

# Highlands Newspaper

Merry Christmas!

FREE Every Thursday

Volume 18, Number 51

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

Thurs., Dec. 23, 2021

## Area FedEx driver arrested in 12 Highlands-area break-ins

By Brittney Lofthouse

The Highlands Police Department has been working with the Macon County Sheriff's Office since last week investigating a string of burglaries that have occurred at occupied and unoccupied homes in the Highlands area.

As of Tuesday morning, law enforcement officers have one individual in custody related to

•See BREAK-INS page 10



Photo by Kim Lewicki

## Clerk of Court Perry swears in new Town Board

Thursday, Dec. 16, the newly elected Town Board was sworn into office by outgoing Clerk of Superior Court Vic Petty.

Prior to the ceremony, Mayor Pat Taylor thanked Perry for his service over the years – he has often traveled up the mountain to swear in the town's officers. He did not run for re-election in November.

•See SWEARS page 5

Upper left: MC Clerk of Court Vic Perry swears in Mayor Pat Taylor for his 3rd term.

Middle left: Perry swears in Commissioners Amy Patterson and Eric Pierson.

Bottom left: Mayor Pat Taylor thanks outgoing Commissioner Donnie Calloway for his service over the last eight years.

### •INSIDE THIS ISSUE•

Mayor on Duty .....	2	Shopping Pullout .....	12-13
Weather .....	2	Hospital News .....	14
Dining .....	4	Events .....	15
Investing at 4,118 Ft. ....	6	Past & Present .....	16
Financial Matters .....	7	Police & Fire Reports .....	19
On the Sunny Side .....	11	Classifieds .....	22



Photo by Jason Wilbanks

## Fire destroys home on Spruce St. Friday Dec. 17

Shortly before 9 p.m. Friday, Dec. 17, Highlands Fire & Rescue responded to the call of a structure fire at 526 Spruce Street in downtown Highlands.

The structure on a parcel between Mountain Findings and Pinebrook Condominiums was totally engulfed when firefighters arrived minutes later.

According to Fire Chief Ryan Gearhart, the Ogle family,

whose permanent residence is in Tennessee, returned home after being out to dinner to find their home on fire. Sadly, their two Westie dogs perished in the blaze.

The fire department's tanker truck was set up on the Mountain Findings property next door which helped firefighters drench the flames.

Visible from The Bridge Res-

•See FIRE page 17



Wishing our clients and dear friends  
a wonderful holiday season!

Highlands | Sotheby's  
INTERNATIONAL REALTY

114 N. 4th Street  
(828) 526.8300

1371 Cullasaja Club Drive  
(828) 526.4104

## McCULLEY'S

The largest selection of  
Scottish cashmere in the U.S.A.

In Highlands ...on the hill  
242 S. 4th St. • 828-526-4407

Open 7 days a week

[www.mcculleys.com](http://www.mcculleys.com)

# • THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

## • MAYOR ON DUTY •

### We remembered with a wreath

It was a rainy day on Saturday when wreaths were placed on the graves of American veterans. Nevertheless, Phil Potts, Mike Murphy and Derek Taylor had organized this national event for Highlands, Wreaths Across America. American Legion Post 370 assembled a group of veterans, and a commemorative ceremony was held this past Saturday at the Highlands Community Building, followed by the placing of the wreaths at the cemetery.



Highlands Mayor  
Patrick Taylor

It was a bittersweet event, a time to think about departed loved ones who served our country. At Christmas I think of veterans and their commitment to service. I remember my first Christmas as a soldier and how I so much cherished a two-week leave at Christmas. I also vividly recall the second Christmas posted in a foreign land and having to be on duty on Christmas Day. Nothing ever changes, there will be thousands of GIs on leave and on duty in distant places during the holiday season. I hope everyone will take a moment to pause and thank them for what they are doing at

this moment.

Before the wreath ceremony our American Legion post had a breakfast gathering. I sat down with other veterans and talked about the old times of military service. We are old men now, but as I talked with my friends, I was struck by what they had done in service to our nation, and the fact that many of them are very fortunate to still be celebrating any Christmas at all. And what was

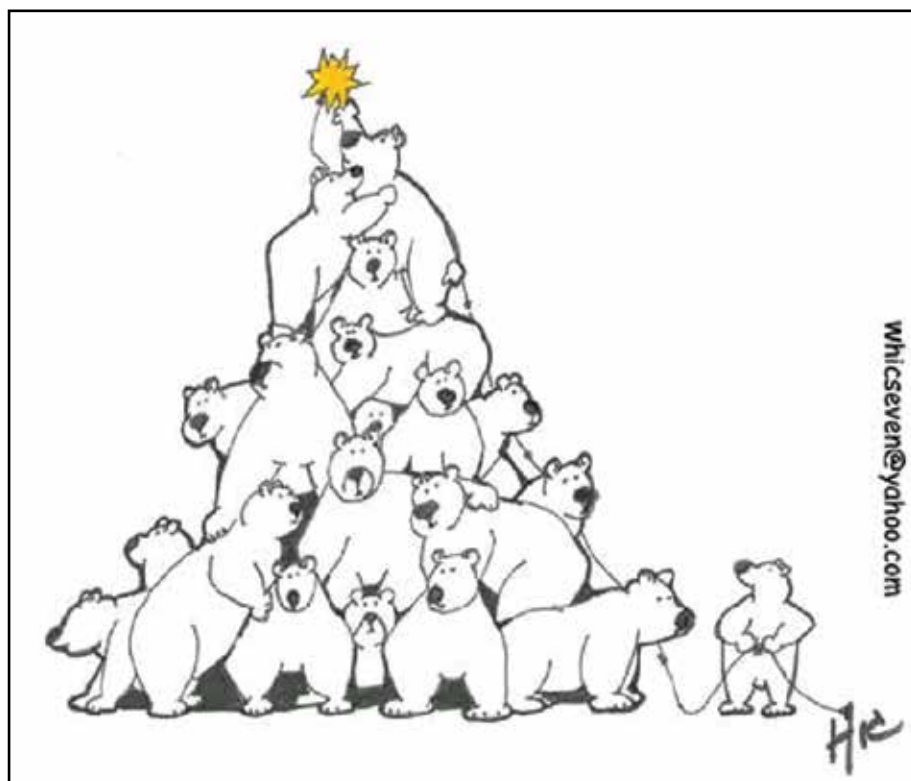
even more amazing was that some of these old veterans were hobbling around, limping and struggling to place those wreaths on the graves of their comrades, but they made that extra effort to do so.

At that breakfast gathering of old veterans there were many stories of them doing their duty and going that extra mile for our country. There was the Legionnaire that spent six years in a North Vietnamese prison camp. He was eating his breakfast like nothing had ever happened. I sat next to a former US Air Force pilot who had survived over 100 missions over Hanoi. (I can't bring myself to call it Ho Chi Minh City.) This former pilot said during those combat days he smoked five packs of cigarettes a day and tended to shake like a leaf. After hearing accounts of what he did as a pilot, I was in awe of his courage and sacrifice. Flying that many combat missions almost assured that his final number would be up sooner than later. It is a miracle that he still celebrating Christmas.

There was another old vet that was using a hiking stick as a support as he placed wreaths on graves. He was covered in water, a condition he was very accustomed to in his military service. This man was wearing a hat with the words Seal Group 1. His hat indicated he was one of first members of the distinguished Navy Seal Teams. I suspect he, like the veteran who was a POW and the pilot, all felt fortunate to be celebrating this Christmas in 2021.





This season is a time of anticipation and hope. Anticipation and hope are the cornerstones of faith. As we face yet another possible surge in COVID and face other uncertainties, let our community, like those old veterans, have the hope and anticipation that this next year will be the best yet to come.

## • HIC'S VIEW •



whicseven@yahoo.com

## • WEATHER •

Thu, 23-Dec	Fri, 24-Dec	Sat, 25-Dec	Sun, 26-Dec
			
50°F 28°F	54°F 40°F	61°F 47°F	63°F 43°F
Sunny and not as cool	A blend of sun and clouds	Rather cloudy and mild	Partly sunny and warm
RealFeel®	RealFeel®	RealFeel®	RealFeel®
High: 54° Low: 28°	High: 58° Low: 32°	High: 61° Low: 47°	High: 63° Low: 43°

For Real-time Weather and the Extended Forecast, go to [www.highlandsinfo.com](http://www.highlandsinfo.com) and click on Weather

### Highlands Newspaper

[www.highlandsinfo.com](http://www.highlandsinfo.com)

Phone: (828) 200-1371

Email:

[HighlandsEditor@aol.com](mailto:HighlandsEditor@aol.com)

Publisher/Editor: Kim Lewicki

Reporters: Brittney Lofthouse

Brian O'Shea

Digital Media/Circulation - Jim Lewicki

Locally owned and operated by

Kim & Jim Lewicki

Adobe PDF version at

[www.HighlandsInfo.com](http://www.HighlandsInfo.com)

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

Highlands, N.C., 28•• 741

All Rights Reserved. No articles, photos, illustrations, advertisements or design elements may be used without permission from the publisher.

#### 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.

### HIGHLANDER ROOFING SERVICES INC.

New & Re-Roofing Applications Including:  
Asphalt • Cedar • Metal • Synthetic Materials.

Showroom: 1511 Highlands Rd. • Franklin • O: 828-524-7773  
[info@highlandernc.com](mailto:info@highlandernc.com) • [www.highlandernc.com](http://www.highlandernc.com)





# Glen Cove

by Old Edwards

Live a life of adventure and wellness in the beautiful Norton area of Cashiers, North Carolina. Abundant leisure amenities include a spa and wellness center, heated mineral pool, community farm and garden, entertainment barn with golf simulator lounge and a 12-hole, par-3 golf course.

CALL FOR A TOUR TODAY 828.526.1783 | [GLENCOVELIFESTYLE.COM](https://www.glencovelifestyle.com)

# • HIGHLANDS DINING •

## WOLFGANG'S RESTAURANT & WINE BISTRO

**Celebrating 27 years  
American Cuisine with a  
Creole Twist and German Flair**



## Happy Holidays

**Holiday Hours**  
CLOSED through Dec. 25  
RE-OPEN • Dec. 26 - 31

**New Years Eve**  
5-Course Dinner Menu Only  
(Bistro will be closed)

474 Main Street | 828.526.3807 • www.wolfgangs.net

OPEN FOR OUR 32<sup>ND</sup> SEASON

**OPEN**

TUES - SAT  
DINNER STARTS  
@ 5:30 PM

EST. 1990

**LAKESIDE**  
NEW DINE IN ART GALLERY

WWW.ARTCHALETGALLERY.COM  
DINE IN AND CARRY OUT: LAKESIDERESTAURANT.INFO

531 SMALLWOOD AVE | 828-526-9419 | HIGHLANDS

828-526-4035

**WILD THYME GOURMET**  
RESTAURANT

Serving Lunch and Dinner Year-Round.  
Gourmet Foods, Full Service Bar  
Town Square at 343-D Main St. • Highlands

**Open inside  
and Outside  
7 days**  
Lunch: 11a-4p  
Dinner: 5:30p - until  
(Closed Sunday and  
Wednesday night)

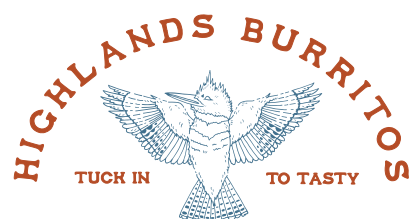
**...on the Verandah  
Restaurant  
on Lake Sequoyah**

*40 Years of Fine Dining*

OPEN for  
Dinner from 5:30  
Christmas week  
and Dec. 26-31.  
Closed  
Christmas Day  
828-526-2338  
US 64w • Highlands  
www.ontheverandah.com



Open Mon.-Sat. 11a to 8p • Sun. 11a to 7p  
Closed Tuesdays  
828.526.3554  
595 Franklin Rd, Highlands, NC



**BURRITOS & MORE**

226 SOUTH 4TH STREET HIGHLANDS NC  
828.526.9313

visit [highlandsburritos.com](http://highlandsburritos.com)

### Hours

**Open Mon-Sat: 11a-3p**  
Closed Sundays

Online Ordering Available and  
NOW SERVING MARGARITAS!

