

Highlands Newspaper

FREE Every Thursday

Volume 15, Number 47

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

Wednesday, Nov. 21, 2018



The suggested Main Street Plan submitted by NC DOT was nixed at last week's Town Board meeting.

Business owners turn out to hear and discuss proposed Main Street Plan

A social media diatribe about a proposed Main Street beautification design presented to the town by NC DOT, filled the community building last Thursday night with concerned citizens – some for the plan, some against.

For a few months now, at the suggestion of previous Town Planner Andrew Bowen, the town has been considering ways to green up Main Street without jeopardizing parking.

Once DOT announced it would be resurfacing Main Street beginning April 1, the Town Board realized that if something was to be done, it would have to be completed prior to April 1.

"We realized we needed to start looking quickly at this before DOT starting working," said Mayor Pat Taylor.

At the September Town Board meeting, commissioners discussed

•See MAIN STREET page 6

Love was in the air Saturday night

By Brian O'Shea

The Highlands Civic Center was packed with people clad in red on Saturday, Nov. 18 to show their emotional and financial support for Jackson Hall, a former Highlands School student fighting cancer.

Jackson Hall, son of Chuck and Jane Hall, is a graduate of Summit Charter School and a 2016

•See LOVE page 9

Community helps police nab B&E suspects

For more than a month now there have been a rash of breaking and enterings and burglaries at the Highlands Biological Center ranging from cash, tools, a motor vehicle and office and computer equipment.

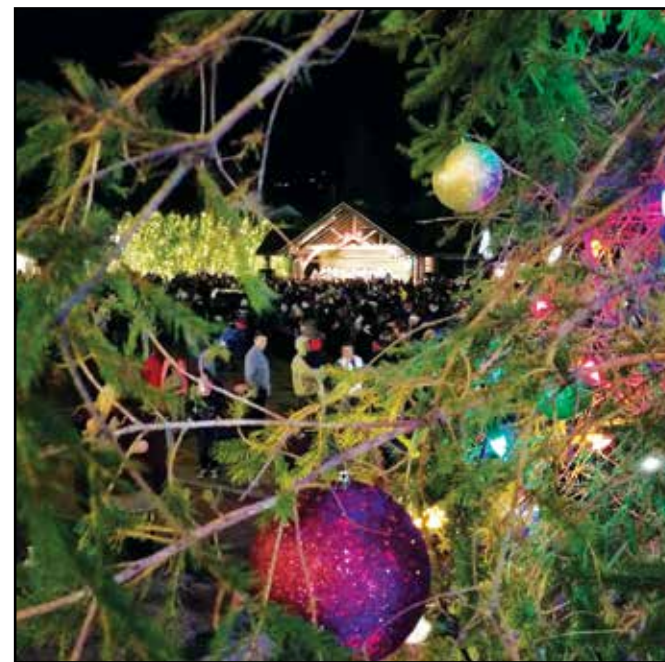
This week Highlands Police Chief Bill Harrell reported a break in the case with the arrest of two suspects in the case.

•See SUSPECTS page 22

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Saturday's annual tree lighting summons in Christmas season



Hundreds of people are expected at the Annual Tree Lighting held in K-H Founders Park on Pine Street where the newly planted Christmas Tree will take center stage. Festivities begin at 6:30 p.m. There will be caroling, cookies, hot chocolate and of course Santa. After the lighting Mr. & Mrs. Santa will be in their Christmas hut to hear wishes.

– Photo by Kim Lewicki

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• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• MAYOR ON DUTY •

On becoming a 'bear-smart' community

I wish everyone a happy Thanksgiving. It is a special day to be with friends and families, and

copious amounts of food and beverage will be consumed in Highlands. There will be no garbage pickup on Thanksgiving, but on Friday both the Thursday and Friday routes will be run. Please have your garbage out and in secure containers early Friday morning. The bears will also be out looking for turkey carcasses and leftover dressing, which leads me to the next issue.

The bear forum at the October Community Coffee with the Mayor was very informative. The Town Board and I wanted to know what citizens felt about the current problem of bears in Highlands. I will report back to the board on what I learned and heard at our December 13 meeting.

I came away from the forum thinking it is time for Highlands to become a Bear Smart Community. We now need to implement policies and ordinances that help us coexist and live with the bears. Such a plan would be good for our residents, businesses, visitors and also for the bears. Let me outline several initiatives that need to be implement-



Highlands Mayor
Patrick Taylor

ed as soon as possible.

First, the problem of bears rummaging through street trash cans has to be stopped. The board is already reviewing options. The bear resistant cans will be expensive and will have to be anchored to the sidewalks so the bears cannot overturn them. These containers will be heavy metal since they will be under assault by some 500-pound bears. I anticipate the board deciding to place these cans

on all public gathering properties, for example, Main and 4th streets, K-H Founders Park, the small park at Harris Lake, the Recreation Center and at the ball field.

The second initiative should address the problem of shared dumpsters. Wherever possible, I believe individual bins for each commercial user works best to deter bears. For businesses where larger amounts of food waste is being disposed, additional protocols may be required. Some merchants point out people dump residential garbage in their dumpsters. This new bin system, along with signs warning violators, or even cameras, may greatly curtail this problem.

A third initiative would require bear-resistant containers in residential areas. Some folks do the irresponsible act of putting their plastic garbage bags on the roadside on pickup day. That is a bear magnet practice. While bear resistant containers would greatly curtail the bear problem in neighborhoods, they are not cheap, about \$200 a piece. At the coffee forum I suggested residents could rent a bear-resistant toter from the town, or purchase their own.

Another part of being a bear-smart community is having ordinances concerning bear management. For instance, a residential customer who did not use a bear-resistant container would be warned, and their garbage would not be picked up. If that person continued to not use bear-resistant containers, citations and fines might be in order. The use of bird feeders and consciously feeding bears would also be areas where ordinances apply.

The most critical component of being a bear-smart community is education. As pointed out at the bear forum by Cynthia Strain of the B.E.A.R. Task Force, the town and community need to develop strategies to educate residents, businesses and visitors about proper bear management procedures.

• HIC'S VIEW •



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"yum, thanksgiving leftovers. A banquet of grub and good thoughts."

• OBITUARY •

Tom Lee Puchacz

Tom Lee Puchacz, age 59, died Nov. 13, 2018 after a valiant 5-year battle with cancer. Tom was born May 22, 1959 in Manchester, NH to Patty Louise Holmes and John Joseph Puchacz. He grew up ice fishing, boat fishing and cross-country skiing in his hometown and in 1987 he moved to Atlanta.

For many years, Tom was a beloved skydiving instructor in Warm Springs, GA and also performed many exhibition jumps into various sports arenas in the south.

Tom moved to the Highlands-Cashiers area of North Carolina with his new wife and

•See OBITUARY page 8

• WEATHER •

	Friday 11/23		Saturday 11/24		Sunday 11/25	
	Daytime	Overnight	Daytime	Overnight	Daytime	Overnight
Temp	41 F	32 F	50 F	32 F	54 F	35 F
RealFeel	40 F	27 F	54 F	33 F	58 F	35 F
Winds	4 g 6	4 g 5	3 g 5	4 g 6	4 g 6	6 g 11
T-Storms	0%	2%	20%	0%	1%	20%
Rainfall	0	0.92	0.3	0	0	0.32
Snowfall	0	0	0	0	0	0

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Highlands Newspaper

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Digital Media/Circulation - Jim Lewicki

Locally owned and operated by

Kim & Jim Lewicki

Adobe PDF version at

www.HighlandsInfo.com

265 Oak St., P.O. Box 2703,

Highlands, N.C., 28-741

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*“Not what we say about our blessings,
but how we use them,
is the true measure of our Thanksgiving.”*

W.T. Purkiser

A still life photograph featuring several pumpkins and gourds. In the foreground, a small, light-colored pumpkin with dark green stripes is tied with a piece of twine to a white, rectangular tag with a black border. The tag has the word "Thankful" written in a black, cursive script. The pumpkins are surrounded by green leaves and small red berries. The background is a soft, out-of-focus blue.

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...MAIN STREET from page 1

a plan involving triangular planters like the ones along the sidewalks, situated at the front of a few pull-through parking spots. This would render them closed to pull-throughs, but would preserve the space and be a place for a mature, tall tree to be planted.

"This is a continuation of last month's discussion at which time we were instructed to follow through with DOT to seek permission to implement our plan," said Commissioner Eric Pierson. "It didn't meet DOT's required setbacks, so their engineers came back with this other plan."

According to the Town Engineer Lamar Nix, DOT dismissed the town's plan without much discussion saying trees had to be a minimum of eight feet from the travel-way. The idea being that drivers could careen off the travel-way and hit a tree; an unlikely scenario said Commissioner Amy Patterson because drivers can't speed down Main Street and the trees would be buffeted with the concrete planters.

Instead, DOT submitted a plan that was circulated on social media causing an uproar of negative responses.

