

Highlands Newspaper

FREE Every Thursday

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Thursday, Jan. 10, 2019

Local shares eyewitness account of Highlands

In the January 3 edition of Highlands Newspaper, the legend of Highlands' Moccasin War was told as recounted by Highlands Historian Ran Shaffner in the story "Highlands' Moccasin War to live on."

Shaffner had requested and been granted permission by the Highlands Town Board to promote the historical event as part the Legends and Lore program first launched in New York State.

A sign marking the place of the war on Main Street will be put in the planter at Main and 4th Streets.

Shots were fired across Main Street from north to south from where Madison's Restaurant/Acorns is now to Highlands Inn.

Upon reading the piece, Highlander Allen Reese offered to share a piece from his grandfather Joseph Walter Reese's diary of his life in and around Highlands.

"My great-grandparents (Robert "Bob" Walter Reese) along with 4-year-old Walter Reese, (Joseph Walter Reese) my grandfather, lived on Main Street in 1885 near where Old Edwards

•See MOCCASIN page 19



Highlands police officer Eryn Sueyklang wearing the Body Cam.

— Photo by Brian O'Shea

Body Cams are newest tool in the Highlands Police Dept. arsenal

By Brittney Lofthouse

The Bureau of Justice Statistics reported that by 2016, nearly 50 percent of all law enforcement agencies in the country had acquired body-worn cameras (BWCs). That figure is predicated to be closer to 60 percent now as more federal and state funds have become available for agencies to purchase the equipment.

The Highlands Police Department

utilizes both BWC and in-car cameras for their patrol vehicles. According to Highlands Police Chief Bill Harrell, his department has utilized cameras since 2015.

The main reasons, according to the Bureau of Justice Statistics, that local police and sheriffs' offices had acquired BWCs were to improve officer safety, increase evidence quality, reduce civilian com-

•See BODY CAM page 6

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Macon County agencies are feeling the impact of the government shutdown

By Brittney Lofthouse

As of today, the federal government has been partial shutdown for 20 days. Federal employees are either working without pay or not working at all — all while Congress and President Donald Trump continue to fight over funding for a border wall between the United States and Mexico.

With negotiations not budging on either side, the impact of the government shutdown is starting to be felt locally.

Over the weekend, REACH

of Macon County, which provides assistance and shelter to domestic violence victims, released a statement that said because of the shutdown, crucial funding for the shelter -- where 15%-20% of clients served are from the Highlands area -- was no longer available and without the public's help, the future was uncertain.

"The federal government shut down is real and has immediate impact right here in our local community, for our agency

•See SHUTDOWN page 10

Vaping is officially 'out' at Macon County Schools

By Brittney Lofthouse

Highlands School Principal Brian Jetter said that the issue of vaping/juuling isn't currently evident at Highlands school, but according to the Macon County Board of Education, other

schools have experience issues which resulted in a new policy being implemented.

With vaping/juuling and e-cigarettes usage increasing at Franklin High School, members

•See VAPING page 10

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• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• MAYOR ON DUTY •

Winter Storm Diego cleanup is still underway

The recent winter storm was probably the most severe since the famous 1993 blizzard. It pounded the plateau with a combination of freezing rain, ice and snow. This heavy snow and ice accumulated on trees and power lines.

Our electric crews faced a losing battle for a long period of time. They would put one line back up only to have another go down to a falling limb, tree or even in some cases snapped power poles.

There were complaints about roads not being plowed in a timely manner. This unique storm made plowing difficult. Hundreds of trees, including laurel and rhododendrons, had fallen onto the roads. Unless it was a huge tree our workers plowed everything to one side, trees, limbs and the heavy snow/ice mixture. The critical goal was to open roadways open to emergency and service vehicles as soon as possible. Time was critical. To aggravate the situation several of our snow plows broke during the event. Workers would then have to return to the town yard where time consuming repairs were made. In addition, several town vehicles suffered damage such as broken windshields, side mirrors and antennas.

Under normal conditions the town first



Highlands Mayor
Patrick Taylor

plows the primary town roads, then secondary areas and finally private roads. This schedule became problematic especially on narrow town neighborhood and private roads were rhododendrons were bent over every few feet.

This winter storm put DOT resources under tremendous stress also. Their first response was to open the primary highways like US 64. Secondary roads like Cobb, Bowery and Big Bear Pen are

plowed by the state after the primary highways are done.

The town will assist the state in plowing secondary roads and private roads after all town roads have been open. But with limited resources, a major event like the one we had makes this a challenging effort.

To determine whether a home is on a private, state or town road, go to the Town of Highlands website. The address is Town of Highlandsnc.org. On the home page click on the GIS button, then Town Streets and Roads. The private roads are in green, the town roads in black and state roads are in blue.

Some folks have asked why we didn't create a debris site at the Recreation Department and bring in a tub grinder to chip up all the fallen debris. A site was setup for the last hurricane event. That costly decision is initialed after the governor has declared an emergency disaster. The state and county departments of emergency management setup and operate these sites. This storm did not meet the criteria.

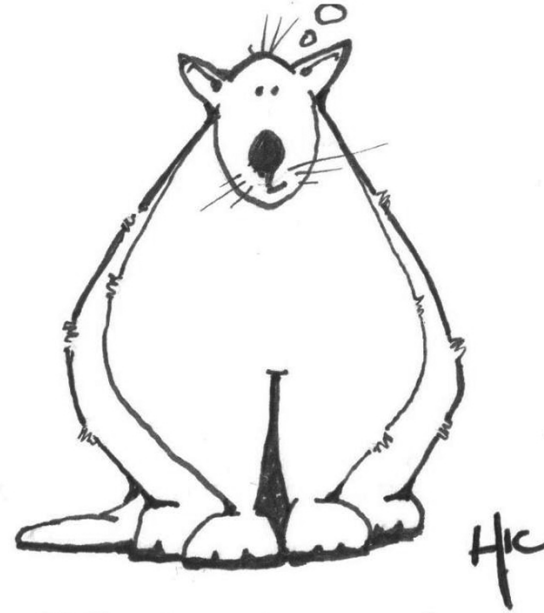
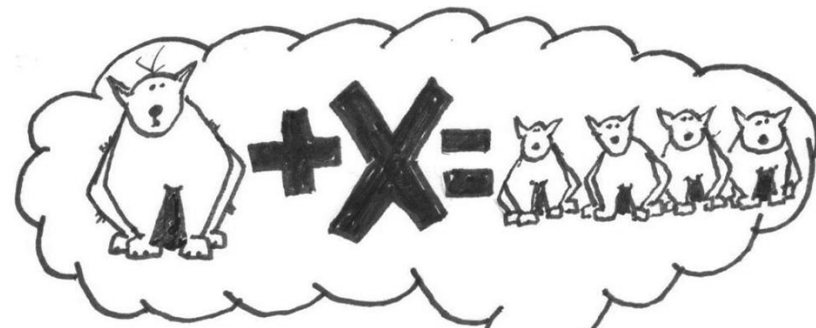
Town crews are still working to clear town road rights-of-way of fallen limbs and tree debris. It will take several more weeks to complete the process. Cleanup is a massive task for our small road department.

