

# Highlands Newspaper

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Thurs., Dec. 1, 2016

## Planning Board OK's subdivision and rezoning requests

The town still doesn't have a Planning/Zoning director but the show must go on.

Such was the case Monday night when the Planning Board met to give its recommendation on two changes to the area.

First up was the proposed Trotter Development on a 3.9-acre tract bordered by Moorewood and Hudson roads that currently houses one structure.

The Planning Board's job was to get a preliminary look at the

plans that will include subdividing 3.9-acres to accommodate three new home sites.

First the existing lots 126 and 127 will be combined to make 1.97-acres and with lot 133's 1.12 acres the total is 3.09. Then, three

1.01-acre lots will be created to each potentially house a structure roughly 50 feet by 40 feet.

The subdivision will include a common garden area previously part of lot 130 – whose older

•See PLANNING page 7

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## School bus safety in the crosshairs

The nation was shaken last week when six children died in a school bus crash in Chattanooga, TN. The driver of the school bus, 24-year-old Johnthony Walker, was said to be going well over the posted 30 mph speed limit on Talley Road, a winding mountain road, when he lost control of the bus. A toxicology report found no alcohol or drugs in Walker's system, but he was still arrested and charged with vehicular homicide in the deaths of each of the children. According to news reports, Talley Road, where the accident took place, wasn't on the bus's designated route.

The tragedy in Tennessee has sparked conversation nationwide about school bus safety, something Macon County School officials have already taken initiatives to address. Before the 2016-'17 school year started, Macon County Schools outfitted all 57 school buses in the county's fleet with a state-of-the-art GPS track-

•See SCHOOL BUS page 7

## Highlands Christmas Parade is this Saturday



The annual Christmas parade will take place on Main Street at 11 a.m. Look for all the regulars and then some! After the parade there is a BBQ Luncheon at the Episcopal Church to benefit the Food Pantry and the Highlands Emergency Council's Food Pantry. It's \$10 and comes with entertainment by the WellStrung Band. The annual Carol Sing at the First Presbyterian Church is after the parade at 2 p.m.

## Partial burning ban lifted for Macon C.

*Still in effect for Town of Highlands, however*

Macon County has lifted the ban on outdoor burning, including burning leaves, branches and other material, within 100 feet of an oc-

cupied dwelling. Macon County only has jurisdiction for outdoor burning within that 100 feet area. Outdoor burning greater than 100

feet from an occupied dwelling is regulated by the N.C. Forest Service and is not allowed until that

•See BAN page 17

## Wayah Fire Tower roof destroyed in wild fire

After standing tall for 33 years, the roof of the Wayah Bald Fire Tower became the first structure damaged by the wildfires that have ravaged Macon County since late October.

Sadly, unlike the mostly stone Wayah Bald Fire Tower, the nearby historic Jones Cabin was a complete loss.

The current Wayah Bald Fire Tower is the second to sit atop the summit. The present tower was built by the Civilian Conservation Camp, opened in 1937 and was originally three stories tall. After only a little over a decade of service the tower was abandoned and the top two stories were removed for safety reasons. In 1983 the USFS completed renovations on the tower, which included the construction of the now destroyed roof.

As of 7 p.m. on Mon-

•See FIRE page 10

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# • THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

## • MAYOR ON DUTY •

### The holiday season is upon us!

Thanksgiving was again a wonderful holiday capped off by the town lighting at Kelsey Hutchinson Founders Park on Saturday night. I had the honor of making brief opening remarks.

I thanked the Chamber of Commerce for organizing and sponsoring this annual event. I also thanked them for again organizing the Highlands Christmas Parade which will progress down Main Street at 11 am on Saturday.

I also expressed my appreciation to the Highlands Recreation Department staff for getting the park and ice skating rink ready for Saturday's event. Also, the town electric crews did another great job of putting up the lights in the park and around town.

I am also grateful to the Friends of the Park for the work they have done this year in developing Phase 2 of the park. I especially applaud Hank Ross for his design and oversight in the erection of the new Founders Fireplace. Santa's house is now next to it.

The combined Highlands Church Chorus did a wonderful performance, as well as the Highlands Children's Chorus. It is wonderful hearing sweet voices of children singing Christmas carols.



Mayor Pat Taylor

I concluded by reminding everyone this is a holiday time of giving. I recognized several organizations that make this a special time for people and families in need. We have the food pantry that is supported by our faith community, and we have a dedicated Highlands Emergency Council. I want to give thanks to the many volunteers that will devote time during the holidays, especially those who will cook and serve the Annual Highlands Christmas Dinner. Many of these volunteers did the same at the Thanksgiving Community Dinner.

Finally, I expressed on behalf of the community our gratitude to the firefighters and first responders battling area wildfires. They are dedicated to protecting our community.

Unfortunately, this is the season for bad weather and a few bad people. Please remember to report power failures in Highlands by calling Town Hall at 526-2118. After business hours, please call 911, or the nonemergency number 526-4131. The county emergency system is the dispatching agency for town crews when Town Hall is closed after business hours.

There could be a small number of folks committing crimes during the holiday season, such as shoplifting downtown. Please do not call the police department to report a crime being committed. Also, don't post it on Facebook and expect the police to know. Call 911, or if you do not want to use 911, call 526-4131. The EMS dispatcher will immediately radio a Highlands police officer to respond without delay.

Last week I learned that someone

•See MAYOR page 17

### Highlands Newspaper

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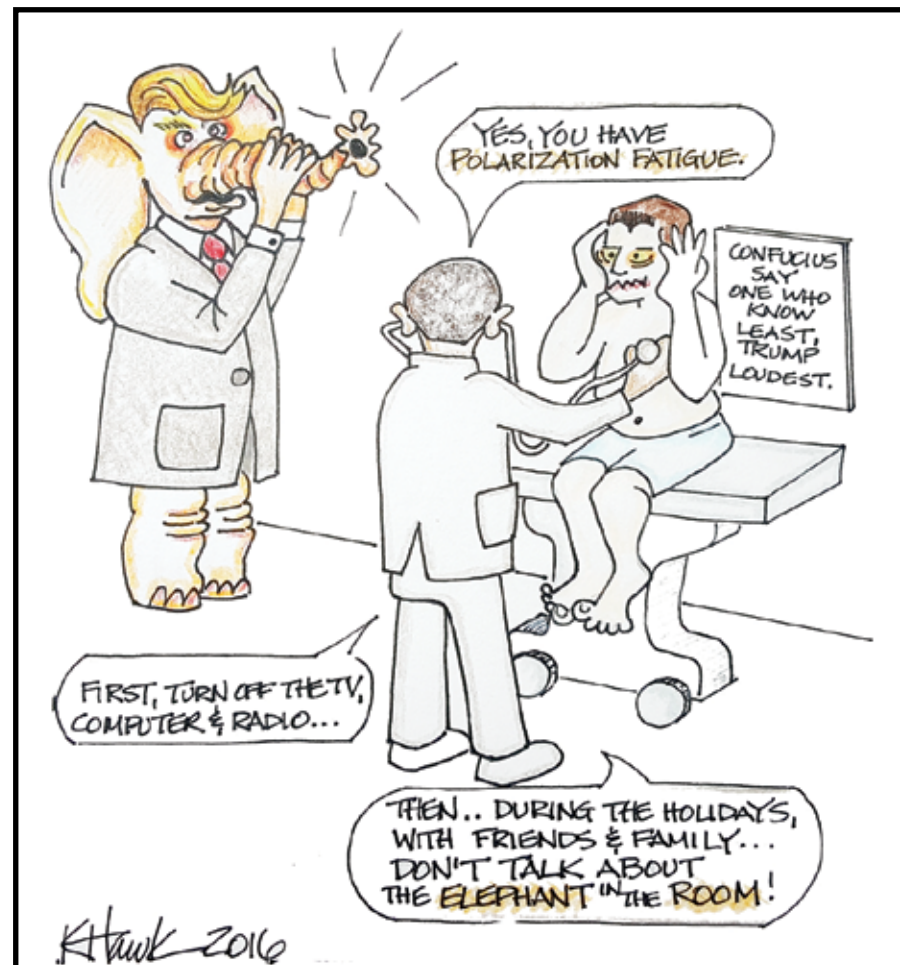
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## • HAWK'S-EYE VIEW •



## • LETTERS •

### To our firefighters in WNC

Dear Firefighter,

We know that by design, a firefighter would never seek praise or require external support for motivation. You are self-

-driven and know without even thinking about it that your work is important because it helps others. But you see that

•See LETTERS page 5

## • WEEKEND WEATHER •

FRIDAY DEC 2	SATURDAY DEC 3	SUNDAY DEC 4
47°/25°	48°/32°	40°/34°

For real-time weather and the extended forecast go to [www.highlandsinfo.com](http://www.highlandsinfo.com) and click on Weather



# • OBITUARIES •

## Allan L. Chastain

Allan L. Chastain, 57, went home to be with the Lord Friday, November 18, 2016. Allan was born August 13, 1959 in Macon County to the late Carl Lewis Chastain and Ann Talley Chastain who survives. He worked for Cashiers Plastic and later went to work for Macon County. He loved collecting comic books and old movies. Allan helped his mother with the Emergency Council in Highlands and he was a member of the Pine Creek Baptist Church where he was a deacon and Sunday school teacher. Allan most of all loved to help people and be a witness for Jesus Christ.

