

Highlands Newspaper

FREE Every Thursday

Volume 14, Number 50

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

Thurs., Dec. 14, 2017

The National Wreaths Across America ceremony is Saturday at Highlands cemetery

Highlands Cemetery on Memorial Park Drive is now an official Wreaths Across America (WAA) location.

Highlands will host a wreath-laying ceremony, joining more than 1,200 other locations across the country for National Wreaths

Across America Day at noon, Saturday, Dec. 16.

The ceremony will consist of

•See WREATHS page 21

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Rotary agrees to help fund upgrades for school library

When the Macon County School system wasn't able to include furniture for the Highlands Media Center in its budget this year, the Highlands Rotary Club agreed to step up to ensure students of Highlands have the best equipment possible.

Monday night, during the board of education's meeting held at Nantahala School, the school board unanimously voted to match a donation from the Highlands Rotary Club in the amount of \$6,200.04, for a total of \$12,400.08 for new furniture in the school's media center.

"We weren't able to fund the media center needs this year from our capital outlay budget, but members of the community have stepped up," said Macon County Schools superintendent Dr. Chris Baldwin. "I think if we have it in

• See ROTARY page 13



Magical "Pancake Ice" circles on Mirror Lake were 10 feet in diameter. See more snow photos on page 11.

— Photo by Don DeBat

Winter Storm Benji creates winter wonderland

An extremely rare formation of "Pancake Ice" also known as "Frazil Ice" formed on Mirror Lake near Cullasaja Road when temperatures fell into the teens on Saturday and Sunday, December 9 and 10.

These and the 15 inches

of snow Winter Storm Benji dropped along its eastward trip from Alabama through Highlands turned Highlands into a land full of winter wonder.

Pancake Ice is free-floating, mainly circular pieces of ice that

• See BENJI page 10

Mayor attributes success of Highlands Rec Park to county's commitment

The town of Highlands is dedicated to providing unique recreation opportunities to its residents year-round. From ice skating, to swimming, the soon-to-be skate park and the upkeep of its ballfield, playground, soccer field and Founders Park at Pine Street, the Highlands Recreation Department has expanded its offerings to accommodate its in-town and in-county residents.

For more than a decade, the town of Highlands and Macon County Commissioners have worked together to ensure that residents of Highlands, as well as residents living outside Highlands town limits are afforded the same recreation opportunities as residents who live within the Franklin city limits.

During a joint meeting with the town of Franklin and Macon County commissioners, Highlands Mayor Pat Taylor thanked commissioners for their ongoing sup-

port of recreation in Highlands and the partnership that has been built over the last decade.

As a whole, Macon County Commissioners provide recreation for all county residents. This year, the county's recreation budget was around \$709,000. That \$700,000 was used to operate all the county recreation fields, including the newest addition Parker Meadows. It funds the county's pool, which was recently upgraded, tennis courts, soccer fields, the Little Tennessee Greenway, and the playgrounds.

Of that \$709,000, Macon County Recreation Director Seth Adams said about 70 percent, or just under \$500,000, funds recreation opportunities within the Franklin city limits. Leaving the other \$200k to fund Parker Meadows, and recreation activities outside of the city limits, but

• See REC PARK page 8

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• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• MAYOR ON DUTY •

Caring for the opioid addicted among us

A few weeks ago, I wrote about Blue Zones and the vision of Highlands as a happy place to live. I appreciate the positive feedback and response from concerned and engaged citizens.

Now I want to talk about a problem that threatens the health and happiness of all American communities, the Opioid Epidemic. Some may say we should not talk about such unpleasant things as drugs and crime. This rationale would conclude such talk is bad for the business of Highlands and our image as a community free from problems. For us to take an "ostrich position" about this crisis would be a tragic mistake. There are people on the Highlands Plateau and in Macon County who struggle with opioid dependence.

I, and the entire Town Board, recently attended a joint meeting of the Macon County, Franklin and Highlands boards. At this session we participated in a seminar that addressed the current opioid epidemic plaguing the entire country. Jim Bruckner, Director of the Macon County Public Health Department, and his staff con-



Highlands Mayor
Patrick Taylor

ducted a very effective seminar. Let me cover just some of what we learned.

First, like every county and community in America we have an opioid crisis, Franklin, Highlands, Nantahala and everywhere in between are not immune from this epidemic.

Mr. Bruckner pointed out that while we have a problem, it is not at the level experienced in more populous areas of the state

and the nation. He stressed the most important things the county has done has been to recognize the problem, and put treatment efforts in place.

The second huge problem is to find funding to operate effective and ongoing treatment programs at the local level. Currently, state and federal funds for such programs have been very scarce. I have had recent conversations with Senator Jim Davis and Representative Kevin Corbin about the funding problem. They both are working together to get more state support to fight this epidemic. Commissioner Ronnie Beale has been a long-term advocate for mental health and treatment programs.

In the meantime, the Macon County Public Health Department provides programs and services. We were told that if anyone comes to the health department and tells them they have a problem, staff will immediately respond to help in treatment and recovery. No one will be turned away. With limited resources the department is stepping forward to address this public health issue.

Finally, drug addiction has been tradi-

tionally viewed by many as primarily a law enforcement issue but actually, this epidemic is more a public health issue. So many law abiding citizens who are addicted to opioids became dependent in connection with medical procedures such as post -surgical pain management.

