

# Highlands Newspaper

FREE Every Thursday

Volume 13, Number 4

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Thurs., Jan. 28, 2016

## Planning Board gets first look at 4th Street Market

*Also OK's plan for the Baptist Church expansion and conditional zone; asks for landscaping on Oak Street side*

As promised by owner/builder David Bock, "This won't look like your traditional gas station."

At the Monday, Jan. 25 Planning Board meeting, members

saw plans for the new 4th Street Market/Shell gas station destined for the now vacant lot on the corner of N. 4th and Laurel streets that for years was home to the old Stop n' Shop.

Since the project involves new construction, a Special Use Permit must be issued by the Zoning Board of Adjustment but prior to that the Planning Board/ Appearance Commission must

first see the plan to offer recommendations.

The item wasn't originally on the Planning Board agenda so members weren't able to see any-

•See MARKET page 5

## 'Longer days' calendar for Highlands & Nantahala to stand

*First day of 2016-'17 school year to be Aug. 29*

Students at Highlands School will continue to have longer school days next year.

During the December board meeting, the Macon County Board of Education voted to approve school calendars for both Nantahala and Highlands Schools, which adds 20 minutes to each school day.

This year was the first year the district tried the extended days calendar, and according to board member Stephanie McCall, she has heard only good things from parents and teachers about the new calendar.

"I have heard some really

•See CALENDAR page 2



Photo by Jim Lewicki

## Highlands: A Winter Wonderland

The light snowfalls that arrived earlier in the week, were a gentle precursor to the full scale winter storm that threatened to arrive Thursday but blew in early Friday morning and stayed through Saturday dumping be-

tween 12 and 14 inches on the Highlands Plateau.

The storm transformed Highlands into a winter wonderland with evergreen boughs bowing under the weight of white snow that covered all blemishes

and made everything look well, wonderous.

Schools, offices and businesses closed Friday with two-hour delays in Highlands this week due to the number of citizens snowed

•See WINTER page 5

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## Hiker lost in storm was rescued late Friday night

Search crews located an individual just before midnight Friday, Jan. 22, who had been hiking the Appalachian Trail in the area near Albert Mountain and requested assistance.

Michael Gelfeld, 21, of Takoma Park, MD, contacted 9-1-1 around noon Friday and requested assistance due to exposure to the severe weather near the area of Coweeta Gap and Albert Mountain.

Upon reaching the area, initial crews were unable to locate Gelfeld. After contacting his cellphone and utilizing coordinates supplied by an emergency location beacon, Gelfeld was located off the trail near Bear Pen Creek. Beacon signals were processed by Macon County 9-1-1 telecommunicators who relayed pertinent information to ground crews searching the area.

•See HIKER page 3

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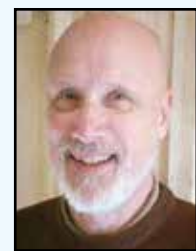


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# • THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

## • MAYOR ON DUTY •

### Rescheduled Town Board meeting is tonight

If we could only control the weather, things could run much smoother here in Highlands.

Last Thursday our Town Manager, Bob Frye, called me at my home right at 8 am. He wanted to make sure I was on my way to Town Hall. Bob never calls that early, so I knew something was up.

When I arrived at the office, Bob was waiting to inform me that there was an impending winter storm warning, and that I had to make a decision. Bob and Lamar Nix, director of public works, track about three weather forecasts, especially during winter. All of these forecasts precisely predicted the winter storm that we experienced over the weekend.

The decision for me as the mayor was whether to hold the January Highlands Town Board meeting, scheduled for 7 pm that night. The winter storm was predicted to hit Highlands around the beginning of the meeting. The Town Manager stressed it was my call whether to cancel the meeting since the mayor is the presiding officer of Town Board meetings.

We discussed the pros and cons of postponing the meeting. The forecasts



Mayor Pat Taylor

might be off just enough for us to get the meeting in, especially if I could hold the meeting to less than an hour. Well, based on past experience I can't always predict the length of a meeting. Sometimes the most simple agenda item can morph into a lengthy and complicated issue. Another factor was that folks were coming from out of town to present the town audit. They, along with several town staff members, could very well be traveling after the meeting on icy highways.

I consulted with each town commissioner, and all of them advised me that it would be better to err on the side of caution and postpone the meeting. So by 10 am I made the decision to cancel the meeting. WHLC was very helpful in getting the information to the public.

In hindsight it was the right decision, roads did start to ice that evening. No town meeting is worth risking the life and safety of our town staff and residents. The safety risks would occur later that night when town crews went on extended duty to deal with storm outages and problems. As mayor, I always worry about accidents when our electric crews, road crews, and first responders are on duty in these severe weather situations.

I can't praise these folks enough. When bad weather hits, the Town Manager, department heads and workers go into an autopilot of total response. As mayor, my best course of action in these situations is to be supportive, but not to interfere with the work of these dedicated professionals.

The Town Board meeting has been rescheduled for tonight at 7 pm. Mayor pro temp Patterson will preside. I am in Florida this week on vacation. Highlands operates smoothly whether the mayor is there or not. We are blessed with a great team of talented town players.