Survivors include his mother, Ann Talley Chastain of Highlands and a brother, Danny Chastain of Highlands.

A funeral service was held Monday, November 21, 2016 at Shortoff Baptist Church with Pastor Andy Cloer officiating. Burial followed in the Highlands Memorial Park.

Pallbearers were Lonnie Barnes, Doug Barnes, Mr. River, Stacy Houston, James Chastain, Robert Crips, and Donald Talley.

Memorials can be made to Shortoff Baptist Church in Allan's Memory to the care of Pastor Andy Cloer 303 Valley View Rd. Franklin, NC 28734.

Online condolences can be left at [www.bryantgrantfuneralhome.com](http://www.bryantgrantfuneralhome.com).

Bryant-Grant Funeral Home and Crematory served the Chastain family.

## Clarence O'Neal Wilson

Clarence O'Neal Wilson, 90, of Highlands passed away Monday, November 21, 2016.

Born in Macon County, he was the son of the late Hubert and Theodocia Wilson. Mr. Wilson was a veteran of the U. S. Army in the Korean War, serving until August 23, 1956. He served as Deacon of Clear Creek Baptist Church for the past 34 years. He loved to work in wood.

He is survived by his wife of 62 years, Ella Mae Nix Wilson; one daughter, Janice Allmond (Jimmy); two sons, Roger Lee Wilson (Anna) and Edwin Wilson (Lisa) all of Highlands; one sister, Frances Reed of Satolah, GA; five grandchildren, Jason Woods, Adam Woods, Matthew Wilson,



Alana Fisher and Leslie Bradham and seven great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held Friday, November 25, 2016 at Clear Creek Baptist Church. Reverend Jim Kinard will officiate. Burial was in the Clear Creek Cemetery with military graveside rites. Pallbearers were Jason Woods, Adam Woods, Matthew Wilson, Charles Reed, Craig McCall and Steve Nix.

Memorial donations may be made to Clear Creek Baptist Church, c/o Marsha Chastain, PO Box 1717, Highlands, NC 28741.

Bryant-Grant Funeral Home and Crematory served the Wilson family. Online condolences may be made at [bryantgrantfuneralhome.com](http://bryantgrantfuneralhome.com).

## Doris Marie Henry

Doris Marie Henry, age 86, of Franklin, NC, passed away Tuesday, November 22, 2016. She was born in Macon County, the daughter of the late George E. and Mae Patterson Henry. She was a homemaker. She loved to garden and loved the outdoors. She was a member of Dryman Chapel United Methodist Church.

She is survived by a daughter, Deborah Kay Henry of Franklin, NC; two brothers, James "Bob" Henry (Tee) and Howard Henry (Evelyn) all of Franklin, NC; five nephews and two nieces. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by three brothers, Harold, Hal and Norman Henry.

Funeral services were held Sunday, November 27, 2016 at Dryman Chapel United Methodist Church, with Rev. Kelly Dotson and Rev. Vic Greene officiating. Burial will be in Wright Cemetery. Pallbearers will be Jimmy Henry, Randy Henry, Alan Henry, Chris Henry, Rodney Henry, Ronnie Vinson and Evan Henry.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Wright Cemetery Fund, c/o Jane Morgan, O Box 146, Otto, NC 28763.

Bryant-Grant Funeral Home and Crematory served the Henry family. Online condolences may be made at [www.bryantgrantfuneralhome.com](http://www.bryantgrantfuneralhome.com).

•See OBITUARIES page 18

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## ...LETTERS continued from page 2

work as “no big deal” and “just what needs to be done.” Simply put, your work is your calling as it is for those of us caring for patients. And, while we appreciate that you don’t need a letter of gratitude, as citizens and admirers who are deeply appreciative of your work, we simply must share how incredibly grateful we are to each of you.

For many who call western North Carolina home, God’s beautiful gift of our mountains is a great source of comfort and pride. Ironically, what is normally the most wonderful and beautiful time of year is just the opposite this year. All across our region, we see devastation from fires – not only to our magnificent landscape but even more sadly to our friends and neighbors. It’s possible that when watching this devastation every day on the news and knowing individuals and families impacted so significantly, one can begin to feel helpless.

And yet, at the same time, there you are fighting these fires under the duress of heat, smoke and other elements day after day after day, doing everything humanly possible to mitigate the damage. As an observer, it’s impossible to imagine the difficulty and toll it takes on you and your own families. I speak on behalf of Mission Health’s 12,000+ team members across the region when I say, “THANK YOU!”

Thank you for being away from your families so that you can help us. Thank you for risking your own safety in order to fight these fires. Thank you for sacrificing your comfort, and in some cases, your well-being as you work under the most difficult conditions. We are impressed, we are in awe and we are indebted to you, which is why our team members feel so strongly about helping.

We want to show our support and feel as if we are in this with you, because we are. Please know that we are engaged, and we are here to support you and the many agencies that are assisting you in this effort. With great admiration, respect and thanks,

**Ronald A. Paulus, MD**  
President and CEO  
Mission Health

## 365 Gift of Gratitude

Dear Editor,

As a resident of Scaly Mountain, I have seen and appreciated the work of the Sky Valley-Scaly Mountain Volunteer Fire and Rescue. It is a 100% volunteer effort, as are many fire stations in the area. These men and women take time from their work and families to take hours of classes and training. They have to pass tests to qualify them to do the jobs they volunteer to perform on a regular basis. The training may be structural fire, wildfire, emergency medical, search and rescue and many other specialties. There is specific training in all of these areas. Of focus at this time is wildfire suppression. Some individuals train and are qualified in all of these areas. With the many wildfires in our region, this is a time to be grateful to all of our firefighters, rescue workers and medical personnel, who protect us 365 days a year. It is especially important with the threat of fire so close to us. I encourage you to make a “365 Gift of Gratitude” to help purchase additional equipment that could help save lives and property. With the holiday season upon us, this is the perfect time to send your local Fire And Rescue volunteers

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## ...SCHOOL BUS continued from page 1

ing systems and cameras through a contract with Synovia Solutions.

The on-bus software includes core track and trace, comparative analysis, time and attendance and engine diagnostics. The GPS tracking system allows Macon County school officials to know the speed a bus is traveling at any given time during a route, when a bus stops and starts, and when the stop arm of the bus goes in or out.

"The cameras have been used a number of times in student discipline incidents, stop arm violations, and other investigations," said Dr. Baldwin. "We have not collected data on the number of times that they have provided information. They have been very useful. Mr. Gibbs is working on the bus routes. He is collecting information from several sources and will present that information to me on Dec. 2."

While significant changes are unlikely to happen to the bus system mid-year, Dr. Baldwin noted that the information collected over this first year will be reviewed and utilized to improve the county's bus system.

In the 2014-'15 academic year alone, five North Carolina students leaving the bus were injured by motorists passing stopped school buses. That is one reason the N.C. State Board of Education has revised its bus safety policy to require a standard hand signal bus drivers must use to tell students when a street is safe to cross.

According to research conducted by the N.C. Department of Public Instruction Transportation Services section, most school bus-related student injuries and fatalities stem from drivers who disregard the school bus sign.

