

Highlands Newspaper

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Thurs., Jan. 11, 2018

- 2017 Year in Review -

From the total solar eclipse, to storms Irma and Benji, to the BCB-SNC/Mission debacle, to healthy real estate sales and sales and room tax revenue, to winning teams and its winning school, 2017 has been a year to remember in Highlands.

January

- Town ordered to pay John Shearl \$35,000 to settle zoning dispute.

- Gov. Roy Cooper tells Feds NC will seek to expand Medicaid "Why should North Carolinians pay for Medicaid expansion in states like New Jersey, Ohio and Indiana when

we don't even expand it to our own people?" he asks.

- Jason Tardo was named Fireman of the year at annual award celebration.

- Highlands PD Master Officer Lt. Ronnie Castle retires after 30 years on the job in the county and in Highlands.

February

- Macon County meth dealer, Brodie Hamilton, 31, of Franklin sentenced to 70+ years in prison.

- Highlands School honors graduate Cali Smolarsky in her fight against breast cancer.

- Firefighters save historic Wolf Ridge, the historic Ravenel home on Satulah Mountain.

- WNC delegates support Trump but not without question.

- Opioid abuse is called "rampant" in Macon County.

- Highlands School writers, Mattson Gates, Abby Olvera, Grace Crowe and John Brooks are Young Author winners.

March

- Tourism is said to drive county's and town's economy.

- Rep. Meadows Freedom Cau-

- See **YEAR-IN-REVIEW** page 5

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Making the best of frigid weather



Single-digit weather, two inches of snow and icy roads heralded in the New Year. Waterfalls froze as they fell and ice lined rivers and creeks rushed down the mountain but with Harris Lake frozen all was not lost. The weather began to warm Monday, Jan. 8 feeling almost spring-like in comparison.

Photo by Jim Lewicki

Mission Health and BCBCNC are 'in network' again

For two months, hospitals within the Mission Health Systems conglomerate, including Highlands-Cashiers Hospital and Angel Medical Center in Franklin, were out-of-network for people with Blue Cross Blue Shield North Carolina (BCBSNC). But finally the two entities reached an agreement.

On December 5, both Mission Health Systems and BCBSNC issued identical statements and little else, announcing negotiations

- See **IN-NETWORK** page 6



Dad Robert, baby Adeline and Mom Kimberly Reed.

Harris Regional's first baby of 2018 is Highlander

SYLVA, NC – Harris Regional Hospital rang in 2018 with the year's first bundle of joy. Weighing 6 pounds and 10 ounces and measuring 19 inches, Adeline was born to Kimberly and Robert Reed of Highlands, Monday, Jan. 1, at 10:20 a.m.

"This is definitely an exciting way for our family to ring in the New Year" said Kimberly "The physicians and especially the nurses at Harris took such great care of us and we are so grateful to them for making us feel so

- See **BABY** page 7

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• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• MAYOR ON DUTY •

Looking back at 2017 and on to 2018 ... goals and more discussed

The start of a new year is time to look forward and to reflect. In the next couple of articles I will be doing just that.

I want to begin with my list of small items that town representatives and staff may address this year. These items are not "budget busters" and can be achieved with modest costs and staff engagement.

First on the list is a small makeover of the Highlands Conference Center interior. Simply put, it is time for new flooring, fresh paint and an AV upgrade. The floor consists of carpet and parquet. I recall seeing the parquet flooring at my initial visit almost 20 years ago. We have a numerous Conference Center events where food is served. The staff has identified several new composite flooring systems that facilitate easy maintenance in food service areas. I anticipate a new floor being installed sometime this year.

Technology changes fast and the AV system at the Conference Center hasn't been upgraded for a while. An upgrade is now due.

Before the December Town Light-



Highlands Mayor
Patrick Taylor

ing in the park, town crews made some improvements to the lighting system. I anticipate another round of lighting enhancements for night events. Nothing major, but there are still some dark spots that could be problematic with large gatherings.

I am excited about the mini recycling station that will be in place at the Highlands Recreation Center sometime at the beginning of the year. A recycling trailer will

allow folks to recycle glass, metal, plastic and paper. A cardboard recycling station will be there and maybe even a household garbage bin. This project will be a partnership with the county. Again, the costs are not massive, but coordination with town and county staff will be a key ingredient for success.

Speaking of make overs, it will be time to makeover and upgrade the town website. I am particularly excited about the webcam system that will be linked to the website providing panoramic views of Main Street and Whiteside Mountain.

Last year the town did a small public/private cooperative project with OEI that resulted in a 1% increase in downtown area parking. As the addition to 201 Main was nearing completion our representatives talked with OEI about improving parking on Oak Street near their new addition. They were scheduled to repave the street where a utility access had been cut. Town crews removed the old rough asphalt next to Oak Street Greenway entrance that had been

used by work trucks for overnight parking. A dirt and gravel base was put down by our street crews. While replacing the street, the private contractor for OEI also paved and striped the 11 new public parking spaces. The town used a small amount of materials on hand and did the day or so of grading. Since OEI was already employing the paving contractor, their additional cost for paving the parking spaces was also low.

These little, low cost projects add up

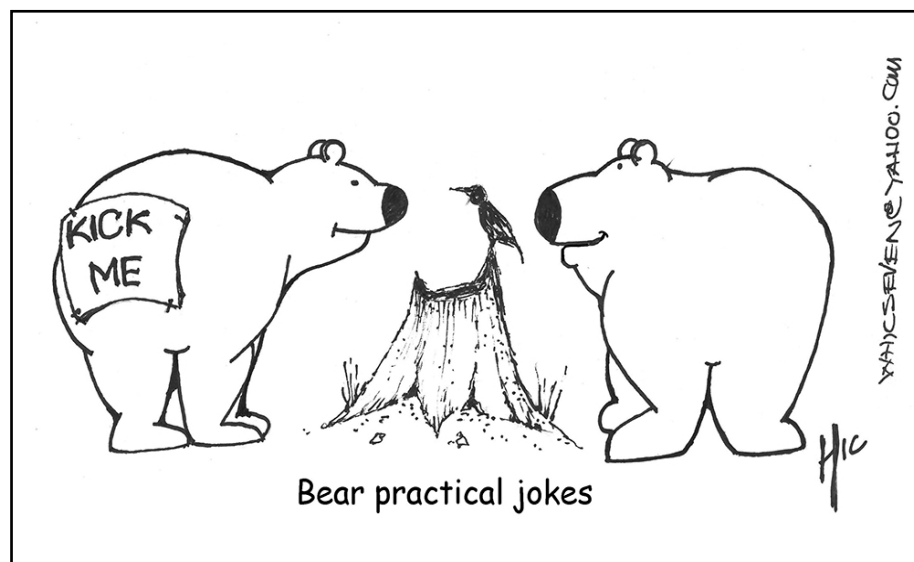
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A mayor's duties can be interpreted in very narrow or broad terms. The narrow, which I tend to embrace, is toward specific and defined duties as Highlands'

•See MAYOR page 7

• HIC'S VIEW



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.

