

Highlands Newspaper

FREE Every Thursday

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

Wed., Nov. 23, 2016

Commissioners select location for Charters of Freedom

Macon County Commissioner and Vietnam Veteran Gary Shields presented the board of commissioners with the idea of erecting monuments to display the Charters of Freedom earlier this year.

"These documents define our country and I think having them on display in Macon County would be educational and a great resource for our community," Shields said. "It shows pride in our country and gives people an opportunity

to view the documents first hand, something they might not otherwise be able to do."

Shields' fellow commissioners approved the idea and work got started on the details with Foundation Forward, a nonprofit or-

ganization formed to establish the monuments around the country.

Last Tuesday night, the Macon County Board of Commissioners voted to enter into a Letter of Intent with Foundation For-

•See FREEDOM page 5

• INSIDE •

Mayor on Duty.....	2
Obituary	3
The Ink Penn.....	7
Shopping Pullout	12-13
Investing at 4118 Ft.	15
RE Snaps	14-17
Spitirually Speaking	19
Classifieds.....	22

Annual Town Lighting festivities are Sat., Nov. 26 in K-H Founders Park



This year and from now on, the annual Town Lighting is in K-H Founders Park on Pine Street at 6:30 p.m. A live Christmas tree was donated and has been adorned for the occasion. There will be caroling, hot chocolate and a visit from Santa and Mrs. Claus. Santa will hear Christmas wishes that night at the fireplace in the park after the lighting. In addition, the Ice Rink at the park is now open. Thurs 1-8 p.m., Fri. and Sat. 1-10 p.m. and Sun. 1-5 p.m.

— Photo by Kim Lewicki

County pays off Parker Meadows from hefty fund balance

During his tenure as commissioner, Macon County Commission Chair Kevin Corbin has championed for recreation opportunities in the county. From being instrumental in the renovations at the Highlands Pool to the construction of the new Parker Meadows Recreation Complex, Corbin has spent his six years as commissioner ensuring the citizens of Macon County have the appropriate recreation facilities.

Last Tuesday night, during Corbin's last board meeting as a commissioner before taking his new role as a Representative for the North Carolina House of Representatives, Corbin asked his fellow board members to approve \$1.35 million to pay off the remaining balance owed on the park.

County officials approved

•See COUNTY page 5

Highlands School celebrates T-Day early



It was Thanksgiving in the Highlands School cafeteria on Thursday. The cafeteria staff dressed up as pilgrims and Indians to get students in the Thanksgiving mood. Students and staff enjoyed turkey, dressing, green beans, rolls and fruit ambrosia. From left are Lynn Vinson, Debbie Moss, Sally Zachary and Roberta Perkins.

School gym has a new roof

After 10 years of dealing with a leaking roof, Highland School is anxiously awaiting some rain to try out the new roof installed and completed by Benton Roofing.

On Monday night, the MC

Board of Education said the roof has been completed and with no change orders on the project, it cost the county \$249,000.

According to Todd Gibbs,

•See SCHOOL page 21

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Don't miss the Tree Lighting, Sat., Nov. 26 at 6:30 p.m.
in K-H Founders Park on Pine St.

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• MAYOR ON DUTY •

Remember to give thanks for everything

With the beginning of the holiday season we will all be thankful for time with our families and friends. We can breathe a sigh of relief that the national elections are over, and be thankful that our republic has an enduring tradition of a peaceful and planned transition of power every four years.

The Highlands holiday events will kick off on Saturday with the town lighting at Kelsey Hutchinson Founders Park at 6:30. The lighting of the new town Christmas tree in the park can be viewed as either a new tradition, or a return to a past one.

Let me first express my appreciation to the Highlands United Methodist Church for graciously allowing the community to use the large tree in front of the church as the town Christmas tree for the past number of years. I know and understand that many people regret the change in venue, but hopefully a new tradition will follow.

Many years ago the town Christmas tree was the large tree behind Town Hall and next to the police department. Over the years, crowds for the lighting grew too large for the space, so the lighting was moved to the hill where Entegra Bank and a portion of the park are currently located. When Macon Bank built a new building on the site, and the current park did not exist, the lighting was moved to the Methodist church. So moving the event back to the park is not exactly a new venue, rather a return to a former site.