"We have over 15 years of data to show that more than 3,000 cars per day are

not going to stop. If we've got that information, then we know public awareness alone can't be enough to reverse this behavior, especially with more distractions out there on the road," said Derek Graham, section chief of NCDPI School Transportation Services. "The revised policy represents a more proactive approach to what bus drivers and students can do to stay safe even when other motorists don't adhere to the law."

Meanwhile, on the national level, the accident in Tennessee has prompted conversation on possible legislation to enact nationwide change specifically concerning seatbelts.

The question is, if it is the law to wear them in motor vehicles, why are school buses not equipped with them?

Like everything else, it comes down to money, say officials.

Without seatbelts, more children can be seated in the bus; with them less students per bus would mean the need to purchase more buses.

A Maryland Senator, Jim Brochin, introduced legislation last year to equip school buses with seat belts, but the bill was stalled in the General Assembly. When it reconvenes at the beginning of next year, Brochin plans to reintroduce the bill.

Meanwhile, at the beginning of this school year, 11 North Carolina counties were part of a pilot program to equip school buses with seat belts. Out of North Carolina's estimated 13,000 school buses, only about 82, less than one percent, have seat belts. Those 82 are due in large part to the state's pilot program that installed seat belts on buses in Burke, Henderson, Rowan, Transylvania, Carteret, Surry, Person, New Hanover, Guilford, Washington, and neighboring Jackson counties.

## ...PLANNING continued from page 1

home will be renovated.

The Trotter Development lies in the WS-III-CA district, which means it is in the Critical Area of the Public Water Supply Watershed designated by the NC Environmental Management Commission. Therefore, lots have to be at least one acre and strict built-upon restrictions apply.

Landscape Architect Hank Ross has

laid out a subdivision that adheres to all watershed restrictions as well as setback requirements from Hudson and Moorewood and side and rear adjacent lot setbacks of 20 feet as per Highlands CC regulations.

At the meeting developer Edwin Trotter said he envisions homes ranging in the 2,800 to 3,000 sq. ft. range. He doesn't plan

• See **PLANNING** page 10

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bar... \$9.99 each (dine in) or  
\$9.99 a pound (to go)

### SUNDAY SOUTHERN BRUNCH BAR

Every Sunday from 11am - 3pm  
Skillet fried chicken, country angus  
steak, skillet corn, biscuits & preserves,  
mashed potatoes, veggies, cobbler, plus  
the entire soup & salad bar.  
\$11.99 (dine in) or \$9.99 a pound (to go)

### PREPARED FOODS

A large selection of take-away items  
fully prepared, ready to take home  
including grilled pork loins, homemade  
mac & cheese, mashed potatoes, herb-  
rubbed chicken, made-in-house bbq,  
chicken salad deli salads & much more!

### DINNER TO GO

A different full dinner every night.  
Serves four serving Monday through  
Saturday from 4:30 until we sell out -  
Call ahead to reserve.

#### Monday: choose either:

Four chicken and four cheese enchiladas,  
refried beans, monterey rice, homemade  
tortilla chips, salsa, shredded lettuce,  
tomatoes, sour cream.

Or...

24 buffalo wings or 2 lbs chicken  
tenders and hand cut fries.  
\$21.95 serves four.

Tuesday: Made in-house Italian sausage  
lasagna and a large house salad.  
\$21.95 serves four

Wednesday: Chicken or steak pot pie  
and a large salad.  
\$21.95 serves four

Thursday: Roasted meatloaf with  
mashed potatoes, gravy and a large salad.  
\$21.95 serves four

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

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

#### Weeknight Pizza Special:

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

or

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

or

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

### 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.

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We sell only 100% Premium Angus Beef, all  
hand-cut in house, with the best pricing  
around. See our Butcher ad for this week's  
prices. Then stop by the take-out case to  
complete your dinner with twice baked  
potatoes, salads and more!

### SPECIALTY CHEESES

Dozens of cheeses, tapenades, olives and  
specialty items to choose from including our  
made in-house crackers.

### BAKERY

Fresh loaves, baguettes, pastries, pies, layer and  
specialty cakes. Everything made from scratch.

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## Good Memories

By Lee Lyons

I grew up in a big family of six children. At Thanksgiving and Christmas, my parents, well....mostly, my mother, put on these huge productions with a cast of thousands. Besides us, there were grandparents, current spouses, ex spouses, grandchildren, step grandchildren, cousins, aunts and uncles, odd friends and dogs that went from small to extra large. It was a non-stop eat and drinkathon with turkey, dressing, casseroles, desserts.

Praise the lard! It was the only time of the year that we used the good china. The rest of the year we ate off the china mama got from saving green stamps.

Besides cooking, mama decorated the house like crazy, vacuumed under the beds, polished the silver and rolled out the red carpet for the most important people in her life – us.

Now, I don't romanticize the past like a lot of people and pretend everything was perfect. It was far from perfect but still, I'm thankful for all those ... good memories.

One year, I remember mama saying, "Call your daddy to get home from the Up Town Lounge or I'll be up there with the carving knife."

I heard things like:

The dishwasher's broken

The toilet won't flush

That is not my dog's poop. In some ways, we were a very discerning group.

Aren't those kids too young to be drinking?

That cigarette smells funny.

Is that the second or third wife?

Do we know whom that child belongs to?

Do we have enough money to post bail?

Good memories.

Like a lot of families, we went on

trips, but our trips were to places like the veterinarian's office after the Giant Schnauzer ate a box of chocolate candy. They do not make a product that can take away that smell.

Or we rushed to the hospital after my son drank tobacco spit out of a tab bottle.

Or we drove to remote highways and truck stops rescuing each other from flat tires, dead batteries or running off an icy road, trying to get home.

Or we went to the emergency room when daddy thought he was having a heart attack. It turned out to be gas, but Mama swore that's what gave her emphysema.

Or we went to the police station to explain how my brother, Bubba, accidentally shot my other brother in the foot.

Good memories with lots of people, lots of food and lots of love, but things change.

My parents and many other family members have passed on and the people who are left have changed, too.

I'm trying to stick to Weight Watchers, one sister is on Jenny Craig and my brother had his stomach stapled and quit drinking.

When we get together now, all the food is fat free, gluten free, meat free, and sugar free. Too bad it isn't money free.

Plus, there is no alcohol to dull our senses and make us interesting so it's drama free as well. Sometimes, now, it's just easier to Skype. My parents would never believe it.

Eventually, I quit trying to recreate the past and embraced an empty dishwasher. Don't tell anyone –it feels fabulous.

Besides, most people don't believe me unless they get shoved in a different direction. A couple of years ago, one of my friends got shoved. Her two daughters were not coming home for Thanksgiving, the first time in over 25 years that they would not be together. The daughters had jobs and the expense and time of traveling home was the game changer Carla

• See **MEMORIES** page 18

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**The Deep Blue Sea**

National Theatre Live London

Saturday December 3 1pm

Adults: \$22 Members: \$19 Students: \$12

**Live via Satellite Series**

**The Metropolitan Opera** HD LIVE **L'Amour De Loin**

Saturday December 10 12:55pm

Pre-Opera Discussion 12:30pm

Lead by Beverly Wichman

Adults: \$26 Members: \$22




Highlands Performing Arts Center 507 Chestnut Street

Tickets available online: [highlandspac.org](http://highlandspac.org) or by calling 828.526.9047

# • HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

## First Mondays

• Shortoff Baptist Church non-denominational Men's Meeting at 7 pm

## Mondays

• The Food Pantry of Highlands is located behind Highlands United Methodist Church and is open 3:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. Donations may be dropped off in the drop box at the Methodist Church (Monday to Thursday, 8 a.m. – 4 p.m., and Friday, 8 a.m. – 2 p.m.)

• At the Rec Park, High Cardio Zumba Fitness with Certified Instructor Tiffany Austin at 5:25 p.m.

## Mon. & Wed.

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

## Mon., Wed., Fri.

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

8-9a.

## Mon. & Thurs.

• The Joy Program at HUMC from 11:30a to 1:30p. Includes a free lunch and a variety of programs and games. All seniors are welcome. For more information, call Tricia Smith at 828-338-8167.