"I was getting messages on Facebook and getting emails from people outraged that Main Street would be losing parking places; saying cars will be backing into each other, but it sounds like the majority of the public, without understanding the plan, said 'Boom, cut it, we're done,'" said Commissioner John Dotson.

The plan submitted by DOT – the one they could get behind – involved a 4-ft brick sidewalk down the middle of Main from 3rd to 4th street and from 4th to 5th street. Along the left side of each walkway, 24-ft. long parallel parking spaces were situated which increased the number of parking spots on the Main Street by 12.

The issue that concerned people the most was the parallel parking spaces.

"Parallel parking scares most people," said Commissioner Amy Patterson, "plus, the parallel parking is on the left side of the street not the right which is the opposite of how we are taught in Driver's Ed."

Patterson, and others in the audience wondered if 24-ft. spaces were long enough for drivers to negotiate.

"They aren't long enough for a 22-ft vehicle to pull in to, so traffic will get congested while drivers try to figure out how to get in and out," she said. "It would destroy the traffic flow down Main Street."

In addition, Harry Bears and others said maneuvering out of the parallel spots would involve pulling out blindly; "having to look over your left shoulder."

Commissioners Brian Stiehler and Donnie Calloway as well as several citizens said to leave Main Street as it is.

"As you know I am all for trees, but if it's not broken, don't fix it," said Alice Nelson and Mike Bryson.

"People say we live in the most beautiful town they have ever seen. Why do we need to fix something? For the last 100 years, people who could go anywhere in the world chose to come to Highlands, so let's leave Highlands as beautiful as it is. Leave it alone," he said.

Commissioners Patterson and Dotson said they love the idea of more greenery on Main Street and cooling it off with shade but the problem with DOT's plan is the parallel parking particularly on the left side.

"I agree with Amy concerning the greenery on Main Street and shade but there has been a lot of misunderstanding and pushback and I am all for giving the public what it wants," said Dotson.

David Wilkes and Jerry Moore said they didn't like the

•See MAIN STREET page 7

DOGSPEAK

• REFLECTIONS FROM LORD BANJO •

Lord Banjo is thankful



It's doesn't take a holiday to make me thankful my Mum saw a last-minute Craigslist post about me. She scooped me up before I was taken to the Humane Society, and I've had a wonderful life ever since. For our Thanksgiving celebration this year, I don't know what Mum has planned, but I'm pretty sure she can't top last year's mountain trip. We started out with the usual suspects—Mum, Dad, the Royal Critter Sitter, and a few others.

Things got lively when Nurse Sarah-Anne, another favorite critter sitter, arrived with two friends. They got down on the floor with me, chattered away about my soft wavy fur, my big brown eyes, and how I'd perfected the Royal Belly Rub Position; and then they took me for a long walk in the cold crisp mountain air. I was in heaven.

Soon, the activity in the kitchen got frantic and loud. Folks called, "Can we put the veggies in the oven? Is the dressing warm enough? Is the gravy ready? Oh no, the rolls are burning!"

As if the noise level wasn't high enough, more guests arrived, bearing food and cocktails. My crew had already gotten into the wine, but suddenly, champagne and some kind of mule drink were on offer. I didn't know mules drank. We dogs don't, but we get a kick out of watching the antics of our peeps when they do.

Among the new guests were two boys, ages nine and six. Let me tell you; those boys didn't need cocktails to get them going, though they managed to remain calm at least through dinner. Seventeen people sat down for dinner, and in no time, it was over. The only problem I saw was that all the table scraps went into the garbage; none hit the floor where I might have been able to snag a few.

After dinner, folks got comfy in front of the roaring fire or returned to the table

for games. The game contingent was amazingly lively, but that youngest boy took the cake. He jumped, ran, dove into a pile of pillows, and did it all again. He'd pet me, then dart away. When his Mom asked whether I was good with kids, Mum replied, "Yes, but I don't think he's ever met one like yours!" By the

time his Granddad took him home, I was exhausted.

And, that's when I got in trouble. It wasn't my fault! The aroma of turkey scraps was too much for me so I snuck into the garbage. Boy, did that cause an uproar! Someone exclaimed, "Banjo's in the garbage," while the hostess worried I'd eaten turkey bones. Mum couldn't help laughing as she shooed me away and cleaned up the mess. I'm smart enough not to eat bones; I just licked up all the turkey juice I could find. Ummm, Ummm, good.

By then, it was bedtime and was I ever ready. I was so worn out; I didn't move from the bedroom rug all night and Mum had to wake me up the next day. I've come to the conclusion rambunctious youngsters are better suited for puppies than they are for mature Royal Dogs.

When Mum and Dad loaded me into the car to go home, I settled down to snooze. It took me several days to recover, but I'm still keen to see what fun Mum has in store this year. As long as the day includes cold weather walks, belly rubs, and turkey scraps, I'll be a happy boy. May your Thanksgiving be as happy as mine is sure to be.

PS. Please join me and Mum in Franklin Saturday Nov. 24 for the Tree Lighting. I'll be at Books Unlimited 5-8 pm.

• Write Lord Banjo and his mum Kathy Manos Penn at inkpenn119@gmail.com, visit kathmanospenn.com, and find "Lord Banjo the Royal Pooch" at Mountain Paws in Highlands and Books Unlimited in Franklin.

...MAIN STREET from page 6

middle walkway, either.

"I want to be able to pull through those spaces, so we don't have to go around like a merry-go-round to find a spot. Plus, the divider takes away access back and forth across Main Street. There are way too many liabilities. Please don't do this," said Wilkes.

Moore suggested it would affect po-

tential sales.

"People will be walking down the middle sidewalk instead of the sidewalks in front of our shops looking in the widows and seeing something they may not have known they wanted."

However, Thomas Craig had another

• See MAIN STREET page 9



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• BIZ/ORG NEWS •



From left: Tonya Anderson of the Literacy Council, Jerry Hermanson of the Community Care Clinic, Cindy Trevathan of R.E.A.C.H., Bonnie Potts of the Literacy Council, and Steve Ham and Knight Martorell of the Highlands Motoring Festival.
— Photo by Kim Lewicki

Highlands Motoring Festival distributes proceeds

Organizers of the Highlands Motoring Festival presented proceeds of this year's motoring festival to representatives of three charity partners. Net proceeds of \$40,000 was divided equally among three local charities; Literacy Council of Highlands, R.E.A.C.H. of Macon County, and the Community Care Clinic. The festival committee is now working on the 2019 Highlands Motoring Festival which will be held on June 6-9, 2019.

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...OBITUARY from page 2

baby in 1991 and began his career in home building and custom carpentry. Tom was employed by several local building contractors until he became co-owner of The Guys, Inc, working with Tim Greene & Associates in Cashiers, NC.

Throughout his cancer diagnosis, Tom kept his sense of humor (and his fishing license). He loved so many things about life, especially his family. He is survived by his two daughters, Danielle and Stephanie Puchacz, his former wife and friend, Jennifer Royce, of Scaly Mountain, NC; his brother, John Marcus Puchacz (Suzanne Marie) of Manchester, N; two nieces, Abbey Catmur (Ian) of Boston, MA, and Jill Bradley (Darrell) and their two children Patricia Mae and Frederick John Bradley, and many cousins in Manchester, NH.

A Remembrance was held earlier this week with family and friends, who will always love and remember him. Rest in peace, Tom.

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...LOVE continued from page 1



Jackson, on the right in the cap, with classmates who returned to support him.

— Photo by Brian O'Shea

graduate of Highlands High School and resident of Cashiers, NC. He is a freshman at Appalachian State University.

Hundreds of people from Highlands and Cashiers, and many of Jackson's high school friends who made the trip back from college to support him, attended the fundraiser over the weekend. Activities included a cake walk, live and silent auction, raffle tickets, and a dinner provided by On the Verandah. Businesses from all over the area donated items for the auction to raise money for Jackson's future treatment.

Jackson, who is not one to relish the spotlight or be the center of attention, was "blown away," at the show of support from his family and friends.

"This is amazing," said Jackson. "It really shows how special this community is. To know that this group of people is here supporting me through all of this, I never feel like I'm alone. This has really been a good boost for me."

In 2017, Jackson was diagnosed with a germ cell tumor of retroperitoneum and received treatment and later surgery at Wake Forest Baptist Hospital. In February 2018, there was evidence that the cancer had returned. After extensive treatment, cancer is still evident.

Jackson's mother, Jane, said that seeing the outpouring of support from the community has been incredible.

"It's overwhelming," said Jane. "To see the generosity and the love that has been shown to us by this community, it's absolutely overwhelming."

The fundraiser was spearheaded by Highlands High School math teacher Gina Billingsley, along with many other friends

and volunteers. One of Jackson's former basketball coaches, Bryan Dearth, said Jackson was always positive regardless of the outcome of a game.

"He's super fun," said Dearth. "He's always in a good mood, always has a smile on his face, and he'll give you 100 percent every day."

Dearth added that since graduating from Highlands School, Jackson has occasionally stopped by the old gym to say hello.

