

# Highlands Newspaper

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Thurs., Nov. 17, 2016

## Veterans Memorial gets new home



On Veterans Day, Friday, Nov. 11, veterans, friends, family and citizens gathered to commemorate the Veterans Memorial which was moved from its previous home on 6th St. to the plaza in front of the Police Station on Oak St. Included are poles flying the US flag, the state flag and the town flag. The police and fire depts. provided color guards and Scout Troop 207 and Leadership Highlands also participated. The memorial was made possible by Ray and Diane McPhail who provided all the funds.

Photos by Bob Sutton

## 3 Highlands nonprofits get county funding

The Macon County Community Funding Pool board has spent the last few weeks reviewing 22 applications for grant

funding from the Macon County Board of Commissioners for local non profits. The board reviewed

•See FUNDING page 13

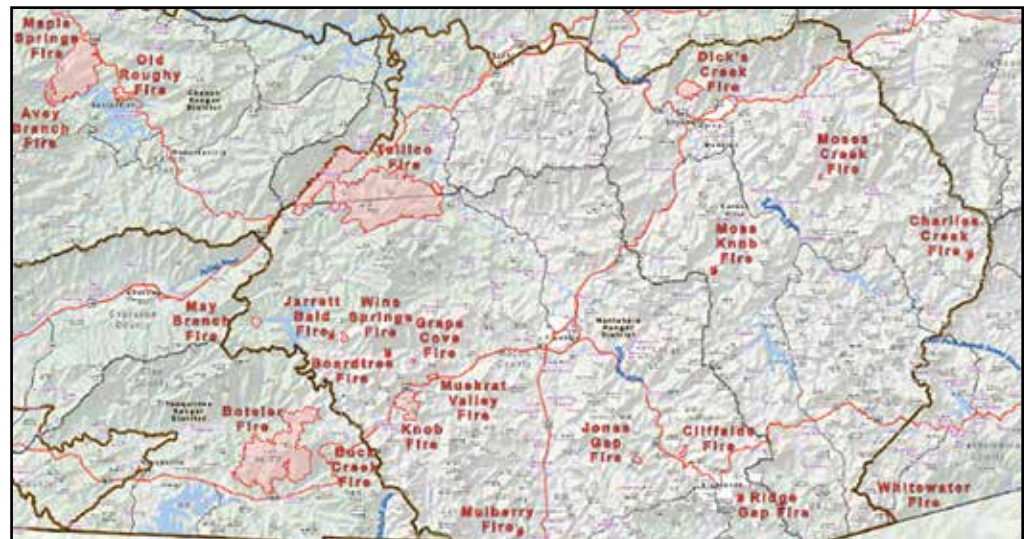
## Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. is busier than ever

Living in the midst of the national forest means the volunteer Highlands Fire & Rescue Department is responsible for saving not just the people and property

of Highlands and the Highlands Township; it is the forest's guardian, too.

Though regarding forest fires

• See HF&R page 6



Macon County is home to a majority of fires in this part of WNC.

## Firefighters continue to fight; monitor fires

Some 20 significant fires have been burning in the western part of the state since Oct. 23. and Gov. Pat McCrory announced Monday that it could take until the month of March to put them all out.

To make matters worse, the USFS of North Carolina said they are arson-caused fires and every fire is being investigated; citizens are urged to be vigilant.

"Call the National Forests of

North Carolina at 828-257-4200 if you have information about people setting fires or bragging about setting fires. If you see someone starting a fire, call 911," representatives said.

As of Monday, Nov. 14, the USFS of NC reported 17 crews, six helicopters, one fixed-wing airplane, 64 engines, 16 dozers, four water tenders, and 809 total personnel were involved in fight-

ing fires still raging or monitoring ones nearing containment.

Gov. Pat McCrory said the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has approved his request for financial assistance to help fight the wildfires raging across the western North Carolina mountains. This means the agency will now pay for 75 percent of the emergency protective measures

•See FIRES page 5

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# • THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

## • MAYOR ON DUTY •

### The impossible can happen

The older I get the more I realize the old adage “never say never,” is wise to heed. Last Tuesday it happen in national politics. Those that were sure Donald Trump could never be elected president were proven wrong.

In Highlands many folks may have thought we could never have a situation where it didn't rain on the plateau for over a month, much less almost all summer and fall. But it did, and we find ourselves in an unbelievably severe drought. Now we have smoke-filled days from multiple wildfires.

At the wonderful dedication of the Veterans Memorial Park last Friday, I asked several folks who had lived here all their lives if they had seen a drought as severe as this one. To a person, they said no.