## Tuesdays

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

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

## 2nd and 4th Tuesdays

• OccupyWNC meets at the Jackson County Justice Center. For more information, visit [www.occupywnc.org](http://www.occupywnc.org) or call 828.331.1524

## Third Tuesday

• The Macon County Poultry Club meets in Franklin on the third Tuesday of each month at 7pm. Meetings are open to the public of

all ages. The meetings are held at the NC Cooperative extension office located at 193 Thomas Heights rd. For information call 828-369-3916.

• NAMI Support Group for individuals dealing with mental illness: depression, bipolar, schizophrenia, etc., and the family members of individuals dealing with these challenges from 7 – 8:15 pm. at First United Methodist Church Out Reach Center on West Main Street beside Bryant's Funnel Home. Call Donita for more info (828) 526-9510.

## 1st Wednesdays

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

## Tuesday and Thursdays

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

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

## 3rd Wednesdays

• Recently released movies at

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

## Thursdays

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

• Weight Watchers support group meets every Thursday at 5 pm at Christ Church of the Valley. Call Lisa 828-506-3555.

## 2nd Thursdays

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

## 3rd Thursdays

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

• Kidney Smart Classes in Sylva: from, 7:30am-9am, DaVita Sylva Dialysis Center, 655 Asheville Highway, Contact Sue 828-631-0430

## Friday-Tuesday

• Movies at Highlands Playhouse, 2, 5, 8 p.m. SUNDAYS, 2 & 5 ONLY.

## Fridays

• Open Duplicate Bridge at 1 p.m. Be seated by 12:45 a.m.

## Third Fridays

• The Senior Dinners are held the third Friday of each month at 12 noon through April.

## Saturdays

• At MountainTop Wine Shoppe on Main Street, free wine tastings from 1-3 p.m.

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

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

• The Bascom Knitters at The Bascom from 10 am until noon-downstairs in The Bascom Library.

## Sat., Dec. 3

• Annual Christmas Parade on Main Street at 11 a.m.

• At the Episcopal Church, "A Food Pantry's Christmas" from noon to 3 p.m. A BBQ lunch and entertainment by The WellStrung Band for \$10 with all proceeds benefiting the Highlands Emergency Council's

## ...PLANNING continued from page 7

to build out the subdivision, but might build a spec house on one of the lots.

The board OK'd the preliminary subdivision plans. It moves now to the Town Board.

Representatives of the Martin-Lipscomb Performing Arts

## ...FIRE continued from page 1

day, Wayah Road (State Road 1310) and Forest Road 711 were opened to all traffic. Forest Road 69 (Wayah Bald Tower Road) remains closed due to the proximity of the Camp Branch Fire and associated firefighting activity. That fire started Nov. 22 and is 55% contained.

Firefighters have halted the fire's westward and northward progression. Crews also held the fire on the east side along Locust Tree Branch Road, and on the south side, they kept the fire north of Wayah Road (SR 1310). The southwest corner of the fire, where crews conducted firing operations Monday and Sunday along Forest Road 96 and Wayah Road (SR 1310), has "filled in" with a successful, continuous underburn. Field observers reported creeping and backing (downslope) fire behavior and one- to two-foot flame lengths. Monday, crews did a small amount of firing along

Center (PAC) were on hand to request permission to combine the Beck property on Chestnut with the PAC property and rezone it GI (Government Institutional) from its current R2.

The PAC foundation has purchased the Beck property and

Wayah Road to further protect structures. Structures there and in Bear Cove are secure.

With significant rainfall over into Monday night and Tuesday morning, Macon County Emergency Service Director Warren Cabe adjusted the countywide burn ban. Outside burning is allowed within 100-feet of an occupied dwelling, but the NC Forest Service's burn ban for everything beyond 100 feet remains in effect.

Suppression-repair crews are restoring areas affected by fire-suppression activities to prefire conditions on the following ten fires: Whitewater (23 ac), Cliffside (110 ac), Grape Cove (11 ac), Wine Spring (93 ac), Knob (1,130 ac), Moss Knob (7 ac), Ridge Gap (1 ac), Mulberry (1 ac), Boardtree (0.5 ac), and Muskrat (104 ac).

Firefighters are patrolling the following fires regularly and keeping containment lines open and cleared of newly fallen leaves:

is set to close on Dec. 21. The old home will be removed so the PAC footprint can be expanded for more "green" parking.

The board unanimously OK'd their plan. Next it goes to the Town Board for rezoning approval.

– Kim Lewicki

Buck Creek (6 ac), Falls (NA), Moses Creek (30 ac), Jones Gap (8 ac), Jarrett Knob (NA), May Branch (175 ac), Charley Creek (6 ac), Nick (0.2 ac), Howard Gap (0.2 ac), Bullpen (6 ac), Jones Creek (1.3 ac), Cathey Gap (123 ac), Dick's Creek (729 ac), and Tellico (13,874 ac).

Thanks to Monday night's and Tuesday morning's rain, the only fire activity that crews expect are in pockets of vegetation that are sheltered from rain. Lightning is not expected to be an issue for firefighters in the field Tuesday.

North Carolina is offering a reward up to \$10,000 to be issued to anyone who provides information leading to the arrest and conviction of those responsible for setting wildfires in western North Carolina. Anyone having information concerning these wildfires should contact Macon County Crimestoppers at 828-349-2600 or Jackson County Crimestoppers at 828-631-1125.

## 'The Deep Blue Sea' at PAC



The Highlands Performing Arts Center will present the National Theatre of London's production of The Deep Blue Sea, Live via Satellite on Saturday, December 3 at 1pm. Sea Helen McCrory (Medea and The Last of the Haussmans at the National Theatre, Penny Dreadful, Peaky Blinders) returns to the National Theatre in Terence Rattigan's devastating masterpiece, playing one of the greatest female roles in contemporary drama. Tom Burke (War and Peace, The Musketeers) is also featured in Carrie Cracknell's critically acclaimed new production. A flat in Ladbrooke Grove, West London. 1952. When Hester Collyer is found by her neighbours in the aftermath of a failed suicide attempt, the story of her tempestuous affair with a former RAF pilot and the breakdown of her marriage to a High Court judge begins to emerge. With it comes a portrait of need, loneliness and long-repressed passion. Behind the fragile veneer of post-war civility burns a brutal sense of loss and longing. The Deep Blue Sea: Saturday, December 3 at 1pm. Tickets are available online: [highlandspac.org](http://highlandspac.org), at the door or by calling 828.526.9047 Highlands Performing Arts Center 507 Chestnut Street, Highlands



# • HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

Food Pantry and the Highlands Food Pantry. Also available for purchase will be casseroles, pies and a variety jams, jellies and pickles. To purchase advance tickets or make a donation, call 828-526-2968.

- At the First Presbyterian Church, Annual Carol Sing at 5th and Church streets after the parade at 2 p.m.

- At PAC, LIVE from the National Theatre of London via Satellite, The Deep Blue Sea at 1 p.m. For tickets call 828-526-9047.

## Sun., Dec. 4

- At First Presbyterian Church in Highlands, internationally known organist Jack W. Jones will perform at 3 p.m. in the sanctuary to mark the Christmas season. The program includes works by J.S. Bach, Wilbur Held's Nativity Suite, and carols from many lands, among others. Admission is by donation of \$7 is suggested.

- The High Mountain Squares will host their annual "Toys for Tots Dance," Sunday afternoon, December 4th, from 2:30 to 4:30 PM. at the Macon County Community Building, GA Road (441 South), Franklin NC. Dr Jim Duncan from Otto, NC will be the caller. Help support our local Marine Corps Reserve, admis-

sion is a NEW unwrapped toy. Everyone is welcome. We dance Western Style Square Dancing, main/stream and plus levels. New dancers lessons will begin in March. Everyone is welcome. For information call 828-371-4946, 828-342-1560, 828-332-0001

## Tues., Dec. 6

- At the Hudson Library, a Health Insurance Enrollment event on Tuesday from 12-7 pm to help enroll folks who live in Highlands.

## Friday Dec. 9

- At Hudson Library, Nation-

ally know "Gold Star Mother" Susan Price, Spokeperson for VAF Veterans ARE Foundation, will talk about the her son Fallen Hero Marine Gunnery Sgt. Aaron M. Keneflick his Bravery and her healing process through her work with VAF and now "Camp Healing," Lake of the Ozark, Missouri It is from 7-8:30 p.m. and is the first of several VAF's Veterans Villages planned for Missouri, N.C. and Fla. Veterans are the Foundation of our Freedoms.

