

Highlands Newspaper

FREE Every Thursday

Volume 11, Number 49

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

Thurs., Dec. 4, 2014

Through Dec. 11

• Movie at The Playhouse: Hunger Games: Mockingjay Part I. Showtimes, Fri., Sat., Sun., Mon. & Thurs. 2p, 5p and 8p. No movies on Tuesday and Wednesday.

Thurs., Dec. 4

• Shop With a Cop Rotary Bingo at the Community Building by the ball field 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Sat., Dec. 6

• Holiday Artisan Market in Cafe 460 9a to 5p.

• Annual Christmas Parade on Main Street Highlands at 11a. Santa & Mrs. Claus will be at Mountain-Top Wine Shoppe to hear children's Christmas wishes..

• Christmas Carol Sing at First Presbyterian Church at 2 p.m. Stell Huie will be song leader with Angie Jenkins at the organ. Come join us for a wonderful hour of singing in Christian fellowship.

Sun., Dec. 7

The Performing Arts Center continues Live in HD Series with the Bolshoi Ballet on Sunday at 12:55 pm with La Bayadere. Tickets are available online: highlandspac.org or by calling 828.526.9047. Adults: \$20 Students: \$10 PAC Members: \$17

Tues.-Wed., Dec. 9-10

• At The Highlands Playhouse, "The Vatican Museums." Transport yourself to the Vatican through the 35-ft. screen and immerse yourself in the timeless works of art. It's better than being there in person!

Wed., Dec. 10

• The Highlands Biological Station cordially invites the public to hear the students present their research during their closing ceremony on Wednesday, December 10 from 2-5 pm in the seminar room of the Coker Laboratory, 265 North Sixth Street, Highlands.

Hospital data security exposed by IT vendor

Internet forensic investigation finds no access or illegal use of personal data

Last week, Highlands-Cashiers Hospital began notifying more than 25,000 patients that a data security screening of its computer systems uncovered a potential exposure

of patient information. Many Highlands citizens have received letters about the breach.

This exposure was inadvertently caused by an outside

third party information technology vendor, TruBridge, which is the wholly owned services subsidiary of Computer Programs and

• See DATA page 4

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Annual parade is a show stopper!



Highlands Annual Christmas Parade begins at 11a Saturday, Dec. 6 on Main Street. After the parade Santa and Mrs. Claus will be available for pictures with children in Santa's hut on the front lawn of MountainTop Wine Shoppe until 4p. After the parade there will be a old-fashioned hymn-sing at the First Presbyterian Church at 2p.

Photo by Cynthia Strain

Changes to Bryson's 4th/ Main building OK'd by Planning Brd.

It would be an understatement to say how excited people are about changes coming to the building on the corner of Fourth and Main streets.

At previous Planning and Zoning Board meetings a new two-story building with shops on the bottom and apartments up top was given the green light.

But at the November Planning Board meeting, the project was back on the table with significant changes. The existing building will stay but changes will be made to the interior layout and the exterior which will include an addition on the Fourth Street side stretching to the sidewalk.

The current building will be renovated and divided into three units with one accessed from Main Street and the other two accessed from a new covered walk-

• See CHANGES page 6

Town responds to FERC permit application

Having received the go-ahead from the Town Board at the November Town Board meeting, Mayor Pat Taylor submitted a response to the recent permit application with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to resurrect the old hydroelectric plant on

the Cullasaja River.

Advanced Hydropower, Inc., of Clovis, CA, wants to get the plant up and running and plans to sell about \$200,000 in green energy credits back to Duke Power.

The town is against the proposal for several reasons.

First, commissioners worry that the infrastructure associated with the plant will be environmentally detrimental to Highlands.

Second, though during the 2013 budget worksession it was

• See FERC page 4

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• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• MAYOR ON DUTY •

About what's coming up ...



Highlands Mayor Patrick Taylor

T. I look forward to riding with Henry who is one, and Eliza who is two. I make this decision at my own peril, and I am fully aware that things could go south at any moment on the parade route..

The mayor joyfully embraces the risk of having to deal with two crying babies all at once rolling down Main Street. It is analogous to being on duty as mayor, in that sometimes I have to deal with multiple problems all at once. What could possibly

go wrong? Like everyone, we have model grandchildren of perfect comportment. If you see a beautiful young woman walking down the sidewalk keeping pace with the Model T, that will be my daughter and their mother. She has agreed to serve as my back up if problems occur.

I am optimistic that everyone will have a great time. Hope to see everyone at this Highlands classic, the Christmas Parade.

• See **MAYOR** page 22

I enjoyed the lighting of the Christmas tree and decorations on Saturday night.

The traditional wreaths and lanterns are in keeping with Highlands old fashion, village image.

I also am looking forward to being in our Christmas parade this coming Saturday.

In the spirit of open government, I want to disclose that my wife of 34 years, Sallie, will not be riding with me in this year's parade. Let me dispel any potential rumors in advance. We are not getting a divorce, everything is just fine at the Taylor household. As the Executive Director of the Bascom, Sallie and members of the staff will be at a large professional gathering in Miami called Art Basel.

In her place, I have made the decision to invite our two grandchildren to ride with me in Alan Lewis' classic Model

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.

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• MILESTONE •

60 Years and Counting!

Alan and Jane Lewis of Highlands recently celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary. The Lewis' were married on November 28, 1954 at Highlands

First Presbyterian Church, officiated by Alan's father, Reverend M. Arthur Lewis of Greensboro, N.C., and Reverend Bob Hart, minister of the church. At this time, Alan was a N.C. State Trooper, stationed in Macon County.

Jane, a 6th generation Highlands native, is a direct descendant of early Highlands settler Barak Norton.

The Lewis' have four children; Martha Betz, Angie Jenkins, Bill Lewis, & Scott Lewis; four grandchildren; Sam Jenkins, Jimmy Jenkins, Amy Jenkins

Ramey, and Katy Betz; and seven great grandchildren.



• LETTERS •

In defense of all electric consumers...

Dear Editor,

The Town of Highlands has a well recorded history of using our tax dollars to run rough shod over citizens who don't have the resources to defend themselves.

As an attorney I can defend myself and the rights and interests of all of Highlands electrical consumers and citizens.

Town Manager Frye evidently thinks overly priced and substandard electrical service can continue to be stuffed down our throats.

I plan to personally pursue my lawsuit, not only on my behalf, but on behalf of all of the consumers of electricity in the Town of Highlands.

Scott D. Neumann
Highlands

A nation of laws

Dear Editor,

As I predicted in this newspaper weeks ago, Officer Darren Wilson of the Ferguson, PD would NOT be indicted on criminal charges. The Grand Jury did as I predicted, they followed the law. Praise the Lord, we are still a nation of laws. Regardless of your personal feelings, we must always follow the law. As a 28-year police veteran, I recall that the law did not always work in my favor but I always respected it.

Now Darren, his wife and unborn child, need a place to hide away from the ugliness of the big cities; a quiet, off the beaten path place where his family can live without fear of being murdered.

Does anyone have any ideas?

Fred Wooldridge
Highlands and N. Palm Beach, FL

• See **LETTERS** page 3

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE
NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

THURSDAY	THURSDAY NIGHT	FRIDAY	FRIDAY NIGHT	SATURDAY	SATURDAY NIGHT	SUNDAY
20% Slight Chc Rain High: 51 °F	40% Chance Rain Low: 43 °F	60% Chance Rain High: 49 °F	70% Rain Likely Low: 43 °F	80% Rain High: 50 °F	60% Rain Likely Low: 42 °F	Mostly Cloudy High: 52 °F

• OBITUARIES •

Jack L. Mattox



Jack L. Mattox died at his home on Sunday, 23 Nov 2014 of a suspected heart attack. He was a decorated veteran of the Viet Nam war, a welder in the steel mills in St Louis, and recently retired from Cimmaron Homes of Highlands.

He attended Pine Creek Baptist Church and will be missed by all who knew and loved him. He is survived by his daughters Lisa R. Mattox of St. Petersburg, Florida and April D. Mattox of Cashiers, North Carolina; beloved sisters Jan Tilker and

Sue Phillips; brothers Leon Mattox, Reggie Nichols, Jerry Nichols, Pete Nichols and Jeff Nichols. He was preceded in death by his mother Alta Irene Holloway and father Jack Mattox. The memorial service and burial were at Pine Creek Baptist Church, Tuesday, December 2, 2014 at 2 pm.

Arrangements are being handled by Bryant-Grant Funeral home in Franklin, North Carolina. Online condolences may be made at www.bryantgrantfuneralhome.com

Patricia Stewart Hodgson



Patricia Stewart Hodgson died peacefully on November 23, 2014 in Savannah, GA at the age of 74.