## Asia House

Japanese • Asian • Thai Cuisine

**Open for Take-out  
& Dining-in!  
DINNER ONLY**

**Mon-Sun. 4:30-10p**  
Closed Wednesdays

**Please call for reservations.**

828-787-1680 or 828-787-1900  
151 Helen's Barn Avenue



Highlands Oldest Family Grocery  
70 years of making hungry people smile!

Wonderful Steaks cut to order  
Prepared ready to heat sides and dinners  
Fresh produce, specialty foods and wine Homemade  
deli salads, sandwiches and salads Homemade pies,  
cakes, cookies and so much more!!

Open Wednesday—Friday 9:30—5:30  
Saturday 9:30—5:00  
Preparing all of the good things the other days.

493 Dillard Road  
828-526-2762



# • HIGHLANDS DINING •



Modern Fast Food  
&  
Courtyard Market

208 N. 5th St. • Village Square • Highlands • (828) 305-7509

The Secret Garden is in The Village Square  
behind K-H Founders Park.

Offering hot and cold sandwiches, green salads,  
pasta salads, bakery items, "SECRET" daily specials.  
All the food is freshly made and ready for pick up.

## HOLIDAY HOURS:

MONDAY-FRIDAY • DEC. 20-24

Closing 3p on Christmas Eve • Closed Dec. 25-Jan. 1

Re-opening Monday, Jan. 3

## WINTER HOURS

Monday-Saturday • 11a to 5p  
(unless otherwise posted)

## ...SWEARS continued from page 1

Taylor also presented outgoing Commissioner Donnie Calloway with a plaque commemorating his service to the town.

"Donnie has served on the board for a total of 24 years, and he has provided a perspective and history and a sense of what this community is about while providing guidance. I will miss having him on this board," he said. "He has been a great Highlander."

Calloway said it's been an honor to serve and depending on the slate of candidates coming up in two years, he may run again. "I'm not retiring," he said.

In 2024 seats currently occupied by Commissioners John Dotson, Marc Hehn and Brian Stiehler will open up.

After the swearing in ceremony, Mayor Taylor thanked his wife Sallie for her continued support in his capacity as mayor acknowledging that often duties of the office take

•See SWEARS page 7

## MAGNOLIA REPUBLIC

482-8747 • 462 Dillard Road  
[www.magnoliarepublic.com](http://www.magnoliarepublic.com)



**Wine Tastings each Friday at 5:30p**

Highlands Premiere Tapas Bar with Full Wine selection  
and Bourbon Bar featuring Hand-Crafted Cocktails.

**Tannins ~ Taps ~ Tapas**

Weekly Music Events, Private Parties, Wine Dinners

**Open Thursday - Monday • 4-10p**  
**Closed Tuesday & Wednesday**



## Craft Ice Cream & Hand-Crafted Sandwiches

For Hours and to order on line go to:  
[SweetTreatsHighlands.com](http://SweetTreatsHighlands.com)

Corner of 4th & Main (115 S 4th Street) | 828-526-9632

**Fast & Fresh Family Food**

## The Ruffed Grouse Tavern & Highlander Mountain House



### Mid-week Specials!

**Wednesdays**

Burger & Beer

**Thursdays**

Prime Rib Roast  
with glass of wine

**Dinner: from 5:30p**

Wed.-Sat.

**Lunch: 11:30a - 2p**

Fri. & Sat.

**Sunday Brunch**

10a - 2p

290 Main Street • Highlands • 828-526-2590  
[highlandermountainhouse.com](http://highlandermountainhouse.com)



## Paoletti

**DINNER/BAR FROM 5PM**

**Exceptional Wines  
& Craft Cocktails**

Closed in December on the 25th.  
Serving through the first week of January 2022

**Reservations:**

**828.526.4906**

440 Main Street • Highlands  
[www.paolettis.com](http://www.paolettis.com)

## Black Bear

**Breakfast & Lunch All Day**

**Open 7:30a to 4p • 7 Days a Week**

In Wright Square • 137 Main St. Highlands  
**828-482-7020**



# • INVESTING AT 4,118 Ft. •

## The way we were

Most people would agree that Highlands has been a safe real estate investment from the beginning, though we found we weren't as recession-proof as we thought during the recession of 2008.

During my 35+ years in the business

here, I've witnessed downturns, upturns, and periods of stability in the market. People sometimes ask me how real estate was back in the late '70s when I started. "It was pretty different," I usually reply. "It really bears no resemblance to today's fast-paced, sometimes frantic attempts to buy proper-

ty. Things were a lot slower then." Not everyone remembers, so I thought I would compare how real estate used to be to how it is now.

For starters, the main way realtors got business was when people walked through their doors. "Walk-ins" as they were affectionately called, were usually people visiting Highlands who had an interest in property. Often they were enticed to enter a certain office because of photos in the window or a black and white ad they had seen in the Buyer's Guide. An

entry level small house with 2 or 3 bedrooms usually sold for in the \$20s or \$30s. A majority of the sales were cash, with interest rates around 14% in the early '80s. There was some owner-financing those days as well.

Realtors came to the office every day, because that's where people found them. Mostly it was a 9 to 5 job, six days a week, with an occasional Sunday, and once in a while calls going back and forth at night to negotiate an offer. Sellers sent telegrams to confirm they had accepted an offer, because the mail back and forth could take a week or more. Until the paperwork was complete, we relied on the good word of people that they planned to go through with it. The sales contract was one legal page, front and back, compared to our 15 pages and several disclosures today. Copies were painstakingly slow to make in small machines that involved some slick pink paper that accompanied the documents.

There was a small local MLS that about six offices belonged to. We had a tiny black-listing book that had some information about the listing and maybe one photo. In those days most listings were "open" listings, not exclusives. It was always confusing to our clients to see the same picture in several ads in the Buyer's Guide. People who wanted to sell their homes would often bring by an information sheet to several offices simultaneously. It was rare to have an exclusive listing, but if you did, you sure advertised that it was!

In the early '80s there was kind of a feud between some of the offices. Some didn't want to join the MLS and share their listings with others. They started their own



**Betty Holt**  
Berkshire Hathaway  
Home Services  
Meadows Mountain Realty  
Betty@bhhsmmr.com.

organization called "Highlands Cooperative Listing Service." They would share their listings only if they wanted to. You could ride through town and see on the front of the offices either "Member MLS" or "Member HCL." That was doubly confusing to our clients!

Finally, we got affiliated nationally and had big listing books we carried around everywhere. In the early '90s came fax machines, which basically changed the way we did business. We thought

it was just amazing that someone could stick a piece of paper in a machine somewhere across the country and it would come out in our machine! It took quite a while to get rid of keys, though. I remember the crowded summer days when you needed to pick up a key from another office and couldn't find a parking place. Often you would have the other Realtor meet you out at the street and hand you the key as you rode by. Our electronic lockboxes of today were only a dream back then.

I do remember there was a lot of sitting around in offices in those days. Mostly we were waiting for people to walk in the door or call on the phone. Or maybe we were farming neighborhoods for listings with personal letters. Instead of sticking our heads in computer screens, we were scouring MLS books or Real Estate Buyer's Guide for available properties. Answering machines where people could leave messages after hours was a welcome change.

As opposed to today's multiple offer situations where speed is paramount to the process, it was a rare occurrence to have two offers on the same property at the same time. If that ever happened, though, the first offer would have been given preference and dealt with before a second one.

Oh, and because we didn't have all the legal information from the courthouse online until years later, many properties didn't have 911 addresses, so the legal information on the contract might read something like "the Smith house off Highway 64 West." I've heard stories of Realtors selling people the wrong lot, because they never had a sur-

• See INVESTING page 17



Andrea is top 15%  
of Brokers on MLS

Highlands Sotheby's  
International Realty is the #1  
producing office on the Plateau 2020

**VIEW PROPERTY IS WHAT EVERYONE IS LOOKING FOR!**

Own 33.5 acres of view property in Highlands.

Offered for \$895,000

Andrea Gabbard

c 828.200.6742 o 828.526.8300

AndreaGabbard@gmail.com

Highlands

**Sotheby's**  
INTERNATIONAL REALTY

**Want an award-winning real estate experience?**

# Use an award-winning real estate expert.

In the BHHS global network of 55,000+ agents, Teresa ranks in the Top 6%!



**BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY**  
HomeServices

Meadows Mountain Realty

www.TeresaSeay.com

488 Main Street, Highlands, NC 28741



**TERESA SEAY**  
BROKER ASSOCIATE  
(828) 421-1514



# • FINANCIAL MATTERS •

## The Fed and inflation

If you weren't paying close attention, you might have missed it. Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell dropped the word "transitory" when describing inflation during his recent testimony to Congress.

Powell had told the story of transitory inflation for the past several months while the Consumer Price Index showed eye-popping, year-over-year gains of 5% to 6%. But now it appears that the Fed Chair has changed his tune.

Powell said that rising energy prices, higher rents, and strong wage gains could keep inflation elevated, though he maintained that inflation would decline sometime in 2022. We'll see.

The Federal Reserve has a dual mandate of low inflation and full employment but with a history of being overly cautious and late to the game.

The Fed now needs to determine if and how they're going to combat inflation without sending the economy into recession. It's going to be quite the balancing act as the Federal Reserve now has approximately 8 trillion dollars (yes, \$8 trillion) of fixed income instruments - such as long dated treasuries and mortgagebacked securities - on its balance sheet. How anyone believed \$8 trillion added to the economy wouldn't cause inflation, I'm not sure. But hey, what's a few trillion among friends.

The truth is our economy has been in experimental mode ever since we entered Quantitative Easing (QE) and this amount represents uncharted territory for our country and the world.

Quantitative Easing involves the Fed "printing money" and then using it to make bond purchases on the open market. It has essentially taken 8 trillion dollars of supply from the bond market and into their cof-



Michael P Henderson,  
CFP® CKA®  
Founder/Wealth Advisor  
Crossover Point  
Advisors

fers. This reduces the amount of supply available for other investors to purchase, thereby driving up prices. And since there is a direct correlation between bond prices and interest rates (when bond prices rise, interest rates fall), this, in turn, lowers interest rates to help stimulate the economy.

The Fed Funds Rate - the rate the Fed charges banks to borrow overnight - only directly effects very short-term rates. Prior to 2009, the Fed Funds Rate was the only tool they really had. But since these rates have been at or near zero

for most of the last 12 years, when the pandemic hit, it left the Fed with fewer options and the fallback was QE.

