

Highlands Newspaper

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Thurs., Nov. 30, 2017

Updated Land Use Plan will help town navigate Highlands' future

Though the word "zoning" is considered a dirty word in many areas of the south and Western North Carolina, in High-

lands the enactment of zoning and the formation of Land Use Plans has made Highlands what it is today – a place that protects the nat-

ural environment, while enhancing the town's village character and preserving the community's cul-

•See **LAND USE** page 17

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Changes made to MC Community Funding Pool

The Macon County Community Funding Pool was established in 2000 as a way for the county to address the needs of non-profits.

Non-profits provide essential services for residents ranging from victims of domestic violence through REACH, to getting books to children in the community through the library's Reading Rover book mobile. They fill a void that local government agencies don't fill, so the community would likely do without them.

As a way to not only show appreciation, but to ensure their sustainability, 17 years ago county commissioners earmarked a portion of the budget to be distributed through the community funding pool to help fund qualifying

• See **FUNDING** page 12

Highlands Olde Mountain Christmas Parade is the best show in town!



Festivities on Saturday, Dec. 2 start with the annual Christmas Parade on Main Street beginning at 11 a.m. It lasts about an hour. Then it's a Christmas Carol Sing at First Presbyterian Church at 1 p.m. Santa Claus will be at Kelsey-Hutchinson Park from 12-3 p.m. and there is a "Food Pantry Christmas" at The Episcopal Church of the Incarnation from 12-3 p.m., too. At the Hudson Library, there is a 2 p.m. showing of "The Polar Express" in cooperation with the Literacy Council of Highlands. Wear your PJs! Finally at 4 p.m., the Asheville Symphony Chamber Chorus will present a free Christmas Concert in the First Presbyterian Church sanctuary.

– Photo by Kim Lewicki

Highlands Hurricanes win at Murphy

On Saturday, November 11, the Highlands Hurricanes swim team traveled to Murphy, NC to compete in the 2017 "Fall Fun Splash" swim meet against the North Georgia Rapids (NGR) and the host team Cherokee County Aquatic Club (CCAC).

The Hurricanes won, scoring 339 points while CCAC scored 231 and NGR scored 192.

All 19 of the Hurricanes scored in the meet and the team brought home 78 ribbons out of 84 swims, setting 11 team records. Two Hurricanes, Chase Kenter and Conner Hughes, now have a combined six Junior Olympic qualifying swims that secures their spot on the national team to compete in Des Moines, Iowa next summer.

The Hurricanes were led by the two Junior Olympic Cham-

• See **HURRICANES** page 10

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• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• MAYOR ON DUTY •

Let's keep Highlands our 'Happy Place'

After the Town Lighting I attended the last auction Al Scudder conducted. I congratulated Mr. Scudder for creating a landmark Highlands business and said Scudders would be missed. Al has always radiated great joy and happiness in doing his work.

This last auction and other events make some think Highlands is in the midst of change. Many folks have recently told me Highlands is not what it used to be. It isn't, and it won't be the same 20 years from now. Even with inevitable changes, I am optimistic Highlands can shape future change in positive ways.

In 1976 Scudders opened on Main Street. Think about how unique it was for the time and how it became a Highlands tradition.

Two recent articles have shaped my views about how we can maintain what we value about Highlands. The first article by Dan Buettner, the founder of Blue Zones Communities, identifies happiness as a critical indicator of a quality community.

Buettner contends research on longevity is correlated to living in a "happy



Highlands Mayor
Patrick Taylor

community" where people are personally and civically engaged in meaningful activities. Folks living in these communities throughout the world are connected to other people, to nature, and have a sense of purpose that is usually driven by spiritual values. These factors, along with diet and physical activity, result in happy and healthy communities where many people live active lives well into their 80s, 90s and even beyond 100.

I see Highlands as being a "happy community." In essence, the above description encapsulates a core value that we should aspire to while navigating the turbulent waters of change. In my next term I hope our community develops and embraces this Blue Zone model. I invite citizens and community organizations to work with me in this effort. For more information Google "Blue Zones." Joseph F. Coughlin, Ph.D., says it all, "Aging well is not about finding a place to rest. It's about living in a place that pulls and pushes you out of your rocking chair."

Amid the national healthcare debate, and local hospital concerns, a big concept has been lost. Healthy living is a means of avoiding excessive reliance on an expensive healthcare system. Buettner's Blue Zone concept focuses on lifestyle as a means of avoiding dependence on the "medical/pharmaceutical industrial complex."

Ecotherapy is another related move-
•See MAYOR page 7

• HIC'S VIEW



Andersons soon regreted adopting the retired fire house dog.

• LETTER •

Keep the 'American Dream' (and the Mortgage Interest Deduction) alive

Dear Editor,

As expected, the House of Representatives passed H.R. 1, the Tax Cut and Jobs Act last Thursday, November 16th. The final vote was 227-205 with 2 members not voting. We anticipate there will also be those in the Senate that may hold an opinion that the mortgage interest deduction no longer

deserves protection.

What those legislators fail to consider is how limiting incentives like the Mortgage Interest Deduction would harm home values and keep more Americans from purchasing a home. The MID is an important benefit, not just for the millions of current

•See LETTER page 8

Highlands Newspaper

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Letter Policy:

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

• WEEKEND WEATHER •

	Friday 12/1		Saturday 12/2		Sunday 12/3	
	Daytime	Overnight	Daytime	Overnight	Daytime	Overnight
Temp	57 F	36 F	53 F	33 F	57 F	30 F
RealFeel	63 F	41 F	54 F	39 F	61 F	31 F
Winds	4 g 5	3 g 4	3 g 6	3 g 6	3 g 6	2 g 4
T-Storms	2%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%
Rainfall	0	0	0	0	0	0
Snowfall	0	0	0	0	0	0

For Real-time Weather and the Extended Forecast, go to • www.highlandsinfo.com and click on Weather

• OBITUARIES •

James Matthew (Matt) Thornton



Matt died November 26, 2017. He was born July 17, 1963 in Shelby County, Alabama to James (Skip) and Charlotte Thornton.

Matt was a graduate Briarwood Christian Academy and attended college The University of Montevallo and Birmingham Southern. Later he married the love of his life, Charlotte (Lotte) Walker. They made their home in the Mountain Brook area.