Last Thursday I signed a state of emergency proclamation banning all outdoor fires and burning. I did not do it arbitrarily. Bans on outdoor burning are in effect across Western Carolina. Ryan Gearhart, the Highlands Fire Chief and Robbie Forrester the assistant chief, both urged me to take this action. They worry that a wildfire in or around Highlands could have disastrous consequences. Firefighters in the area have been battling the wildfire war on mul-



Mayor Pat Taylor

multiple fronts. Our department is in a heightened state of readiness. They had to respond to several small brush fires last week. Our firefighters were fortunately able to gain quick control.

The town water supply is thankfully stable. Two years ago we spent over 2 million dollars in refurbishing the Lake Sequoyah Dam and building a new water intake. The good news is that the intake is eight feet below the water level of the dam.

Some may have thought we would never be in a drought situation where this water intake would become a critical factor, but we are. Bridal Veil Falls could now be temporarily renamed, Bridal Veil Trickle. Water is barely flowing over the edge. If Highlands was relying solely on the small weir intake on Big Creek and the one aging pump station on the creek near US 64, our water works personnel would be very concerned.

Though with the Lake Sequoyah intake reliable water supply I still urge everyone to use water judiciously. The town needs to keep its water tanks throughout the town as full as possible in case of a sudden outbreak of a major fire. Several fire hoses running on full force can lower tank levels very fast. Our water system is like our arsenal in case of an attack by an advancing wildfire. I know I sound like we are in a fortress under siege, but in a way that is the case with so many fires in the area.

So, we all have to be on our guard and “never say never.” I want to thank everyone for their cooperation and understanding. Also, I want to give a special word of thanks to our dedicated fire and rescue department. They remain on guard for us.

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## • LETTERS •

### Gratitude to Ray and Diane McPhail

Dear Editor,

Madaline and I attended the Dedication Ceremony for the Veterans Memorial Park on Veterans Day. It was a wonderful occasion and as an Army veteran I greatly appreciate the memorial in honor of those who have served, are currently serving and will in the future serve our country.

At the ceremony, Madaline and I were improperly recognized for having contributed to the cost of the Memorial. While we supported the effort, it was Diane and Ray McPhail who contributed 100 percent of the funds that were needed to build it. They made it unnecessary for any of us to make monetary contributions.

Many cheers and thank you Ray and Diane!

W Stell Huie  
Highlands

### Bring the art & craft show back to Pine St.

Dear Editor,

As the Town Council of Highlands considers its decisions for the coming year, I would like to request that the Village Arts and Crafts Shows return to the Park on Pine. I am writing as a successful crafter who has been with the show for five years and who will continue to participate, regardless of venue.

Craft shows are summer highlights in the mountains, especially in the Highlands/Cashiers area. They attract quality artists and enthusiastic buyers; my Square account tells me how many repeat customers I have. Good craftspeople will always be able to sell wherever they are, even in a parking lot behind a strip mall, but any merchant knows greater success is based on “location, location, location.”

For any event a good location creates its own atmosphere, attracting more people to the show and to the area in general. With the park, Highlands provides an attractive space that brings people to the community, to the advantage of the show itself, local shops and restaurants. We see many of our customers walk up to the main shopping area after leaving the show.

As a crafter who has participated in a lot of shows, I can say that Cynthia Strain is a professional manager. She has an eye for good craft and brings a wide variety to her shows. The Village Arts and Crafts Show is organized, well promoted, and Ms. Strain is present throughout. I understand how much time and effort goes into any such event as my husband managed the Asheville Antiques Fair for 16 years.

I want to assure you that I have no personal connection to Ms. Strain other than email communication between promoter and vendor, and the show itself. My reason for writing this letter is simply my own wish to return to the park for its very pleasant location that attracts people and is an integral part of Highlands itself. I like to think that such an event enhances the reputation of the town and what it offers the summer visitor.

Betsy Sherman  
Asheville

•See LETTERS page 3

## • WEEKEND WEATHER •

FRIDAY NOV 18	SATURDAY NOV 19	SUNDAY NOV 20
66°/36°	48°/24°	41°/24°

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#### Letter Policy:

We reserve the right to reject or edit letters-to-the-editor. No anonymous letters will be accepted. Views expressed are not necessarily those of Highlands Newspaper.

...LETTERS continued from page 2

## Eleven Events pulled off great HF&W event

Dear Editor,

A dear friend often tells me, "bigger isn't always better." True, bigger isn't always better. Small things are easier, manageable and sometimes small things can make big things happen.

This was my approach to the past 9 years of former Highlands Culinary Weekend. We were just a few close friends getting together to plot and plan an event. Throwing things together and pulling it off with each new season. Selfishly I fell in love with this concept because it gave me a great sense of camaraderie and with that came many beautiful friendships within the Highlands community.