## • ELECTION 2016 •

The Primary is March 15, 2016

Run-off for State is May 3, 2016

Run-off for Federal is May 24, 2016

Polls open at 6:30a and close at 7:30p

### MC Board of Commission Race

#### District 2

- Karl Gillespie (Rep)
- Ron Haven (Rep)
- Charlie Leatherman (Dem)

#### District 3

- Emmanuel Carrion (Rep)
- Paul Higdon (Rep)
- Gregory Boyer (Rep)
- Bobby Kuppers (Dem)

### NC State Senate District 50

- Jim Davis (Rep)
- Jane Higgs (Dem)

### NC House of Representatives

#### District 120

- Kevin Corbin (Rep)
- Randy Hogsed (Dem)
- Elliot Southworth (Rep)

### NC Governor

- Incumbent Pat McCrory (Rep)
- C. Robert Brawley (Rep)

For a complete list of races and candidates go to <http://www.uselections.com/nc/nc.htm>

- Lon Cecil (Lib)
- Roy Cooper (Dem)
- Charles Moss (Rep)
- Kenneth Spaulding (Dem)

### U.S. Senate Candidates

- (Terms are 6 years in length)
- Incumbent Richard Burr (Rep)
- Greg Brannon (Rep)
- Larry Holmquist (Rep)
- Paul Wright (Rep)
- Kevin Griffin (Dem)
- Ernest Reeves (Dem)
- Chris Rey (Dem)
- Deborah Ross (Dem)
- Sean Haugh (Lib)
- Mohammad Sabur-Nasiri (Ind.)

### U.S. House Of Representatives:

(Terms are 2 years in length)

#### District 11

- Incumbent Mark Meadows (Rep)
- Rick Bryson (Dem)
- Tom Hill (Dem)

## ...CALENDAR continued from page 1

positive feedback from the teachers I have talked to," said McCall. "Overall I think teachers are happier with the new schedule and anytime teachers are happier, that transcends to the students and doing what is best for them."

The extended days at Nantahala and Highlands were part of a pilot program which Superintendent Dr. Chris Baldwin said is now being considered for the entire district.

By adding 20 minutes to each school day, Nantahala and Highlands schools were able to finish the first semester of the

school year before students left for Christmas break. Those students were able to take exams before the break, rather than spending two weeks out of the classroom, then coming back to take exams.

Although McCall noted that teachers and parents at Highlands were pleased with how the extended calendar has positively impacted the school year, Nantahala area board member Melissa Evans said that she had heard some concerns on how the extended calendars will cause an extra long summer this year.

Nantahala and Highlands students are set to dismiss for the 2015-16 school year on May 27. The new calendars have the first day of school beginning on August 29, meaning students will be out of school for three entire months, which Evans said might be too long for student to go without any sort of instruction.

Dr. Baldwin agreed with Evans and said that a three-month period without any sort of educational instruction could be detrimental for some students, and the

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# • OBITUARY •

## Laura Jean Freeman



Laura Jean Freeman of Orlando, FL and Highlands, NC, died Jan. 10, 2016 at the age of 92.

Born Dec. 3, 1923 in Covington, GA, to Barney Leon Trapnell and Jessie Barrett Trapnell, her family moved to Columbus, GA, during high school, where she finished as the Valedictorian. She graduated from Georgia State College for Women in Milledgeville, GA, in 1945. After graduation, she became an assistant buyer at Davison's Department Store in Atlanta, GA. She met her husband, Dr. Oscar William Freeman, Jr., in Atlanta when he returned to Emory University from World War 11. They married Sept. 1, 1946 and remained in Atlanta while he finished college, medical school and his residency at Grady Hospital. Laura Jean resigned at Davison's and taught third grade at Druid Hills School. In 1954, they moved to Orlando where Oscar joined an internal medicine practice and worked until his retirement in 1989.

After retirement, Laura Jean and Oscar spent their summers in Highlands, NC. She has been a member of the Orange County Medical Auxiliary, Junior League

of Orlando-Winter Park, Rosalind Club, Country Club of Orlando and First Presbyterian Church of Orlando.

Laura Jean was a devoted wife, mother and grandmother and a treasure to countless friends whom she continued to contact and touch with her generous, gentle manner. She was selfless and self-reliant, a very classy southern lady always more interested in others' needs than her own.

Laura Jean is survived by her three sons, Oscar W. (Bill) Freeman, 111, and Sheree, Kenneth, (Ken) Trapnell Freeman and Celeste of Vero Beach, and Barrett (Barry) Ralls Freeman and Staci of Delray Beach, FL, eight grandchildren: Benn (and Lindsey), Chase (and Catharine), Mike (and Caroline), Andrea (and Alex), Trapper, Jessica, Blake and Shawn. She leaves five great-grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to First Presbyterian Church of Orlando at 106 East Church Street, Orlando, FL, 32801 or First Presbyterian Church of Highlands, NC, PO Box 742, Highlands, NC, 28741.



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## ...HIKER continued from page 1

Gelfeld was an experienced hiker and was well prepared but became disoriented in the severe weather conditions and was unable to stay on the trail in the area. Gelfeld was evaluated by Macon County EMS and, although being exposed to the cold and severe weather elements, he was uninjured.

Search crews from Otto and Cowee Fire and Rescue Departments, the United States Forest Service and Macon County Emergency Services used utility vehicles and snowmobiles to access the remote area with an elevation over 5,000 feet which experienced snowfall amounts close to 24 inches in places and were then able to track Gelfeld to a location near Bear Pen Creek. Clay County Emergency Management also provided resources and assistance.

## ...CALENDAR continued from page 2

district is currently working to develop remedial, optional programs throughout the summer that would allow students to get in the classroom for at least a week during summer break.

Nantahala Principal James Bryan said that a similar program was used over the summer last year, even though the break wasn't as long.

While considering the impact the calendar can have on summer break, as well as the logistics of whether the extended days calendar can be replicated district-wide, the school board is expected to discuss extended calendars for all schools at the next meeting, scheduled for Monday, February 1 at 6 p.m.

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# Highlands Cashiers Hospital launches EHR System

Highlands-Cashiers Hospital (HCH) has launched a state-of-the-art Electronic Health Record (EHR) system that will provide expanded records of each patient's care. The launch is part of a larger Mission Health initiative to improve care across the region.