He was an entrepreneur and opened and operated two wholesale/retail business. He and his wife designed and manufactured sports wear clothing, and was also a valued employee of Publix supermarket.

Matt loved the Lord and is now living

in His Kingdom.

Matt loved old cars and loved to tinker in his spare time. He was very talented in all that he did.

Matt is preceded in death by his sister, Juliette Thornton Kerr and is survived by his wife, Lotte Thornton, father, Skip (Patce) Thornton and mother, Charlotte Thornton, sister

Anna Thornton Warren (Patrick), stepsister and stepbrother, Heather Satterwhite and Richard Errington.

A Celebration of Life will be held in Birmingham.

A donation to your favorite charity in his memory will be much appreciated.

Betty Sue Thomas Talley

Betty Sue Thomas Talley, 75, of Mountain City, GA passed away Sunday, November 26, 2017. Born in Macon County, NC, she was the daughter of the late Charles Porter and Ethel Moffitt Thomas. She was married to Dennis Atlee Talley who preceded her in death on September 25, 2007.

•See OBITUARIES page 8

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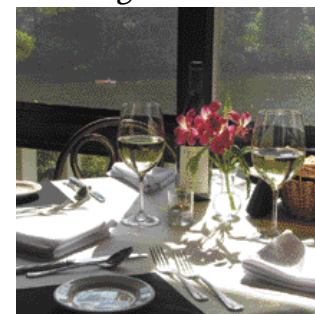


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Come meet Santa & Mrs. Claus
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Santa's Schedule

Saturday, Dec. 2nd After Parade
Saturday, Dec. 9th 10:00am - 3:00pm
Saturday, Dec. 16th 10:00am - 3:00pm

\$5

Admission

Photo by Susan Renfro



Highlands Ice Skating Rink
is now open at Kelsey-Hutchinson Park

Hours of Operation

Thursday 1:00pm - 8:00pm
Friday & Saturday 1:00pm - 10:00pm
Sunday 1:00pm - 5:00pm
Monday 6:00pm - 8:00pm (bookings only)

• HS SPORTS •

with Kedra McCall

First basketball game was Monday night

On Monday, November 27th, the high school basketball teams played their first games against Hayesville. J

V girls lost 44-10. The JV boys finished with a 36-28 loss. After the JV played, the varsity teams played.

The varsity girls lost 38-28. To end the night, the varsity boys lost 61-51. Although all teams lost, they came out, showed what they had, and played well.

Their first home game will be on Wednesday, December 6th. They will play Franklin with JV girls starting at 4pm and other teams following.

Their Friday game the week before was cancelled due to Cherokee's football state playoffs. High school's homecoming court will now be recognized on Wednesday's game.

Middle school basketball played Tallulah Falls on Monday, November 27th. The girls lost 40-22. The boys lost 46-41. Their next home game will be on Monday, December 4th against Summit. The girls will start at 4:30pm and the boys will follow.

Come out and support you Highlander's while basketball season kicks off.



Brooklyn Houston going for jump ball

MOVIE INFORMATION

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Mattson Gates drawing the foul on a layup

•THE INK PENN•

I need a little Christmas

Here's how it started. First, I smiled when a friend emailed just past Halloween that she'd like to have a few girls over for cocktails but needed to apologize and warn us that her Christmas decorations were already up. Then, my husband and I were driving down the street and saw a yard with two lovely, lighted reindeer standing next to a huge pumpkin. I commented, "I know the stores already have their holiday decorations up, but this is quite possibly the earliest I've seen a yard decorated." It was November 7th.

Next, I laughed when I saw a Facebook cartoon depicting a turkey proclaiming that November belongs to turkeys—not elves—and got a kick out of an indignant letter to Miss Manners in the Sunday paper. The writer wanted Miss Manners to back her up in declaring that decorating for Christmas this early is just plain wrong. Wisely, Miss Manners said it was not for her nor the reader to make that decision.

There I sat, someone who's never decorated until after Thanksgiving, suddenly considering joining the early decorating contingent. Ever since I'd received the email from my friend, the urge to decorate had been growing, and my spontaneous search for a Santa hat only made it worse. I wanted to take a holiday photo to send out and had to drag out all my decorations in search of the hat. I never did find the hat, but I did find myself thinking, "Gee, these boxes are spread all over the guest room now, so why not commence decorating?"

The only thing holding me back was knowing the housekeepers were coming



Kathy Manos Penn

the next week, and I always prefer to decorate a clean house. After they left, however, all bets were off.

Because we finally succumbed to getting an artificial tree a few years ago, keeping a tree alive for six weeks wasn't an issue. I was having a hard time coming up with a good reason not to go for it. After all, I'm like a child when it comes to Christmas. I love the decorations, the baking, and especially the music.

Fortunately for my husband, when I play my collection of Christmas CDs in my office all day long for weeks on end, he doesn't have to hear them. In years past, he's had to listen to them at least on Saturday and Sunday mornings with his coffee and newspaper. He'd still have to do that, except that our ancient stereo bit the dust this year. That means I can no longer pile five CDs in the CD player and put them on repeat.

I have loads of "Christmas music with no words," as my sister calls it—Mannheim Steamroller, Windham Hill, George Winston—and can easily listen to those peaceful sounds nonstop. Of course, I also have plenty of traditional Christmas collections with Nat King Cole, Bing Crosby, Frank Sinatra, Andy Williams, and even Perry Como.

It was thinking of the music that did it. I could hear the song "I need a little Christmas" playing in my head, except the words were, "I need a little magic, a little joy, a little counterbalance to the nightly news." And that, my friends, is how it came to pass that our tree went up November 14th.

P.S. Please join me 12/2 after the parade for a book signing with Lord Banjo at the Molly Grace in Highlands noon – 2 pm and at Books

derused medication in Highlands, it's called the Highlands Greenway. Like our park, it is a great health and happiness resource for our community.

So, while we are facing change let us not forget to keep Highlands a happy community. The Declaration of Independence acknowledges our right to pursue happiness. Let happiness be a guiding community principle.

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...MAYOR continued from page 2

ment that I learned about in a Parkrx-america piece. It was recently featured on NBC News. A growing number of physicians are now prescribing daily walks in nature rather than solely relying on drugs and medications. The evidence reveals this kind of nature therapy is very effective in restoring physical and mental health.

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...OBITUARIES continued from page 3

Mrs. Talley loved to play bingo and fish. She was a member of Mountain City Church of God.