Pat is survived by her husband, Jean Paul Thompson of Hilton Head Island, SC; daughters Spalding Rooker Ashley (Dan) of Walnut Creek, CA, Stewart Rooker Taylor (Clay) of Nashville, TN; sister Lydia Hodgson Stinnett (Tom) of Huntsville, AL and Santa Fe, NM, brother Morton Strahan Hodgson III of Atlanta, GA; grandsons Winston Parker Ashley, William Bennett Ashley, Clarence Hopson Taylor IV, and Augustus Rooker Taylor.

Pat was born on August 2, 1940 in Mexico City, Mexico to the late Alice Hahr Stewart Spalding and Morton Strahan Hodgson, Jr. She attended Fairfax Hall in VA and Miss Burke's School in CA, as well as Duke University in NC where she was a member of the Delta Delta Delta sorority. She was fortunate to live in many interesting places including Montevideo, Uruguay, San Francisco, CA, Atlanta, GA, Hilton Head Island, SC and Highlands, NC.

For most of her life, Pat's full time job was being a mother to her two girls. Later in life, she was the owner of a beautiful stationery store in Hilton Head Island, SC

where one could find the perfect gift for any occasion, thanks to Pat's incredible sense of style.

Throughout her life, Pat enjoyed a variety of hobbies such as reading, working crossword puzzles and shag dancing to beach music. She had a great appreciation for art and classical piano, the beautiful beaches of Hilton Head Island, SC, the fall colors in the mountains of Highlands, NC and the company of the many four-legged companions she had throughout her life. Her greatest joy was spending time with her family and friends which always included a lot of laughter and story-telling.

The family extends sincere appreciation for the many expressions of concern, support and compassion. In lieu of flowers, memorial gifts may be made to Hospice of the Lowcountry, 119 Palmetto Way, Bluffton, SC 29910 or Hilton Head Humane Association, 10 Humane Way, Hilton Head Island, SC 29926.

A gathering to celebrate Patricia was held at the Piedmont Driving Club in Atlanta, GA on Tuesday December 2, 2014

Please sign our guest book on line at www.foxandweeks.com

...LETTERS continued from page 2

It takes a village

Dear Editor,

The 2014 Annual Christmas Tree Lighting was a great Success. We baked over 2000 cookies and made 18 gallons of

hot chocolate which were quickly gobbled up by the close to 1500 people that were in attendance. I would like to give a special

• See LETTERS page 6



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...DATA continued from page 1

Systems, Inc. (CPSI), with whom the hospital contracted for specialized computer services.

In letters sent to homes, the hospital assured its patients and employees that forensics investigators found "no evidence that this information was accessed via the internet or used in any way at all after the breach."

The exposure was identified on September 29, 2014 during a routine security screening.

This assessment revealed a misconfiguration performed by the third party TruBridge, an HCH vendor specializing in healthcare information technology services, which caused computer servers containing names, addresses, dates of birth, treatment information, diagnoses, health insurance information, and for some patients, social security numbers, to be accessible without firewall protection via the internet, for a time period between May, 2012 through September, 2014.

According to hospital officials, the reason only some social security numbers were leaked is because "the only information that was inadvertently made accessible was on a server where individuals' information varied; some did not have SSNs on the server."

...FERC continued from page 1

agreed that the \$4.5 million it would take to rejuvenate the plant would not be worth the investment, commissioners feel the option is still on Highlands' table.

Third, they don't really want an outside company benefitting from an enterprise in Highlands' backyard especially since the final word has not been said on the matter. (To see the entire story, go to www.highlandsinfo.com, click on Local News and then on the Nov. 26 edition.)

The town had about 10 days to respond to Advanced Hydropower's permit application with FERC.

The mayor's response follows:

"The Town of Highlands, North Carolina would like to respond to Advanced Hydropower, Inc.'s Project No. 14623-000 and the Notice of Preliminary Permit Application for Filing and Soliciting Comments, Motions to Intervene, and Competing Application filed on May 6, 2014 with notice being advertised in the October 8, 2014 edition of the Franklin Press. Since we are an incorporated municipality of North Carolina that held the original FERC license and built the original power house cited in the application, the duly elected Town Board of Highlands affirms the town as a stakeholder in this proposed project and must be principals in deciding related issues. Furthermore, the Town of Highlands does own the hydroelectric dam located on Lake Sequoyah that was identified in the submitted application. Furthermore, the town is the owner of record of the Highlands Hydroelectric Building.

"The Town Board of Highlands has several concerns about the application submitted by Advanced Hydropower, Inc. First, the town questions methodology in presenting the public notice. Highlands has a newspaper that is authorized to publish legal, public notices. The legal notice of this application was not run in any newspapers in our municipality, but rather published in a newspaper that is located 20 miles from Highlands and primarily serves a different community.

"Second, the mayor of Highlands was listed as a pri-

• See FERC page 7

"But as soon as we discovered this, we took immediate steps to secure the server and our forensic investigation found no evidence that the information was accessed through the internet or used in any way at all," officials said.

"We take our responsibility to protect our patient's information and privacy very seriously," said Craig James, President, Highlands-Cashiers Hospital. Upon discovering the exposure, HCH immediately put safeguards in place to protect the information and secure the servers and conducted a thorough investigation, including hiring an outside expert computer forensics company to analyze the server and look for evidence of access or use of its information.

"It is important to note that after a thorough investigation conducted by an outside computer forensics company expert in cyber security, no evidence was found that personal data was accessed via the internet or used in any way and we have been assured by computer specialists that the information is no longer accessible via the internet," said

James. "Still, we certainly appreciate the concern this may cause and in an abundance of caution we are offering our patients and employees whose social security number was on the server a one-year membership to a data protection service free of charge."

The service is Experian's® ProtectMyID® Alert.

Officials reiterated that a forensic investigation found no evidence that the information was accessed through the internet or used in any way at all.

They also recommend that patients of the hospital regularly review the explanation of benefits statement from their health insurer. "If there are services listed that weren't received, please immediately contact your insurer," they said.

To further support patients and answer their questions, HCH has established a toll free number 1-888-227-1416, which also is included in the notification letters and is available 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Friday.

– Submitted Press Release

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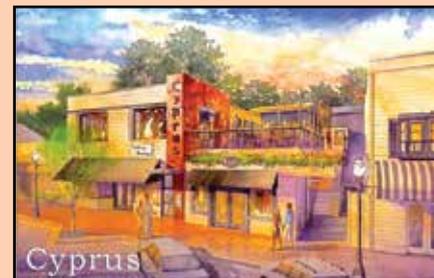
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...LETTERS from page 3

Thank you to The Highlands United Methodist Church for letting the town use their tree as the town tree and keep the lights going all Christmas season long and for use of their Kitchen for baking cookies and making the hot chocolate. I would also like to thank my baking team of Elaine Carlton, Vicki Aspinwall, Kate Mahoney, and Marianne Vines for helping bake cookies all day, and

the other business and individuals that donated cookies. I would also like to thank the Highlands School Interact Club, Scouts, Rotary Members, Irina Taylor, and Marianne Vines for helping with the distribution of the hot chocolate and cookies, and Steve Mehder for the sweatshirts sale. Last but not least the Tree Lighting Event Committee that worked hard behind the scenes to make this a remarkable event.

Jennifer Cunningham
Director of the Visitor Center



Highlands Playhouse

Mockingjay, Part 1
November 21-December 11

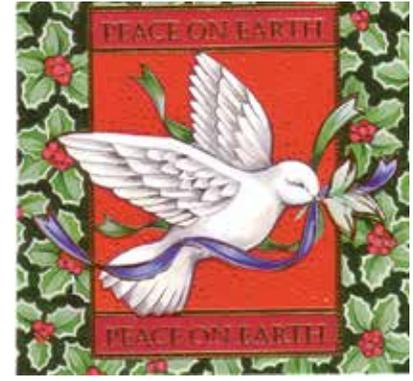


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ANNUAL HOLIDAY READINGS



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7:30 P.M.
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NO CHARGE - NO TICKETS NECESSARY
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...CHANGES from page 1

way running parallel to the building on Fourth Street.

The existing roof will be removed and replaced with a metal gable and shed roof which will give the structure more height.

The existing brick will be painted and stone, horizontal siding and cedar shingle siding will be used to give the structure a "mountain" feel.

Two additional units will be added to the building along the Fourth Street side – which is why this time the application before the Planning Board was to consider an addition to an existing building.

Access to the new units will be from the covered walkway. In addition, an open walkway will be constructed between the new units and Fourth Street from which there will be direct access to the covered walkway.

Several landscape garden areas are planned between the building units facing Fourth Street as well as along the existing brick walkway on Main Street and the front of the buildings facing Fourth Street.

Units 2 and 3 will be part of the existing building and will be accessed from the covered walkway stretching from Main Street toward Oak Street. Only unit number 1 will be accessed from Main Street.