## Sat., Dec. 10

## Santa is waiting for you!



Santa is ready to hear wishes in his hut in K-H Founders Park. He will be there on Sat., Dec. 3, after the parade until 3p, on Sat., Dec. 10 from 10a to 3p and on Sat. Dec. 17 from 10a to 3p. It's \$5 per shot.

## Annual Carol Sing After the Parade



Everyone is cordially invited to a Christmas Carol Sing at First Presbyterian Church at 2pm on Saturday, December 3, after the parade. Stell Huie will be the song leader with Angie Jenkins at the piano. If you enjoy singing familiar Christmas carols, you will 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 Church Street and on Fifth Street.

- At PAC, The Metropolitan Opera Live via Satellite. L'Amour De Loin at 12:55 p.m. Adults \$26, Members \$22. For tickets call 828-526-9047.

## Sat. & Sun., Dec. 10-11

- The Highlands Community Christian Chorale Concert is at

Highlands First Presbyterian Church at 5pm on Saturday and Sunday. Dr. Michael Lancaster, conductor of the Asheville Symphony Chorus, is serving as the Artistic Director for this year's concerts. pianist. A reception will follow.

## Skate through the holidays at the town's ice rink at K-H Park



The Ice Rink at the K-H Founders Park is open Thurs.-Sunday. Thurs.: 1-8 p.m., Fri. & Sat. 1-10 p.m. and Sun., 1-5 p.m. The cost is \$5 but includes skates if you don't have them.. Hot chocolate is also available.

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Highlands Annual

**Christmas Dinner**

Highlands Country Club  
11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.  
Christmas Day, December 25

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Mouth-watering, traditional Christmas buffet featuring turkey, ham, tenderloin, all the fixin's and magnificent desserts prepared by Highlands finest volunteer staff.

**Adults \$45  
Children under 12 \$15  
Kids 5 and under eat free.**

Seating by reservation only.  
To reserve, call 828-526-9419



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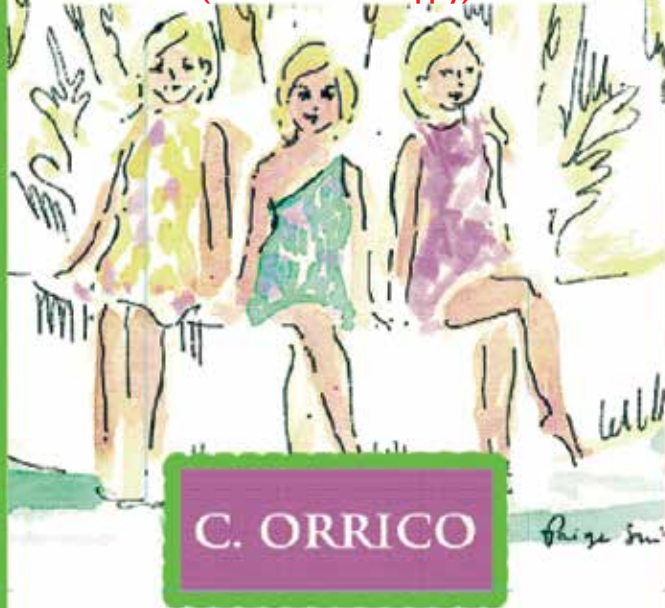
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1BD/2BA Historic Log Cabin with barn on almost 3.5 acres, Real Stone fireplace, wood floors, tile bath, laundry hook up. Offered at \$250,000. MLS #75551



Great open floor plan with fireplace in living room, screened porch and open decks. Soaring ceilings and great yard. Offered at \$399,000. mls #82048



1BR/1BA with furnished sleeping loft. Eat in kitchen. Living room with screen porch. Renovated. Price \$109,000. MLS # 82190.



Cabin with split floor plan with 2BD/2BA with freestanding fireplace in the living room. Asking \$124,900 MLS # 80305



Wonderful 4BD/2BA. Large private lot with plenty of parking, small stream below the house that gurgles by. Offered at \$489,000. mls #79147



Motor homes RV pad and coach house with living area and kitchen with refrigerator, sink and full bath. Offered at \$200,000. mls #79918



Private compound on 7 plus acres located off Flat Mountain Road. 1BD/2BA, a perfect cozy getaway! Offered at \$700,000. mls #83813



Elevated over the roaring Cullasaja River sits this 2BD/2BA river retreat on .89 acres. Offered at \$299,900. mls #82940



Cabin wing design with master and guest bedrooms on living main level, Lower level, too. Large deck, mountain view. **Offered at \$165,000. mls #83759**



3 bedrooms, 2 baths, additional workshop and storage or art studio. Offered at \$199,900. mls #83676



2BD/1BA cabin in Horse Cove. One of the cheapest homes currently on the market in the Highlands area. Offered at \$79,000. mls #84185



Wonderful views on 4 acres Main floor master with bath. 2 bedrooms upstairs with shared bath. Offered at \$395,000. mls #80351



This 4BR/4BA is in move in ready Split bedroom plan and great upper level guest suite. Offered at \$750,000. mls #84125



In town on Laurel Street 3BD/3BA, deck, porches; two living areas with fireplaces and a large kitchen. \$375,000. mls #77937



4BD/4 1/2BA home with a Fairway and Mountain views. Offered at \$970,000. mls #83045



Nice natural yard and wooded view. Living area has cathedral ceiling, spacious kitchen, split bedroom floor plan; great loft. Huge deck. Garage. Offered at \$329,000. mls #84027



Completely updated 4BD/3BA 2 master suites and children's room with bunk beds. 2 stone fireplaces. Offered at \$799,000. MLS 84442



Large kitchen,, dining room, LR with rock fireplace, master suite on main,, two guest suites. Offered at \$599,000. MLS #83512



Stone fireplaces, granite kitchen and bathrooms, stainless steel appliances. This unspoiled acreage with lake on 1.25 acres. Offered at \$699,900. mls #82534



Long range mountain views on 1.20+/- acres at the end of a quiet, private road. 2BD/3BA Offered at \$495,000. mls #83791



Walk to town Townhouse in Trillium Place. 2BD/1BA. Offered at \$365,000. mls #84269



Master Suite on Main w/loft sitting area and balcony. Lower Level has bedroom and living area. MLS# 81876 Offered at \$439,900



2 BD/2BA sits 1.11 +/- acres with mountain views. New 1BD/1BA guest house. Offered at \$515,000. mls #83267



Spectacular views. Great room with stone fireplace, Screened porch, custom kitchen, Main level master suite. Upper level guest suite. Offered at \$1,495,000 mls #83691



# • INVESTING AT 4.118 FT. •

## Many Thanks for Christmas Blessings

*This is something I shared on Thanksgiving for my Facebook friends and it is appropriate at the holiday season as well. I want to share with you, my readers.*



**Pat Allen**  
Broker-in-charge  
Cell: 828-200-9179  
Office: 828-526-8784

thanks.

For my real estate clients, whether buyers or sellers, I am so thankful to you for giving us our best year ever! I am thankful that you listen to our advice on pricing fairly. I am thankful that you maintain your homes resulting in a good home inspection. I

If you woke up this morning and can see... give thanks. If you woke up this morning and can hear... give thanks. If you can get out of bed without pain... give thanks. If people less fortunate than you still tug at your heartstrings... give thanks. If you still have a living parent... give thanks. If you are sharing a meal today with family or friends... give thanks. If you have a dog you are loved unconditionally... give thanks. If you have one friend you can always count on... give thanks. If you can enter any church you choose... give thanks. If you have children who want to be near you... give thanks. If you have a job... give thanks. If your eyes get moist when you see our troops at the airport... give

am thankful that you appreciate our guidance in negotiating on your behalf. But more importantly, I am thankful for your respect for our profession and your loyalty and friendship.