"He comes back from time to time, and that really makes you feel good," he said. "We obviously did something right because he still likes us. It's nice when players come back to check on you."

Highlands School reading and AIG teacher, Melanie Miller, remembers Jackson from his days in Highlands and how positive he was.

"He's such great kid," said Miller. "Always smiling and always friendly."

Miller added that once the idea for the fundraiser came to light it snowballed from there.

"All it takes is one or two people and we just go with it," she said. "And I just think we live in a community that believes in giving and helping others. I love being part of that."

Cord Strawn is a long-time friend of the Hall family and wanted to show his support. He said he was encouraged by the amount of people he saw in attendance.

"I think it's awesome to see the community come together like this," said Strawn.

If interested in donating, contact Gina Billingsley at 828-421-7645 or Andrea Chalker at 828-421-7121.

...MAIN STREET continued from page 7

view.

"Every day I think about what I can do better in this town for my business. This is an opportunity of doing something better. Is this the right answer? I don't know. Is it out of the ordinary? Yes. But I would discourage you from discounting this right out."

Craig said he saw a photo online of Park Rapids, MN's Main Street that was almost identical to what DOT submitted for High-

lands except it had four to five blocks of parallel parking on the left side of a walkway. He called the town manager and learned that it, too, is a resort town that is slammed in summer.

"He said locals avoid Main Street during the season, but it's worked as long as there have been cars. Don't lose this opportunity searching for perfect," he said. "Al-

•See MAIN STREET page 11





Performing Arts Center

Christmas

with the

Nelsons

Friday after Thanksgiving

8pm

Starring

Matthew & Gunnar Nelson

Highlands Performing Arts Center

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• HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

Ongoing

• Movies at the Playhouse: Fri. & Sat.: 1, 4 & 7pm; Sun.: 1 & 4pm; Mon. & Tues.: 1, 4 & 7pm
Through October
 • The Bookworm is having a 1/2 price sale. Located at the Falls on Main, next door to the Highland Hiker, open Monday-Saturday 10a – 4p.

First Mondays

• Shortoff Baptist Church non-denominational Men's Mtg at 7p.

Mondays

• At the Rec Park, High Cardio Zumba Fitness with Certified Instructor Tiffany Austin at 5:15 p.m.

• Hip Hop classes with

Ongoing

• Movies at the Playhouse: Fri. & Sat.: 1, 4 & 7pm; Sun.: 1 & 4pm; Mon. & Tues.: 1, 4 & 7pm

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• At the Rec Park, High Cardio **First**

Mondays

• At the Rec Park, High Cardio Zumba Fitness with Certified Instructor Tiffany Austin at 5:15 p.m.

• Hip Hop classes with Tori Schmitt at 5:30-6:30 at the Rec Park. Tori Schmitt at 5:30-6:30 at the Rec Park.

• Shortoff Baptist Church non-denominational Men's Mtg at 7p.

Mon. & Thurs.

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

Mon. & Wed.

• Gentle Yoga at the Rec park at 9:30. All levels welcome.

Mon., Wed., Fri.

• Heart Healthy Exercise Class Monday,

Wednesday and Friday 8:30am-9:30am.

• Aerobics with Tina Rogers 8-9a.

Mon., Wed., Thurs.

• Pickle Ball at the Recreation Department Gym 10:30am - 1pm

Tuesdays

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

• The Humanist Discussion Group meets from 10:30-11:30a in the Meeting Room in the back of Hudson Library,

• The Highlands Writers Group meets to read, workshop, or to just share information on writing, every Tuesday, 3pm-5pm, in the downstairs board room at The Bascom, 323 Franklin Road, Highlands, For more information, call 828-526-3190.

2nd and 4th Tuesdays

• OccupyWNC meets at the 7pm in the Sneak E. Squirrel Community Room (1314 Main St., Sylva. Visit www.occupywnc.org or call 828.331.1524

Third Tuesday

• The Macon County Poultry club meets to discuss topics related to raising backyard chickens. For more information please call 828-349-2046 or 828-369-3916.

Tuesday and Thursdays

• Exercise Class with Michelle Lane at 5:15. A combination class with many different styles of exercise at Rec Park.

Wed. - Sat.

• At Highlands Inn on Main Street held in the dining room, Afternoon Tea 2-4:30pm. Royal Tea: \$45; Classic Tea: \$35. Call 828-526-9380 for more information.

Wednesdays

• The Glenville Historical Society Museum is open every Wednesday through Saturday 11am to 3pm until October 13 at 4735 Highway 107 in Glenville next to Signal Ridge Marina. Go to www.glenvilleareahistoricalociety.com

First 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.

Wed. & Fri.

• Duplicate Bridge 12-4pm at Rec Park.

Thursdays

• Live music in OEI's The Wine Garden on Main Street. Zorki from 7-9 p.m.

• Storytime with Miss Deanna at Hudson Library 10:40 am. Open to the public.

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

• Hip Hop classes with Tori Schmitt at

6:30-7:30 at the Rec Park.

2nd Thursdays

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

3rd Thursdays

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

1st and 3rd Thursdays

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

Fourth Thursday

• At the Hudson Library, Kids Zone LEGO Club. Intended primarily for kids in grades 1-5, LEGO Club allows creativity and STEM skills to develop together as kids enjoy making LEGO creations.

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.

Sundays

• Live Music in OEI's Hummingbird Lounge 8 p.m. to close with Paul Jones.

Through Dec. 29

• At the Hudson Library, The Modern Quilt Guild of Franklin NC challenged their members to create a wall hanging to demonstrate and highlight Modern Quilting. The challenge chosen by the members consisted of a landscape image of the Franklin area and a fabric palette of seven colors. Each quilters wall hanging had to use six of the seven colors and reflect the Modern Quilt movement. Eleven quilt are displayed in the Community Room showing each persons answer to the challenge. Most interesting to see the differing results from each person even with the commonalities of color and reference.

Through Dec 30

• At The Bascom, interweaving Southern Baskets. The art of basketry, including examples of Native American works and fine art baskets.

Fri. -Sat., Nov. 23 - 24

• At The Bascom, Gingerbread House Workshop 10a-12 and 1-3p. All Ages. Gingerbread designers will find a world of all the sweets and confections needed to decorate imaginative gingerbread houses. Participants may enter their creations in a contest to be judged by popular vote. The winner will receive a Bascom gift certificate! \$50/house (The whole family can work on one house). Please note that due to changes in our suppliers product line, the gingerbread houses are

• See **EVENTS** page 12

Bryson's

FOOD STORE, INC.

Winter Hours • 7:30a to 6:30a

Extended Hours Wednesday, Nov. 21

7:30a to 7:30p

Open Thanksgiving Day: 7:30a to 4p

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Try one of our locally baked products including:

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- Kelly's Buttermilk Pies and Yeast Rolls

A Large Selection of Craft Beer and Wines available Case Discounts on Bryson's Jams & Jellies

Happy Thanksgiving!

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Nelson twins Christmas program is at PAC Friday

By Jenny King

How many of you remember the hit TV show, Ozzie and Harriet? Then you're probably familiar with their handsome son Ricky, the heartthrob rock star. You know the adage about apples falling from trees? Well, in this case it is 100% accurate. Ricky's twin sons, Gunnar and Matthew, are rock stars, television celebrities, and dedicated family men just like their dad.

On Friday, November 23 they will be performing a new show, Christmas with the Nelsons, at Highlands PAC. It is filled with traditional Christmas music, original songs, and lots and lots of reminiscing about their entire family.

Christmas with the Nelsons tells the story of three family Christmases in the lives of America's Favorite Family – The Nelsons. This heart-warming multimedia live concert experience stars the third generation of #1 Nelson Family hitmakers, Matthew and Gunnar. They've been thrilling sellout audiences worldwide for the past decade with their high-integrity Ricky Nelson Remembered show and their enthusiasm for this new production is infectious.

In speaking with Gunnar he wanted to make sure everyone knows this is not a holiday show - it is a Christmas show. He and his brother have wonderful memories of that time of year when all the family came together. "Our dad was the hardest working performer you've ever met. He loved rockin' and it wasn't unusual for him to do 300 shows a year; but he always made sure he was home at Christmas," he said.

They're also eager to come back to Highlands where they've performed to a SOLD OUT audience in 2012. Calling it "God's Country," they may just have their whole crew with them this year. Gunnar and Matthew are big fans of PAC Executive Director, Mary Adair Trumbly, and count her as one of the biggest reasons they're returning to Highlands.

Their Christmas show is one everyone will love with all new

sets of Christmas classic songs. They'll be introducing the newest generation of Nelson Family Kids who prove that, "Yes, we did in fact turn out to be just like our parents after all," he laughs.

Christmas with the Nelsons will be held on Friday, Nov. 23, 8pm at the Highlands Performing Arts Center on Chestnut Street in downtown Highlands. For ticket information visit highlandspac.org or call (828) 526-9047.



...MAIN STREET continued from page 9

ways strive to make things better."

Bill Edwards, a 75-year-old resident since 2002 said he doesn't parallel park because he doesn't do it well and suspects there are others just like him.