• WEATHER •

	Friday 1/12		Saturday 1/13		Sunday 1/14	
	Daytime	Overnight	Daytime	Overnight	Daytime	Overnight
Temp	57 F	25 F	35 F	16 F	30 F	13 F
RealFeel	52 F	42 F	34 F	18 F	32 F	14 F
Winds	6 g 9	6 g 9	6 g 10	5 g 7	5 g 7	4 g 7
T-Storms	24%	20%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Rainfall	0.47	0.1	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 •

Ed Thomas Talley



Ed Thomas Talley 90, of Highlands passed away Tuesday, January 2, 2018 at the Fidelia Eckerd Living Center. He was a native and lifelong resident of Highlands and a member and former deacon of the Shortoff Baptist Church.

Ed had been employed by Highlands Cleaners and Laundry, and worked in construction the later years of his career. His life was devoted to his wife, children, grand and great-grandchildren and his church.

He was the oldest son of Jabe and Mattie Henry Talley of Highlands. He was preceded in death by his wife Bernice Talley, his parents, brother, Fred Talley, Sr. and sister Myrtle Owens. He is survived by brother, Leon Talley, sisters Grace Lankford and Jessie Talley, daughter Belinda (Bruce) Lindsay of Fletcher, Tommy (Beckie) of Lula, GA, Kenny (Lisa) Talley of Highlands. Granddaughters, Kim Sut-

ties, Kathy Mlay, Juliette Talley, Grandsons Ben Talley and Scott Lindsay, great-grandchildren Zane and Zeke Suttles, Rowena Lindsay and special grandchildren Timmy and Cassie McDowell.

The funeral services was January 6, 2018 at the Shortoff Baptist Church with the Rev. Andy Cloer officiating. Interment was at the Miller Cemetery in Highlands. Pallbearers were P. J. View, Chris Talley, Brian Talley, Russell Langford, Keith Langford, Buddy Talley and Timothy McDowell.

In lieu of flowers the family requests that contributions be made to the Bright-Focus Foundation, Inc. or the Shortoff Baptist Church Building Fund, P. O. Box 1217, Highlands, NC 28741.

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

Doris Elizabeth Gibson Webb



Doris Elizabeth Gibson Webb, 87, of Highlands, NC passed away Tuesday, January 2, 2018 at Fidelia Eckerd Living Center. She was born in Macon County to the late Elbert and Effie Henry Gibson. She was married to Richard Webb who preceded her in death in 2002.

Mrs. Webb had worked for Highlands Cashiers Hospital. She was a member of Highlands First Assembly of God and she was a loving mother, grandmother, great-grandmother and great-great-grandmother.

Survivors include her daughter, June Henry of Highlands; sons, Freddie Webb of Highlands, Randy Webb of Hollywood, MD and Johnny Webb of Franklin; a sister, Marjorie Webb of

Highlands; 27 grandchildren; 36 great-grandchildren and two great-great-grandchildren.

In addition to her parents and husband she was preceded in death by three sons, William Webb, David Webb and James Webb; a sister, Myrtle McCall and a brother, James Edward Gibson.

A funeral service was held Friday, January 5, 2018 at Highlands First Assembly of God Church with Rev. Randy Reed officiating. Burial was in Horse Cove Cemetery. Grandsons served as pallbearers.

Online condolences are available at bryantgrantfuneralhome.com. Bryant-Grant Funeral Home and Crematory served the Webb family.

John Brownlow "JB" Keener

John Brownlow "JB" Keener, age 92, died peacefully at home on Wednesday, December 27, 2017. He was born on February 27, 1925 at Eastlaport, Jackson County, NC. His father, John Richmond Keener, his mother, Bertha Smith Keener, his sister, Della Keener McCall and his brother, Arnold R. Keener, and many other relatives precede him in death.

He is survived by his wife of 70 years, Ruby Estell Webb Keener. They just celebrated their anniversary on December

24, 2017. He leaves behind seven children; Weldon Keener, Gail (Willard) Garland, Janice (Ronald) Demore, Ervin (Debbie) Keener, Joan (Milton) Estes, Hilda (Randy) Brown and Bruce (Tina) Keener. He was a wonderful grandfather to 13 grandchildren, 16 great-grandchildren and two great-great grandchildren.

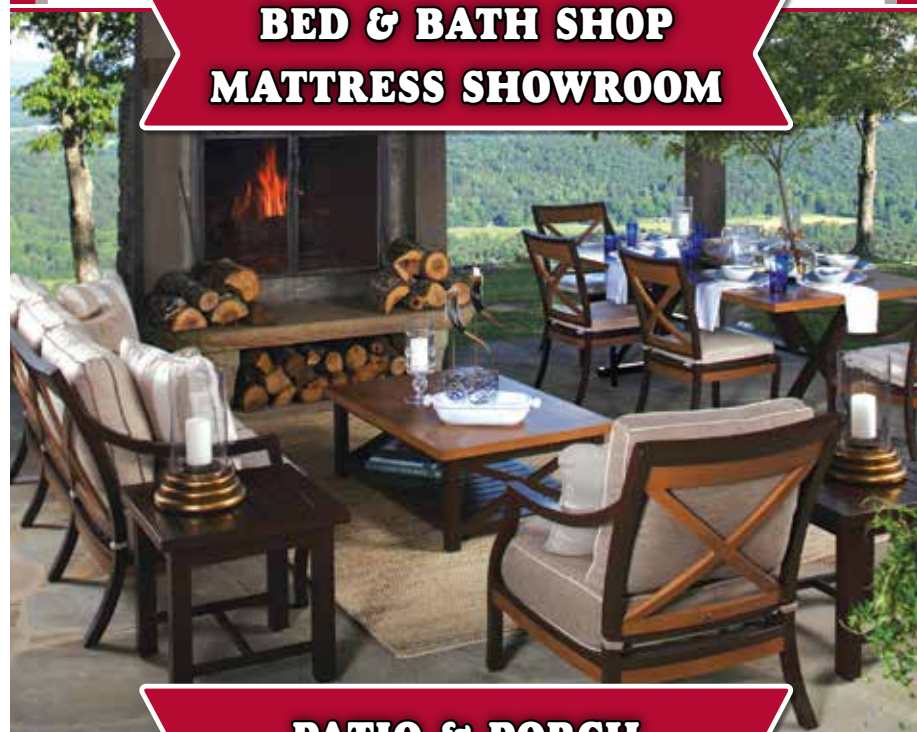
He was a Baptist by faith, joining Goldmine Baptist Church on October 15, 1939. He was ordained as a Deacon on November