The town routinely trims rhododendrons and low hanging tree branches on our town rights-of-way. Our electric crews trim trees near power lines. Winter events like this one is the reason for keeping vegetation on roadways trimmed.

• CORRECTION •

In the Jan. 3 issue the caption under the "Empty Bowls" fundraiser photo read that \$2,718.50 was raised by the Empty Bowls event — that is the amount raised for the Highlands Food Pantry through the Christmas Lunch on December 1. The 2018 Empty Bowls event on October 7 raised \$17,000 for the Highlands Food Pantry. We regret the error and are happy to set the record straight.

• HIC'S VIEW •



What cats ponder.

• WEATHER •

	Friday 1/11		Saturday 1/12		Sunday 1/13	
	Daytime	Overnight	Daytime	Overnight	Daytime	Overnight
Temp	43 F	25 F	33 F	30 F	40 F	32 F
RealFeel	48 F	20 F	34 F	28 F	42 F	32 F
Winds	3 g 5	3 g 5	3 g 5	3 g 5	3 g 5	3 g 5
T-Storms	0%	0%	1%	2%	2%	1%
Rainfall	0	0	0.12	0	0.19	0
Snowfall	0	0	0	1.4	0	0

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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.



HIGHLANDS FALLS CC With handsome wood floors throughout, a stone fireplace and vaulted ceilings, the home has a terrific floor plan that makes entertaining a breeze. A new kitchen features an oversized island, granite countertops and stain-less steel appliances. The large master suite opens to the covered deck and features lots of windows. The lower level boasts three bedrooms plus a family room with wet bar.

MLS# 89562 | Offered for \$995,000



COLD SPRINGS This contemporary 4BR/5.5BA retreat was designed to take advantage of the wonderful lake front property in Cold Springs Saddle and Tennis Club. Separating the chef's kitchen from the living room is a fabulous floor-to-ceiling stone fireplace. The living room opens to the covered deck with its expansive views. Two-story, 2-car garage with guest retreat with vaulted ceiling and balcony.

MLS# 89307 | Offered for \$895,000

KING MOUNTAIN CLUB Amazing views from this contemporary home located on the Atlanta side of Highlands about six miles from Main Street. The home was designed by Jim Fox and has lots of interesting angles and spaces. The focal point is a sunken fireplace niche with comfortable seating. The master level is upstairs and includes an office with lots of windows. The lower level boasts a family room with glass all around plus two sleeping areas.

MLS# 89729 | Offered for \$895,000



HIGHLANDS IN-TOWN Excellent location for this newly renovated in town 3BR/3BA home. Offers a large back deck for entertaining, detached oversized two-car garage. Incredible private flat back yard with its own art studio. This would also make a great vacation rental. Conveniently located in town; walk to Main Street restaurants, shops and venues! This home is named the Foxfire where filming of "Foxfire" was used for a scene starring John Denver.

MLS# 88180 | Offered for \$799,900



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• OBITUARIES •

Lillie Savannah Stancil Billingsley

Lillie Savannah Stancil Billingsley, was born on February 22, 1945 at home to Carl Mayford Stancil and Louise Gibson Stancil on Taylor's Chapel, Rabun Gap, Georgia.

She is preceded in death by one sister, Sarah Jane Turpin. She is survived by her husband of 55 years, William Vaughn Billingsley of Rabun Gap; four daughters: Robin Billingsley of Clayton, Georgia, Tammy Kilby (Mack), Sheila McClain (Dean), and Holly Cabe (Brian) all of Rabun Gap. Two brothers: James Stancil (Vickie), Walter Stancil (Celia), one sister, Linda Crow (Rhondall), a Son-in-Law Steve Hicks, Seven grandchildren; Kasie Campbell (Clay), Savannah Kilby (Chad Norton), Peach McCall (Weston), Billy McClain (Chelsea), Katie McClain, Jackson Cabe, Woody Cabe, and especially dear niece, Vickie Tyler (Terry) of Mountain City, Two great grandchildren, Weston and Sutton McClain, and many more precious nieces and nephews, especially loved members of the family, Aurelio Guerrero and Max Bohorquez.

A Memeorial service was held Monday December 31, 2018 with Rev. Cale Stancil and Rev. Raymond Page in the Chapel of Beck Funeral Home in Clayton, GA.

Beck Funeral Home, in Clayton, Georgia, was in charge of the arrangements. An on-line Memorial Register Book is available at www.beckfuneralhome.com.

Edith Marshall

Edith Marshall, 84, went to be with the Lord on December 30, 2018. She was born on May 23, 1934 in Bad Breisig, Germany to the late August and Elizabeth Kraus. Mrs. Marshall loved to cook for her family and loved to spend time shopping. One of her favorite pastimes was doing German crossword puzzles. She was a faithful member of Prentiss Church of God and was active in Sunday school and the Ladies' ministry program.

She is survived by a daughter, Donyela McCall (Mike); five grandchildren, Joseph Marshall, Justin Hicks (Virginia), Jamie McConnell, Jackie Marshall, and Patricia McCall; three great-grandchildren, Sadie Hicks, Lucas Hicks, Colby McConnell and a new great-grandson arriving in February; brother, Heinz Kraus (Ursula); an adopted daughter, Vickie Haller of Franklin; and many nieces and nephews.

In addition to her parents she is proceeded in death by her husband Robert "Bobby" Marshall. She is also preceded in death by a son, Ralph Marshall and a sister, Leisel Wilbert.

A Celebration of Life service was held on Saturday, January 5, 2019 at Prentiss Church of God with Pastor Kevin Chapman, Pastor Don Moffitt, and Mr. Terry Moffitt officiating.

Online condolences can be made a www.bryantgrantfuneralhome.com. Bryant Grant Funeral Home and Crematory is serving the Marshall family.

Edward 'Ed' Moriarty

Edward Moriarty passed away on December 28, 2018 in Highlands, NC. For over 30 years he called Highlands his special place. He passed with dignity and grace surrounded by family and friends.

Edward "Ed" Moriarty was born in Kingman, Arizona on June 20, 1941 and grew up in Southern California where he graduated as a star basketball and baseball player at Santa Ana High School. It was here where his base values of hard work, teamwork and leadership were developed.

He is survived by the love of his life of 50 years, Jan Moriarty. They wanted to marry after their first date, but Jan's Father said they should wait a month, so they did. He is also survived by his son and daughter-in-law, Michael and Amie Moriarty, daughter and son-in-law, Megan Moriarty Ferrara and Michael Ferrara, and four grandchildren: Edward William "EW" Moriarty, Cheney Moriarty, and twins Joshua and Reese Ferrara. Ed was extremely generous in life, and the happiness and support given his family was his greatest gift of all.

Services were January 5, 2019 at Highlands United Methodist Church, 315 Main Street, Highlands, North Carolina, 28741. The family will also having a memorial service in Orlando, Florida in late January.

If you are inspired, please support the great work at the American Cancer Society or the Cashiers Highlands Humane Society.

Beck Funeral Home, in Clayton, Georgia, is in charge of the arrangements. An on-line Memorial Register Book is available at www.beckfuneralhome.com.



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...BODY CAM continued from page 1

plaints, and reduce agency liability. Chief Harrell believes those reasons are evident within his own department.

"They [cameras] have exonerated complaints or pointed out better practices, but more especially, training awareness for public and Officers safety," said Chief Harrell.