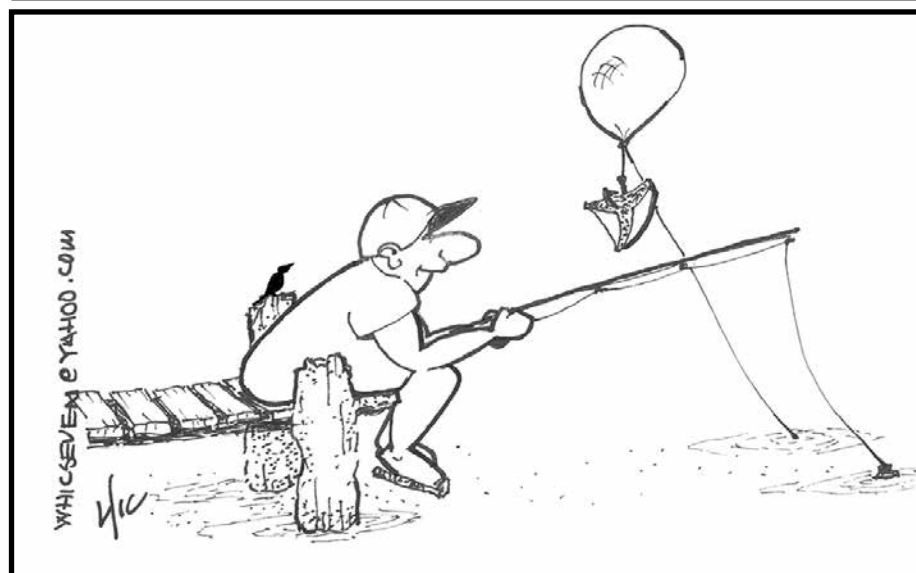
In short, we need to change our attitudes and avoid labels that criminalize victims. It's not about addicts and incarceration. These folks should be seen as suffering patients who desperately need the support and resources required in the long journey to recovery.

I also met with Chief Harrell after the joint seminar. While law enforcement is fo-

cused on dealers and traffickers of opioids and heroine, law enforcement also recognizes the need for treatment and recovery. The Chief assures me they are trained in emergency overdose response, and they are committed helping anyone with a substance abuse problem getting into recovery programs. Local elected officials and professional staff all agree that treatment is the long-term pathway to rebuilding a healthy life.

Contact me, Chief Harrell, Commissioner Ronnie Beale, or the Macon County Public Health Department if you need more information.

• HIC'S VIEW



• WEEKEND WEATHER •

	Friday 12/15		Saturday 12/16		Sunday 12/17	
	Daytime	Overnight	Daytime	Overnight	Daytime	Overnight
Temp	39 F	20 F	48 F	21 F	42 F	35 F
RealFeel	40 F	21 F	52 F	19 F	39 F	30 F
Winds	5 g 9	6 g 8	4 g 7	2 g 4	4 g 7	3 g 5
T-Storms	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	2%
Rainfall	0	0	0	0	0.33	0.16
Snowfall	0	0	0	0	0	0

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Highlands Newspaper

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• OBITUARIES •

William Creswell

William Creswell, 84, of Highlands, NC passed away Tuesday, December 5, 2017 at the Fidelia Eckherd Living Center. He is preceded in death by his parents, Samuel Clarence and Janie Bonner Chiles Creswell; and brothers, Clarence Creswell, Ligon Creswell, and Bobby Creswell. He is survived by his loving wife of 61 years, Mary Anne Calloway Creswell; sister, Agnes Creswell, of Highlands, NC; children, Billy Creswell, of Franklin, NC, Anne Creswell Harvey, of Brevard, NC; grandchildren, James Mayhorn, Dustin Harvey, and William R. Creswell, all of Franklin, NC; and great-grandchildren, Austin William Harvey, Jasper Dean Mayhorn, and Scarlett Anne Mayhorn, all of Franklin, NC.

William was a member of the First Presbyterian Church of Highlands, where he served as deacon and head usher for many years. He was also a veteran of the Korean War from 1950-1955 while serving in the Army. He was a 50 year member and Past Master of the Blue Ridge Masonic Lodge #435, 50+ year member and Past Patron of the Highlands Chapter #284 Order of Eastern Star, and served 20 years with the Highlands Volunteer Fire Department. William had a love of antique cars, especially A Models, and was a co-owner of Creswell's Garage where he worked as a mechanic.

A service will be held Saturday, December 16, 2017 at the First Presbyterian Church in Highlands, NC at 2pm. Burial will follow the service at Highlands Memorial Park Cemetery, with a reception afterwards at Coleman Hall of the First Presbyterian Church, Highlands.

Condolences to the family can be made at www.ashevilleareaalternative.com

William Charlie Hicks

William Charlie Hicks passed away Dec. 5th following a brief illness. Charlie was a member of Clear Creek Baptist Church where he served as a deacon and song leader. He was a committed Christian, a loving and devoted husband and father and a faithful friend. Charlie is survived by his wife of 44 years, Joan; two children – Adam Hicks of Highlands and April Hicks and her fiancé, Zac Newland of Sylva; one sister – Loretta Wilson (husband Gary) of Highlands. He was preceded in death by his parents, Griffin and VellaMae (McCall) Hicks and a nephew, Mitchell Wilson. A memorial service is planned for Sunday Dec. 17, at 4 pm at Clear Creek Baptist Church. The family will receive friends from 2 – 4 pm. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that you donate to Mission Rathbun Center, NC Baptist Children's Homes, Clear Creek Community Cemetery or the charity of your choice.

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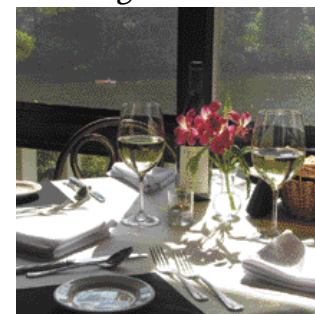


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Snow didn't stop them!

Although there was a lot of snow, the week was still full of sports action.

Highschool basketball played Eagle Ridge, Franklin, and Hayesville last week. They were also supposed to play Rosman but was the games were postponed due to weather. Only Varsity played Eagle Ridge and Hayesville. Eagle Ridge does not have JV team and Hayesville was cancelled due to weather.

JV boys lost to Franklin 66-17. JV girls lost to them 52-26.

Varsity girls beat Franklin in overtime for the first time in a very long time, 48-45. Varsity boys lost 94-60 to Franklin.

The varsity teams played Eagle Ridge and both won largely. The boys won 87-29 and the girls won 73-32.