"Beautification is one thing, but parallel parking is a disaster waiting to happen. Don't vote for this NC DOT plan. It's not a good one," he said.

Mayor Pat Taylor said he heard what people were saying ... parallel parking is a non-starter.

In the end, the Town Board decided to do two things: resubmit the town's original plan to DOT and perhaps request a variance, and to have the town's Land Use Committee consider the ideas put forth by David Young and Bob Mills.

Young said he likes Main Street the way it is but suggested planting one tree between 4th and 5th streets, and two trees between

3rd and 4th streets.

"This would break up sight lines, making it look different while taking very little from parking [3 spaces]. This solves 80% of the issues for those who think we have a visual problem and eliminates 80% of the problems associated with the plan here tonight."

Mills suggested a tree or two down the two blocks of Main Street with parking around them specifically for motorcycles.

Initially, Michelle Bears was for more trees on Main Street, but said she has changed her mind.

"When we left the meeting in September, we turned right onto Main Street and there was something pleasant about seeing the storefronts lit up because we had a wide range view."

She said many times, since customers have an unobstructed

• See MAIN STREET page 28

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The Spice Girls' Thanksgiving Sides Ideas

With the hustle and bustle of Thanksgiving preparations upon us, the ladies of The Spice and Tea Exchange know the struggle to balance the comfort of family favorites while keeping things new and exciting. With this in mind, here are a few of our favorite seasonings to add zing to your holiday table.

Geared up Gravy

Use our Ultimate Umami spice blend to add a deeper, earthier flavor to your family's favorite gravy recipe.

Switch the Salt

Add a touch of elegance to any potato recipe by replacing the salt content with our Black Truffle Sea salt.

Similarly, our Celery Seasoning Sea Salt will add a light but distinct flavor to your favorite stuffing or dressing



Green Bean Casserole's New Best Friend

The fried onion rings atop the casserole are a must, but lend them a helping hand with our Onion Obsession Spice Blend; paired these two guarantee an empty dish.

Cozy Sweet Potatoes

Whether baked, in a pie, or in a casserole, sweet potatoes are a staple at every holiday table. Add our Autumn Harvest Spice Blend to compliment their flavor and bring out the warm tones of this favorite.

Happy Thanksgiving, from your Spice Girls on Main Street!

OPEN 7 DAYS

Mon-Thurs: • 10:30a to 5:30p

Fri-Sat: 10a to 6p • Sun: 11a-5:30p

...EVENTS continued from page 10

smaller for 2018. This leaves more room for creative landscaping!

Sat., Nov. 24

• Annual Christmas Tree Lighting and Caroling in K-H Founders Park on Pine Street beginning at 6 p.m.

Sat., Dec. 1

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

• Christmas Caroling at First Presbyterian Church at 1 p.m.



464 Carolina Way • YogaHighlands.com • 828-526-8880

MONDAY

Gentle Yoga Class 9am • Evening Yoga Class 5:30pm

WEDNESDAY

Intermediate Yoga Class 9am

THURSDAY, THANKSGIVING DAY

Gratitude in Motion Yoga Class 9am

FRIDAY

Gentle Power Yoga Class 9am

SATURDAY

All Levels Yoga Class 9:30am

All Levels Welcome • Experienced & Effective Teachers

• A BBQ lunch in Jones Hall at the Episcopal church from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. It's the third annual Food Pantries Christmas. For a \$10 donation per meal, you'll get a box containing a barbecue sandwich, beans, slaw and potato chips, plus a drink -- soda or water.

• At PAC, Mozart's The Magic Flute at 2pm. Live via Satellite featuring the Metropolitan Opera (NYC) with a pre-opera discussion 30 minutes prior. (After the Highlands Christmas Parade) Tickets are available online: www.highlandspac.org, at the door or by calling: 828.526.9047.

• At First Presbyterian Church, Smoky Mountain Brass Quintet Christmas Concert @ 4pm (admission is free)

• Chefs in the House at The Farm at Old Edwards. Parade night party with Pitmaster Rodney Scott.

Mon., Dec. 3

• The community is invited to attend a retirement celebration honoring Herbert Plauche, MD, on Monday, from 1 to 3 pm at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital in the Jane Woodruff Clinic, Third Floor Reception Area at 209 Hospital Drive in Highlands. Refreshments will be served. Guests are encouraged to park and enter from the 3rd floor. Please RSVP to Brittany Dryman at 828-526-1345. Dr. Plauche's long and rich career earned him a stellar reputation among his patients and great respect from his professional peers. He is a fifth-generation physician who graduated from the Louisiana State University School of Medicine in 1963. He started practicing in New Orleans in 1968 and came to Western North Carolina with his wife 20 years ago thinking he'd just continue working a few more years.

Thurs., Dec. 6

• Highlands School Winter Concert at 6 pm in Highlands School Old Gym. K-8 students will perform a mix of winter and holiday music.



After the parade, it's the annual Food Pantries Christmas

By Bill Lee

When Santa has passed and the Highlands Christmas parade is over, you're going to realize that it's lunchtime and that you and the family are hungry.

Not to worry. There's an easy solution -- the third annual Food Pantries Christmas.

Just stroll on down to the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation at 5th and Main for a barbecue lunch. You'll be helping out Highlands' two food pantries at the same time.

The parade this year is on Saturday, Dec. 1. The BBQ lunch will be served in Jones Hall at the church from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

For a \$10 donation per meal, you'll get a box containing a barbecue sandwich, beans, slaw and potato chips, plus a drink -- soda or water.

Every dollar raised at this event is split between the Highlands Food Pantry, affiliated with the International Friendship Center, and the Highlands Emergency Council Food Pantry. Last year, more than \$7,000 was raised.

• HS SPORTS •

Middle school basketball play Cullowhee Valley this week. The middle school boys lost 27-18 after a strong comeback. The girls also lost with a score of 25-0. Their next home game will be on Monday, November 26th. They will play Blue Ridge starting at 4pm. The girls will play first with the boys following directly after.

Highschool teams have both played a scrimmage to warm them up for their seasons. Both boys and girls played well. This helped them both prepare for the upcoming season. They will play their first game on November 28th in Hayesville. Their first home game will be on Friday, November 30th. They will play Franklin for their homecoming game where homecoming court will be recognized. Their games will start at 4pm with JV girls, JV boys following, then varsity girls, and finally varsity boys.



Kedra McCall

Now showing at The Highlands Playhouse
Friday 11/23 - Tuesday 11/27

BOHEMIAN RHAPSODY

Showtimes are:
 Friday & Saturday at 1, 4 & 7pm
 Sunday at 1 & 4pm
 Monday & Tuesday at 1, 4 & 7pm
 Tickets are \$10
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NOVEMBER 25:**
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until May
10am to 5pm

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Opens Friday, November 23rd at 9am

Discounts 20% to 60%
in all our shops and warehouses

Monday - Saturday: 9am to 5pm • Sunday: 10am to 5pm • Last Sunday Open: Nov. 25
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• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

Thanksgiving

By Bentley Manning

Episcopal Church of the Incarnation

According to a New York times article published a few years back, "Walmart, Kmart, Macy's, Target, RadioShack and many other major retailers are proclaiming that they will be open on Thanksgiving Day to make shoppers happy." In that same article a Walmart spokeswoman is quoted as saying, "We're in the service industry, and we're just like airports and grocery stores and gas stations that are open on Thanksgiving, so they can provide what customers need." The spokeswoman goes on to say, "We've been open on Thanksgiving for 20-something years."

Surely one of the things that binds people of faith together is a conviction that human beings are not first and foremost to be understood as consumers. Surely it isn't the decision of Walmart, Kmart, Macy's, Target, and Radio Shack to remain open on Thanksgiving Day that makes us thankful but rather we are a people whose hearts are made glad in the knowledge that we are created in the image of God. And maybe it is just this, this knowledge that we are first and foremost creatures before consumers, that we are drawn together to give thanks with all our being. To give thanks because we understand our very lives, our very existence, to be a gift from God - and not just our lives alone but all of humanity and the whole of creation. Everything is gift.

But how do we keep this truth before us? The truth that all that we have, our families, our Thanksgiving meals, the air we breathe, the earth we inhabit, the wheat and barley, the pomegranates, our very lives, everything, has been given to us by a good and generous God. How do we not forget this truth amidst the shopping, the cooking, the football, the tidying up, the preparations? How do we not forget the Lord God?

Over and over again, Scripture seems to suggest that thanksgiving is the key to not forgetting the Lord our God.

"Know this: The LORD himself is God; he himself has made us, and we are his; we are his people and the sheep of his pasture. Enter his gates with thanksgiving; go into his courts with praise; give thanks to him and call upon his Name. For the LORD is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his faithfulness endures from age to age." says the Psalmist. Give thanks to God, urges Saint Paul, "give thanks to God the Father at all times, and for everything - in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord."