Survivors include two sons, Marty Talley (JoAnn) of Clayton, GA, Keith Talley (Theresa) of Dillard, GA; a daughter, Marsha Ramey (Troy) of Clayton, GA; eight grandchildren, Jared Talley, Courtney Talley, Skye Talley, Seth Pitts, Nicole Ramey, Ali Ramey, Kelly Braswell and Becky Neff; six great-grandchildren, Ansley Clark, Trevin Talley, Kason Talley, Jax Stone, Conner Pitts and Katie Pitts; three sisters, Shirley Myers, Katie Roland and Thelma Carpenter and four brothers, Larry Thomas, Lonnie Thomas, Earl

Thomas and Ray Thomas.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by a son, Dale Talley.

A memorial service will be held Thursday, November 30, 2017 at 7 pm in the chapel of Bryant-Grant Funeral Home and Crematory with Rev. Tim Hayes officiating. The family will receive friends Thursday evening from 6:00 - 7 pm, prior to the service at the funeral home.

Online condolences are available at bryantgrantfuneralhome.com. Bryant-Grant Funeral Home and Crematory is serving the Talley family.

...LETTER continued from page 2

homeowners who depend on it, but also for renters looking to make the transition into homeownership.

All told, the MID is vital to the stability of the American housing market and the broader economy.

Criticism of the MID is nothing new. But even the harshest crit-

ics of the MID should agree that tax reform efforts that raise taxes on homeowners completely miss the mark.

Unfortunately, reform proposals pending before Congress would cap the MID while eliminating other important deductions like the state and local tax deductions. The result: a potentially harmful tax hike on homeowners.

Members of the Highlands-Cashiers Board of Realtors® and Multiple Listing Service, like Realtors® across the nation are closely watching the progress of tax reform. We are asking for everyone's help to urge our representatives to take a "do no harm" approach for the nation's 75 million current homeowners, as well as aspiring homeowners still waiting to enter the market. That means maintaining current tax treatment for homeownership and real estate investment throughout the tax reform debate.

Realtors® believe the Mortgage Interest Deduction is as important as ever, and the American Dream is on the line. We are hopeful the Senate will do the right thing.

**Ken Taft, President,
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•HEALTHY LIFESTYLE CONCEPTS•

Holiday millet & amaranth with herbs

This delicious holiday pilaf is a great way to enjoy the amazing gluten-free grain-like seeds of millet, quinoa, buckwheat, and amaranth. Here's why they are so wonderful:

- Rich in B vitamins and minerals
- Boost serotonin levels and calms the nervous system
- An excellent source of fiber to promote healthier digestion

• A great energy source for the thyroid and adrenals

A whole new world of exciting flavors will open up for you and your family when you explore recipes made with these four grain-like seeds. Also, if you find yourself struggling with the adverse effects of gluten sensitivity, these grain-like seeds can help you transition off of bread without feeling deprived.

Ingredients:

- 1½ cups organic millet, soaked for at least 8 hours
- ½ cup organic amaranth, soaked for at least 8 hours
- 6 cups water
- 2 bay leaves
- 1 medium onion, diced
- 2/3 cup celery, diced
- 3 garlic cloves, minced
- 1 tablespoon of organic unrefined coconut oil or ghee
- 2 teaspoons dry sage leaf, crumbled
- 1 teaspoon dry thyme leaf
- 1 teaspoon herbs de Provence



Medea Galligan
MS Nutrition, CHHC, AADP

- ½ cup dried unsweetened cranberries, chopped
- ¼ cup walnuts, chopped

• Celtic sea salt and/or Herbamare, to taste

Instructions:

1. Bring millet, amaranth, water, and bay leaves to a boil. Cover, reduce heat, and cook for 30 for minutes. Remove bay leaves.

2. Sauté onion, celery and garlic in coconut oil or ghee over medium heat until tender, but still firm. Add herbs and sauté for about 30 seconds to release flavors. Add veggies to cooked grains, chopped dried cranberries and walnuts, and stir to combine thoroughly.

3. Add sea salt or Herbamare, stir well, and adjust seasonings to taste.

For a pretty holiday presentation, use a cup or bowl to create a mold. Rinse the cup in cool water, pack with grain mixture, and immediately invert onto a serving plate. Herbs de Provence is a wonderful herb mixture that, in addition to rosemary, tarragon and thyme, also contains lavender flower, and the dried cranberries and walnuts add a wonderful color and texture.

• Medea Galligan, MS Nutrition, CHHC, AADP has been in private practice for more than 20 years. She specializes in digestive, immune and hormonal issues imbalances and is now accepting new clients. To request a FREE INITIAL CONSULTATION visit www.MedeasHealthyLifestyleConcepts.com or leave a message at 828-989-9144.



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• H-C HOSPITAL NEWS •

We're thankful for our community healthcare providers

The feedback from our first round of Town Halls made it clear that while community members viewed our physician and provider team as one of our greatest assets, they were also concerned about turnover, which may lead to worry about provider shortages – a nation-wide problem for rural communities.

In this column, I'll focus on the current state of provider staffing across Highlands-Cashiers, clarify the types of providers we're graced with, and define the types of care they offer.

The provider profile for our nation's rural hospitals has changed dramatically in the last two decades as physicians increasingly chose urban practice locations and specialty care, causing a 20% reduction in primary care provider numbers.

According to the National Rural Health Association, there are now an average of 39 primary care providers per 100,000 people throughout the rural US, as compared to 52 per 100,000 just 20 years ago. This reduction means that the healthcare industry is now looking at a looming shortage of primary care providers, to the tune of 50,000 over the next decade. Further, rural practitioner shortages contrast starkly with urban areas that have a relative excess of providers in nearly all specialties.

In the past, physicians provided the great majority of medical care for rural communities; now, it is increasingly common for physicians to work in collaboration with a nurse practitioner and/or physician assistant to provide team-based care.

Nurse practitioners and physician assistants have received advanced education and clinical training, and have become integral members of medical care teams across the country. They improve access to care, which

is especially important in rural communities like ours, and enable a more collaborative, team-based care model.

Another concern I frequently hear about is the perceived lack of providers for children. This is where Family Practice Physicians come in. They are primary care practitioners who have been trained to provide care to patients across all age groups, including prenatal care and well-woman care, pediatric care, and all manner of acute illness care.