Last winter I expressed to the Chamber of Commerce that I needed help. This event needed rules, it needed better structure, it needed life and excitement breathed back into it. I watched cautiously as plans transpired and the Culinary Weekend was rebranded and given a new logo. I was skeptical of all the new events they had in store. Is it too much? Is it too big?

This past weekend came with great anticipation and I was sad, at first ... only because I was mourning the role I once had in something I loved.

I watched as all the festivities unfolded and I saw the excitement, the life and energy breathed back into my tiny town for four days.

The Highlands Food and Wine weekend was a huge success. I can rest knowing the event is in great hands and will move forward and grow year after year.

So I guess in a way, a small thing did make a big thing happen and for this I could not be more proud. Kudos Eleven Events!

**Laura Huerta**  
Former Chair of Highlands Culinary Weekend  
Owner, Lakeside Restaurant

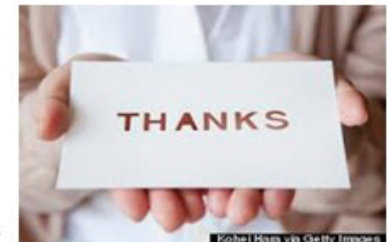
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## ...FIRES continued from page 1

taken in fighting the fires

**The Boteler and Nantahala Branch fire**

**Acreage: 8,695; Containment: 37 %; Start Date: Oct. 25**

The fire continues to be active due to dry conditions and continually falling leaves. Light winds have enabled crews on the east side to strengthen control lines in areas near Cold Branch Road. On the northeast side, handcrews and a dozer improved containment lines near the end of Buck Creek Road. Elsewhere, firefighters held and patrolled existing containment lines. Aircraft could not fly because of dense smoke.

Crews continue to protect residences adjacent to actively burning areas. They will also hold and patrol existing containment lines near the end of Buck Creek Road. On the south side near US Highway 64, firefighters will mop up containment lines, extinguishing hot spots and smoldering stumps.

A blasting crew will begin removing large hazard trees along Chunky Gal Trail, Bruce Ridge, and Nelson Ridge Road. This technique is necessary to reduce tree-falling hazards to firefighters and, once the fire is out, to recreationists in these areas.

The blasting crew will be felling only mature eastern hemlocks that have been killed by the hemlock wooly adelgid, an invasive insect. Blasting is necessary because the hemlocks become weakened near the top and cannot be safely brought down by chainsaws or heavy equipment. The highly trained and qualified blasting team will detonate diseased hemlocks within 50 feet from forest roads, trails, and containment lines. No trees will be blasted near homes. This technique has been used safely in the Joyce Kilmer Wilderness and other areas in the Nantahala National Forest. For safety reasons, access to the blasting area will be severely

restricted during blasting operations.

**Tellico/Ferebee Fire (Swain and Macon counties)**

**Acreage: 13,676; Containment: 39% Start Date: Nov. 3**

The U.S. Forest Service says the combination of the Tellico fire and the Ferebee fire could combine to create the biggest wildfire in North Carolina history and could become the biggest on record.

The necessary dozer and hand line construction is complete on this fire. Fire is working its way downslope to the fireline in only two remaining places: Queens Creek on the southwest side and Johnson Cove on the north side. Yesterday, firefighters responded to and extinguished a few instances of burning hemlock snags and small spot fires near or over the fireline. They also conducted a firing operation on the south side to bring the fire to a dozer line near the junction of Partridge Creek Road and Shields Creek Road. Fire managers feel confident in the work the structure-protection group has completed around residences and other structures, and residents are allowed to return to their houses today.

Last night's infrared flight detected isolated areas of heat near the fireline but no additional growth. Today, the crews and engines assigned to this fire will focus on mopping up the containment line to further strengthen and secure it. They will be on the lookout for burning snags that could start spot fires near or over the fireline.

**Muskrat Valley Fire (Macon County)**

**Acreage: 103; Containment: 75%; Start Date: Nov. 11**

Yesterday, on the south side of Muskrat Creek, firefighters completed direct handline construction on the last remaining open portion of the fire's northern perimeter. With several residences just north of the fire along Muskrat Lane, two twenty-person crews and six firefighters with two engines are assigned to the fire today. They will improve, mop up, maintain, and blow leaves off containment lines as needed.

**Dick's Creek Fire (Jackson County)**

**Acreage: 728; Containment: 94%; Start Date: Oct 23**

As leaves continue to drop, some reburn is occurring, but it is interior and not threatening containment lines. The resulting smoke may be visible to nearby residents. An infrared flight last night detected only one spot of heat in the center of the fire, a significant change from the flight two nights ago. Today, five firefighters with two engines will patrol, mop up and clean containment lines.