As Christmas draws near, I realize how blessed we are for so many things past and present. The book of life begins with innocence and hope and the middle chapters reveal reality of career struggles, divorces, loss of parents and health issues beyond our control. How the book ends and what the final chapter reveals no one can predict. We aren't allowed

• See INVESTING page 17



**MLS #84968 \$550,000**

Zoned B-3 COMMERCIAL. Spring Street- IN TOWN. Survey has been done

### Lots & Acreage

Shortoff Road. \$79,000. 1.6 acres, near end of road privacy, ridgeline view of Shortoff Mtn.  
Clear Creek. \$189,000. 7.5 acres, waterfall on property, well in place, septic tank in place.  
Billy Cabin. \$160,000. 2 acres, part of an old estate. Adjoining property available as well.

**Tucker & Jeannie Chambers**  
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**MLS#83314 \$214,000**

2BR/ 2 baths. WALK TO TOWN condo. New flooring! Bonus room



**MLS #84327 \$325,000**

3 BR/ 3 baths. On two wooded lots on Moon Mountain. Screened porch, near hiking trails.



**MLS #82660 \$1,276,000.**

6 BR/ 2 baths. WALK to town, over 6 acres. Estate living. Development possible



**MLS #83168 \$559,000**

3 BR/ 3 baths. View of 16<sup>th</sup> hole HFCC golf course. New kitchen, garage, very private



**Tucker & Jeannie Chambers**  
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# • REAL ESTATE SNAPSHOTS •

## Handicapped Accessible Custom Home



This fully handicapped accessible home is in a peaceful, pretty setting on 4.21 +/- acres. It's spacious, yet cozy and elegant and features a light and bright screened porch, two fireplaces, two offices, elevator, mother-in-law suite, double garage, and paved access along a stately driveway. Pretty water feature. Building site on the other side of the stream. Tremendous value!

**Offered at \$599,000. MLS #78957.**

**Contact Susie (828) 371-2079.**

## Commercial Space for Lease



FOR RENT. Approximately 900 s/f of commercial/retail/professional space on Highlands' Spring Street. Features include expansive windows, hardwood floors, fresh paint inside and out, charming and private courtyard, gas log fireplace, good storage, easy access, plenty of parking, excellent visibility, and lovely landscaping. Zoned B-3. \$1,750 per month, excluding utilities but landlord will contribute \$75/month toward tenant's utilities.

**Please contact Susie deVille (828) 371-2079**

## Vacant Lot, In-Town



Incredible opportunity for vacant commercial land in town. Excellent access and visibility from Hwy 64W and Oak Street. Adjoins the Bascom Campus. Zoned B-4, multiple uses are permitted at this .39 +/- acre site.

**Offered at \$375,000. MLS #82405.**

**Contact Susie (828) 371-2079.**

## Create Your Best Life on the Lake



Lake living at its best! This rustic, yet elegant 3BR/2BA lake home and 1BR/1BA guest house offer relaxed, mountain living on the Big Creek finger of Lake Sequoyah. Paved, easy access with stunning landscaping and grounds. This property, is filled with "old Highlands" charm and can be your sanctuary. The property is situated on 1.14 +/- acres and offers a multitude of enjoying the gorgeous setting (dining gazebo with lake views, open decking with hot tub, outdoor shower, and dock).

**Offered at \$695,000. MLS #84401.**

**Contact Susie deVille (828) 371-2079.**



**Susie deVille**  
Broker-in-Charge  
(828) 371-2079

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This 1br/1.5ba beautifully furnished townhome at The Woods has been completely remodeled. Stone fireplace plus vaulted wood ceilings, wood floors, granite countertops and new appliances. \$139,000. MLS #84819



This is fantastic 2br/2.5ba charming cottage in Trillium Links and Lake Club is light and bright and includes 3 outdoor sitting areas. Open floor plan and beautiful wood floors on the main level...lives comfortably. \$242,000. MLS #84503



Private location and mountain view in prestigious Cullasaja Club. This 4 br/ 4.5 ba Lupoli built home is decked out in beautiful stone and exudes quality. Spacious screened porch with a second fireplace and a lavish master suite. MLS #83822. \$1,695,000



Walk to town, popular Mirror Lake area with gentle building site on .89 acre directly across the street from Mirror Lake with appx. 250' on Cullasaja Drive. Lake and view access. City water and sewer. \$147,000. MLS #84287



Mountaintop Golf. Brand new 5br/4.5ba wonderful mountain home close to amenities and Lake Club. Incredible kitchen, mountain view, master suite with fireplace and very special bath. \$2,295,000. MLS #68782



20 acre Gentleman's Farm in Scaly Mountain complete with pasture and fencing. Privacy with rolling land....a rare thing in the mountains. Live in the barn while you build your dream home. \$289,000. MLS #78793



Located in Highlands View, this 2br/1.5ba cottage with rustic wood floors with mountain allure and large fireplace which easily warms the house in this open concept plan. \$184,500. MLS #79163



Renovated 3 bedroom, 2 bath immaculate home in Highlands Falls Country Club. Cathedral ceilings, new carpet, wood flooring, granite counter tops, new appliances, updated baths, fireplace an 2 car garage. \$399,000. MLS #85031



In exclusive HIGHGATE, only 4 minutes to downtown Highlands. 5br/6.5ba home with open floor plan with high ceilings and a "walkout" terrace level w/ separate entrance. 'His' and 'hers' baths and closets. \$1,275,000. MLS #83155



Great location in Chestnut Hill in this 3br/2ba with a level lot, private cul-de-sac location. Rocking chair front porch plus a screened porch. Landscape care done by HOA. \$290,000. MLS #82769



Constructed from a barn brought down from Pennsylvania, this 5br/5.5ba home in exclusive Highgate is the epitome of a mountain home. Beautifully landscaped, large covered decks w/fireplace and an amazing guest cabin with everything you need! \$2,175,000. MLS #77222



Very cute and compact River Run efficiency condo, completely furnished and ready to occupy. Gas fireplace, wood floors and walls and nice back deck. \$43,500. MLS #85020



Flat Mountain with long range mountain views from this 3br/2ba home featuring floor to ceiling stone fireplace, vaulted ceilings and a private setting. \$494,500. MLS #84634



Cullasaja Club with fairway, mountain and lake views from this 5br/4ba/2hb home. This large family home offers a sunroom, home office plus an upper level loft with 2nd office/hobby area and sweet kid's room. Lower level family room has wine room & billiards room. \$1,290,000. MLS #83731



Best condo value in Highlands Falls Country Club! Lovely 2br/2ba overlooking the 13th fairway with vaulted ceilings, stone-face fireplace, sunroom plus an open deck. \$224,000.. MLS #83675



Cute re-do on this 2br/1.5ba Hilltop Condo with wood floors throughout, unique bar area in living room, new appliances, and a large screened room and wood burning fireplace. \$79,000. MLS #84350



SIMPLY THE BEST OF THE BEST in Highlands Point. This 4br/7.5ba home has a view of Whiteside Mountain. Enjoy the sounds of your 3 waterfalls overlooking the 2 Coi ponds. Furnishings are negotiable. \$4,300,000. MLS #84716



This lovely, well maintained 3br/3ba home overlooks tee boxes on the 4th fairway of Highlands Falls Country Club. If you are looking for easy, look no further because this offered fully furnished as well! \$400,000. MLS #83403



FORECLOSED SEQUOYAH LAKEFRONT home with a dock. 3br/3ba with huge potential, old Highlands charm, woodwork throughout and large stone fireplace in living room. Reduced to \$275,000. MLS #84430



FORECLOSED OPPORTUNITY with wonderful views in Cedar Meadows. 4br/4.5 home on over 2.5 acres. This home features a cedar shake exterior, large open vaulted living room, 3 stone fireplaces, Australian cyprus floors throughout, large screened deck with fireplace. \$599,000. MLS #84977



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## ...INVESTING continued from 15

to write our own ending.

Each day is indeed a gift, though no bow or wrapping paper is visible. May you be blessed with the joys of Christmas, remembering there is always something to be thankful for. I am thankful for all of you. Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays.

• Pat Allen is the owner/broker-in-charge of Pat Allen Realty Group. She can be reached at her office at 828-526-8784 or by cell at 828-200-9179 or email [pat.f.allen@gmail.com](mailto:pat.f.allen@gmail.com). The website is [www.patallenrealtygroup.com](http://www.patallenrealtygroup.com).