The ice skating rink will open Friday afternoon. It will also be open the Saturday afternoon of the town lighting, but be closed during the lighting ceremonies, and reopen afterward. The rink will be closed on Thanksgiving Day. Everyone, including town staff, should be at home with their families on this special holiday.

Our downtown Christmas Parade will begin at 11 am on the following Saturday,



Mayor Pat Taylor

December 3. Like the town lighting, it will be a community extravaganza organized by the Highlands Chamber.

Western Carolina is in a historic drought. The Highlands Plateau continues to lead the region in below average rainfall. To exacerbate our situation, very little rainfall stays on the plateau before flowing down the mountains.

The town public works department is constantly monitoring this emergency situation. While stable for now, predictions of the drought continuing through the winter could create a historic weather event for Highlands rivaling any blizzard we have experienced. Lamar Nix, our public works director, has requested folks suspend the use of automatic irrigation systems until drought conditions pass. At this point there are no mandatory watering bans, but we do ask folks to use water judiciously.

Also, during the holidays please refrain from any outdoor burning such as fire pits. Also, shooting fireworks could have disastrous consequences and will guarantee a visit from law enforcement. In times of emergency like now, I know people in this community will work together so everyone can be secure and safe

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• WEEKEND WEATHER •

FRIDAY NOV 25	SATURDAY NOV 26	SUNDAY NOV 27
59°/31°	54°/21°	52°/24°

For real-time weather and the extended forecast go to
www.highlandsinfo.com and click on Weather

• OBITUARY •

Billy Ray Rice



Billy Ray Rice, 68, of Cashiers passed away on Thursday, November 17, 2016. Born in Rabun County, GA, he was the son of the late Leroy and Nellie Kinsey Rice. He was employed for 30 years by Duke Energy at Oconee Nuclear Station in Seneca, SC. He loved to hunt, play golf and loved classic cars. He loved his family and was a member of Living Redeemer Assembly of God Church. Billy Ray was a U. S. Army veteran serving in the Vietnam War.

Billy Ray is survived by his wife of 47 years, Linda Rice; one daughter, Jody Williamson (Jeff) of Franklin; one son, Meritt Rice (Tracie) of Cashiers; four grand-

children, Sydney Rice, Olivia Rice, Mason Williamson and Avery Williamson; two sisters, Janice Dillard and Sharon Garren and three brothers, Robert Rice, Donnie Rice and Bennie Rice.

A memorial service was held Sunday, November 20, 2016 at Cashiers First Baptist Church with Rev. Dennis Page, Rev. Nathan Moss and Rev. Scott Holland officiating.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to American Legion Post #370, 220 Main Street, Highlands, NC 28741.

Bryant-Grant Funeral Home and Crematory is serving the Rice family. Online condolences may be made at bryantgrant-funeralhome.com.



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...FREEDOM from page 1

ward, who plans to gift the monuments to Macon County at no charge to the county.

Macon County Manager Derek Roland informed members of the board that the location of the monuments was selected, and the display will be featured on the courthouse plaza in front of the flag poles.

"This is an excellent central location for these monuments and we believe will give the community easy access to enjoy the Charters of Freedom," said Roland.

The Charters of Freedom monuments will be erected in brick as to match the current aesthetics of the courthouse.

The goal of Foundation Forward is to bring life-size replicas of these documents currently housed in the National Archives -- the Declaration of Independence, the United States Constitution, and the Bill of Rights -- to local communities.

Charters of Freedom Monuments are usually placed in a location central to the community, with 24-hour access, high visibility, high foot traffic, and easy access for school children.

Based on the letter of intent, a bank account will be established at Entegra Bank to fund the project. Vance and Mary Jo Patterson, the founders of Foundation Forward, will make the first deposit into the account in the amount of \$10,000 and other deposits will be made during the construction to cover the costs of the brick monument that will be gifted to the county.

Once building permits are granted and the process begins, construction will take six to eight weeks.