With a "yes" from the Planning Board, the project goes to the Zoning Board on Dec. 10 for a Special Use Permit. The Zoning Board meeting is at 5:30 p.m. in the Community Building.

There will also be a Zoning Board meeting on Dec. 17 at 5:30 p.m. in the Community Building to rehear the John Shearl case.

This case has plagued the town since August 2009 when the Highlands Zoning Board of Adjustment upheld the town's Zoning Administrator's ruling that Shearl's J&J Lawn & Landscaping business activities were encroaching on the residential portion of his split-zoned property on NC 28 south.

Shearl sued the town and appealed an earlier court decision and this time the court ruled that the case should be heard again by the Highlands Zoning Board.

Specifically, On Sept. 2, 2014, the NC Court of Appeals remanded the case to the Superior Court with instructions to order further proceedings before the Highlands Zoning Board.

– Kim Lewicki

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...FERC from page 4

mary principal in the application, yet no one from Advanced Hydropower, Inc. notified his office of their intent to apply for renewal of the town's expired FERC license. Since the town's hydroelectric dam and lake where many residents have homes, are located next to the proposed project, the Town of Highlands requests better communication of the intent and progress of this proposed project. We believe continuous updates and requests for input should be made to the town by the applicant.

"Third, the Town of Highlands hired McGill and Associates, an area engineering firm, in 2013 to assess the feasibility of the town renewing their FERC license and resuming hydroelectric generation using the old power plant building. McGill's report indicated such a project could potentially have a major impact on the sensitive environment of a "wild" naturally flowing river. Also, such proposed operations would be adjacent to a scenic highway and impact a historic community site. At the time of McGill's report to the town board on the feasibility of resuming hydrogeneration, many citizens and community leaders expressed concerns about these issues. Those same concerns have emerged as the public has learned about this proposed project at the Nov. 20, 2014 Highlands Town Board Meeting."

As of Tuesday there were four comments on the FERC site concerning the application. To file a comment go to www.ferc.gov. In the eLIBRARY at the top of the page, type in docket # is P-14623.

According to Christiane Casey with FERC, after 60 days the commission will consider all comments and motions and take final action on the application.

— Kim Lewicki

Tate named Vice-Chair to MC Board of Commission

During a special called meeting of the Macon County Board of Commissioners Monday night, a unanimous vote appointed James Tate, the board's Highlands representative, as vice-chairman.

In the past, the board has elected both a Democrat and a Republican to the positions of chair and vice-chair to remain balanced, but Monday night, Commissioner Ronnie Beale, the lone Democrat on the board, made a motion to appoint Tate as vice-chair.

The appointment of chair and vice-chair came shortly after Commissioner Ronnie Beale, Commissioner James Tate and newcomer Gary Shields, who were all elected to the board in November, took their Oath of Office. While Beale and Tate were re-elected and will retain their seats, Shields will be replacing Ron Haven on the board.

— Brittany Raby



From left: Jim Tate, son Ethan, wife Allison, daughter Eliza and Clerk of Superior Court Vic Perry.
Photo by Brittany Raby

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• TELL TALES •

More from Elmer and Sonny

Sonny, you're like an itch I can't get rid of. Anyway, come on up on the porch and set a spell. Whatcha got on your little brain this time?"

Sorry about that Elmer. You've got to admit that as the world's greatest philosophers, you are irresistible. Aristotle and Plato had nothing on you.

But yeah, I'd like to get your thoughts on a couple of things. One is about why folks don't read more. Seems they get their knowledge from television programs about Ancient Space Aliens and reality shows.

"I don't have an answer to that, sonny, unless maybe laziness or they figure they already know all they need to know. People don't read books anymore and that's a real shame. People quit learning when they get out of school. The problem is that it's these folks who vote. So what got you riled up?"

I was gabbing with a couple of friends about religion the other day and when I mentioned Carl Sagan's famous comment that "we are made of star stuff," one of them started laughing and told me I was nuts. All of them were completely flab-

bergasted.

"Well, where the heck did they think all the chemicals in our bodies come from?"

We know the chemicals came from exploding stars and were it not for supernovae, we wouldn't even be here.

There sure ain't no magician out there waving a magic wand in the sky."

Maybe folks just depend on comic books for knowledge.

There's a world of information out there if folks will pick up a book and read.

"Yeah, now days if you read you're considered a geek. Most folk's knowledge comes from political bumper stickers or misinformation that spreads like a virus on the Internet."

I saw one the other day where they had actually changed the words president Obama used in a speech with some tricky editing. It was a forgery. How do we get facts when that sort of thing goes



Bob Wilson

on?

What worries me, with all the scientific knowledge we have now, how do we get the public to make decisions if they don't read and don't know about that knowledge.

"Ain't gonna be easy, sonny. Worse than that, many of our lawmakers are scientific dummies trying to run a country. Without knowledge, we can't hope to cure the world's problems. Science is gaining that

knowledge and we need it to make this a better world.

What was your other question, sonny?"

Well, I guess you've read about the amazing advances we've made in genetic engineering in the last two years and what the implications are.

"Sure have, and they hold the promise of a new world out there for us. Genetic engineering may soon find a cure for Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, cystic fibrosis to HIV and many other diseases. Scientists

have found ways to deliver genes to the point where it's needed."

Yeah, even regenerating failed heart muscles, rebuilding a failed liver and would you believe we may even be able to cure schizophrenia. We already know that violent criminals lack activity in their prefrontal cortex so if we have a cure for schizophrenia, we should be able to restore activity to someone's prefrontal cortex and that's where folks feel empathy for others.

"I gotta tell you if we finally can cure mental illness, our legal system will go into spasms. Religions won't have any more sin to deal with if what they call sin turns out to be nothing more than a genetic defect."

That brings up an ethical question. If some day we can cure a murderer of a mental disorder, do we let them out of jail?

"Like I said, sonny, the legal and religious systems will go into spasms and likely put up a fight to stop scientists from playing God and curing people of diseases that might affect their control over things.

• See TELL TALES page 22



VISIT THE BAKERY AT MOUNTAIN FRESH GROCERY

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STOLLEN BREAD FOR THE HOLIDAYS

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REGULAR HOURS: MON - THURS 7AM TO 8PM, FRI & SAT 7AM TO 9PM, SUNDAYS 8AM TO 6PM

• INVESTING AT 4,118 Ft. •

What are the advantages of buying and selling your home in the winter?

As unique as our area is, it is not unique in one of the major advantages for Buyers and Sellers to conduct transactions over the winter months. That advantage, in most of the country, is that there is less competition when you look to buy or sell during the winter.

As a whole, most view the spring and summer as the prime time to list homes as well as look for homes. Savvy Buyers and Sellers have the advantage of less competition in both the real estate part of the picture as well as associated areas.

With the reduction of inventory as many remove their homes from the winter real estate sales market, Sellers get more advertising and emphasis on their homes from their Realtors.

With fewer people looking for homes, Buyers also are able to have more of a busy Realtor's attention. The mortgage, appraisal and home inspection vendors have more time and can get to your needs quicker. Most homes need some amount of work done to them and the builders and contractors are also typically less busy thus your ability to get the work done at a more competitive price is greater. Moving companies also tend to be slower and offer more deals and incentives in the winter months.

Buyers, after the holidays, typically have more time on their hands as opposed to the busy, outdoor focused summer months. In our area, Buyers can take advantage of off -season hotel rates, retail sales and as a



Wanda Klodosky
Landmark Realty Group
Wanda@LandmarkRG.com

rule will get to know the local people and culture more readily than during high season. In this area in particular, what you see is what you get in the winter months. With the leaves off of the lush landscape you will see the area surrounding the homes under consideration. This can be very valuable in home buying and crucial if you are considering purchasing raw land.

Sellers, while the advantages are not as specific, to have your home on the market when there are fewer inventory possibilities for Buyers is always a positive. It is also a great time to take advantage of the slower months for contractors to get those items done that will add more value to and take away more objections from your home. Showing a Buyer that the home is being cared for by the Seller is usually a positive selling factor.

In conclusion, while the Highlands/Cashiers Plateau is known as a summer resort area, as a Buyer or Seller of mountain property, don't overlook the advantages of the winter market.

• Wanda Klodosky is the Broker in Charge of the Highlands Landmark office, located at 225 Main Street. Landmark Realty Group is a leading real estate company on the Highlands/Cashiers Plateau with offices in Cashiers and Burlingame as well as the Highlands office. Landmark focuses on providing high quality, professional services for all of its clients. Visit www.LandmarkRG.com today or call 828-526-4663.

WHAT'S FOR DINNER?