Highlands Police Officer Eryn Sueyklang looks at the cameras as an extra layer of protection.

"It protects us and everyone we deal with," said Sueyklang. "It protects us and them and with the footage there's no question as to what happens."

While cameras prove to be beneficial for both the department and the general public, the cost associated with the technology makes the acquisition difficult.

When asked what the greatest challenge is regarding the cameras, Harrell noted the cost specifically. "Costs as technology advances at a rapid pace," said Chief Harrell.

Highlands purchased the second wave of cameras for the department last year, and according to Highlands Finance Director Rebecca Shuler the cameras were purchased in part with the North Carolina Department of Public Safety, Governor's Crime Commission Grant. Last year's grant purchased nine cameras at around \$8,000 per camera. The entire grant totaled \$73,879.78.

Shuler said she is unsure how Highlands purchased cameras prior to last year's grant, but if cameras have been utilized since 2015, she said she assumed they were purchased with a similar grant.

Shuler said as of last year, there is no upkeep, maintenance, or upgrade costs budgeted for the cameras in the town's budget, so she is unsure what the sustainability cost of the cameras will be.

"We do not have an annual upkeep/replacement as we just got them and haven't had any upkeep or replacement," said Shuler. "All the upkeep/replacement will be done in house through our IT Dept. and they stated they didn't have any estimates of anything until they'd had them awhile."

The Macon County Sheriff's Office was awarded a grant last year to purchase BWCs and is currently in the process of testing out different models to decide what works

best for the entire department.

"We are continuing to look at various kinds of In-Car cameras and Body Cam units that are compatible with one another and looking at ways to fund these items," said Sheriff Robert Holland. "Both types of equipment are a necessity in today's law enforcement world but funding is incredibly difficult."

Holland said part of the delay in immediately deploying cameras is that he wants to roll out the cameras for the entire department, not just a specific unit or certain people.

"We currently have the \$65,000 that was awarded to us from the Legislature but as I have said that will only pay for a portion of the equipment and officers," said Holland. "The biggest hold up we currently have is making sure that when we spend the very large amount of money that this will cost, we must be sure it is equipment that will last. The last thing we want to do is spend money on equipment that isn't going to last."

One of the greatest costs associated with BWCs is how the data or recorded video is stored. There have been lawsuits around the country regarding the storage of data recorded by the cameras. Because of that, Sheriff Holland said that he wants to ensure that the video footage is stored locally rather than by a third-party source. While storing the footage locally will cost more initially, from a long-term perspective and a legality standpoint, the MCSO will be better off.

"We also cannot rely on an outside source for collection of all the data (video recordings) which is classified as evidence," said Holland. "We have learned there are agencies who have been in legal battles trying to recover their video evidence due to no longer contracting with outside sources maintaining ICLOUD storage for their video evidence. Agency heads have stated that utilizing outside sources to maintain video from body cams is cost prohibitive."

For that reason, and several others, Highlands Police Department stores all of the evidence locally, utilizing a dedicated serve the town of Highlands already owned.

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• WORD MATTER •

Winter in Highlands

Winter in Highlands has emerged as my favorite season. When I say this to friends from where we used to live in Florida they tend to look at me as if I had two noses. Locals and natives, however, often sagely nod their heads and smile in affirmation.



Bud Katz

Don't get me wrong; the other seasons are all nearly as appealing, especially fall, but winter has attributes that, for me at least, make it stand out.

I know what you're going to say; did you already forget the 16-inches of wet, heavy snow in December, Bud? No, but that took place, technically, in fall; winter didn't kick in until December 20th. But I concede the point. Following the nearly 30-hour snowfall of December 15th and 16th, we were confined to quarters for nearly four days. The snow removal team had a heck of a time getting up our hill. This left us on the inside looking out for a while, but for us, that's part of winter's charm. We were prepared, we had no loss of power, and we tend to enjoy each other's company so, it was all good.

If we view the time from Christmas to New Years as an anomaly, the months of December, January and February, along with perhaps the first couple of weeks of March, are, for me, the best time of year on the plateau. Perhaps not the prettiest; the missus often comments that we live in the sticks. But when she says it, it is not a pejorative. The view we enjoy from our front window until mid-spring is dozens of leafless trees. Daylight pours in during winter because during the months when the forest canopy is in place, and despite shorter periods of nighttime, daylight for us is little more than a nice idea. We get much more natural light when the canopy isn't there than when it is.

This year, after Christmas but before New Years, Highlands received over seven and a half inches of rain in a single weather event. While it was happening it wasn't wonderful. But the effect that rain had on many of Highlands' water-related attractions was awe-inspiring.

Dry Falls and Bridal Veil Falls on the Franklin Road were as robust as has ever been the case. So were Bust-Your-Butt and

Cullasaja Falls. Buck Creek, the Cullasaja River, Whitewater Falls, and the falls at Lake Sequoia were all full-motion sights to see.

When the skies are clear during the winter, and they actually often are, the stars are more visible and impressive, even to the naked eye, than is the case when the canopy is full and dense. When there's moonlight, you can be forgiven if you're unsure whether it's actually day or night.

All of these weather- or climate- or season-related phenomena, though, really are bonuses, which, to be honest, may not occur every winter. We don't get to decide what or how weather is going to happen, or what weather after-effects might be. And we certainly have no input as to matters of daytime or nighttime.

What we can depend on during the winter months is a much quieter plateau than is the case when our summer, week-end, day-trip and vacation visitors are here in substantial numbers. Traffic in winter is, typically, a non-issue, as is parking. Getting seated in our favorite eateries becomes much easier. Items we favor are typically more available during the ever-diminishing off-season period in our stores and supermarkets.

If I can be forgiven for saying this, Highlands feels more like home during the winter than it does during the busy rest of the year. Don't get me wrong, some of our favorite friends are part time residents and we look forward to their arrival, and the energy, vitality and generosity they bring along with them. However, in the winter Highlands is ours. The pace of life slows, the space around us opens up and things quiet down to where our inner voices can more easily be heard.

When we first moved here to become full-time residents we wondered about winter. Even though we'd made winter vacation visits we never really gained insight into what winter would hold for us. Now that we're here twelve months each year we can understand what our other yearlong resident friends and neighbors already knew.

Winter in Highlands is wonderful and a very special time.

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Happy New Year!!!

As we gladly welcome 2019 and New Year Resolutions are made, we must not forget all the treats and goodies had by ourselves and our furry family members. As fantastic as the holiday times are, they can put a ding on our oral health. So let's start off the New Year by making doggy dental health a top priority.

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Mission Health & Harris Regional activate Visitor Limitation Policy due to influenza-like activity

both Mission Health and Harris Regional are implementing its Visitor Limitation Policy and asking patients' family members and friends to limit hospital visits, effective Jan. 3.

Visitors younger than 12 and those who do not feel well are encouraged to call patients instead of visiting them. All persons visiting the hospital and community members should practice good hand hygiene.

There have been reports of an increase in reported influenza (flu) activity throughout North Carolina. According to the North Carolina Public Health Division, flu-like illness in the state has reached more than 2 percent and local transmission has increased.