...COUNTY from page 1

Parker Meadows in February 2014 in a three to two vote to spend \$2.5 million to construct the park.

"Ninety percent of the people I talk to are in favor of us doing the entire project. If we are truly listening to the people, I vote we move forward with the project," said Chairman Kevin Corbin during the debate in 2014 to build the park. "Two reasons I support this project are we need this facility for our citizens and also for the huge economic gain the park will generate for the county estimated at six to eight million dollars a year, a figure I feel is low. We won't realize this gain unless we move forward with the entire project," he said.

Corbin also said it was important to consider the money that will be saved from completing the entire project all at one time, as it will cost more to do the park in phases especially grading and lighting costs.

Now, two years later, Corbin asked his fellow commissioners to pay off the loan on the park and got a unanimous vote to do so.

The \$2.9 million project had \$2.4 million coming from county dollars and \$500,000 coming from state Parks and Recreation Trust Fund grants. When the park was approved in 2014, the county voted to pay \$1 million of the project upfront out of the county's fund balance, and to finance the remaining \$1.8 million needed to complete the project.

By last Tuesday night, the county still owed about \$1.35 million on the project, paying 2.2 percent interest on the loan that was housed at Entegra Bank. County Manager Derek Roland noted that if the commissioners voted to pay off the loan early, it would free up the more than \$200,000 ear-

• See COUNTY page 21

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• THE INK PENN •

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That subtitle for a Wall Street Journal article on how not to stress about preparing the quintessential Thanksgiving meal caught my eye. Yes, I have stressed over that meal in the past, but not to the extreme outlined in the WSJ.

For me, the stressful part was making the gravy. I only make gravy to accompany a roast turkey, and doing that every year or so is not enough “practice to make perfect.” Add to that my mother and my two sisters hovering over my shoulder offering input, often conflicting, and you get the picture. The times I’ve made decent gravy were the times I cooked dinner only for my husband, his elderly aunt and myself. Being able to follow a gravy recipe from the newspaper, without interruption, did the trick.

I was never one to try new recipes at Thanksgiving, as my family and friends always wanted the tried and true, which was fine by me. What does that mean? Turkey, gravy, the Pepperidge Farm dressing recipe with minor adaptations, baked sweet potatoes vs. a casserole, green beans or roasted veggies like Brussel sprouts, carrots, onions plus cranberry sauce and rolls. Who needs more than that? Truth be told, none of us really want to eat anything beyond turkey, dressing and gravy, but feel obligated to at least put something green in our mouths.

I haven’t cooked a Thanksgiving dinner the past few years, as my husband and I have been invited to eat with friends or family for several years running. The two years we spent with friends at their mountain house, I was only in charge of the dressing and baked sweet potatoes. One year when we spent the day with friends locally, I was asked to make my specialty—Greek salad.

Last year, I couldn’t believe my good



Kathy Manos Penn

fortune when the same friends asked me to bring Greek pastries from Zukerino. That Greek bakery has become my go-to spot any time I need dessert, which is pretty much only when I entertain or take dessert to someone else’s house.

It’s been so many years since I’ve had to prepare an entire Thanksgiving meal that I was taken by surprise last year when I ran into Trader Joe’s on the Sunday before Thanksgiving to pick up Greek olive oil and found the store packed. Finally, it dawned on me that everyone was stocking up for Thanksgiving. That experience prompted me to give thanks that I was once again off the hook for the big meal.

This year, we’re heading to St. Simons Island to spend the holiday with my sister and brother-in-law in their newly purchased vacation condo. With the just four of us plus a few pets, I know we won’t be stressing over the Thanksgiving meal. My sister discovered last year that lots of island restaurants are open that day, so we may well go out. That would leave most of Thanksgiving Day free for bicycling the island, watching the parade on TV, walking on the beach, and all the activities we enjoy. We keep vacillating about cooking, as we all enjoy the leftovers as much as the original meal.

Decisions, decisions. We’ll figure it out eventually and enjoy a relaxing week regardless of where or what we end up eating on Turkey Day. I wish you all a stress-free Thanksgiving too.

