

# Highlands Newspaper

FREE Every Thursday

Volume 16, Number 4

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Thursday, Jan. 24, 2019

## Town Board tables adding trees to Main

By Brian O'Shea

Too many unanswered questions and unknown consequences had Highlands Board of Commissioners hit the brakes on adding trees to Main Street between 3rd and 5th Streets at the Jan. 17

Town Board meeting.

After discussion between those both for and against adding trees (majority being against), and some attendees storming out of the meeting voicing their objection to adding trees as well as their

frustration with the Board, the item was tabled and is being sent back to the Land Use Committee.

"This item is being tabled until further study and a new plan can be developed," said Mayor Pat Taylor.

•See TREES page 9

## AG Stein says OK to Mission sale ... with stipulations

By Brittney Lofthouse

After nearly five months of deliberation, North Carolina Attorney General Josh Stein announced on January 16 he will approve HCA Healthcare's \$1.5 billion acquisition of Mission Health Systems to go through without a legal challenge – with a list of stipulations.

Last August, Mission Health announced its plans to be bought out by Tennessee-based healthcare giant HCA Healthcare, which immediately sparked concerns for rural communities with hospitals that are part of Mission Health System such as Angel Medical Center in Franklin and the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. North Carolina Attorney General Josh Stein listened to those con-

• See MISSION page 16



The progression of the Super Blood Wolf Moon total eclipse Sunday night moving from approaching to total to waning

– Photos by Rachel Lewicki.

## Plateau witnesses Super Blood Wolf Moon

People in Highlands were lucky enough to witness the Super Blood Wolf Moon total lunar eclipse Sunday night when the Earth was between the sun and the moon.

The moon began edging into Earth's shadow Jan. 20 at 10:34 p.m. EST with the total-eclipse phase lasting a little over an hour. The moon started to see the light again at about 12:43 a.m. EST

The moon's path around Earth is slightly out of plane with Earth's orbit around the sun, which explains why total lunar eclipses are relatively uncommon; things have to line up just right. If the sun, moon and Earth all lay ex-

actly in the same plane, total lunar eclipses would occur every month.

When the eclipse coincides with a supermoon — a full moon that occurs when the natural satellite is at or near its closest point to Earth during its elliptical orbit, the supermoons appear slightly bigger and brighter in the sky than "normal" full moons.

The "blood" part of the name refers to the ruddy color fully eclipsed moons often assume, the result of Earth's atmosphere bending some sunlight onto the mostly dark lunar surface.

Red light preferentially makes it through, because it has long wavelengths; shorter-wavelength

light such as yellow and blue gets blocked and scattered by Earth's atmosphere.

January's full moon is traditionally known as the Wolf Moon. Every month's full moon has such a folkloric moniker; for example, March's is called the Worm Moon. January's full moon may have gotten its name because Native Americans and/or early European colonists associated the month with increased wolf activity, especially howling.

The result? The name Super Blood Wolf Moon.

There won't be another total lunar eclipse until May 2021.

– Kim Lewicki

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## Literacy Council gets \$50K for iPads for Highlands' students

By Brian O'Shea

Students from Kindergarten through 4th grade at Highlands School will soon have access to new iPads through a \$50,000 gift to The Literacy Council from Art and Angela Williams, owners of Old Edwards Hospitality Group. TLC Executive Director Bonnie Potts announced the donation on Tuesday at Rotary Club of Highlands.

The idea to improve reading among elementary students at Highlands School began about a year ago when Potts approached OEI Sales Director Melissa Delany with statistics and data showing how literacy affects students, especially at an early age. After sev-

•See iPADS page 16

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# • THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

## • MAYOR ON DUTY •

### There's good new and bad news ...

It was a roller coaster week for me with highs and lows. Let me recap.

On Monday I met with Senator Jim Davis and Chairman Jim Tate of the Macon County Commission. We discussed mutual concerns and the upcoming legislative agenda. Two major topics covered was the problem of tractor trailer trucks on the Gorge Road and the development of broadband here in Highlands and throughout Western Carolina.

Senator Davis told us he would be happy to help on both issues. He noted he had just encountered a tractor trailer on the Gorge Road coming up to the meeting, so he experienced the problem firsthand. We had a very productive meeting, and I thanked Senator Davis for taking the time from his busy schedule to meet with us.

On Wednesday morning, I got a call from WLOS asking me for a response about the Attorney General, Josh Stein, coming to Asheville that afternoon to hold a press conference concerning the HCA Mission sale. I picked up Barrett Hawks



Highlands Mayor  
Patrick Taylor

and immediately drove to Asheville to be at the press conference. Barrett had done a tremendous amount of volunteer work in analyzing the original sale agreement, and I wanted him to hear the Attorney General's decision.

Attorney General Stein announced he was going to approve the sale to HCA and the creation of the Dogwood Health Trust based on the revision of the original Asset Purchase Agreement.

He went on to identify the key changes in the APA such as guaranteeing the operation of small hospitals, i.e. Highlands-Cashiers, from 5 to 10 years. We discovered the AG had renegotiated many of the concerns that the Highlands Town Board Hospital Resolution had called for.

It turned out to be a great day for the people of Western Carolina including the folks of HCA, Mission, The Dogwood, the local foundations and healthcare advocacy groups. This revised sales agreement will better serve us all.

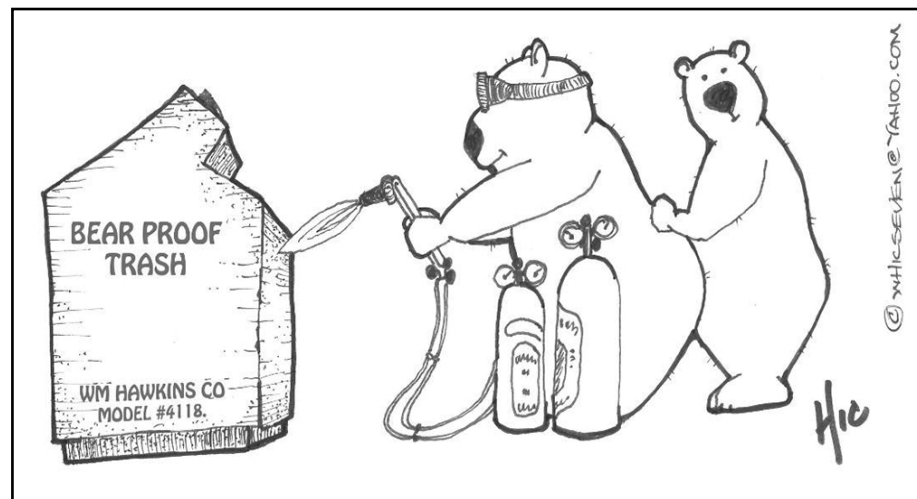
I am so proud of our Town Board and folks like Barrett Hawks that spoke out for the interest of our hospital. The resolution that the board passed was one of the first steps taken by local officials that identified concerns for the community. With that said, I and the board look forward to working with HCA and leaders in advancing healthcare access for the plateau.

The low point occurred at the Town Board meeting on Thursday night. The issue of planting trees on Main Street become a contentious issue where emotions intensified. Although I was hopeful we could have resolved the issue, in the end it was tabled.

The discussion began with two options: to plant 4 trees or to plant 7 trees. Lamar Nix had researched the costs and had rather specific estimates for each option. During the discussion the scope of the project began to change to where the direction became unclear. The board made a good decision not to take a vote.

As always folks can contact me on any issue by calling me at (828) 506-3138 or emailing at: mayor@highlandsnc.org. My office door is always open.

## • HIC'S VIEW •



## • LETTER •

### Put the Mayor's 'Community Coffee' on your to-do list in 2019

Dear Editor,

Community Coffee, a program of the Hudson Library, (starting its sixth year for 2019) will begin once again on Friday, February 22nd at 11 am. Before we start our new year, let's thank all the 2018 collaborators who have been so helpful in placing the Hudson Library in the center of the community.