Until recently, much of the discussion has been around when the Fed would begin to "taper" its purchases. It now appears that will begin early next year. But tapering only means the Fed is only going to purchase less. It will likely take some time for the purchases to end and eventually, the Fed will likely begin to allow these securities to "roll off" their balance sheet as they mature.

I'm convinced, 50 years from now, economics textbooks will contain quite a bit of commentary on QE and by then, we should know how this grand experiment ended. As of now it appears the inflation part may have gotten away from Mr. Powell.

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

*All investing involves risk including loss of principal.*

*Securities offered through LPL Financial, Member FINRA/SIPC. Investment advice offered through Crossover Point Advisors, an SEC Registered Investment Advisor and separate entity from LPL Financial.*

## ...SWEARS continued from page 5

priority over family life. He also thanked everyone who supported him in the race.

"I take this position seriously and work as hard as I can to serve this community," he said.

Concerning priorities and procedures, he reminded the board that Highlands op-

erates under the Manager/Town Council form of government which means that Josh Ward as Town Manager is in charge of operating the town on a day-to-day basis.

"If there are concerns or issues, we need to work with Josh who will then work with his department heads and other staff

**WHOLE LIFE MARKET**  
Natural Products Store  
Summer Hours: 9am-5pm  
Mon-Sat  
828-526-5999  
Wholelifehighlands@icloud.com  
**LOCATED AT 680 N 4TH ST, HIGHLANDS**  
**NECTAR** Organic smoothie/juice bar located inside Whole Life Market  
**JuiceBar**

**Cabin Couture**

~ Home Decor  
~ Gifts  
~ Jewelry

468 Carolina Way  
Highlands  
(Between N. 4th & N. 5th)  
828-526-3909

**Hummingbird**  
LOUNGE  
Now open for  
lunch, light fare  
& dinner daily  
11:30 am - 9 pm  
  
View Menu at  
OldEdwardsInn.com/dine

  
**GIVE GIFTS OF**  
*Comfort & Joy*  
You can now instantly send  
or print e-gift cards, or  
purchase traditional ones at  
OldEdwardsInn.com.

members to make sure they are addressed in a timely manner," he said. "Sometimes people feel things aren't addressed quickly enough, but we are all working together to make Highlands the best-run city we can."

He also reminded the board that its commissioners rely on paperless transactions now and for more than a decade, com-

missioners and the mayor have used iPads. Traditionally, newly elected commissioners are eligible for an iPad, or an upgraded iPad if re-elected and needed.

In addition, he said if a seated commissioner needs a new or upgraded device that, too, will be considered.

— Kim Lewicki

## HOLIDAY HOURS

Monday-Friday  
Dec. 20-24  
Closing 3p on  
Christmas Eve

Closed Dec. 25-Jan. 1

Re-open Mon. Jan. 3



## Sandwiches

(Gluten Free Bread Add \$3)

(828) 305-7509

**The Basic Chick** – Chicken salad on wheat bread/croissant. \$10

**Leslie's Gobbler** – Turkey, Havarti dill, shredded lettuce, cucumber, mayo on sub roll. \$12

**Raw & Flawless** – Spring Mix, avocado, hummus, red pepper, red onion, cucumber, Fermenti pickled carrots on wheat bread. \$14

**The Godfather** – Sopressa salami, shaved ham, pepperoni, red onion, smoked provolone, tomato, shredded lettuce, banana peppers, onions with Italian dressing on baguette. \$13

**The Muff** – Turkey, Sopressa salami, ham, cream cheese olive spread, smoked provolone cheese and shredded lettuce on sub roll. \$13

**The Porker** – Shaved ham, Jarlsberg cheese, DJs pickles with homemade honey mustard on ciabatta. \$12

**The Hudson** – Turkey, Provolone cheese (Have it your way--cucumber, lettuce, onion, banana peppers, black olives, DJs pickles). \$13

## Salads

**The Garden of Eatin'** – Spring mix, tomato, cucumber, pepperoncini, onion, red pepper, fresh garden herbs, DJs basil balsamic beets, Fermenti pickled carrots, DJs pickles, House Ranch or Italian. \$14 (Add meat additional \$3)

**Pasta Salad of the Day** – made fresh located in our deli cooler.

\*We make deconstructed sandwiches on lettuce as a salad—Just ask!

**Daily Specials** – Soups, Sandwiches, Salads, Bakery items and Desserts.

208 N. 5th St. • Village Square • Highlands

## WINTER HOURS

Monday-Saturday  
11a to 5p

(unless otherwise posted)



Highlands' Finneaus Garner at the meet.

## Highlands Varsity Swim Team travels to Franklin: Finneaus Garner wins

By Steve Hott  
Coach

Last Saturday Finneaus Garner represented the Highlands Varsity Swimming and Diving Team in Franklin in a triangular swim meet with Franklin and Smoky Mtn. High Schools.

Garner won the 50 Freestyle and finished 3rd in the 100 Freestyle. Both swims were NC regional consideration times putting him in the running for a trip to regionals in February.

Also on the Varsity Swimming and Diving Team is Bria Taylor who was unable to attend this meet.

Membership on the Highlands Varsity Swim Team is open to any Highlands High School Student who can swim 50 yards (2 lengths of the Highlands Pool) unassisted.

For further information contact Head Coach Steve Hott at 828.421.4121.



## A Blossoming in Winter

By Deni Shepard

While looking out my window on a chilly winter's morning, gazing across our small valley, my mind was adrift with the wonder of what winter brings.

It's one of the seasons where gray sky's and cold days seem to announce a time of ending. The closing of a year, memories of fragrant flowers once in bloom, or the brilliance of fall colors coming to a close and giving way to winters gray darkening days.

Birds move south and animals hibernate. Life itself seems to be on pause, waiting for a quickening day of renewed beginnings. But in a strange way the onset of winter brings with it a newness of life which blossoms hope and promise into the future.

In the onset of winter we celebrate "Christmas," Christ's birth within a uniqueness all it's own. A lowly person never famous in world standards, no political ambitions, but yet is the most known and read person to this very day. Christ is celebrated and is given this day known as "Christmas."

His birth is looked upon the world over and by every nation known to mankind. No one is more known than Christ. But the renewal of life doesn't come in knowing who Christ is, it is much deeper than that. It's personally to knowing Him with heart, mind and soul and allowing this into the depths of our being, where even in winter He takes bloom and brings the richness of color in a life that once seemed cold and frozen.

In Christmas we celebrate Christ 's birth coming into the world, but in Easter, what seemed the starkness of winter in His death, turns into blossoms in the fullness of color, in conquering death itself in the resurrected Christ. Christ did what mankind has never been able to do. Pay for all the injustice, selfishness, pride, hate, and abuse we do within ourselves then expresses itself outward towards others.

Why is this? Because we have both the image of God set within each of us, but we also have evil desires that war against everything that is good or truth-

ful. We truly are a sinful people trying to find our way. Life makes little sense otherwise.

Christ came for this very reason. Many refuse to see this and this is a choice each must make. If viewed honestly, it begins to make sense, why our world is what it is, and more so why we are what we are.

He has come to bring hope, a hope born from His birth and

His death, yet conquered it all for you. Christmas may mean different things to each of us, but Christmas truly is -- His gift to you. Which if received, brings a blossoming of such richness of color in life which was once dark and frozen. This is the Hope, and if known, each of us in our own personal lives could use such a Hope as this!

To everyone. Merry Christ - mas!



*Center for Plastic Surgery*



**Wishes you a  
Happy Holidays**

209 Hospital Dr, Ste 202 Highlands  
828-526-3783  
PlasticSurgeryToday.com



# Wilbanks Smile Center

**Dr. Joseph H. Wilbanks, D.D.S.**

**COMPLETE DENTAL CARE UNDER ONE ROOF**

278 East Doyle St. • Toccoa, GA

**706-886-9439 • 800-884-9439**



You are only 50 miles away from 40 years experience in top-notch, high-tech, one-stop dentistry known for its gentle touch.

- Dental Implants • Root Canal Therapy
- SINGLE VISIT CROWNS!
- Orthodontics including Invisalign
- Wisdom Teeth Extractions and of course ...
- Fillings and Cleanings (IV Sedation, too)



[www.WilbanksSmileCenter.com](http://www.WilbanksSmileCenter.com)

## THE FIREWOOD COMPANY



**Delivered, Stacked & Ready to Burn!**

**828.200.3050**

[bobhenritze@gmail.com](mailto:bobhenritze@gmail.com) • [www.firewoodcompany.net](http://www.firewoodcompany.net)

## ...BREAK-INS continued from page 1

the burglaries. Gregory Thomas Bufkin, a local FedEx driver, was arrested in connection to multiple breaking and enterings in Highlands and Scaly Mountain.

According to Sheriff Robert Holland, on Monday, a homeowner called after seeing a law enforcement officer inside her residence on her home surveillance camera and wanted to know what was going on and why a deputy was in her house.

Sheriff Holland contacted the sheriff deputy assigned to the Highlands area and learned that he was still inside the residence.

The deputy was on scene of the home after law enforcement received a call regarding an open door at the residence and was actively searching it for any intruders.

Upon completion of a thorough search, the deputy was able to determine that there was no one in the residence.

Later in the day, the same homeowner contacted Sheriff Holland again and reported seeing a man on her video earlier in the day on her security camera.

The homeowner reported that the intruder appeared to be wearing shorts and was there for just a brief time and fled when he saw her camera.

Investigators with the Macon County Sheriff Office were able to identify the individual and were able to quickly locate him at his residence. They also confirmed the man seen in the video was a FedEx driver who worked the Highlands area.

Highlands Police Chief Andrea Holland encourages people to install cameras and to make sure they are working.

"It really helps us work cases like this," she said.

Sheriff Holland said throughout the night, interviews were conducted with the suspect.

"Investigators seized several pieces of evidence which included multiple pieces of jewelry, firearms and cash. Some of the items seized were found inside Bufkin's work vehicle," he said.

Late Tuesday, Sheriff Hol-



**Gregory Thomas Bufkin**

land said his department has now solved 12 of the Highlands breaking and entering with burglary cases and have Bufkin tied to all 12.

"We charged him with those thefts going as far back as October. We have recovered many items from his FedEx vehicle and his home."

Holland said Bufkin continues to cooperate with MCSO investigators.

On December 14, officers received a report that a local landscaping company had found an open door at 599 Bowery Road. When officers arrived, the property caretaker reported items missing and property damaged.

The report of the burglary at the home on Bowery Road occurred the same week that the Macon County Sheriff Office launched an investigation into similar reports in the Highlands area outside of the town limits.

According to a statement from the Highlands Police Department, at this time, it is unknown if the break-in on Bowery Road is connected with the break-ins associated with Bufkin.

"Our department is committed to community safety and is pursuing all available leads to investigate this case," said Sgt Tim Broughton with the Highlands Police Department. "We are working with the Macon County Sheriff Office to determine if there is any connection to the other break-ins in the area. As always, we encourage the community to be watchful and to report any suspicious activities in their neighborhoods."

Sheriff Holland encouraged

all residents to be vigilant, especially for homes left unoccupied for an extended period of time.