**Knob Fire (Macon County)**

**Acreage: 1,130; Containment: 94%; Start Date: Nov. 2**

Three firefighters with an engine remain assigned to this fire. They are monitoring and cleaning leaves off containment lines to reduce the likelihood of a reburn. They are also monitoring the fire along US Highway 64.

**Burning Restrictions**

A total fire ban is in effect for all lands in the Nantahala and Pisgah National Forests as well as in Macon County and the Town of Highlands which each issued a State of Emergency proclamation last week.

**Donations Being Collected at Mission hospitals**

Needed are: water, sport drinks, snacks, socks, hand warmers, AA and AAA batteries, hand sanitizer, headlamps, lip balm, eye drops, nasal spray, paper plates, prepackaged plastic silverware, coffee and coffee accessories, protein bars, bandanas, moleskin, duct tape, boot socks and laces, work gloves, hand warmers, wipes, foot powder, body wash, razors, shaving cream, soap, deodorant, Mouth wash, Over-the-counter allergy medication, nasal spray, Ibuprofen and Advil.

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## ...HF&R continued from page 1

its job is stop-gap in most cases, the HF&R dept. is the first-responder for fires in the US forest – once notified by 9-1-1, it is the first on the scene and its volunteers work to contain and/or extinguish the fire until the USFS firefighters arrive. Then, unless asked not to, they step away.

This is what happened last week when a brush fire broke out off Rich Gap Road in Horse Cove. It was only about two acres, but given the current dry, windy weather, it could have become much more.

Fire Chief Ryan Gearhart said they quickly dug lines – by hand – to break the spread of the fire and then burned 30-ft. inside the containment line to ensure it wouldn't spread. Likewise, Tuesday night, a 4-acre fire broke out in the Iron Bridge vicinity. "We got a line around it and the forest service back burned from the lines. As of last night it was contained, but crews were there all night and will be there all day Wednesday," said Gearhart.

Usually, once the USFS arrives, the HF&R job is done. But not really.

The HF&R dept. 30-member volunteer crew also continues to respond to Highlands' "normal" fire alarms usually caused by a burning dinner, a closed fireplace flue or a chimney fire as well as engaged structure fires – all calls it takes seriously.

It also responds to the numerous motor vehicle accident calls and is usually first-responders for health-related calls generally arriving before one of the two Macon County EMS ambulances can get there.

In addition, it provides mutual aid to nearby fire departments in Satolah, GA, Scaly Mtn./Sky Valley and Cashiers. And its volunteers must leave their full-time jobs to do all this.

The dept. is busy.

Now, with all the smoke wafting in and around the Highlands plateau from nearby environs, the dept. has been receiving numerous fire alarm calls due to "smoke in the area."

Just last week, not including the bonafide Rich Gap fire and the Iron Bridge blaze, firefighters responded to five "smoke

in the area" calls.

Whereas it is extremely important that citizens remain vigilant concerning the outbreak of fires in the area, Chief Gearhart asks that people call a forest fire in only if they see a column of smoke, not if they just see smoke drifting about.

"It's drifting in from everywhere – Georgia, South Carolina and of course western Macon County," said Gearhart. "Please call if you see a rising column of smoke, not just smoke in the air."

Meanwhile, like the state and the county, Mayor Pat Taylor has issued a state of emergency burning ban and in addition has asked that citizens conserve water whenever possible. He said the water tanks are full and the new intake valve at the dam is doing its job, but given the diminishing water in area streams, ponds and lakes, the fire department might need Highlands' stored water if a major fire breaks out.

Gearhart said the department always tries to use nearby water sources when fighting a fire, but said the streams and creeks are "pretty low right now."

– Kim Lewicki

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# • THE INK PENN •

## I can't find my mot juste!

And you're thinking, "Mot juste? Does she mean au jus? Has she lost her mojo or her mind?" Well, hopefully, I haven't yet lost either of those. Instead, I've found a new word.

When my daily email from A Word a Day (AWAD) came across the wire one morning, the word for that day was mot juste. Such a fancy word with a delightful pronunciation, mo ZHOOST. The definition? The right word. Now imagine someone saying with an upper crust tone, "I just can't seem to find the mot juste."

That's my issue. These days, I seem increasingly unable to find the right word when I'm in the midst of a phone call or a casual discussion over lunch. Picture me raising my hand in the air as if trying to pull something out of the clouds. When I'm on phone calls, no one can see me do that, but trust me, I do it all too often. And whether or not they see me, they hear me groping for the right word, or pardonne moi, the mot juste.