•See OBITUARIES page 5

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...OBITUARIES from page 3

4, 1956, served faithfully for 61 years, and fulfilled many positions in the church.

He raised his family by working in logging, textiles, and carpentry trade throughout his life. He enjoyed fishing, hunting, walking in the woods, farming, and studying the Word of God.

Funeral Service were held Saturday, December 30, 2017 at the Goldmine Baptist Church. Rev. Gene Hawkins and Rev. Howard Southard officiated. Burial was at Mount Moriah Cemetery, Goldmine Community. Pallbearers were John McCall, Skip Keener, B. J. Keener, Caden Brown, Nathan Demore, Nick Demore and Ty Keener.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Mount Moriah Cemetery Fund, c/o Mary Owens, 21 Pinecone Drive, Franklin, NC 28734.

Online condolences are available at bryantgrantfuneralhome.com. Bryant-Grant Funeral Home and Crematory served the Keener family.

Frances James Kirven

Frances James Kirven, age 74, of Cashiers, NC passed away on Monday, January 1, 2018 at her home surrounded by her loving family. She graduated from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill where she met her late husband, James Dupont "Tippy" Kirven, III on a blind date. They shared 49 years of marriage before his passing on the same day (January 1st) in 2014.

She is survived by her three sons: James Dupont Kirven, IV and his wife, Jan, of Summerfield, NC; Stephen Scherer Kirven and his wife, Rita, of Taylors, SC; Foy Alexander Kirven of Columbus, GA; and five grandchildren: Chase White and his wife, Stephanie, of Raleigh, NC; Ashton Kirven of Summerfield, NC; Grace Kirven, James Kirven, and Will Kirven of Taylors, SC. She is also predeceased by her sister, Scherer James Easa of Oahu, Hawaii.

The family would like to thank her caregivers, Willean Stiwinter, Genise Humphrey, and Carolyn Campbell, as well as all of the wonderful staff at Hospice Four Seasons for their compassionate care of Frankie.

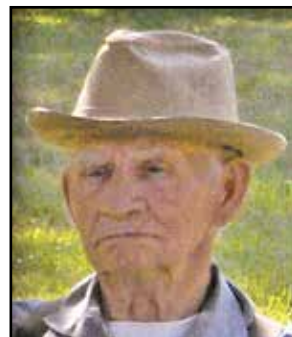
Memorials may be made to St. Paul United Methodist Church in Columbus, GA, Cashiers United Methodist Church in Cashiers, NC, or Hospice Four Seasons in Hendersonville, NC.

A memorial service will be held at St. Paul United Methodist Church in Columbus, GA at 2:30 p.m. on January 12, 2018 with a reception to follow at the church. Bryant-Grant Funeral Home is handling the arrangements. Online condolences may be made by visiting bryantgrantfuneralhome.com.

Marie Nichols Duvall

Marie Nichols Duvall, 92, of Franklin, peacefully reached the end of this journey called life on Monday, January 1, 2018, at Harris Regional Hospital in Sylva, NC.

Born on July 22, 1925, in Plumerville, AR, she was the daughter of the late James Clark Nichols and Alma Louise



...YEAR-IN-REVIEW from 1

cus aims to make big changes to ACA.

- The Macon County Eagles basketball team is tournament champions.

- Emily Shuler is 2nd female on Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept.

- Art & craft shows to return to K-H Founders Park on Pine Street.

- Highlands School All Conference Basketball players are Madison Lloyd, Emily Crowe and Honorable Mention Bethany Shuler and Destin Gearhart, Jose Jimenez, Jake Billingsley and Brett Lamb, Coach of the Year.

- Highlands reluctantly agrees to Duke Coal Ash Settlement.

April

- How President Trump's budget will affect MC in 3 part series.

- Gov. Cooper says a cloud has lifted with HB2 repeal

- Corbin co-sponsors bills to improve NC education

- USFS considers stabilizing Bridal Veil Falls

- Class of 2017 Val and Sal are Benjamin Miller and John Murphy, respectively.

- King & Queen of the 2017 Highlands School Prom: Ryan Houser and Megan Vinson.

- Mountain Fresh Grocery honored at BizWeek.

- US PO hears business delivery woes.

May

- Highlands School is ranked 29th in North Carolina.

- Mama Bear shot; 4 cubs orphaned by safe.

- Highlands' moms to be feel sting of Mission closing OB-GYN facility in Franklin.

- Rep. Meadows aims to take down ACA.

- Fan of the Year at Highlands School is math teacher Gina Billingsley.

- Town seeks info from broadband providers.

• See YEAR-IN-REVIEW page 7



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...OBITUARIES continued from page 5

Cates Nichols. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Rex Vinson Duvall; a son, Mark Nichols Duvall; infant sons, Boone and Jeffrey Duvall; a sister, Emma Jean Evans, and a brother, Harold J. Nichols.

Marie is survived by her loving family: four daughters, Kathy Hart (Tom) of Highlands, Nancy Wilson, Jennifer Nation, and Rexanna Duvall (Don), all of Franklin; son, David C. Duvall (Rachel) of Franklin; brother, Billy Carl Nichols of Ft. Smith, AR; "adopted" son, Marshall Ramey of Asheville; five grandchildren, Randy Scott Sizemore of San Francisco, CA, Eric Sizemore of Bull Head City, AZ, Wendy Duvall (Stephen) of Franklin, Travis Duvall (Jamie) of Portsmouth, VA, and Dylan Duvall of Atlanta, GA; three great grandchildren, Jared Duvall of Franklin, and Adalyn and Eli Duvall of Portsmouth, VA.