Lastly, they played Hayesville. The girls won 38-34. The boys lost in overtime, 52-42. All teams played very well in all their games, whether they won or not. The Varsity teams' next home game will be on Tuesday, December 19th at 6 p.m. against Eagle Ridge. JV will not play.

Middle school only played Eagle Ridge and only the boys played. The girls did not play them because Eagle Ridge does not have a middle school girls team.

The boys won 44-16. The girls next home game is today Thursday, December 14th. They will start at 4:30 pm and play Nantahala. The boys will not play.



Madison Lloyd going for jump ball.



Dillon Schmitt taking it to the basket

MOVIE INFORMATION

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Christmas attire for all occasions

Some folks start Christmas shopping the day after Thanksgiving. Me? I start wearing my Christmas attire. I'm surely not the only person who has a collection of shirts, scarves, and jewelry suitable for the season.

Because I wear these items only one month of the year, and some pieces only make one to two outings, they last forever. It's a tossup as to which sweatshirt is the oldest. It's either the short red one with a snowman on it or the big baggy white one I got at the Crazy Shirt outlet in California.

I can establish the timeframe for the white shirt by recalling that I visited college friends in Tustin, CA while I was working on a Bank of America project in San Francisco in 1998. We visited vineyards in Temecula, CA, before hitting the outlet near their home. I've always loved that shirt not only because it reminds me of my friends, but also because it has Kliban cats on the front of it, a Mama cat watching kittens frolic with Christmas boxes and paper.

When my husband and I visited the same friends many years later, I came home with a short-sleeved black Christmas teeshirt from the Wandering Dog Wine Bar in Solvang. We'd spent the day touring the vineyards around Santa Barbara and Santa Ynez and were headed to our hotel when the name of the bar caught my eye. I'm



Kathy Manos Penn

pretty sure we didn't buy any wine, just the shirt. Again, I'm reminded of my friends and our trip when I wear the shirt to December yoga classes. Are you sensing a theme here? I suppose it's only appropriate that the California trips included wine.

No wine bottles were emptied in pursuit of my other holiday items. Since I've been a cat owner longer than a dog owner,

I have mostly cat items in my collection: several cat pins and one scarf decorated with cats wearing Christmas caps and scarves.

For me, a collection of red tops is a must have. If I could, I'd wear red every day in December. It helps that red is my favorite color. No, you won't find me in Christmas green, only red. A rich burgundy velvet top will also do, and when I saw one in a catalog a few years ago, I had to have it.

My Christmas earring collection is extensive, though newer costume jewelry doesn't last all that well. What has held up the best? A pair of gold-toned Christmas tree earrings studded with multicolored stones. I gave them to my mom over thirty years ago. When she passed away, the earrings came to me, and I think of her whenever I wear them. My favorites, though, are a pair of red enameled mitten earrings.

I also have a snowman Christmas watch I received as a gift. Even though it no longer works, it still looks festive, and I still wear it.

More than any other item, it's the Christmas eyeglasses I wear that garner the most comments. I put them away with my decorations, so I'll always know where they are.

Taking stock of my collection of Holiday attire makes me realize I have neither a Christmas bracelet nor a Christmas necklace. Hmmm. I feel a holiday shopping mission coming on.

• Find Kathy's new book "Lord Banjo the Royal Pooch" and her collection of columns, "The Ink Penn: Celebrating the Magic in the Everyday," locally at The Molly Grace in Highlands and Books Unlimited in Franklin and on Amazon. Contact her at inkpenn119@gmail.com

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...REC PARK continued from page 1

within the county.

In addition to the \$709,000 that funds the Macon County Recreation Department's budget, Macon County provides the town of Highlands with an additional \$550,000 for recreation in Highlands.

The town of Highlands is unique, as it has its own recreation department, run by Recreation Director Lester Norris. For years, the town of Highlands has chosen to supplement the county's recreation funds by providing additional funds to ensure residents have recreation opportunities in Highlands. It also has relied heavily on donations from citizens with most of the money coming from Art and Angela Williams of Old Edwards Hospitality Group.

The total recreation budget for Highlands this year is \$1,303,645, which includes \$428,000 in Capital Outlay funds. In addition to the county's annual recreation contribution to Highlands of \$550,000, this year, Macon County provided an additional \$350,000 for the capital outlay improvements to the Highlands Civic Center. The

town of Highlands contributed just over \$400,000 this year in its annual budget, above what was provided by Macon County.

Mayor Taylor said that in Highlands, town officials made a decision to implement a specific tax for recreation which has allowed for expansions and needed renovation this year and into the future.

"Highlands has a town Recreation Department and town taxpayers, who are also county taxpayers, who fund a good part of the Highlands Recreation Department," said Mayor Taylor. "The county gives the town \$550k annually so both county and town residents can use the Highlands Recreation Department facilities. If this arrangement was not in place, the county would have to provide recreation programs for everyone here on the plateau."

Highlands raised town property taxes by two cents per \$100 three years ago for recreation capital repairs and upgrades.

• See REC PARK page 10

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• HEALTHY LIFESTYLE CONCEPTS •

Homemade Holiday Eggnog

Nothing says the Holidays more than a creamy, rich cup of homemade eggnog.

Unfortunately, what was once a homemade tradition has been replaced by just getting it from the supermarket, and that means we were also getting this ultra-pasteurized chemical concoction which includes Red 40 and Yellow 5 & 6, guar gum, carrageenan, high fructose corn syrup and mono and diglycerides—nowhere close to homemade or natural!

But don't despair; here is a homemade eggnog recipe that is all-natural, good-for-you, as well as quick and easy.



Medea Galligan
MS Nutrition, CHHC, AADP
828-989-9144
www.MedeasHealthyLifestyleConcepts.com

Ingredients for about 4 servings:

2 cups organic whole milk

2 cups organic heavy cream

8 egg yolks, from organic free-range eggs

1-2 TBSPs vanilla extract

2-4 TBSPs real maple syrup or raw honey

1-2 teaspoons cinnamon

1/4 – 1/2 teaspoon nutmeg

bourbon, brandy, rum, other liqueur to taste (optional)

Directions:

1. Put the milk, cream, egg yolks, vanilla and sweetener in blender and blend for 20-

30 seconds.