The EHR system went "live" at the Highlands area hospital recently. The new EHR system operates on the same computer platform as the one used at other Mission Health hospitals, allowing doctors in Highlands and Asheville to share important information about a patient's care and medical history in real time.

"This new computer system gives us powerful tools to care for patients," said Cindy Benton, HCH's manager of

clinical operations. "The system records a patient's medical history, treatments, surgeries and medical notes. The electronic health record is then available to the patient's primary care doctor via computer to view test results and treatments as well as to other healthcare facilities if the patient needs to be transferred for care."

Patients shouldn't notice any difference in their care at HCH with the launch of EHRs, other than processes may be a little slower as staff learns the new computer system.

"We ask patients and their families to be patient with us as we learn the new system," said Benton. "We will

•See HOSPITAL page 13



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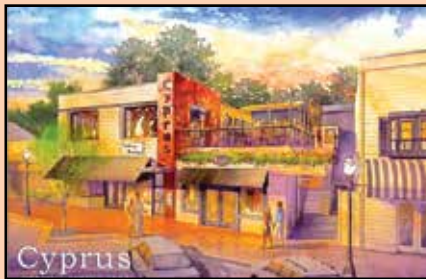


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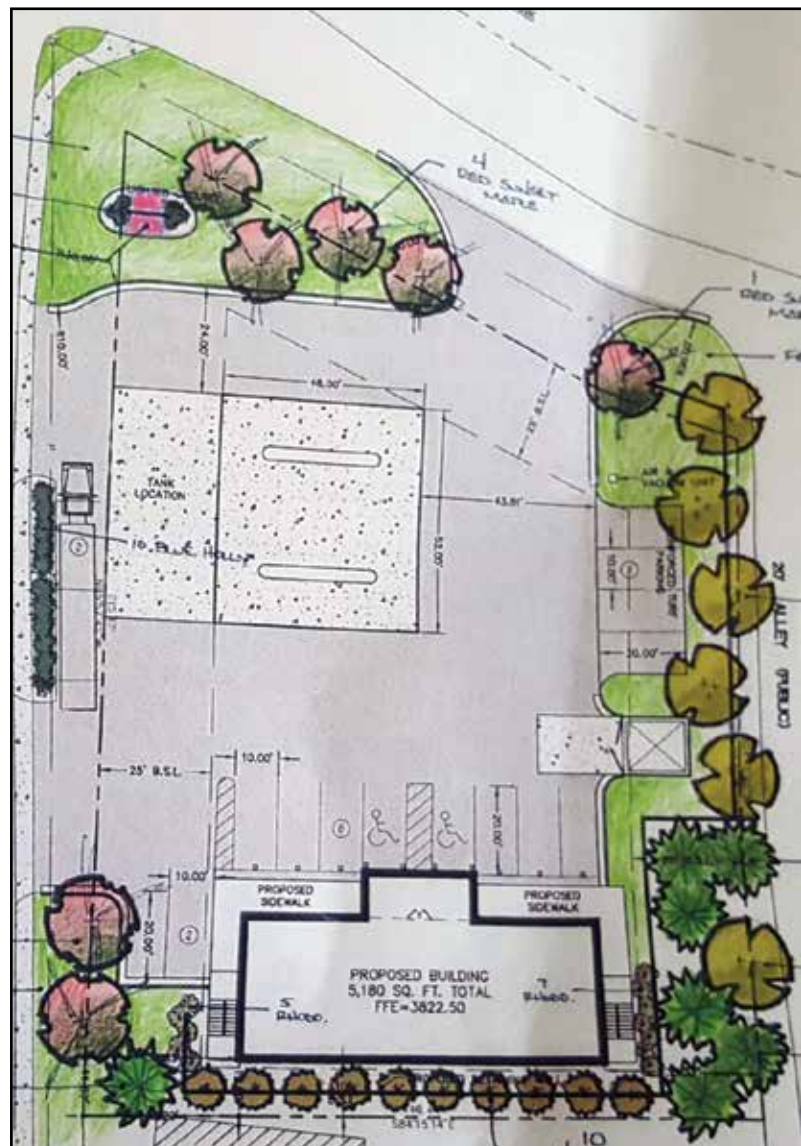


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## ...MARKET continued from page 1



thing about the project prior to the meeting. For this reason, the board had to vote to adjust the agenda to hear about the project. The vote was 4 to 2 with members Dennis DeWolf and Glenda Bell voting no.

The 5,180 sq. ft., 3-story building, which includes a 700 sq. ft. basement office and store room on the bottom level, will include a convenience store with a kitchen on the street level and two bathrooms – one for men and one for women -- and two, two-bedroom apartments on the top level.

The building will be set against the southern property line adjacent to the Neumann property buffered by a row of foliage.

As ruled back in December by the Town Board, the nine trees bordering the alley along the back of the property, which were cut down without permits, will be replaced with at least 18 trees throughout the property (rather than the required nine) which will make the overall project more aesthetically pleasing and green.

The gas pumps will be situated in the middle of the lot, close to 4th Street and will be accessed by two existing curb cuts on 4th and one on Laurel Street.

The convenience store/apartment building will look like many new buildings in Highlands with board and batten siding and cedar shake shingles on the roof and stone pillars at the entrance of the store.

"I wanted a building that doesn't look like a typical gas station but rather one that fits into the Highlands scheme," said Bock. "And I am putting grass and landscaping throughout the parcel."

• See MARKET page 13

## ...WINTER continued from page 1

in and roads that were covered with an icy mix that made driving perilous until mid-morning each day.