"We always encourage residents to document their items both by writing serial numbers and photographing them," said Holland. "This helps in identifying property when we are able to seize and recover stolen items from individuals we suspect in crimes and who may be in possession of items we suspect are stolen."

Bufkin has been linked to additional breaking and enterings in the Highlands area and the investigation remains ongoing.

"While this case remains very active and we continue to follow up with information obtained during interviews, we can tie Mr. Bufkin to thefts in at least 12 breaking and enterings in the Highlands area. While we have solved multiple thefts in our area, some items recovered are from thefts that have not been discovered by homeowners and therefore have not been reported."

Also, Holland said some people may not realize they are victims because Bufkin took some things and left others behind.

Bufkin's charges include:

- 7 counts – Felony Posses Stolen Goods;
- 7 counts – Breaking and Entering;
- 7 counts – Larceny After Breaking and Entering;
- 6 counts – Larceny of a Firearm;

Bufkin is currently being held at the Macon County Detention Center under a \$200,000 secured bond.

Anyone with information is encouraged to contact the Macon County Sheriff Office Criminal Investigations Division (828) 349-2107.

They can also download the Macon County Sheriff Office App and provide tips anonymously from your cell phone or call our CRIMESTOPPERS Hotline at (828) 349-2600



# • ON THE SUNNY SIDE •

## Jingle Bells

Jingle Bells was written by James Lord Pierpont in 1857. The original name was "One Horse Open Sleigh." It was written to be sung by a Sunday School choir or maybe even a drinking song.

However, it became associated with Christmas music in the 1860s and 1870s. It soon became the most popular and recognized Christmas song to ever be written, not only in the United States, but around the world. In recognition for his achievement, James Lord Pierpont was voted into the Songwriters Hall of Fame.

Jingle Bells was first recorded in 1889 by Will Lyle. The song soon became a Christmas favorite. In 1935, Benny Goodman and his Orchestra reached number 18 on the top 100 music charts. In 1941, Glen Miller and the Modernaires reached number 5 on the top 100 music charts. In 1943, Bing Crosby and the Andrews Sister sold



Kenny Youmans

over one million copies. In 2006, Kimberley Locked reached number one and many voted Jingle Bells "The Song of the Year."

It was the first song broadcast from space. The astronauts on Gemini VI, while in space December 16, 1965, sent a report to mission control.

"This is Gemine VI. We have an object, looks like a satellite going from north to south, up a polar orbit. Is it a sleigh? I think we hear music. The astronauts then produced a smuggled harmonica and sleigh bells, and broadcast a rendition of Jingle Bells."

Dashing thro' the snow  
In a one-horse open sleigh,  
Over the fields we go,  
Laughing all the way;  
Bells on bob tail ring,  
making spirits bright,  
Oh what fun it is to ride and sing  
A sleighing song tonight.

Jingle bells, jingle bells,  
Jingle all the way;  
Oh what fun it is to ride

In a one-horse open sleigh  
Merry Christmas everyone!

### COREY JAMES GALLERY & Estate Consignments

**Yard Art**  
**Open for outside pickup & delivery**



**(828) 526-4818**

**On the corner of 3rd & Spring**



**Hair • Nails • Waxing • Tanning**  
**Facials • Massages**  
**Walk-ins Welcome!**

**Owner/Stylist:** Lacy Jane Villardo

**Stylists:** Heafter Escandon  
Maggie Barden, Bri Field, and Desiray Schmitt

**Nail Tech:** Jenna Schmitt

**Massage Therapist:** Brenda Lopez

Upstairs and Across the Walkway at  
"Falls on Main" Highlands  
Open at 9a Tues.-Sat. • 828-526-3939

# Shop Highlands Before & After Christmas!

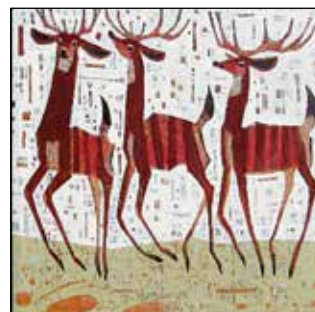
8106 Dillard Road • Scaly Mtn, NC • 828-526-8800  
pens.dstm@gmail.com



**NOW OPEN** with more than 50 local artists offering hand-crafted items for sale where a percentage of every item sold goes to provide non-perishable food boxes to distribution sites in Highlands and Scaly Mountain, NC as well as in Rabun County, GA.



*Lulu & You*  
Modern MTN Life  
Open Mon - Sat 10 - 5



132 Hwy 107 S. Cashiers, NC 28717 • 828-482-5011 • Open Year Round • Mon.-Sat. 10-5



# Shop Highlands Before & After Christmas!

## HONEYSUCKLE FARM INTERNATIONAL GENERAL STORE

WWW.HONEYSUCKLEFARMHIGHLANDS.COM

FEATURING -

BENNETT WINCH, SUGARFINA,  
GLENCAIRN, SISTER'S SAUCE, BOOKS,  
PUZZLES, COFFEE, GOURMET ITEMS,  
BULK CANDY & MORE!



322 Main Street

828-526-6227

NATURAL SELECTION

*...Where  
Christmas  
is a natural!*



(828)421-3546

361 Main St  
Highlands

(Next to Annawear)

**Up to 75% off SALE items**

**PLUS**

**an additional  
50% off entire store**

*\*exclusions may apply*



343A Main Street • Highlands

828-526-9122

PALM BEACH • NAPLES • JUPITER  
WWW.CORRICO.COM

**Fine American Handcrafts including  
Pottery, Jewelry, Fun Gifts and More!**



**PEAK  
EXPERIENCE**



828-526-0229

2820 Dillard Road  
Highlands, NC



**Big  
Holiday  
SALE  
is on**



S. 4th Street  
526-4473

**There's always  
someone you forgot!**

**Last minute gifts  
& Stocking Stuffers**  
Complimentary Gift Wrapping, too.  
Open Christmas Eve 9a to 3p



**The  
Book Nook**

364 Main St, Highlands  
(828) 526-9415





# Shop Highlands Before & After Christmas!

**Cozy blankets have arrived!**



**JOHNNY WAS**

*Lulu Bleu*

326 Main St.  
828-482-4375

Visit our new store Lulu & You in Cashiers  
Open Year Round!

Order online at [www.facebook.com/LuluBleuNC](http://www.facebook.com/LuluBleuNC)

**HOLIDAY  
SALE**

**APPAREL**

• Free People • THML  
• Z Supply • Michael  
Stars • Vintage Havana

**Jeans by:**

• Joes • AG  
• Citizens  
• Hudson  
• Mother

**Shoes by:**

• ShuShop  
• Diba  
• Blowfish



355 Main Street  
(in The Galax Theatre)  
526-4660

**Holiday  
Sale  
40%  
to  
50%  
OFF!**

*Wile's End*

A Highlands tradition since 1940  
Our 81st season on Main Street

Monday-Saturday  
828-526-3160  
382 Main Street, Highlands

**(828)-526-1960  
360 Main Street**

**Holiday  
Sale  
Up to 50%  
Off**

**ESTATE  
JEWELERS  
OF HIGHLANDS**

**FISH HIPPIE CO**



338 Main St.  
526-4777

**THE MOLLY GRACE**



**Come shop The Molly Grace!  
Before & After Christmas!**

(Across from Town Hall)  
(828) 526-8390 • 207 N 4th St, Highlands



# • HOSPITAL NEWS •

## Reflections on the considerable gifts of 2021 on the plateau, despite the pandemic

As 2021 comes to a close, I think most of us are not just reflecting on the past year, but the nearly two years that have elapsed since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. It completely changed how we live, how our children learn, how we do business, and of course, how we deliver and receive our healthcare.

Despite all we have been through during this time, we are in quite a different place with the virus thankfully, and I'd like to reflect on some gifts that our community gives us, and the gifts we feel privileged to provide to the community.

First, I want to say thanks for the gift of new physicians. We are blessed to have

several new providers join us in 2021 to include several new primary care physicians. The first to join our community was the new Blue Ridge Health: Highlands-Cashiers with Ann Davis, MD and Kristy Fincher, MD. What a blessing, and we want to express a special thank you to the Highlands Cashiers Health Foundation who helped make this happen. Next, we welcomed our new providers in the Cashiers Clinic on White Owl: Kate Shattenkirk, MD

and Physician Assistant, Allison Litchfield, MPAS, PA-C. These new providers complement our stellar existing provider team of Becky Baker, MD, Scott Baker, MD, and Patti Wheeler, MD. Finally, we were blessed to receive a new specialist on the Plateau with the addition of General Surgeon John Bishop, MD.

I want to add next a thank you to all of the clinicians and support staff at Highlands Cashiers Hospital and Eckerd Living Center. There are so many who contribute to the care and comfort of our patients and residents, and their service and dedication are gifts that keep on giving to our community as well. Every team member, from the nurses, therapists, technologists, and aides, to the staff in the environmental services and dietary services departments, as well as our maintenance team and the admissions and administrative professionals and all of the leadership, contribute to our excellence. Without them, we would not be able to achieve such high marks as the #1 ranked Emergency Department in all of HCA Healthcare for patient experience, a 5-star rating from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) for the Eckerd Living Center, or 10 years without a hospital acquired infections from key medical devices.

A critically important gift that the community gave to each other was the Highlands Cashiers Plateau Vaccine Initiative. More than 250 people provided more than 14,000 vaccine injections, and we are still counting with our most recent effort being the vaccination of children at the Highlands School. Our community stepped up in a way that was nothing short of amazing. Personally,



**Tom Neal, CEO/CNO  
Highlands Cashiers  
Hospital**

I found this so fulfilling as we met and helped so many people. It will be one of my and my wife's most cherished memories. I think it is not a big secret that I was recognized as a Healthcare Hero by the North Carolina Hospital Association for this effort, which was very humbling. Those that know me would tell you that I shy from recognition and would prefer my teams be recognized. With that being said, I am passing it back to

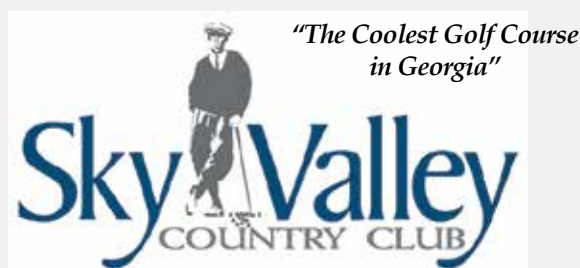
each of you who volunteered. You are all Healthcare Heroes. Get yourself a cape and embrace your superpower of saving lives through community vaccination.

Next, I want to say thank you to HCA Healthcare for the abundant capital investment of \$8.2 million. This investment has been nothing short of transformative for Highlands-Cashiers Hospital and the Eckerd Living Center. It enabled us to completely renovate our Surgical Suite and restart surgical services after being closed for 7 years, create a new Digital Radiology Suite, and offer 3D mammograms to our patients, among other patient-centered benefits. The investment also extends to providing enhanced nurse education here at the hospital and making improvements to our building.

My tenure at HCH has flown by — it seems like just yesterday that my wife, Robin, and I arrived as new transplants to the Plateau. We are forever grateful for the gift of welcome and inclusion that the community has extended us.