Funeral Service were held at 2 p.m. Friday, January 5, at Tellico Baptist Church. Revs. Gary McCoy, Morris Tippet, and Guy Duvall officiated. Burial was in the church cemetery. Memorial donations can be made to Hospice House Foundation (Four Seasons Hospice), PO Box 815, Franklin, NC 28744 or to CareNet, 130 Bidwell Street, Franklin, NC 28734.

Martha Rea Anders McConnell Kell

Martha Rea Anders McConnell Kell, 98, passed away Saturday, January 6, 2018. She was born March 2, 1919 in Rabun County, Ga. She lived all of her adult life in Otto, NC where she raised her family. Mrs. McConnell was the daughter of the late Manuel Anders and Georgia Head Anders. She was preceded in death by husbands, Ray McCo-

•See OBITUARIES page 8

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...IN-NETWORK

continued from page 1

had stopped and a new contract had been agreed upon.

"Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina ("Blue Cross NC") and Mission Health have entered into an agreement for Mission Health provider participation in Blue Cross NC networks which became effective December 15, 2017," read the statements. "We are pleased to have reached agreement on the mutual goal of ensuring that the people of WNC receive the affordable, quality health care that they need."

Neither BCBSNC or Mission would answer additional questions about the contract or the details around the negotiations.

"For customers and businesses, this means an end to the uncertainty of seeking alternate, in-network providers," BCBSNC said. "For the community, it means two organizations that have been pillars of Western North Carolina's health care system are again working together toward the common goals of ensuring access to high-quality health care and doing all they can to slow the rise of health care costs. This means a renewed commitment to the people who matter most: our patients and customers."

The contract for the two entities expired in October after neither Mission or BCBSNC could reach an agreement. Reports said that Mission asked for an increase in health care costs, while BCBSNC refused to allow rates for customers to increase. The end of the contract that set the rates for how much Blue Cross NC paid Mission for caring for people with that insurance disrupted care for many of the 260,000 people in WNC the insurer covers.

Lots of people sought in-network BCBSNC care elsewhere, including through the Harris Regional Duke Life Point umbrella out of Sylva and Franklin and medical services offered at nearby Clayton, GA.

Whether people who were forced elsewhere when faced with paying out-of-network prices in Highlands and Franklin will return to the Mission umbrella is unknown. Proximity is always an issue when sick, and that's likely what Mission is banking on.

Mission NC State Treasurer Dale Folwell lauded the two sides coming to an agreement. His department said Mission provides health services to more than 40,000 members of the State Health Plan in the region.

Both Macon County government and the town of Highlands elected to keep their contracts with BCBSNC during the lapse in network coverage, while the town of Franklin switched to MedCost, which has been the health and dental claims administrator and health provider network for the N.C. League of Municipalities since 2011.

HS SPORTS

with Kedra McCall



Varsity, JV & Middle School are back at it

This week high school basketball played Franklin and Robbinsville. Each team had its ups and downs throughout their games, but no team was able to pull out a win.

JV girls lost to Franklin 58-13. JV boys lost 64-15. Varsity girls lost 52-29 and varsity boys lost 56-44.

Later in the week they played Robbinsville. JV girls lost 29-22 and JV boys lost 43-12. The Varsity girls lost 51-12 and Varsity boys lost 61-57.

They're next home game will be Friday, January 19th. They will play Rosman starting at 4 pm.

Middle school basketball did not have any games. Their next home game will be Thursday, January 18th. They will play Eagle Ridge starting at 4:30 pm.



Drew Chalker taking it to the basket.

...MAYOR continued from page 2

mayor. Defined duties fall within the town limits and the function of town and state governance. The broad view extends beyond town limits and encompasses the entire Highlands Plateau. The five big sectors that contribute to the broader community are: commerce, healthcare, education, government and service agencies. All play vital roles in the community. I would like to share my concerns for each of these sectors.

Riding the wave of a bullish national economy, our local businesses and tourism are strong, indicated by recent real estate sales, sales tax and room occupancy rates; however, last year, news reports questioned how the over half-million dollars in room tax revenues were being allocated by the Chamber and Highlands Tourism Development Committee.

The Highlands Chamber of Commerce underwent a major reorganization this past year in strategies and staff. I am confident these adjustments will bring a new creative energy in the marketing and promotion of Highlands as a destination community. I am also sure there will be a more clear and precise documentation of how these tax funds are allocated for the coming year. While the town has no oversight in the process about tax revenue decisions, I am very pleased that Commissioner Brian Stiehler will serve on the Tourism Development Committee. His past Chamber service and professional experience makes Stiehler a good board liaison. A strong local economy, promoted by both the Chamber and the Town will continue to be beneficial for all.

During my first term, many residents expressed concern to me about local healthcare, especially as the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital transitioned from a community hospital to a Mission Healthcare Hospital.

Although there have been positive changes in the last four years, like the construction of a new six-million-dollar hospital emergency department, I'm still hearing concerns. The recent dispute between Mission and Blue Cross didn't help matters. I am aware that there have been informal meetings where these concerns have been expressed by area residents. It has been nearly four years since the Mission merger took place. Maybe it's time for the leaders of the community to conduct a healthcare status assessment where these concerns can be addressed.

Highlands School has the capacity to be a national model of public schools because of its small size and enthusiastic support of the community. And even though scoring competitively on national tests, as Highlands School does, seems noteworthy, as a former educator, I feel that national,

state, and local educational institutions should rethink the over-emphasis on standardized testing and adopt more qualitative methods of assessment. It's easy to teach to the multiple-choice tests and then declare students are educated. Parents and educators know there is more to education; that experiential, field based and service learning, and other activities educate the whole child.

Good government is another component of a quality community that can't be overlooked. The goal of the mayor and the board of commissioners must be to lead the town in responsive, accountable and open government by working with a competent staff who are empowered to address the needs of a dynamic community.

Another vital sector is our non-profit, service community, which is very strong for a small community; however, change and challenges for the arts community lie ahead. Performing arts group will have to continue to work together in order for everyone to move forward.

These broad views concerning these sectors do not constitute policies. Rather, I simply see my duty to share my views and current thinking.

...BABY from page 1

comfortable."

Judi Layton, CNM, women's care provider at Harris Regional Hospital delivered Adeline who will now join her big brother completing the happy family of four.