## ... MAYOR from page 2

drove to the Highlands Police Department after 5 pm to report a possible drunk driver on a town road. That action was unfortunately a big delay in response for the police. If 911 been called, the dispatcher would have notified a police road patrolman who would have responded immediately. Police are required to quickly respond to DWI reports.

Let's all have a safe, responsible and giving holiday season.

## ... BAN continued from page 1

restriction is lifted. Residents with questions should contact the N.C. Forest Service.

The State of Emergency that was proclaimed in Macon County still exists and will remain in place until all threats from the existing wildfires have subsided, including any impact some potentially severe weather that is approaching may have on the fire areas.

Residents are urged to check with the appropriate authorities before conducting any type of outdoor burning and, if burning is allowed, they should still continue to follow safe practices and use extreme caution.

Municipality bans may still be in affect, which is the case for Highlands.

Highlands Community Christian Chorale  
presents the annual

*Christmas Concert*  
**SMALL, Dancing LIGHT**  
An Evening of Advent and Christmas Music

Conducted by Dr. Michael Lancaster  
Accompanied by Bryan Heller, Pianist, and Orchestra



5:00 pm Saturday, December 10  
5:00 pm Sunday, December 11  
Reception Following

Highlands First Presbyterian Church

*This season...  
instead of giving  
more things,  
give more  
meaning.*


**AFTER  
THE  
PARADE**

at The Episcopal Church of  
the Incarnation  
(Corner of 5th & Main Street)

**\$10 Barbecue  
Plate Lunch**  
& Entertainment by  
**WellStrung Band**

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& Highlands Emergency Council  
Food Pantry

Also available for purchase will be  
casseroles, pies and a variety of jams,  
jellies and pickles.



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*to pamper you or*  
*someone special*

*Take a deep breath,*  
*exhale slowly.*  
**At Taylor Barnes Salon**  
*& Spa you are*  
*a little closer to serenity!*

## ... MEMORIES continued from page 9

and Ed had always feared.

"Be thankful they have jobs and aren't living at home," I tried to comfort them.

Carla cried, "All they want is my recipe for turkey, cornbread dressing, and sweet potato pie. I thought they'd want those recipes when I died, not just because one lives in New York and the other in Charleston. What did we do

wrong?"

"Nothing," I assured them. "You raised two capable, independent women. Be proud. It's too far to come home for one day from New York and your other daughter is going to meet her future in-laws. Why don't you and Ed come spend Thanksgiving with me. It'll just be the three of us.

They were still in shock so they

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accepted. When they arrived, they walked in the house sniffing for the turkey. They looked around the kitchen and opened the refrigerator. They stuck their heads in to make sure they weren't hallucinating.

"This is the emptiest, cleanest refrigerator I've ever seen," they marveled.

"Reservations are at 2," I told them and opened a bottle of champagne. "Let's toast to a new kind of Thanksgiving."

Carla let out a whimper and Ed blew his nose. "It's the first time since we've been married that I haven't had the whole family. I can't believe I haven't stuffed a turkey this year. We decided since the girls couldn't come home, we'd just do nothing." I handed her another kleenex and freshened her champagne.

"At least, we don't have to get in a fuss with your step brother," Ed said. "At least we don't have to figure out the seating arrangements with all the divorced parents and siblings. At least we don't have to hear the same old bad jokes from your uncle. At least, I don't have to take 10 big bags of trash to the

dump. At least I don't have 10 dogs fertilizing my lawn. At least I won't wind up in Target looking at Christmas specials."

I could see the "at least" idea was beginning to grow on them. We had a lovely lunch and none of us ate turkey. Later that night, Carla admitted that it was nice not to cook for days and clean up for weeks.

"I swanee," she said, "I never dreamed I would survive just texting my girls. I'm not saying I want to throw the kitchen towel in forever, but it's been a rite of passage, a real eye opener. So much of the holidays are over-rated. Next year, if the girls come back, I am going to make it much simpler and if they want us to come visit them, I am going to do it. It doesn't have to be in my dining room with my food on my holiday plates. I'll just be thankful if we can all be together."

"Good for you," I said. "The people you love are what matters. Change isn't easy but sometimes we have no choice. I admit it took me awhile, but it's an acquired taste and it can be quite delicious."

## ... OBITUARIES continued from page 3

### David (Dave) Michael Jones

David (Dave) Michael Jones, 45, passed suddenly and went to be with our Lord on Thursday, November 24, 2016. Dave was born March 22, 1971 in Arlington, VA to Lynn Williams Kimball of Highlands and the late Michael Harvey Cudd.

Those who knew him loved him. Knowing him or just meeting him, you could see through him straight to his heart and knew he was good. He had the biggest heart and the kindest soul. He is at perfect peace now and his mind and soul at rest.

Dave was a hard worker and was a true believer and lived his faith. Most of all, he loved spending time with his son Michael. They enjoyed playing guitars, fishing and just hanging out together.

Survivors include his mother, Lynn Kimball (Kerry) of Highlands; a son, Michael David Jones of Franklin; a sister, Katie Baker Passmore (Tracy) of Franklin; two step-daughters,



Hannah Strum and Morgan George; and five nieces, Kylie Hunter, Kandis Hunter, KaraLynn Baker, Kyndal Passmore, and Karis Passmore.

A memorial service will be held at the Community Bible Church in Highlands on Thursday, December 1, 2016 at 2:00

PM. All are also welcome to attend his Celebration of Life following the service, at the home of his mom, Lynn Kimball at 215 Satulah Road, Highlands.

In lieu of flowers you may donate to the following drug treatment programs "In Memory of David Jones": Appalachian Community Services Intensive Outpatient payable to: CC IOP, c/o Howard Dowdle, 100 Thomas Heights, Franklin, NC 28734 Penfield Fellowship and Alumni Assoc. 962 Watkins Field Rd., Clayton, GA 30525

Bryant-Grant Funeral Home and Crematory is serving the family.



# • SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

## Keep Awake

*by Margaret Howell, DM  
pastor, Holy Family Lutheran Church*

**Keep awake.  
Life is not for sleeping through.**

Precious days rush by too fast,  
Like water, slipping through our palms  
Our days are filled with chores and work,  
With little time for love or psalms.  
Or time in silence with our Lord  
The only Son of God, adored ,

**Keep awake.  
Life's a dream**

We sleep while dwelling on the earth,  
And in our living dream  
We strive for stuff of greatest worth,  
All that glitter and gleam.  
Is it the job, the house, the car  
Or objects we possess?  
Does the siren's song of earthly life  
Distract us from our quest?

**Keep awake.  
Life's perhaps not what it seems.**

Is all there is to life's long trek  
the clamor and the gong?  
An empty finish line  
And then you're suddenly alone?  
If we take a different road  
A simpler one, less trodden  
Perhaps God's whisper we will hear  
"My beloved child, *you* I've not forgotten"

**Keep awake.  
This life is but a shadow.**

We strut and fret and worry  
About thing we cannot change,  
The devil's in the details,  
So carefully arranged.  
All the kingdoms of this world  
Are his to take or give,  
But the love of God in Jesus Christ  
Eternally shall live.

**Keep awake  
For life, like the night, is flying.**

In Advent darkness,  
Cold and deep,  
We pray the Lord  
our souls to keep.  
We wait, breathless,  
for God's favor  
For a babe,  
a man,  
a savior.

**Keep awake.  
Amen.**

## Proverbs 3:5

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Sunday night services every 2nd & 4th Sunday at 7  
Wednesdays: Mid-week prayer meeting: 7 p.m.

### BUCK CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

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

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464 US Hwy 64 east, Cashiers  
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Tues. Guys study 8am, Gals 10am.

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Pastor Jim Kinard  
Sundays: School: 10 a.m.; Worship: 11 a.m.  
1st & 3rd Sunday night Service: 7 p.m.  
Wednesdays - Supper at 6 p.m.

### COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH

www.cbchighlands.com • 526-4685  
3645 Cashiers Rd, Highlands, NC  
Senior Pastor Gary Hewins  
Sun.: 9:30am: Sunday School  
10:30am: Middle & High School; 10:45am: Child. Program,  
10:45am: Worship Service  
Wed.: 5pm Dinner (\$7 adult, \$2 child), 6pm CBC U.  
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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

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Wednesdays: Choir: 5:30p

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

# • PLACES TO WORSHIP •

## John 3:16

Wed. Kidsquest 6p.; Worship 7p.