This precaution is being implemented at Mission Hospital, member hospitals and affiliates in the western North Carolina region, which includes CarePartners in Asheville, Mission Hospital McDowell in Marion, Transylvania

Regional Hospital in Brevard, Blue Ridge Regional Hospital in Spruce Pine, Angel Medical Center in Franklin and Highlands-Cashiers Hospital in Highlands.

Mission Health team members and visitors can help prevent the spread of influenza by practicing frequent hand hygiene, staying home if they are sick and getting an annual influenza vaccine. All visitors are urged to wash their hands before and after their visits. In addition, hand sanitizing stations are available at hospital entrances and throughout the buildings.

Symptoms that could be early signs of the flu include fever, headache, cough, extreme dehydration, lightheadedness and shortness of breath. Treatment with antivirals is the most helpful within the first 48 hours of symptoms presenting. If you start to experience any of these symptoms or notice them in someone else, contact your primary care provider or seek medical care immediately.

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Highlands School Girls Basketball Teams

• HS SPORTS •

All about basketball!

Over Christmas break high school basketball played in the Christmas Tournament in Franklin.

They also play Murphy and East Henderson. Only varsity teams played in the tournament.

They played both Franklin and Smokey Mountain.

Girls and boys lost both games after getting back after a break for the holiday.

They then played Murphy where JV girls lost, as well as varsity girls.

The JV boys were also unable to pull out a win. But the varsity boys finished the night with a win.

Lastly they played East Henderson. JV girls and JV boys pulled out a win. The varsity girls were

unable to grasp a win and fell short.

The varsity boys then played pulling out a hard fought win.

Their next home game will be Friday, January 11th. They will play a conference game starting at 6 pm. Only varsity teams will play and girls will play first.



Kedra McCall

Middle school basketball did not play over the break but played Blue Ridge as soon as they returned. The girls were unable to pull out a win but the boys did.

Their next home game will be today- Thursday, January 10th. They will play Summit starting at 4:30. Girls will play first with boys following.

Come and support your Highlanders!



Highlands Girls Varsity Basketball Team

Front row from left are Hannah Holt, Haley Borino, Jeslyn Head, Reese Schmitt, and Abby Olvera. Back row from left are Julia Schmitt, Bailey Schmitt, Brooklyn Houston, Sayla Roman, Chela Green, Jordan Carrier, and Kedra McCall.



Highlands Girls Junior Varsity Basketball Team

Front Row from left are Madi Drummonds, Kaylee Oakley, Brandy Zagal, Bella Branham, and Alyson Dayton. Back row from left are Tessa Wisniewski, Savannah Shaheen, Erin Sanborn, Liv Lewis, Anne Marie Moore, and Ava Schmitt.



Highlands Girls Middle School Basketball Team

Front row from left are Alicia Chastain, Ashlynn Wilson, Aislynn Luck, and Raquel Stiles. Back row from left are Emily Briggs, Mackenzie Woods, Anna Stiehler, Evelin Rios, and Hendy Rios.

Photos by Brian O'Shea

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...SHUTDOWN continued from page 1

and the victims and children we serve," said Andrea Anderson, REACH Executive Director and Bonnie Peggs, REACH Board President in a joint statement. "We were informed this past week that there will be NO payouts for any Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) or Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) funded projects throughout the duration of the government shut down."

Last year, REACH provided services to over 700 victims and children experiencing domestic violence and/or sexual assault in Macon County. The shelter, which is located in Franklin, served 126 adults and children for a total of 3,453 nights. In addition, REACH received 641 crisis line calls and provided a total of over 37,000 individual support services for victims and children.

"Without the VOCA/VAWA funds these essential services will not be able to continue at current levels," said Anderson and Peggs.

"Without these services victims and children may be left without supports needed for safety, housing, and basic needs. It not only will impact the lives of these individuals but our community. We can come together and ensure we keep a safety net for these families. In addition, contracts for our federal Emergency Shelter Grants funding, which helps support shelter expenses, are on hold as well, as a result of the government shut down. This funding would have begun January 1, 2019."

Macon County Schools receives federal funds for multiple programs, but according to Macon County Schools Finance Director Angie Cook, this fiscal year should be safe from budget impacts due to the shutdown.

"At this time, we have not experienced any issues due to the shutdown," said Cook. "Typically, the current year funds are already in the hands of the State and we

should not experience any problems. The only thing that I can think of that might be delayed is the timber sales which are issued to the County first and then the County forwards our portion to us and that is normally in February."

In addition, REACH was recently approved for a new Rural Mobile Crisis Teams grant, whose primary goal is to specifically outreach to the most rural parts of Macon County.

The grant would fund a mobile team to responds directly in those communities, which includes Highlands. But the grant is federal and is therefore currently on hold.

As of press time, neither Macon County Manager Derek Roland or Macon County Finance Director Lori Hall returned email for comment regarding the potential impact the shutdown could have on county operations.

...VAPING continued from page 1

of the board of education made a mid-year amendment to student handbooks to address the issue.

The amendment in the handbook now specifically prohibits the use of vaping/juuling and e-cigarettes on school property at any time, including after school hours and during school sponsored activities. If caught, the punishment of suspension would be applied.

With school starting back this week, school administrators are spending the first two weeks educating students and parents on the new policy, which will begin to be enforced after the Martin Luther King Holiday Jan. 21.

The new amendment in full reads:

"Vaping is not permitted by anyone on Franklin High School property at any time. Vaping refers to the use of electronic nico-

• See VAPING page 11

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2018 Real Estate Summary for Highlands

Let me begin by stating this is my first article for Investing at 4118 Feet. As a previous credit analyst and CFO, I spend a lot of time looking at numbers and deciphering trends. Last week's article referenced Real Estate transactions for the entire Plateau (Scaly Mountain, Highlands, Cashiers, Glenville, Cullowhee, Sapphire and Lake Toxaway), showing a 33% increase in overall volume and 13% increase in unit sales. There is a vast difference in these communities. Today, I am looking more in-depth at just properties with a Highlands address using data obtained from the Highlands-Cashiers Multiple Listing Service.

Overall, transaction volume was just over \$203 million, up 30% over 2017, with 319 transactions, just slightly down from 324 in 2017. This includes commercial, land, condominiums and homes; with

homes accounting for 83% of the total volume.

Regarding Highlands home sales, there were 226 home sales, up 3%; average selling price of \$745,346, up 24%; 247 days on market, down 14.5%; and an average sales price to list price of 91.7%, essentially the same as 2017. The chart breaks down the number of sales, transaction volume, average and median price and days on market by price range. The big surprise was that there were 55 transactions over \$1 million, as compared to 23 sales in 2017! The growth market for last year was obviously in the higher priced homes, which impacted the average sales price increase.

Looking at sales for lots & land, there



Carl Romberg
BIC Landmark,
Highlands

were 44 transactions in 2018 as compared with 64 in 2017. However, the sales volume was up 18.6%. For condominiums and townhomes, the number of transactions increased from 36 to 42; and the sales volume increased 26.2%.

The numbers tell us that we are in a growing market with good trends. But is this the whole story? The number of days on market and sales price to list price is just for the last time the house was listed. How many times was it listed previ-

ously, and what are the cumulative days on market? What was the sales price as compared to the price when the property was originally listed? Those numbers can give a very different picture if you are considering listing or buying a property. Properties move when they are priced right, and these days buyers are very savvy with the use of apps. The properties sold in 2018 were at the market price, where buyers and sellers come to an agreement. Therefore, the volume and prices of sales does indicate growth and a healthy real estate market in Highlands.

