

# Highlands Newspaper

FREE Every Thursday

Volume 11, Number 47

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

Thurs., Nov. 20, 2014

Thurs., Nov. 20

• Movie at the Playhouse: The Best of Me at 2 & 5p and Hunger Games: Mockingjay Part I at 8 p.m. Meet Rion and Josh who play Buttercup in the series.

Fri., Nov. 21-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.

Sat., Nov 22

• MET Opera Live in HD to present the Barber of Seville at the Performing Arts Center on Saturday. The Met's production of Il Barbiere di Siviglia, is Rossini's classic comedy with some of the most recognizable melodies in all of opera. It begins at 12:55pm and the Pre-opera discussion, lead by Beverly Pittman, begins at 12:30pm. Tickets (\$24 Adults & \$20.40 for PAC and MET Members) are available online: highlandspac.org or call 828-526-9047. Performing Arts Center, 507 Chestnut Street.

Sun., Nov 23

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take an easy 2.5 mile hike, elevation change 150 ft., on the Bartram Trail from Wallace Branch near Franklin. Call leader: Jean Hunnicutt, 828-524-5234, for reservations. Visitors welcome,

Tues., Nov. 25

• Highlands Community Thanksgiving Dinner – A Ministry of the Churches of Highlands at 6 pm at the Highlands Rec Park. The entire meal is compliments of David Bee on behalf of the local churches. This year there will be many different opportunities to serve and assist for volunteers. Contact Carrie Coen at the First Baptist Church of Highlands to volunteer or for info: 828-526-4153

## 'Holiday Artisans Market' to join Cafe 460 in old pharmacy on Main Street

Starting Saturday, Nov. 22, an offshoot of the Farmers Market that ran Saturdays in Kelsey-Hutchinson Park summer and

early fall will set up in Cafe 460 on Main Street.

Dubbed the "Holiday Artisans Market" it will occupy the

area previously held by the pharmacy, will be open 10a to 4p every Saturday through the holiday

• See **ARTISANS** page 7

## NC Secretary of Commerce visits Macon County

*Says Gov. McCrory may relook at Medicaid reimbursement*

By Brittany Raby

North Carolina's Secretary of Commerce Sharon Decker made a stop in Macon County last week to discuss her vision for the economic future of rural North Carolina.

Decker, who was appointed as Commerce Secretary in 2013 by Governor Pat McCrory, hails from Rutherford County and opened her talk at the Macon Bank Corporate headquarters in Franklin with how she understands the economic struggles of rural western North Carolina.

Decker graduated summa cum laude from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro before starting a career of nearly two decades at Duke Energy where

• See **COMMERCE** page 3



**Cain Haley (center) with her three Maine coon cats who together double as "Buttercup" in the Hunger Games movies. From left: with Josh, Becca, the animal control officer who accompanies the cats on set, Cain with Rion, and Carol, the cats' agent, with Indy. So far Indy hasn't made it into film, but is on hand just in case.**

## 'Hunger Games' cat(s) are new Highlands celebrities

The fickle film industry can make you or break you.

Luckily, however, the fate of the cat that played "Buttercup" in the first movie in the *Hunger Games* series became fortune for three Highlands' cats that now double for Buttercup in the series.

When the author and producer decided the first cat was not right for the part and wanted to replace it, the search was on and the road led to Highlands.

"They went to 19 states looking for cats to play in *Catching Fire*,

• See **HUNGER GAMES** page 6

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## 700,000 acres in Pisgah/Nantahala forests pegged for harvesting

By Brittany Raby

As the largest of four National Forests in North Carolina, the Nantahala National Forest winds through six western North Carolina counties and totals 531,270 acres. As such, the Nantahala National Forest makes up a significant portion of Macon County and serves as home to the county's wildlife and natural forest growth.

Last week, the United States Forest Service published a draft plan that would open up 700,000 acres of the Pisgah and Nantahala National Forests for suitable logging under a new 15-plus year management plan.

As a matter of perspective, the 700,000 that is proposed to be cut, is an area larger than the Great Smoky Mountain National

• See **HARVESTING** page 4

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# • THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

## • MAYOR ON DUTY •

## • LETTERS •

### Town projects subject of tonight's Town Board meeting

The agenda for tonight's Highlands Town Board meeting will feature three major items. It should not be a lengthy meeting.

We have a bid and possible contractor for the pool covering. The project is slightly behind schedule because no bids were submitted this fall. If the bid is approved by the board, the contractor could begin work at any time. The original target date was to have the covering complete by Memorial Day Weekend. Given the delay, the pool may not reopen until later in the summer.

The bid to rebuild the ball field complex will also be reviewed tonight. Here again, timing is critical. If we proceed with this construction project, the new facility could be ready for the upcoming softball season. Related to this project, the board will discuss a preliminary proposal and possible donation by Art and Angela Williams of an ice skating rink. It could be in operation at the ball field beginning at the 2015 Thanksgiving weekend and through the 2016 winter season.

My mayor's report tonight will include a discussion of an application by a California company, Advanced Hydro, to renew the town's expired Federal Energy Regulatory Commission license to operate a hydroelectric plant about 2,000 feet below the dam at Lake Sequoyah. It is also called a FERC license. This company proposes to use the building Highlands constructed on Forest Service land for power generation from 1916 to 1968. They propose constructing a 36 inch pipe/penstock system below the dam. Water over the dam would be channeled to a generator located in our old power building. They estimate that 775 kilowatts could be generated at peak periods. That is about \$200,000 worth of power per year. The green energy would be sold back to Duke.