• Kathy Manos Penn is a Sandy Springs resident now happily retired from a corporate career in communications. Find her book, “The Ink Penn: Celebrating the Magic in the Everyday,” locally at The Molly Grace or on Kathy’s website at www.theinkpenn.com. Contact her at inkpenn119@gmail.com.



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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 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.).

Mon. & Thurs.

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

Tuesdays

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

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. For info call 369-7385.

2nd and 4th Tuesdays

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

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.

2nd Thursdays

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

3rd Thursdays

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

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

Friday-Tuesday

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

Fridays

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

Third Fridays

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

Saturdays

• At MountainTop Wine Shoppe on

• See EVENTS page 11



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The Deep Blue Sea

National
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Live
Saturday
December 3
1pm



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Live via Satellite Series

The Metropolitan
Opera HD
LIVE

L'Amour De Loin

Saturday
December 10
12:55pm

Pre-Opera Discussion

12:30pm
Lead by
Beverly Wichman



Adults: \$26 Members: \$22

Highlands Performing Arts Center 507 Chestnut Street

Tickets available online: highlandspac.org or by calling 828.526.9047

...EVENTS from 10

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. 25

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

Sat., Nov. 26

- At PAC, Live via Satellite, Three Penny Opera at 1 p.m. Adults \$22, Members, \$17. For tickets call 828-526-9047.

- Annual Town Lighting and visit Mr. and Mrs. Claus at K-H Founders Park. Festivities begin at 6 p.m.

Sat., Dec. 1

- At PAC, National Theater Live via Satellite at 1 p.m. The Deep Blue Sea. Adults \$22. Members, \$19 and Students \$12. Call 828-526-9047 for tickets.

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.

Sat. & Sun., Dec. 10-11

- The Highlands Community Christian Choral Concert is at Highlands First Presbyterian Church at 5pm on Saturday and Sunday. Dr. Michael Lancaster, conductor of the Asheville Symphony Chorus, is serving as the Artistic Director for this year's concerts. Dr. Lancaster also serves as Director of Worship/Music at First Presbyterian Church. The concerts will be accompanied by a 16-piece orchestra. Pianist Bryan Heller is serving as Choral accompanist. A reception will follow the Sun., December 11 concert. Be sure to put these dates on your calendar!

Sat., Dec. 10

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

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• REAL ESTATE SNAPSHOTS •

Main Street **COUNTRY CLUB PROPERTIES** Mtn. Fresh Wright Sq. 828-526-2520 | www.ccphighlandsnc.com | ccp4info@frontier.com



Walk to town from this 4BD/2 1/2 BA home on almost one half acre with pond, gazebo and garden area. Offered at \$349,000. mls #84709



Great log cabin in Rocky Knob. Offered at \$299,000. mls #83801



In town 4BD/3BA. Great location for year round living or great rental potential. Offered at \$325,000. mls #84767



3BD/3BA home with Clear Creek in your backyard. Addition and garage. Offered at \$389,000. mls #84483



2BD/2BA, open floor plan. Offered at \$180,000. mls #82152



Great in-town 3BR/3BA mountain style home! Offered at \$375,000. mls #84685



3BD/3BA with stupendous view of Whiteside Mountain and Cashiers Valley. Offered at \$1,275,000. mls #84533



In town! 5BD/2BA. Frontage on Hwy 64. Ideal for home/office/retail. Offered at \$895,000. mls #77981



On the 5th Fairway HFCC. 3BD on main level with family room downstairs. Offered at \$575,000. mls #82562



Designer finishes are evident throughout this charming 3BD/2.5BA plus a loft cottage. Offered at \$399,000. mls #79665



HIGHLANDS COUNTRY CLUB - This lovely 3BD/3BA home has it all! Offered at \$895,000. mls #75598.