The gifts of support to HCH from community members and trust in our care inspire us to continue striving to do our very best for our patients, and this is something that every team member at HCH and ELC is called to do. It's why we're here. Our invested neighbors, incredible staff, and the strong foundation of HCA Healthcare are all great gifts, and they all contribute to our most important goal and accomplishment — to provide our community with the best care.

I speak for everyone at HCH and ELC in wishing our community happy, safe, and healthy holidays.



• Incredible Views

• Par 72 Championship Course  
stretching 6,900 yards of Peaks and Valleys

• Open Daily, • Year-Round • Public Golf

2 hrs. northeast of Atlanta • 20 Minutes from Highlands, NC

**For Tee Times, Membership Information or Event Rentals,  
please call 706-746-5302**

**[www.skyvalleycountryclub.com](http://www.skyvalleycountryclub.com)**

## Highlands Aerial Park is OPEN

*See you in the trees!*

Go to [Highlandsaerialpark.com](http://Highlandsaerialpark.com)  
or call 828-382-8884 to book your  
reservation for:

- Zipline Canopy Tours
- Family Challenge Course
- Giant Swing
- Dual 40' Tree Climb
- Complimentary Nature Trails
- Guided UTV Tours of our park's 95 acres  
adjoining 100,000 acres of NFS.

**Tour features:**

**Forest and meadows, waterfalls and long range  
views, flora, fauna, and  
climate influences, and a 400-year history  
of our area.**



**(828) 382-8884 • 1625 Dillard Rd • Scaly Mountain, NC**



# County, town and school administrators took threat circulated on TikTok seriously

By Brittney Lofthouse

Schools in Macon County had extra law enforcement on campus Friday, the last day students were scheduled to be in class before the winter break. While Macon County saw an increase in law enforcement that day, they weren't the only district in the state, or even in the country for that matter.

The increased law enforcement was a result of a viral "challenge" that originated on the social media application, TikTok, deeming December 17 as "National Shoot Up Your School Day."

TikTok first indicated it was aware of the warnings on Thursday afternoon, saying then that it treats "even rumored threats with utmost seriousness."

While many of the warnings of potential violence appear to be circulating on TikTok, it is not the only platform to see such chatter in recent days. A similar message has appeared on Snapchat.

The social media rumors come amid a wave of talk about so-called "challenges" on TikTok purportedly encouraging students to engage in misconduct at school.

The Macon County Sheriff's Office and the Macon County School System released a joint statement Thursday night, addressing the threats and encouraging parents to

do what they feel best for their families.

Many parents were concerned that the sheriff's office's original notice didn't identify a specific school, which Sheriff Holland later clarified.

"There has been no threat made targeting one particular school. Through interviews with students claiming it was their school that was targeted we have found they saw nothing — they simply heard another student telling the same thing," said Sheriff Robert Holland. "Wherever the student attends they think their school is the target. We have confirmed this same rumor is spreading to multiple jurisdictions around the country just as it is in our jurisdiction."

On Friday, Dec. 17, Highlands Police Chief Andrea Holland said four officers were assigned to the school that day.

Although the Highlands Police Department had not been made aware of any threats directly targeting Highlands School, Chief Holland assigned officers who were on duty during the day to make random patrols around and through Highlands School.

"We take any possible threat against our students' safety very seriously, and the additional officers were in place to help prevent any student or person who may have intended to commit an act of violence in our

school," said Holland.

Holland said the department is dedicated to the safety of Highlands School and the community and encourages anyone who sees any suspicious activity or has any credible information about a threat to student or school safety to call 911 and report it immediately.

"Community awareness and involvement is one of the best ways to help keep Highlands safe. Thank you for your continued support," she said.

The TikTok threat came just a few days after Macon County School leaders cautioned parents about students playing Squid Games — someone from a popular television show.

School leaders said they are also aware of a new series on Netflix (also a game on Roblox) containing very graphic content (including sexualized) and repeated violence. The name of the show/game is Squid Games.

"Seeing acts of repeated violence can have a lasting psychological impact on the developing brain. We encourage parents to review this information and have a conversation with their child. School counselors are available to assist families with any questions that might arise," they said.

## Ice Rink Holiday Schedule:

The Ice rink will have the following schedule for the holidays:

- Thursday, Dec. 23rd 1-8pm
- Friday, Dec. 24th 1-6pm
- Closed Christmas Day
- Open Sunday, Dec. 26th 1-5pm
- Monday, Dec. 27th through Thursday Dec. 29th 1-8pm
- Friday, Dec. 30th 1-10pm
- Saturday, Dec. 31st 1pm-1am for "Skate the New Year In!"
- Sunday, Jan. 1st 1-5pm.

The Rink will return to its regular Thursday, Jan. 6.

- Thursdays 1-8pm
- Fridays and Saturdays 1-10pm
- Sundays 1-5pm.

## • HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

### Ice Rink Schedule

- Thursdays 1-8pm, Fridays and Saturdays 1-10pm and Sundays 1-5pm. Cost is \$5 per skater.

### Rec Pool Schedule:

- Adult Swim: M-F 6:30a-1:30p AND Tues & Wed 3:30-7p. Call ahead for Public Swim Weekend schedule due to staff shortages. 828-526-1595.

### American Legion

- No meeting in December. Next meeting Monday, January 3, 2022, 9 AM Highlands United Methodist Church. All veterans invited.

### Mondays

- ESL classes are held at the Presbyterian Church in Highlands from 5:30-6:30pm. No registration required — just show up and participate. Questions? Visit [www.maconncliteracy.org](http://www.maconncliteracy.org), call 828-526-0863 or email [info@maconncliteracy.org](mailto:info@maconncliteracy.org)

### Second Mondays

- The local chapter of PEO, an off-campus sorority founded in the 1800s that provides grants and loans to women who want to return to school or further their education and have a financial need, meets at 10 a.m. If interested, please call president Paula McDonald at 706-372-3004 for meeting places.

### Mon.-Fri.

- Water Aerobics 18 years plus 10:15-

11 a.m.

### Mon., Tues., Thurs.

- The Food Pantry behind the Methodist Church on Spring Street is open from 10a to 6p.

### Mon. & Wed.

- Cardio Kickboxing with Crystal Corbin 5:30-6:30 p.m. A full body workout that engages every muscle in the body.

### Mon. & Thurs.

- Drive-thru flu clinics at the Public Health Center at 1830 Lakeside Dr. in Franklin from 1-4 p.m. \$36 for the regular dose and the \$73 for the high dose (recommended for those 65+). Insurances will be filed; please bring your insurance card with you. Questions? Call 828.349.2081.

### Mon., Wed., Thurs.

- Indoor and outdoor Pickle Ball 10:30 a.m.-1 p.m.

### Mon., Wed., Fri.

- Heart Healthy Exercise Class 8:30am-9:30 a.m. \$25 a month. The class is led by Cathy Hodgson. Contact the Recreation Department at 828-526-3556 for more information.

- Aerobics with Tina Rogers 8-9 a.m.

- Highlands/Cashiers Alcoholics Anonymous "Open Meetings" are for anyone who thinks they may have a drinking problem or for anyone interested in the A.A. recovery program.

Open meetings are held in Highlands at the 1st Presbyterian Church, 471 Main St., on Mon. at 5:30 p.m. and on Wed. & Fri. at noon. And held six times a week in Cashiers at Church of the Good Shepherd, Rte 107. For exact meeting times visit our website [www.aawnc80.org](http://www.aawnc80.org) or to speak with a member of A.A. call (828) 349-4357.

### Tues. & Thurs.

- New Zumba class from 4:30-5:15p.
- Exercise Class with Michelle Lane at 5:30pm. A combination class with many different type of exercise.

### Tuesdays

- Strength Training 8:15-9:15. Aim for strong, lean muscles using light weights, body weight, and high repetition to shape and tone.

### 2nd Tues. thru December

- Hudson Library, in partnership with VAYA Health, is hosting an educational series on adult mental health, held the second Tuesday of each month through December. Reservations are required and masks will be required. Register online at [vayahealth.com/calendar](http://vayahealth.com/calendar) (click on the desired class to register) or call the library at 828-526-3031.

### First Wednesdays

- Highlands-Cashiers Hospital is featuring Walk-in Wednesdays Hiring Event. Interviewing for RNs, CNAs, Allied Health Professionals and

Support Services Professionals. 1-3:30 p.m. 190 Hospital Drive, front entrance. On the spot offers. Sign-on bonuses offered for select positions. Bring updated resume. Casual wear.

### Thursdays

- Kickboxing 8:15-9:15 a.m. An exhilarating and fun mix of martial arts for a calorie-burning workout.

- Free Covid vaccination clinics — 9 a.m. to 5p.m. at the Rec Park. (Closed for a half-hour lunch break) Closed on Thanksgiving Day. Location subject to change, please check <https://myspot.nc.gov/> for the latest location information. Walk-ins are accepted, however we encourage residents to pre-register and schedule an appointment at <https://myoptum-serve.com/covid19>, or by calling (877) 505-6723 if you do not have internet.

- AL-ANON Meetings. The AL-ANON Family Groups are a fellowship of relatives and friends of alcoholics who share their experience, strength, and hope to solve their common problems. An In-Person meeting is held each Thurs., noon at the 1st Presbyterian Church, Highlands. An AL-ANON Zoom Meeting is held each Saturday @ 10:15am ID:889-3772-7928 Password: EasyDoesit or to speak with a member call 828-342-6866.

## Christmas Activities AT INCARNATION

### Christmas Services

#### Friday, Dec. 24, Christmas Eve

4 pm Holy Eucharist

6 pm Holy Eucharist

8 pm Holy Eucharist

#### Saturday, Dec. 25, Christmas Day

10:30 am Holy Eucharist

*All Services will be held in the Historic Chapel.  
Limited to 100 people.*

### **Episcopal Church of the Incarnation**

520 Main Street, Highlands, NC • (828) 526-2968

515573



## ***Our Lady of the Mountains Catholic Church***

### **Christmas Eve**

Our Lady of the Mountains • 1:00 pm  
St. Jude's in Sapphire Valley • 3:00 pm

### **Christmas Day**

St. Jude's only • 10:00 am

### **New Year's Eve**

St. Jude's • 4:00 p.m.

### **New Year's Day**

Our Lady of the Mountains • 10:00 a.m.

315 N. 5th Street, Highlands • 828-526-2418

[www.olmhighlands.com](http://www.olmhighlands.com)

3011 U.S. 64, Sapphire • 828-743-5717

[www.stjudeofsapphirevalley.org](http://www.stjudeofsapphirevalley.org)

# PAST & PRESENT

## A Christmas Love Story

It was a snowy, bitterly cold evening in December of 1862 when Benjamin Sloan, then a brand new Captain of Ordinance for the Confederacy, arrived at the old Eagle Hotel in downtown Asheville with his new bride, Annie Maxwell of Pendleton, South Carolina. Childhood sweethearts, war and uncertainty hastened their marriage.