As it now stands, this revenue would go to the investing company, not the town of Highlands. Highlands allowed this FERC license to expire in 1997, so Advance Hydro wants to take over our building and resume operations. The town allowed this FERC license to expire in 1997.

Interestingly, the public announce-



Highlands Mayor  
Patrick Taylor

ment for the application appeared in the Franklin Press, not in any Highlands newspapers. As an interested party, Highlands has the option to respond to this initial application to FERC. Approval of this application is a long shot. Nevertheless, I will request board permission to submit a letter of concern and interest. Bob Frye, the town manager, will give his assessment and advice about this process.

On another note, some folks have questioned why the town eliminated the postcard utility bills for a more costly envelope billing system. Commissioners questioned the costs before approving the new statement format. After

• See MAYOR page 3

### Thank you Highlands Falls Country Club!



Highlands Falls Country Club Maintenance team at Kelsey-Hutchinson Park.

We reserve the right to reject or edit letters-to-the-editor. No anonymous letters will be accepted. Views expressed are not necessarily those of Highlands Newspaper.

## Highlands Newspaper LLC

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Dear Editor,

Last Thursday, November 6, was a day that should be applauded for the community spirit that was shown when the Highlands Falls Country Club Maintenance team donated a full day of labor, materials and machines to begin the clean up process of Phase II of the Kelsey Hutchinson Founders Park.

The team was led by Fred Gehrish whose commitment to community service was well demonstrated as he and members of his crew turned fallen, dead, and scrub trees into about three cords of firewood which was delivered to the Emergency Council for use by families in need.

The event was organized by Founders Park Coalition member Rich Reid. Additional thanks go to members of both the Highlands and Mountaintop Rotary Clubs and the Highlands Cashiers Land Trust who helped with wood splitting, trash clean up, and refreshments.

I've lived in large cities from New York to San Francisco and many cities in between, but the level of community commitment in Highlands is unmatched. Thank you Highlands for your support of the park.

**Nick Bazan**  
Chairman,  
Founders Park  
Coalition

## ...COMMERCE continued from page 1

she helped establish the creation of Duke Energy's 24-hour customer service center. Although she had retired from Duke Energy, when called on by McCrory to lead the state as the Secretary of Commerce, Decker noted that she felt it was her responsibility to help rebuild North Carolina's economy.

To a room full of local government officials and business leaders, Decker outlined her 5-point plan to get towns and cities across North Carolina back on a sound economic footing.

### 1) Health

"The first point of focus for any area is to have a solid health industry," said Decker. "When companies are looking to relocate or expand, they first look at the area's health options and benefits for potential employees."

Decker praised Macon County for taking advantage of the outdoors and working with companies such as Duke Energy to create physical activity opportunities through endeavors such as the Little Tennessee Greenway.

"Having healthy employees is also something that all companies should strive for in order to be more successful," said Decker. "Healthier employees mean lower insurance costs, and lower insurance costs mean more money in the pockets of your employees as well as less expense needed by the company."

Decker said as a state, one of the focuses in the coming year is to revisit the

plan to expand Medicaid in North Carolina. Although originally the federal dollars attached to the Medicaid Expansion plan in the state were rejected, Decker said it is crucial to revisit that opportunity and see if and how it can help the residents of the state.

According to Decker, Governor Pat McCrory has been quoted as saying he supports looking again at possible expanding Medicaid in the state which will not only bring additional jobs to North Carolina, but will also provide health coverage for a large group of citizens.

### 2) Education

Decker explained that the second point of focus for rebuilding the state's economy and attracting new jobs is a strong public education foundation. Praising the location of Western Carolina University and Southwestern Community College, Decker noted that Macon County is in a perfect position to take advantage of secondary education and continued education training for various industries.

She also said Macon Early College, which allows high school students to take college classes toward earning an Associate degree, is a huge benefit for public education. With a variety of public education choices, companies can be assured that Macon County has made a commitment to educating the youth of the region, as well as providing multiple opportunities for continuing education for adults.

• See **COMMERCE** page 10

## ...MAYOR continued from page 2

some initial startup costs, the new system will be no more expensive than the postcard system. It will also provide more options such as electronic, paperless billing for customers who elect to do so. The electronic bill will be automatically sent via the internet as soon as the statement is ready, therefore eliminating delays in the mailing of statements to second home residents residing in distant towns.

Hope to see you at tonight's 7:00 pm meeting at the Highlands Conference Center next to the ball field.



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Sunday, November 23

### Pharaoh's Daughter

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## ...HARVESTING continued from page 1

Park.

The proposed plan has garnered both opposition from conservationists and support from game hunters. Conservation groups are concerned that the proposed logging will negate the work to restore and preserve recreation possibilities in the forests.

Representatives with the Southern Environmental Law Center have been quoted opposing the measure due to the lack of focus the management plan places on areas of the national forest that have been previously destroyed due to past logging efforts.