If a patient needs a specialist referral, a family practice doctor supports that specialist in understanding the whole patient.

Dr. Robyn Restrepo recently joined us in August as the first Hospitalist at Highlands-Cashiers and will also provide community support as another Family Practice Physician.

I'm excited that we're continuing to build our primary care base and also extending specialty care access to more people, creatively.

We added our first satellite specialty clinic in October, with the arrival of Franklin-based orthopedic surgeon Dr. Mark Moriarty, from Angel Medical Center.

We've established more walk-in clinics with expanded hours of availability and same-day appointments, because we know that illness rarely strikes when it's convenient.

I'm proud that HCH and our affiliated practices are also home to five board-certified physicians, two physician assistants and one nurse practitioner.

As we enter the holiday season, I want to acknowledge our talented and dedicated providers, who partner with our care team to make the Highlands and Cashiers communities stronger and healthier.

...HURRICANES continued from page 1

pions, Chase Kenter and Finneaus Garner, and Savannah Byrd.

Kenter won all five of his races, set five personal records, scored 35 points and set four team records which qualified him for the Junior Olympics in four events.

Garner and Byrd both won four out of five races and each scored 2nd in their 5th race for 33 points each while setting three personal records each. Byrd also set a team record.

Elias McKim did well winning two races, setting two team records and earned 27 points for the team. Junior Olympian, Con-

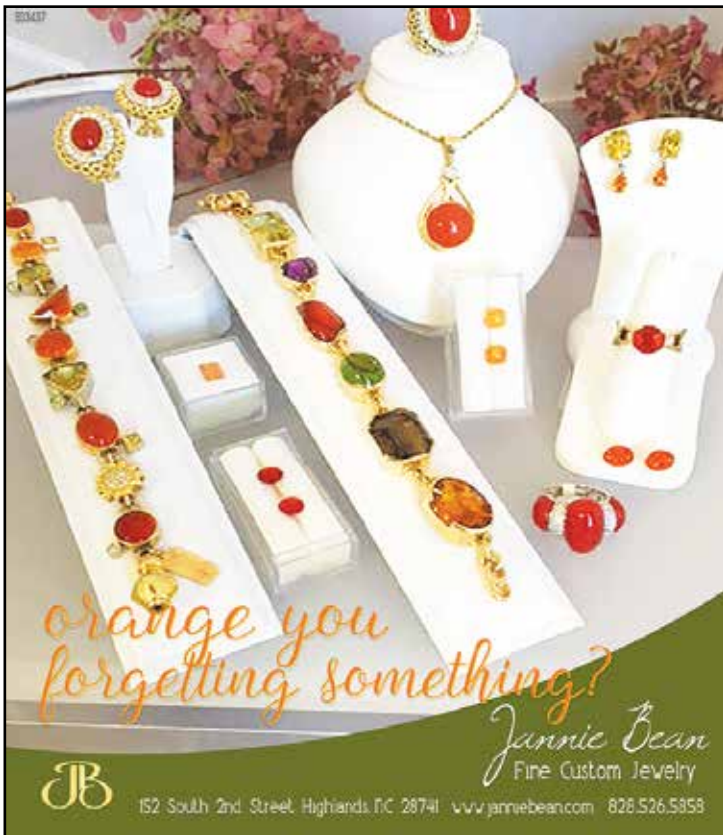
ner Hughes, won a race, set a team record, had two personal records and qualified for Junior Olympics in two events and scored 23 points. Layla Baback had five personal records, set a team record and also scored 23 points.

Chloe Stiwinter had five personal records and scored 22 points. Ellie BySura scored 22 points while setting two personal records. Jelehna McKim scored 21 points, had two personal records and set two team records.

Vivian Kennedy scored 18 points.

• See HURRICANES page 21

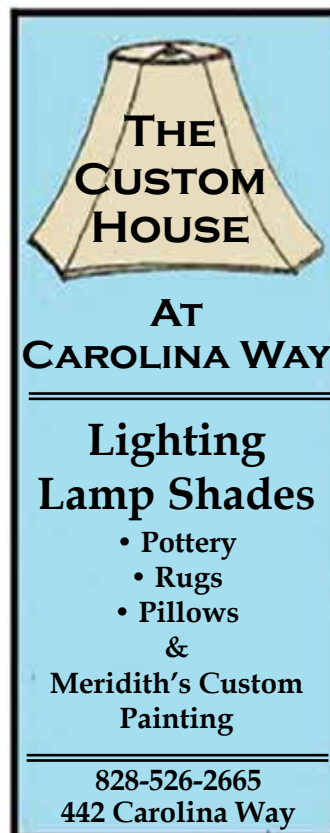
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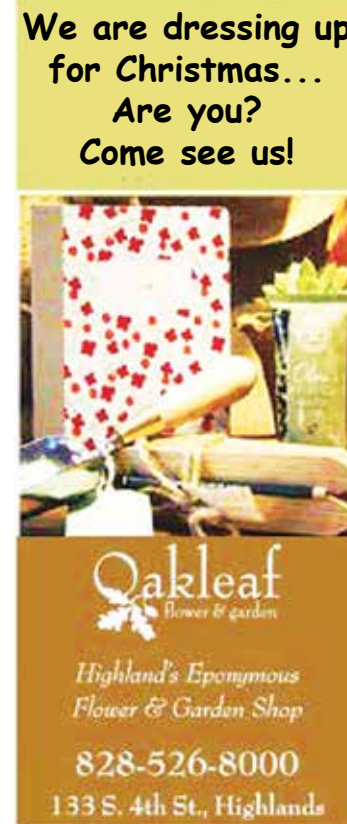
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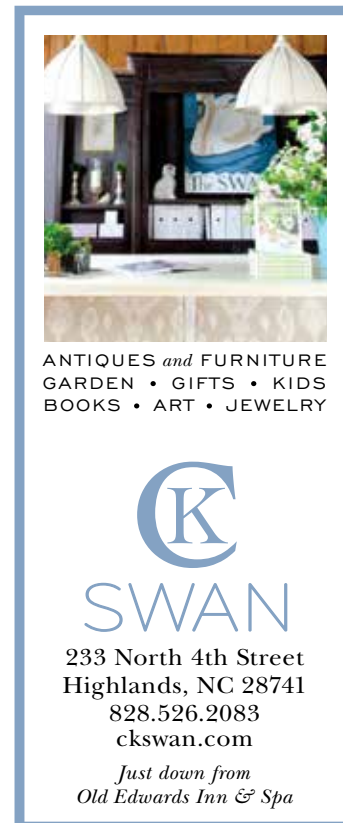
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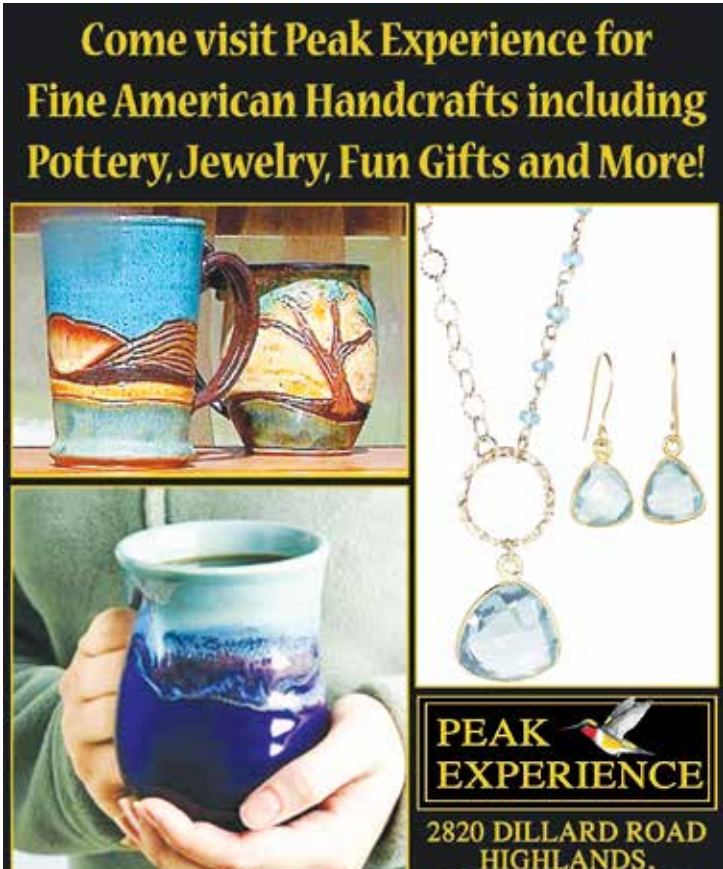
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...FUNDING continued from page 1