St. Paul's conviction to give thanks at all times is pressed to its furthest limits by early church father St. John Chrysostom who asks if we are to show gratitude for all that happens to us? Answering his own question, he replies:

"Let us therefore give thanks not only for blessings which we see, but also for those which we do not see, and for those which we receive against our will. Let us not then give thanks only when we are in prosperity, for there is nothing great in this, but even if it be disease or poverty, for seen and unseen benefits, and for those which we receive against our will; but also whenever we are either in poverty, or in sicknesses, or are being insulted, then let us intensify our thanksgiving; thanksgiving, I mean, not in words, nor with the tongue, but in deeds and works, in mind and in heart; let us give thanks to Him with all our souls."

• See SPIRITUALLY page 22

Proverbs 3:5

BLUE VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH

Rev. Oliver Rice, Pastor (706) 782-3965

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

Sunday night services every 2nd & 4th Sunday at 7

Wednesdays: Mid-week prayer meeting: 7 p.m.

BUCK CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

828-269-3546 • Rev. Jamie Passmore, Pastor

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

CHAPEL OF THE SKY

Sky Valley, GA • 706-746-2999

Sundays: 10 a.m.; Worship

Holy Communion 1st & 3rd Sundays

CHRIST ANGLICAN CHURCH

Rector: Jim Murphy, 252-671-4011

464 US Hwy 64 east, Cashiers

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

Mon. 6p Bible Study & Supper in homes

CHRIST CHURCH OF THE VALLEY, CASHIERS

Pastor Brent Metcalf • 743-5470

Sun. 10:45am, S.S 9:30am. Wed. 6pm supper and teaching.

Tues. Guys study 8am, Gals 10am.

CLEAR CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Jim Kinard

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

1st & 3rd Sunday night Service: 7 p.m.

Wednesdays - Supper at 6 p.m.

COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH

www.cbchighlands.com • 526-4685

3645 Cashiers Rd, Highlands, NC • 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

Monday-Friday: Morning Prayer at 8:15a. Sundays: 8 am

Holy Eucharist Rite I; 9 am Sunday School; 10:30 am Holy

Eucharist Rite II. Childcare available at 10:30

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH HIGHLANDS

828-526-4153 • www.fbchighlands.org

Dr. Mark Ford, Pastor

220 Main Street, Highlands

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

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

Choir 5p

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Curtis Fussell & Emily Wilmarth, pastors

526-3175 • fpchighlands.org

Sun.: Worship & Communion: 8:30 & 11 a.m.; School: 9:30

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

Wednesdays: Choir: 6p

GOLDMINE BAPTIST CHURCH

(Off Franklin/Highlands Rd)

Sunday School: 10 am, Worship Service: 11 am

GRACE COMMUNITY CHURCH OF CASHIERS

Non-Denominational-Contemporary Worship

242 Hwy 107N, 1/4 miles from Crossroads in Cashiers

www.gracecashiers.com • Pastor Steve Doerter: 743-9814

Services: Sundays 10am - Wed. - 7pm; Dinner - Wed. 6pm

HAMBURG BAPTIST CHURCH

Hwy 107N. • Glenville, NC • 743-2729 • Pr. Nathan

Johnson

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

Wed. Kidsquest 6p.; Worship 7p.

John 3:16

• PLACES TO WORSHIP •

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.: Bible Study 10a; Morning Worship 10:45a., Evening

Worship, 6p. 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

Intercessory Prayer Ministry

HOLY FAMILY LUTHERAN CHURCH: ELCA

Chaplain Margaret Howell • 2152 Dillard Road • 526-9741

LutheranChurchoftheHolyFamily.yolasite.com

Sun: School and Adult discussion group 9:30 a.m.;

Worship/Communion: 10:30

HEALING SERVICE on the 5th Sunday of the month.

MACEDONIA BAPTIST CHURCH

8 miles south of Highlands on N.C. 28 S in Satolah

Pastor Zane Talley

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

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

MOUNTAIN SYNAGOGUE

at St. Cyprian's Episcopal Church, Franklin • 828-524-9463

MOUNTAIN BIBLE CHURCH

743-2583 • Independent Bible Church

Sun: 10:30 a.m. at Big Ridge Baptist Church,

4224 Big Ridge Road (4.5 miles from NC 107)

Weds: Bible Study 6:30 p.m.; Youth Group 6 p.m.

OUR LADY OF THE MOUNTAINS

CATHOLIC CHURCH

Rev. Father Casimir - 526-2418

Mass: Sun: 11 a.m.; Sat. at 4p

SCALY MOUNTAIN BAPTIST CHURCH

Rev. Marty Kilby

Sundays: School - 10 a.m.; Worship - 11 a.m. & 7

Wednesdays: Prayer Mtg.: 7 p.m.

SCALY MOUNTAIN CHURCH OF GOD

290 Buck Knob Road; Pastor Donald G. Bates • 526-3212

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

SHORTOFF BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Rev. Andy Cloer

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

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

COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH OF SKY VALLEY

706.746.3144 • 696 Sky Valley Way #447, Pastor Gary Hewins

Worship: Sun. 9 a.m., with Holy Communion the 1st & 3rd

Sun.; Tues: Community Supper 5:30 followed by Bible Study.

THE CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

1448 Highway 107 South, Office: 743-2359 • Rev. Rob Wood

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.

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP

85 Sierra Drive, Franklin • uufranklin.org

Sunday Worship - 11 a.m.

WHITESIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Rev. Sam Forrester/Cashiers

Sunday School: 10 am, Worship Service: 11 am

• BIZ/ORG NEWS •



Pictured from left are Thomas and Kay Craig, Phil Potts, Susan Smith and Bonnie Potts.

— Photo by Dale Gordon, Marketing & Project Manager, Highlands Area Chamber of Commerce

Highlands Chamber of Commerce hosts Annual Autumn Ovation

Each year, the Highlands Chamber of Commerce celebrates the successes of our business community with the Annual Autumn Ovation. During this celebration, guests are educated on the activities of the Chamber over the last year and are also given a taste of what is to come.

Additionally, three prestigious awards are given out to members and businesses, acknowledging their significant contributions to Highlands.

This year's event was hosted by Old Edwards at the newly renovated Fairview House, formerly The 4 ½ Street Inn.

Proprietor Greg McMullen was on tap to welcome guests and spoke to the construction and renovation of the historic property.

This year's award recipients were: Duke Power "Volunteer of the Year" Phil Potts; Del Roberts "Outstanding Business" Kay & Thomas Craig of The Ugly Dog Pub; Robert B. Dupree "Outstanding Community Service" Susan Smith and Bonnie Potts of the Literacy Council of Highlands.



From left: Officer Breedlove, Kevin Vinson-ABC Store General Manager, Mayor Pat Taylor, Rec Director Lester Norris, ABC boardmember Andy Chmar, Ann Koenig, boardmember Leslie Cook, and president of the board Rick Trevathan.

— Photo by Kim Lewicki

ABC Store distributes funds

By law, each year North Carolina ABC stores must give proceeds to nonprofits in their towns or counties. This year the Highlands ABC Store distributed \$75,000 to five organizations. The Town of Highlands General Fund got \$32,411.12; the Highlands School Scholarship Fund got \$15,022.13; the Highlands Recreation Dept. got \$16,452.81; the Highlands Police Dept. got \$4,630.81 and Counseling and Psychotherapy of Highlands got \$6483.14.

MOUNTAIN FRESH GROCERY DINNERS-TO-GO WINTER MENU 2018

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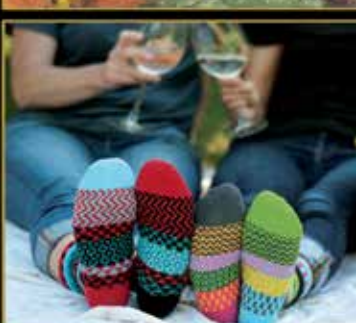
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• POLICE REPORT •

Highlands Police entries from Oct. 10. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor or public officials have been used.

Oct. 10

• At 10 p.m., officers received a report of damage to radios, tvs, vcrs, and

dvd players at a residence on Cullasaja Drive.

Nov. 1

• At 3:44 a.m., Bryan Dunn, 32 of Scaly Mountain, was arrested for DUI and possession of .5 grams of cocaine. He was issued a \$3,500 secured bond. This report

which appeared in the Nov. 15 edition, was resented by the Police Dept. On the original report, the amount of cocaine listed was incorrect. The police originally listed it as .5 oz, and it has since been amended to .5 grams.

Nov. 9

• At 10 a.m., officers responded to a call of a breaking and entering at a residence on Wyanoak Road where a Husquavara chain saw valued at \$750 was taken.

• At 11 a.m., officers received a report of a missing vehicle from Main Street.

Nov. 10

• At 2:30 a.m., officers responded to a one-vehicle accident on Horse Cove Road.

Nov. 11

• At 8:42 a.m., officers received a report of larceny and damage to property at the Highlands Biological Sta-

tion where numerous computers and accessories were taken, in addition to 5-seat ATV and cameras valued at about \$20,000.

• At 11:50 a.m., officers responded to a one-vehicle accident on Pine Street.