### HIGHLANDS ASSEMBLY OF GOD

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Sundays: Worship: 11

### HIGHLANDS CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH

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

### HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Pastor Randy Lucas 526-3376  
Sun: School 9:45a.; Worship 9:09, 10:50.; Youth 5:30 p.  
Wed: Supper: 5:15; youth, & adults activities: 6; Handbell  
rehearsal, 6:15; Choir Rehearsal 7. (nursery provided ); 7pm  
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### HOLY FAMILY LUTHERAN CHURCH: ELCA

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Worship/Communion: 10:30

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

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### MOUNTAIN BIBLE CHURCH

743-2583 • Independent Bible Church  
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4224 Big Ridge Road (4.5 miles from NC 107)  
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Rev. Marty Kilby  
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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 a.m.  
Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study: 6 p.m.

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June-Sept: Sunday Services: Rite I, 8a, Rite II, 9:15 & 11a  
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Thursday: Noon Healing Service with Eucharist.

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Horse Cove - Kay Ward 743-5009  
Old-Fashion hymn-sing Sunday 7-8p.

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# • POLICE & FIRE REPORTS •

The Highlands Police log entries from Nov. 1. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor or public officials have been used.

## Nov. 1

• At 3:15 p.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident on Pierson Drive.

## Nov. 15

• At 9 a.m., a shoplifting episode was reported at Highlands Farmers Market gas station where a woman tried to take a bottle of wine by hiding it in her jacket.

## Nov. 16

• At 5:30 p.m., a purse worth \$150 and containing \$100 cash and credit cards and keys, etc., was taken from a motor vehicle at Lakeside Restaurant on Smallwood Ave.

## Nov. 19

• At 7:42 a.m., officers were called about a person trespassing on the 4th Street Market property after being told not to come back.

• At 7:15 p.m., officers responded to a one-vehicle accident on US 64 east.

## Nov. 20

• At 12:50 p.m., a burglary with forced entry was reported at The Pizza Place on Main Street. The window on the door was broken and money was taken from the register in the amount of \$4,120. Damage to the door is estimated at \$100.

## Nov. 21

• At 10 a.m., officers responded to a one-vehicle accident on Spring Street.

## Nov. 22

• At 4:20 p.m., the concealment of merchandise in a person's jacket was reported at Reeves Hardware on

Main Street

• At 11:30 p.m., a man was reported missing when he didn't arrive at his destination.

## Nov. 25

• At 1 p.m., a shoplifting incident was reported at Potpourri 2 on Main Street where a pair of sunglasses valued at \$550 were taken.

## Nov. 26

• At 10:31 p.m., Cole Fitzpatrick, 16, of Monroe, GA, was arrested for misdemeanor larceny at TJ Bailey's on Main Street. He was issued a \$1,500 unsecured bond.

• At 1:47 p.m., a shoplifting incident was reported at TJ Bailey's where jewelry valued at \$700 was taken.

• At 1:47 p.m., a shoplifting incident was reported at TA Anderson in Wright Square where jewelry valued at \$900 was taken.

The Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. log from Nov 21.

## Nov. 21

• At 8:52 p.m., the dept. provided mutual aid to the Scaly FD.

## Nov. 22

• At 7:54 a.m., the dept. investigated a call about smoke on Whiteside Mountain Road.

• At 8:24 a.m., the dept. responded to a chimney fire on Russell Ridge Road.

• At 9:19 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on NC 106.

## Nov. 24

• At 11:49 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a

residence on Raoul Road.

• At 2:25 p.m., the dept. responded to a structure fire on N. Old Walhalla Road.

• At 3:18 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a location on Main Street.

• At 8:19 p.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on Stoney Creek Road.

## Nov. 25

• At 2:26 a.m., the dept. provided mutual aid to the Cashiers FD.

• At 2:26 p.m., the dept. responded to a call of an illegal burn at a residence on Shortoff Road.

• At 7:45 p.m., the dept. stood by at the Buck Creek field for the MAMA helicopter.

## Nov. 26

• At 8:01 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Mt. Lori Drive.

• At 4:53 p.m., the dept. stood by for the MAMA helicopter at the Buck Creek field.

## Nov. 27

• At 12:40 p.m., the dept. provided mutual aid to Cashiers FD.

• At 6:37 p.m., the dept. provided mutual aid to Cashiers FD.

## Nov. 28

• At 7:47 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Cullasaja Drive.

• At 8:12 p.m., the dept. provided mutual aid to the Cullasaja Gorge FD.

## ... LETTERS continued from page 5

a "365 Gift of Gratitude." Send a card of thanks and add a check for \$3,750.00, \$36.50 or \$3.65. Every dollar helps and it will mean a lot to those who spent Thanksgiving working toward wildfire suppression, relinquishing time with family and friends. Many may not be with them for the upcoming holidays as well. It is their commitment that protects us when we need them.

Sky Valley-Scaly Mountain Volunteer Fire and Rescue, PO Box 278, Scaly Mountain, NC 28775.

Highlands Fire and Rescue, PO Box 460, Highlands, NC 28741.

Janet Wilson  
Scaly Mountain

## They missed Thanksgiving in service to us

Dear Editor,

I am in awe of the amazing work done by our local firefighters. In the Horse Cove area where I live, they recently extinguished two forest fires before they could spread to catastrophic proportions. In one instance they saved the beloved Big Tree (Padgett Poplar) on Rich Gap Rd. In the other instance they spent hours successfully battling a blaze on Bullpen Rd. near the Iron Bridge.

Were they home enjoying a holiday dinner with their families on Thanksgiving Day? No, they were battling a house

fire on Satulah Mountain or fighting wildfires elsewhere.

How many other fires have they battled in the past month? I don't know, but no matter the hour, they always rise to the occasion.

Other local fire stations, the USFS personnel, and the many firefighters who have descended upon the Southeast to battle wildfires deserve our appreciation too. It is impossible for most of us to comprehend what it takes to bravely stand up to a dangerous fire, the physical endurance it takes to climb steep slopes, deal with heat and smoke, dig trenches and guide water hoses, and all the other aspects of firefighting.

I think we all stand in awe of their knowledge and ability. We stand in awe of their heroism and sacrifice for the greater good. We also owe a debt of gratitude to these heroes.

Robbie Forrester, our Assistant Fire Chief, has published a helpful update on donations. Regional fire stations have had their resources sorely stretched during this outbreak of wildfires. Donations of supplies have been plentiful, for which they are grateful. What are most needed now is financial contributions. These may be sent to:

Skyland Fire and Rescue Department, P.O. Box 640 Skyland, North Carolina, 28776, **Attention: Western North Carolina Firefighters Fund**

Let's all show our brave firefighters how much we appreciate them!

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

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF HIGHLANDS, NC,** is seeking a part-time director of music, salary DOE. Musical training and experience required. Resumes, including references, may be sent to FBC Highlands, POB 625, Highlands, NC 28741 or emailed to info@fbchighlands.org. 828-526-4153 (st. 8/4)

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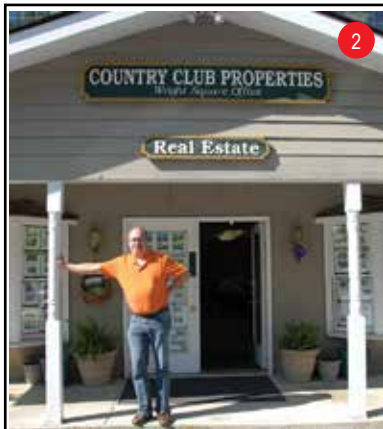
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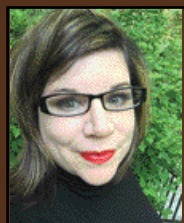
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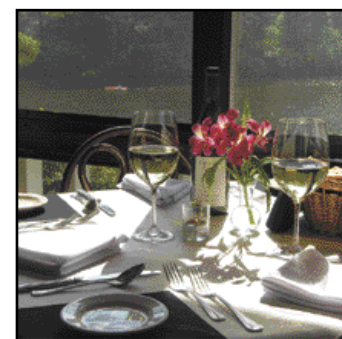
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