In town. 3BD/2.5 BA, one car garage. Offered at \$545,000. mls #83999



One bedroom studio sits on almost 4 acres and is constructed of the utmost in quality in design and materials. Top of the line in every way, with beautiful grounds for gardening or privacy. Additional new shed could be anything with some imagination. Raised vegetable garden will be ready for next season. Has good rental potential. Offered unfurnished at \$550,000. mls #84744



Trillium Place master on main. 2BD/1.5 BA.. This is a must see for walk to town living! Offered at \$389,000 mls #84281



Located in Historic Satulah Mountain 4BD/5BA, 2 half baths. Extra lot included for a total of 2.91 +/- acres. Offered at \$3,600,000. mls #84632



3BD/2BA plus full basement. Cathedral ceiling with fireplace. Offered at \$349,000. mls #84595



Log cabin with 4BD/4.5 BA. Master on main with fireplace. Offered at \$575,000. mls #84827



Located on a nice level lot with good mountain view. 3 bedroom 2 bath all on one level. Workshop and carport. Offered at \$295,000. mls #85026



3 bedrooms plus den 4 baths. Exceptional mountain view. Beautifully landscaped yard. Old mountain charm exudes with this unique home located on 4.71 acres with pond and great gardens. Offered at \$1,150,000. mls #85028



Main house has 3+bedrooms and 4 baths with Master Suite on Main level, 2 guest bedrooms upstairs and Bonus bunk room above carport. Guest cabin has 3 bedrooms/2 baths on pretty wooded knoll. 16 acres of meadow/pasture lands, pond and stream. 5-6 wooded building lots. MLS# 82521 Offered for \$2,195,000.

• INVESTING AT 4,118 Ft. •

Thanksgiving...Thankful for Highlands

A few years ago I was blessed with a family vacation in Alaska. It was my first time there and I was in awe of the glaciers, the snow-capped mountains, the natural beauty, the slower pace and the quaint fishing villages. I imagined what it would be like to live there.

When I arrived back in Highlands, I fell in love all over again. This has been home for 31 years and I've always loved it here, but sometimes getting away puts things into



Lynn Kimball
Berkshire Hathaway
HomeServices
Meadows Mountain
Realty

perspective. I enjoy travelling, but no matter where I have visited, every time I come back home I count my blessings, realizing that there has never been another place I would rather live.

Contemplating the TV shows I have watched about Alaskan real estate, I was reminded of homebuyers scrambling to find a second home on remote islands,

without bathrooms, running water or even electricity in some

• See INVESTING page 17



Historical

375 Granddaddy Still Rd, in
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Reduced to \$538,900!
3 BR / 2 BA private on
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Whisperidge Cottage



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• REAL ESTATE SNAPSHOTS •

Beautiful Building Lot in Town



Beautiful 1.03 +/- acre lot on one of Highlands' most popular, walk-to-town quiet lanes. Paved, easy access and adjoins The Bascom campus. There is a maximum of 24% of impervious surface and a 25 ft. setback from each side of the stream on the property as well as from the center lines of Hwy 64 and Oak Lane.

Offered at \$187,500. MLS #82512.
Contact Susie (828) 371-2079.

Rustic & Elegant Cabin w/View



This 2BR/2.5 BA cabin is on .66+/- acres close to town and move-in ready. Open living room with cathedral ceilings features a stone, floor-to-ceiling, wood-burning fireplace and large covered deck. Master is on the main level with a jacuzzi sun room. Upper level has a second bedroom and bath. Could add a third bedroom which shares the upstairs bathroom (please email us for a copy of the drawing).

Offered at \$350,000. MLS #84129.
Please contact Susie deVille (828) 371-2079

Attention Investors!



Short walk to town and Harris Lake with winter views of Sunset Rock, on .32+/- acres. Yard is fenced and well manicured. Investors, with the rental market booming, this home is ideal for a great rental property. This 2BR/2BA could easily be converted to a 3 bedroom. This home has unbelievable potential and the BEST location in town.

Offered at \$269,000. MLS#83123
Contact Susie (828) 371-2079.
Pond and Pastoral Views



Close to town on a private road in desirable Webbmont neighborhood. Enjoy the pastoral, mountain and pond views from the spacious decking. Gorgeous, stone fireplace in the living room, with lots of windows. Open and spacious floor plan with plenty of room for entertaining. Enjoy morning coffee or evening wine on the dock. Wonderful workshop could be converted to a writer's or artist's studio!