The Thursday, Jan. 21 Town Board meeting was postponed until tonight, Thursday, Jan. 28 and the Highlands Fire & Rescue annual awards banquet scheduled for Saturday, Jan. 23 was cancelled until sometime in February.

Highlands Fire and Rescue stayed busy throughout the weekend tending to multiple vehicle accidents and town crews stayed busy plowing snow on town streets and repairing power outages.

"The Street Department has worked and continues to work on snow removal," said Public Service Director Lamar Nix on Sunday. "The Electric Department worked numerous outages from 7:30 p.m. Friday through 7:30 p.m. Saturday. There was only one isolated outage on Sunday."

Those who could get out enjoyed the peaceful atmosphere that descends on the town when a big snow comes.

With streets void of vehicles, folks bundled in appropriate snow gear were seen walking the streets and as promised by the Town Board back in December, Monkey Hill was left untouched. Scores of families enjoyed the sledding.

See photographs on page 8.

– Kim Lewicki



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## Grant funds WCU partnership with Highlands Bio Station and others for hands-on teaching, learning — and a creek runs through it

A partnership between the Highlands Biological Station, Highlands Biological Foundation, Cullowhee Valley School and Western Carolina University's biology department and School of Teaching and Learning will turn a section of Jackson County's Cullowhee Creek into a laboratory, elementary students into researchers, and create a greater community appreciation of the importance of mountain streams.

The "Watershed Moments: Exploring Science and Math in Cullowhee Creek" project will begin in March, funded by a three-year \$159,123 grant from the Student Science Enrichment Program of the Burroughs-Wellcome Fund to enhance science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) education that takes place outside of traditional classroom time. The private foundation, headquartered at Research Triangle Park, is dedicated to the advancement of biomedical sciences by supporting research and education. Its Student Science Enrichment Program supports diverse programs with a goal to enable primary and secondary students to participate in creative scientific activities.

The project will be based at Cullowhee Valley School, located near the WCU campus, and involve hands-on teaching and learning about different facets of aquatic ecology, including the biology, physics and chemistry of streams and rivers. Students in the afterschool program for fourth-, fifth- and sixth-graders will participate in data collection and analysis, introducing them to scientific inquiry and fostering a holistic understanding of the importance of watersheds, said Karen Kandl, associate director of Highlands Biological Station, a University of North Carolina system facility administered by WCU.

Cullowhee Creek flows north through Jackson County and its watershed covers 15,062 acres of steep, mountainous terrain and is a significant water resource for the county. The creek empties into the Tuckasegee River, which flows into the Little Tennessee and Tennessee Rivers, and finally the Mississippi River before entering the Gulf of Mexico.

Program leaders Kandl and Highlands Biological Station director Jim Costa will team up with graduate students from WCU's biology department and a

lead teacher at Cullowhee Valley School for the after-school program.

"This project will connect the local to the global, with students examining real-world issues here at home, and help them think about potential solutions," Kandl said. "It will be an excellent opportunity for students to engage with scientists and professionals, see the connection of STEM fields in their lives, and gain confidence in their abilities to collect and present data. They will examine levels of sediment, the velocity of water flow, gauge the health of aquatic life in the creek, and see the impact of land use. And I believe there is a real opportunity for all this to spark some interest in math and science that could lead to future careers."

In addition to purchasing equipment and materials, the grant will provide stipends for internships, teacher involvement and related project costs. Participants will gather annually at Highlands Biological Station to assess their progress and share their results with the community.

"Students will be studying an approximately 7-mile reach of the Cullowhee Creek," said Lora Cox, the Cullowhee Valley School teacher who will be coordinating the project with WCU. "While many opportunities are present to study the stretch of creek that flows behind Cullowhee Valley School, we want students to study various sections of the creek in order to analyze and compare data."

About 20 students will experience STEM education through outdoor learning, she said. "They will be able to connect and work closely with experts in stream ecology, hydrology and other environmental fields through scientific investigation and face-to-face discussions. This is a long-term project — three years — which will allow for continuity and in-depth study, and these types of authentic experiences allow students to investigate and provide possible solutions for real issues found in our watersheds."

The project is intended to serve as a basis for a lifetime of thinking scientifically and meaningfully about the environment. Agreeing with Kandl, she said, "It will open up a world of career possibilities in the fields of science and math."

For more information on the Watershed Moments project, contact Kandl at 828-526-2602 or [kkandl@email.wcu.edu](mailto:kkandl@email.wcu.edu).