Nov. 12

• At 8 a.m., officers received a call about a flat bed trailer being stolen from the paring lot on Helen's Barn Ave.

• At 7 p.m., Kendra Morgan Noland, 26 of Waynesville, was served an outstanding warrant for larceny charges and probation violation.

Nov. 14

• At 11:50 a.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident on NC 28 near Church Street.

• At 11 a.m., Christopher Scott Flowers, 33, of Highlands, was arrested on an outstanding warrant and for resisting arrest. He was issued at \$5,000 secured bond. His trial date is Dec. 4.

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Thursday, December 13 at 7 pm, Highlands PAC

Monday, December 17 at 7 pm, Cashiers Library

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• WORD MATTER •

Division and Anger



Bud Katz

It sometimes seems our nation has never been as divided as it is today. Now, the Civil War notwithstanding, America in late 2018 is, in fact, extremely divided, and extremely angry. I'm more concerned with the anger.

These days, many Americans on both sides of the political spectrum wake up angry at one thing or another. There isn't, it seems, any middle ground to be found.

It's head-shaking stuff. Why can't we disagree on something without it leading to the end of a relationship?

And, why are so many of us so angry?

Psychologists tell us human beings often are angry at conditions over which they feel they have no control.

Change, of course, and the pace of change, is a big reason people sense a loss of control.

About 20 years ago, I refereed a public discussion involving what it means to be liberal or conservative. The panel contained avowed, smart, doctrinaire people from both sides of the conversation. I came away with the distinct feeling that, when it's all boiled down, the underlying difference between liberal and conservative thinking involves comfort or distress regarding change. Liberals, progressives, as they like to be called today, seemed more willing to embrace change. Conservatives seemed much less comfortable with change. At least regarding that session, all six of those involved, plus the moderate moderator, weren't consumed by anger. I fear the same would not be the case if we tried a similar exercise today.

A friend of mine reminded me that America experienced a change of enormous magnitude in 2008 when, for the first time in our history a man of color was elected president. My friend also suggested the prospect, or fear, of a woman being elected right on the heels of a person of color, was simply too much change too fast for a large swath of us to even consider.

But, when you think about it we've always been divided. We haven't always been quite as angry as we are today, but that may be more a function of how we communicate, how we obtain information, and the relative veracity of that information.

We were extremely divided during both Obama administrations. There was enormous division over wars in Iraq and

Afghanistan during George W. Bush's administrations. The Clinton administrations were a laboratory of divisiveness, resulting in his impeachment by an angry House of Representatives.

These days, the anger and division in our country feel to me more like the late 1960s. There was highly organized, angry resistance to the Vietnam War. Battle lines were drawn over civil and women's rights.

In case you weren't there, it wasn't pretty.

The early 1970s gave us Watergate, which gave us the resignation of Richard Nixon. Other finger-pointing exercises occurred over long lines at gas stations, hostages in Iran, arming the Contra rebels in Nicaragua, our invasions of Grenada and Panama ... the list is long.

I remember those days. Most of us lived through all or part of those days. Those were not 'good old days.'

So, here we are, again ... angry and divided. Is it different? Not that much. Perhaps the tone and polarization are greater than events from our tumultuous past, but not that much.

Granted, dishonest and disingenuous political demagoguery feeds this anger, as does hyper-partisan cable "news," and the impersonal nature of social media, which has impacted our lives only for the last decade.

Regardless of what one attributes it to, anger and division in America today is as real as it ever was. An otherwise off-handed comment or remark can easily result in an angry shouting match, or something much, much worse.

Some division, difference of opinion or perspective, but without all the anger, is necessary in a healthy, functioning democracy. If we all thought the same about everything we'd be living boring lives, or we'd be living in North Korea or Saudi Arabia. No one wants that.

Change is, and always will be with us. We can regulate the pace of it in our society but it's always with us.

At the root of things, though, the only way out of the polarizing times in which we find ourselves is for all of us to stop believing anger is an answer for anything.

A better solution is for all of us to demand that our leaders do something they've not done for a while; negotiate, compromise, and in so doing, LEAD us out of these angry and dangerous times.



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• FINANCIAL MATTERS •

What to do with your money when you change jobs?

If you are preparing to change jobs, do you know what your choices are for managing the money in your current employer's retirement plan? Although many people choose to take a cash distribution, there are other options that may benefit you more.

Uncle Sam Loves Cash Distributions

Taking a lump-sum cash distribution may trigger an immediate 20% federal withholding tax. In addition, a 10% additional tax may apply if you are younger than age 59½. Taking your money as a cash withdrawal also means that you'll no longer enjoy the potential benefits of tax deferral that a qualified retirement plan offers.

Depending on your circumstances, you may have several options (or a combination of options) that will allow you to maintain the tax-deferred status of your retirement plan assets:

- **Leave the money in your former employer's plan.** Your former employer must allow you to leave the money where it is as long as the balance exceeds \$5,000. You'll no longer be able to contribute to the account, but you'll still decide how the existing assets are invested.

- **Roll over the money to your new employer's plan.** By "rolling" the money



Michael P Henderson, CFP®
Certified Financial Planner™

directly to your new plan, you may avoid the taxes that could eat away at a cash distribution. You'll also have only one set of investments to monitor. Even if you're not immediately eligible to contribute to the plan at your new job, you may still be able to roll over the money right away.

- **Roll over the money to an IRA.** If your new employer doesn't offer a retirement plan or you aren't yet eligible to participate, you might roll over the money

directly to a traditional IRA. Again, you might avoid taxes that you'd incur if you took a cash distribution and still enjoy the potential benefits of tax deferral. Experts advise against commingling your retirement plan assets with other IRAs you may have set up. Instead, consider opening a separate IRA account, known as a "conduit IRA," which may allow you to move the funds to a new employer's retirement plan at a later date.

Research Your Options

If you plan to change jobs, don't just take the money and run. Since rules vary from company to company, find the time to explore your alternatives. If you have specific questions about your retirement plan distribution options, contact your employer's benefits coordinator or a qualified financial consultant.

Source/Disclaimer:

If you're age 55 or older and separate from service, the 10% additional tax might not apply for certain periodic withdrawals taken from an employer-sponsored retirement plan. Keep in mind that the 10% additional tax may be incurred on distributions taken from an IRA prior to age 59½.

The opinions voiced in this material are for general information only and are not intended to provide specific advice or recommendations for any individual.

- *Investment advice and financial planning services offered through Collaborative-WEALTH® - an SEC Registered Investment Advisor; Securities offered through LPL Financial - Member FINRA/SIPC and separate business entity.*



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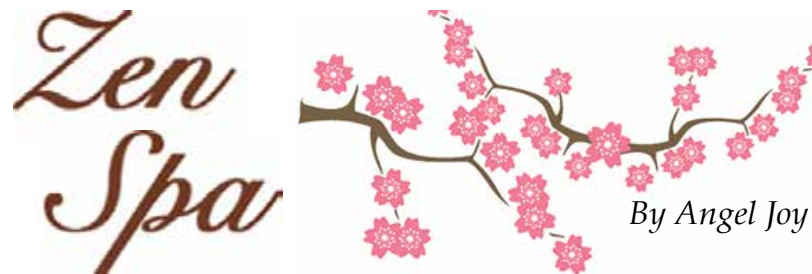


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By Angel Joy

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Hank Miller
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out as a fitness professional.

He was a frail man unable to walk on his own. He had a personal assistant who drove him to the fitness center and I would meet him out front. He did not want to use his walker to come inside so his assistant and I would each take an arm and laboriously escort him into the building. There was very little he could do physically as he had a heart condition and extreme kyphosis which curved his upper spine and shoulders terribly forward, along with

painful hip issues and more. I was reluctant to work with him but decided after approval from his physician that limited movement was beneficial for him, especially for his mental attitude. It gave him something to regularly look forward too. At the end of our first year working together he said to me, "Hank, I would give every dollar I have to have what you have."

As a recently divorced father sharing a little rental home with my teenage daughter things were very tough financially. Here was a billionaire telling me he would trade everything for what I had. I asked him, "What do I have that he could possibly want?" He said, "You have your health. I would give everything for the chance to sit on the floor and play with my grandchildren. I would love to dance with my wife and I would I really love to swing a golf club again."

At that moment I realized that I was extremely wealthy.

I was grateful for having met this man. I was grateful for my health. This Thanksgiving I am going to honor his memory and my great blessing of physical health by taking care of myself with moderate eating and exercise before, during and after Thanksgiving. I am recommitting to promoting these ideals in my clients, family and friends through example and encouragement. Please join me by being proactive and taking care of your most valuable asset. Happy Thanksgiving.