In addition to failing to focus on the restoration of damaged spots in the forest, the law center cautions that the proposed management plan would repeat past mistakes and put the healthiest areas of both the Pisgah and Nantahala National Forests literally on the chopping block.

While the 700,000 acres is proposed in the management plan, the rate in which that would be logged is unclear. The plan calls for an increase in logging in coming years compared to the past, but does not clearly define at what rate or how much of an increase.

Furthermore, no area of the forests are off limits, and there is language in the plan to develop roads and access to untouched backcountry for the intention of timber production.

Supporters of the plan say that logging the forests will benefit game hunters and will open up greater possibilities for hunting and recreation related to wildlife. While the areas are open for potential logging, the designation for the 700,000 is for overall forest management, with claims that it will help balance the needs of wildlife habitat, timber production, recreational users, and water resources.

Timber production for wildlife is conducted because wildlife flourishes in new growth areas, therefore by logging or cutting a section of a forest, the new growth habitat is ideal for the forests' wildlife.

Currently, logging is permitted within 527,705 acres of the forests. That has been the case since 1987 when the exiting management plan was established. The newly

identified 164,000 acres, as conservationists have repeatedly noted, are located within areas of the forests which have been long fought to be protected.

In Macon County, one of those sacred areas is Tellico Bald. An untouched primitive forest patch, the Tellico Gap area intertwines with the Appalachian Trail and provides hiking and other outdoor recreation. Tellico Bald is a peak of 5,200 feet and is one of many destination for visitors to the area.

Earlier this year, Macon County commissioners joined forces with other western North Carolina counties asking Congress not to designate additional forests as wilderness areas, thus supporting the increased logging.

Western North Carolina counties sent a resolution to lawmakers regarding the management of local forest lands.

At a meeting of the Macon County Board of Commissioners earlier this year, representing the conservation group the Ruffed Grouse Society, local resident Tim Gray spoke to the board urging members to pass a resolution

against the designation of more wilderness areas in the Nantahala National Forest. Gray informed the board that other counties such as Cherokee County had passed similar resolutions and supported the measure.

The resolution, which was unanimously approved by commissioners, outlines Macon County's stance against designating additional areas of the forest as wilderness areas. By designating additional areas of the National Forest as wilderness areas, the use of those areas would be restricted and will hinder the timber and old growth management.

The U.S. Forest Service's currently proposed plan falls in line with the commissioners' stance earlier this year to be able to utilize the local resources in Macon County.

To comment on the proposed Pisgah-Nantahala National Forest plan, email [NCplanrevision@fs.fed.us](mailto:NCplanrevision@fs.fed.us) or mail written comments to National Forests in North Carolina, Nantahala-Pisgah Plan Revision, 160 Zillicoa St. Suite A, Asheville, NC 28801.

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## New Outpatient Services Department at HCH

To better meet the communities' healthcare needs, Highlands-Cashiers Hospital has opened a new Outpatient Services Department. The Outpatient Services Department is where ALL registrations for laboratory, radiology, respiratory, and infusion procedures will occur. The Outpatient Services Department is in the former surgical center at the hospital. Directional signs will be placed within the hospital to assist with this transition.

"This new department at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital should make the registration process easier for all patients registering for outpatient procedures," stated Director of Patient Care Services, Kathy Crist, RN. "In addition, all of the registration staff looks forward to more efficiently serving the needs of our patients," commented Crist.

If anyone has any questions about where to receive any services at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital, please call 828-526-1200 for more information.



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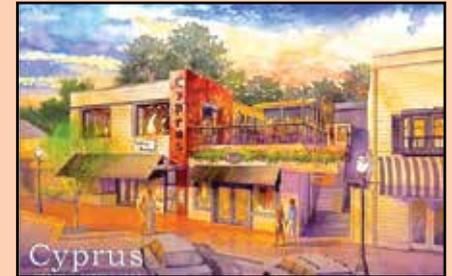
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...HUNGER GAMES continued from page 1



With Rion and Josh, from left, their agent, Carol Tresan, and owner Cain Haley when Rion got “Celebrity Cat of the Year” from the Animal Health Institute in Washington DC where they met with Congress.

the second film in the series,” said Cain Haley of Highlands. “A friend of mine, whose cat was in the Garfield movie, recommended my Maine Coon cats and when visiting cat shows, scouts said they kept hearing about my cats.”

Cain breeds cats – she has 10 – and travels all over the US participating in cat shows and actually has several cats that are in commercials.

When the folks from the *Hunger Games* first called her three years ago, she said no to the offer. However, after the public relations person from the Cat Fanciers Association said there is always an animal control officer on site to ensure the animals’ safety, she changed her mind.

“I let them come and see Rion, and they said he was the one. We went to Atlanta to meet with the director and the writer, and they hired him.”

Next they needed a stunt double for Buttercup so again, they looked all over the US, but couldn’t find a cat who could literally “do the trick.”

“I told them I didn’t know if he (Josh) would do it in front of 200 extras, but I also had another Maine Coon cat who might be up for the part. They hired him, and you will see, he did a great job!” she said.

All three – Rion, Josh and Indy – play Buttercup, but so far Indy hasn’t been used.

“I just had her at the set in case we needed her,” said Cain. “Rion stays in one spot the best and Josh plays and runs the best. He was recommended for the stunt double part because he loves to show off for the crowds at shows,” she said.