# The Metropolitan Opera

**HD LIVE**



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by Puccini

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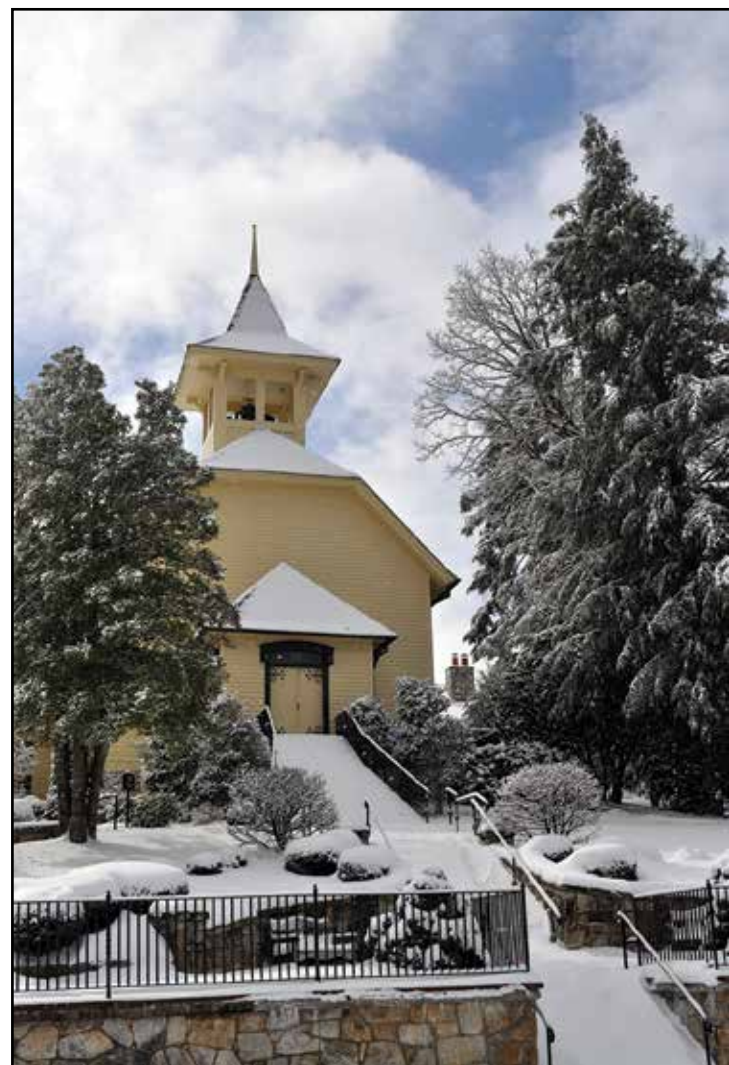
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# • JANUARY 2016 SNOW STORM •



Photos by Jim Lewicki and Bob Sutton





# • HIGHLANDS EVENTS •

## Winter Pool Schedule

Through May 27, 2016

### LAP SWIM - ADULTS ONLY

Monday thru Friday  
7 - 10 am, 6 lanes

AND Monday thru Thursday

5 - 6 pm, 1 or 2 lanes

Sharing pool with water  
aerobics @ 5:15 on

Mondays, Tuesdays, and  
Thursdays

### PUBLIC SWIM

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday

3 - 5 pm & 6 - 8 pm

Wednesday 3 - 5 pm

Saturday 11 am - 6 pm

Sunday 1 - 5 pm

### WATER AEROBICS

Monday-Friday

10 - 11 am

Saturday 11:15 - noon

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday

5:15 - 6 pm

Fee: \$4 per class or

\$30 for 12 classes

### POOL PARTIES

Pool available on Fridays,

Saturdays, Sundays

6 - 8 pm

Fee: \$75 // \$50 deposit required

\$50 non-refundable deposit if party is  
cancelled or a no show less than 2 days  
before

1st Wednesday of the month—

Kayak Clinic

2nd Wednesday of the month—

Youth Night

3rd Wednesday of the month—

Water Volleyball

4th Wednesday of the month—

Senior Night

6:00 - 7:30 pm

Call us about membership fees

### ICE SKATING RINK

Open Thursday 1-8p

Friday & Saturday 1-10p

Sunday 1-8p

\$5 fee with or without skate rental

### 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.

### Mon., Thurs., Fri., Sat., Sun.

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

### Mondays

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

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

### 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 at 7 p.m. at Memorial United Methodist Church, 4668 Old Murphy Road, Franklin. Sponsored by the local affiliate of NAMI. 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 at 4 PM at The Ugly Dog Public House. Each week a short story discussed.

### 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

### Every 3rd Tuesday

• The Macon County Poultry club in Franklin meets at 7 pm at the Cooperative extension office on Thomas Heights Road. For more information call 369-3916.

### Tuesday and Thursdays

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

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

### Wednesdays

• Donation Based Meditation Wednesday nights w/Christopher Baxter at 6:30. at The Wellness Place. 4 68 Dillard Road Highlands 8285269698

### 1st Wednesdays

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

### 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 6pm at the Cashiers Community Center. 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: from 4:30pm-6pm, Angel Medical Center, Video Conference Room, 3rd Floor, 120 Riverview Street, 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

### Fridays

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

### Every 3rd Friday

• Senior Dinners are at noon November through April.

### Thurs., Jan. 28

• The Macon County Local Interagency Coordinating Council/Smart Start team will be meeting January 28th (weather permitting) starting at noon at Macon Program for Progress Training Annex located at 141 Dryman Rd Franklin. Learn about Macon Citizens, Reach Out and Read, and Raising a Reader. To learn more about the team visit [www.regionalkids.org/sslicc-2](http://www.regionalkids.org/sslicc-2).

### Sat., Jan 30

• At PAC, The Met Live in HD via Satellite at 12:45 p.m. **Puccini's Turandot**. Call 828-526-9047 for tickets.

### Thurs., Feb. 11

• Mating & Dating Gameshow. at the Nature Center. Call for reservations. 526-2623.

## Live via Satellite from NYC, Puccini's Turandot this Saturday



The Highlands Performing Arts Center will screen Live via Satellite from NYC on our theater screen the MET Opera's production of Puccini's Turandot on Saturday, January 30th at 12:55pm. Opera's leading dramatic soprano Nina Stemme sings the title role of the proud princess of ancient China, whose riddles doom every suitor who seeks her hand. Tenor Marco Berti is Calaf, who sings the iconic "Nes-sun dorma" and wins her love. Franco Zeffirelli's spectacular production, also starring soprano Anita Hartig, is conducted by Paolo Carignani. Tickets are available online: [highlandspac.org](http://highlandspac.org), @ the door or by calling 828.526.9047 Adults: \$26 Member: \$22 Students: FREE Highlands Performing Arts Center 507 Chestnut Street

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• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

**A Year of Mercy**

Chaplain Margaret Howell, pastor,  
Holy Family Lutheran Church ELCA

Americans are funny. When life is uneventful, we sometimes waste our time and brain cells sniping and griping about each other. We can become clan-ish, separating ourselves in “Them” vs. “Us” units and then commence to squabbling about just about anything from the absurd to the sublime.