Dad Robert said the care provided was definitely a family approach and he felt like an active part to the care provided to his wife and daughter.

"The nurses here made us feel like we were their top priority, they went above and beyond what was required of them. They are really great at their job and by the way they treat their patients, you can tell they enjoy what they do. We had the best experience here and for that we are so thankful," he said.

The New Generations Family Birthing Center at Harris Regional Hospital is committed to providing high quality, compassionate care close to home for new and expecting parents. The Birthing Center offers a state-of-the-art labor and delivery unit, newly completed mother/baby rooms and will offer a completely reconstructed unit upon the completion of the added caesarean suite that is slated for completion at the early part of this year making the entire floor a totally remodeled unit to better accommodate expecting mothers and their families.

To learn more or to schedule an appointment, please call 844.414.DOCS.

...YEAR-IN-REVIEW continued from page 5

• County budgets \$900,000 for Highlands Recreation.

June

• Harris Regional Hospital in Sylva to fill Mission Health void for women.

• Children lost too soon are remembered with plaque at K-H Founders Park.

• Highlands new Planning Director Andrew Bowen starts June 26.

• Prince House joins bevy of 65 National Register sites in Highlands.

• Room Tax expenditures under scrutiny.

• With HB 900 NC towns could get room tax money.

• Expansion of Martin Lipscomb Performing Arts Center explained.

• Eclipse Planning Committee prepares for onslaught.

• Cougar sightings were called "possible" on Bowery.

July

• Highlands School Asst. Principal Jim Dra-

heim retires; Stacey Overlin hired.

• BCBSNC to become out-of-network provider for Mission Health; with Oct. 5 deadline looming.

• Walk your way through a story on Greenway at The Bascom is constructed.

• Town Board candidates to face unopposed election.

• Highlands Hurricanes move from last to 2nd at 2017 Mountain Swim League Conference Meet.

August

• Alcohol allowed to be served on Sundays before noon.

• Jim Askew is 81-year-old Gold, Silver and bronze medal winner in track meet.

• Chase Kenter is an AAU Junior Olympic Champ.

• Passionate plea goes out to save Beck house in wake of PAC expansion.

• Highlands Police Chief Bill Harrell is

• **See YEAR-IN-REVIEW page 11**

January Sales Extravaganza!

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Highlands Performing Arts Center

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Documentary:

The OPERA HOUSE

January 13 1pm

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.....

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...OBITUARIES continued from page 6

nnell and Donald Kell. She was a member of the Tessentee Church of God (House of Hope).

She is survived by a daughter, Emma Miller of Scaly Mountain, NC; two sons: Charles McConnell (Sharon) of Otto, NC and Sam McConnell also of Otto, NC; daughter-in-laws: Elizabeth McConnell, Ruby Ann McConnell and Linda Stewart; son-in-law, Richard Miller; and stepchildren: Janice Welch, Marilyn Jenkins, Carolyn Keener, Jerry Kell and Christine Sorrells. She is also survived by two sisters: Mary Vinson and Ruby Green; 27 grandchildren, 49 great-grandchildren, 18 great-great-grandchildren and 1 great-great-great-grandchild.

She was preceded in death



by her children: Alice Miller, George McConnell, Kenneth McConnell, and James McConnell; stepchildren: Elmo Kell, Catherine Crisp and Shirley Moore; and one great-granddaughter. She was also preceded in death

by two brothers: Theodore Anders and Luther Anders; three sisters: Derotha Owens, Virta Wilson, and Rosetta Holland; and a son-in-law, Everette Miller.

A funeral service was held January 10, 2017, at the Tessentee Church of God with the Rev. Eugene Moore and Rev. Greg Bartram officiating.

Bryant Grant Funeral Home and Crematory served the Kell family. Online condolences may be made at bryantgrantfuneral-home.com.

Upcoming Political Discussions at Hudson Library in Highlands

January 18:

Indivisible will be meeting on January 18t from 5-7 at the Hudson Library. The two guest speakers are Chris Cooper, Department Head, Political Sciences, Western Carolina University and Blake Esselstyn, recognized authority on district mapping. The topic is Gerrymandering in NC, dangerous to our health.

February 1:

The 3 democratic candidates running for the U.S. House of Representatives, District 11 N.C. will be guests at the Indivisible Meeting on February 1st from 5-7 at the Hudson Library. The 3 candidates are Scott Donaldson, Phillip Price, & Steve Woodsmall. The format will be individual presentations followed by Q&A's.

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• INVESTING AT 4118 Ft. •

Vacation Rentals 101: Our Highlands History

People often say to me, “I bet you’ve seen it all.” Or “You should write a book about real estate and rental experiences.” Firstly, just when we THINK we’ve seen it all, there’s always one more to top that last experience. Secondly, I’ve written a book, but I decided to stick with fiction for now.

The vacation rental industry-WAIT. Stop right there. In the mid-70s when Isabel and Tony Chambers started listing and managing vacation rentals, there was no industry to speak of in Highlands, or anywhere really. A lot has happened worldwide in the last 50 years. By the 1990s, the NC real estate commission recognized the rapid growth of the vacation rental industry, and created the NC Vacation Rental

Agreement Act (1999-Chapter 42A-General Statutes) To do this, an attorney from the real estate commission (Will Martin) conferred with vacation rental managers from the coast (Buddy Rudd) to the Mountains (Jeannie Chambers) and several more in between.

The purpose of having the little guys included was to make sure the logistical and operational components of handling vacation rentals meshed with the legal aspects of the real estate commission.

One of the things hammered into the potential real estate broker’s mind is that we are not attorneys, we cannot practice law by drafting legal documents. That’s why the property management agreements (between owners and brokers) and the leases (for long- or short-term leases) have gotten

longer and longer over the years; the real estate commission wants to make sure everything is covered. While we are allowed to write in things such as our specific policies, there are parts of a vacation rental lease that has to be written verbatim in accordance with the VR Rental Act 42A.

If the ‘90s were about making it legal, then the next decade was all about growth. Along with the number of vacation rental properties sprouting all over the country, there was also an increase in the number of rental software companies used to manage the day-to-day operations of owning a rental business. In the



Jeannie Chambers
Chambers Realty &
Vacation Rentals

Jeannie@highlandscalling.com

early ‘90s, our company used a DOS based computer program- the first vacation rental software used in Highlands. In 1998, we found Property Plus – a component of Instant Software at a real estate convention. We met with the owners and developers several times and at the time, we were the 65th company to use them, and really felt like part of the family. All industries change or they die, and Instant Software was no exception. They grew and grew and became the most powerful distribution system in the industry. Then came Homeaway.