• Hank is a local fitness trainer specializing in the age 50 and over population He is certified by The American College of Sports Medicine as an Exercise

Physiologist, Certified Cancer Exercise Trainer and is a licensed NC Massage therapist specializing in Therapeutic Stretching. Email: hank@thebestexercise-

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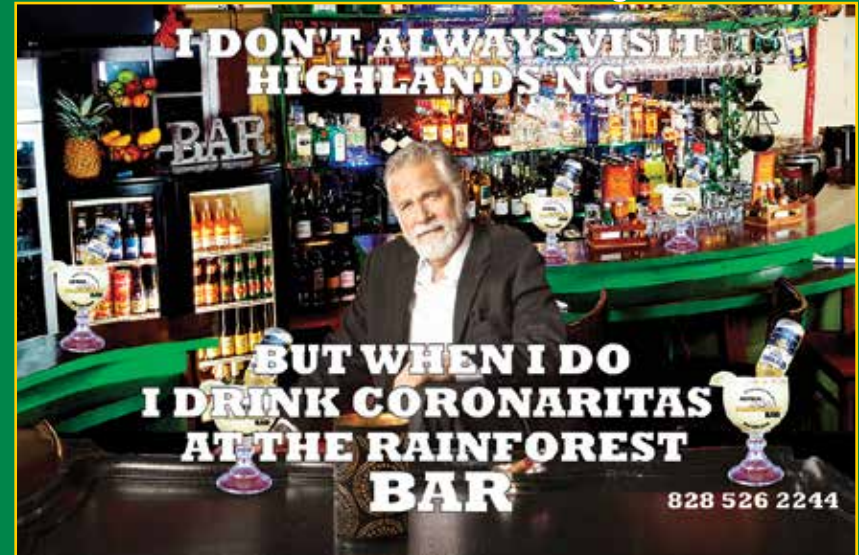
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• BUSINESS / ORGANIZATION NEWS •

Clearpath Business Brokers and Advisers debuts

Dana Smith and Don Reynolds are pleased to announce the formation of Clearpath Business Brokers and Advisers in Highlands, NC.

The firm focuses on facilitating successful exits or acquisitions of profitable companies

which are located in SE US resort markets.

These businesses are unique and quite different from typical main stream markets.

A successful exit or acquisition is a dream and/or a life time of equity accumulation being

transferred. The management of such transactions requires a great deal of industry knowledge, confidentiality, along with professional relationships.

"Dana and I saw a real need in this unique Resort Segment to offer business brokerage services and

consultation, and decided to build a firm that works exclusively and full time within it.. We are pleased to be located in Highlands, a true resort community and community where we have experience," said Reynolds.

Dana Smith brings over 35 years of relevant business experience, with a emphasis on the service sector and retail to the firm. Dana also owns BCNC Investments, which brokers smaller business in traditional markets. Dana also has interest in other small businesses in WNC.

Don Reynolds, most recently served as Managing Partner for Mountain Fresh Grocery in Highlands, NC, and helped to facilitate the successful exit of the company. He brings over 35 years business experience, concentrated in the Hospitality and retail segments to Clearpath, and holds interest in real estate ventures.

The firm's contact information is: www.clearpathbrokers.com; PO Box 2378, Highlands, NC 28741; 828-342-4819 Don Reynolds

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at Highlands Country Club

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Dec. 25

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"It came without ribbons. It came without tags. It came without packages, boxes, or bags. Maybe Christmas doesn't come from a store.

Maybe Christmas means a little bit more."

- How the Grinch Stole Christmas, by Dr. Seuss

...SUSPECTS continued from page 1

"The essence of the Highlands Police Department's Mission Statement, "To provide a safe environment for all citizens through the collective contributions of the community. Pride and integrity reflect our dedication to community values" could not have been more prevalent than over the past few weeks," said Harrell.

Harrell said his officers and the Highlands community collaborated regarding the B&Es at the Highlands Biological Station on Horse Cove Rd and 6th Street.

"Information from the community provided sustainable leads that were developed and relentlessly investigated by officers, followed by numerous interviews leading to the identification of two suspects, Adam Paul Green 31, and Joan Beck Hobbs, 49, (who as of press



Adam Paul Green



Joan Beck Hobbs

time is still at large).

Other persons of interest are still being hunted and investigated which may lead to more persons being directly involved, said Harrell.

Current charges include multiple counts of B&E, felonious larceny, possession of stolen goods, possession of a stolen motor vehicle, aid and abetting larceny.

Happily, most of the stolen properties have been recovered.

"It is unfortunate that every case cannot produce such results, but I'm certainly proud of this investigation and to serve the Highlands community effectively, especially with the conviction and collaboration of its citizens on this case," said Harrell.

• See this week's police report on page 18.

...SPIRITUALLY continued from page 14

Let us give thanks, then, not first and foremost as customers and consumers made happy by enticing deals and an ever-expanding Black Friday but as a people created in the image of a good and generous God.

Everything is gift, even life itself, and nothing could be more important or pressing than to name those blessings and to offer joyful thanksgiving to our Lord God. Indeed, all of life is a gift.

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Letter to a First-Time Visitor

If you can live anywhere in the world, why not choose the Highlands Plateau in Western North Carolina?

With the lowest crime in the world, the best air quality possible, one of the most temperate climates on 70% land owned by The National Forest and a plethora of cultural opportunities, why would you not be one of the happy residents who have chosen Highlands and Cashiers as their second home or primary nest?

Situated at 4,118 feet, Highlands, North Carolina is a breathtaking destination on the southern plateau of the Blue Ridge Mountains only two hours from bustling Atlanta. The vibrant mountain village, with breathtaking vistas, waterfalls and primeval forest, draws visitors from around the world. Stroll

along Main Street to unique shopping, dining, museums, arts and entertainment. Baron's named Highlands on of the Top 20 Places for Second Homes in the entire United States. Embrace the mountain spirit with live music, theater and art galleries in one of America's Top Twelve Small-Town ArtPlaces. Discover spectacular mountain trails for biking, hiking and horseback riding, and sparkling lakes and rivers for tubing, canoeing, fly fishing and whitewater rafting. Play some of the best golf in North Carolina at several prestigious country clubs in the area.



Jody Lovell
828-526-4104
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Nearby is Cashiers, North Carolina, the beautiful village famously known as "The Heart of The Blue Ridge Mountains." This singularly unique geography and temperate rain forest boasts hundreds of waterfalls, quiet lakes and stone mountains. The whole area is prized for its four distinct and wonderful seasons without the drastic temperature swings. Summers are 20 degrees cooler than the surrounding areas of the southeast.

Home to The Old Edwards Inn and Spa named by Conde Nast as one of the Top Hotels Spas in the United States, you

will find refined elegance amidst natural beauty.

My husband, Wood, I live full-time in Highlands leaving the Atlanta rat race behind 18 years ago. We love this paradise more each year. Come for a visit and stay for the season or a lifetime. Welcome to the most special place on earth! We give thanks for finding and belonging to such a wonderful community.

• Jody and her husband, Wood, Lovell own Highlands Sotheby's International Realty with three office locations across the Plateau with more than 30 brokers who can attend to your real estate needs. Call them at (828) 526-4104 or (828) 526-8300.



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- From all of us at Highlands Sotheby's International Realty

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5 Bedroom 5 bath home located at HCC. Usable lot with lovely landscaping. Seller has golf membership. 45 KW Generator. Sophisticated irrigation system which allows full property irrigation and a 19 station window and deck flower box irrigation drip system. Offered at \$1,495,000. mls #85242



Step into your own charming world with this civilized yet totally private compound of 7 plus acres located off Flat Mountain Road. High quality finishes great scales and exceptional taste, 1 bedroom, 2 baths, a perfect cozy getaway! Offered at \$625,000. mls #89730



This rustic style cabin on the creek is sold completely turnkey with everything you need to begin living your mountain dream! Includes attractive furniture, dishes, towels, sheets, tv and much more! The home is in excellent condition. Easy lock-and-leave, private well, easy paved access in a safe, quiet neighborhood. Offered for \$139,900. MLS#89697



This family house is located on the 5th green. Golf course view from the wrap around deck with a mid-century modern feel. Open living room with fireplace. Stone patio off back side with small yard. Kitchen and butlers kitchen for great entertaining. Master and guest on main level. Lower level has spa area, living room, bedroom and bath. nice storage and workshop. Offered at \$995,000. mls #84068



3 Bedrooms, 3 baths in Flat Mountain Estates. New granite kitchen, stone fireplace. Large screened porch and open deck. Beautiful home in great location priced to sell at \$369,000. mls #89771



3br/3bath updated home is short walk to Harris Lake. Updated kitchen and baths. Metal roof, (2014). Central heat and air: Both systems like new, used less than one month. Basement encapsulation just completed. (2018). Paved driveway. View of Sunset Rock from the sweet rocking chair siten porch. Offered for \$375,000. MLS# 89639



Lovely Mountain 3 BR 3BA. Large open living/dining combined, vaulted ceilings with beautiful original stone fireplace. Open kitchen, sun room, large bedroom with en suite bath, and full bath for guest. Downstairs has two bedrooms, and one bath with bonus room. Wrap around and covered deck. Also downstairs patio and lovely rolling walkway to lake. Offered at \$425,000. mls #89581