• Contact Carl at 678-936-9309 or carl@landmarkrg.com

2018 Highlands Real Estate Sales					
Type	# Sales	Total Sales Volume	Avg Price	Median	Avg DOM
Comercial	7	\$6,494,000	\$927,714	\$610,000	583
Lots/Land	44	\$8,903,500	\$202,352	\$129,250	487
Condo/Townhome	42	\$19,338,751	\$460,446	\$412,500	238
Home	226	\$168,448,177	\$745,346	\$550,000	247
Total	319	\$203,184,428 ↑ 30%			
Breakdown for Homes					
\$0 - \$399,999	71	\$19,307,197	\$271,932	\$300,000	285
\$400,000 - \$699,999	70	\$36,852,905	\$526,470	\$518,750	216
\$700,000 - \$999,999	30	\$25,501,150	\$850,038	\$835,000	240
\$1,000,000 plus	55 ↑ 139%	\$86,786,925 ↑ 120%	\$1,577,944	\$1,365,000	240
	226 ↑ 3%	\$168,448,177	\$745,346 ↑ 24%	\$550,000	247 ↓ 14.5%

...VAPING continued from page 10

tine delivery systems or electronic smoking devices. These are commonly called e-cigarettes, e-pipes, e-hookahs and e-cigars, and juuls.

Vapes can contain as much nicotine as a full pack of cigarettes, or others contain THC, the critical ingredient in marijuana, whose smell is undetectable when vaped. Any student caught vaping or in possession of a vape will be suspended out of school up to two days.

Repeat offences will result in progressive disciplinary action that will result in additional days of out of school suspension. Disciplinary measures for repeat offenses will be at the discretion of the School Administration.

*Any vapes or devices that are confiscated will not be returned to the student or

the parents."

FHS administration and SRO officers have confiscated several vaping devices this year from students. However, this has not gotten the students' attention and has not discouraged them from vaping, so the school system decided a stronger stance was needed to fight what many say is an epidemic.

According to Franklin High school Principal Barry Woody, last spring the problem with student vaping started taking off at the end of the school year but exploded over last summer and has become an epidemic problem this fall. Vaping has become the popular thing for teenagers to do. In addition, he stated the problem isn't just at FHS but is a problem across the state and

• See VAPING page 16

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• HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

'Adriana Lecouvreur' LIVE via Satellite at PAC



The Highlands Performing Arts Center will present Live via Satellite the MET Opera's production of Adriana Lecouvreur on Saturday, January 12 at 12:55pm (with a pre-opera discussion at 12:30pm.) Adriana Lecouvreur by Cilea—New Production

For the first time at the Met, Anna Netrebko sings the title role of Adriana Lecouvreur, the great 18th-century actress in love with the military hero Maurizio, sung by tenor Piotr Beczala. Gianandrea Noseda conducts Cilea's tragedy, in a new staging by Sir David McVicar, with the action partially set in a working replica of a Baroque theater. The cast also features mezzo-soprano Anita Rachvelishvili as the Princess of Bouillon, Adriana's rival for Maurizio's affections, and baritone Ambrogio Maestri as Michonnet. Tickets are available online: highlandspac.org, at the door or by calling 828.526.9047. Highlands PAC, 507 Chestnut Street, Highlands.

Ongoing

• Movies at the Playhouse – NEW SCHEDULE – Fri. & Sat. 1, 4, and 7 p.m.; Sunday 1 and 4 p.m.; NO MOVIES MONDAY; Tues., Wed., and Thurs. 1, 4, 7 p.m.

Tickets are \$10 / \$2 off on Tuesdays.

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.

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.

• Hip Hop classes with Tori Schmitt 5:30-6:30.

Mon., Wed., Fri.

• Gentle Yoga at the Rec park at 9:30-10:30 a.m.. All levels welcome.

• 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.

First Wednesdays

• Family Movies at the Hudson Library

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• HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

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

• 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 Outreach 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.

Fri., Jan. 11

• Summit Charter School Open House at 8:45 a.m. Come walk the beautiful public school campus, tour classrooms, meet faculty and learn more about becoming a Summit Bear. Summit is a tuition-free public school in Cashiers that engages students in learning experiences that stimulate discovery, inspire excellence and nurture a positive influence in an ever-changing world. The Summit Center, the school's first gymnasium and auditorium, also featuring new fine arts and music classrooms, will be available to tour. Learn more about the school's

individualized education and outdoor education programming on Friday, January 11 at 8:45 a.m. K-10 enrollment applications for the 2019-20 school year are due January 16. For more information or to RSVP, please contact 828-743-5755 or mhudson@summitschool.org.

• Hudson Library presents a special free program – “A Sense of Place” at 2pm. Public Readings of Creative Writing about Highlands.” Engineering students at a special winter session at the Biological Station have been exploring Highlands and the plateau, and will be reading some of the creative writing they have produced during this class. The marriage of science and creative writing produces a wonderful variety of writing, ranging from poetic to humorous. Refreshments will be provided by the Biological Station. For more information or to request an accommodation, please call the library at 828-526-3031.

Sat., Jan. 12

• At PAC, Cilea's Adriana LeCouvreur, at 1 p.m., Live via Satellite featuring the Metropolitan Opera (NYC) at 12:55 with a pre-opera discussion 30 minutes prior. Tickets are available online: www.highlandspac.org, at the door or by calling: 828.526.9047. Highlands Performing Arts Center, 507 Chestnut Street.

Sun. & Mon. Jan. 13 & 14

• Highlands Cashiers Players auditions for this season's dinner theater plays scheduled for March 21-23 and 28-30 and Calendar Girls scheduled for May 23-26 and May 31-June 2 will be held on Sunday, at 3 p.m. and on Monday at 5:30 p.m. at Highlands Performing Arts Center, 507 Chestnut Street. The Dinner Theater auditions will be held downstairs, Calendar Girls auditions, upstairs. Actors are welcome to audition for both productions.

Wed., Jan. 16

• Project SEARCH will hold an information session night at Mission Hospital, 1 Hospital Drive, Room 5205, in Asheville, on at 6 pm. Project SEARCH is a partnership between Mission Health, The Arc of North Carolina, A-B Tech, NC Vocational Rehabilitation, Vaya Health and the NC Council on Developmental Disabilities. The program offers a one-year internship for students with intellectual or developmental disabilities. Its goal is to help the students, who range in age from 18 to 30, achieve their goal of securing meaningful, competitive employment. This session is a one-hour introduction and determination of candidacy appropriateness. Speakers will include Tim Blekicki, Mission Health Project SEARCH instructor, and the job coach, as well as current and past in-

terns, and representatives of program partners. There's a Q&A at the end for parents and students. For questions, please contact Tim Blekicki at tblekicki@arncnc.org or 828-254-4771 or visit <https://arncnc.org/project-search-asheville>.