non-profit organizations serving Macon County.

Having trouble filling vacant seats on the community board, Macon County Manager Derek Roland began looking at the composition of the funding pool. He suggested changing the number of board members from 12 to 13 to prevent a tie and establishing a new set of guidelines to better streamline the process.

Since 2015, Roland has included \$75,000 in his annual budget to be distributed through a grant application process – up from the original \$50,000. The community funding pool board reviews the grant applications and makes recommendations to the county commissioners for approval.

The new 13-member board is: Patrick Betancourt - Macon Program for Progress; Robert Smith - Peggy Crosby Center; Andrew Anderson - REACH of Macon County; (pending approval) - Macon County Community Funding Pool; Emily Ritter - March of Dimes; Tyler Shook - Rotary Club of Highlands; Rick Westernman - Habitat for Hu-

manity; Diane Cotton - Read2Me; Shelia Jenkins - at large; Bobby Contain - at large; Kyle Garner - at large; Karen Wallace - at large; Jennifer Jones - at large.

In the 2015-'16 budget, the Macon County Community funding pool allocated \$75,000 to 12 organizations in Macon County. There was a total of 22 organizations who applied for funds with requests totaling \$153,719.

Highlands organizations who applied for funding included the Community Care Clinic of Highlands, which received \$5,658 of their \$9,000 request to purchase medications for patients visiting the clinic; The Highlands Community Child Development Center requested \$10,000 and received \$6,250 for facility improvements; The Literacy Council of Highlands which received funds to support the tutoring program that services children in the Franklin are; Read2Me that requested \$7,000 and received \$3,894 to support early literacy programs which included establishing a Story Walk in Highlands this year in partnership with The Bascom.

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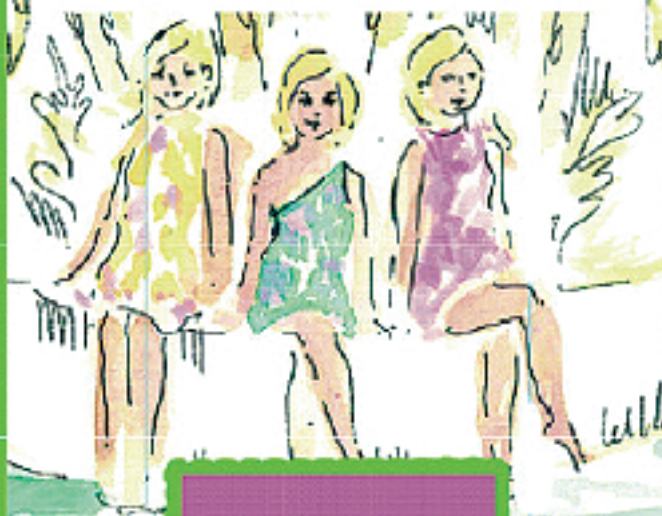
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Deck the Halls and Remodel Your Kitchen?

What factors influence a Buyer's decision on a new home? Other than size and location, a remodeled kitchen probably tops the list of an item that will speak to a buyer. Having remodeled 3 kitchens in my home ownership, I can relate to that sentiment. Everyone loves to have an updated, easy to use kitchen in their home. It is often the gathering place for friends and family. The statement that it is the 'heart' of the home is spot on. That said, it is not a fun project to undertake while you are using your home.

But when should you undertake that project? For those who use their homes as a summer getaway, that's an easy decision. Do it now. Not only for the convenience of not being in residence during the remodel, but also to potentially save money in the process. For those of us who live here year round, the answer might still be do it now.

One factor that makes the winter a good time to remodel the kitchen is lower pricing on appliances. We all just went through the sales frenzy of Black Friday and Cyber Monday so you know that those deals get extended between now and the end of the year for many large ticket items, including kitchen appliances. Big box stores have major appliance discounts going on at the moment.



**Wanda Klodosky, BIC
Landmark Realty Group,
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Flooring, tile and faucets tend to have their lowest pricing during the winter months as 'new' products come out in early spring so retailers want to empty their shelves of the current styles. Even if you can't begin your project right away, now could be the time to make some of the key purchases.