Offered at \$360,000. MLS #83812.
Contact Susie deVille (828) 371-2079.



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MLS #79672 \$499,000

3 BR/3 baths. Backs up to USFS land. PRIVATE. Garage, screened porch EASY access



MLS #83342 - \$785,000

4 BR/ 3 baths, 2 half baths View of 8th and 9th hole of HFCC. Three fireplaces, garage, wood floors, Established perennial gardens



MLS #79371 \$459,000

4 BR/ 2.5 bath. Nice custom features, workshop. Partially fenced back yard.



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



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



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



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



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



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



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



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



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



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



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



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



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



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



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



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



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



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



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



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



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...INVESTING continued from page 15

places. Although daily living in the wilderness is not for most of us, there is only one reason why someone would want to live there...why?...because they love it!

In October of 1984, I came to Highlands for a three-day getaway. I was enamored with the mountains, the natural beauty, the slower pace and the quaint, friendly little town. I moved here the next spring and have never looked back. Why?...because I love it!

Steeped in history, Highlands offers a rare combination of scenic beauty, ideal climate and a variety of outdoor recreational activities, all with a charming blend of cultural amenities, fine dining, specialty shops and choice accommodations.

Perhaps the greatest natural asset found in Highlands is the warm and welcoming spirit of its people. There is truly no place like Highlands.

If you are visiting Highlands over the Thanksgiving holidays and have been thinking about making Highlands a second or

permanent home...why not now? Time is ever-changing and easily gets away from us and today is all we really have. Although our real estate market is trending upward, take a look and you will still find some of the best real estate values we have seen in several years. Why?...because you love it!

• *Lynn Kimball has over 43 years of real estate experience, with 31 years serving the Highlands Cashiers area. She has gained Emeritus Status with the National Association of Realtors and previously served as Director and Vice President for the Highlands Cashiers Board of Realtors. Whether you are interested in searching properties or comprehensive information about our area, you are invited to visit her user friendly website at www.signatureproperties-nc.com. Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Meadows Mountain Realty has three locations, at 41 Church Street in the Old Edwards Inn complex, at 488 Main Street or visit Lynn at her 2334 Cashiers Road location across from Highlands Falls Country Club. Lynn Kimball may be reached at 828-421-8193 or by email at Lynn@MeadowsMtnRealty.com*

'The Three Penny Opera' at PAC Sat., Nov. 26

The Highlands Performing Arts Center will screen, Live via Satellite the National Theatre of London's production of The Three Penny Opera on the Saturday after Thanksgiving, November 26 at 1pm.

Bertolt Brecht and Kurt Weill's classic musical theatre piece is adapted by Simon Stephens (The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time) and directed by Rufus Norris (Everyman, London Road).

As London's East End scrubs up for the coronation, Mr. and Mrs. Peachum gear up for a bumper day in the beggary business. Keeping tight control of the city's underground – and their daughter's whereabouts. With Olivier Award-winner Rory Kinnear (Hamlet, Othello, James Bond) as Macheth, alongside Rosalie Craig (As You Like It, My Family and other Animals) as Polly Peachum and Haydn Gwynne (The Windsors, Drop the Dead Donkey) as Mrs Peachum. Contains explicit language and behavior. Tickets are available online: highlandspac.org, at the door or by calling: 828.526.9047. Highlands Performing Arts Center, 507 Chestnut Street, Highlands Run time: 3 hours



On the Deep Water of Mirror Lake

Unique French country cottage on the deep water ON Mirror Lake. Architect designed renovation and new garage just completed. New electrical, plumbing, windows, doors, insulation, HVAC and roof. Custom kitchen with Vermont soapstone counters, apron sink, hidden SubZero refrigerator, Asko and Viking appliances. Over \$900k in this renovation! 5 minutes from downtown Highlands. **Now offered for \$599,000. MLS 82132**