2. A nice froth will form on the top which adds a nice finishing touch.

3. Then add the spices to taste, blend again, and add alcohol if so desired.

4. Pour into decorative glasses, garnish with a sprinkle of nutmeg on top, and enjoy a new Holiday tradition of making and toasting the season with your own homemade eggnog!



God With Us

CHRISTMAS EVE
CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24 @ 5 PM

No Morning Services

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...REC PARK continued from 8

"The upgrades we have done and are completing went well beyond the revenue from the tax increase," said Taylor. "The extra \$350k the county contributed to the capital improvements helped defer the total cost that the town carried with the tax increase. Since county residents outside the town will benefit from the improvements, it's a win for all."

Unlike Highlands, the town of Franklin has no recreation department. Recreation activities within the city limits such as the Greenway, Big Bear Park, Wes-

ley Playground, and the Macon County Community Building, are all funded and maintained by the county.

Mayor Taylor noted that because of the ongoing partnership, Highlands was able to enclose the pool at the Rec Park which affords all Macon County residents an opportunity to swim year-round.

Highlands also plans to build a skate park next year – funded mainly by Art and Angela Williams with additional funding from citizens – which will also be open to residents and visitors to the county.

• BIZ/ORG NEWS •

New faces on The Bascom board

The new board members are Jo Hill, Mary Thompson and Martha Sutherland-Wright.

"All are proven leaders and are active at The Bascom" said Teresa Osborn, executive director. "They join a board committed to serving the community through The Bascom board." Also announced, Mike Camp-

bell will be returning next year to serve as Chairman of The Bascom board, along with Claude Sullivan as Vice Chairman and Mark Quick as Treasurer.

"Thanks to our terrific staff, our board, and particularly the community we serve, The Bascom is enjoying an extraordinary year," said Mike. "We are grateful."

Year-end Christmas SALE!

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The Dry Sink Main Street Highlands, NC

...BENJI continued from page 1



form when temperatures drop below freezing and slush accumulates into floating pads that take on a roundish shape.

Frazil ice is often found amid ice floes in both Arctic and Antarctic waters and is considered a weather phenomenon.

"The magical Pancake Ice circles on Mirror Lake were 10 feet in diameter and looked like crop circles or flat Krispy Kreme donuts, complete with a hole in the center," said Mirror Lake resident Sara Benson.

Benji put Highlands on the map when the 15-inch snowfall and sub-zero temperatures made national news causing friends and family of residents to call and say, "I saw Highlands on the news!"

On Saturday, December 9, the Chicago Tribune Weather Page listed Highlands, N.C. with 15 inches of snow – the heaviest snowfall of any town in the Southeastern United States, it said.

The Fox News Today show broadcasted snow falls in Corpus Christi, TX of seven inches, Anniston, AL of 10 inches and Highlands, NC at 15 inches.

"After Winter Storm Benji passed, and before the Pancake Ice formed, Mirror Lake was

frozen like glass, pine trees were accented in white, creating a picture-postcard view," said Benson.

The National Weather Service inaccurately forecast only 1 to 3 inches of snow for Highlands on Thursday, December 7. The amount of snow that began to fall in the early morning hours Friday, Dec. 8 and didn't stop until the afternoon of Saturday, Dec. 9 took everyone by surprise and sent all who could outside to frolic in it.

School was closed Friday and even Monday due to icy road conditions and the fact that many people were still snowed in. Tuesday and Wednesday there was a two-hour delay at the school.

"Our Town Manager and Public Works Director had town crews ready to respond to the snow event," said Mayor Pat Taylor. "But like other municipalities, we were surprised by the intensity of the storm."

Mayor Taylor said like always, the town staff worked through the night trying to keep roads open as much as possible, but with such heavy snowfall it was a challenge.

"I always appreciate our crews' commitment to do whatever is needed to serve the pub-

lic," said Taylor.

The storm caused thousands of power outages across the county. The town's service went off briefly and intermittently mostly on Friday. Haywood Electric customers felt the brunt of the storm in the Highlands area.

"Macon County is still feeling the effects of Benji that has caused numerous power outages across the county. Utility crews are working diligently to restore electricity," said Macon County EMS Director Warren Cabe on Monday. "Travel has improved significantly over the last few days and road conditions should also improve with warmer weather prior to the temperatures plunging at week end."

Despite being snowed in and experiencing cabin fever with children afoot for days on end, the storm transformed the ordinary as it blanketed everything under its winter shroud.

"The winter storm created a quiet, romantic winter wonderland on Mirror Lake just in time for Christmas," Benson said. "We will never forget December of 2017!"

– Kim Lewicki, Sara Benson, Don DeBat

Winter Storm Benji in pictures



**Photos by
Kim Lewicki, Bob Sutton and Don DeBat**



Highlands School Winter Sports teams – 2017-'18



Boys Varsity Basketball

Silas Howell, Jose Jimenez, Drew Chalker, Jack Billingsley, Jonathan Miller, Garrison Chalker, Dilon Schmitt, Destin Gearhart, Mattson Gates, Logan Houston. Head Coach Brett Lamb, Asst. Coaches, Jeremy Dooley, Bryan Dearth, Ryan Gearhart, Dax Lloyd.



Boys Junior Varsity

Lane Tingen, Logan Petrone, Taj Roman, John Brassard, Samuel Hawkins, Chase Sullivan, Collin Stoltzfus and Jesus Damian. Head Coach Bryan Dearth, Asst. Coaches Ryan Gearhart and Dax Lloyd.

Not Pictured: Middle School Girls Basketball

Ashlynn Wilson, Reese Schmitt, Ava Schmitt, Stephanie Barnes, Brandy Zagal Damian, Karmen Jenkins, Anna Stiehler, Kaylee Oakley, Emily Briggs.