The main person behind Community Coffee is Highlands Mayor, Patrick Taylor. Patrick has invested a great deal of time and effort in Community Coffee by furnishing the topics and/or guest speaker while facilitating the discussion. From topics about Health Care to the Town Budget to Living with the Bears his discussions are not only informative but interesting. Along with Patrick, we wish to thank the town staff he's introduced in this forum: Town Manager Josh Ward, Recreation Director Lester Norris, Public Works Director Lamar Nix and Fire & Rescue Chief Ryan Gearhart.

Next on the list deserving a warm thank you, are the sponsor organizations (a different non-profit group each month) that welcome all who come to Community Coffee and fur-

•See LETTER page 6

## • WEATHER •

	Friday 1/25		Saturday 1/26		Sunday 1/27	
	Daytime	Overnight	Daytime	Overnight	Daytime	Overnight
Temp	34 F	14 F	37 F	23 F	41 F	27 F
RealFeel	32 F	17 F	34 F	17 F	36 F	26 F
Winds	7 g 10	4 g 7	6 g 10	5 g 7	8 g 14	4 g 7
T-Storms	0%	0%	1%	2%	2%	2%
Rainfall	0	0	0	0	0	0
Snowfall	0	0	0	0	0	0

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www.highlandsinfo.com and click on Weather

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Digital Media/Circulation - Jim Lewicki

Locally owned and operated by

Kim & Jim Lewicki

Adobe PDF version at

www.HighlandsInfo.com

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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 IN-TOWN** Three bedroom, three bath older home with "old Highlands" feel with pine paneling, hardwood floors. Attached 800 square foot office/retail space, all on one level and walk to town. Spacious one-bedroom apartment over a 2-car garage. Two large master suites plus smaller bedroom and bath. Can be all residential, all commercial, or combined. Property zoned B-4, light commercial.

**MLS# 88910 | Offered for \$595,000**



**MIRRORMONT** Great remodel in Mirrormont - very private location on over 2 acres. This home has a wonderful open feel with cathedral ceiling and cypress walls. The kitchen is brand new with SS KitchenAid appliances, new cabinetry and granite counters. The living room has the feel of a treehouse with lots of glass and screened porch. Large den with a second fireplace. Master on main level.

**MLS# 89638 | Offered for \$575,000**

**HIGHLANDS FALLS CC** Open floor plan with vaulted ceilings in the great room and kitchen. The kitchen has been updated as well as both bathrooms. The great room opens to a covered deck which is the perfect spot for a quiet cup of coffee or enjoying the company of friends in the cool summer air. The master bedroom has a vaulted ceiling, a large walk-in closet and opens to the deck. Off the foyer are two guest bedrooms with a shared bath. Don't miss this one!

**MLS# 89625 | Offered for \$550,000**

**HIGHLANDS FALLS CC** This lovely villa has a wonderful screened porch plus two open decks. The great room has high vaulted and beamed ceiling with a floor-to-ceiling stone fireplace and handsome wood floors. Unlike most of the homes in the Laurelwood neighborhood, this home was custom built and this is evident in many of the custom features including a larger master bath with jetted tub, separate shower, and dual vanities.

**MLS# 89398 | Offered for \$495,000**



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# • OBITUARIES •

## James 'Hoot' Edward Talley

James "Hoot" Edward Talley, 79, of Highlands, passed away Monday, January 14, 2019.

Born in West Palm Beach, FL, he was the son of the late Carter Edward Talley and Christine Hall Talley. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife, Mary Lorraine Vinson Talley; two sons, James Randall Talley and Barry Eugene Talley; brother, Bobby Joe Talley; and sister, Peggy Talley Zachary. Hoot served as the Chief of Highlands Fire Department in the 70's and retired from GTE/Verizon Telephone Company. He loved to deer hunt and build clocks.



He is survived by two daughters, Becki Bryson (Mike) of Highlands and Beverly Talley Keener (Stacey) of Franklin; two grandchildren, Jason Johnson and Ryan Bryson; and two great-grandchildren, Rylee Bryson and Laney Bryson.

No services are planned at this time.

Memorial Donations can be made to Shop With A Cop c/o Macon County Sheriff's Office, 18 Patton Ave, Franklin, NC 28734.

Macon Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.

Condolences can be made to the family at [www.maconfuneralhome.com](http://www.maconfuneralhome.com)

## James Thomas 'Tom' Dalton

Tom was given life August 24, 1954 by his parents Furman Russell Dalton and Veta Houston Dalton both of Highlands. He died Jan. 14, 2019.

Tom had two brothers, Furman Russell Dalton Jr. (Skip) and Jerry Lee Dalton of Highlands; two children James Gary Dalton (Cindy) and Tracy Dalton Head; four grandchildren James Craig Dalton and Madison Brooke Dalton (Gary), Jeslyn Kate Head and John David Head (Tracy); along with several nieces and nephews.

Tom loved sports. He played baseball from a young age and was an avid motorcyclist. He enjoyed competition racing as well as off-road riding with his friends and family. Tom shared his love of sports with his son and family as well as his community. He coached Little League baseball teams and senior league basketball teams in the Highlands area in the mid-80s. Tom also helped coach the Highlands Highlander baseball team for two years in the early '90s.



Tom also shared his love of motorcross with his son Gary and nephew Paul. The family spent the better of 10 years together all over the southeast on the motorcross circuit.

Tom was also a member of the Highlands Jaycees and the Carolina Mountain clogging team. He spent many of his younger years working for his father in the plumbing business but Tom received a scholarship in the late '80s and pursued his dream of becoming a licensed motorcycle mechanic. Tom graduated from MMI motorcycle mechanic school in Daytona, FL. In the mid-90s Tom moved to Gastonia, NC where he opened his own motorcycle mechanic shop.

Tom's health began to decline and he was forced to hand over the shop to his stepson. Tom had many setbacks from his lifelong battle with type one diabetes but in his later years he enjoyed watching his grandchildren play sports and he participated in their everyday lives just being a Dad and Papaw.

## Ada Elizabeth Rogers Billingsley

Ada Elizabeth Rogers Billingsley, 76, of the Satolah Community passed January 16, 2019 at the Oconee Medical Center.

She was born the daughter of the late Edward Monroe Rogers and Velma Johnson Rogers, on December 23, 1942. Ada was a Christian and a member of the Macedonia Baptist Church. She was always a very active member of the church, and loved the Lord with all her heart. She loved being with her grandchildren and great-grandchildren, and always spent as much time as possible with her family.



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## ...LETTER continued from page 2

nish the refreshments each meeting. Our host groups for this past year were Big Brothers Big Sisters of Highlands, Appalachian Humanists, Bear Task Force, CNIPM: Invasive Species Task Force, Mountain Retreat & Learning Center, Highlands Historical Society, Hudson Library Board of Trustees, and Cashiers-Highlands Humane Society.

And finally, thank you all who have attended.

Still don't know what Community Coffee is all about? Come to the Hudson Library on Friday, February 22nd (the last Friday) from 11-12 and find out.

On behalf of the Hudson Library,

**Karen Hawk**



At August's meeting about the "modernizing" of NC 106 from Main Street to the GA line held at the Highlands Community Building, citizens turned out to hear the NC DOT's stance and to voice and submit their opinions.

— Photo by Kim Lewicki

## Project Update from NC DOT regarding NC 106

Proposed modernization of NC 106 between the Georgia state line and the Main Street of Highlands will not continue toward funding.

NC Department of Transportation officials reached this decision after an analysis of the project, with local officials and based on comments received following a public meeting held in August 2018.