Sat., Jan. 19

• At PAC, Antony & Cleopatra by Shakespeare, at 1 p.m., Live via Satellite featuring the Metropolitan Opera (NYC) at 12:55 with a pre-opera discussion 30 minutes prior. Tickets are available online: www.highlandspac.org, at the door or by calling:

Highlands Cashiers Players' production auditions set for Sunday and Monday, Jan. 13 and 14 at the PAC

Calling all actors! -- old hands or new to the stage. The Highlands Cashiers Players are holding double auditions for their next two productions: the dinner theater plays scheduled for six performances in March, 21-23, 28-30, and the full length play Calendar Girls by Tim Firth, directed by Ricky Siegel, scheduled for eight performances May 23-26, 31-June 2.

Both auditions will be held on Sunday, January 13, at 3 p.m. and on Monday, 5:30 p.m., at Highlands Performing Arts Center, 507 Chestnut Street. The Dinner Theater auditions will be held downstairs, Calendar Girls auditions, upstairs. Actors are welcome to audition for both productions.

Scripts of Calendar Girls may be read in the Hudson Library in Highlands and in the Cashiers Library, but may not be checked out. Director Ricky Siegel has a few extra scripts to lend to individuals upon request. Also, the movie of Calendar Girls will give potential actors a good

idea of what to expect in the play, which requires ten women of varying ages and four men.

Mon., Jan. 21

• The first 2019 Jackson County Republican Party meeting is Monday at 6:30 pm at the the Dillsboro Masonic Lodge, 223 Wikes Crescent Dr. Sylva, NC. 28779. The meeting agenda includes the 2018 election report, candidates, new memberships and plans for the County Convention in March. For more information call Chair Ralph Slaughter at 828-743-6491.

Scripts are not available to read prior to auditions for the four short humorous plays that will be presented at the Dinner Theater. The plays are directed by four different directors--Lynleigh McLain, Donna Cochran, Jamie Thomas, and Todd Lipphardt. Courtney Scarborough is stage manager. Three plays have been chosen: Last Words by Philip Kaplan, Life With Jamie by Lauren Yee, and Say What? by Betty Prizendorf. The fourth play has yet to be chosen.

These short plays present a wonderful opportunity for new actors. They're lots of fun to act in and don't require learning a huge number of lines. There are parts for three or four men, ages 30 to 60's, and four or five women, ages 25 to 70.

Check our website for more information: highlandscashiersplayers.org.



The Metropolitan Opera



Highlands Performing Arts Center



Live via Satellite

Adriana LeCouvreur

by Cilea

Saturday, January 12

12:55 pm RT: 4 hours

Pre-Opera Discussion @ **12:30pm**

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• BIZ/ORG NEWS •



Highlands/Cashiers sent 682 gift-filled shoeboxes through Samaritan's Purse

Samaritan's Purse project Operation Christmas Child with the exciting news that the Highlands/Cashiers area sent 682 gift-filled shoeboxes collected for children in need around the world; with over 19,000 shoeboxes collected throughout our Western North Carolina Area. This generous contribution of shoebox gifts will go to boys and girls affected by war, disease, disaster, poverty and famine.

It's not too late for local volunteers to make a difference and share the true meaning of Christmas with children overseas. At samaritanaspurse.org/occ, anyone can easily personalize a gift-filled shoebox online.

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ALL ABOUT BOOKS

• INK PENN •

Books, bookshops, and cats, oh my!

I finally got around to a few books on my "To Be Read" list and one was "The Readers of Broken Wheel Recommend." A bookshop is a central feature, almost a character, in this delightful book set in Broken Wheel, Iowa. The back cover blurb captures it well: "A heart-warming reminder of why we are booklovers, this is a sweet, smart story about how books find us, change us, and connect us."



Kathy Manos Penn

Booklovers will get a kick out of the references to books and authors and be thankful for the lists in the back of the book. I was reading about one of the characters being taken with Idgie and was tickled that I finally recalled that Idgie was a character in "Fried Green Tomatoes."

That book prompted me to think, "Gee, I think there are other books I've read that take place in bookshops," and I was right. There were a few whose titles I couldn't recall, but I've come up with most of them.

Years ago, I read the Carolyn Hart mysteries that take place in and around the Death on Demand bookshop on Broadway's Rock, a South Carolina island. I likely read the first five or six and enjoyed all the references to books and authors. I wasn't surprised to learn there are 26 in the series, and I may have to get back to them.

You don't have to be a Jane Austen fan to enjoy Charlie Lovett's "First Impressions," a tale of a previously unknown Austen manuscript. The heroine is recently graduated from Oxford and works in an antiquarian bookshop in London. Since I just last year took a trip to England and visited Oxford, I especially enjoyed recognizing the Oxford references.

I discovered John Dunning's series of books featuring bookshop owner and former Denver police officer Cliff

Janeway when my sister passed along "Booked to Die," the first in the series. Now I know there are four more in the series, so they're going on my TBR list.

I've mentioned Nina George's book, "The Little Paris Bookshop," in a previous column, but this whimsical story of a bookshop housed on a boat belongs on this list as well. Wouldn't you love to visit a floating bookshop?

Still on my TBR list is "The Storied Life of A.J. Fikry," about the owner of Island Books on the imaginary Alice Island located somewhere near Boston.

Another book I'm looking forward to reading is "The Diary of a Bookseller," a Christmas gift from a friend who knows me oh-so-well. This one is nonfiction, written by Shaun Bythell, who owns The Bookshop in Wigtown, Scotland. Described as "a wry and hilarious account of life at a bookshop in a remote Scottish village," it promises to be a behind the scenes look at the life of a bookseller.

As for cats, as I recalled these books, I couldn't help but think about Books Unlimited, the cozy, inviting bookshop in Franklin, North Carolina, where Nancy the cat roams from the chair to the window to the counter, perfectly at home. If you're lucky when you visit, she may even curl up in your lap. And, if the books I've mentioned end up on your reading list, Nancy and owner Suzanne will happily find them for you.

• Kathy is a Georgia resident. Find her books "The Ink Penn: Celebrating the Magic in the Everyday" and "Lord Banjo the Royal Pooch" at Books Unlimited in Franklin and on Amazon. "Lord Banjo the Royal Pooch" is also available at Highlands Mountain Paws. Contact her at inkpenn119@gmail.com, and follow her on Facebook, www.facebook.com/KathyManosPennAuthor/.

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The markers of declining health, including rising blood pressure, dangerous cholesterol ratios, increased incidences of various cancers, stroke diabetes and on and on can be greatly influenced by incorporating this strategy in your life.

Prior to the modern era which came on rapidly early in the last century, our forbearers ate primarily organic unprocessed foods, and had physical activity naturally incorporated into daily life. High output agriculture along with modern transportation and unlimited sitting entertainment via computers, smart televisions, smart phones and tablets has countered what used to be the norm and has resulted in an obese, inactive society compared with past generations.

Why is it then that prior to 1900 the average life span in America hovered around 50 years old and huge numbers of children and adults died from various nightmare diseases? The answer to that question is modern medical science. Vaccinations for epidemics such as Diphtheria, Pertussis, Small Pox, Polio, Measles and so

much more brought about and era where the pain suffering and death associated with these scourges has been pushed so far back that they are almost forgotten. Antibiotics gave us a way to fight infections which seem minor today but in earlier times were life threatening. My own great grandfather died at age 29 from an ear infection in 1903.