Girls Varsity Basketball

Maddie Lloyd, Hannah Holt, Abby Olvera, Sayla Roman, Chela Green, Kedra McCall, Jeslyn Head, Sophia Nguyen, Freda Olade, Jordan Carrier, Tessa Wisniewski, Brooklyn Houston, Liv Lewis, Madie Drummond, Erin Sanborn, Anne Marie Moore, Alyson Dayton, Savannah Shaheen. Head Coach Crystal Gustin.



Girls Junior Varsity Basketball

Jordan Carrier, Chela Green, Jeslyn Head, Hannah Holt, Olivia Lewis, Sayla Roman.

Photos by Kim Lewicki

Highlands School Winter Sports teams – 2017-'18



Boys Middle School Basketball

Brent Sleight, Reid Carrier, Griffin Green, Lawson Shuler, Jeffrey Olvera, Connor Briggs, Davis Ingate, Brandon Moss, Nathan Keener, JJ Postell, Connor White, James Earp, Connor Thorske, Owen Munoz, Landon Green, JD Head, Harrison Gates. **Head Coach Josh Smith, Asst. Coaches Ryan Bears, Timothy Dearth.**



Varsity Swim Team

Ethan Tate, Jordan Powell. Coach Steve Hott.



Varsity Cheerleaders

Amy Council, Ana Damian, Trinity Dendy, Diaz Deysi, Ellen Diehl, Kimberly Feria, Gracie Forrester, Betty Garcia, Jamie King, Megan Rehmeier, Ryan Talbert, Hadley Templeton, Marly Libertino, Marilyn Valerio, Avery Wofford. Coach Andrea Chalker



MS Cheerleaders

Emily Briggs, Allie Buck, Ella Cook, Britany Damian, Sydney Figel, Brooke Fogarty, Ansley Hughes, Karmen Jenkins, Gracie McCall, Sara McDonald, Jasmine Oakley, Reese Schmitt, Annamaria Silverthorn, Haley Small, Anna Stiehler, Darby Templeton, Ashlynn Wilson, Maddie Coen.

...ROTARY continued from page 1

the budget, we should match the funds for Highlands School.”

Macon County Schools Finance Director Angie Cook told the board after having to do an emergency repair on an elevator at Franklin High School that cost \$15,000, the district's capital outlay funds,

provided annually by the county commissioners, had only \$5,400 remaining, just shy of the \$6,200 needed for the match.

Macon County Board of Education chair Jim Breedlove suggested the board take the funds out of the current expense funds, which was approved unanimously.

“The funding is for new shelving in our Media Center. Some of the shelves are quite old and need to be replaced, so we are very appreciative of the Board of Education and the Highlands Rotary Club for their assistance,” said Asst. Principal Stacy Overlin. “This project will help the Media Center

continue to be a place where our students learn the importance of literacy and the pleasure of reading great books.”

The partnership provides for 16 various shelving units supplied and installed by RDS of Canton, NC.



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2018 Predictions

I'm searching for my Magic 8-ball to get the answer. The real answer will make itself clear about this time next year. What I have deduced from several sources including our local Highlands-Cashiers MLS, Realtor.com, Realtormag.org, CNN, Money.com, WashingtonPost.com, housingwire.com, etc. is that how old you are may be a factor in home sales and of course as always, how much money you have to spend on a home in our area.

First, let's look at age labels and recent nation-wide stats of median prices paid for homes:

Baby Boomers (born between 1946-1964) bought homes with a median price of \$258,000.

Gen Xers (born between 1965-1981) bought homes with a median price of \$280,000.

Millennials (born between 1982-2000) bought homes with a median price of \$237,000.

Pretty much all sources say the 'wild card' is the new tax reform and how it will affect home sales. Some say in resort areas it may stall home sales for second homes. For the most part, Realtor.com (one of the largest lobby groups) is against the reform. The Washington Post offered some reasons wealthy people are against the reform when it comes to the mortgage interest deduction. According to Christopher Ingraham, "Economists have generally come to agree that the mortgage interest deduction doesn't incentivize homeownership; it just encourages people to buy bigger, more-expensive homes — driving up prices in the process. Homeownership rates in the United States are comparable to those in other wealthy countries such as Canada, Australia and Britain — none of which make mortgage interest tax-deductible. Beyond that, economists have noted that the benefits of the American mortgage interest deduction flow primarily to the already wealthy.

In 2013, 70 percent of the total value of the deduction went to the richest 20 percent of households. The 1 percent alone gobbled up 15 percent of the deduction."

I went to our local Highlands-Cashiers MLS for some other stats using homes, condos, and town homes sold between



**Jeannie Chambers
Chambers Realty &
Vacation Rentals
828-526-3717**

January 2016 and December 2017. 1323 properties sold; 802 used CASH to buy their home; 449* used conventional loans; 30 used seller financing; 42 used other types of financing.

So then, I went a little further and found that of the conventional loans 153 of them were for homes sold over \$501,000 -- sold amounts-NOT loan amounts, but even so, of the 1,323 properties sold in our area in the last two

years, about 11% of those homes would be negatively affected by the new tax reform IF they were buying and financing their home with the proposed tax reform in place.

Supposedly, any mortgage loans already in place will not be affected, but NO SECOND HOMES bought under the new plan could take the deduction.

Back to the predictions and age labels. In the 1950s the Magic 8 ball was and still is a hot item — most baby boomers used one at least once to ask silly questions to get one of 20 answers.

In the 1970s, the Rubik's Cube was invented, and although you couldn't ask it questions, early marketing suggested there were over three millions moves in solving the puzzle. I'm not sure what the 'toy of the millennial age' will be, but it's been said that it will involve technology mixed with activity based things.

As far as real estate in our area, it seems that properties will continue to sell, and it may be that the buyers will be younger.

I don't know the future, and I'm certainly not the person to advise you on your finances or taxes (please use the professionals for those services), but I suggest using your brain when looking to buy real estate, especially in a second-home market place like the mountains.

Realtors rarely know your specific portfolio, but we can guide you and help you negotiate your purchase based on the current market. Like the Rubik's Cube, there may be millions of scenarios, so it helps to have a Realtor to help navigate.