In general, this is a great time to make interior home improvements on your mountain home. The local contractors tend to have more flexibility in

their schedules in the wintertime, especially when it is a job that is not weather dependent. This could also be a cost saving item for you when you are not competing with the summer rush of upgrade and repair items that will keep a contractor running from job to job.

Has your mountain home been on the market for a while without an offer? Are you considering listing your home next season? An investment in a new kitchen now while the savings are available could be your key to a more successful transaction.

• *Wanda Klodosky is the Broker in Charge of Landmark Realty Group's Highlands office. Landmark also has offices in Cashiers and Burlington/Lake Toxaway providing the Highlands Cashiers Plateau with professional and friendly service. Visit their website at www.Landmarkerg.com*

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LOT LISTING

Easy build .81 acre lot in prestigious Cold Springs Saddle & Lake Club. Private lake access and just minutes to downtown Highlands. \$82,500 MLS #83190



Updated 2bd log cabin with exceptional long range mountain views on over 10 acres. Drive to the top and see a wonderful flat building site with even better long range views. Property on Atlanta side of town, minutes to downtown Highlands. \$685,000 MLS #84525



Highlands Mountain Club with great mountain view. Spacious 3br/2ba condo. Enjoy the pool, tennis and clubhouse. Fully furnished. \$229,000 MLS # 82270



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LOT LISTING

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LOT LISTING

Beautiful panoramic views atop Highlands Country Club lot. 1.57 acres with custom plans already made. \$195,000 MLS #84687



Architecturally unique home with a great lake setting on Cold Springs. 3/3 main house plus a 2 car garage with apartment above. Adjoins conservation easement so you can enjoy the peace and serenity of the lake while maintaining privacy. \$897,000 MLS#79848



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•SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING•

Spiritually speaking about 'Spiritually Speaking'



Dr. Mark Ford, Pastor
First Baptist Church
Highlands

Every week, I or someone else in our fellowship of ministers has the privilege and opportunity to share with the community at large in this space provided to speak about things spiritual – thus the section title, “Spiritually Speaking.”

Our space is surrounded by articles about the community – local news of interest, happenings, and advertisements. These articles are dealing with the concrete events and potential material investments that may interest the people in our area or visitors passing through. They are rightly seen as the real and meaningful for the present time. We are kept up with what has happened, what's going on, and what is in the future. These are the real and the material matters of life.

But the “Spiritually Speaking” section is about spiritual matters that transcend the moment and the concrete – so we think. The very word “spiritual” conjures up the ethereal and intangible. It is about something “other” than the existentially real and even what is important for the moment. The spiritual is a metaphysical addendum to life that we can resort to when the things we count materially real and important fail us.

But those of us who submit these articles every week under “Spiritually Speaking” have a different point of view. We believe the “spiritual” is the ultimate reality, believing Paul when he said, “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.” Simply, to be a follower of Christ and established in Him changes everything. The things of this world are fading fast in the light of the reality and concrete presence of Christ in the midst of our lives!

God is spirit the Bible tells us. The Holy Spirit is His presence in us. But when we pursue the “God-man” Jesus Christ, that which we thought in this life was important, and all those things that mattered to us – these will soon give way to the real reality. That which we call “spiritual” will turn out to be all that matters and that which is real. When I am loving God and being loved by Him who is love, I lose sight of the world around me in terms of importance. All that remains is God and neighbor. The matters and material things of this world lose significance in light of my being enveloped in the Eternal Light.

Christmas is about God taking on human flesh. We call it the incarnation, the first Advent. I see this as the

• See SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING page 17

Proverbs 3:5

• PLACES TO WORSHIP •

John 3:16

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June-Sept: Sunday Services: Rite I, 8a, Rite II, 9:15 & 11a

Nursery available for Rite II services

Sept 6-Oct 25- Informal Evening Eucharist- 5:30 p.m.

Thursday: Noon Healing Service with Eucharist.

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Sunday Worship - 11 a.m.

WHITESIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Rev. Sam Forrester/Cashiers

Sunday School: 10 am, Worship Service: 11 am

...LAND USE continued from page 1

tural and historic heritage.

This was the subject of the November Planning Board meeting Monday night.

With eyes to the future, the Highlands Planning Board is now updating the town's 2005 Land Use Plan by using parts of the 2014 plan that was never completed. With the help of Highlands citizens, a plan will be developed that will see Highlands 20 years into the future.

According to Town Planner Andrew Bowen, since the first zoning map was drawn in 1962, Highlands has been firmly committed to utilizing zoning codes and environmental protection ordinances to protect both the character of the community and the sensitive environment that surrounds it.

To do so, the town has utilized a combination of a zoning map and zoning codes – both of which have changed over time – development ordinances and land use plans to determine appropriateness for new development both commercially and residentially.

The first Land Use Plan was adopted in 1989 “to maintain the plateau’s high quality of life” as illustrated in its mission statement: “Preserve, protect and enhance those gifts of nature which make up the unique quality of our town and its environs.”

In both the 1989 and 2005 plans there were categories presumably in order of importance. In 1989 they were The Natural Environment, Residential Areas, Commercial Areas, Community Resources, Municipal Government, and Municipal Services.

In 2005 categories (presumably in order of importance) were Residential Areas, Commercial Areas, Cultural and Historic Resources, and Natural Environment.

The 2014 Comprehensive Land Use Plan expanded some of those categories to include Land Use in general, Recreation, Municipal Services such as electrical, water, sewer, waste removal and recycling, broadband, transportation as it applies to streets and sidewalks, and Public Safety as it applies to the police and fire departments.

Bowen noted several words and phrases that reoccurred in each Land Use Plan and in the 2014's start of a plan: historic preservation, protect drinking water, residential zoning, recreation, environmental protection, limit commercial growth, low impact development, vegetation, municipal services, beautification, Main Street, screening, slope protection, trees, natural areas, stormwater, multifamily, annexation, capital planning, BMPs, parking, housing density, impact fees, ridgetop, community, anti-litter, environment, central business district, zoning ordinance, uniformity, parks, clear cutting, greenspace, culture, watershed, broadband, benches, conservation, small town, ETJ, public/private partnership, pedestrian, native plants, walking district, aesthetics, economic development, and sign requirements.