Both Josh and Rion have shown, and Rion is a RW SGCA GP. In cat show language that is good, said Cain. Once Rion won all his awards he retired, but he came out of retirement to do movies and commercials.

According to Cain, commercials pay better than movies “but everyone wants to do movies.”

She said the pay is nothing you can retire on and cats certainly don’t make what the stars make, “but, in a film like *Hunger Games*, you stay in a great hotel, have a driver, and the meals are great – there are always two carving stations at lunch!” she said laughing.

Highlands’ cats, Rion and Josh, stars of *The Hunger Games*, will be on hand for the Highlands Playhouse opening of the *The Hunger Games “Mockingjay I”* on Thursday,

Nov. 20 at 7pm before the start of the movie at 8pm.

That night, *The Best of Me* will show at 2 and 5 p.m., only.

Rion and Josh who both have roles in the *Hunger Game* movies will be available for photographs and donations for the Cashiers-Highlands Humane Society will be accepted. Cain Haley will be on hand to answer questions.

In addition, the night of Nov. 20, Wild Thyme, Pescados and some other restaurants will be donating money to the local shelter if patrons mention the name “Buttercup” to the waiter.

“We encourage everyone to have a great night out on November 20th before the premier of the movie and remember to say “Buttercup,” said Cain.

The *Hunger Games Mockingjay Part 1* will show Fri., Nov. 21 through Thurs., Dec. 11 everyday except Tuesdays and Wednesdays 2, 5, and 8 p.m.

• *The Hunger Games* is a series of four science-fiction dystopian action adventure films from Lionsgate based on *The Hunger Games* novels by the American author Suzanne Collins. The series is produced by Nina Jacobson and stars Jennifer Lawrence, Josh Hutcherson and Liam Hemsworth as the three leading characters, Katniss Everdeen, Peeta Mellark and Gale Hawthorne.

The first film, *The Hunger Games*, was released on March 23, 2012 and set records for opening day (\$67.3 million) and biggest opening weekend for a non-sequel film. At the time of its release, the film’s opening weekend gross (\$152.5 million) was the third-largest of any film in North America. The film was both a critical and box office success.

The second film, *The Hunger Games: Catching Fire*, was released on November 22, 2013 and set the record for biggest opening weekend ever in the month of November and the sixth-largest opening of any film in North America at the time, with a total of \$158.1 million. The film was both a critical and financial success.

The third film, *The Hunger Games: Mockingjay – Part 1*, begins this week. It received positive reviews from early critics.

The fourth and final film, *The Hunger Games: Mockingjay – Part 2*, will be released on November 20, 2015.

– Kim Lewicki

Highlands  
Playhouse

Mockingjay, Part 1

November 21-December 11

Special Thursday, November 20  
showing at 8pm



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Monday, & Thursday  
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## ...ARTISANS continued from page 1

season – with extended hours on Black Friday and the day of the Christmas Parade – and will feature homemade and handmade items.

Owner of the building, Ben Murray, hopes filling the space will make it more attractive as well as increase business at the café.

“This will be a great inside space for the local artisans to show and sell their products,” said organizer Darlene Marker. “We believe it will be a win/win for all!”

According to Zoning Director Josh Ward, retail is permitted in Café 460's B-1 zone and the Holiday Artisans Market will simply replace the retail/pharmacy that was previously there.

Products expected to be available for purchase are soy candles, teas, spices, herbal pillows & other Marker Mountain products, hand milled wheat and holiday breads, handmade furniture, knitted scarves and hats, hand-turned wooden bowls, salt and pepper grinders, homemade jams and jellies, handmade jewelry, wine bottle art, Christmas ornaments, hand-painted silk scarves, pottery, aprons and kitchen items, ironwork, photography and other handmade gifts.

All participating artisans are from Highlands, Cashiers and Franklin and all products are handmade by the artisans.

According to Marker, the selection of vendors will vary from week to week, but all will be in attendance for December 6, the day of the Christmas Parade.

On the day of the Christmas Parade, the hours will be extended from 9a to 5p.

The group expects to have their sign approved and in hand by Saturday.

Anyone interested in participating is

urged to contact Darlene Marker at Marker Mountain [markermountain@swva.net](mailto:markermountain@swva.net).  
– Kim Lewicki

## Holiday Artisans Market Hours

Sat – 11/22: 10a-4p  
(Black Friday) Fri – 11/28: 10a-4p  
Sat – 11/29: 10a-4p

(Parade) Sat – 12/6: 9a-5p  
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## Gingerbread House Workshop



Friday and Saturday, November 28 and 29  
10 am to noon; 1 to 3 pm

Gingerbread designers will be given all the sweets and confections they need to create their own imaginative gingerbread houses. Space is limited and pre-registration is required.

For more information, please contact Carley Haber, Youth and Outreach Manager, at 828-787-2879 or [chaber@thebascom.org](mailto:chaber@thebascom.org).

# • TELL TALES •

## Republicans alternative better be good!

Elmer was sitting on his front porch sipping some moonshine smoking one of those \$600 Bill Clinton cigars when Bob “just happened to walk by.” Of course we all know it was no coincidence. Bob had the uncanny ability to appear out of nowhere at the right time.

Elmer, as most of you know, is one of the world’s greatest philosophers and thinkers.