Even worse is using the wrong word and then trying to backtrack to correct myself. Heaven forbid anyone would think this former English teacher unknowingly mixes up her words. I wonder whether the AWAD team has a word for that faux pas. Do you, like me, always know the minute the wrong word has left your mouth and then frantically attempt to call it back? Back when I was still working, I certainly always noticed and cringed when someone misspoke in a meeting, especially when it was a senior



Kathy Manos Penn

executive hosting a conference call or webcast.

I recall cringing when an exec said, "My team is working to 'adopt' to our new structure," when what she meant was adapt. To her credit, though, she was able to stand on stage and host a lengthy meeting for hundreds of people without groping for the mot juste, as I probably would have. The mix-up that makes me crazy, though, is someone saying, "That's a mute point," when the mot juste is moot. That happens so frequently; I'm waiting for Webster's to update the dictionary.

I feel so much better now that I've ranted about my mot juste issue. While writing this and googling how to spell pardonne moi, I stumbled across several French expressions I plan to adopt, not adapt. I think speaking French may be the solution to my problem: break into French, bamboozle the audience and buy a minute or two to search further for the right word. For now, I'm adding excusez-moi and je suis désolé to my usual pardon. Anything more will have to wait until I someday take that French immersion course I've been dreaming of. Of course, now I'll have to come up with a way to call those French words to mind when I need them. It may be easier to chant, "mot juste, mot juste," as that phrase is now imprinted on my brain.

• To read more of Kathy's columns and blogs, visit her website [thinkpenn.com](http://thinkpenn.com) where you will soon be able to purchase her first book "The Ink Penn: Celebrating the Magic in the Everyday."



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<b>THURS</b>	<b>ROASTED MEATLOAF WITH MASHED POTATOES, GRAVY AND A LARGE SALAD</b>	<b>\$21.95</b> SERVES 4
<b>FRI</b>	<b>WILD CAUGHT FRIED SHRIMP, BAKED POTATOES, HUSH PUPPIES, AND COLESLAW</b>	<b>\$24.95</b> SERVES 4
<b>SAT</b>	<b>IN-HOUSE SMOKED BBQ, COLESLAW, APPLE AND BACON BAKED BEANS, AND YEAST ROLLS</b>	<b>\$21.95</b> SERVES 4

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Cage-free eggs, waffles, french toast, sausage, ham, homemade biscuits, muffins, croissants. Espresso bar and coffee roasted in-house.

### LUNCH & DINNER

#### Grill

Every day from 11:00am - close  
Fresh angus burgers, fresh  
Natural chicken breasts, fish or chicken  
tenders, cooked to order, hand-cut fries,  
salads, homemade soups, daily specials.  
*See our website for more info.*

#### Pizza

Every day from 11:00am - close  
Authentic Neapolitan and NY deck  
oven pizzas made from scratch. Pasta  
bowls, daily specials and weeknight  
dinner specials.  
*See our website for more info.*

#### Soup & Salad Bar

Mon-Sat 11:00am - close  
Fresh salads, homemade dressings,  
soups, chili and more.  
\$9.99 each (dine in) or \$9.99 a pound (to go)

#### Weekday Lunch Special

Monday - Friday 11am to 2pm  
Pizza, pasta, soup and salad bar  
Continuous fresh pizza from our pizza  
ovens, pastas, fresh breads from our  
bakery, plus the entire soup and salad  
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

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# • 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 every Monday, 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. & 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.

## Mon., Wed., Fri.

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

• Aerobics with Tina Rogers 8-9a.

## 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.

## 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.

## 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 5 pm at Christ Church of the Valley. Call Lisa 828-506-3555.

## 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.

## Fri., Nov. 18

• Senior Dinner at the Rec Park at noon. Free.

• The High Mountain Squares will host their "Beatles Night Dance," Friday night at the Macon County Community Building, GA Road (441 South), Franklin NC from 6:15 to 8:45 PM. Richard Smith from Gainesville GA will be the caller.

## Sat., Nov. 19

• The Highlands Plateau Gre-

enway work day is 9a – noon this Saturday. If you're interested in participating, please email Ran Shaffner at highlandsgreenway@nctv.com or leave a message at 828-482-1451.

## Tues., Nov. 22

• Community Thanksgiving Dinner. 6 p.m. at the Rec Park.

## Fri., Nov. 25

• At PAC, Retro Rock: The Drifters at 8 p.m. Call 828-526-9047 for tickets.

## Sat., Nov. 26

• Annual Town Lighting and first appearance of Mr. and Mrs. Claus at K-H Founders Park. Festivities begin at 6:30 p.m.