In-Town Arts & Crafts Beauty

This lovely home is in desirable and private Sage Woods. Spacious rooms, wide-planked hardwood floors, ship-lap walls and a huge stone fireplace. On +/-1.58 acres with a level yard. A bonus area above the double garage allows guest to linger with privacy. Only minutes from downtown Highlands! **Now Offered for \$985,000. MLS 83156**



Rustic Elegance in Cold Springs

This CUSTOM and NEW home was built high above the lake for tremendous views! The open floor plan boasts a large stone fireplace, oak hardwood floors and a chef's kitchen complete with a large prep island. A large master on main suite features a double-sided fireplace accessing bedroom and bath. A finished lower level boasts its own private deck for lake and mountain views! **Now Offered for \$985,000. MLS 83647**



Beautifully Renovated & BIG Views!

Quality exudes in every detail from the chef's kitchen, gleaming hardwood floors, master bedroom with huge custom closet, relaxing spa bath and two other guest suites with baths on the main level. The lower level is finished with fireplace, kitchen, bedroom suite, office area and storage galore. **Offered for \$1,100,000. MLS 83713**

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• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

A Thanksgiving Prayer

By Pastor Randy Lucas
Highlands United Methodist Church

The smell of the turkey filled the room. In that moment he realized how easy it is to miss the sweet aroma of the moment, the tender, savory aroma of roasted turkey, mingled with the smells of fresh-from-the-oven browned-crusted dressing, lush mashed potatoes, thick brown gravy, carefully seasoned green beans, thick-sliced cranberry sauce, and the bellowing steam rising from biscuits piled precariously high on a plate.

He thought to himself how easy it is to miss so many good things, to let so many moments pass by unnoticed. Everyone was so busy, which made it a bit easier to succumb to the distractions of the day. There were pots to pour into bowls, bowls to set on the table, table- settings to place, ice to put into glasses, iced tea to pour, children to gather, places to assign, and finally - a prayer to pray.

In the silent breath before he prayed he grabbed a fleeting thought and refused to allow it to pass. Praying before meals had always been important. From his earliest childhood, he remembered the prayer spoken before the beginning of the family meal. He had taken on that role in his own family, and if he ever took it for granted, he refused to on this day. There was always something special, in his mind, about the Thanksgiving Prayer.

The thought he held captive was from his childhood. He was small, his feet dangling back and forth as he sat in his highchair. He had never remembered a moment so early in life, but there it was. And in the heartbeat of that moment he saw his parents, young and vibrant, full of life and vitality. His father, preparing to carve the turkey. His mother, reaching down to kiss his forehead. He saw his older siblings settling down to the table.

And in the beauty of that memory, he prayed. This was no ordinary, perfunctory prayer. No rushing to the mashed potatoes on this day. Captured by a sacred snapshot, he prayed the prayer of one who knew he had been blessed. He prayed as one immersed in goodness. With the heart of a poet, he prayed a quiet, joyous prayer of grateful memory. He prayed so that the love, joy, promise and peace, for which he gave thanks, filled the room.

He gave thanks for childhood days of innocence and wonder, thanks for the strength and vitality of youth, for days of love and romance. He gave thanks for the days of adulthood, for days of work. He gave thanks for the years spent raising children and for family vacations. He gave thanks for graying hair, for grandchildren and retirement. He thanked God for love that nurtures, provides and sustains in days of strength and days of weakness, in seasons of health and illness. He gave thanks for the spring, summer, fall and winter of life.

And when the prayer of his heart ended, he tried to say "amen", but speech would not come. There would be no more words. Confused at first, he remembered the memory that had danced across his mind moments earlier, of the happy, carefree child dangling his feet at the Thanksgiving table.

And he understood.

He felt again the gentle touch of loving hands that held his own, and he heard the quiet sobs filling the room

• See SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING page 21

Proverbs 3:5

• PLACES TO WORSHIP •

John 3:16

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... SCHOOL continued from page 1

once the old roof was taken off and the base of the new roof installed, Highlands already had a better roof than the one that was installed in 2006.

There are no screw heads visible on the top of the roof, which is far different than what the school had originally. The previous screw heads caused water to continuously leak into the gym, causing significant water damage to the interior of the structure.