It is not certain when, or if, this project will be funded. Other projects in the area may be proposed in the future.

Additional project information can be found at [www.ncdot.gov/news/public-meetings](http://www.ncdot.gov/news/public-meetings)

## ...OBITUARIES continued from page 5

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband Jackson "Jack" Milligan Billingsley; her daughter Tammy Fricks; her brother, John Wayne Rogers.

She is survived by a son, Scott Billingsley and his wife Carla of Clayton; a daughter, Donna Merritt and her husband Steve of Westminster, SC; her sisters, Charlotte Reed, of Clayton and Lucille McClure, of Franklin, NC; ten grandchildren, Kaci Boatman, Devin Merritt, Wesley Billingsley, Ryan Merritt, Blake Billingsley, Justin Rogers, Kaylee Stancil, Chandler Fricks, Amanda Marcengill, Stephanie Harvey; eleven great grandchildren also survive her.

Funeral Services were held on Friday January 18, 2019 at the Macedonia Baptist Church with Rev. Greg Rogers and Rev. Zane Talley officiating. Burial will follow in the Macedonia Baptist Church Cemetery.

Memorial donations in memory of Ada Elizabeth Rogers Billingsley may be made to Macedonia Baptist Church 343 Jerry Gap Road, Clayton, GA 30525.

Beck Funeral Home, in Clayton, Georgia, is in charge of the arrangements. If there are any questions, please call 706-782-9599. An online Memorial Register Book is available at [www.beckfuneralhome.com](http://www.beckfuneralhome.com).

## James Emmett Evans

James Emmett Evans, Jr., 93, died peacefully at his home in Dade City, FL on January 16, 2019. He was born in Auburndale, FL, on October 25, 1925. He attended the University of Florida for a semester before entering the United States Army and fought in World War II. He served as a tail gunner and was a proud recipient of The Air Medal and Distinguished Flying Cross.

After the war, he attended the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill where he was a member of the Alpha Tau Omega fraternity.

Mr. Evans was the long-time Chairman of the Board of Evans Properties, Inc., a family citrus and agricultural business.

He split his time between Dade City and Tampa, FL, and summers in Highlands, NC.

He loved beginning his mornings with his daily workout and then riding around his ranch and citrus groves. In the afternoons, he enjoyed playing gin rummy at one of his beloved country clubs with his many friends.

Mr. Evans was a member of St. Mary's Episcopal Church in Dade City and the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation in Highlands. Mr. Evans is survived by his son, James Emmett Evans III (Margaret Anne Evans) daughters, Reppard Evans Weaver (James McLendon Weaver) and Harriett Burdick Evans Gaddy (Stephen Charles Gaddy).

•See OBITUARIES page 8



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# • WORD MATTER •

## Whatever happened to negotiation and compromise?

I hope, by the time this hits the Highlands Newspaper, it falls into the category of old news. As I wrote last week, President Trump has shut down parts of the federal government in an attempt to force Congress to fund construction of a wall, or a fence, or a barrier, across the nation's southern border. This tactic is a lawful step he can take. Since Democrats took control of the U.S. House last November, and have expressed no interest in funding said border wall, he took it. It has impacted over 800,000 federal workers, including air traffic controllers, national park workers, the FBI, Secret Service, and Transportation Security Administration airport screeners, among others. They have either been furloughed or are working without pay until ... who knows when? Both sides – the President and Congress – are dug in. He wants his wall; they want nothing to do with it.

Remember negotiation and compromise? I miss negotiation and compromise.

All candidates make promises. Candidate Trump promised a lot of winning if he was elected. He promised many other things as well, some of which he's delivered. He promised to pull the U.S. out of the Paris Accord on Global Climate Change. He promised to pull the U.S. out of the Iranian nuclear deal. He's loosened environmental regulations and he's done away with regulations on financial transactions. He has delivered on these promises.

He also promised he'd preside over completion of a wall across America's southern border. He promised Mexico would pay for it. That part, he got wrong.

Undeterred, he now wants taxpayers – us – to pay for the wall, and through their elected representatives a majority of taxpayers have said ... no, they, we don't want to pay for his wall.

In the past when faced with such an impasse, the President and leaders in Congress would meet and figure out a way everyone could get at least some of what they want. This required negotiation, and compromise.

It's called politics. Often it's not pretty, but it's politics.

Shutting down agencies of the federal government, denying workers pay for services provided to other Americans, doesn't seem an appropriate step for anyone to



**Bud Katz**

take until everything else has been attempted. At this writing, whatever constitutes 'everything else' has definitely not been attempted.

This whole hot mess produced in my exhausted brain a moment of wonder: I wonder why some enterprising Congressperson doesn't introduce a bill to prohibit anyone – Congress, the President, you, me – from shutting down any or all of the federal government, because the people who work for the federal government actually work for the American people!

If the allegedly intelligent souls who we voted in to the American Congress and Presidency can't manage, even momentarily, to set aside their petty partisan poo-pooing on one another's shoes, and do the business we sent them there to do, they damn sure shouldn't be able to punish the people they hired to do the actual work, for petty partisan purposes.

I'm sorry. Furloughing, or forcing people who work for the benefit of the American people to work without being compensated as they expect because the President and the U.S. House of Representatives' leadership can't get along is, for want of a better word, reprehensible.

The President wants to be able to run in 2020 having delivered on his promise. He's betting a lot of political capital on it.

He can bypass Congress, declare a national emergency and move money from the Pentagon and FEMA into building the barrier along the border. But even his supporters in the House and Senate don't want to be seen as standing still for 'executive overreach,' something this President and many still serving in the Congress blamed the previous administration. Voters tend to not like hypocrites, even when those hypocrites are from their favored party.

Frankly, like many of you, I'd hoped by the time this column was due the shutdown would have ended, the 800,000 workers would have returned to work and serious negotiation would be underway on comprehensive immigration reform. Sorry, but as of this writing it hasn't played out that way.

I've heard it said, a successful negotiation happens when both sides walk away from the table equally unhappy. As of now, nobody's even at the table, and the unhappiest people are those who are out of work, or are still at work and are not getting paid.

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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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- Pedicures

## ...OBITUARIES continued from page 6

He is also survived by 7 grandchildren: James McLendon Weaver, Jr., Thomas Evans Weaver, Sarah Anne Evans, Stephen Charles Gaddy, Jr., Harry Reppard Gaddy, Julia Burdick Gaddy and Kimberly Hannah Trammell (Allen Raymond Trammell). He is preceded in death by his wife, Harriett Reppard Evans and sister, Margaret Evans Lowry.

Services were held on January 21, 2019, at St. Mary's Episcopal Church, Dade City, FL. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in his memory to Mary Lee's House, 2806 N. Armenia Avenue, Tampa, FL, 3607 (813-250-6650)

Maryleeshouse.org or to TGen Foundation, 445 N. Fifth St., Phoenix, AZ. 85004,

Foundation@tgen.org, 1-866-370-8436 for pancreatic cancer research.

## Jesse Ray Owens

Jesse Ray Owens, age 96, of the Satolah community, passed away on January 20, 2019.

Jesse Ray was born the son of the late Frank and Josie Owens on July 17, 1922 in Rabun County. As a young man, he served his country proudly in the Second World War. Jesse Ray was a Christian throughout his life and attended the Macedonia Baptist Church. In his professional life, he worked as a carpenter and as an artist, crafting the poplar bark buckets for which he was well known. He loved being outdoors, enjoying hiking and fishing. He loved his family and will be remembered as a loving husband, father and grandfather.

In addition to his parents, Jesse Ray was preceded in death by, his wife, Jean Holt Owens; his brothers, Riley, Dave, Doyle, Adolph, Leroy, Edgar, and Eugene Owens; his sisters, Iva Owens McCall, Eloise Owens Hudson, Oveline Owens, Effie Owens Greene.