Homeaway was founded in 2005, and it hit the vacation rental

road running. It acquired VRBO (Vacation Rentals by Owner) in 2006, VacationRentals.com in 2007 and Instant Software in 2010. I’ll admit, I suffered a little step-parent blues for a while. Well, the times, they are a-changin’ and we adapted, and still are adapting. Property Plus won’t be supported any more after 2019, so we’ve moved to another rental software – a bigger and better version.

The software has changed, the vacation rental industry is forever changing, and we still adapt. What we know is this: there are things a software company can’t capture. The essence of Highlands, and the rapport and sometimes lasting friendships we have with our guests. The first contact

• See INVESTING page 13

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• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

New Year's Resolution: Let's Stand Up for Life

By Pastor Jim Murphy
Christ Anglican Church, Cashiers

Most New Year's resolutions are rarely given a chance to live. Many pledges for the new year are aborted or considered as rubbish before the end of the first month. Do you think that might be because most resolution lack substance? That they're too squishy and ill defined to inspire someone to pursue? If that's the case, why don't we make some resolutions that actually mean something. Pledges that are worth keeping, that are inspirational.

Consider the 19th century's General George Custer, he was an inspirational character. It is an undeniable fact that he made a resolution to his country and fellow man to make his life count for something he believed in. During the summer of 1876 at Little Bighorn, SD Custer took a stand for life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, for country and for honor, as he understood them and was commissioned to fight for them.

While we may debate the propriety of Custer's mission and or tactics, what is not up to debate is that he took a firm stand. He was willing to die for something he believed in—life. So was God. In a cause more noble than any other—the cause of life and love—Jesus took his last stand for us. He stood, nailed to the cross at Calvary and gave up His life for us. The Author of life, the God who is Love took his stand as, "...he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again." (2 Corinthians 5:15, NIV, emphasis added)

While the Lord of life took his stand at Calvary, rather than at Little Bighorn, his stand was far more momentous for us than Custer's. His sacrifice provided life for us—real, abiding and eternal life—and calls us all into the life promotion business. We're all called to protect and promote life. Not just the passing life of our mortal bodies but also and more importantly the true life that is available to all, life beyond human limitations, life eternal as the Father's children.

Jesus gloriously took his stand for life. Custer bravely took his. What about us? How about you? Do you promote and protect life? Do you really sacrifice on behalf others, so as to "...love your neighbor as yourself?" (Leviticus 19:18, NIV). All are called to do so. Are you willing to let personal convenience or preference die so that others might live?

"Life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness," is likely the best known phrase of the Declaration of Independence. Our nation's founders considered life—a good, free life—to be the starting point, a bedrock principle for a country and people called to promote life. For everyone from the young lives in the womb to the mature lives of the elderly.

It is a conundrum then that some groups who say that they support life consistently commit violent acts that minimize and or take away life. Anti-free speech movements, the pro-choice crowd, militant rights grievance groups, and abortionists, to name a few, claim that they stand squarely on the side of life. However, as actions speak louder than words, often times they violently and grossly diminish the lives of the many while they support only the small slices of life that measure up to their convenience, preference or ideology. That's not standing for life, it's a hypocritical stand against life, a demonstration on behalf of what the late Pope John Paul II called "the culture of death."

This "culture of death" is all around us. Watch the news on any given night, violence and death surround us. But we shouldn't be surprised in this "culture of death." Indeed, we should probably expect more. We murder children by the millions. We eu-

Proverbs 3:5

• PLACES TO WORSHIP •

John 3:16

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Tues. Guys study 8am, Gals 10am.

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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.

EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE INCARNATION

Rev. W. Bentley Manning • 526-2968

Sundays: Education and choir rehearsal, 9 am,

Holy Eucharist Rite II, (sanctuary), 10:30, nursery available

Mondays: Centering Prayer at 3 pm in the library

Thursdays: Holy Eucharist Rite II.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH HIGHLANDS

828-526-4153 • www.fbchighlands.org

Dr. Mark Ford, Pastor

220 Main Street, Highlands NC 28741

Sun.: Worship 10:45 am; Sun.: Bible Study 9:30 am

Wed.: Men's Bible Study 8:30 am; Prayer Mtg 6:15 pm; Ch. 5p

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

Wednesdays: Choir: 6p

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

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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

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

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•HEALTHYLIFESTYLE CONCEPTS•

Naturally boost your immune system

Believe it or not, there are numerous safe and effective ways to boost your immune system and significantly increase your chances of bypassing the yearly colds, flus and sinus infections that usually seem to begin this time of year. From drinking organic cold-pressed juices, eating deliciously warming soups, and taking time to rest when you feel run down, you have a number of natural strategies that will have you up and running again in no time. When you keep your immune system in optimal working order, you're far less likely to acquire an infection to begin with or, if you do get sick, you are better prepared to move through it without complications and soon return to good health.

1. Optimize your vitamin D levels. Ideally, it is best to get Vitamin D from UVB rays during safe sun exposure, but especially during the fall and winter months most of us need to take an oral vitamin D3 supplement. Dr. Mercola, among many other functional medicine doctors, recommend taking 8,000 iu of vitamin D3 daily throughout the winter months. Optimizing your vitamin D levels is one of the best strategies for avoiding infections of ALL kinds, and vitamin D deficiency is likely the true culprit behind the seasonality of the flu - not the flu virus itself. Be sure to get your Vitamin D levels checked by your health care provider at least once a year and regularly monitor your vitamin D levels so that you are within the therapeutic range of 50-80 ng/ml.