A piece of the new roof was blown off because of the high winds this past weekend, but Benton Roofing will return to the school to correct the issue.

The new roof comes with a three-year warranty on the work and a lifetime warranty on the materials used.

The MC Board of Commissioners earmarked \$200,000 in the district's capital outlay budget for the roof, which ended up costing \$49,000 over what was budgeted. According to Dr. Baldwin, the school board has not yet decided where the additional \$49,000 will come from.

The board of education will be meeting with the MC Board of Commissioners for a joint facilities review committee meeting to update commissioners on the project.

All classified employees to get bonuses

When the state allocated \$59,000 to provide merit-based bonuses to classified employees in the Macon County school

system, the Board of Education was tasked with deciding what criteria to use to decide how the bonuses would be split between the eligible 142 employees.

The only two requirements handed down from the state were that to be eligible for the bonus, employees must be classified employees and paid out of state dollars. Classified employees are non-teaching positions – ones that don't require a teaching credential – bus drivers, custodians, and clerical staff.

Consequently, 91 employees in the district, who are either paid locally or federally, were deemed ineligible by the state.

Superintendent Dr. Chris Baldwin said the 91 employees do the exact same work, in the exact same position, for the exact same amount of years, but since one employee is paid using federal dollars and another is paid using state dollars, one employee would be eligible for the bonus and the other not.

So, Monday night, the BOE voted to provide the same merit-based bonus plan for the remaining 91 employees out of local funds, which amounts to just over \$33,000. All told the one-time bonus will cover 233 employees.

"These people do an incredible amount of work in our district and make sure that things keep going day-to-day," said Dr. Baldwin. "Recognizing their efforts and ensuring that the bonuses are fair across the board is the right thing to do."

The amount of the bonuses to be given out is based on

years of experience. Employees with 1-10 years are eligible for \$250, 21-29 years \$750, and employees with 30 or more years are eligible for a one-time, \$1,000 bonus.

...SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING continued from page 19

in this sacred moment. They were all there, his wife of 60 years, their children and grandchildren, gathered around his hospital bed, holding his hands and embracing one another. And as the darkness that had filled his mind slowly morphed into light, he smiled a smile that only God could see, and offered one final thanksgiving prayer.

... COUNTY from page 5

marked in his budget for debt payments for other needs in the county.

Corbin cited significant increasing sales tax revenues since the park's opening dates as a reason to pay the loan in full rather than finance it for the 10-year term of the loan.

"We have seen an increase month after month in our sales tax collections since Parker Meadows was opened for tournaments, and with the increase in revenue, I think we should pay off the loan now," said Corbin.

In March alone this year, a month that typically sees little tourism, Macon County experienced a 34 percent growth in sales tax proceeds.

Since the county's fund balance is far above the required amount the state mandates now at \$18 million, Corbin asked the loan to be paid out of those dollars.

Vice Chair Commissioner Jim Tate noted that it just made sense to pay the loan off rather than paying the 2.2 percent interest rates.

The vote to pay \$1.35 million to close out the loan was unanimous.

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• CLASSIFIEDS •

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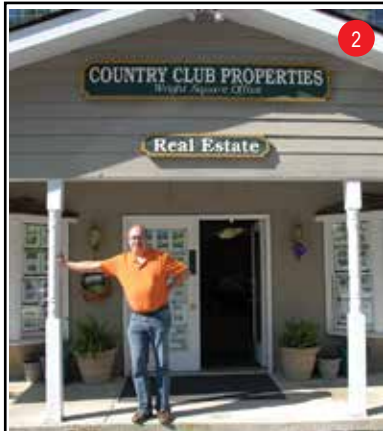


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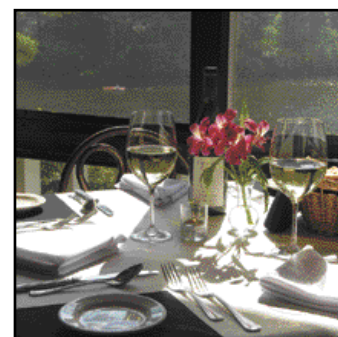
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