## 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 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.

## Frankenstein LIVE via Satellite at PAC Sat., Nov 19



The Highlands Performing Arts Center continues the Live via Satellite Series with the National Theatre of London's encore performance of Frankenstein on Saturday, November 19 at 1pm & 7pm. Directed by Academy Award®-winner Danny Boyle (Trainspotting, Slumdog Millionaire), Frankenstein features Benedict Cumberbatch (12 Years A Slave, Star Trek: Into Darkness) and Jonny Lee Miller (Trainspotting, Mansfield Park) alternating roles as Dr. Victor Frankenstein and the Creature.

The 1pm screening features Benedict Cumberbatch as the Creature with Miller playing the role of Dr. Frankenstein; and at the 7pm screening Cumberbatch and Miller reverse roles. Johnny Lee Miller will be playing the role of the Creature. Childlike in his innocence but grotesque in form, Dr. Frankenstein's bewildered Creature is cast out into a hostile universe by his horror-struck maker. Meeting with cruelty wherever he goes, the friendless Creature, increasingly desperate and vengeful, determines to track down his creator and strike a terrifying deal. Urgent concerns of scientific responsibility, parental neglect, cognitive development and the nature of good and evil are embedded within this thrilling and deeply disturbing classic gothic tale. Tickets are available online: highlandspac.org, at the door or by calling: 828.526.9047. Highlands Performing Arts Center, 507 Chestnut Street Highlands NC 28741



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**Frankenstein**  
1pm: Benedict Cumberbatch as the Creature  
7pm: Johnny Lee Miller as the Creature  
**Saturday**  
**November 19**  
**1pm & 7pm**  
Adults: \$22  
Members: \$17  
Students: \$12  
Highlands Performing Arts Center 507 Chestnut Street  
Tickets available online: highlandspac.org or by calling 828.526.9047



# • INVESTING AT 4,118 FT. •

## Water, water nowhere

The average human body is comprised of about 65% fluid. We need water to survive. One becomes dehydrated when more fluid is lost than we take into our bodies, and severe dehydration may lead to death. These are facts we've all heard before, and yet water is one of those things we

all take for granted. Every day added to our current drought situation makes us more aware of the importance of water.

So, what does water have to do with real estate? Plenty. Bucket loads. An ocean full. With very few exceptions that I can think of, a property without water is no good

to anyone. It wasn't too very long ago, I knew a woman that doused water to find the best location to drill a well. That woman was Margaret Hall, Tucker Chambers' grandmother. I have many happy memories of her recounting those stories. Her dowsing rod was marked with the name and how much water they found after drilling. There are Realtors in town that used her services on more than one occasion.

When vacant land is for sale,



Jeannie Chambers  
Chambers Realty &  
Vacation Rentals

you will need to confirm the availability of water before purchasing. It's not up to the Seller to provide water; finding out about water is part of the buyer's due diligence process. Some vacant properties are listed with water available, which is a huge plus, but this still needs to be confirmed by the buyer. There are usually costs involved in tying onto an existing

water system, and then shared costs afterwards, or having an existing well water tested, and then mainte-

nance afterwards. Shared wells and water systems are not a problem as long as the involved property owners take equal responsibility in the maintenance and repairs. Not all shared water system agreements are in writing, some are shared with as few as two to five properties. Your closing attorney may suggest a written agreement before proceeding.

If you are looking at mountain properties during a drought, you may want to ask the Seller about what their property is like when normal rainfall occurs. The reverse is true if we're having an overabundance of precipitation - that nice little creek running through the yard? Is it a wet weather stream? Or is it a continuously flowing stream? Even some of the normally running streams are very low this year. It's not just the water features you will want to be concerned about, but also the drainage of the property you're considering. Don't be misled by a dry basement during a drought. Ask questions; if your Realtor can't find the information in the supplied MLS sheet and disclosures, you can request answers to those and any other questions before or during the due diligence process.

We shouldn't have to be asked to conserve water, but please remind your family and others to take shorter showers, refrain from over watering your lawns and limit washing your cars. By the way, this goes for any time of year, but especially when we're in a severe drought like we're experiencing now. I've never seen it this dry, and plenty of old-timers have said the same thing.

According to our very own Highlands Biological Station, the average rainfall for Highlands is 83.56 in. As of October 31, we've had 38.44 in. The lowest annual rainfall on record at HBS was set in 2012 with 51.38 in. That's a record I hope we don't repeat or beat. We will need about 13 inches of rain in December to avoid making another record. December of 2015, we got 15.37 inches of rain - so maybe, just maybe. The rain forecast for the rest of November isn't that great, so conserve, conserve, conserve.