2. Eat Real (Unprocessed) Food & Drink Lots of Clean (Filtered) Water. Given grocery stores filled with boxed, canned and ready-to-microwave frozen meals, and fast food chains every couple of feet, this may be the most difficult step to a stronger immune system and better health. Make clean, un-chlorinated and un-fluoridated water your 1st beverage of choice when you are thirsty or hungry - cutting out sodas and sweetened drinks in favor of clean water is perhaps THE most important change you can make for a stronger immune system, rapid weight loss and lasting



Medea Galligan
MS Nutrition, CHHC, AADP
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health. Remember that your body can only work with the nutrients you give it - it is really quite unrealistic to expect to have a strong immune system if you aren't willing to eat the foods and drink the clean water that creates it. Quite simply, you ARE what you EAT- and what your food eats! As a Health Coach, I specialize in helping people find REAL FOOD - foods that are fresh, whole, and unprocessed - and show them how they can simply and easily make delicious breakfast, lunch and dinners. And for an easy-to-absorb immune system boost, nothing beats a raw, organic cold-pressed juices that deliver the large amounts of vitamins, minerals, antioxidants and enzymes that your body desperately needs. And during these cold months, bone broth and warm, nourishing soups are also the best way to nourish the body and boost your immune system.

3. Get Enough Rest. Just like it becomes harder for you to get your daily tasks done if you're tired, if your body is overly fatigued it will be harder for it to fight the flu. Learning to rest BEFORE you are sick will go a long way to not getting sick! Get to bed early and be sure that you are sleeping well throughout the night- it is valuable time that your body needs to recuperate and heal.

4. Learn How to Reduce Stress. We all face some stress every day, but if stress becomes overwhelming then your body will be less able to fight off the flu and other illness. Getting out for a daily walk, gentle stretching at home or going to a yoga class can do wonders to reduce your stress levels and are essential to a healthy lifestyle. Find a healthy activity you like and make it a DAILY part of your life.

5. Exercise Every Day. When you exercise, you increase your circulation and your blood flow throughout your body. The components of your immune system are also better circulated, which means your immune system has a better chance of finding an illness before it spreads. Exercise increases levels of endorphins, our natural feel-good brain chemicals, and allow us to naturally address stress that often leads to making poor food choices and over-eating.

Next week: Why it's imperative to "Take a Good Source of Animal-Based Omega-3 Fats," "Wash Your Hands," "Use Probiotics & Enjoy Naturally Fermented Foods," and why it's important to "Use Natural Antibiotics."

...YEAR-IN-REVIW continued from page 7

charged with misdemeanor death by vehicle in accident that took the life of Shane Taster.

- Town readies for Total Eclipse of the Sun Monday Aug. 21.

- Overnight visitor spending in Macon County is up by 6.3% over 2016.

September

- Hurricane Irma comes to Highlands; wreaks havoc.

- New Jackson County fire tax benefits Highlands F&R.

- Gov. Cooper says FEMA funds for IRMA cleanup won't be coming to Highlands.

- Highlands School exceeds academic growth expectation; called one of the best schools in the region, state and nation.

October

- Town decides to stick with BCBSNC despite out-of-network status.

- HS Middle School soccer teams are conference champs

- Part of US 64 east -- Cashiers Road -- closed for repairs; causes traffic backups.

- Rabun Gap students install drain marker throughout Highlands.

- First snow of the 2017-'18 winter is Oct. 29.

November

- Skateboard arena set for Highlands Rec Park.

- Canine officer Ruby retires.

- Oil leak on Greenway is contained.

December

- BCBSNC and Mission reach agreement; BCBSNC in-network again.

- County's opioid epidemic discussed at joint meeting.

- King and Queen for the night at Homecoming dance is Maddie Lloyd and Chandler Stoltzfus.

- National Wreaths Across America is in Highlands cemetery.

- Winter Storm Benji creates winter wonderland with pancake ice; drops 20 inches of snow.

- Commissioners Donnie Calloway, Dr. Amy Patterson and Mayor Pat Taylor are sworn into office.

- Historical marker for Dr. Mary Lapham in the works for N. 4th. Street next to Historical Village.

- Town website to include two webcam links.



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PIN • PROP_ADDR • OWNER_NAME • SALES_PRICE • FIRST_GRANTOR_NAME • DATE_RECORDED

• 6498521675, 391 CHASTAIN RD, MUNOZ, JOSE A., 203000, BILLINGSLEY, CHARLES DARRELL, 9/11/2017
 • 6498524144, 376 CHASTAIN RD, ELLIS, WILLIAM DALE JR, 95000, SLATER, DONALD R., JR., 12/19/2017
 • 7408114896, 55 WOOD VALLEY RD, MARZELLA, JAMES R. TR, 100000, CHARLES BISHOP PROPERTIES, LLC, 8/10/2017
 • 7408125411, 177-203 WOOD VALLEY RD, TRMC PROPERTIES, LLC, 450000, CHARLES BISHOP PROPERTIES, LLC, 11/21/2017
 • 7408126040, 51 CREEKSIDE COVE S, ESTER, TIMOTHY LEE, 135000, WALKER, CHARLOTTE D, 8/25/2017
 • 7408126431, 74 CREEKSIDE COVE N, TRMC PROPERTIES, LLC, 450000, CHARLES BISHOP PROPERTIES, LLC, 11/21/2017
 • 7408315610, 71 PEEK & PEAK DRIVE, SMITH, CHARLES DAVID, 190000, BARNES, JAMES D, 8/15/2017
 • 7408450584, 9468 DILLARD RD, WAVRA, TYLER, 270000, VOS, TIMOTHY PAUL, 8/15/2017
 • 7408531573, OFF HWY 106, ROCKY RIDGE INVESTMENT GROUP, LLC, 60000, CALLAS, LINDA S, 4/21/2017
 • 7408541445, HWY 106, DAVIS, JOHN M., 298000, BILLINGSLEY, JACK L, 11/30/2017
 • 7408553827, 108 HAPPY HILL RD, KINBACK, STEVEN R., 162500, HOLDEN, MARTIN LANCE, 4/7/2017
 • 7408599069, 951 HIGHLAND GAP RD, GIGNILLIAT, HARRIS M., 600000, SOUTH, JEFFERY M., 9/1/2017
 • 7408635605, OFF HWY 106, ADDISON, OLGA A., 140000, BEACOM, ROGER R, 3/28/2017
 • 7408636333, OFF HWY 106, ADDISON, OLGA A., 140000, BEACOM, ROGER R, 3/28/2017
 • 7408868273, 8378 DILLARD RD, BOSDELL, KYLE D., 145000, GREEN, KEVIN J, 7/18/2017
 • 7409256266, OFF RD 1622, FERRIS, ANDREA JANE JONES, 115000, JONES, DURAND W, 7/14/2017
 • 7409634296, 747 MCCONNELL RD, JONES, HARRISON II, 100000, MILLER, JAMES L, 3/1/2017
 • 7409697838, 340 EVANS CREEK RD, FLACK, EMILY BAGWELL, 257500, MEDLEY, BAGWELL SUSAN, 1/26/2017
 • 7409698510, RD 1622, NEISWANDER, MICHAEL J., 10000, WIGGINS, LESTER EUGENE, 3/7/2017
 • 7409707953, 140 HICKORY RIDGE RD, WARTH, DAVID W., 250000, DUNN, WILLIAM J JR, 1/31/2017
 • 7409726073, 1001 BROWNS MOUNTAIN RD, PEACOCK, RANDY B., 119000, STUTZMAN, EDGAR THOMAS, 10/31/2017
 • 7409757317, 26 RUNKEN LN, BLACK, STEPHEN P., 123000, HENDERSON, ERNEST R, 11/9/2017
 • 7409775359, 1615 BUCK KNOB RD, COPU, ROBERT D., 147500, PETERSON, ROBERT LLOYD, 10/6/2017
 • 7409840727, 181 SHOAL CREEK RD, JOHNSTON, JANE SIMPSON, 150000, AVIS, BRIAN E, 1/11/2017
 • 7409971362, 120 LLOYD COVE RD, RICH, BENJAMIN

