the victim told them she was staying at the Highlands Inn when in fact she was staying at Main Street Inn. However in the amended report it is noted that the "victim can't find her jewelry and is not certain when the jewelry became missing."

...STATE from page 9

the new budget resolution. In addition to the budget resolution, Macon County School officials were also informed that additional cash resources would be available in the coming month as the real-estate deal regarding Cullasaja School should be completed in November. James VanderWoude with Van's Electric, Inc. placed the highest bid on the property in the amount of \$175,000. Due to vandalism that has occurred on the building during the bidding process, the price of the building was reduced by \$4,000.

BIZ NOTE

Ingles has purchased the Whistle Stop Mall in Franklin.

Whistle Stop Mall will now move to the old Cullasaja School which was recently purchased by James VanderWoude with Van's Electric, Inc.

Whistle Stop Antiques and several small shops will move to the new location.

It's not known what Ingles plans to do with the property.

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• POLICE NEWS •

Newest Highlands Police Officers

Officer Clayton Creighton was administered the N.C Law Enforcement Oath of Office by Mayor Patrick Taylor at Town Hall on October 26th. Officer Creighton who graduated Basic Law Enforcement Training Academy Class #72 in September, will begin his first tour of duty this week with a Field Training Officer for a minimum of 12 weeks. Officer Creighton is a native of Highlands and replaces Officer Derek Stamey, who has transferred to the Macon County Sheriff's Office, effective immediately. Auxiliary Officer Leah McCall was administered the N.C Law Enforcement Oath of Office by Mayor Patrick Taylor at Town Hall on October 30th. Officer McCall retired in Feb. 2014 from the NC Highway Patrol after 30 years of service.



Clayton Creighton



Leah McCall

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



Great in town location. Remodeled in 2008 on nearly 2 acres. 3BR, 3BA, 2 Half BA plus an office. 2-car garage. New kitchen, hardwood floors, French doors and new baths. MLS #66051 \$697,000



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



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



Renovated 2/2 condo in Highlands Mountain Club. The kitchen is sleek and elegant and the great room is spacious but with lots of light from the wall to wall glass doors which lead to the open deck. \$320,000 MLS# 81182



In Highlands Falls Country Club 4/4/1 home on over 3.5 acres with quality finishes throughout. Norton Mill Creek flows by the home. \$1,595,000 MLS #82638



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



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



Close to all the amenities of Mountain Top Golf and Lake Club. This wonderful new mountain home was designed by Summerour and built by JT Turner of Savannah GA. Incredible kitchen with massive island. Deck with fireplace and mountain view. \$2,295,000 MLS #68782



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



Beautiful pastoral view of the paddocks and stables plus Shortoff Mountain from lovingly maintained family home in Cold Springs. Newly remodeled chefs kitchen plus sizable bedrooms and exquisite views and proximity to town make this property a BARGAIN! MLS #82080 \$525,000



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



Like new and only 4.0 miles from town, screened from the road by a thick Holly hedge. Property is bordered by several streams. The house is a 3/3/1 plan, with a bright interior and expansive wrap around front porch and a screened porch in the rear. MLS #82064 \$579,000



Arts and Crafts style home with lots of character with everything you need on the main floor. On the Atlanta side of Highlands adjacent to National Forest. 4/4/1 \$867,000 MLS #81748



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Real Food and Wine and Real Estate!

Having been a food critic in the past, I have a special place in my heart and soul for great food and great wines! How appropriate that this is my week to write about real estate with the opening of our Culinary Weekend on Thursday night at Highlands Country Club. Many

restaurants are offering wine dinners as well which should not be missed!

After moving to Highlands 21 years ago to open a bed and breakfast and cooking school, I found that many of our guests were in town looking for real estate. There was interest then in food and wines but nothing like it is today! Which brings up the topic of entertaining.

As a real estate broker, I find most buyers want an open floor plan that flows onto a deck or porch allowing gatherings of friends and family. Homes don't have to be large and fancy – just an open plan with good sitting areas for sipping wine and savoring tasty morsels.