Located in Scaly Mountain, this great starter home sits on over 3 acres, and has residential or commercial possibilities, Sub-dividable with multiple wells. The possibilities are endless! Offered at \$110,000. mls #87562



Off Bowery Road. Master bedroom has double baths, that meet through a connecting shower, and a large walk-in closet. Upstairs has two guest bedrooms with a connecting bath. The massive decks boast some of the best views in the area. On over 3 acres with a water feature and manicured grounds. Offered at \$1,995,000. mls #88886



This charming home has been completely remodeled. Great location in the town of Highlands, close to the Highlands Country Club. Home is on one level with screened covered porch and fenced yard. Two-car garage. Lower level has a small apartment with private entrance. Offered at \$575,000. mls #86318



Located on the 5th Fairway, this great family home has an open floor plan and updated finishes. 3 bedrooms on main level with lower level finished area giving an additional family room and two additional bedrooms. Wonderful covered porch and an excellent value in Highlands Falls Country Club. Attached double garage. Offered at \$595,000. mls #88444



Immaculate home with granite counters and custom cabinets in the kitchen, updated tiled bathrooms, large sunroom, hot tub room double garaget. A lush green lawn and landscaping with creeks, fences, and fire pits, a 30X36 Morton barn complete with workshop. Offered at \$695,000 MLS # 85747



Flat Mtn. Estates. Just renovated and move in condition with this 3 bedroom 2 bath located on a flat landscaped lot in Flat Mountain estates. Old Highlands charm with the pine paneling and native stone fireplace. Offered at \$465,000. mls #89021



Check out this great condo in Village Walk. This unit has exceptional finishes as it was the model unit and has been owned by 2 designers. 3 bedrooms, 3 baths with great screened porch. It is also not in the flood plain so it is excluded from needing flood insurance. Offered at \$799,000. mls#88576



Brand new and walk to town from Wilson Road this 3 bedrooms including 2 master suites 3.5 bath home complete with garage, outdoor porch and lovely stream. Still time to pick your own color choices. 2018 Completion. Lots of storage over garage and inside climatized storage off upstairs master suite. Separate upstairs and downstairs HVAC. Foam insulation. Fully enclosed crawl space with concrete floor, creek in back yard. Offered at \$999,000. mls #87193

• BIZ/ORG NEWS •

Wanda Klodosky joins

Highlands Sotheby's International Realty

Highlands Sotheby's International Realty is pleased to announce the addition of Wanda Klodosky to its growing team of top-producing brokers on the Highlands/Cashiers Plateau. A well-respected and high-performing producer, Wanda has established herself as a highly motivated professional with a keen eye to detail providing an exceptional experience with all of her transactions.



Wanda Klodosky

and negotiator and fostered the attention to detail that she utilizes daily while working with her valued real estate clients.

The holder of several Realtor designations including Accredited Buyer's Agent and Resort and Second Home Specialist, Wanda is constantly striving to provide the best and most complete service possible to her clients.

Wanda Klodosky has loved the Highlands area since her first visit with college friends in 1971. Her permanent move here with her family in 2009 has only increased her affection and appreciation for the area.

Wanda began her real estate career in midtown Atlanta in 1999 and has been working as a respected real estate professional since. Before her real estate career, her experiences as a National Sales Manager and Customer Service Supervisor gave her a solid background in creating her career as a caring and knowledgeable client advocate

Highlands Sotheby's International Realty spans the Plateau from Highlands to Lake Toxaway with a team of thirty brokers and are the top-producing firm in Highlands based on results from the Highlands/Cashiers Multiple Listing Service. The firm will exceed \$100 million in sales in this current year alone.

You can reach Wanda at Highlands Sotheby's International Realty by email at wandakl@highlandsmtnre.com or mobile at 404.550.4364. She is ready and waiting to be your partner in buying or selling your mountain property.

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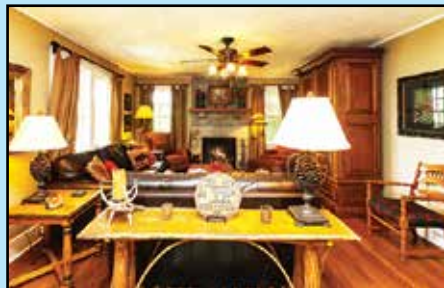
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\$969,000 • MLS 88948

One of the best views anywhere around. Short drive to town on the Atlanta side of town. On 10 acres with more available. Recent upgrades and updates. 478 Hickory Knut Gap Road. Bert Mobley 828 200-0846.



Now \$1,015,000 • MLS 86701

In-town with a creek in the backyard. Virtually new with open floor plan and many desired features. Two-car garage with level entry. And best of all: WALK-TO-TOWN. 134 Laurelwood Lane. Bert Mobley 828 200-0846.



\$1,349,000 • MLS #89742

This in-town 5 bedroom, 5 bath home is sited on 1.65 acres with panoramic mountain views. Some of the many features include 3 fireplaces, antique hardwood floors, Pennsylvania style floor stencils, exposed antique pine beams, large covered screen porch, backyard patio with waterfall, and a bocce ball court. 7 Worley Road, Highlands. Cathy Garren 828-226-5870.



\$2,400,000 • MLS #89293

Gorgeous home in prestigious Wade Hampton is sited on 8 acres and positioned to enjoy the panoramic mountain views. 5 bedrooms, 5 1/2 baths on 3 levels with 3 living room areas, 2 decks, open floor plan, a screen porch, 2 fireplaces and firepit area. Being sold furnished with a few exceptions. 191 Sassafras Trail (Wade Hampton), Cashiers. Cathy Garren 828-226-5870.



\$2,799,999 • MLS #88351

This mountaintop estate is sited on 7.22 acres bordering USFS with panoramic mountain views. Custom built 6 bedrooms, 5 baths, 2 half baths – main and guest house, plus a 4-car garage. Being sold furnished with a few exceptions. Paved and gated access. 224 Knob Hill Road Highlands. Cathy Garren 828-226-5870



\$949,000 • MLS # 87952

Flash sale: The million dollar view for less than a million if under contract by 12/31/18. furnished. Across from all the amenities of Cullasaja Club. 158 Overlook Villas Way. Jody Lovell 828-526-4104.



\$330,000. MLS #89478

One level living in town on 1.24+/- acres with public utilities. Perfect cabin in the woods with wood burning fireplace, 2 bedrooms, 2 baths, and den or office space. Covered private screen porch joins living room with ample kitchen and single carport. 665 Hickory Hill Road, Highlands. Molly Leonard 828-371-1155.



\$1,198,500 • MLS #88796

On Big Bear Pen Mountain the property offers views of the waterfall at Highlands Falls CC & Whiteside Mtn. 3 BR, 3.5 bath main house has wood floors, 2 stone wood-burning fireplaces and Great Room. The master suite is on the main level with 2 BRs upstairs and a guest cottage. Covered deck with fireplace overlooks gardens. 80 Margaret's Lane, Highlands. Molly Leonard 828-371-1155.



\$439,000 • MLS #87435

Downtown Highlands, steps from Main St. Totally renovated (flooring, paint, lighting, HVAC) two-level retail space with front deck, two large display windows, attractive display space and parking space ownership. Carolina Way, Highlands. Nancy Plate 828-226-0199.



\$2,795,000 • MLS #89437

This is undoubtedly one of Trillium's finest, 5 BR | 6.5 BA Arts and Crafts home. This home will leave you spellbound with 180 degree long range mountain and Lake Glenville views. Bring your boat, friends and children for a fun day on the lake or enjoy the numerous amenities offered in this family community. 1298 Links Drive, Cashiers. Sheryl Wilson 828-337-0706.



\$950,000 • MLS #89642

This beautiful 4 bedroom, 3 bathroom home has loads of charm and curb appeal and is located less than one mile from the downtown. Finished basement with a great room, fireplace, kitchen, large bedroom and full bath. 72 Zermatt Circle, Highlands. Sheryl Wilson 828-337-0706.



\$695,000 • MLS #89751

Nestled in a private setting in the heart of Trillium Links, this upper level 3 bedroom, 3 bath town home has an open floor plan with a large living and dining area. Covered back deck. 125 Springhouse Drive, Unit 311B., Sheryl Wilson 828-337-0706.

...MAIN STREET continued from page 11

view, they hear them calling and waving back and forth to each other.

"So, that is nice. I'm not so sure we need the trees anymore."

Commissioner Patterson wants to push for the original design because it takes care of everything: more trees, no loss of parking, which like the parallel parking design is a

non-starter for merchants, and there will still be plenty of pull-through spaces left.

Mayor Taylor said the town will make its decision based on the feedback at the land use meeting which as always is open to the public. The date will be advertised.

— Kim Lewicki

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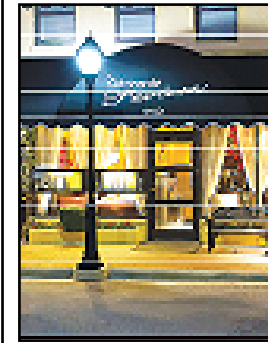
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