Not only that, he was an inventor and his invention of a diaper for dogs with weak bladders earned him millions.

“OK, sonny, quit playing games. Come on up and set in a rocking chair and we’ll chat for a while.”

Pretending to not having noticed Elmer, Bob tried to act surprised at seeing him but accepted his invite. He was also looking forward to a shot of moonshine and was soon ensconced in a rocking chair on the porch.

“What’s on your mind today, sonny?”

*Well, gee, I was really thinking about how the Republicans had taken both houses. What did get my attention is that they are now talking big about repealing Obamacare. What dya think?*

“You want my honest opinion?”

*Yeah, I do, right between the eyes.*

“It would be downright stupid unless the Republicans have something better to replace it.”

*Do they?*

“So far, I haven’t heard any ideas coming from them. But, I will say that if they take a second look at the proposal John Mackey, CEO of Whole Foods, made a few years ago they might come up with a winner. I don’t think we will ever manage to provide medical insurance for the entire population because people, especially young people, don’t think they need medical insurance. There are also groups such as drug dealers and other nefarious characters who will never buy it. Don’t know how reliable the figures are but I’ve heard that 15 million to 30 million folks just won’t buy it, no matter what.”

*Many of them can get away with it because they know that federal law requires emergency rooms to treat them, insurance or not. But, tell me about John Mackey’s plan.*

“Sonny, you can look it up on Google. John Mackey has a web site called ‘Conscious Capitalism’ that includes a complete description of his plan. In a nutshell, it gets the trial lawyers out of the picture who are driving our medical costs sky-high. It allows companies to provide coverage for their employees and deduct the cost from



Bob Wilson

their taxes. It also allows individuals to open savings accounts they can put money into them to cover higher deductibles and cut their premiums. They can also deduct the premiums from their taxes. It also allows insurance companies to sell insurance across state lines which would increase competition amongst them.

You can look it up, sonny but that’s the essential parts of the plan.”

*Yeah, but what about Medicare and Medicaid?*

“That would continue as usual. You and I paid into Medicare for around 50 years so that must continue. We put our money in and expect a return on our investment. Not our fault the government spent our money on other stuff.”

*Sounds like a Libertarian view of medical insurance.*

“It is. But don’t forget when John Mackey made his proposal, all the wackos came out of hiding and slammed it. The Vegans didn’t like it, the Leftists didn’t like it, even the animal rights groups were against it. Sonny, it was too logical for them and you know how neurotic twits are, logic and reason doesn’t come easy to them.”

*Yeah, I remember some of them even picketed Whole Foods stores demanding his resignation.*

“Well, as I said, those Republicans had better be ready to replace Obamacare with something better or they’re going to look pretty foolish. Hopefully, something that won’t turn into the bureaucratic nightmare facing us now.

In the end, what’s the point of it all if we still end up with millions of folks still not insured and at that rate, we’ll have gone through all this for nothing. And worse, medical costs are still rising. We were told it would cost less but find it is more expensive.”

*The Kaiser came up with a program in 1898 that has done well for Germans but keep in mind they had a very small population compared to what we have in the U.S. right now. And, they didn’t have millions of illegal aliens to deal with either.*

“Sonny, I’ve got a hot date tonight and I need to get dressed so if you’ll excuse me, finish your moonshine and allow me to depart.”

*Thanks again, Elmer.*

• Purely by accident, Bob has found that he actually has two readers, not counting his wife.



# MOUNTAIN FRESH GROCERY

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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

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TUESDAY: MADE IN-HOUSE ITALIAN SAUSAGE LASAGNA AND A LARGE HOUSE SALAD  
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Executive Director of Highlands Area Chamber of Commerce attended the Secretary of Commerce's presentation last Friday.

### 3) Economic Development

North Carolina has an untapped market of possible job growth and creation according to Decker. Half of the job growth which has been experienced in North Carolina has been from the expansion of existing businesses. Decker touted this as an excellent example of the restoration of a broken economy.

"When existing businesses are expanding and creating more jobs, it is a great indicator that here in North Carolina we take care of the jobs that we have, which is extremely important," she said. "When so much of our job growth has been within existing businesses, it leaves a huge market for new jobs and new industries to come into the state."

### 4) Infrastructure

When discussing growth in any area, one of the main focuses is the improvement and maintenance of infrastructure. When it comes to the state's economy, infrastructure remains a focus for Decker.

"We need to invest in our ports," said Decker. "We export less than 2 percent of the goods we produce here in the state. We need to increase that."

She said the core of any economy, especially here in rural North Carolina, is small business growth.

"Sixty percent of the businesses in the state employ 50 people or less. We need to develop measures to help our state's small businesses. We need tax reform that is going to protect our businesses and make it possible to grow and to reach the international markets."

### 5) Arts, Tourism and Culture

In North Carolina, the tourism industry is a \$20 billion a year industry. With the natural resources and attractions in western North Carolina, Decker explained that this region of the state stands to benefit significantly from the arts, tourism and culture industry.

"During the last two years, tourism is

the only industry that has grown in all 100 counties in the state," said Decker. "This category focuses on insuring the quality of life for citizens, and quality of life is more valuable than money to a lot of people. At the end of the day, companies don't come or stay in an area if they don't like the area. The rest of the world does not live like we do here in North Carolina. Once they get a little taste, they are sold."