MOUNTAIN FRESH GROCERY DINNER TO GO MENU

MADE FRESH AND SERVED HOT.
MON - SAT PICK UP FROM 4:30 PM UNTIL 8 PM.

DON'T FORGET OUR GRILL AND
WOOD FIRE OVEN ARE OPEN AT 11AM EVERY DAY
STORE HOURS: MON - THURS 7AM TO 8PM,
FRI & SAT 7AM TO 9PM, SUNDAYS 8AM TO 6PM

EACH DINNER FEEDS A FAMILY OF FOUR

MON	CHOOSE EITHER: MEXICAN MONDAY: FOUR CHEESE AND FOUR CHICKEN ENCHILADAS, REFRIED BEANS, MONTEREY RICE, HOMEMADE TORTILLA CHIPS, SALSA, SHREDDED LETTUCE, TOMATOES, SOUR CREAM --OR-- 24 BUFFALO WINGS OR 2 LBS CHICKEN TENDERS AND HAND CUT FRIES	\$19.95 serves 4
TUES	IN-HOUSE MADE ITALIAN SAUSAGE LASAGNA WITH A LARGE SALAD	\$19.95 serves 4
WED	CHICKEN OR STEAK POT PIE AND A LARGE SALAD	\$19.95 serves 4
THURS	ROASTED MEATLOAF WITH MASHED POTATOES, GRAVY AND A LARGE SALAD	\$19.95 serves 4
FRI	WILD CAUGHT FRIED SHRIMP, BAKED POTATOES, HUSH PUPPIES, AND COLESLAW	\$22.95 serves 4
SAT	IN-HOUSE SMOKED BBQ, COLESLAW, APPLE AND BACON BAKED BEANS, AND YEAST ROLLS	\$19.95 serves 4

WALK IN OR CALL AHEAD TO RESERVE



WEEKDAY PIZZA SPECIAL
16" NEW YORK STYLE PIZZA WITH UP TO 5 TOPPINGS & A LARGE HOUSE SALAD OR BAKED PASTA: TOMATO SAUCE, & CHEESE WITH A CHOICE OF ITALIAN SAUSAGE, MEATBALLS OR CRISPY CHICKEN. COMES WITH GARLIC BREAD AND SALAD \$19.95
BOTH SPECIALS AVAILABLE MONDAY THROUGH THURSDAY 4:30 TO CLOSE

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COOKING FOR HIGHLANDS**

MON - SAT OPEN AT 7 AM AND SUNDAYS AT 8 AM

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Live in HD Series

Bolshoi Ballet
presents
La Bayadere

Sunday, December 7
12:55pm

Adults: \$20 Students: \$10

Highlands PAC 507 Chestnut Street

Tickets available online: highlandspac.org or by calling 828.526.9047



• HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

Ongoing

• The Cub and Boy Scouts of America have three drop offs for worn and tattered flags. They properly retire them. Drop offs at Highlands Doors and Windows 2242 Dillard Road, the Highlands

Fire Station or Highlands United Methodist Church office. Contact Phil Potts for more information 828 526-3719

Through Dec. 16

• Fruit sale by the HS Junior Class. Oranges, Small juice or-

anges, Grapefruit, Tangelos, and Tangerines. And it is \$20 per box. The pick up for the fruit will be Tuesday, December 16 at Highlands school between 3:30 and 5!

• Shortoff Baptist Church hosts a non-denominational Men's

Meeting the first Monday night of each month at 7 pm and all men are invited to attend.

Tuesdays

• Free Community Table Dinner at the Community Bldg. at 6p.
• Zumba at the Rec Park at

8:05a. \$5.

Mon., Wed., Fri.

• Aerobics with Tina Rogers 8-9a.

• Zumba at the Rec Park at 9:05a. \$5

Mon.-Sat.

• Nantahala Tennis Club meets 9a-12 noon, at Highlands Civic Center, tennis courts. \$2 per person, and all visitors are welcome!

Wednesdays

• First Baptist Church is happy to present a new season of X-treme Games at the Highlands Rec. Park. The games will be held Wednesday nights from 6 to 7:15 pm. For more information or to pre-register your k - 6th grade child, please call 526-4153.

1st Wednesdays

• Family Movies at the Hudson Library at 3:30pm. Call 828-526-3031 for titles.

3rd Wednesdays

• General Audience Movies at Hudson Library at 2pm. Call 828-526-3031 for titles.

1st & 3rd Thursdays

• Free local ongoing support group for caregivers. Are you involved with the care of a loved one who is physically or mentally facing challenges? Sponsored by The Counseling and Psychotherapy Center of Highlands and the Highlands United Methodist Church, this group meets at 4PM at Room 203 at the Peggy Crosby Center. Facilitated by Bonnie Gramlich, a licensed professional. Drop in or call for further info, 828.342.0546.

Thursdays

• Storytimes with Miss Carol at Hudson Library 10:40am. Open to the public.

• Highlands Writers' Group meets every Thursday from 1-3:30 pm at Hudson Library. Writers of all genres welcome. For info call 526-8009 or 526-2295.

• NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) offers a peer support group for individuals that are dealing with depression, anxiety, PTSD, bipolar, schizophrenia, etc. and the family members or friends of loved ones dealing with these challenges. Join us in a safe, confidential environment to

Annual Christmas Day Dinner at HCC's Hudson House



This annual affair raises money for various nonprofits in town and all proceeds benefit them. This year a match of up to \$30,000 in donations has been promised. The buffet dinner prepared by area chefs, is 11 am to 5pm. Reservations only. Please call 526-9419.

Santa sittings are Saturdays through Dec. 20



Santa and Mrs. Claus will be at the Mountain Top Wine Shoppe Saturday Dec. 6 after the parade until 4p and from 10a to 4p on Saturdays Dec. 13, and 20.

Photo by Kim Lewicki

HCP offers its annual FREE Holiday Reading



Kathryn Cochran enacts the Lucia Bride, a Scandinavian Christmas tradition, in an early HCP Holiday Program. The annual program, now in its 19th year, will be presented this season at Highlands Performing Arts Center,

This season the Holiday Program, presented annually by the Highlands Cashiers Players at the Highlands Performing Arts Center, is scheduled for Thursday evening, December 18, beginning at 7:00 p.m. A dramatic reading of Truman Capote's touching story, "A Christmas Memory," will feature Dean Zuch as narrator, assisted by HCP actors Jill Montana, Wayne Coleman, Lee Lyons, Sarah and Ken Knight. Musicians assembled by Lee Scott, Minister of Music for the United Methodist Church, will provide dulcimer, guitar, fiddle, harp music, and songs at intervals during the reading. Afterwards the audience is invited to join the performers for refreshments and music by the Mountain High Dulcimer Club downstairs in the PAC reception. There is no charge for this holiday event; no tickets are necessary. The program is the Players Christmas gift to the community.

• HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

share concerns and gain insight. Join us for our Weekly Support Group from 7 – 8:15 pm @ 14 West Palmer Street in Franklin NC, email dcwithnami@yahoo.com, Donita (828) 526-9510.

2nd Thursdays

- Sapphire Valley Needlepoint Guild meets at the Highlands Rec Park at 10 a.m. Newcomers welcomed.

Last Fri. of each month

- Weight Watchers support group meets every Thursday at 6pm at the Cashiers Community Center. Questions? Call Lisa 828-506-3555

Saturdays

- Free wine tastings at MountainTop Wine Shoppe from 1-3p.

Sundays

- At Highlands Inn, Sequoyah Room at 4:30 pm. Multi-denominational, Interactive Bible Study and Fellowship. Open to all.

Through Dec. 6

- Macon County Youth Boys basketball registration. You can register at the Highlands Recreation Department, Macon County Community Building or on-line at www.maconcounty-boysbasketball.com.

Through Dec. 11

- Movie at The Playhouse: Hunger Games: Mockingjay Part I. Showtimes, Fri., Sat., Sun., Mon. & Thurs. 2p, 5p and 8p. No movies on Tuesday and Wednesday.

Thurs., Dec. 4

- Shop With a Cop Rotary Bingo at the Community Building by the ball field 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Sat., Dec. 6

- Holiday Artisan Market in Cafe 460 9a to 5p.

- Annual Christmas Parade on Main Street Highlands at 11a. Santa & Mrs. Claus will be at MountainTop Wine Shoppe to hear children's Christmas wishes..

- Christmas Carol Sing at First Presbyterian Church at 2 p.m. Stell Huie will be song leader with Angie Jenkins at the organ. Come join us for a wonderful hour of singing in Christian fellowship.