•See OBITUARIES page 11

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## ...TREES from page 1

“More than likely, not in time for the DOT paving.”

NC Department of Transportation is scheduled to resurface Main Street beginning April 1. Adding trees along the roadway has been discussed at multiple Town Board, special, and committee meetings. Throughout this entire process loomed the April resurface date of Main Street, assuming if trees were added, it would need to be done prior to paving. This gave many involved a sense of urgency to get the ball rolling on this project to beat the resurface date.

However, at the end of the meeting, Public Service Director Lamar Nix said a straight cut down into the pavement could be done and after the trees are planted the opening can be covered either with permeable pavers which Commissioner Amy Patterson would prefer due to cost, or the metal grate.

The issue before the Board was to determine whether to add four trees to Main Street, seven trees or no trees at all. Not initially discussed was six trees which was suggested by Jerry Moore at the last Land Use Committee meeting – three on each block.

Several members of the public spoke in opposition to additional trees or moving too quickly when making this decision. Questions about cost, quantity, location, type of tree, grates, curbs, etc., were all unanswered, or at least not very clear.

Town Engineer Lamar Nix gave a brief rundown of the costs – from \$1,000-\$3,000 per tree – but unknowns such as tree diameter, type of tree, using permeable brick pavers or metal grate at the base of the tree flush with the street, whether electricity is needed or battery-operated lights, and whether trees and electricity can be added later made the final figure a moving target.

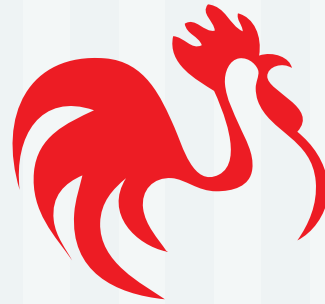
Commissioner Patterson brought

•See TREES page 10

### Movies at the Playhouse NEW SCHEDULE

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## ...TREES continued from page 9

up the idea of clustering the new trees in the center of each block to avoid the appearance of sporadically placed trees throughout Main Street and to achieve a canopy effect.

"Instead of spacing them far apart you can make them more clustered," said Patterson. "You put them in the middle and then you can build out. Isolated trees look OK, but it's not what we're envisioning. They need space and soil, but we need it to look like a designed oasis, not sporadic trees."

Up until this point, the primary issue was the number of trees to add, but then the location of and layout design of additional trees was being called into question.

Owner of The Christmas Tree Bob Kieltyka said there was no consensus between commissioners, business owners, or residents, and moving forward on this would be a hasty decision.

"If we aren't sure, then table this and discuss it later. There are so many questions bouncing around the room today; if we are going into this and in two years de-

cide to cut the trees down, it's taxpayers dollars being spent. There are several unsettled questions; including a new proposal regarding clustering and firm numbers. You are preparing to vote on something based on a conversation that sounds like a committee at work. You aren't even sure what the plan is. That is not the way to do this. Come up with a definitive plan. Right now, there is a lot of discussion and not a consensus about what you want. Curbs, cluster? It sounds like you want to pass legislation and decide what's in it afterwards," said Kieltyka.

Steve Mehder addressed the Board and said in his years of experience working on commercial and industrial projects, he would never try and have a project approved without more information.

"In order to vote on something, you need to have a clear, or at least a clear approximation of the numbers," he said. "I recommend this go back to committee."

Commissioner Brian Stiehler said he would like to leave Main

Street as it is and voiced concerns about the new trees' ability to survive. He used the maple trees at the ends of each block between 3rd and 5th streets as an example — trees he said that aren't looking good. In addition, he said a curb was needed since trees and/or their guards that he saw in New York City recently had both been damaged by cars.

Curbs around the trees were nixed early on as a tripping hazard, but after retailer and landlord David Young suggested they be incorporated — as well as going with the two on each block scenario — others began to consider them again.

Jerry Moore pleaded with the commissioners to stick to the plan devised at the first Land Use Committee meeting.

"You had community support for two and two. You really did. Even people who said they don't want any trees on Main Street said, 'I will live with that.' Do two trees and no cluster. And if we love it, we can come back and put more trees. Move cautiously. You have been elected to represent the people and the people are telling you we can live with this. We had a reasonable compromise. This doesn't make any sense," he said.

Taylor said Commissioner Donnie Calloway could not attend the meeting because of family issues, but said Calloway was not in favor of approving additional trees on Main Street.

Taylor said with all the unknowns, sending it back to committee was the logical choice.

"I think we need to take a step back and do more research," said Taylor. "We have a lot of moving parts that are still unknown."

In the end, on Commissioner Eric Pierson's motion, commissioners decided to agree to put trees in — the number to be determined — but to table the issue until the Land Use Committee can discuss exactly where they will be.

Pierson said if they are going to be clustered along the block instead of spread out, then he would suggest three per block. But if they are spread out, then four and three.

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**Valentine's Day**  
**Thursday, Feb. 14**



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## The WHY they BUY

**B**uying a home is a big decision, and buying a second or third home may be equally as daunting. You'd think price, resale value and of course, location, location, location would be the main reasons homebuyers choose a home, and while those are important, they aren't the only reasons. Let's look at some of the other reasons buyers may choose one property over another:

1) **EMOTION-** a large percentage of buyers spend more than they should because 'I really like it' It could be a vulnerable time in the buyer's life, or there's just something about a property they can't resist. Realtors can help buyers keep their emotions in check.

2) **IF THESE WALLS COULD TALK** – Sometimes, seller approved and/or positive stories or experiences of past owners may help sway a prospective buyer's decision. Does a buyer see **LOVE** or **FAMILY** when viewing a home? I'm not talking about those stick-on-the-wall sayings, but there's nothing wrong with having a few well-placed family photos of the sellers enjoying their home. Maybe an outdoor event, outdoor activities, entertaining photos are great too if they're well done. When

a broker can relay something like "This room is inspired by the seller's love of Monet as it overlooks their beautiful gardens."

3) **CULTURAL SUPERSTITIONS-** The number thirteen, or the triple digit six are known turn offs for some people. In Asian cultures, the number four is negative. Some buyers won't look at homes with bad feng-shui. We had a buyer once that walked in a home and could tell immediately if the aura was right or not. Some

discount homes with heavy beams (while others love that feature), and some only want a home that faces east, while others want south facing homes.

4) **VISIONS OF SUGARPLUMS-** There are some homes that seem to speak to certain lifestyles. When a Realtor gets to know more about a buyer and their interests, they are more able to know what features will speak to their buyer. Hobbyist love extra rooms, Birders love natural landscapes, while gardeners like a landscape ready to



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

tend. If the buyers have children and/or pets (aka retirees children), it's important to have child safe/pet friendly landscapes and neighborhoods.

5) **PERCEIVED VALUE-** The value is dependent on what the BUYER has to gain and what the BUYER is willing to pay. This can be a win/win for both buyers and sellers. New paint, new flooring, new appliances, etc. DO add value, and that value may give off a higher perceived value than it cost the seller to

provide (great for the seller). What's good for the buyer is that it's one less thing for them to worry about. One of the most important things buyers look for are 'what am I going to have to do to make this property the best property for me'. If a buyer sees peeling paint, wood rot, kitchens and baths that haven't been updated since the last century (yep, that even includes the 1990's) they will not pay 'the going rate' for that home. However, if a buyer is looking for a home to remodel, use awhile and sell within 5-10 years, they may want to look at these homes, provided the pricing takes the work to be done into consideration. The old rule 'Don't over build the neighborhood' rings true. When a buyer looks at a home priced below the normal market value, and compares it

to other homes in the neighborhood, they can get an idea of how much is too much to put into a home. There are homes listed now in our marketplace in which one could spend a dramatic amount for remodeling, and still be well below the neighborhood pricing. Repeat: The value is dependent on what the BUYER has to gain and what the BUYER is willing to pay.