Decker finished her address to local business owners by encouraging everyone to be committed to the community. Giving the example that her own children had influential people in their lives who made a significant impact, Decker encouraged those in attendance to be impactful on the lives of children who are not theirs.

"As leaders in this community, you have the opportunity to make a difference," said Decker. "Sometimes, even when we have the best parents and authority figures possible in our lives, it takes someone different to make a difference. You can be that person for a child in this community. Whether it is someone at your church, someone at a place you volunteer, or just a complete stranger, love a child that isn't yours. Be there for them. Because you may be the only person that is. Reaching the children in this community helps them as they grow into adults who will in turn become productive, contributing members of society. So I beg you, love a child that isn't yours. Be the difference for that child."

After addressing local government and business leaders, Decker joined Macon County Commissioner Chairman Kevin Corbin and Economic Development Director for Macon County Tommy Jenkins on a tour of home-grown businesses in the county. From Drake Software, to Duotech, to Tektone, Decker was able to meet local workers and talk with businesses about what makes working and living in Macon County so great.

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# • HIGHLANDS SCHOOL WINTER SPORTS •



## HMS Girls Basketball Team

Left: Kedra McCall (2), Abby Olvera (4), Bailey Schmitt (5), Hannah Holt (10), Tristan Castro (11), Morgan Olvera (12), Katie McCall (14), Chela Green (20), Jeslyn Head (22), Sayla Roman (23), Gracie Forrester (32), Managers Grace Crowe and Alexis Healey and Coach Michelle Munger.

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## Middle School Basketball

The teams traveled to Blue Ridge on Monday, Nov. 17 to face the Bobcats.

The Lady Highlanders came out playing aggressively on defense but Coach Michelle Munger feels they need to work more toward being aggressive on offense.

Although the girls lost 34 to 24, Coach said they played well for their first game. Their next game is today, Thursday, Nov. 20 at Victory. Results will be in the Nov. 26 edition.

The boys came out very strong for their first game in the regular season. They also played aggressively, rebounding well inside and shooting well outside. They came out with an impressive win against Blue Ridge 42 to 26.

## Varsity Basketball

On Friday, Nov. 14, the boys and girls teams travelled to Towns County for a scrimmage game.

The girls took a 56 to 43 loss and the boys lost, too, 73-33.

Their next game will also be a scrimmage game (girls only). They will travel to Smoky Mountain.

Their first regular season game will be Tuesday, Dec. 2 at home against Blue Ridge.

– Sierra Nylund

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# • 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. Mondays Oranges, Small juice oranges, 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, starting September 10th. For more information or to pre-register your k - 6th grade child, please call 526-4153.

## 1st Wednesdays

• Family Movies at the Hud-

son 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 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 dc-withnami@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

## Fri. & Sat.

• The Historical Society Museum is open.

## Saturdays

• Free wine tastings at Mountain Top 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. 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., Nov. 20

• Movie at the Playhouse: The Best of Me at 2 & 5p and Hunger Games: Mockingjay Part I at 8 p.m.

• Read2Me is teaming up with local restaurants for the first annual "Thankful for Books" event. Read2Me will provide participating restaurants with a basket of books for families to enjoy while they dine. A portion of the proceeds made from each

restaurant during the Thankful for Books event will be donated to Read2Me to help fund things such as the Dolly Parton Imagination Library and literacy training days for parents to help teach parents how to raise a reader. Just by dining out with your family, you will be making a contribution to the program and helping Read2Me in their mission of proving that "Reading Matters in Macon County." Participating restaurants include: Gazebo Creekside Cafe, The Boiler Room Steakhouse, The Sunset Restaurant, Gondolas, The House of Luck, and Motor Company Grill.

## Sat., Nov 22

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate-to-strenuous 8-mile hike, elevation change 800 ft., to the "great wall" in Panthertown Valley, near Cashiers, descending into the valley, passing Granny Burrell Falls to climb the wall on steps cut into the granite rock. Meet in Franklin in Bi-Lo parking area at 8:30 am, drive 60 miles round trip. Call leader: Gail Lehman, 524-5298, for reservations.

• MET Opera Live in HD to present the Barber of Seville at the Performing Arts Center on Saturday. The Met's production of Il Barbiere di Siviglia, Rossini's classic comedy with some of the most recognizable melodies in all of opera. It begins at 12:55pm and the Pre-opera discussion, led by Beverly Pittman, begins at 12:30pm. Tickets (\$24 Adults & \$20.40 for PAC and MET Members) are available online: highlandspac.org or call 828-526-9047. Performing Arts Center, 507 Chestnut Street.