Just as fine wines don't have to be the most expensive to satisfy your tastes, neither do homes. Some of the most charming are small and inexpensive. On the other hand, we have large homes with breathtaking views and massive decks with outdoor fireplaces but the camaraderie is the same.

We have homes listed ranging from the high 200,000s to \$4 million...something for everyone. For the real connoisseur, we have a gorgeous home with a guesthouse



Pat Allen
Pat Allen Realty Group
Broker-in-charge
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on 35 acres that is celebrity-worthy. The owner has over \$7 million in it but will sell for \$2.4 million furnished including artwork! That's something to toast! I actually had the pleasure of sharing a fabulous wine with the owners when I listed it!

We have had a huge increase in buyers this year. I've even had properties with back-up offers in place!

If you are selling be sure to not overprice. Just like good wine, people want value for money spent. Ask a broker who works 24/7 and knows the market value in all areas –not just country clubs.

The philosophy to mark it up because of low-ball offers is a thing of the past. Buyers who become emotionally attached to your home will pay a fair price and a good broker will negotiate to make that happen. That is an important role and one to be taken seriously, resulting in a price that is good for you.

I hope you will experience the Culinary Weekend with great wines perfectly paired with wonderful food. Maybe I'll see you at an event.

• REAL ESTATE SNAPSHOTS •



\$1,499,000
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...PLANNER from page 1

county.

He also has experience with code enforcement including watershed management, erosion control and storm water management – all key concerns on the Highlands Plateau.

“Randy is a firm believer that good planning and economic development go hand-in-hand; while appreciating nature and the protection of the environment,” said Town Manager Frye. “That, I think, sums up all that Highlands is and has tried to achieve in its planning program.”

Though Highlands and its environs aren't the right fit for some people, it sounds like Feierabend is ready to call Highlands home.

“My work experience in the Carolinas has offered many interesting and gratifying challenges and opportunities, but I find the work environment I most enjoy is a rural, destination community,” he said. “I was particularly interested in the Town of Highlands Planning Director position, because Highlands is a mountain community that respects its natural beauty and is designing growth to complement the surrounding



Randy Feierabend

natural environment.”

His wife Kathryn is a watercolor/mixed media artist whose work is mainly shown at the Main Street Gallery in Blowing Rock, NC. They have two children, Megan and Evan, and as of July they have their first grandchild, a grandson, Adler.

“I welcome the opportunity to work with the Town of Highlands to preserve its unique character, while creating a vision for future growth. My planning education and training, as well as my strong environmental skills and a drive to see growth that enhances its surroundings, I trust, will make me a natural fit for Highlands,” he said.

He said like many others, he loves the mountains of NC and working for Highlands gives him the opportunity to work in the mountains and in the profession he is not only educated and trained in but that he loves - planning.

“I look forward to working with the town leaders, Mr. Frye, my co-workers and the citizens to create and implement a unified vision for the future of Highlands,” he said.

He will be on the job mid-November.

– Kim Lewicki

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This home overlooks the golf course and a private, lake with waterfall feature. Spacious, double decks, too. Offered for **\$629,000** • MLS # 81886

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Highlands Country Club. Spacious and open, this split level 3 BR has a grand great room with wall of glass for you to enjoy the privacy of this heavily wooded lot. Cathedral ceilings, 2 car garage ready for your personal colors. Offered at \$819,000. mls #82853



This well maintained home on 7+ acre lot with nearly level front lawn has mature landscaping and a seasonally changing view. 2BD/1.5BA. Beautiful hardwood floors, a living room, front porch and a cozy eat-in kitchen. There is a detached one car garage with workshop. Offered at \$350,000. mls #82780



Large great room with cathedral ceilings. Formal dining. Eat in, over sized kitchen. Three bedroom suites. Both living areas have wood burning rock fireplaces. Wet bar, butler pantry on main. Wide covered and open decks. Honed corner glass for undisturbed viewing. Double Carport. Offered at \$1,450,000 MLS# 74948