6) **FIRST IMPRESSIONS-** Consider Zillow is to buyers what Match.com is to singles. First impressions really do make a difference. It starts with the listing- a listing has to catch not only a buyer's interest, it has to catch the buyer broker's interest too. The property itself needs to be in the best showing condition possible. Everything from curb appeal to cleanliness to comfortable while viewing to everything being in no need of repair (as possible).

Buying a home doesn't have to be a hard or lengthy process. Contact a Realtor that knows the area, one that can sell you the best property according to your needs.

• Jeannie and Tucker Chambers are broker/owners of Chambers Realty & Vacation Rentals located at 401 N. Fifth Street in Highlands. Drop by or visit them on the web at [highlandsiscalling.com](http://highlandsiscalling.com). 828-526-3717 [info@highlandsiscalling.com](mailto:info@highlandsiscalling.com)

(Parts of this article are from an article "Understanding the Psychology of Buying a Home" Corelogic.com.au)

## ...OBITUARIES continued from page 8

His survivors include his two sons, Clay Owens (Vickie), of the Satolah community, Bill Owens (MaryAnna), of Clayton, GA; his daughter, Donna Rogers, of the Satolah community; seven grandchildren, eight great-grandchildren also survive him.

A funeral service was held on Wednesday January 23, 2019 at the Macedonia Baptist Church with Rev. Roy Lowe and Rev. Zane Talley officiating.

Burial will follow in the Macedonia Baptist Church cemetery.

His pallbearers will be Dillon Owens, Ben Rogers, Jesse Owens, Chris Houston, Tommy Owens, James Reed.

The family asks that in lieu of flowers, donations should be made in Jesse Ray's memory to the Macedonia Baptist Church Cemetery Fund 256 Bee Gum Hollow Lane Clayton, GA 30525.

Beck Funeral Home, in Clayton, Georgia, is in charge of the arrangements. If

there are any questions, please call 706-782-9599. An online Memorial Register Book is available at [www.beckfuneralhome.com](http://www.beckfuneralhome.com).

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**Saturday, January 26**  
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# • HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

## NOTE

**The Rec Park** is now taking teams for the Spring Men's League Basketball league through February 1st. For any other information contact Lester Norris or Maxine Ramey at 828-526-3556.

## 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.

• The Bascom has gone to winter hours. We will be open Friday - Monday 10am -5pm (Sundays 12pm - 5pm). The Bascom galleries and shops will be closed Tuesdays - Thursdays. Admin offices and The Dave Drake Studio Barn are open normal business hours. Visitors are welcome to enjoy the newly updated Story Walk Trail throughout the week.

## Monday - Saturday

• At the Bascom, 10am - 5pm, Sunday 12pm - 5pm: Open Studio in The Dave Drake Studio Barn. For more information call 828-526-4949.

• At the Bascom, Art By Appointment private ceramic classes in The Dave Drake Studio Barn. For more information call 828-526-4949.

## Monday - Friday

• At the Bascom, You Too Can Raku by appointment class in The Dave Drake Studio Barn. For more information call 828-526-4949.

## First Mondays

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

## Mondays

• At the Bascom, 10am - 1pm: Studio Alive drawing group. For more information call 828-526-4949.

## 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.

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

## Tuesday

• At the Bascom, 3:00pm - 5pm: Writers group. For more information call 828-526-4949.

## 2nd and 4th Tuesdays

• OccupyWNC meets at the 7pm in the Sneak E. Squirrel Community Room (1314 Main St., Sylva. Visit [www.occupywnc.org](http://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 5:30. A combination class with many different styles of exercise at Rec Park.

## 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

• 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

• Highlands Area Indivisible group meets at 5 p.m. at the Highlands Hudson Library.

• 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

## Do you need help with staying warm?

The Highlands Emergency Council (H.E.C.) will be accepting applications from those requesting financial help for the cost of propane gas, fuel oil, and wood.

Applications will be accepted on:

• Monday, January 28, 2019 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

• Thursday, January 31, 2019 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Please come by H.E.C. located on Poplar Street (next to Wilson Gas). Proof of income is required. No applications will be accepted after these dates. Applications must be filled out in person; no applications will be taken over the phone.

## Winter Pool schedule

• **Lap Swim:** Monday-Friday 6-10a. 6 lanes and Monday-Thursday 3:30-7p. 1-2 lanes (shared Pool) and Saturday 10-11a 2 or 3 lanes.

• **Adult Swim:** 18 years plus Monday-Friday 11:30-1:30p no lap lanes and Saturday 10-11a shared with lap swim. Available Equipment: water weights, adult pool noodles, fins, water jog belt & kickboards.

• **Public Swim:** Monday-Thursday 3:20-7p Saturday 11am-6pm, Sunday 1-6pm and Sunday 1-6p.

• **Water Aerobics:** 18 years plus Monday-Friday 10:15-11a.

• **Aqua Dance and Fitness:** Monday 5:30-6:30p.

• **Baby and Me class:** Ages 6 month-3 years Friday 5:30-6p.

• **Movie Night:** all ages First Friday night of every month. Pool opens at 6:30 and movie starts at 7p. Call for movie title and prices

• **Pool Parties:** available Friday, Saturday and Sunday evenings 6-8p.

Call the pool at 828-526-1595 if you have any questions concerning the pool.



# • HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

Club allows creativity and STEM skills to develop together as kids enjoy making LEGO creations.

## First Fridays

• Movie Night- all ages First Friday night of every month. Pool opens at 6:30 and movie starts at 7 p.m. Call for movie title and prices. For any other information call 828-526-1595.

## Friday - Monday

• At the Bascom, 10am - 5pm (Sundays 12pm - 5pm): Free Admission to exhibition spaces and SmArt Space for children. For more information call 828-526-4949.

## 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.

• At the Bascom, 10am - 12pm: Community Knitters group, For more information call 828-526-4949.

## Sundays

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

## Sat., Jan. 26

• At PAC, The Tragedy of King Richard II 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](http://www.highlandspac.org), at the door or by calling: 828.526.9047. Highlands Performing Arts Center, 507 Chestnut Street, Highlands.

## Sat., Feb. 2

• At PAC, Bizet's Carmen, 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](http://www.highlandspac.org), at the door or by calling: 828.526.9047. Highlands Performing Arts Center, 507 Chestnut Street,

## Wed., Feb. 6

• Some concerned citizens will hold a discussion about the anomalies of the recent California fires at the Macon County Public Library at 7:30 pm in Franklin. Preceding the discussion will be a visual presentation along with a conference call interview of a survivor of the Paradise Fire. We are hoping to form a local research group. Contact Ruth Bishop at 800-736-3351.

## Wed., Feb. 13

• 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 Bleicki, Mission Health Project SEARCH instructor, and the job coach, as well as current and past interns, and representatives of program partners. There's a Q&A at the end for parents and students. For questions, please contact Tim Bleicki at [tbleicki@arcnc.org](mailto:tbleicki@arcnc.org) or 828-254-4771 or visit <https://arcnc.org/project-search-asheville>.

## Fri., Feb. 15

• Senior Dinner at 12 noon at The Highlands Recreation Depart-

ment. For any other information contact Lester Norris or Maxine Ramey at 828-526-3556.

## Sat., Feb. 29

• At PAC, I'm Not Running by David Hare. at 1 p.m. Live via Sat-

ellite Series featuring the National Theatre (London.) with a pre-opera discussion 30 minutes prior. Tickets are available online: [www.highlandspac.org](http://www.highlandspac.org), at the door by calling: 828.526.9047.