## Sun., Nov 23

• The Nantahala Hiking Club will take an easy 2.5 mile hike, elevation change 150 ft., on the Bartram Trail from Wallace Branch near Franklin, passing two small waterfalls along the way, returning on a forest service road. Meet in Franklin at Westgate Plaza at 2 pm, drive

## 'Barber of Seville' coming to PAC Sat., Nov. 22 through MET Opera Live HD



MET Opera Live in HD to present the Barber of Seville at the Performing Arts Center on Saturday, November 22. The Met's effervescent production of Il Barbiere di Siviglia, Rossini's classic comedy – featuring some of the most instantly recognizable melodies in all of opera – stars Isabel Leonard as the feisty Rosina, Lawrence Brownlee as her conspiring flame, and Christopher Maltman as the endlessly resourceful and charming barber, himself. Michele Mariotti conducts the vivid and tuneful score. The MET Opera begins at 12:55pm and the Pre-Opera discussion, lead by Beverly Pittman, begins at 12:30pm. Tickets (\$24 Adults & \$20.40 for PAC and MET Members) are available online: highlandspac.org or by calling 828.526.9047. ML Performing Arts Center, 507 Chestnut Street, Highlands.

# • HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

6-miles round trip. Call leader: Jean Hunnicutt, 828-524-5234, for reservations. Visitors welcome, no dogs please.

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate 2.2-mile hike, elevation change 400 ft., on Tennessee Rock Trail at Black Rock Mt. State Park near Clayton GA. This is a loop trail, near the Eastern Continental Divide, with views of the surrounding area. Call leader Joyce Jacques, 410-852-7510, for reservations.

## Mon., Nov 24

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate-to-strenuous 9.6-mile hike, elevation change 1300, from Winding Stair to 5216 ft. high Siler Bald, with 360 degree views and a large grassy area for picnic lunches. Meet in Franklin at Westgate Plaza at 8:30 am, drive 22 miles round trip. Call leaders Diana Otera/Rudolph Buchholz, 765-318-9981, for reservations. Visitors welcome, no dogs please.

- North and South Jackson County Republicans will meet on Monday, at Ryans in Sylva at 6 PM to eat and 6:30 to meet. Mid-term election statistics for federal, state and county offices will be reported. Plans for the annual prayer breakfast scheduled for Saturday, December 6th will be finalized. Republicans, voters and others interested are invited to attend. For Jackson County GOP information, please call Ralph Slaughter @ 828 743-6491, email: jacksonctygop@yahoo.com or go to the website www.jacksoncountygop.com where news items, email and phone numbers for elected officials and announcements of coming events are covered. Like us on Facebook at Jackson County Republican Party.

## Tues., Nov. 25

- Highlands Community Thanksgiving Dinner – A Ministry of the Churches of Highlands at 6 pm at the Highlands Rec. Park. The entire meal will be procured and prepared by

David Bee on behalf of the local churches. This year there will be many different opportunities to serve and assist for volunteers. Please contact Carrie Coen at the First Baptist Church of Highlands if you would like to volunteer or for more information. 828-526-4153

## Fri., Nov. 28

- At PAC the Friday after Thanksgiving, Jason D Williams. Enthusiastic, Reckless, Stormy... Rock & Roll in its natural state. Call today, most of the concerts last year were sold out. Highlands PAC 507 Chestnut Street, Highlands www.highlandspac.org.

## Sat., Nov. 29

- Annual Lightning of the town Christmas Tree, carolling and visits with Santa at 6:30p
- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a moderate-to-strenuous 9.5-mile hike, elevation change 900 ft., to Cabin Flats in the Great Smoky Mountains, fol-

lowing Bradley Fork to an old logging camp. Meet at Oconaluftee Visitor Center in Cherokee at 9:00 am. Round trip from Visitor Center, 8 miles, from Franklin, 72 miles. Call leader Keith Patton, 828-456-8895, for reservations. Hike limited to 15 people.

- The Nantahala Hiking Club will take a strenuous 10-mile hike, elevation change 700 ft., to Charlie's Bunion in the Great Smoky Park, starting at Newfound Gap on the Appalachian Trail for 4 miles to great view. Returning, the group may take the Boulevard Trail to the Jump Off for another spectacular view. Meet at Huddle House in Dillsboro at 7:30 am, drive 70 miles round trip. Call leader Don O'Neal, 828-586-5723 for reservations. Able visitors welcome.

## Sun., Nov 30

- Walk with the Nantahala Hiking Club in the Franklin Christmas Parade and help hand out granola bars and pencils along

the route. Pets on leash and families welcome! Pizza at Vitos after the parade. Phone leader Bill Van Horn 828-369-1983 for info on meeting place and time.

## Sat., Dec. 6

- Annual Christmas Parade on Main Street Highlands at 11a..
- 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

## Kick off your Holiday Season with Jason D Williams



Jason D Williams, Back by Popular Demand, at the Highlands PAC on Friday, November 28, 8pm. Enthusiastic...Reckless...Stormy...Rock & Roll in its natural state.

The Kansas City Star Pronounced Jason D. Williams as "the past and future of rock & roll." The Beacon Journal dubbed him as "The worlds greatest piano player." Most importantly this reminds you of why you got into rock & roll in the first place, to get a little wild. After seeing a live show there will be no doubt why fans and critics alike agree with that summation of the dynamic piano player from Memphis. Jason D. has the same musical innovation and on the edge attitude as Jerry Lee and Elvis. Jason's style is difficult to describe. From Classical to Rockabilly to Country to Jazz and on to Rock & Roll, Jason D. adapts to each different concert setting he performs.