- The Jackson County GOP Annual Prayer Breakfast will be held in the Ballroom of the Comfort Inn in Sylva on Satur-

day, 8:30 M.A full breakfast buffet will be served. The cost is \$10 per person. The featured speakers are Ralph Campbell pastor of the Glenville Wesleyan Church and NC Senator Jim Davis. All Republicans and others interested are invited to attend. Reservations are requested by calling Ralph Slaughter @ 828 743-6191

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take an easy 2-mile hike along

Mud Creek with very little elevation change, to Mud Creek Falls, a beautiful clear creek and falls despite the name, near Sky Valley, GA. Wear sturdy shoes and bring water. We will have an early supper at Mountain Man Restaurant in Dillard on the return. Call leader Joyce Jacques, 410-852-7510, for reservations or an alternate meeting place. Visitors welcome, no dogs please.

Literacy Council to promote



Youngsters who attend the parade Saturday morning beginning at 11 a.m. will be rewarded with a book from the Literacy Council!

Annual Carol Sing after the parade



Everyone is cordially invited to a Christmas Carol Sing at First Presbyterian Church at 2pm December 6, after the parade. Stell Huie will be the song leader with Angie Jenkins at the organ. If you enjoy singing familiar Christmas carols, you will definitely want to make this a part of your Christmas tradition. The church is located at the corner of Main and Fifth Streets. Handicapped accessible entrances are located on Church Street and on Fifth Street. Come and join us for a wonderful time of singing and Christian fellowship!

Sat., Dec 7

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take an easy 3-mile hike, with two stream crossings, to Secret Falls, in Horse Cove near Highlands, with access to the top and bottom of the 60ft. fall and only a little incline coming back up. Meet at Bi-Lo parking lot at 11 am, drive 40 miles round trip. Call leaders Diana Otero/Rudolph Buchholz, 765-318-9981, for reservations. Families, children, and visitors wel-

come. No dogs please.

- The High Mountain Squares will host their annual "Toys for Tots Dance", Sunday afternoon, from 2:30 to 4:30 PM. at the Macon County Community Building, GA Road (441 South), Franklin NC. Dr Jim Duncan from Otto, NC will be the caller. Help support our local Marine Corps Reserve, admission is a NEW unwrapped toy.

• See EVENTS page 14

Shop With a Cop Rotary Bingo



The Rotary Club of Highlands will partner for the seventh year with the Macon County Sheriff's Department and the Highlands Police Department on Thursday, December 4th for Shop With a Cop Rotary Bingo from 6:30 to 8:30 in the Highlands Community Building next to the ball park. The Rotary Club of Highlands is licensed by the State of NC to operate bingo games.

The Bolshoi Ballet Live in HD at PAC on Sunday

The Performing Arts Center continues Live in HD Series with the Bolshoi Ballet on Sunday, December 7 at 12:55 pm with La Bayadere.

When the beautiful dancer Nikiya and the warrior Solor meet in secret, they swear eternal mutual fidelity. However, the High Brahmin, who is also in love with Nikiya, overhears them. He rushes to reveal their secret to the Rajah, who has decided that Solor will marry his beloved daughter Gamzatti.

La Bayadère (the word refers to an Indian temple dancer) is a key work in the classical repertoire and this is a magnificent production. The story of impossible love between Nikiya and Solor is set against the backdrop of a lush, mysterious India. Marius Petipa's choreography, here in a new scenic version by Yuri Grigorovich, is exquisite; the



scene known as The Kingdom of the Shades is one of the most celebrated in the history of ballet. Bolshoi principals Svetlana Zakharova and Maria Alexandrova bring the characters of this romantic ballet to life.

La Bayadere was captured Live in HD on January 27th, 2013

Tickets are available online: highlandspac.org or by calling 828.526.9047. Adults: \$20 Students: \$10 PAC Members: \$17.

Happy Holiday Shopping Highlands!

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- All RUGS and PILLOWS **50% OFF**
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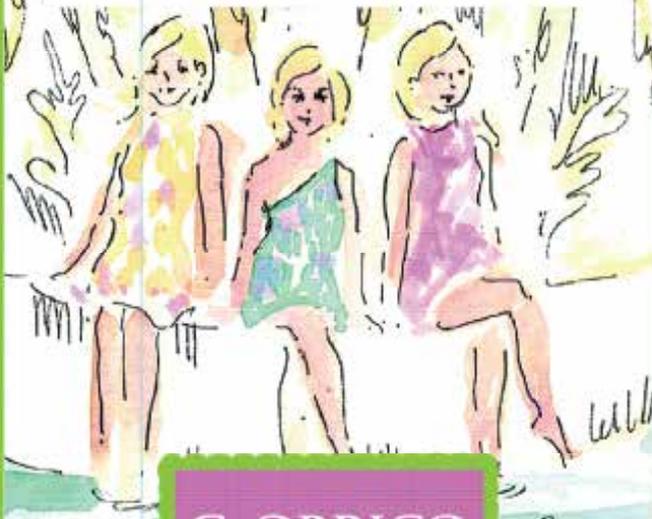


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• HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

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CAROL SING

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2014 AT 2:00 P.M.

Come sing Christmas Carols after the Parade in the Sanctuary

LESSONS & CAROLS

With special guest musicians

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2014

AT 11:00 A.M.

CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2014

Immediately following the 11:00 a.m. service

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2014

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT &

COMMUNION SERVICE

4:30 p.m. Harp Prelude

Candlelight & Communion Service

designed for the entire family at 5:00 p.m.

Valerie Whitcup, *harpist*

Homily by Curtis Fussell

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828-526-3175 Fax: 828-526-0784

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Visit us on the web at www.fpchighlands.org

Nursery Provided

Bio Station research students to present findings Wed., Dec. 10



The Highlands Biological Station cordially invites the public to hear the students present their research during their closing ceremony on Wednesday, December 10 from 2-5 pm in the seminar room of the Coker Laboratory, 265 North Sixth Street, Highlands, North Carolina. This will be the students' last night in Highlands. Refreshments will be provided. If you would like to know more about the program and read the presentation titles, or if you know of a college-level student who would be interested in the program, please visit www.highlandsbiological.org/unc-ie/. The application deadline is in February 2015. The mission of the Highlands Biological Station is to foster research and education focused on the rich natural heritage of the Highlands Plateau. For more information visit www.highlandsbiological.org, call (828) 526-2602 or visit us at 265 North Sixth Street.

Everyone is welcome. We dance Western Style Square Dancing, main/stream and plus levels. New dancers lessons will begin in January. Everyone is welcome. For information call 828-371-4946, 828-342-1560.

Sat., Dec. 8

• The Battle of Sugartown Chapter of the North Carolina Society, Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), will hold its monthly luncheon meeting at 11:30 in the Boiler Room Restaurant at 1024 Georgia Road in Franklin. All DAR members and prospective members are welcome. For further information, please contact 828-369-3136 or 828-524-2673.

Tues.-Wed., Dec. 9-10

• At The Highlands Playhouse, "The Vatican Museums." Transport yourself to the Vatican through the 35-ft. screen and immerse yourself in the timeless works of art. It's better than being there in person!

Wed., Dec. 10

• The Highlands Biological Station cordially invites the public to hear the students present their research during their closing ceremony on Wednesday,

• See **EVENTS** page 18

Christmas Eve Service

- CANDLE LIGHTING
- CONGREGATIONAL SING
- SPECIAL MESSAGE BY PASTOR GARY

Wed, Dec 24 @ 5 pm



3645 Cashiers Road • Highlands, NC 28741

828-526-4685 ph • www.CBChighlands.com

Parade dance dedicated to Levinson



On December 6, Mountain Garden Club members will dance in memory of Joan Levinson during the Highlands Olde Mountain Christmas Parade.

"Joan was amazingly talented," said Dr. Becky Schilling. "She created spectacular costumes. She also danced into her 90s and carried our banner. She brought style and grace to everything she did."

Educated at the Massachusetts School of Design, Levinson worked as a furrier and sportswear designer. Her patterns and designs were used by Lands End, Eddie Bauer, Norm Thompson and others.

Levinson helped create parade magic in Highlands for 16 years. She also served as Mountain Garden Club treasurer for many years, spearheaded novel fundraising ideas, and helped with the club's scholarship program. She passed away on September 14.