## The National Theatre of London's 'The tragedy of King Richard II' via satellite at the Performing Arts Center



The Highlands Performing Arts Center will screen the National Theatre of London's production of The Tragedy of King Richard the Second on Saturday, January 26 at 1pm. Shakespeare's Richard II starts his four history plays about the House of Lancaster. King Richard (who ruled from 1377-1399) is a weak monarch, indecisive and irresponsible. With the country on the verge of crisis, nobleman Bolingbroke challenges Richard for the throne, and eventually deposes him – an act which is viewed as the origin for the War of the Roses between the Houses of York and Lancaster.

The play has recently been in the spotlight from the BBC's series The Hollow Crown, where Ben Whishaw played the troubled King Richard. (Indeed, the phrase 'the hollow crown' actually derives from the play itself, when Richard realizes that he is fallible and not protected by his perceived 'divine right' to be king.)

The Almeida's production, however, will be completely different from the period-costume, historically focused BBC adaptation. Director Joe Hill-Gibbins has worked with a specialist adaptor of Shakespeare to cut the original 3-hour long text down to 90 minutes. As a result, it hones in on the key struggle between Richard and the challenger Bolingbroke, in a tour-de-force of power play, back-stabbing and political maneuvering.

The production poses the question, 'When the country is on the brink of disaster, who is the right person to take charge – and should we trust them?'- which feels like a very pertinent question for our modern times. The aesthetic is stripped-back and contemporary, with all the actors performing within a white box (Richard's physical and mental "prison"), and with only one prop on stage – the Crown.

Tickets are available online: [highlandspac.org](http://highlandspac.org) or at the door. Highlands PAC, 507 Chestnut Street, Highlands. (Students are admitted FREE...just come!)

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## • BIZ/ORG NEWS •

**Tuesday night's weekly supper offers fellowship and a free meal at Highlands' Community Building**



On Tuesday, January 15, the Rotary Club of Highlands sponsored the Highlands Community Dupper. The photo shows Rotary members Sherry Holt and Jim Oesterle serving a family during the meal.

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# • INK PENN •

## News from the PC Police

I have one general guideline for myself in writing my columns: refrain from expressing anger or writing anything controversial-- anything that might cause folks to get up in arms, or worse, angry with me. That's why I don't mention politics or roadwork and traffic irritants even when I have an opinion. I do occasionally write a thought-provoking column, but I lean more towards the lighthearted.



**Kathy Manos Penn**

With that guideline in mind, I will attempt to "report" the news I've gathered from the PC Police without expressing my opinion about said news lest I offend someone. Chances are If you've been reading my columns long enough, you can probably guess my opinion on all of this.

First, I caught wind of the banning of the Christmas song "Baby, it's cold outside." I saw a brief mention of the ban online and thought I'd misunderstood. Then, a British Facebook group went into more detail about a newscaster reporting how inappropriate and offensive the song lyrics are. An AJC article on the topic came next.

I laughed when the Brits followed up with a tongue-in-cheek list of additional Christmas songs that were offensive to one group or another and should also be banned. Next, the same British group requested that parents cease telling their children that their tablets, phones, and computers came from Santa because the children who didn't get those gifts might feel unworthy.

Last, I picked up the AJC to read that a high school in England had banned kids from wearing certain expensive jackets to school. Why? Because seeing the jackets caused students who couldn't afford them to feel bad. The school powers that be went so far as to deem the wearing of expensive jackets a form of bullying.

In the same article, I read that Journalism professors at Leeds Trinity University, also in England, had been told to avoid using the words "do" and "don't" in class and in writing and also to avoid

using all caps for emphasis. Finding this bit of news weirdly fascinating, I turned to the internet to dig deeper. An internal university memo explained that these words can cause anxiety, and anxiety can lead to failure. The word "don't" in all caps is considered especially egregious.

As I pondered why only Journalism students were receiving protection from anxiety-provoking language, I read that the University of Manchester's

student union voted to ban clapping and cheering at events like debates, panel discussions, and talks because the noise could cause anxiety in students with sensory issues. There was no concern expressed for the speakers and debaters.

Using jazz hands was designated the preferred way to cheer. A visit to my trusty online dictionary revealed the definition of jazz hands as "a gesture in which the hands are waved rapidly to and fro with the palms facing forward and the fingers splayed, used typically to express or indicate excitement or triumph."

I wonder whether the use of jazz hands will catch on here in the States at colleges and universities. I can see it now: Unpopular speakers could speak and be heard if students and staff were banned from jeering, booing, and using profane language to run them off the stage. Would college students see that as a welcome or unwelcome change on our campuses?

All of this news from the PC Police makes me think of the law of unintended consequences. As I'm coming dangerously close to expressing an opinion and maybe even climbing on my soapbox, I think I'll go to my room and practice my jazz hands.

• 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](mailto:inkpenn119@gmail.com), and follow her on Facebook, [www.facebook.com/KathyManosPennAuthor/](http://www.facebook.com/KathyManosPennAuthor/).



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**T**urmeric is a trending spice that people are always asking me how to use. It is also one that I incorporate into my diet daily. Not only is it a powerful antioxidant and inflammatory, it has also been scientifically proven to aid in brain health, cancer and depression.

Turmeric is a mild spice, and easy to incorporate into any meal. So, ditch the supplements and capsules and try some of my suggestions!

Turmeric Pepperberry Sea Salt, is a fragrant sea salt made of turmeric, saffron, and pink pepperberries. Turmeric is best absorbed in the body when added with pepper.

This salt is great on meats, shrimp, pasta, salads and more. Use it like you would your everyday salt, except get the benefits of turmeric!

Ginger Turmeric Tea is one of my most popular teas! Its great for inflammation and bloating, and the ginger aids in digestion.

Peach Turmeric tea is another store favorite, and is great served hot or cold. Add some local honey to your teas to help with your allergies!



### Roasted Turmeric Potatoes and Green Beans:

#### Grocer:

1 lb fresh green beans  
8 red potatoes, cut into 3/4 large pieces  
4 TBS olive oil

#### The Spice & Tea Exchange:

1 TBS Onion Obsession  
2 tsp Vick's Garlic Fix  
1 TBS Turmeric



**Directions:** preheat oven to 350. Cut potatoes and add green beans, olive oil and spices in a mixing bowl and combine. Put on a cookie sheet and roast for 30-40 minutes, occasionally moving around while cooking. Remove when potatoes are golden brown and cooked through.

**Happy cooking!**

# ...MISSION continued from page 1

cerns and when announcing the approval of the sale, he included specific protections for health care in rural communities such as Macon County.

"His decision and approval is a big win for everyone in Western Carolina, including healthcare advocates, HCA, Mission, Dogwood Health Trust and local foundations," said Highlands Mayor Patrick Taylor.

The Dogwood Health Trust Taylor mentions is one of the stipulations Stein specifically outlined in his approval.

The asset purchase agreement stipulated that a newly formed foundation called the Dogwood Health Trust would manage the proceeds of the sale, with an objective to use social determinants of health to improve the health and well-being of the communities Mission Health now serves. In addition, the board must be made up of members from the entire Mission/HCA

area. The majority of board members may not be from Mission's Buncombe county.

In the original draft of the agreement between HCA and Mission, HCA committed to providing services at the smaller regional hospitals such as those in Franklin, Highlands, Transylvania and other rural areas for five years. That commitment has now been extended to 10 years thanks to Stein without the loss of services.

In addition, not only Dogwood, but also the regional foundations, shall have the right to bid on the local hospitals if they would be sold or closed after that time.

Not only does the agreement require that services continue for 10 years, the agreement specifically states that the same level of services currently offered at the hospitals must continue. The agreement states that HCA is prohibited from closing any facilities or discontinuing services unless agreed upon by both a hospital's local advisory board and an independent monitor. That monitor will also regularly review whether HCA is maintaining its overall commitments.