TROY, 250000, WILKES, ALVIN L, 1/19/2017
 • 7418093920, COLLECTORS LN, BRYSON ENTERPRISES LTD, 180000, BARNES, CURTIS M., 5/5/2017
 • 7418167737, HALE RIDGE RD, VINSON, MONICA R., 18500, LESLEY, DIANE, 10/18/2017
 • 7418167916, 770 HALE RIDGE RD, VINSON, RYAN H., 110000, BARNES, BESSIE D MRS, 11/21/2017
 • 7418191319, RD 1625, BRYSON ENTERPRISES LTD, 50000, NICHOLSON, JESSICA JAMES, 6/9/2017
 • 7418361422, 212 MOUNTAINVIEW DR, U.S., BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATIO, 412500, PERRY, ANN UPSHAW, 8/23/2017
 • 7418565062, OFF RD 1625, SANDERS, JEFFREY T., 75000, CAMPBELL, MARGARET A. TRUSTEE, 8/7/2017
 • 7419005378, 214 DRYMAN RIDGE RD, YOUNGS RENTAL HOUSES, LLC, 127000, COLE, SCOTT III TR, 4/7/2017
 • 7419006306, 206 DRYMAN RIDGE RD, YOUNGS RENTAL HOUSES, LLC, 127000, COLE, SCOTT III TR, 4/7/2017
 • 7419007196, 162 DRYMAN RIDGE RD, GILLET, DARREN ALDEN TR, 136500, LOCKRIDGE, ART JR. TRUSTEE, 8/9/2017
 • 7419007432, DRYMAN RIDGE RD, YOUNGS RENTAL HOUSES, LLC, 127000, COLE, SCOTT III TR, 4/7/2017
 • 7419022144, 83 WILDFLOWER RD, BOTTI, DOUGLAS, 120000, WILDFLOWER CREEK LLC, 9/15/2017
 • 7419022177, 89 WILFLOWER CRK, BRIMNER-WHIELDON, BETSY J., 110000, WILDFLOWER CREEK LLC, 12/12/2017
 • 7419119041, 7307 DILLARD RD, KESSINGER PROPERTIES, LLC, 1798000, THE BROADWAY GROUP, LLC, 5/3/2017
 • 7419220685, 83 BELLWOOD DR, PROVISION DESIGN, LLC, 35000, LUZIER, HOMER W, 2/27/2017
 • 7419278843, 86 BOB LONG MOUNTAIN RD, MURACO, STEPHEN, 150000, HUSKEY, MARVIN T, 9/8/2017
 • 7419414052, 106 WINFIELD FARM RD, GUERRERO, ARTURO, 670000, RENFROE, ANNE L. TRUSTEE, 4/19/2017
 • 7419414745, 30 EASTSIDE DUCK MOUNTAIN RD, ROGERS, JIMMY K., 105000, ADAMSON, EDGAR D., JR., 8/24/2017
 • 7419423046, 71 EASTSIDE DUCK MOUNTAIN RD, BOWEN, PHILLIP A., 100000, LAMPP, NORA PEARL LIFE ESTATE, 8/28/2017
 • 7419530179, 71 EASTVIEW RD, KENNEDY, DAVID A., 305000, AIKEN, ROBERT B, 8/31/2017
 • 7419559514, 222 POND RD, GODFREY, GAIL PIKE, 225000, CLARY, JAMES C JR., 7/28/2017
 • 7500606550, EVANS CREEK RD, BAGWELL, ANTHONY M, 257500, MEDLEY, BAGWELL SUSAN, 1/26/2017
 • 7500607135, 350 EVANS CREEK RD, FLACK, EMILY BAGWELL, 257500, MEDLEY, BAGWELL SUSAN, 1/26/2017

...INVESTING continued from page 9

may come from Homeaway or VRBO, but those who discover Highlands and want to come back year after year often become property owners, and some start the cycle all over again by placing their new home in a rental program.

Homeaway and others like them may be the engine that gets them here, but the journey really begins with people – real people, like you and me.

• Jeannie and Tucker Chambers are owners of Chambers Realty & Vacation Rentals, and have over 44 years of combined experience in real estate and the vacation rental market in Highlands and they know what works, and how to work it. Contact them through www.highlandsiscalling.com or see them at 401 N. Fifth Street in Highlands, or through email Jeannie@highlandsiscalling.com and tucker@highlandsiscalling.com.

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...SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING continued from page 10

thanize those who become inconvenient. We enthusiastically support a right to suicide. We celebrate violence in many forms of the media. We glorify death in video games. And the list could go on. Why should it surprise us when our children show so little regard for life? We teach them to disdain it! Whatever happened to, "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness?"

Since all life comes from and belongs to God, and furthermore, since he sacrificed his life that we may live—and in so doing called us all to sacrificially promote life—should we not all at least take an un-hypocritical stand for life? Custer did. Jesus did. We're all supposed to.

The future and life lie before us. Let us make a new year's resolution with real substance, let's resolve to take a stand for life. A stand to maximally promote human life in here and now and eternally, or at least a stand to lovingly expose the hypocrisy of those who say they support human life while working to minimize it.

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