BUT... just let a disaster strike -- a 9-11 or a Hurricane Sandy or fire, floods and other mayhem, and an amazing thing happens. We drop everything and, together, rush in to help. Americans are known throughout the world for their generosity and compassion---don't believe propaganda to the contrary. We not only look after our own, but we reach out to people all over the globe, even those in countries where our political relationships are not the best. If I had to describe Americans in one word, it would be “merciful.”

“Mercy” noun

1. Compassion or forgiveness shown toward someone whom it is within one's power to punish or harm.

Synonyms: leniency, clemency, compassion, grace, pity, charity, forgiveness, forbearance, quarter, humanity.

Pope Francis, the coolest pope ever, has declared 2016 The Year of Mercy

Pope Francis has asked us to rediscover the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy. Throughout the Gospels Jesus admonishes us to follow his example, an example that sets down tangible ways we might better serve our brothers and sisters in need. As its name implies, the Corporal Works are directed toward serving the body: corpus, in Latin, means “body.”

There are seven corporal works of mercy

- Feed the hungry
- Give drink to the thirsty
- Clothe the naked
- Shelter the homeless
- Visit the sick
- Visit the imprisoned
- Bury the dead

Parts of the world are in a terrible state, due to the lack of mercy.

Tribalism in the Middle East, super egos clashing for power and control in the West, tremendous poverty throughout the world; all these things seek to reject and denigrate mercy.

This is a presidential election year, and we will be inundated with politicking at its best, but most of the time at its worst. Most people hate all the ads, the waste of money and the lack of statesmanship that American political campaigning has become.

Perhaps we need to remember that politics is a tempest in a tea-pot---it is only a tiny bit of what's really going on in the world.

The real work of mercy is not done in board rooms or on podiums. The real work of mercy in the world is done by folks like us. We go to our places of worship, whatever they may be. We give to charity, volunteer when we can, and are kind to those around us, those at home and

**Proverbs 3:5**

• PLACES TO WORSHIP •

**John 3:16**

**BLUEVALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH**

Rev. Oliver Rice, Pastor (706) 782-3965  
Sundays: School: 10 a.m., Worship: 11

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

**BUCK CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH**

828-269-3546 • Rev. Jamie Passmore, Pastor  
Sundays: School: 10 a.m.; Worship: 11

**CHAPEL OF SKY VALLEY**

Sky Valley, GA • 706-746-2999  
Sundays: 10 a.m.:Worship

Holy Communion 1st Sunday of the month  
Wednesdays: 9 a.m. Healing and Prayer w/Holy Communion

**CHRIST ANGLICAN CHURCH**

Rector: Jim Murphy, 252-671-4011  
464 US Hwy 64 east, Cashiers

9:30a Sunday School; 10:30a Family Service w/ Music  
Mon.: Bible Study & Supper at homes - 6 p.m.

**CHRIST CHURCH OF THE VALLEY, CASHIERS**

Pastor Steve Kerhoulas • 743-5470  
Sun. 10:45am, S.S 9:30am. Wed. 6pm supper and teaching.  
Tues. Guys study 8am, Gals 10am.

**CLEAR CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH**

Pastor Jim Kinard  
Sundays: School: 10 a.m.;Worship: 11 a.m.

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

**EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE INCARNATION**

Rev. Bruce Walker • 526-2968  
Sundays: Education for Adults, 9 a.m.  
Holy Eucharist Rite II, (chapel), 10:30 a.m.  
8 a.m., services and Healing services will resume in the spring.

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH HIGHLANDS**

828-526-4153 • www.fbchighlands.org  
Dr. Mark Ford, Pastor  
220 Main Street, Highlands NC 28741  
Sun.:Worship 10:45 am; Sun.: Bible Study 9:30 am  
Wed.: Men's Bible Study 8:30 am; Prayer Mtg 6:15 pm;  
Choir 5 pm

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

Curtis Fussell & Emily Wilmarth, pastors  
526-3175 • fpchighlands.org  
Sun.:Worship: 8:30a and 11 a.m.; School: 9:30  
Mondays: 8 a.m.:Men's Prayer Group & Breakfast  
Wednesdays:Choir:5:30p

**GOLDMINE BAPTIST CHURCH**

(Off Franklin/Highlands Rd) • Rev. Carson Gibson  
Sunday School:10 am,Worship Service:11 am  
Bible Study:6 pm

**GRACE COMMUNITY CHURCH OF CASHIERS**

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Services: Sundays 10am - Wed. - 7pm; Dinner - Wed. 6pm

**HAMBURG BAPTIST CHURCH**

Hwy 107N. • Glenville, Nc • 743-2729  
Pastor Nathan Johnson

Sunday: School 9:45a, Worship 11a & 7p, Bible Study 6p  
Wed. Kidsquest 6p.;Worship 7p.

**HIGHLANDS ASSEMBLY OF GOD**

Randy Reed, Pastor 828-421-9172 • 165 S. Sixth Street  
Sundays:Worship: 11

**HIGHLANDS CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH**

Pastor Dan Robinson  
670 N. 4th Street (next to the Highlands Civic Center)  
Sun.: Morning Worship 10:45 a., Evening Worship, 6p.  
Wednesday: Bible Study, 6:30p; Prayer Mtg., 7:30p.

**HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

Pastor Paul Christy 526-3376  
Sun: School 9:45a.;Worship 9:09,10:50.;Youth 5:30 p.  
Wed: Supper: 5:15; youth, & adults activities: 6; Handbell rehearsal, 6:15; Choir Rehearsal 7. (nursery provided);  
7pm Intercessory Prayer Ministry

**HOLY FAMILY LUTHERAN CHURCH: ELCA**

Chaplain Margaret Howell • 2152 Dillard Road • 526-9741  
Sun: School and Adult discussion group 9:30 a.m.;  
Worship/Communion: 10:30

HEALING SERVICE on the 5th Sunday of the month.

**MACEDONIA BAPTIST CHURCH**

8 miles south of Highlands on N.C. 28 S in Satolah  
Pastor Troy Nicholson, (828) 526-8425  
Sundays: School: 10 a.m.;Worship: 11, Choir:6 p.m.  
Wed: Bible Study and Youth Mtg.:7 p.m.

**MOUNTAIN SYNAGOGUE**

at St. Cyprian's Episcopal Church, Franklin  
828-524-9463

**MOUNTAIN BIBLE CHURCH**

743-2583 • Independent Bible Church  
Sun:10:30 a.m. at Big Ridge Baptist Church,  
4224 Big Ridge Road (4.5 miles from NC 107)  
Wed: Bible Study 6:30 p.m.;Youth Group 6 p.m.

**OUR LADY OF THE MOUNTAINS CATHOLIC CHURCH**

Parish office (Father Francis): 526-2418  
Mass: Sun: 11 a.m.; Sat. at 4p

**SCALY MOUNTAIN BAPTIST CHURCH**

Rev. Marty Kilby  
Sundays: School -10 a.m.;Worship -11 a.m. & 7  
Wednesdays: Prayer Mtg.:7 p.m.

**SCALY MOUNTAIN CHURCH OF GOD**

290 Buck Knob Road; Pastor Jerry David Hall • 526-3212  
Sun.: School:10 a.m.;Worship:10:45 a.m.;Worship: 6 p.m.

**SHORTOFF BAPTIST CHURCH**

Pastor Rev. Andy Cloer  
Sundays: School: 10 a.m.;Worship: 11  
Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study:7

**THE CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD**

1448 Highway 107 South, Office: 743-2359  
Rev. Douglas E. Remer  
Oct-May: Sunday Services: Rite I, 8a Rite II, 10:30  
June-Sept: Sunday Services: Rite I, 8a, Rite II, 9:15 & 11a  
Nursery available for Rite II services  
Sept 6-Oct 25- Informal Evening Eucharist-5:30 p.m.  
Thursday: Noon Healing Service with Eucharist.

**UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP**

85 Sierra Drive • 828-524-6777  
Sunday Worship - 11 a.m.

**WHITESIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

Rev. Sam Forrester/Cashiers  
Sunday School:10 am,Worship Service:11 am

**The Highlands Police log entries from Jan. 5 Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor or public officials have been used.**

**Jan. 7**

• At 6:30 p.m., officers responded to a one-vehicle accident on NC 28 south.

**Jan. 8**

• At noon, officers received a call about a burglary with forced entry at a apartment on Main Street.

**Jan. 9**

• At 6:30 p.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident on Oak Street.

**Jan. 13**

• At 3:30 p.m., Clarence James McCall, 22, of Highlands, was arrested for breaking and entering with force, larceny after breaking and entering ad criminal damage to property. He was issued a \$4,900 secured bond.

• At 5 p.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident on NC 28 south.

• At 8:53 p.m., Nicholas Shane Thomas, 30, of Highlands was arrested for breaking and entering, felony larceny and burglary. He was issued a \$10,000 secured bond.

**Jan. 14**

• At 8:20 a.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident on US 64 west.

**Jan. 14**

• At 9:30 p.m., William John Carpenter, 33, of Highlands, was arrested for breaking and entering and criminal damage to property. He was issued an unsecured \$1,500 bond. His court date is Feb. 4, 2016.

**Jan. 15**

At 8 a.m., officers received a call about an assault by strangulation on a female and felonious restraint when she was forced to drive a male to a location with a knife placed at her stomach.

At 7:47 p.m., William John Carpenter, 33, of Highlands, was arrested for aggravated assault, simple physical assault and kidnapping. He is being held without bond. His trial date is Feb. 4, 2016.

**The Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. log from Jan. 13.**

**Jan. 20**

• Beginning at 2:42 p.m., the dept. responded to multiple vehicle accidents in the Highlands area.

**Jan. 22**

• At 9:51 a.m., the dept. responded to a chimney fire at a residence on Wilson Road.

**Jan. 23**

• At 12:30 p.m., the dept. provided mutual aid toe Jackson County and Cashiers.

**Jan. 24**

• At 10:50 a.m., the dept. responded to a vehicle accident on Sassafras Gap Road.

## ...SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING

continued from page 10

those out in the world. We believe in the basic goodness of humanity, in all those synonyms: leniency, clemency, compassion, grace, pity, charity, forgiveness, forbearance, quarter, humanity. America is a world leader because of these traits, not despite them. In this

year of 2016, let us join with other people of mercy and practice the tenets put forth above.

“Today I ask you in the name of Christ and the Church never tire of being merciful.”

— Pope Francis, *The Church of Mercy*

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## The Ambitious Cycle



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The Ambitious Cycle is quite the opposite of The Vicious Cycle. One is avoided at all costs, while the other is not only accepted, but it's anticipated with great fervor as we start each season.

January 2016 finds Highlands, NC, in throes of The Ambitious Cycle. Stomp your feet, clap your hands, shout hallelujah, but wait. Where do YOU fit in in The Ambitious Cycle? You may find that you play a big part in the cycle whether you intend to or not.

YES, real estate activity is up, and has been steadily rising over the last year with no signs of slowing.