The agreement specifically states that HCA must keep the commitment previously made by Mission Health to rebuild Angel Medical Center in Franklin. HCA also may not reduce the number of beds or availability of services to be provided in the replacement for Angel Medical Center. The original agreement would have allowed HCA to make changes based on their discretion.

The sale also will have a specific focus on behavior health needs as well as battling the opioid epidemic in Western North Carolina. HCA agreed to build a 120-bed inpatient behavioral health hospital in Asheville, and it may not reduce the scale of that project to construct fewer than that number of beds.

Over the next five years, HCA will also

be required to spend \$25 million to fight the opioid epidemic throughout Western North Carolina.

HCA also agreed to continue supporting the same community programs Mission Health System has in the past by agreeing to spend at least \$14.28 million for community service programs specifically, \$7.5 million over the next 10 years along with \$6.78 million in the next year to support certain

# ...iPADS continued from page 1

eral more conversations throughout the year between Delany, Potts, and several others, a plan was set in motion to raise the money to purchase iPads for elementary students at Highlands School.

"We then talked about what ifs, what if the kids in 1st through 4th grade had iPads, and how that might play into efficiencies in learning and access for the students and teachers to educational tools to take it a step further," said Delany. "Mr. and Mrs. Williams are supporters of this community as we all know, but their belief in having access to learning and education is one of their biggest focuses. I had the information and the statistics and shared that with Williams, and they were happy to assist in this project."

Now there will be 107 iPads ordered for students at Highlands School. Additionally, there will be 30 iPads ordered for The Literacy Council. Highlands High School students already have access to iPads in the classroom.

"We serve the same students and TLC exists to help students with education outside of the classroom," said Potts. "After speaking to several teachers and conducting extensive research, I found that iPads are being used more and more frequently on a one-to-one basis in schools. iPads are incredible in a classroom for several reasons: they help develop fine motor skills, they aid in communication, and education can be customized to individual student needs."

In addition to aforementioned benefits, Potts said using iPads in the classroom shows a dramatic increase in a student's academic performance.

"Statistics show substantial improvements when comparing test scores to prior-year test scores, student test scores to norms, and student performance on pre- and post-test measures," said Potts. "In fact, schools that implemented one-to-one iPads in the classrooms, on average Kindergarteners showed a 38% to 40% increase in reading proficiency."

Potts added that The Literacy Council depends heavily on communication with teachers to customize students' private tutoring, test preparation, and homework assistance and iPads will improve that com-

named programs.

While layoffs of employees can be expected throughout the region at various health care facilities as a result of the acquisition, HCA did vow to give employees who lose their jobs locally, notification of job opportunities around the country in other HCA-owned facilities, which would also allow employees to retain their seniority.

munication.

"By having iPads available for the students and at The Literacy Council, teachers and tutors can communicate quickly and easily with one another to discuss student needs," she said. "iPads make learning customized for individual students. Students thrive when they have different learning options. If a student is struggling with a subject, there are numerous apps (many in game form) that make learning fun and exciting."

Potts said gifts like the donation from Art and Angela Williams make it possible to continue the mission of improving education outside of the classroom.

"We are incredibly grateful to Art and Angela Williams, and to Melissa and Richard Delany," said Potts. "The Literacy Council and Highlands School are so extremely excited and humbled by this gift that will have such a positive impact on our students. We are so very thankful for their generosity."

## More improvements to come?

The purchase of iPads for elementary students initiated by The Literacy Council may signal the beginning of a push for improved technology across the board at Highlands School. This is where the Advanced Highlands Education Committee comes into the equation.

## What is AHEC and how is it involved?

AHEC is made up of members of the community who have come together with the goal of raising private capital to improve the infrastructure at Highlands School, said AHEC Committee Member Hilary Wilkes in a released statement.

"Working alongside administration and faculty, the intent is to assist in funding the further development of resources to help the entire student body succeed and realize its fullest potential," said Wilkes. "Dubbed the 'Library Peeps,' after prioritizing the initiative to expand the school Library, a.k.a. Media Center, the group also aims to strengthen technology materials needed by students and teachers."

AHEC members heard of the donation and The Literacy Council's plan to

• See iPADS page 19

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# • YOUNGER THROUGH FITNESS •

## Movement Counts – Inside and Out

The National Institute Of Health-AARP Diet and Health Study has been following life style choices of thousands of older Americans for more than 20 years and it confirms my mantra that movement, life quality and longevity are intertwined. Just as voluntarily moving our extremities facilitates better health and possible life extension, movements on the inside through our involuntary systems seems to correlate strongly with improved health, longevity and the push-back on early onset aging, to boot.

Adequate insoluble fiber intake brooms out our internal system by collecting and expediting waste removal through our digestive tracts. A process called Peristalsis is promoted by consuming insoluble fiber. This process is a wave-like action where the smooth muscles of the digestive track contract and release and therefore push waste down and out. If you have ever watched a nature film of a snake digesting a whole small animal, you have seen a fine example of Peristalsis. Although unpleasant to watch for some, this is the best visualization of the process I can think of.

Soluble fiber has great benefit, too; it forms into a gel in the digestive track and

helps keep blood sugar in check by slowing down sugar absorption. In addition, it improves cholesterol numbers.

The National Institute Of Health-AARPDiet study is by all standards a huge undertaking, involving an immense amount of people over an extended period of time. Ergo, I truly believe that all older American's who choose to incorporate its findings into dietary choices will benefit greatly.

Taken directly from the NIH website here is a synopsis of the findings:

“CONCLUSIONS: Dietary fiber may reduce the risk of death from cardiovascular, infectious, and respiratory diseases. Making fiber-rich food choices more often may provide significant health benefits.”

Paraphrasing the findings, I will state that the people who regularly eat a fiber rich diet live longer and healthier. In addition, regular exercise also speeds up and enhances Peristalsis.

The fountain of youth eluded Ponce De Leon, but it doesn't have to elude us! It is right in front of our faces. Eat more fiber, move daily, strength train, eat lots of fruits



Hank Miller  
828-305-9713

and vegetables. Focus on real food from nature, make unprocessed food choices rather than processed ones. Live long and prosper!

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@thebestexerciseforseniors.com](mailto:hank@thebestexerciseforseniors.com)

## Soluble and Insoluble

*Good sources of soluble fiber include oats and oatmeal, legumes (peas, beans, lentils), barley, fruits and vegetables (especially oranges, apples and carrots).*

*Insoluble fiber does not absorb or dissolve in water. It passes through our digestive system in close to its original form. It offers many benefits to intestinal health, including a reduction in the risk and occurrence of hemorrhoids and constipation. The scientific names for insoluble fibers include cellulose, lignins, and also some other hemicelluloses. Most of insoluble fibers come from the bran layers of cereal grains.*

# • HS SPORTS •

## The run down

This past-week high school basketball played Eagle Ridge and Cherokee.

JV girls and boys both won over Cherokee. Neither varsity girls nor boys won. The boys came extremely close, only losing by one.

Later both varsity teams beat Eagle Ridge. JV did not play because Eagle Ridge does not have JV teams.

Their next home game will be on Friday, January 25. They will play Swain with JV boys starting at 5p. There won't be a JV girls game.

This week middle school basketball also played Eagle Ridge. Only the boys team played because they don't have a middle school girls team. The boys finished the night with a win. Their next home game is today, Thursday, January 24. They will play Tallulah Falls starting at 4:30p.

Come support your Highlands basketball!



Kedra McCall

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# • SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

## The Art of Giving



Archbishop  
John Erbeling

One of the most difficult lessons we must learn in life, yet one of the most rewarding in terms of personal joy and satisfaction, involves the art of giving. The idea is embodied in the Savior's admonition in Matthew 22:39, "love thy neighbor as thyself;" the gift of love. But to give -- and more importantly to understand the meaning and purpose of giving -- is a lifelong challenge which some of us never quite achieve.