• Jeannie and Tucker Chambers, RSPS own Chambers Realty & Vacation Rentals located at 401 N. Fifth Street in Highlands. They don't use a Magic 8 ball or Rubik's cube when helping you find your properties, just years of experience and knowledge.



Under Contract

Nestled inside Trillium Links & Lake Club, this builder's personal home features 3br/3.5ba on 2 levels. Highest of quality craftsmanship and materials throughout. Open layout with cathedral ceilings, stone fireplace and 2nd level balcony in living room. Beautiful dining area flows into the gourmet kitchen with breakfast bar, stainless steel appliances and granite counter tops. Main level master retreat with all of the extras and 2 gracious guest suites with common area overlooking living room on 2nd level. \$619,000 MLS #87041

LOT LISTING

1.36 Acres, buildable, flat wooded lot. Centrally located between Highlands and Cashiers. Great buy! \$69,900 MLS #85497



Spectacular in-town living with little to no maintenance! Quaint stream runs length of property. Beautiful stone fireplace, built-in entertainment center and hardwood floors in living room. Master on main level with 2 guest rooms, full bath and sitting area on second floor. \$365,000 MLS #86329



New Pricing

3bd/2ba home with beautiful mountain view. Covered porch, hardwood flooring, custom blinds and in-home water filtration system are just a few of the great features. Sylva area. \$217,900 MLS #85536

LOT LISTING

1.12 Acres in beautiful Highlands Falls CC. Privately located on cul-de-sac close to the gated club entrance. Mountain view available with some trimming. \$85,000 MLS #85359



Sitting on 4.26 acres and offering an amazing waterfall as well as views of both Satulah and Little Yellow Mountain, this beautiful 4bd/5ba home is sure to be your perfect mountain retreat. \$1,550,000 MLS #83796



CLOSED

3bd/3.5ba private sanctuary sits on 2.36 acres of enchanting scenery with a view that stretches over 40 miles. No detail was spared, hand made stairs leading up from the main living area to the mahogany doors and custom fixtures. \$1,375,000 MLS #85697

LOT LISTING

Amazing opportunity to build your custom home in the highly sought after Mirror Lake District! 1 acre homesite located at end of a paved cul-de-sac. \$129,000 REF #BATTBD



In-Town Privacy, thick Laurels and Rhododendrons surround this 2bed/2bath on .75 acres. ONLY ONE MILE to Main Street! with updated granite and stainless kitchen. Well maintained. \$449,000 MLS #86893

LOT LISTING

1.64 Acres, Turtle Pond area in 11 lot subdivision with shared well. Ridgeline views with some trimming. \$49,900 MLS #86214



Talk about Old Highlands Charm!! Set back on a beautifully landscaped lot with terraced gardens, this 3bd/3ba home comes with additional lot and deeded land across the street with dock directly on Lake Sequoyah. \$599,000 MLS #85655



Under Contract

Nearly maintenance free living in beautiful community less than 3 miles to Main Street Highlands and close to Highlands Hospital. Light and bright one level 3bd/2ba with great floorplan. \$295,000 MLS #82103



Walk to Main Street Highlands! Renovated and move-in ready. 3br/2ba with vaulted ceilings, open floor plan w/ 3-sided fireplace, granite and stainless steel kitchen, beautiful master with stone tile shower. Great rental potential. \$625,000 MLS #87289



Highlands Falls CC - Light, bright and airy condo in Chestnut Cove. Features 2bd/2ba on one level, Screened side porch and open deck. \$265,000 MLS #85656



Rustic log cabin on impeccable tree filled lot. Open concept kitchen flows into the living and dining rooms. Master suite on upper level, with an entertainment room on the lower level perfect for family gatherings. \$239,000 MLS #85897



Quiet and cozy lower level condo. Features 2br/2ba and is located behind the gates of Highlands Falls CC. Stone fireplace, 2 decks, master suite and more. Offered furnished with a few exclusions. \$225,000 MLS #87246



You'll love this 3bd/2ba spacious unit at Highlands Mountain Club. Enjoy the pool, tennis, and clubhouse and the great mountain view from the unit itself. It comes furnished and in great condition. Renovate or leave as is. \$229,000 MLS #82270



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• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

This Christmas season have a change of heart



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

The season of Christmas awakens a generous heart in us. Such a time is welcomed because we can all too easily live self-serving lives. But Christmas offers us the opportunity to have a change of heart. We can let our guard down just a little bit. We can believe that people and circumstances might just be better than we have imagined.

I don't know who told this story, but it's about a bike shop in a little town that was especially busy running-up to Christmas. A young boy wandered in, dirty-faced, poorly dressed; obviously not from a well-to-do family. Although at first the staff was worried that he would shoplift something, it soon became clear that the boy was harmless. He would come in everyday, look at all the new bikes for the Christmas sales, and then stand out of the way and watch the repairmen do their work.

This routine went on for some time. The boy though seemed to spend more and more time watching the bike repair part of the shop. Then, one day, when the boy came to the shop he made a beeline over to the bike repair area. He laid a rusty old bolt on the counter in front of the men in the repair area and said, "Excuse me, would you be able to put a bike on this bolt?"

The men laughed at this request, saying to the boy, "No one would think of putting a bike on a bolt. It works the other way around; you put a bolt on a bike."

The men's laughter was not intended to be mean, but it hurt the boy's feelings. He didn't understand, so he backed away and left the shop. The men ran outside after him. But the boy had disappeared.

A week later, though, the boy was back at the bike shop. This time he was very reluctant to make eye contact with anyone at the store. Still, he looked longingly at every new bike on display. Then he went over to the bike repair area where he had given the men the bolt. His head was down, and he kept fingering the hole in his pants.

One of the men repairing bikes called to him: "Hey kid!" The boy looked up. "You forgot your bolt." And with that, one of the men wheeled out and presented the boy a bicycle. It was made entirely out of scrap parts that the bike repair men had salvaged on their own time.