As the board moves forward, Bowen said it's important that these common themes be recognized in the future plan.

“In looking towards the future of the community, it is important to first seek out these recurrent community priorities and aspirations because they outline the true character of Highlands,” he said.

To ensure community involvement in the formation of a new Land Use Plan, a digital Land Use Survey will be available on the town's website very soon and everyone is encouraged to participate by filling it out online.

“It's important that we get as much input as possible,” he said.

The two previous Land Use Plans are being used as jumping off places. Bowen said the ideas in them aren't new, but priorities have changed as the town has grown. Questions concerning those reoccurring themes will be in the survey.

Answers to the survey questions will likely become priorities for the new Land Use Plan.

Bowen hopes to have the survey completed by the December or January Planning Board meeting. He said once the board OKs the questions, the survey will go live.

– Kim Lewicki

...SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING continued from 24

Spiritual Eternal One taking on humanity so that humanity can know the Eternal and Spiritual – our God and Creator. In coming to us and wrapping Himself in flesh, He redeems us – body, soul, and spirit. Christmas is the Spirit God introducing us to the really real through Jesus Christ. I know truth, love, joy, peace and hope because of His coming. I come to know what is eternal, important and real because of God the Fa-

ther, Son and Holy Spirit accomplishing our salvation.

The rest of what I thought important and real turn out to be the “shadows” – to borrow from Plato and C. S. Lewis. The world we live in now is the ethereal and intangible. A better day and a better world are in our future. Reality is to come in glorious fulness when He comes again – spiritually speaking.



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• HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

Ongoing

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

Mon-Fri

• After School Program for Kids at The Healing Garden, 470 Dillard Road, Highlands. The school bus drops off at Dusty's. Ages Kindergarten through 8. Activities, wholesome snacks, homework time, outdoor and indoor play. Discount for monthly enrollments Pick up time 6 pm. Call Michelle at 828-526-9698.

• 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 828-238-8167.

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.occupywno.org or call 828.331.1524

Third Tuesday

• The Macon County Poultry Club meets at the NC Coopera-

December 2 musical events at Highlands First Presbyterian Church



Everyone is cordially invited to a Christmas Carol Sing at First Presbyterian Church at 1pm on Saturday, December 2, after the parade. If you enjoy singing familiar Christmas carols, you will definitely want to make this a part of your Christmas tradition.

Then at 4pm, the Asheville Symphony Chamber Chorus will present a free concert in the church's sanctuary. The five-part program will include many familiar Christmas classics including "O Little Town of Bethlehem," "Huron Carol," "The Holly and the Ivy," "Mary Had a Baby," "He is Born, The Divine Christ Child," and four different renditions of "Ave Maria." The group is directed by Dr. Michael Lancaster, who also serves as Director of Worship/Music at Highlands First Presbyterian Church. Instrumental accompaniment will be provided by Alicia Chapman, Oboist; and Erin Hansen, Harpist.

The Asheville Symphony Chamber Chorus is a subsidiary of the Asheville Symphony Chorus. Both are under the umbrella of the Asheville Symphony Orchestra.

First Presbyterian Church is located at the corner of Main and Fifth Streets. Handicapped accessible entrances are located on Church Street and on Fifth Street.



tive 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.

• 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.

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

• 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

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



Early HCP Christmas program: Father Mike Jones of the Highlands Episcopal Church (center), Virginia Talbot (right), HCP program coordinator, then and now.

On Thursday evening, December 14, beginning at 7:00 p.m. at Highlands Performing Arts Center, 507 Chestnut Street, the Highlands Cashiers Players will present their annual free Holiday Program that has been a feature of Highlands Christmas celebrations for 21 years.

For this year's 22nd program, the theme is Have A vae aHolly, Jolly Christmas as the evening will include a funny holiday quiz for the audience and several amusing holiday stories, read by HCP actors. Holiday songs interspersed with the readings will be performed by a special 12-voice ensemble from the 50-voice Mountain Voices regional chorus, directed by Beverly Barnett of Franklin.

And to top off the evening's entertainment, hot cider along with cookies and other refreshments will be served after the performance for the audience and performers in the PAC reception room. And all of it is free of charge—it's the Players Christmas gift to the community, co-sponsored by Highlands Performing Arts Center.

Coordinator Virginia Talbot, HCP actor, play director, and Board member, has participated in and organized the event for almost of its 22 years. She remembers when it all started in 1996 with a modest but beautiful program in the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation with priest Father Mike Jones participating with the actors. Anyone who comes once, she says, usually comes again and this year, the evening of Thursday, December 14 is going to be especially fun. The Players website is www.highlandscashiersplayers

• HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

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. **Dec. 1-10**

• At The Bascom, Highlands Bio Station Student Group Exhibition **Dec. 1-12**

Dec. 1-12

• At the Bascom, Highlands High School Student Group Exhibition in the Greenway Studios, Downstairs **Fri., Dec. 1**

• Dive-in Movie Night at the Rec Park. PG and PG-13 movies. 6-9 p.m., \$7 adult; \$5 children under 12. \$20 family of 4 (\$4 for each additional person) Free popcorn per admission. Bring your own float. Food allowed in designated areas. For movie title call 828-526-1595 or 828-526-3556.

• At Hudson Library, author reading and book signing from 4-5 p.m. with reception. "The Man Who Loved Georgia Tech" by Susan S. Robert.

Sat., Dec. 2

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

• Christmas Carol Sing at First Presbyterian Church at 1pm on Saturday after the parade. Then at 4pm, the Asheville Symphony Chamber Chorus will present a Christmas

Concert in the church's sanctuary. Both events are free. The church is located at the corner of Main and Fifth Streets. Handicapped accessible entrances are located on Church Street and on Fifth Street.

• Santa Claus at Kelsey-Hutchinson Park Saturday, 12-3pm

• A Food Pantry Christmas at The Episcopal Church of the Incarnation Saturday, 12-3pm

• At Hudson Library, a 2 pm showing of "The Polar Express" in cooperation with the Literacy Council of Highlands- Wear your PJ's

Sun., Dec. 3

• The High Mountain Squares will host their annual "Toys for Tots Dance" Sunday afternoon, from 2:30 to 4:30 PM. at the Macon County Community Building, GA Road (441 South), Franklin NC. Dr Jim Duncan from Otto, NC will be the caller. Admission is a NEV unwrapped toy. or information call 828-371-4946, 828-342-1560, 828-332-0001.