My grandfather as a result spent much of his childhood in an orphanage. Even with my healthy lifestyle I periodically suffer from ear infections which for me have been minor issues remedied with a doctor's visit and a prescription of an antibiotic.

I often quote and emulate Jack LaLanne the amazing fitness pioneer who taught and preached natural food and exercise long before it was popular. Mr. LaLanne lived to age 96 and up to the last year of his life was strong, vibrant and inspirational. He died approximately one week after contracting pneumonia. If you are past middle age a pneumonia vaccination which takes a few minutes of your time could help you avoid a premature death.

As older adults we can benefit both from modern medicine and a conscious effort to be proactive with diet and exercise. Along with fitness join with your doctor and stay up to date with your vaccinations. I suggest two things: go to cdc.gov and look up the



Hank Miller
828-305-9713

schedule of recommendations for adult vaccinations. Pneumonia, Tetanus and Flu to name a few are highly encouraged. Don't delay on this. If diet and exercise are not getting you the blood panel results for a healthy cholesterol ratio and your blood pressure is high even though you're doing everything naturally possible then accept the fact that pharmaceutical intervention may be the best addition to your vi-

brant longevity plan. Take all the actions available to avoid heart disease and stroke. Regular blood panels will reveal a lot.

If you have been listening to the anti vaccination people and are in doubt, then I suggest you google some of the horrible symptoms of these diseases that have been almost eliminated. Read about the 1919 Flu epidemic and the Small Pox epidemics of the Sixteen, Seventeen and Eighteen Hundreds. Take a tour of an older cemetery with graves dating prior to 1900. You will find an amazing amount of children who died before their tenth birthday and not a lot of people who lived past their late forties.

In addition to getting yourself up to date on vaccinations speak to your

children and grandchildren about the last great disease that destroyed young lives in our generation. Tell them about how our parents feared losing us to polio. Tell them about the pictures of living children entombed in Iron Lungs.

I remember vividly the day that they released the oral vaccination for polio which didn't require frequent booster shots. The vaccinations were in sugar cubes that were given out in our school yard by people sitting at a table in white coats. I remember a line of parents and children waiting hours in line to receive this miracle of science. The suffering was still real at this time. Try and imagine an anti vaccination fanatic trying to tell these parents in 1963 that getting their children vaccinated was a mistake. Speak out against these uninformed and ignorant movements that if unchecked return us to the dark ages of disease and suffering. Healthy lifestyle and modern medicine both work best together.

• 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 and is a licensed NC Massage Therapist specializing in Therapeutic Stretching. Send comments to: hank@thebestexercisesforseniors.com

...VAPING continued from page 11

nation.

"I have talked to surrounding schools all around us, and they are having the same problem," said Woody. "It is not just here at FHS but it's all across the nation."

According to the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), there has been a 78% increase among teenagers vaping this year. Parent and students alike assume vaping is not dangerous; however, the FDA argues strongly that there is a possibility that is more dangerous than smoking cigarettes. There is also a great concern about the long-term effects of putting these chemicals into teenagers' bodies which are still developing and growing.

"The parents we talked to don't even know the dangers of vaping/juuling, and many just think it is a way for youth to quit smoking," said Woody. "Many students are getting addicted to it and can't do without

it. Students are taking a hit from a vape or juul and then going to class. Taking a hit from a vape equals smoking ten cigarettes at a time."

Vaping is not intended for teenagers and is only approved for adult use. The legal age required for the purchase of vaping/juuling devices is 18 years of age, the same for purchasing tobacco products. However, this hasn't stopped students from getting the devices as they are readily available on the internet.

Woody said students are very clever with the vaping devices and teachers are often unaware that the students are using the devices in the classroom. Some juul devices resemble USB drives and are easy for students to conceal and use in school. One type of device is magnetic and can be hidden under students' desks.

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• MILESTONES •



Powell represents Highlands High School in High School Swim Meet

Jordan Powell, a Junior at Highlands High School, finished 2nd in both the 50 and 100 yard Freestyle scoring 26 points at a 6 team swim meet in Murphy, NC on Saturday, January 5, 2019. In both events he swam Regional Consideration times and his second best times ever. In addition to Highlands; Murphy, Andrews, Haysville, Brevard, and Tri County Early College were all competing.

The next meet for the 2nd year restart of the Highlands Varsity Swim team will be this Saturday, January 12, 2019 in Franklin.



Macon County Schools most recent National Board Certified teachers from left: Brooke McDaniels, Anne Wiggin, Carla McAllister, Kayla Schulte, Amanda Jowers, Brian Aulisio, Nancy Breedlove, Alicia Cochran and Superintendent Dr. Chris Baldwin.

Nine more teachers join National Board Certified ranks in Macon County Schools

Macon County Schools now has 58 Nationally Board Certified teachers on staff.

At the December Macon County Schools Board meeting, the newest nine teachers were recognized.

Joining Highlands School's Nationally Certified teachers – not retired – is Brian Aulisio. Aulisio joins Chris Green, social studies teacher; Cathy McIntyre Ross,

English teacher and Anne Porter, business teacher.

"It has been shown that students in National Board Certified teachers classrooms show up to two months of additional learning gains over the course of the school year with even greater results for students with higher needs," said Superintendent Baldwin.

In North Carolina, 22% of public school teachers are board certified.



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• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

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Pastor Sam Forrester
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"And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am." John 14:3

When your heart comes to the point it is failing and your feet are trembling as you approach the valley of the shadow of death, who can you look to? The world around you will begin to fade so that one object alone is clear and that will be your Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. It is Emmanuel, the Incarnate One, the ever present God, the Captain of your salvation, the great Conqueror of death, the victor of the grave, your eternal friend, your brother, your loving and faithful Savior. He is there with you to confront death and vanquish him with his own weapons. He is there to remind you the grave cannot hold you, it cannot bring gloom over you, it can boast no victory over your soul because your Savior has passed through this valley and rose from it revived and alive for evermore.

If you are sick, look to Jesus Christ. If you are dying, look to Jesus Christ. Consider your condition in health and soul.

If you see your sin and know you are guilty look to Jesus because he is righteous. He is the one and only Savior for the sinner. Are you afraid and trembling? Take heart the Shepherd of the flock is with you. Know that no one can pluck his sheep from his hand. Recognize that this glorious gospel can and will meet everyone's need who comes in Jesus' name.

When you are weak in body and overcome with mental confusion, there are two truths you must dwell on. Those things are your sinfulness and Christ's redemption or you could say your emptiness and Christ's sufficiency. Recognition of these two things is imperative. As you feel weakness in your soul, as you see your unworthiness, amid the coolness of your spirit, lift your eyes and fix them upon Jesus. This will begin the process of warming and healing your soul. You will hear his glorious words found in John 14:6 "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

Only in Jesus Christ will you find the hope you must have to pass safely through the valley of the shadow of death. But to know that hope you have to accept it as the truth before you come to the threshold of that valley. Open your ears and hear this wonderful message of hope. Open your heart and believe that God sent Jesus into this world to save all who would hear and believe he was the Son of God come in the flesh, to do for his people what they could never do for themselves. To prepare them a heavenly home.

Proverbs 3:5

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Tues. Guys study 8am, Gals 10am.