MOUNTAIN FRESH GROCERY

COOKING FOR HIGHLANDS

**BREAKFAST • LUNCH • DINNER • GRILL
WOOD FIRE PIZZA • COFFEE • BAKERY
ESPRESSO • WINE • CRAFT BEER • BUTCHER
ARTISAN CHEESE • OIL AND VINEGAR**

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FULL BREAKFAST MADE TO ORDER EVERY MORNING UNTIL 10:30 FRESH EGGS, WAFFLES, FRENCH TOAST, BACON, SAUSAGE, HAM, BISCUITS, MUFFINS, CROISSANTS ESPRESSO BAR AND COFFEE ROASTED IN-HOUSE

LUNCH AND DINNER

GRILL

EVERY DAY FROM 11:00 TO CLOSE FRESH ANGUS BURGERS, FRESH NATURAL CHICKEN BREASTS, FISH CHICKEN TENDERS, COOKED TO ORDER, HAND CUT FRIES, SALADS, HOMEMADE SOUPS, DAILY SPECIALS

DELI

SERVING ALL DAY FRESH CUT NATURAL MEATS, HOMEMADE DELI SALADS, PANINI, MELTS, HOMEMADE POTATO CHIPS, DAILY SOUP SPECIALS

WOOD FIRE PIZZA OVEN

EVERY DAY FROM 11:00 TO CLOSE AUTHENTIC NEAPOLITAN PIZZA MADE FROM SCRATCH FRESH MOZZARELLA, BASIL, CRUSHED TOMATOES HOMEMADE ITALIAN SAUSAGE, PANCETTA, AND DAILY SPECIALS

SUNDAY SKILLET FRIED CHICKEN

EVERY SUNDAY FROM 11:00AM UNTIL WE SELL OUT! FRESH ORGANIC HAND CUT, HAND BREADED CHICKEN COOKED IN A CAST IRON SKILLET. SERVED WITH GREEN BEANS, MASHED POTATOES AND GRAVY WITH A WARM HONEY BISCUIT...\$8.95

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A LARGE SELECTION OF TAKE-AWAY ITEMS FULLY PREPARED, READY TO TAKE HOME INCLUDING GRILLED PORK LOINS, HOME MADE MAC & CHEESE, MASHED POTATOES, HERB RUBBED CHICKEN, MADE IN HOUSE BBQ, CHICKEN SALAD DELI SALADS & MUCH MORE

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A DIFFERENT FULL DINNER EVERY NIGHT. SERVES FOUR SERVING MONDAY THROUGH SATURDAY FROM 4:30 UNTIL WE SELL OUT - CALL AHEAD TO RESERVE.

MONDAY: CHOOSE EITHER: FOUR CHICKEN AND FOUR CHEESE ENCHILADAS, REFRIED BEANS, MONTEREY RICE, HOMEMADE TORTILLA CHIPS, SALSA, SHREDDED LETTUCE, TOMATOES, SOUR CREAM OR... 24 BUFFALO WINGS OR 2 LBS CHICKEN TENDERS AND HAND CUT FRIES
\$19.95 SERVES FOUR.

TUESDAY: MADE IN-HOUSE ITALIAN SAUSAGE LASAGNA AND A LARGE HOUSE SALAD
\$19.95 SERVES FOUR

WEDNESDAY: CHICKEN OR STEAK POT PIE AND A LARGE SALAD
\$19.95 SERVES FOUR

THURSDAY: ROASTED MEATLOAF WITH MASHED POTATOES, GRAVY AND A LARGE SALAD
\$19.95 SERVES FOUR

FRIDAY: WILD CAUGHT FRIED SHRIMP, BAKED POTATOES, HUSH PUPPIES AND COLESLAW
\$22.95 SERVES FOUR

SATURDAY: IN-HOUSE SMOKED BBQ, COLESLAW, APPLE AND BACON BAKED BEANS, AND YEAST ROLLS
\$19.95 SERVES FOUR

WEEKDAY PIZZA SPECIAL:

16" NEW YORK STYLE PIZZA WITH UP TO FIVE TOPPINGS AND A LARGE HOUSE SALAD \$19.99 OR BAKED PASTA, WITH GARLIC BREAD AND SALAD FOR 19.95 PASTA, TOMATO SAUCE, AND CHEESE WITH A CHOICE OF ITALIAN SAUSAGE, MEAT BALLS OR CRISPY CHICKEN. AVAILABLE MONDAY THROUGH THURSDAY 4:30 TO CLOSE

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Who Counseled God?

By Pastor Sam Forrester
Whiteside Presbyterian Church

The Bible declares God to be sovereign. That means he alone is responsible for the governing of this world. Everything you see, hear, feel, taste, and smell comes from the creative power of God. God made all things and all out of nothing. The question we have to ask is: Who was there for him to ask counsel from?

God is completely sufficient unto himself, needing nothing or no one. Yet, he is a God moved by his own being to create. So, before the foundations of this world were laid, he devised a plan to create a world and rule over it. He decided to create mankind and from that mass of humanity to redeem a people unto himself (2 Corinthians 6:16-18). All this was decided before any work was done to bring our world into existence. In all of this massive undertaking, who gave this sovereign God any counsel?

The sacrifice of Jesus Christ was ordained before the foundations of this world were laid (1 Peter 1:20 & Revelation 13:8). Who was there to counsel God? He provided for those that would hear the Good News. God gives them new hearts with which to fear him (Ezekiel 36:24-26, Jeremiah 31:31-34) and the Holy Spirit watches over them to see the work begun in them is carried out to completion (Philippians 1:6). Who was there with God to give him counsel?

There is no one to counsel God for there is none but the Triune God. It is the Triune God who made all things (Acts 15:18), it is this same Triune God this very day sustaining all things (Hebrews 1:3). Dear ones, he doesn't seek the counsel of anyone about how to run his creation. He is the Sovereign Lord Almighty. He and he alone is in control of this world. Scripture says, he has the hairs on your head numbered. He knows when each sparrow falls (Luke 12:6,7). He is working out his plan and no effort of a man or any other creature will change the number of those chosen unto eternal salvation (Ephesians 1:3-5,11; Acts 13:48). Nothing can prevent the day he appoints to bring his people into glory (Job 42:2). Why? Because he is

• See SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING page 17

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Proverbs 3:5

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John 3:16

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Tues. Guys study 8am, Gals 10am.

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Wednesdays - 7 p.m.

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Senior Pastor Gary Hewins
Sun.: 9:30am: Sunday School
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Wed.: 5pm Dinner (\$7 adult, \$2 child), 6pm CBC
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and choir rehearsal, 9 am, Holy Eucharist Rite II,
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Wed.: Men's Bible Study 8:30 am; Prayer Mtg 6:15 pm;
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Wed. Kidsquest 6p.; Worship 7p.

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Wednesday: Prayer Service, 6:30 p.

HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Pastor Paul Christy 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)

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Worship/Communion: 10:30
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Sundays: School: 10 a.m.; Worship: 11, Choir: 6 p.m.
Wed: Bible Study and Youth Mtg.: 7 p.m.

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Wednesdays: Prayer Mtg.: 7 p.m.

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Wed: Adult Bible Study & Youth: 7 p.m.

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WHITESIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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• POLICE & FIRE REPORTS •

Highlands Police Log entries from Nov. 1 Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor or public officials have been used.

Nov. 1

• At 6 p.m., officers were informed about a person who tried to use a name, date of birth and a social security number to obtain unemployment benefits.

Nov. 12

• At 11 a.m., officers were informed of a larceny when someone removed mail from an envelope belonging to Edward Jones Investments.

Nov. 19

• At 8:04 a.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident on Fifth Street.

Nov. 20

• At 4:07 p.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident on US 64 west.

Nov. 18

• At 8:59 a.m., Rene Velencia-Cruz, 24, of Franklin, was arrested for Failure to Appear in court and

...SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING from page 16

sovereign. What a great comfort we as believers can take in this knowledge, "Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit, says the Lord Almighty" (Zechariah 4:6).

The prophet in Isaiah 50:9 declares it is the Sovereign Lord who helps him. It is only the Sovereign Lord who can declare your sins forgiven. He did that for everyone who would hear and believe and he did it before the creation of this world. Who was there for him to counsel with? There was none. Salvation is of God alone. Open your ears and hear his call. The apostle John laid it out so clearly in John 3:16 "For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have everlasting life." Your salvation is a gift from the Sovereign Lord and he alone deserves the glory for it.

driving impaired without a licence.

The Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. log entries from Nov. 26.

Nov. 26

• At 9:40 a.m., the dept. stoodby for the MAMA helicopter at the hospital.

• At 11:13 a.m., the dept. responded to a possible electrical fire on Main Street.

• At 5:39 p.m., the dept. searched for a missing person on Buck Creek Road.

Nov. 27

• At 2:27 a.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident at N. 4th and Foreman roads.

Nov. 28

• At 3:11 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Dendy Orchard road.

• At 10 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Crisp Road.

• At 10 p.m., the dept. stoodby for the MAMA helicopter at the hospital.

• At 10:30 p.m. the dept. was first-responders to Main Street.

Nov. 29

• At 6:30 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Klein Road.

Nov. 30

• At 1 p.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on US 64 west.

• At 7:14 p.m., the dept. was called to a residence on Queen Mountain.

Dec. 1

• At 3:53 p.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident at US 64 east and Cullasaja Drive.

Death of lost teen defined

On Monday, November 24, Pathologist Dr. William L. Selby conducted an autopsy of Alec Lansing, the teenager who walked away from Trails Carolina campsite on November 10, 2014.