A bike on a bolt! That could only happen at Christmas. Christmas awakens our hearts to generosity. I think it does that because that is the nature of God: generous and giving because God is full of love and grace for us. In this season of Christmas, may you live in and out of generosity, and carry it with you to the seasons beyond.

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

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CHAPEL OF THE SKY

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Holy Communion 1st & 3rd Sundays

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Rector: Jim Murphy, 252-671-4011

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9:30a Sunday School; 10:30a Worship Service

Mon. 6p Bible Study & Supper at homes

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Tues. Guys study 8am, Gals 10am.

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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 • Sr. Pastor Gary Hewins

Sun.: 9:30am: Sunday School

10:30am: Middle & High School; 10:45am: Child. Program,

10:45am: Worship Service

Wed.: 5pm Dinner (\$7 adult, \$2 child), 6pm CBC U.

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Thursdays: Holy Eucharist Rite II.

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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; Ch. 5p

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: 6p

GOLDMINE BAPTIST CHURCH

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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, 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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Pastor Zane Talley

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

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MOUNTAIN BIBLE CHURCH

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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 Donald G. Bates • 526-3212

Sun.: School: 10 a.m.; Worship: 10:45 a.m.; Worship: 6 p.m.

SHORTOFF BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Rev. Andy Cloer

Sundays: School: 10 a.m.; Worship: 11 a.m.

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

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Pastor Gary Hewins

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It's a Holly, Jolly Christmas

HCP actors will read selections appropriate to the season, some humorous, some informative, some touching and inspiring. A 12-voice ensemble from the Mountain Voices chorus will perform selections from their Christmas program.



THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2017

7:00 p.m.—Highlands Performing Arts Center

MONDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2017

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• HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

Ongoing

• The pool is now open for public swim 3-6p Mon-Thurs.

• Movies at the Highlands Playhouse: Movies: Fri-Tues, 2, 5 8 p.m.

First Mondays

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

Mondays

• At the Rec Park, High Cardio Zumba Fitness with Certified Instructor Tiffany Austin at 5:25 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 info, call Tricia Smith at 828-338-8167.

Mon., Wed., Fri.

• Heart Healthy Exercise Class Monday, Wednesday and Friday 8:30-9:30am. Contact Janet Avery at 828-200-7508 for more information.

• Aerobics with Tina Rogers 8-9a.

Mon.-Fri.

• Lap Swim Monday-Friday 7am-10am 6 lanes and Monday –

Thursday 5pm-6pm 1 or 2 lanes. Sharing pool with Water Aerobics @ 5:15.

• Water Aerobics Monday-Friday 10:15am-11:15am and Monday-Thursday 5:15pm-6pm (sharing pool with lap swimmers) and Saturday mornings from 11:15-noon.

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,

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 7PM in the Sneak E. Squirrel Community Room (1314 Main St., Sylva. Visit www.occupywncc.org or call 828.331.1524

Third Tuesday

• The Macon County Poultry

Club meets at the NC Cooperative extension office located at 193 Thomas Heights Rd., Franklin on the third Tuesday of each month at 7pm. Meetings are open to the public. Call 828-369-3916.

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.

• Zumba with Mary Kay at the Rec Park at noon.

• Exercise Class with Tina Rogers are held Tuesday and Thursday at 5:15p.m.

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.

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

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

1st and 3rd Thursdays

• Indivisible Highlands, a non-partisan activist group meets weekly at the Hudson Library at 5p. For more info call 770-823-0601

Thurs., & Sat.

• Zumba with Mary K. Barbour at the Rec Park from 11a to noon. For more information, call 828.342.2498.

Saturdays

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

• Scrabble at Hudson Library from 1-4 p.m. Bring board if possible. All are welcome. 727-871-8298.

• The Bascom Knitters on the Terrace at The Bascom from 10 am until noon or downstairs in The Bascom Library room.

Thurs., Dec. 14

• The Highlands Cashiers Players FREE Holiday Program at 7 p.m. at PAC on Chestnut Street. "Have A Vae aHolly, Jolly Christmas."

Sat., Dec. 16

• Wreaths Across America wreath-laying and celebration at Highlands Cemetery on Memorial Drive at noon.

• At PAC, National Theatre of London's Young Marx, live via satellite at 1 p.m. Call 526-9047 for tickets.

Dec. 25

• Annual HANDS Christmas Dinner sponsored by Lakeside Restaurant at Highlands Country Club Monday, 11am-5pm.

'Young Marx' at PAC Saturday

The Highlands Performing Arts Center will present the National Theatre of London's production of Young Marx, Live via Satellite on Saturday, December 16 at 1pm. Rory Kinnear (The Threepenny Opera, Penny Dreadful, Othello) is Marx and Oliver Chris (Twelfth Night, Green Wing) is Engels, in this new comedy written by Richard Bean and Clive Coleman. The production is directed by Nicholas Hytner and reunites the creative team behind Broadway and West End hit comedy One Man, Two Guvnors. Set in 1850, and Europe's most feared terrorist is hiding in Dean Street, Soho. Broke, the 32-year-old revolutionary is a frothing combination of intellectual brilliance, invective, satiric wit, and child-like emotional illiteracy. Creditors, spies, rival revolutionary factions and prospective seducers of his beautiful wife all circle like vultures. His writing blocked, his marriage dying, his friend Engels in despair at his wasted genius, his only hope is a job on the railway. But there's still no one in the capital who can show you a better night than Karl Heinrich Marx. Tickets are available online: www.highlandspac.org, at the door or by calling 828.526.9047 Highlands Performing Arts Center, 507 Chestnut Street, Highlands MC

HCP's FREE holiday program is Thurs., Dec. 14



From left: Larry Byrd, Lori Blanton, Kathy Kulman, Carolyn Acor, Beverly Barnett, director. Back row: Debbie Fazio, Laura Walters, Dwight Walters, Debra Landers, Mary Pittman, accompanist Not pictured: Wayne Chalu, Chris Corbin, Larry Noyes, Jamie Stafford

A holly jolly evening begins at 7 p.m. on Thursday, December 14, when the Highlands Cashiers Players present their 22nd annual holiday program, at the Highlands Performing Arts Center, co-sponsor of the free performance. Coordinated by Virginia Talbot, the HCP actors will read Christmas stories, some humorous, some heartwarming, and a special 12-voice ensemble from the Mountain Voices, a regional chorus, directed by Beverly Barnett, and accompanied by pianist Mary Pittman, will sing selections from the Voices' major Christmas program, presented at the First Baptist Church in Franklin on December 7.