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• See INVESTING page 13



# • SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

## Try to remember God's love this Christmas season

By Dr. Curtis Fussell  
Co-Pastor, First Presbyterian Church

There's a story about a woman who took her four-year-old son Christmas shopping at a mall. She was sure he would have a wonderful time looking at the holiday decorations, seeing the displays, watching animated toys, and so forth. When she and her son entered the mall it was indeed wonderfully decorated for the Christmas season. But, after only a short time, her son began to fret and cry. Then, one of his shoelaces came untied and he started tripping over his own feet.

As she bent down to tie his shoe, his mother said in exasperation, "I brought you here to get the Christmas spirit! Why are you so upset and so fussy?"

The boy though replied, "I don't know." But as she was tying her son's shoe, this mother suddenly saw the mall from the viewpoint of her four-year-old. From his view, the lights glared, the decorations looked odd, the holiday garlands were just a jumble of stuff, and the animated toys looked strange. Plus, the little boy could only see a maze of tall walls and the legs of people going here and there.

Now his mother understood why her child was crying. She could see the reality her child saw. Her new viewpoint changed her interaction with her child. Immediately, she picked him up and shared with him the view she enjoyed and it made all the difference.

During the Christmas season we might understand this little child's struggle. We might share the struggle to see Christmas as "the celebration of Christ." We might struggle to see how Christmas proclaims God's grace toward us. We might struggle to see that Christmas is the sending of God's own personal gift of love to all people.

It may not be an easy thing to see Christmas in this way with all the holiday frenzy, the demands, and decorations. Many things can cause our view of Christmas to be distorted. What a blessing it is, then, when we are able to see this essential proclamation: that God loves us and comes to us to give us the precious gift of life in Jesus Christ. So keep this one view before your eyes during the Christmas season: "God so loved the world that he sent his Son." The joy and peace of God's love for all people be with you during this Christmas season!

## 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/Communion

### CHRIST ANGLICAN CHURCH

Rector: Jim Murphy, 252-671-4011

464 US Hwy 64 east, Cashiers

Sun.: 9:30a Sunday School; 10:30a Worship 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: 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.

### EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE INCARNATION

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Sundays: Education and choir rehearsal, 9 am,

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### 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: 11 a.m.; School: 9:30

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

Wednesdays: Choir: 5:30p

### GOLDMINE BAPTIST CHURCH

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Pastor Nathan Johnson

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

Wed. Kidsquest 6p.; Worship 7p.

### HIGHLANDS ASSEMBLY OF GOD

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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, 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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Worship/Communion: 10:30

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

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

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### MOUNTAIN BIBLE CHURCH

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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

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Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study: 6 p.m.

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Thursday: Noon Healing Service with Eucharist.

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# • POLICE & FIRE REPORTS •

**The Highlands Police log entries from Nov. 8. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor or public officials have been used.**

## Nov. 8

• At noon, a shoplifting incident was reported at Potpourri 2 on Main Street where a pair of sunglasses were taken.

## Nov. 12

• At 6:03 p.m., a shoplifting incident was reported at Bear Mountain Outfitters where a sweater was taken off the shelf and put in a bag without being paid for.

## Nov. 13

• At 8:29 p.m., officers responded to a 2-vehicle accident on US 64 west near Webbmont.

## Nov. 14

• At 2:16 p.m., a simple assault was reported in the alley of Oak Square where two people were fighting.

• At 2:40 p.m., a shoplifting incident was reported at Farmers Market where a bottle of wine was taken.

**The Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. log from Nov 8.**

## Nov. 8

• At 8:05 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to an area residence.

• At 10:29 a.m., the dept. was called about smoke in the area of Mirror Lake.

• At 3:49 p.m., the dept. was called about smoke around Lake Sequoyah.

## Nov. 9

• At 12:08 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Goldmine Church Road.

• At 1:30 p.m., the dept. was called about smoke in the Holt Road area.

## Nov. 10

• At 1:16 a.m., the dept. provided mutual aid to the Satolah FD on a brushfire.

• At 11:13 a.m., the dept. was called about smoke in the area of Satolah Falls Lane.

• At 1:33 p.m., the dept. worked a brush fire off Rich Gap Road.

• At 4:03 p.m., the dept. was called about smoke in the Bowery Road area.

## Nov. 12

• At 5:51 p.m., the dept. was called about the smell of propane on Oak Street.

## Nov. 13

• At 3:58 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Mack Wilson Road.

• At 9:17 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Joe Pye Trail.

## Note:

The state has issued a burning ban until further notice. Chief Ryan Gearhart said the Highlands Fire Dept. will be enforcing the ban. If caught burning the charge is \$100 plus \$180 in court costs.