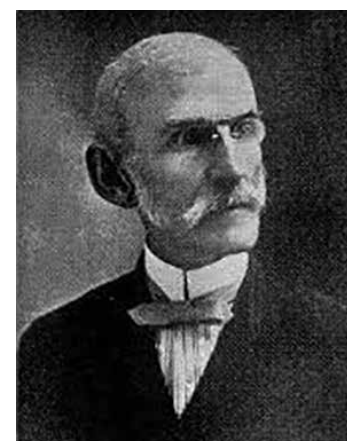
An 1860 graduate of West Point and posted to the western frontier to patrol the old Spanish "royal road" from Albuquerque to Taos, New Mexico, Sloan, like many southerners then in Union regiments, resigned his commission and joined the Confederacy. Sent to Asheville from the Tredegar Iron Works in Richmond by Josiah Gorgas, chief of ordinance, Sloan made a detour to Pendleton, married Annie, then traveled by stagecoach along primitive, rutted, muddy mountain roads to Asheville where he and Annie honeymooned, hardly the best of circumstances to begin a marriage. Sloan had been given the impossible task of taking over a failing armory in Asheville and producing efficient Enfield rifles for North Carolina's ill-equipped regiments.

Frustrated and angry at the Confederacy's neglect of North Carolina, the state's new governor, Zeb Vance of Asheville, gradually turned to privately-funded blockade runners from Bermuda and England to supply needed rifles, ammunition, and cotton cards to yarn socks and clothing for the state's beleaguered troops. Sloan had been ordered to Asheville to improve the armory's quality and quantity of rifles and to pacify Vance.

Without a reliable supply of coal for Asheville's forges, Sloan instead burnt wood and charcoal but at lower temperatures. A perpetual black pall of smoke hung over Eagle and Valley streets, the



**Milton Ready**



**Benjamin Sloan**

location of the armory. Short of metal, Sloan sent out agents to confiscate iron products and pay owners worthless Confederate script. Coming with a much-resented new compulsory military draft from Richmond, mountaineers, most of whom didn't own slaves and many calling themselves "old Unionists," proved as unreliable as coal supplies.

By year's end, the armory, under Sloan's leadership, had produced just over one hundred Enfield rifles, all generally of "poor quality." Desperate to turn out more, Sloan increasingly utilized slave labor, eventually employing more than 125 at the armory. Ad-

ditionally, Sloan planned defenses against feared raids upon Asheville, fortifying what are now the old Battery Park hotel grounds, Beaucatcher Mountain, and trench complexes along the Buncombe County Turnpike near the Botanical Gardens at UNC Asheville. Despite his efforts, Gorgas relieved Sloan of his command, replacing him with Captain C. C. McPhail, a much more stern disciplinarian.

Yet Sloan forever remembered his time in the mountains of western North Carolina with his Annie as the best of his life. In 1864, Annie gave birth to a daughter, the Sloan's only child. Annie Maxwell died in 1880, buried in Pendleton in a family cemetery. Sloan never remarried.

Benjamin Sloan went on to become professor of mathematics and engineering at the University of South Carolina, then called South Carolina College, eventually serving as President from 1902 to 1908. As President, he presided over the third and final transformation of the College to the modern University of South Carolina. Sloan College at USC was named in his honor. Retiring in 1908, Sloan moved to Biltmore in Asheville where he died in 1923.

For over 40 years Sloan seasonally visited Annie's grave in Pendleton, always bringing flowers, scrubbing her headstone and tending her small plot. When obtainable, he brought a Christmas rose imported from England, remembering, as he placed it on her grave, the old legend that it sprouted in the cold and snow from the tears shed for his beloved Annie. It was his perennial gift of love, a reminder of that first magical Christmas with Annie in the mountains of western North Carolina.



## ...FIRE continued from page 1



Photo by Kim Lewicki

restaurant, the fire drove patrons outside to see what was happening.

Photos quickly made the social media circuit while firefighters fought the blaze.

Fire Chief Ryan Gearhart said the department was on scene until midnight. Saturday's rain kept flare-ups at bay.

As of press time, Gearhart said the cause of the fire is still unknown. Insurance investigators are working the case.

— Kim Lewicki

## ...INVESTING continued from page 6

vey and the owners were never quite sure where the lot began and ended!

We never gave a thought to safety and would put most anyone in our cars to travel the area's backwoods territory miles from town. I never heard of an instance where anyone was harmed, though.

We also never went out of our territory to show other properties. If I had someone looking in Cashiers, I would refer them to a Realtor there, rather than take them myself. Now we go anywhere our MLS goes and more if we want to, even to neighboring states if we're licensed there.

We've moved from "local" to "global" now with the internet blasting listings all over the globe. Since over 90% of buyers begin their property searches online, they are more educated about the market before they come look in person. Real estate has grown into a real profession with some exciting new tools like virtual tours, drone

photos, and professional photos to help with buyers and sellers alike.

Many of those I started with have either retired or gone to the great real estate office in the sky. While I mostly like the way real estate has become, there are moments when I feel nostalgic for the smallness and the intimacy of how things were then. More than anything I'd love to turn the corner and see Boots Pierson, Tony Chambers, or Sonny Parrish walking down the street holding a contract for me!

• *Betty Holt, a Highlands native, began her real estate career in 1978 with Mountain Realty in Cashiers, moved to Highlands Real Estate in 1979. She has worked for Coldwell Banker Ashburn Real Estate and Signature Properties, and has been with BHHS Meadows Mountain Realty for 10 years. She can be reached at 828-526-4218 or Betty@bbhsmmr.com.*



Photo by Kevin Levy



**First Presbyterian Church of Highlands  
cordially invites you to a Christmas Season filled with  
Meditation, Music, and Candlelight**

**Sundays During Advent:**

**10am Adult Advent Study & Children's Sunday School**

**11am Special Music & Sermon Series:**

*And Heaven and Nature Sing: The Story of the Carols*

**5pm Advent Vespers - Close to Home**

*A casual service in the Sanctuary*

**Ecumenical Longest Night Service:**

**Tuesday, December 21 at 5:30pm**

**For all those experiencing the acute pain of loss and grief in an otherwise joyful season of celebration. We will honor and name our grief, and we will be reminded that we worship the God of love, who comes to live among us even in our worst of times. All are welcome.**

**Christmas Eve:**

**4:30pm - Harp Prelude - John Wickey, Harpist**

**5pm - Family-Friendly Service with Candlelight**

**First Presbyterian Church of Highlands  
471 Main Street, PO Box 548, Highlands, NC 28741  
P: 828.526.3175 E: fpch@frontier.com**



# • SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •



**Pastor Dr. Mark Ford**  
First Baptist Church  
Highlands

## Are You Ready for Christmas?

Christmas is this Saturday. An oft asked question about now is “Are you ready?” Are you prepared and planned for the Christmas parties and dinners with friends and family? Have you finished your list of gift-buying and wrapping, card and e-cards sent? Have you finished the decorations? The key word is “ready.” Did you know that the definition of the word “ready” is “completely prepared or in fit condition for immediate action or use; duly equipped and arranged for an occasion or purpose.” My suspicion is that few of us meet the measure of “ready” as it applies to Christmas as we normally think of it.

But allow me to shift your thinking from dinners, decorations, gifts to be bought, and all the details of the holiday. Let me ask you to think in terms of “holy day.” You see, the word “holiday” is from the Old English for “holy day.” Christ-mass is a holy day – a celebration (mass) of the First Advent of Christ. Until recent times, Christmas was a holy day where the eucharist – Lord’s Supper – was taken in celebration and remembrance of the Lord’s coming to live and die for humankind, taking on the likeness of human flesh to eventually offer up His body and blood for our sins and provide salvation for people who would seek Him and believe on Him.

So let me take that word “ready” and apply it to the holy day of Christmas. Using the definition above, are you “completely prepared or in fit condition for immediate action or use; duly equipped and arranged for an occasion or purpose.” To celebrate the holy day of Christ’s birth and reason for His coming, one must be prepared and in fit condition to truly celebrate and rejoice. Are you a believer and accept the truth of Christ’s birth, life, death, and resurrection for your life? Have you declared with the angels, wise men, shepherds, and the millions of souls since that Jesus is your God, Lord and Savior? Is your life in order knowing the peace of God and being at peace with God – you know, “Peace on earth, good will toward men.” Are you ready?

My point is simple. Christmas as a holy day is for believers and those truly seeking for Him. The star of His love and grace points you to the manger where you must bow, worship, and offer the gift of your life to Him. Only Christians can genuinely celebrate the birth of Christ.

• See SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING page 18

## Proverbs 3:5

# • PLACES TO WORSHIP •

## John 3:16

### 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

### CASHIERS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Rev. Arlyn Williams-Reubel, Pastor 828-743-5298  
Sundays: School at 9:30 Worship 10:30  
Wednesday night Dinner and Service 5:30

### CHAPEL OF THE SKY

Sky Valley, GA • 706-746-2999  
Sundays: 10 a.m.: Worship

Holy Communion 1st & 3rd Sundays

### CHRIST ANGLICAN CHURCH

828-743-1701 • 464 Hwy 64E, Cashiers, NC 28717  
www.christanglicancashiers.com

Sun. - 9:30am Worship (no music); 10:30am Sunday  
School; 10:30am Worship Service.

Mon. Night Bible Study & Dinner, 6pm, call for details.

### 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 - Adult Sunday School; Worship Service 10:45am;  
10:45am Children’s Program, Youth-12:15 – 2:30pm Tues:  
Women’s Bible Study 10am-noon  
Thurs: Men’s Bible Study 7:30-8:30 a.m.

### COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH OF SKY VALLEY

706.746.3144 • 696 Sky Valley Way #447  
Pastor Steve Kerhoulas

### EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE INCARNATION

Rev. W. Bentley Manning, Rector • 526-8152  
5th and Main streets • www.incarnationwnc.org  
Sunday Services in the Chapel:

Rite I, 8a; with choir, 9:30a; with choir, 11a.

### 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; Choir 5p; Prayer Mtg 6:15p

### FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Curtis Fussell & Emily Wilmarth, pastors  
828-526-3175 • fpcchighlands.org  
Sun.: Adult Ed.: 10 a.m.; Worship 11 a.m.  
Tues: Men’s Group 10 a.m. Wed: Bell Choir 4 p.m., 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 • Nathan Johnson  
Sunday: School 9:45a, Worship 11a & 7p, Bible Study 6p  
Wed. Kidsquest 6p.; Worship 7p.

### HIGHLANDS ASSEMBLY OF GOD

Randy Reed, Pastor 828-421-9172 • 165 S. Sixth Street  
Wed. Bible Study: 6 p.m.; Sundays: Worship: 11

### HIGHLANDS CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Dan Robinson • 11339 Buck Creek Road  
The Highlands Central Baptist Church is temporarily  
sharing the facilities of the Shortoff Baptist Church.  
Sunday Evening Worship 5PM 1st and 2nd Sundays

### HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Rev. Dr. Randy Lucas, Pastor 526-3376  
In-Person and live-streamed Worship Services  
909 Bluegrass and 10:50 Traditional  
www.highlandsmethodist.org

### HOLY FAMILY LUTHERAN CHURCH: ELCA

Rev. Angie Ballard • 2152 Dillard Road • 526-9741  
Worship/Communion: 10:30 All are welcome.  
We wear masks and social distance.

### 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

Franklin • 828-634-1312  
Services 2x/month May-Sept.; 1x/month Oct. -April  
mountainsynagoguewnc.com.

### 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. Fr. Jason K. Barone – 526-2418  
Mass: Wed. noon (Latin), Thurs. noon, Fri. 9a; Sun., 11a

### 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.  
**ST. JUDE’S CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
Mass: Tues. noon (Latin), Thurs. 9a.; Fri., noon; Sat. 5:30p;  
Sun. 9a

### THE CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

1448 Highway 107 S., 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



# • POLICE & FIRE REPORTS •

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

**Nov. 30**

• At 4:38 p.m., officers responded to a one-vehicle accident in the Post Office parking lot.