The lessons can begin at an early age and are not easy. Although your child may comply, it is difficult, if not impossible for him to understand why he will be happier sharing his candy with an older brother. Unfortunately, this situation continues throughout life. We are often fully committed to giving until the time comes to give not out of our excess but to give as a sacrifice. But without sacrifice, there is no real giving. As Elton Trueblood, a noted American Quaker theologian and chaplain to Harvard University, wrote, "A man has made at least a start on discovering the meaning of human life when he plants shade trees under which he knows full well he will never sit." This is an act of giving.

The art and meaning of giving and its impact on our lives is probably best illustrated in Bruce Barton's verse of the seas in Palestine. One is fresh and filled with fish. Splashes of green adorn its banks and children play along its shores. Men build next to it, and every form of life is improved because of its presence. The river Jordan fills this sea with sparkling water from the hills.

The river Jordan also flows south to another sea where there are no fish, no fluttering leaves, no children's laughter. "There," writes Barton, "the air hangs heavy above its water, and neither man nor beast nor fowl will drink."

What makes them different? Not the river Jordan. It empties the same good water into both. The difference is that one receives but does not keep. For every drop of the Jordan that flows into it, another flows out. But the other sea hoards its income, resisting the temptation of generosity. Every drop it gets, it keeps.

But the Sea of Galilee gives and lives. This other sea gives nothing. It is named "The Dead."

There are two seas in Palestine.

There are two kinds of people in the world.

My prayer for you is that the New Year be filled with the spirit of the Sea of Galilee. Nothing more, but nothing less.

## Proverbs 3:5

### BLUEVALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH

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

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

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

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

### BUCK CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

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.: Adult Ed.: 9:30a.m.; Worship 11 a.m.

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

Wed.: 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.

# • PLACES TO WORSHIP •

John 3:16

### 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 Casmir -- 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

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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



## ...iPADS continued from page 16

purchase iPads for elementary students and offered to help raise more money for the project. Enter the Swift Family Foundation that volunteered to donate \$5,000 to AHEC to buy protective covers for the new iPads.

Originally, the plan was to purchase iPads for Kindergarten through 3rd grade, but after the donation by the Swift Family Foundation, The Literacy Council was able to stretch its grant and purchase iPads for the 4th grade as well since they didn't have to spend money buying covers.

Founding members of the AHEC include; Melissa Delaney, Stephanie McCall, Jody Pierson, Janice Raby, Jim Tate, Derek Taylor, Jeff Weller, and Hilary Wilkes.

"Advancing Highlands Education Committee is just that," said Delaney. "This group has been involved for several months working with the community, the school administration, and the teachers of

Highlands School directly to assist with specific needs they have in the form of tools, resources, technology, and communication to provide funding for some of these necessary items that grant access to knowledge and learning that the library and teachers may not have at the moment."

Wilkes said AHEC's involvement in the iPad purchase is one of many projects on the horizon to improve the resources at Highlands School. Other projects in the works include having a one-to-one student iPad ratio for elementary students in grades 5th-8th; building a Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) closet at school to store STEM research materials properly; and replacing the activity boards in classrooms to name a few.

Delaney said there are separate entities involved in this project, but they are all working towards the same goal.

## Students' artwork to brand AHEC efforts

Pictured from left are Jamie King, Jake Smith, Oliver Smith and Media Coordinator Terry Stamey.



The Advance Highlands Education Committee (AHEC) tasked the students at Highlands School with developing artwork to illustrate its fundraising efforts. The theme was "Library Peeps" and the goal was to develop a mascot for AHEC. There were two dozen entries and two winners were chosen for use in AHEC materials. The winners were Jamie King, 10th Grade and Jake Smith, 3rd Grade. There were also two runner ups: Camren Dalton, 11th Grade and Oliver Smith, 1st Grade. Each winner received \$100 and each runner up received \$25.

### Research by The Literacy Council on the benefits of iPads in classrooms reported the following:

- *iPads can support seamless learning, allowing learners to easily switch learning contexts — from formal to informal or personal to social — and to take control of their own learning. For example, to supplement what they are learning in class in real-time through additional web-based inquiry, or by making digital notes.*
- *The finger-driven iPad interface can motivate and engage students, keeping them interested in content for longer, and allowing groups to interact with the device at the same time and with the same object. This enhances and stimulates simultaneous opportunities for face-to-face social interaction in ways that desktop, laptop and even netbook computing with their mouse-driven screen, 'individual' peripherals, fixed location, weight and overall design do not.*
- *Research suggests that the adoption and use of iPads in and beyond the classroom allows students to augment and enhance their learning in ways that were previously not possible or not so easy to do.*
- *Teachers, students and parents report that the multiple communication features, routine availability and easy accessibility of iPads in the classroom and in students' homes make communication between teachers and students, and school and home easier and more routine. (iPads in the Classroom, by Wilma Clark and Rosemary Luckin)*

*Additional reading statistics from the National Endowment for the Arts:*

#### • Reading skills correspond directly to one's ability to...

- be an informed citizen
- communicate effectively
- earn a higher salary
- succeed in one's chosen career, and
- achieve personal fulfillment

#### • Literary readers are:

- 3 times as likely to attend a performing arts event
- 4 times as likely to visit an art museum
- 2 1/2 times as likely to do volunteer or charity work
- 1 1/2 times as likely to attend sporting events, and
- 1 1/2 times as likely to participate in sports activities.

• *Less than half (48%) of the adult [American] population now reads literature for pleasure. This decline in reading literature occurs across all ages, sexes and races. The decline is most pronounced among the young.*

• *The percentage of 17-year-olds who read nothing at all for pleasure has doubled over a 20-year period. Yet the amount they read for school or homework (15 or fewer pages daily for 62% of students) has stayed the same.*

• *More than 20 percent of adults read at or below a fifth-grade level — far below the level needed to earn a living wage.*

• *50 percent of American adults are unable to read an eighth-grade level book.*

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• *It is estimated that the cost of illiteracy to business and the taxpayer is \$20 billion per year.*

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# • POLICE & FIRE REPORTS •

**Highlands Police entries from Dec. 30, 2018. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor or public officials have been used.**

**Jan. 7**

• At 11 a.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident on Main Street near S. 5th Street.

**Jan. 10**

• At 8:45 a.m., officers responded to a one-vehicle accident on US 64 west near Trillium Circle.

**Jan. 11**

• At 11:15 a.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident on US 64 and NC 106.

• At 11:22 a.m., officers received a call about a burglary/breaking & entering a residence on N. 5th Street.

• At 9:27 p.m., officers responded to a one-vehicle accident on US 64 east near Sherwood Forest.

**The Highlands Fire & Rescue log from Jan. 13, 2019.**

• At 10:51 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Country Club Drive.

**Jan. 16**

• At 244 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Cullasaja Club Drive.

• At 8:09 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Cowee Ridge Trail.

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### NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA MACON COUNTY IN THE DISTRICT COURT

RE:FLORESV.OROZCO, MACON COUNTY FILE NUMBER: 18-CVD-618

TO:JOSE MAURICIO MUNOZ OROZCO, Defendant.

Take notice that a pleading seeking relief against you has been filed in the above-entitled action. The nature of the relief being sought is as follows: Absolute Divorce. You are required to make defense to such pleading not later than (40 days after the first publication will belong on this line), said date being 40 days from the first publication of this notice. Upon your failure to do so, the party seeking service against you will apply to the Court for the relief sought.

This the 21st day of December, 2018.

Jonathan Song, Attorney for Plaintiff  
Song Law, PLLC 1085 N. Main Street  
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Jan. 17, Jan 24, Jan. 31



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