Thurs., Dec 7

• Highlands School music con-

cert 6-7pm in the old gym. Admission is free.

• Indivisible Highlands, a non-partisan political advocacy group, will host a presentation by Dr. Scott Donaldson, a candidate running for the NC House of Representatives currently held by Mark Meadows 5-7 p.m. at Hudson Library, Main Street Highlands.

Dec. 9

• Breakfast with Santa Claus at Highlands United Methodist Church Saturday, 9-10am

• Santa Claus at Kelsey-Hutchinson Park (after his breakfast) Saturday, 11am-3pm

• Community Christian Chorale Christmas Concert at Episcopal Church of the Incarnation Sat. & Sunday, 4pm

Sunday, Dec. 10

• Highlands Sotheby's International Storefront Exhibit, 4th & Main of Highlands Bio Station Student Group Exhibition, from 3-4pm.

• Community Christian Chorale Christmas Concert at Episcopal

Church of the Incarnation Sat. & Sunday, 4p

Mon., Dec. 11

• Smoking Mountain Quilters Guild will hold its last 2017 meeting Monday, with a potluck luncheon and a special program by historical presenter Muriel Pfaff. Ms Pfaff will be in costume as the stylish and young wife of President Grover Cleveland, who served as the nation's 22nd and 24th presidents.

Tuesday, Dec. 12

• At The Bascom, Reception from 12:30-1pm for the Highlands High School Student Group Exhibition

Dec. 13

• Community Christian Chorale Christmas Concert at Episcopal Church of the Incarnation Sat. & Sunday, 4p

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."

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.POLICE & FIRE REPORTS.

The Highlands Police log entries from Nov. 4 Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor or public officials have been used.

Nov. 4

• At 10:20 a.m., Laura Surelle Henry, 45, of Franklin, was arrested for driving while license revoked and operating a vehicle without insurance. She was issued a \$600 secured bond. Her trial date was Nov. 21.

Nov. 8

• At 2:30 p.m., Tyler Garrett Converse, 24, of Highlands, was arrested for court violations on a failure to appear on a charge of alcohol in the passenger area and possessing drug paraphernalia. He was issued a \$1,000 secured bond. His court date is Dec. 4.

Nov. 11

• At 5:20 p.m., officers received a report of larceny of property from a residence on Pierson Drive where a computer, dresser mattress and box spring, flat screen TV silverware sets and a coffee maker were taken all valued at about \$3,800.

Nov. 14

• At 8:18 a.m., officers responded to a one-vehicle accident on US 64 west.

• At 10:59 a.m., officers received a report of larceny from a

residence on Naiad Terrace where equipment valued at \$600 was stolen from the side of the road.

Nov. 17

• At 1 p.m., officers received a report of larceny from 200 Main where numerous bottles of alcoholic beverages valued at about \$140 were taken.

Nov. 18

• At 10 a.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident on US 64 west.

• At 4:30 p.m., officers responded to a call of an assault on a female when the woman's was grabbed by the wrists to keep her from calling 911 and ripping the land line from the wall.

Nov. 20

• At 11:18 a.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident on US 64 west.

• At 2:12 p.m., officers received a report of shoplifting of stockers and a silver gerber pocketknife with total value of about \$38 taken from Reeves Hardware.

The Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. log from Nov. 22 Nov. 22

• At 7:29 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Satulah Ridge.

• At 11:54 a.m., the dept. stood by at Zachary Field for the MAMA helicopter.

• At 4:53 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a location on W. Church Street.

Nov. 23

• At 6:37 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Tansy Lane.

• At 4:21 p.m., the dept. assisted with a search on Walking-stick Road.

- NOTE -

Since brush fire season is rapidly approaching, we would strongly encourage all residents to keep the leaves blown away from their houses and any other structures on their properties.

If you are going to burn yard debris, please do so in a safe manner. Keep a hose readily available, but also be mindful of the other residents in your communities.

With cold weather here, we encourage everyone to have your chimneys cleaned and inspected and also to be safe driving as there could be black ice on the roads.

If you have an emergency, please call 911.

— Chief Gearhart

..HURRICANES from page 10

Max Jestin scored 17 points. Asa Garner scored 13 points and had a personal record. Lauch Young had two personal records and scored 12 points. Aniah McKim, Mia Kaylor and Sadie BySura all scored 10 points. McKim and BySura both had two personal records.

Junior Olympian, Jack Sumner, had a best time and scored eight points. Peyton Kaylor scored two points and Hayden BySura had three personal records and scored one point.

The Hurricanes will return to the Highlands Pool on December 16th for a home meet.

The Highlands Hurricanes are a Highlands Recreation Park age group swim team with swimmers aged 4-17. For more information please call Steve Hott, Head Coach at 828.421.4121 or the Highlands Recreation Park Pool at 828.526.1595.

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labor. Must have a valid driver's license, references, a clean driving record, and be at least 21 years old. Call 828.526.4532 for more information or e-mail resumes to harrison@lupoliinc.com (st. 7/20)

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Learn simple techniques & recipes to make fresh foods taste delicious, as you save money and improve your health! Call Me-dea Galligan, MS Nutrition, Health Coach at 828-989-9144 and leave your name & number to schedule your class.

PET SITTING-Excellent care for your furry friend(s)! Call Highlands Critter Sitter @ 404) 409-8259. Excellent references. (st. 11/16)

GUTTERS CLEANED, debris removed, metal fabrication for flashing for chimney/roof repair. References. Call Danny. 828-371-1103. (st. 9/28)

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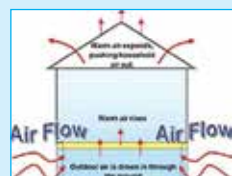
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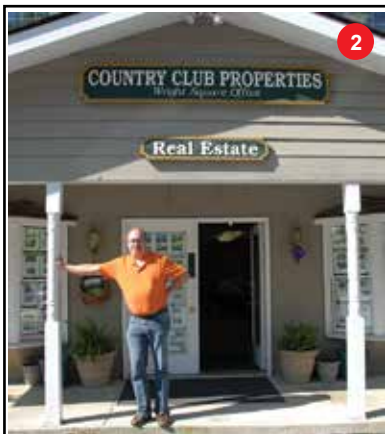


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