5BD/4BA. Very unique with heavy logs, lots of stone and wood in Octagon 2 story. Lovingly restored with HVAC. Meticulously maintained. Offered at \$875,000. mls #81152



This charming cottage is close to town, Mirror Lake, the Rec Park and dog park. 3BD/2BA home has wood floors, woodburning fireplace, one-car garage and an upstairs room. Offered at \$249,000. mls #82850



Stunning and spacious home with huge living area with heavy beams and stone fireplace. Covered porch with outdoor kitchen. Master suite with en suite with tub and walk through shower, his and her offices, laundry, and a 2-car garage. Upper level has guest suite with large bath. Lower level has 3 bedrooms, family room with morning kitchen, and an additional 2-car garage. Offered at \$1,575,000. mls #81664



Great views of Highlands Country Club and Lake Sequoyah from this upper level 3BD/2BA unit that is a blank canvas, waiting for your personal touches. Newly renovated clubhouse and affordable HOA fees make this a super attractive unit. Offered at \$325,000. mls #77910



Prestigious Bowery Road location. 3BD/3 1/2BA in the main house. guest area/studio and bath above the 2-car garage. Living room is vaulted, with beamwork, stone fireplace. Custom kitchen. Spacious master bedroom with ensuite bath on main level. Offered at \$1,145,000. mls #79510



Commercial Property. First time on the market. Zoned B-3. Includes approximately 100' of frontage on Main and Oak streets. Historic Highlands building dating back to 1900. Two current businesses and two apartments provide rental income. Property and buildings only. BUSINESSES ARE NOT INCLUDED AND ARE NOT FOR SALE. Offered at \$2,000,000. mls #82703



Stunning Whiteside Mountain View. Charming cabin needs some love but is comfortable and functional with 4BD/3BA. Woodburning fireplace. Walls of glass Offered at \$885,000. mls #78695



Commercial complex with 6 commercial tenants and 6 suites, great investment with great upside potential. In excellent condition. Many new upgrades including new roof and paved parking. Offered at \$2.9 million. mls #75009



Almost new 4BD/4 1/2BA. Great room, island kitchen and covered porch with views of Satulah Mountain. Covered entry from the 2-car garage, lower level has additional family room with fireplace, and 2BD/2BA and additional porch. Offered at \$945,000. mls #79647



Tucked away at the end of the road in the peaceful Webbmont community is this cozy 2br/2ba cottage. Recent upgrades include new wiring, plumbing, heat/air, roof, decks and more. Great location and price! Just 5 minutes to downtown Highlands. Offered at \$179,000. MLS#82712



Turn of the Century 480 Winfield Farm has 4.7 acres and borders USFS land. Main house has 3+BR/2.5Bath with 1-car garage, stone wood burning fireplace, wood floors and large master suite on main. Guest house has 1 BR/1BA with 2-car garage, basement. MLS# 82465 Offered at \$559,000



Great log cabin with rock fireplace. Open great room, dining room, kitchen, hardwood floors and split floor plan. Large open back deck with winter view of Rabun Bald Mountain and front covered deck. One car garage, wide doors for wheel chair accessibility. 17-acre community lake Osage. MLS# 67737, Offered at \$299,000



Farmhouse design on a large 1.54 acre lot. Garage with finished upper story, main house has an efficiency apartment and 3BD/3 1/2BA. Diamond in the rough. City water, walk to Mirrmont Pond and Mirror Lake. Shown by appointment only. Offered at \$399,000 MLS #70122



3BD/3BA in Flat Mountain Estates. New granite kitchen, stone fireplace. Large screened porch and open deck. Priced to sell at \$399,900. mls #82698



Within the bounds of Wildcat Cliffs Country Club, this condo in The Birches has 3BD/3BA, large covered porch, cathedral ceilings, custom kitchen. Owner is offering a \$10,000 allowance toward a Social Membership at WCCC. Offered at \$524,500. mls #79242



One of the most amazing homes in the mountains of WNC. 5 floor-to-ceiling fireplaces, media room, game room. 30 mile views with a spectacular close up look at Whitesides Rocky Face. Offered at \$2,468,000. mls #76453



8BD/8 1/2BA. Blue Valley view in back and Whiteside Mountain in front. Game room and exercise room. Formal sitting room with glass front and back, a keeping room, formal dining, kitchen, master bedroom with fireplace and an office. Attached guest house. Membership at Highlands Country Club available subject to approval. Offered at \$3,900,000. MLS# 65882

• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

Almost a Saint?