The cause of death indicated was Hypothermia. An additional significant factor in this autopsy that was noted by Dr. Selby was a broken hip.

Investigators who were present on scene where the body of Lansing was found noted evidence of removed moss from a tree which leaned over the small stream in which Lansing was found on Saturday, November 22.

Investigators believe Lansing had scaled the tree and fallen into the shallow stream, resulting in the broken hip rendering him immobile.

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...EVENTS continued from page 14

December 10 from 2-5 pm in the seminar room of the Coker Laboratory, 265 North Sixth Street, Highlands. This will be the students' last night in Highlands. Refreshments will be provided. For more information visit www.highlandsbiological.org, call (828) 526-2602 or visit us at 265 North Sixth Street.

Sat., Dec 13

- Holiday Artisan Market in Cafe 460

10a to 4p.

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate-to-strenuous work and exploration hike, with elevation change of 800 ft., on Rocky Bald Ridge just off the Appalachian Trail at Wine Springs, a little used horse trail that the leader would like to clear. Distance depends on the amount of clearing. Meet at Westgate Plaza in Franklin at 9 am, drive 36 miles round trip. Call leader

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Gail Lehman, 828-524-5298, for reservations and/or information.

Sun., Dec 14

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take an easy-to-moderate 1.5 mile hike, elevation change 400 ft., on the Rufus Morgan Trail, (named for the founder of the Club), through the woods to a beautiful waterfall with one short steep section. Wear sturdy shoes and bring water. Meet at Westgate Plaza in Franklin at 2 pm, drive 24 miles round trip. Call leader Joyce Jacques, 410-852-7510, for reservations. Visitors welcome, no dogs please.

Mon.-Wed., Dec. 15-17

- At The Highlands Playhouse, "Gone with the Wind" in celebration of the movie's 75th anniversary.

Mon., Dec 15

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate-to-strenuous 9-mile hike, elevation gain 1300 ft., going north on the Appalachian Trail from Wayah Crest to Wayah Bald Lookout Tower, 5342 ft. elevation, with great views of the Franklin area. Meet at Westgate Plaza in Franklin at 8:30 am, drive 24 miles round trip. Call leaders Diana Otero/Rudolph Buchholz, 765-318-9981, for reservations. Visitors welcome, no dogs please.

Tues., Dec. 18

- This season the Holiday Program, presented annually by the Highlands Cashiers Players at the Highlands Performing Arts Center, is scheduled for Thursday evening, December 18, beginning at 7 p.m. This season a dramatic reading of Truman Capote's touching story, "A Christmas Memory" from his childhood in rural Alabama will be featured. Also a group of area musicians, playing dulcimers, guitars, and fiddle will accompany singers for three songs interspersed in the reading. A reception downstairs in PAC will follow the reading with music by the "Mountain High Dulcimer Club." The program is the Players gift to the community and is free to all.

Sat., Dec 20

- Holiday Artisan Market in Cafe 460 10a to 4p.
- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take an easy-to-moderate, up and down 3-mile hike to 60 ft. high Yellow Branch Falls, one of the most beautiful rocky waterfalls in western SC. If time allows, a stop can be made at nearby Stump Town Tunnel. Meet at Cashiers Rec Park at 9 am, drive 50 miles round trip. Call leaders Mike and Susan Kettles, 828-743-1079, for reservations.

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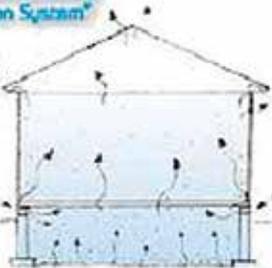
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For more information, contact Frank Vickery, Director of Ceramics, or Billy Love, Adult Education Manager, 828-526-4949 or www.thebascom.org.

To register, contact Anna Alig at 828-787-2865 or aalig@thebascom.org.

Varsity Volleyball team travels to Clemson University

The Lady Highlanders volleyball team had the opportunity to attend volleyball camp this past summer which was hosted here in Highlands School by Wake Forest.

Head Coach Ken Murczek and his assistant coach and wife Jen Murczek traveled from Winston-Salem to spend a valuable couple of days with the girls.

Before leaving, they invited the girls to attend their volleyball game when the Lady Demon Deacons traveled in November to face Clemson's Lady Tigers. The Lady Highlanders too them up on their invitation and on Sunday, Nov. 24 traveled to Clemson with Coach katie and her family.

Despite the downpour of rain, the girls had a great experience. They had the opportunity to take pictures with the Clemson Tigers team mascot as well as some team players. The plan was also to tour Clemson's campus but due to weather that didn't happen.

Instead they went downtown to do some shopping in the sports stores.

Before leaving to travel back to Winston-Salem with his team, Coach Ken met with the girls to give them some words of encouragement for next season. Before the season begins next year, Coach Ken will come back to Highlands to host their volleyball camp.

The Lady Demon Deacons took the game from the Lady Tigers winning three straight sets.

– Sierra Nylund



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• BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NEWS •

Thanksgiving at the Fidelia-Eckerd Center



Residents of the Eckerd Living Center enjoyed the Thanksgiving holiday by sharing a traditional Thanksgiving meal and some fellowship with their families. About 200 friends and family members participated in the Thanksgiving dinner for approximately 60+ residents. Shown here is William "Uncle Bill" Leonard as he enjoys visiting with his family. The Eckerd Living Center is an 80-Bed Skilled Nursing Facility physically attached the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital in Highlands, NC.



Left to Right: Jim Bryson, Bryson's Food Store, Pamela Harris, member of MountainTop Rotary, Dr. John Bumrucker, upcoming President of MountainTop Rotary & Bill Zoellner, current President of MountainTop Rotary.

Food gift cards for the hungry

The Highlands MountainTop Rotary Club is kicking off its "First Annual" Food Drive Campaign this week, "Help the Hungry in Our Community." Dinner Meal Gift Certificates can be purchased at Mountain Fresh Grocery for \$19.95 each and Bryson's Gift Cards can be purchased at Bryson's Food Store for \$20 each. All proceeds from the campaign will be shared between Highlands Emergency Council and Our Local Food Bank. Please help by sharing with our community during this Holiday Season. The Mountaintop Rotary Club meets every Wednesday morning at 7:30 am at the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital lower level Dining Room.

Eckerd Center still needs trees!

Please decorate a tree in the Eckerd Living Center. Trees are still needed in the dining room, the media room, the library/reading room. Please contact Pamela Harris @ 828-526-1325 or pharris@hchospital.org for additional details.

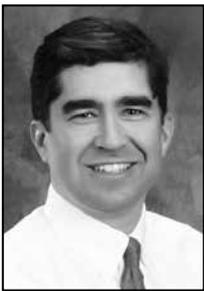
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From left: Rotary President Peter Ray, Rotary President-Elect Christy Kelly, Dr. Sue Aery, Rotary Past President Rick Reid

Last week at Rotary

The Rotary Club of Highlands held their weekly meeting on Tuesday, November 25th at noon at the Highlands Community Building. The guest speaker was Dr. Sue Aery, who gave an educational and informative presentation on the topic of "Aging & Health." A Doctor of Chiropractic with a Master's Degree in Nutrition, Dr. Aery shared her knowledge and experience on a diverse range of topics, stressing the benefits of exercise, nutrition, supplements, balance and coordination, and good posture. For more information, please visit the Rotary Club of Highlands website at highlandshotary.org.