In addition, Mayor Patrick Taylor urges citizens to begin taking water conservation measures.

He said Highlands is now 21 inches below normal rainfall and extreme drought conditions continue.

## ...INVESTING from page 10

To further expand your knowledge of our area's current situation, visit [www.nc.water.usgs.gov](http://www.nc.water.usgs.gov). You can check the levels of the streams in our area. One source for weather predictions is the Old Farmer's Almanac. For the winter of 2016/2017, for Appalachia "Winter will be slightly warmer than normal, with near-normal precipitation and above-normal snowfall." Accuweather.com said about the same thing "Winter will slowly creep into the Southeast this season, as very mild air hangs on throughout the month of December. However, the new year will usher in a pattern change as a sudden burst of cold air penetrates the region."

Real estate will be bought and sold during rains, sleet or snow, and now we can add drought. Jeannie and Tucker Chambers are owners of Chambers Realty & Vacation Rentals, and look forward to being your guide to Highlands real estate - rain or shine. 401 N. Fifth Street, Highlands, NC 28741 888-526-3717 or [getit@chambersagency.net](mailto:getit@chambersagency.net)

## ...FUNDING continued from page 1

each request, and then decided what amount to allocate to each organizations based on the \$75,000 allotted by the county to the cause.

"The non-profits in Macon County provide an invaluable service to the citizens of this community," said Macon County Manager Derek Roalnd. "Our non-profit funding pool is just one way that we can help these organizations and what they do for our residents."

Karen Wallace, the long-time chair of the committee that reviews the applications, presented commissioners with the committee's recommendations on Tuesday night.

"This year we received grant applications from 22 different organizations in Macon County totaling \$153,719," said Wallace. "We reviewed all of the applications and are recommending funding 12 of the requests to add up to the \$75,000 you have allotted."

### Funding approval:

Arts Council of Macon County support programs – Requested amount: \$6,000; Approved amount: \$4,324

Blue Ridge Mountains Health Project (free dental clinic) – Requested amount: \$2,500; Approved amount: \$1,689

Community Care Clinic of Franklin – Requested amount: \$10,000; Approved amount: \$6,720

Community Care Clinic of Highlands – Requested amount: \$9,000; Approved amount: \$5,658

Highlands Community Child Development Center – Requested amount: \$10,000; Approved amount: \$6,250

Hospice House Foundation – Requested amount: \$5,000; Approved amount: \$3,215

Literacy Council of Highlands – Requested amount: \$1,000; Approved amount: \$1,496

Macon County Care Network – Requested amount: \$5,000; Approved amount: \$3,271

Macon County Program for Progress – Requested amount: \$10,000; Approved amount: \$7,911

Mountain Mediation – Requested amount: \$6,000; Approved amount: \$4,466

Read2Me – Requested amount: \$7,000; Approved amount: \$3,894

Teen Challenge of the Smokies – Requested amount: \$10,000; Approved amount: \$6,106

As the committee has done in the past, the full funding request and maximum request amount for two organizations, REACH of Macon County and KIDS Place, was granted at \$10,000 each.

"There is no doubt that all of these organizations are deserving of these funds and should be commended for what they do for our community," said Macon County Commissioner Ronnie Beale. "All 22 of the organizations who applied are deserving and provide invaluable services to our residents."

The eight organizations that were not funded include The Bascom, Boy Scouts of America, Center for Life Enrichment, Macon County Art Association, Macon New Beginnings, Macon Tracs, Mission Health System Foundation, and Smoky Mountain Pregnancy Care Center.

Macon County Commissioners increased the amount of the non-profit funding pool last year to \$75,000. Prior to that, the funding pool had remained at \$50,000 since its inception.

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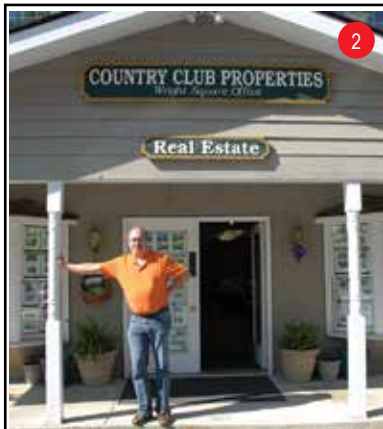
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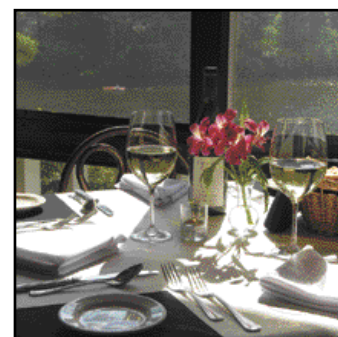
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