By Margaret Howell

Holy Family Lutheran Church

Life has been interesting lately. I've been serving churches and hospices as a lay person and as a chaplain for 20 years -- my how the time flies, or as a friend of mine used to say, "Once you get over the hill, you start picking up speed."

As a chaplain I have played the harp at many a bedside, including my dear Mother-in-loves as she made that transition from this life to the next.

I've spent hundreds of hours at the bedside or in the home of parishioners, friends and family, hoping that God will guide me on the way to bring healing and comfort to those I visit.

Before I came to Holy Family, I presided at a ton of funerals. It seemed logical that the person who walked with the dying person on their wilderness journey be the one to perform one final service for them and their families. I realized at one point, that I had been nicknamed the "Angel of Death." A rather ironic title. Not really a compliment, but not an insult either.

In the past eight years, since coming to Holy Family I've witnessed the passing of a number of close friends and family. I am fortunate indeed, that I am pastor of such a compassionate group who have given me their prayers and understanding.

Imagine my surprise when in early September I went to the ER for what I thought was maybe a touch of pneumonia and found myself hospitalized with a very serious condition. I knew something was up when I joked around with the ER nurses and they didn't laugh.

It was quite a shock, being on the other side of the hospital bed, let me tell you!

All the tubes and monitors, the endless taking of blood samples, the taking of vital signs every hour was just about as much fun as I thought it would be.

The nurses at Novant Presbyterian Hospital in Charlotte were great, though. They treated me like a queen, well, a sick queen. Jon was great. He stayed with me until my sister Helen arrived, having driven late at night all the way in from Raleigh to Charlotte. After the flurry of getting me into a room, I sneaked a peek at WebMD to find out a little more about my condition. I was puzzled by all the fuss, because I really didn't feel that bad. Imagine my surprise when I discovered I had been very close to having a fatal heart attack. My condition was serious.

That took me back a few steps, for sure.

For the first time in my life, I was the patient. I was the one flirting with the real angel of death. I should have been terrified.

I am, in plain terms, a weenie. I always figured that when death approached me, I would feel fear. But I didn't.

A great peace came over me. No panic, no fear; just a sure and certain knowledge that no matter what happened I was going to be all right.

The only thing that worried me was that if I died, my poor sister would have to help Jon go through all my stuff.

Where does this peace that passes all understanding come from? We already know the answer.

In Revelation it is written;

See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away. See, I am making all things new. It is done! I am the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end.

Proverbs 3:5

• PLACES TO WORSHIP •

John 3:16

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Tues. Guys study 8am, Gals 10am.

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

Wednesdays - Supper at 6 p.m.

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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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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

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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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Pastor Nathan Johnson

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Wed. Kidsquest 6p.; Worship 7p.

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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);

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Wednesdays: Prayer Mtg.: 7 p.m.

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Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study: 7

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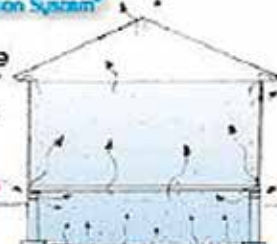
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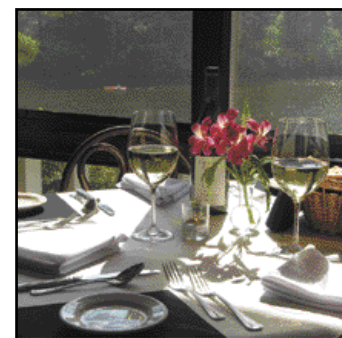
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