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COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH

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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

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Sun.: Adult Ed.: 9:30a.m.; Worship 11 a.m.
Mondays: Men's Prayer Group & Breakfast 8 a.m.
Wed.: Choir: 6p

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• PLACES TO WORSHIP •

John 3:16

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Sundays: Worship: 11

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Worship, 6p. Wednesday: Prayer Service, 6:30 p.

HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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Highlands School Boys Basketball Teams



Highlands Boys Middle School Basketball Team

Front row from left are Wyatt Wilson, Max Deppe, Landon Green, Conor Thorske, and Peyton Naron. Back row from left Owen Munoz, John Hayes Shaheen, Danny Lopez Rios, JJ Postell, Nate Keener, Steven Wilbanks, and James Earp.



Highlands Boys Junior Varsity Basketball Team

Front row from left are Connor Briggs, Jeffrey Olvera, Mason Taylor, Trevor Reese, and Davis Ingate. Back row from left are Brent Sleight, Ethan Tate, Garrison Chalker, Logan Petrone, Griffin Green, Collin Stoltzfus, Lane Tingen, and Reid Carrier.

Photos by Brian O'Shea



Highlands Boys Varsity Basketball Team

Front row from left are Jake Billingsley, Destin Gearhart, Logan Houston, Dillon Schmitt, and Taj Roman. Back row from left are Drew Chalker, Jonathan Miller, Mattson Gates, Hunter Collins, and Chase Sullivan.

...MOCCASIN continued from page 1



According to Allen Reese the "X" marks the Baxter Wilson House.

Inn's/Acorns is now. They were eyewitnesses to the Moccasin War," he said.

From the diary of Joseph Walter Reese, 1881-1960, which he started writing Sept. 1, 1947 while living in Princeton, NJ and finished it January 1957 in Highlands:

"There is a long story about this battle but I will only give the part I saw myself. We, my father and mother, lived upstairs in the old Baxter Wilson House.

"The Battle of Highlands took place on Main Street in front of the Old Fritz Hotel. In fact, the officer that was killed was up on the upper porch and when he was shot, he fell over the balusters down to the street.

"My father, when the fight was on, went downstairs and I can just see and hear my mother ringing her hands and crying.

"This battle was caused by a

posse of Georgia Bootleggers coming into town to try to take some of their men from the Revenuer officers who had captured them down on the Georgia side of the North Carolina line.

"The Georgia men seeing what happened, fled from town.

"Tom Ford was one of the men in the fight and lots of people thought he was the main man who shot the officer but many years later it leaked out that a man by the name of Andy Burrell who lived at Pine Mountain, GA, was the real killer," wrote Reese.

Maybe that's why the men from Georgia suddenly backed off ... which ended the war?

• To read the legend as told by Ran Shaffner, go to www.highlandsinfo.com. Click on news and then scroll down to the Jan. 3 edition.

— Kim Lewicki

• POLICE & FIRE REPORTS •

Highlands Police entries from Dec. 15, 2018. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor or public officials have been used.

Dec. 15

- At 4:40 a.m., officers received a report of someone communicating threats at a residence on NC 106.
- At 2:40 p.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle ac-

cident on Main Street.

Dec. 17

- At noon, officers received a report of larceny of personal property when someone stole a statue from the yard of a residence on Bowery Road.

Dec. 21

- At 4:20 p.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident

on Main Street near Second Street.

Dec. 24

- At 9:57 a.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident on South Street and Satulah Road.

Jan. 1, 2019

- At 4:39 a.m., officers began investigating a report of simple assault and destruction and vandalism of property as well as resisting arrest at a residence on Upper Lake Road. \$500 of damage was done to a single-wide trailer where a male was yelling loudly, threatening officers, breaking windows and assaulting his girlfriend.

The Highlands Fire & Rescue log from Dec. 17, 2018.

Dec. 17

- At 5:35 p.m., the dept. provided mutual aid on US 64 east.

Dec. 18

- At 10:48 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at the Hospital.

At 6:17 p.m., the dept. provided mutual assistance for the Cashiers FD.

Dec. 20

- At 1:11 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Blue Valley Road.

Dec. 21

- At 12:23 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Wyanoak Drive.

- At 3:56 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Bowery Road.

- At 6:33 p.m., the dept. provided public assistance on Hicks Road.

Dec. 22

- At 9:28 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Leonard Road.

- At 11:50 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Talley Road.

Dec. 24

- At 9:55 a.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident between a vehicle and a pedestrian.

Dec. 25

- At 12:17 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Pinecrest,

- At 12:33 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Clubhouse Trail.

Dec. 26

- At 1:44 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Ravenel Ridge Road.

Dec. 27

- At 5:35 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Cullasaja Club Drive.

- At 7:31 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Cullasaja Club Drive.

- At 6:47 p.m., the dept. provided mutual assistance to the Cashiers FD.

- At 7:11 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Blue Valley Road.

Dec. 28

- At 9:41 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on NC 106.

- At 3:58 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Rich Gap Road.


- At 8:27 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Stoney Creek Road.

Dec. 29

- At 2:20 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a loca-

• See **POLICE & FIRE** page 22

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1.21 ACRES FOR SALE BY OWNER - OTTO, NC - \$28,000. Lot 12 Quail Haven Road. Otto, NC. Price not firm... open for negotiation. Please email if interested to ddmarsh15@aol.com or call/text to 239-980-0531. Please leave a message. (st. 7/20)

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...POLICE & FIRE from page 20

tion on Oak Street.

• At 5:06 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Upper Brushy Face Road.

Dec. 30

• At 6:10 p.m., the dept. responded to a call of a fire on NC 106 but it was a controlled burn.

Dec. 31

• At 11:50 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on US 64 west.

• At 4:56 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Cobb Road.

• At 5:51 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Highlands View Road.

Jan. 1

• At 7:35 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Webbmont Road.

• At 10:42 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Lyman Zachary Road.

Jan. 2

• At 6:08 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Shortoff Road.

• At 1:38 p.m., the dept. responded to a Co2 alarm at a residence on Country Club Drive.

At 5:34 p.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on

NC 106.

• At 7:24 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Mack Wilson Road.

Jan. 4

• The dept. responded to a fire alarm at VZ Top.

• At 10:22 a.m., the dept. provided mutual aid to Scaly F&R but it was cancelled en route.

• At 5:08 p.m., the dept. responded to a call of a tree on a power line.

• At 5:10 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Bowery Road.

• At 5:38 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Bowery Road.

Jan. 6

• At 11:07 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a location on Main Street.

• At 11:54 a.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on NC 28 south.

• At 7:30 p.m., the dept. responded to a possible structure fire on Whiteside Mtn. Road.

Jan. 7

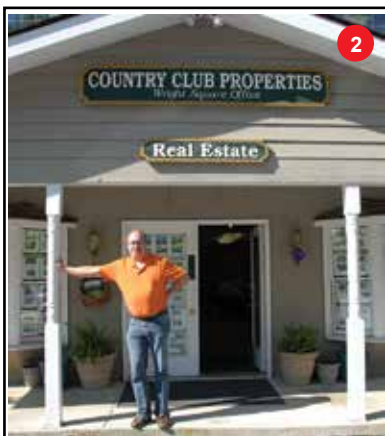
• At 1:05 p.m., the dept. stood by at Zachary Field for the MAMA helicopter.

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