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MAIN STREET INN is looking for a winter innkeeper that is available to live on site. Email info@mainstreet-inn.com or call 828-526-2590. (st. 11/6)

MOUNTAIN FRESH GROCERY IN HIGHLANDS is hiring full-time for positions on the grill. Contact Don at 828.526.2400

PART-TIME BOOK-KEEPER POSITION with Quickbooks experience needed at the Highlands ABC Store. Applications are available at the store in Highlands Plaza. 828-526-5470. (st. 10/9)

EXPERIENCED ELECTRICIAN NEEDED. Edwards Electrical Services. 828-526-5147. (st. 10/2)

LEAD LINE COOK & DISHWASHER needed at casual fine dining, up to \$13/hour or salary B.O.E. jasoncancilla2012@gmail.com (st. 6/19)

CNA, NURSES, CARE-GIVERS needed for Home Care Agency serving Older Adults in Macon, Jackson and Transylvania counties. Call 828-200-9000. (st. 5/15)

SALES ASSOCIATE FOR HIGH END RETAIL CLOTHING STORE IN HIGHLANDS, NC. full time, part-time and seasonal. Must be available to work weekends. Retail clothing sales experience preferred. Please call 828-200-1703. (st. 3/13)

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DOWNTOWN APARTMENT, spacious 2 bedrooms, hardwood floors, full kitchen, jacuzzi tub, fireplace, W/D, and lots of closet space. Call 828-421-4681. (st. 12/4)

1BR/1BA APARTMENT. All utilities included. No pets. 828-200-2061. (st. 11/26)

HIGHLANDS CREEK VILLAGE. 460 DIL-

LARD ROAD. Live or/and work, units available. Please Call 828-787-1923 for tour. (12/18)

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CABINS FOR SALE/RENT. Located on Sawmill Road in Clear Creek. 4.63 acres. Call 828-526-2720. Price Negotiable. (12/4)

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2BR/1BA HOME. Clear Creek Road. New exterior paint, inside paint, Brand new appliances, new flooring throughout. \$165,000. (828) 526 2288/ (828)482-2385. (st. 9/25)

SECLUDED, BUT JUST MINUTES TO TOWN, Ador-

able two Bedroom home with great views and outdoor living spaces. Call 828-421-4681. (st. 5/29)

LOTS OF LAND FOR SALE 1.23 ACRES. SEPTIC SYSTEM. Located off Sassafras Gap to Hidden Springs Road. Call 828-526-2720. Price Negotiable. (12/4)

LAND FOR SALE IN CLEAR CREEK: 2.18 acre parcel has road frontage on Mack Wilson Rd. \$17,000. Any reasonable offers will be considered. Call 828-526-2874. (st. 10/23)

FOR SALE BY OWNER - 3 building lots in the gated community of Rustic Falls. Macon County tax records value at \$51,000 each. Must sell due to health reasons. Asking \$15,000 each. Call owner at 803-640-6004. (St. 5/1)

MUST SELL 6+ acres at Lake Glenville. Lake and mountain views. \$130,000 or Best Offer. Call 706-348-3208. (st. 2/20)

ITEMS FOR SALE WINTER GREETINGS EVERYDAY CHINA BY LENOX. 17 plates, 13 salad plates, 14 mugs, 1 platter. perfect condition. \$550. 828-200-9777. (st. 11/20)

5TH-WHEEL MOTOR HOME. Wanderer by Thor. 27ft. w/10ft. slideout. 2ft. repair needed. \$2,500. 828-200-9143. (st. 10/30)

PIANOS FOR SALE - 2 consoles, 1 spinet, 1 upright, 1 electric organ, \$150 each, all 5 for \$500. Call 526 4818 (st. 10/23)

WORMY CHESTNUT FOR SALE: Approximately 300 square feet of 3/4" wormy chestnut wainscot milled and finished. Board length 36"; width varies from 4" to 8". \$2800 lot price. 404-944-5298 (st. 3/20)

SERVICES

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mjames@allaroundofficesolutions.com

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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. (st. 10/23)

MARK'S SEDAN SERVICE - Airport transportation, winter-fall tours. Call or Text 239-292-3623. Mark9398@aol.com (st. 9/11)

HANDYMAN SERVICE - Electrical, plumbing, pressure cleaning, painting, carpentry, yardwork. References. Call Al Edgar at cell: 332-7271 or 369-6245. (11/30)

THOROUGH CLEAN - General, spring, construction References available 706-982-1504. (st. 8/7)

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HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS HANDYMAN: Repairs, remodeling, painting, pressure washing, minor plumbing and electric, decks and additions. Free Estimates. Insured. Call 421-4667. (10/23)

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...TELL TALES continued from page 8

The scientists have a few years to go after their recent discoveries, but in time, it will come.

Hopefully, we will be able to detect defective genes and correct them while a fetus is still in the womb. Think about a world free of screwballs, a world without terrorists bent on destroying the world.

Your cell phone is ringing, sonny."

Bob answered, "Yes dear, right away love.... no I won't forget to pick up toilet paper on the way home. I'm leaving now, dear."

Got to go Elmer. Orders from High Command. Hope to see you again.

"Better hurry if you want supper."

...MAYOR continued from page 2

I want to update the progress on several projects.

The 3rd Street wall project is on schedule. The lowering of the lake to begin the dam repair and water intake installation is still scheduled for December 15. The first culvert of the flood plain project on Laurel Street should be installed within the next few weeks. A contract for the covered swimming pool will be up for approval at the December 11 Town Board meeting.

I also continue to do the mayor's walk at 5 p.m. on Tuesday afternoons. On a recent walk I discovered our friends, the bears, have been carrying off garbage bags and thereby leaving a mess on the side slopes of Oak Street. I'm looking for volunteers to help me remove the trash. Give me a call at 828-506-3138, if you want to help.

Meanwhile, the town staff is working on better bear proof commercial dumpsters. We all need to be conscious of what is placed in trash containers that attracts our furry friends.

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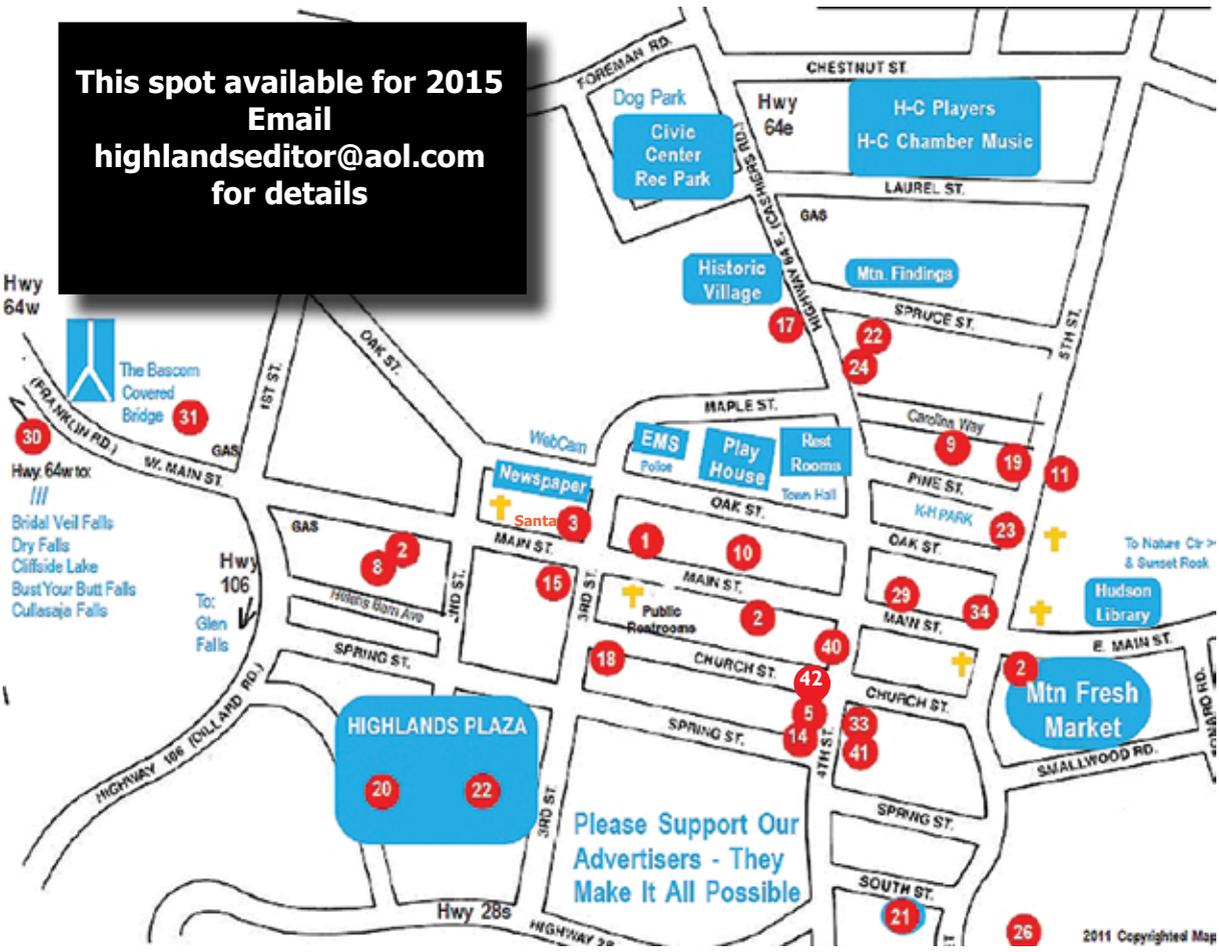
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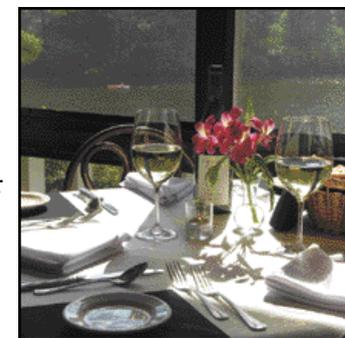
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