**Dec. 11**

• At 11:19 p.m., officers responded to a one-vehicle accident on NC 106 at Arnold Road.

• At 10:14 p.m., Timothy Wayne Crowe, 56, of Anderson, SC, was arrested for DUI and making an unsafe movement when he was pulled over at NC 106 and Arnold Road. He was issued a \$1,500 unsecured bond. His trial date is Feb. 2, 2022.

**Dec. 13**

• At 8:48 p.m., Placido Garcia Ruiz, 51, of Highlands, was arrested for DUI, driving during revocation, and having an open container of alcohol. He was issued an unsecured \$1,000 bond. His trial date is Jan. 12, 2022.

• At 10:25 a.m., officers responded to a one-vehicle accident on N. 5th and Chestnut streets.

• At 10:30 a.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident at Chestnut and N. 5th streets.

**Dec. 15**

• At 1 p.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident at US 64 and NC 28.

**Dec. 17**

• A little past midnight, Isiah Christopher Blanchard, 21, of Highlands, was arrested for DUI and reckless driving when pulled over at Hospital Drive. He was issued a \$1,000 unsecured bond. His trial date is Jan. 12, 2022.

**The Highlands Fire & Rescue log from Dec. 14.**

**Dec. 14**

• At 12:15 p.m., the dept. provided public assistance to a location on Main Street.

**Dec. 16**

• At 8:57 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Christmas Tree Lane.

**Dec. 16**

• At 9:23 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Cheney Lane.

**Dec. 16**

• At 2:32 p.m., the dept. responded to a call of an illegal burn on Upper Lake Road.

**Dec. 16**

• At 6:20 p.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on NC 28 south.

**Dec. 17**

• At 8:40 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Chestnut Lane.

**Dec. 17**

• At 1:28 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Cobb Road.

**Dec. 17**

• At 6:03 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Wyanoak Road.

**Dec. 17**

• At 8:03 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Kettle Rock Road.

**Dec. 17**

• At 8:11 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Cullasaja Drive.

**Dec. 17**

• 8:50 p.m., the dept. responded to a structure fire at a residence on Spruce Street.

**Dec. 18**

• At 10:26 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Clear Creek Road.

**Dec. 18**

• At 8:41 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Cullasaja Club Drive.

## ...SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING from page 19

Christmas is for the followers of Christ. If you are not a believer, Christmas is just another holiday that comes and goes – and most are worn out by the new year. But for believers, Christmas is a time of hope, peace, love, and joy forever settled in our hearts. We have Christmas year-round.

Like most, you are probably not ready for Christmas the holiday. But most importantly, are you ready for Christmas the holy day? Wrap up your heart and life and give it to the Lord, because He gave you His best – Jesus Christ (John 3:16). And you will have the best Christmas ever!



HIGHLANDS  
NORTH CAROLINA

visithighlandsncc.com





**ALLAN DEARTH  
GENERATORS  
AND SONS**

► 828-526-9325 ◀

*Generators aren't just a "thing" we do,  
generators are all we do!*

**GENERAC**  
**Cummins**  
**KOHLER**



**Whiteside Cove  
Cottages**

5 new log cabins  
nestled in the hemlocks  
on 25 acres at the base  
of Whiteside  
Mountain.

800-805-3558 • 828-526-2222

**AID: Altitude Interior Design**

Award winning designer, 30+ years. Local resident  
18 years. Space planning, custom casework,  
window treatments, flooring, furniture, lighting,  
autocad drafting.

**"Let Altitude Enhance Your Attitude."**

Distinctive, bespoke and creative design solutions  
for residential and commercial interiors.

Call me.  
Initial consult is free.  
land: 828-743-0054 cell: 561-847-6144

**Mendoza Tree Expert  
& Crane Service**

**Quality Tree Care & Removal**  
**18+ years**  
**828-200-9217 • fully insured**

[estimates@mendozatreecare.com](mailto:estimates@mendozatreecare.com)  
[www.mendozatreecare.com](http://www.mendozatreecare.com)

**We accept all credit cards**

**Have a Drinking Problem?**

**We Can Help!**



**Contact**  
**Alcoholics Anonymous**  
**828-349-4357 (HELP)**  
[www.aawnc80.org](http://www.aawnc80.org)

**209 N. 4th Street**  
(Corner of N. 4th and Oak streets  
upstairs across from Town Hall.)

**Rachel B. Kelley, PMHNP-BC**  
**ARNP - Board Certified**

**Psychiatric • Mental Health**  
**Medication Management**  
**Positive Wellness**

Phone: 828-526-3241  
Fax: 828-482-9019  
Email: [rachelbkelleylc@gmail.com](mailto:rachelbkelleylc@gmail.com)




**CAROL L. KING  
& ASSOCIATES, P.A.**

- Tax-Smart Investing
- Certified Public Accountants
- Personal Financial Specialist

434 Carolina Way  
Highlands, NC  
828-258-2323

[clkcpa.com](http://clkcpa.com)

Securities offered through Avantax Investment Services<sup>SM</sup>, Member FINRA, SIPC.  
Investment advisory services offered through Avantax Advisory Services<sup>SM</sup>.

**Highlands Automotive**

**Service  
&  
Repair**



NC  
Inspection  
Station

**828-787-2360**  
2851 Cashiers Road • [highlandsautomotive.com](http://highlandsautomotive.com)

**ASE** **AUTOCARE**

**MORALES  
PAINTING**

**RICARDO MORALES**

[MORALESPAINTINGANDSERVICES@GMAIL.COM](mailto:MORALESPAINTINGANDSERVICES@GMAIL.COM)

**706.982.9768**  
**828-226.5347**

INTERIOR/EXTERIOR PAINTING • LAWN MAINTENANCE  
HOUSE MAINTENANCE • QUALITY WORK  
FULLY INSURED

**The Highlands Barbershop**



446 Oak Street  
across from the park.

Enter from Oak Street  
OR 446 Main Street

**Open Mon.-Sat.**  
**10a to 5p**

(828) 482-93• 74  
(772) 532-0706



**• Interior & Exterior Painting**  
**• Pressure Washing**  
**• House Maintenance**  
**• Drywall Repair**  
**• Deck Repair**

**Quality Work • Fully Insured**

**Lupe Gonzales**  
[avpintura@gmail.com](mailto:avpintura@gmail.com)  
**828-332-1539 or 678-873-2927**

**JUNK**

**WE HAUL IT AWAY**

**House / Garage / Yard**

**Call for free estimate**

**828 - 421 - 5188**



- Grading
- Excavating
- Driveways
- Build sites
- Hauling
- Septic Systems

**Edwin Wilson**  
Cell (828) 421-3643  
Office/fax (828) 526-4758  
[wilsongrading@yahoo.com](mailto:wilsongrading@yahoo.com)





Highlands | Sotheby's  
INTERNATIONAL REALTY

## GARY GARREN

Cell: (828) 482-2370  
gsgarren@gmail.com

Downtown Office  
114 N. 4th Street, Highlands, NC  
Highlandssothebysrealty.com

## Ryan M. Bears

Broker

Cell: 803-271-5426  
Office: 828-526-8784

Ryan@patallenrealtygroup.com

*Pat Allen*  
REALTY GROUP

Pat Allen, Broker in Charge



Highlands | Sotheby's  
INTERNATIONAL REALTY

## CASSIE ROSS

Cell: (828) 989-5996  
cassie.ross@sothebysrealty.com

Downtown Office  
114 N. 4th Street, Highlands, NC  
Highlandssothebysrealty.com



## CBD HEALS

- 50 mg CBD 30 Pressed Tabs
- 50 mg CBD 30 Gel Caps
- 100 mg CBD 30 Gel Caps
- CBD cream and balm

**Also Available:**  
Far Infrared Sauna Capsule  
Massage Spa Capsule  
Whole Body Vibration

5 Cottage Row • U.S. 64 East

# • CLASSIFIEDS •

## FOR SALE

**NEW CONSTRUCTION PELLA WINDOWS AVAILABLE** - two are 27 1/2" x 52" and one is 28 1/2" x 32 1/2". Originally paid \$1,400 for all. OBO. Call 828-200-9777. (st. 12/16)

## HELP WANTED

## Silver Creek

REAL ESTATE GROUP

**SILVER CREEK IS HIRING** - Top real estate firm continues to expand and is searching for qualified, energetic candidates to fill three full-time positions in our Cashiers office. Available positions include: Front Desk/Office Administrator; Content Writer; Videographer; Photographer. For more information, please email info@ncliving.com. (st. 6/17)

**HIGHLANDER MOUNTAIN HOUSE DINING ROOM SUPERVISOR** - HMH is seeking a full time shift supervisor to coordinate reservations and oversee all aspects of service in the front of the house at TRG. This role will act as Maitre' D to the dining room, work service for lunch, dinner and brunch and be responsible for the proper execution of each service period. This position will begin as an hourly position and has the potential to grow into a salaried position based upon performance. This candidate should be positive, reliable, hard working, have a love of people, service and have aspirations to lead and grow with the company. (st. 12/16)

**THE ROOSEVELT TAVERN** - A new upscale casual establishment in Cashiers, NC. NOW HIRING ALL RESTAURANT POSITIONS. Including Chef, General Manager, Servers, Server Assistants & Line Cooks. Great pay, flexible hours, relaxed work environment for people who can work independently. Established company with great history and following in the area. 18 Chestnut Square, Cashiers. 828 482-8743. Route64restaurants@gmail.com. (st. 9/2)

**GRILL & SAUTE COOK/EXPERIENCED** positions open at Caffe Rel. 4 days a week to include lunch and dinner shift. Great pay per experience. Call Rebecca Long at 828-507-1487 and leave a message. Need ASAP. (st. 8/26)

**CHESTNUT HILL OF HIGHLANDS** is an Upscale, Small Assisted Living Facility looking for Med Aides, CNA's, Housekeeper and Dietary Staff. You may apply in person at 24 Clubhouse Trail, by Phone

at 828-526-5251 or by email to ce.chestnuthill@yahoo.com or lindabtiff@aol.com.

**OLD EDWARDS INN & SPA, HIGHLANDS NC** - 2nd Shift Maintenance Engineer, Sales & Catering Asst, Estate Concierge, Asst F&B Mgr, Banquet Server, Host, Server, Busser, Bartender, Sous Chef, Cook, Asst Pastry Chef, Pastry Cook/Baker, Dishwasher, Reservations Specialist, Front Desk Supervisor, Front Desk, Bellman, Night Audit, Security, Housekeeping, Laundry, Cosmetologist, Spa Attendant, Massage Therapist, Spin Instructor, Graphic Designer. Apply online: www. oldedwardsinn.com/careers.