Coordinated by Virginia Talbot, the actors include Ken Knight, Adair Simon, Ron Leslie, Angie Rich, Wayne Coleman, Sue Feldkamp, Lee Lyons, Michael Lanzilotta, and Stuart Armor. The singers are Kathy Kulman, Lori Blanton, Debra Lander, Carolyn Accor, Larry Byrd, Debbie Fazio, Laura and Dwight Walters, Wayne Chalu, Chris Ciorbin, Larry Noyes, and Jamie Stafford.

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• BIZ/ORG NEWS •



2017-2018 Highlands Community Fund Advisory Board members. Front row from left: Jeff Weller, Ann Klamon, Jim Landon, Cindy Trevathan, Jeff Nixon. Back row from left, Kathy Bowman, Caroline Cook, Gayle Cummings. Not pictured are Amanda Gregory, Diane Riddle, Jim

Highlands Community Fund reaches \$1.5 million

The Highlands Community Fund's Advisory Board has been working to meet a \$1.5 million fundraising goal since 2014. With generous community support, an incredibly successful summer Rise & Shine party and strong market returns, the Fund is pleased to announce that it has met the goal and additional grants will be awarded to nonprofits in the Highlands community in the coming years.

The Highland's Community Fund, an affiliate of The Community Foundation of Western North Carolina, is a permanently endowed fund designed to meet local needs. Tax-deductible gifts are added to the principal, which is preserved and invested. The returns are used to make grants to support nonprofits in Highlands. Since 1996, the Highlands Community Fund, in partnership with CFWNC, has awarded 125 grants to 30 organizations totaling more than \$809,000.

"We are very grateful to those generous people who have helped us meet this goal," said Advisory Board Chair Jim Landon. "Having a permanent source of charitable capital for Highlands and the surrounding region means that grants can be awarded to projects of highest need now and can continue to meet needs as they change over time."

The local volunteer Advisory Board works to raise awareness of the Highlands Community Fund and to build assets for the future. Board members are: Kathy Bowman, Caroline Cook, Gayle Cummings, Amanda Gregory, Ann Klamon, Jim Landon (Chair), Jeff Nixon, Diane

Riddle (Secretary), Jim Stokes (Treasurer), Cindy Trevathan, John Viani and Jeff Weller.

The Community Foundation is a non-profit serving eighteen counties in Western North Carolina. The Foundation is a permanent regional resource that facilitated \$18 million in charitable giving last year. CFWNC inspires philanthropy and mobilizes resources to enrich lives and communities in Western North Carolina.

CFWNC supports the growth of its affiliate funds to extend the benefits of philanthropy across the region. To learn more about The Community Foundation, call 828-254-4960 or visit www.cfwnc.org.

For additional information about the Highlands Community Fund, contact Advisory Board Chair Jim Landon at 404-434-0932 or visit www.HighlandsCommunityFund.org.



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• FIRE REPORT •

The Highlands Police log entries from Nov. 15. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor or public officials have been used.

Nov. 15

- At 11 a.m., officers were call to a PNC Bank.

Nov. 28

- At 12:15 p.m., officers were called to a residence on Lucerne Drive about someone using water causing excess water usage.

Nov. 30

- At 5 p.m., officers were called about vandalism at Sunset rock where the kiosk and bench were damaged.

Dec. 4

- At 10:30 a.m., officers were called about larceny from a residence on Williamsburg Court where items were stolen from the house.

The Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. log from Dec. 5.

Dec. 5

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- At 11:49 a.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on US 64 east.

- At 7:03 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on NC 106.

Dec. 7

- At 1:32 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Brookside Lane.

- At 3:41 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a location on Spring Street.

Dec. 8

- During the day the dept. responded to motor vehicle accidents on US 64 east, Buck Creek Road, Brooks Road, NC 106, and NC 28 south.

Dec. 9

- A little after midnight, the dept. was first-responders to a location on Main Street.

- At 2:12 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a location on NC 28 south.

- At 2:56 p.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on NC 4th. Street.

- At 10 a.m., the dept. responded to a call for a power line down at Flat Mountain Estates.

- At 5:09 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Zermatt Circle.

- At 7:37 p.m., the dept. responded to a call about a downed power line at Flat Mountain Estates.

...WREATHS continued from page 1

the presentation of the USA flag by Highlands American Legion Post 370. The post will also be presenting remembrance wreaths for the different branches of service.

Mayor Pat Taylor and Post Commander Ed McCloskey will briefly speak then everyone will be asked to help lay wreaths on the 240 plus veterans' graves in the park.

All are invited to attend and volunteer to help lay wreaths joining American Legion Post Commander Ed McCloskey, Mayor Pat Taylor, Veterans, active service members and families.

Parking is at the ball field on Hickory Street and the Community Building on Poplar Street. Shuttles to take people to the cemetery begin at 11 a.m. and end at 11:45 a.m.

For more information contact Phil Potts at 828-200-9753.

This annual event seeks to further the WAA mission to Remember, Honor, Teach, ensuring that the memory of those who served our country endures.

About Wreaths Across America

Wreaths Across America is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization founded to continue and expand the annual wreath-laying ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery begun by Maine businessman Morrill Worcester in 1992. The organization's mission – Remember, Honor, Teach – is carried out in part each year by coordinating wreath laying ceremonies in December at Arlington, as well as at more than 1,200 veterans' cemeteries and other locations in all 50 states and overseas.

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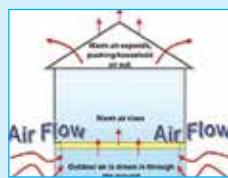
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