NO, we're not where we were in "the good years," but that's OK. Home showings are up, and offers are being made -- especially for the sellers who listen and respond with today's counter offer logic. (If they're REALLY listening, they're adjusting prices according to current market conditions in order to GET to the counter offer stage.

After the sale, what now? Are the new owners:

- Retired, and living here year round
- Living and working here year round (even part time)
- Here the whole season (the "old" whole season) of mid-June to September
- Here the whole season (the "new" whole season) of May - November
- Plan to use their new home on scattered weekends throughout the year
- Bought purely as investment, and will rent until they can retire, or sell
- Bought to use when not rented as a vacation rental until they retire or sell

People rent their homes for varied reasons. There are about as many rental models out there as there are reasons to rent. (Note: Buyers who want to rent their homes should seek out someone with experience in all aspects of home rentals.)

Here's where The Ambitious Cycle comes into play. No matter what type of homeowner, each has an impact on Highlands sustainability and growth.

Many times, there is a change of use when a home changes hands, ie., where the seller rarely used the home, but the buyer plans to use the home as much as possible and take advantage of all of the area's offerings. If there were one or two such incidences, would it make a difference? Probably not, not much anyway.

Since January 1, 2015, there were 228 homes and condominiums sold in the Highlands Township according to our MLS. For the sake of this argument, let's say 25% of those buyers will use their new home at least 90 days a year, and let's say that half of those buyers bought from sellers that used their home less than 30 days a year. Are you starting to see the impact?

• See INVESTING page 13

## Loma Linda



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## ...INVESTING continued from page 12

There are more and more home owners (and guests or renters) using our parking spaces, shopping in our stores, ice skating, swimming, hiking our trails, attending our churches, etc. The impact helps the FULL CIRCLE, which becomes The Ambitious Cycle.

But, we're only getting started. The next cog in the wheel is when the restaurant and shop owners, real estate offices, schools, doctor offices, etc. come to the realization "We're going to need a larger staff."

Enter the worker. Where do THEY come from? Hopefully from the Highlands, Franklin, Cashiers, Clayton areas. Those workers drive to and from work everyday, but don't have too much impact on The Ambitious Cycle. It's the workers that live too far away to commute – they have to rent or buy a place to live in order to work here. They are NEW shoppers, diners, insurance clients, etc. NOW see the impact?

NOW the circle is complete. We are at The Ambitious Cycle, and it all rolls back into real estate. We get multiple calls weekly asking for year-round home rentals; there is definitely a need for more.

We haven't even discussed the people who are coming to our town year-round just to visit for the day or long

weekend. Hopefully (or not depending on which ones you're talking about) those people will continue to visit and purchase properties.

As the word continues to spread that Highlands really is a destination – whether it's for weddings, reunions, spa get-a-ways, or just a respite from the heat of cities, The Ambitious Cycle will continue.

There has been a steady rise in our vacation rentals, and although we have a lot of two-three night rentals, there are still many that come for a month or more. The latter are the ones that tend to attend and participate in our churches, have and use library cards, dine in their favorite restaurants, not only shop in their favorite stores, but make sure their guests do as well, get manicures, their hair cut, hike our trails, join local organizations. Some renters eventually become property owners. It takes some of them just one stay to figure out how to make it happen, while it takes others years of planning to realize the dream of living in this mountain paradise.

• Jeannie and Tucker Chambers are owners of Chambers Realty and Vacation Rentals at 401 N. Fifth Street in Highlands. 828-526-3717 or [jsc@chambersagency.net](mailto:jsc@chambersagency.net).

## ...HOSPITAL from page 4

have additional support staff at the hospital from Mission Health to help us learn, but our focus will always be on the patient first."

The use of EHRs should reduce the number of duplicate tests that patients undergo, improve patient safety and allow physicians and care providers to access a patient's complete medical history whether they are at a hospital or doctor's office. The ultimate goal of using EHRs is to improve care for patients.

"Since transitioning to a Mission Health member hospital, HCH has received significant resources and staffing to help make the transformation to an EHR system a reality," said Jackie Ring, president and chief nursing officer or HCH. "By working on a common computer platform both here in Highlands and also in Asheville, we are building a strong regional health system to better serve the needs of patients in Macon County, Jackson County and across western North Carolina."

## ...MARKET from page 5

Bock said he's planning on serving "good affordable food" for breakfast and lunch – biscuits, hamburgers, hot dogs, etc. The fare will be take-out – no seating will be offered inside the store – but he may put picnic tables on the property either outside the entrance or in the grassy areas under the trees.

Hours of operation will likely be early morning until 9 p.m. in the off season and until 11 p.m. in season.

Bock hopes to wrap up all required permits in February and to break ground on the project soon after.

The board voted unanimously to send the plans on to the Zoning Board for the required Special Use Permit.

The Planning Board also OK'd the plans for the First Baptist Church extension and its request for B1 conditional zoning.

They requested foliage on the Oak Street side of the existing extension, if possible and that zoning reverts back to B2 if the church should ever change use.

– Kim Lewicki

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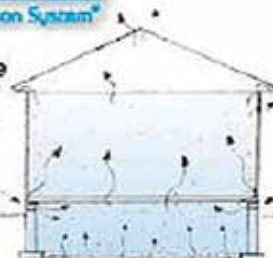
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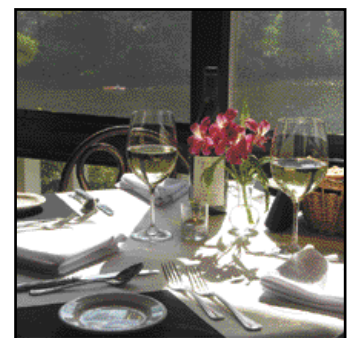
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