**LUXURY LODGE MANAGER NEEDED FOR LIVE IN POSITION.** - Prefer a local couple/individual to entertain and maintain facility while enjoying living in an exceptional facility. Strong people/communication skills needed. Must be flexible and have impeccable references and experience in hospitality/facility maintenance. Background/knowledge in wine and bar beverages a plus. Interest/knowledge in hiking/construction and outdoors is good also. Email mrpaulkrk@yahoo.com. (st. 2/11)

## REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

**NEW 2 STORY HOUSE**, big garage on 3.14 acres land, water, sewage, WI-Fi, AC, private paved road, mountain view. (st. 10/7)

## UNBELIEVABLE PROPERTY FOR SALE!

Imagine getting one of the best panoramic views in Highlands, 10 acres of land backing up to the national forest, a beautiful 5,000 sq ft main house with an available 2 bedroom guest house and a putting green and horseshoe pit for \$990,000! Better hurry before my wife changes her mind. Please text or ring Paul at 678-516-8388. (st. 7/1)

## SERVICES

**STOP PAYING AGENCY PRICES** - Call me! Private, Personal and Professional caregiver, companion or sitter. I am available to work with each  
• See CLASSIFIEDS page 22

## Business Card Ads

\$20 per week BW

\$25 per week Color

## Classified Ads

\$6 for 10 words

20 cents for each additional word

\$2 for color block

\$5 for color graphic

# • CLASSIFIEDS •

clients needs, days and hours. 828-507-1692. (st. 9/30)

**NEED FURNITURE MOVED OR ANYTHING HAULED AWAY?** I can do it. Call or text James of Going Gone at 828-421-2655. (st. 9/16)

**HIGHLANDS HANDI-MAN** – Can fix anything

inside or out. carpentry, interior and exterior painting, pressure washing, lawn care, hauling. Will also monitor house during winter. Free Estimates. References. Call Tony. 828-200-5770 or 828-526-5984. (8/5)

**CNA/EMT** Dependable, knowledgeable, dedicated to my clients. Stop paying agency

prices and call me. Franklin, NC 407-325-0920. (st. 1/28)

**I INSTALL TILE!** Eco-Friendly & Non-Toxic. Specializing in Shower/Bathroom, Kitchen/ Backsplash, Entrance Ways/Patios/Flooring. 25yrs experience. Also offer grout cleaning. Licensed & Insured.

Mike Bertone/Owner of Bertone Tile Design & Flooring LLC. Home: 828-526-4943 or Text: 321-303-7560. (10/28)

**GUTTER CLEANING, METAL ROOF & FABRICATON** roof repairs, chimney flashing, debris removal, pressure washing. Call 371-

1103. (st. 9/17/20)

**HIGH COUNTRY PHOTO/KEVIN VINSON:** scanning photos, slides & negatives to CD or DVD for easier viewing. Video transfer to DVD. Everything done in house. Leave message at 828-526-5208.

# • BIZ/ORG NEWS •



From left, Sarah Steeley and Tiana Hooper MSW, Social Worker.

## The 'Dorcas' Daughters' ministry keeps the spirit of Christmas alive

Sarah Steeley, on behalf of the ladies of Franklin Alliance Church, helps keep the spirit of Christmas alive for many.

She recently presented Christmas Stockings to CarePartners, a Home Care and Hospice Center, that the women of her church, Franklin Alliance Church, has sewed for their patients.

Their sewing ministry, "Dorcas' Daughters," is named in memory and honor of the woman in the bible that sewed for the poor) Acts 9:36 (NLT)

36 There was a believer in

Joppa named Tabitha (which in Greek is Dorcas). She was always doing kind things for others and helping the poor.

In addition to the Christmas stockings, the ladies sew blankets, wheelchair wraps, hats for newborns and many other items that are needed in the hospital, nursing homes and other facilities where their work is used to bring cheer and comfort to the residents.

This ministry also extends to overseas needs as well. Sarah says, "To the ladies that do all this work, it's truly a labor of Love."



Rotarian Cynthia Dendy with her daughter Trinity at recent Rotary meeting.

## Student Dendy talks about award-winning sculpture at Rotary

A Rotary Scholarship winner, Trinity is now a Senior at University of West Georgia and winner of their 2020 Sculpture Design Competition (pictured here with a 3-D model of her sculpture).

In her talk, Trinity described the process that resulted in the construction and installation of a 10' bronze sculpture on UWG's Newnan Campus. Although she is majoring in Art Education, Dendy has an enduring love of sculpture and decided to enter the competition.

Her project was commissioned by SOTA (UWG's School of the Arts) with generous support from the Hollis Trust.

The design for "What It Isn't" was based on Dendy's imagination of negative space. It was also partly inspired by the donation of dozens of historical industrial pieces that were donated by R.D. Cole, a Newnan manufacturing company. Dendy overlaid her minimalist style on the shapes of the wood pieces to create molds for the ultimate sculpture.

Dendy gave credit for the mentorship of WGA professors James Davis and Ryan Lamfers. This unique project and teamwork with her professors inspired Trinity as she imagines her future career as a teacher-artist.



Trinity with her sculpture on the grounds of West Georgia University.

## Classified Ads

**\$6 for 10 words**  
**20 cents for each additional word**  
**\$2 for color block**  
**\$5 for color graphic**

## Biz Card Ads

**\$20 per week BW**  
**\$25 per week Color**



**SILVER EAGLE**  
Native American Jewelry  
Crystal & Gem Gallery



349 Main Street, Highlands, NC  
828.526.5190 silvereaglegallery.com

**COUNTRY CLUB PROPERTIES**  
Real Estate



**Country Club Properties**  
"Your local hometown  
Real Estate professionals."  
3 Offices 828-526-2520  
www.CCPHighlandsNC.com

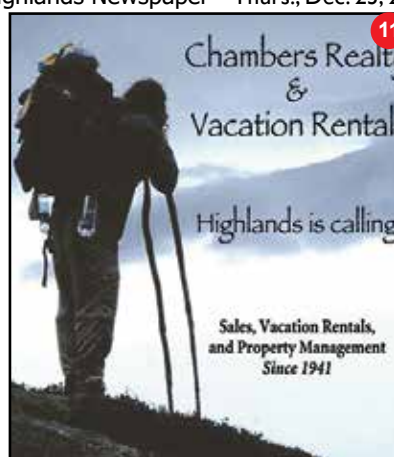
**Highlander Mountain House & The Ruffed Grouse Tavern**



highlandermountainhouse.com

**Highlands Sotheby's INTERNATIONAL REALTY**  
Suzanne McDavid  
Broker  
cell: (678) 276-6133 • Off: (828) 526-8300

**Chambers Realty & Vacation Rentals**  
Highlands is calling



Sales, Vacation Rentals,  
and Property Management  
Since 1941

401 N. Fifth Street, Highlands, NC 28741  
828-526-3717 www.highlandscalling.com  
info@highlandscalling.com  
https://www.facebook.com/CRVRHighlandscalling/  
https://twitter.com/RealtyRentals

**Top 15% of Brokers on MLS**



**Andrea Gabbard**  
c 828.200.6742  
o 828.526.8300  
AndreaGabbard@gmail.com

**PALMER HOUSE PROPERTIES**  
ELEVATED



**CLIF GOTTWALS**  
303.887.7479  
CLIF@PHPELEVATED.COM

IT'S GOOD TO BE HOME

**BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY HomeServices**  
Meadows Mountain Realty  
**Mitzi Rauers, Broker**  
404-218-9123  
mitzi@meadowsmtnrealty.com  
meadowsmountainrealty.com



**Highlands Sotheby's International Realty**

- \*More than \$260 Million in sales for 2020, far beyond our closest competitor
- \*We are the #1 producing office on the Plateau in 2020
- \*We are #1 in sales in Highlands for the 7th year in a row
- \*We are the #1 selling office in Highlands Country Club and Cullasaja Club

**"Ace is the Place."**

**Reeves Hardware**

At Main & 3rd streets  
Highlands 526-2157

**Highlands Sotheby's INTERNATIONAL REALTY**  
114 N. 4th Street  
Highlands, NC

**Highlands Sotheby's INTERNATIONAL REALTY**  
114 N. 4th Street • Highlands, NC  
"Local Expertise. Global Connections."  
Licensed in NC and GA  
office: 828.526.8300 • cell: 828.337.0706  
sheryl.wilson@sothebysrealty.com • highlandssir.com



**Highlands Cove Realty**  
AT OLD EDWARDS CLUB



**Merritt Shaw**  
(828) 421-7593  
**List with me! Get it SOLD!**  
Merritt@HighlandsCoveRealty.com

**PAM NELLIS**  
BROKER  
CELL: 828-787-1895  
PAMELA.NELLIS@YAHOO.COM

**LANDMARK**  
EST. THE SALES & VACATION RENTALS  
HIGHLANDS OFFICE  
225 MAIN STREET • 828.526.4663







**Pat Allen**

*Broker in Charge*

pat@patallenrealtygroup.co  
m 828.200.9179

*Main Office*

295 Dillard Road  
Highlands, NC 28741  
828.526.8784

**Julie Osborn**

*Broker in Charge*

julie@patallenrealtygroup.co  
m 828.200.6165

*Wildcat Cliffs Office*

5121 Cashiers Road  
Highlands, NC 28741  
828.526.4525

*Leading* REAL ESTATE COMPANIES IN THE WORLD

patallenrealtygroup.com

**#1 in the Carolinas**

**#1 in the Country for Independent Firms**

**#1 Sales Team in Highlands 2020!**

**Stronger together!**

*Source HCMLS & RealTrends*



*Pat Allen*  
REALTY GROUP

**CARL ROMBERG**

**BROKER-IN-CHARGE**

CELL: 678-936-9309

CARL@LANDMARKRG.COM



**HIGHLANDS OFFICE**

225 MAIN STREET • 828-526-4663



6



**CONGRATULATIONS**

**Jody Lovell**

For being recognized by the  
2021 REAL Trends &  
The Thousand Rankings,  
as advertised in  
the Wall Street Journal.

**Nothing Compares.**

Highlands Sotheby's  
International Realty  
c (828) 226.6303

Highlands | **Sotheby's**  
INTERNATIONAL REALTY

**NUMBER**

**1**

**BROKER**  
IN NORTH CAROLINA  
2020/2017/2016  
per Real Trends

**NUMBER**

**1**

**TOP PRODUCING**  
**BROKER**  
Highlands - Cashiers  
MLS since 2001

**TOP**

**100**

**AGENTS IN THE USA**  
per Real Trends



Open Year-Round • 7 days a week  
343-D Main Street. • 526-4035



Open  
11a-4p &  
5:30-til?  
Closed  
Sunday &  
Wed. PM

www.wildthymegourmet.com

8



**CLOSED**

**BUT**

**RE-OPENING**  
**DEC. 26-31**

474 Main Street  
828.526.3807 | wolfgangs.net



**DAVID**  
**BOCK**  
**BUILDERS**

www.BockBuilders.com 828-526-2240



*There's no place*  
**LIKE HOME**  
*for the holidays*

**WHITE OAK**  
REALTY GROUP

125 S 4TH STREET | HIGHLANDS, NC 28741 | WHITEOAKRG.COM | 828.782.0472

30



...on the Verandah  
Restaurant  
on Lake Sequoyah

828-526-2338

**40 Years of Fine Dining**

OPEN for Dinner from 5:30  
Christmas week & Dec. 26-31.

Closed Christmas Day

www.ontheverandah.com



**McCULLEY'S**  
**CASHMERE**

*Scotland's Best Knitwear*

Open 7 days a week

526-4407

242 S. 4th St. & Pop up  
on Main Street



9