Williams has learned a lot from the masters who earned their musical stripes at Sun (Recording) – including

the artist he normally gets compared to, Jerry Lee Lewis. (In the 1989 film Great Balls of Fire, Williams' hands appeared in the piano-playing scenes.) If you've ever seen Williams on stage, he has much the same intense performance style as Lewis and many other artists of the day, which is a contrast to his soft-spoken nature. "That's a switch that a lot of entertainers have. They're normal one minute, and then the next they are setting themselves on fire." The influence of Lewis comes through in his high-energy performances, Williams says, but his songs get him to a different place. As he says, "It's Jerry Lee Lewis meets Jackson Pollock and Jerry Lee Lewis meets Joe Namath." "I will always revere Jerry Lee Lewis," Williams says. "Jerry Lee always likes to say he did everything in one take and I like that approach."

Tickets are available online: highlandspac.org or by calling 828.526.9047. Highlands PAC 507 Chestnut Street Highlands NC

## Celebrity Cats



Highlands' cats, Rion and Josh, stars of The Hunger Games, will be on hand for the opening of the The Hunger Games "Mockingjay I" on Thursday, Nov. 20 at 7pm before the start of the movie at 8pm.

Rion and Josh who both have roles in the Hunger Game movies will be available for photographs both days. We will be asking for a donation to go to the Humane Society. Bring your cell phone to take your photo with the stars.

Cain Haley will be on hand to answer any questions at the event.

Wild Thyme, Pescados and some other restaurants will be donating money to the local shelter if the patrons mention the name Buttercup to the waiter. We encourage everyone to have a great night out on November 20th before the premier of the movie. Make your reservation now for November 20th at one of these restaurants and say "Buttercup."

Please come and join us for this great cause!

# The Highlands Playhouse invites you to view the Vatican's art collection

The Highlands Playhouse would like to welcome you to the greatest art collection in history.

For the very first time Ultra HD film cameras have been allowed inside the Vatican Museums and Sistine Chapel, bringing never before seen art to theaters across the US just in time for the holiday season.

The Vatican Museums is a mega-production by a team of 40 professionals who travelled hundreds of miles in the cultural setting of the Vatican Museums while filming some of the most rare and

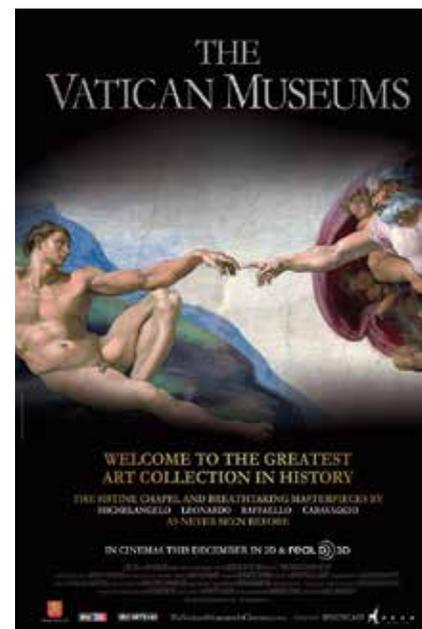
precious works of art in the world, spanning all civilizations and epochs. Thanks to a combination of the cutting-edge techniques used for cinema by James Cameron and Tim Burton, audiences can now fully immerse themselves in the timeless masterpieces of art history. Admire the paintings of Caravaggio, touch Laocoön and the Belvedere Torso, and feel swathed by the figures in the Sistine Chapel.

From the outstanding artistry of classic statues to the Cast of Michelangelo's Pietà, right up to Fontana's modern sculptures; from paintings by Giotto, Leonardo

da Vinci, Van Gogh, Chagall and Dali; from the extraordinary frescos in the Rooms of Raphael to the spectacular work by Michelangelo in the Sistine Chapel, theater audiences will experience the journey under the artful guidance of the Director of the Vatican Museums, Professor Antonio Paolucci, who expertly leads us through the past, present and future.

The program includes 22 minutes of insightful "behind the scenes" extra features, exclusive to theatrical audiences, as The Vatican Museums' Director, Professor Paolucci, the film's director Marco Pianigiani, and the director of photography recall both the challenges and the triumphs involved in the making of this masterpiece.

Highlands Playhouse is thrilled to be able to offer this piece of cinematic perfection to locals and visitors to the plateau. Tickets are only \$12, which is much cheaper than going to the Vatican and will offer an even better experience than being there in person. Call the box office at 828 526 2695 or stop by 362 Oak St to reserve your tickets. You won't want to miss out on this special event.



## •BIZ/ORG NEWS.

### Rotary salutes its veterans on Nov. 11



The Rotary Club of Highlands held its weekly meeting on Veterans Day, Tuesday, November 11th at noon at the Highlands Community Building. The format of this meeting was unlike any other. Instead of one featured guest speaker, in honor of the brave men and women who have fought to protect our nation's freedom, each member of Highlands Rotary who served in the armed forces stood up to share their personal experiences of their time spent in the military defending our country and our citizens. The stories and memories shared by these hometown heroes brought many a tear to the eyes of those in attendance. It was one of the most moving and heartfelt Rotary meetings in recent memory. There were other veterans in attendance who are not Rotarians.



Neighbors In Need

### STAYING WARM THIS WINTER

If you and your family need help in staying warm this winter, help from your neighbors in Jackson County may be available.

- (1) If your heat has been shut off because you can't pay your fuel bills (electric, propane, natural gas, wood); or
- (2) If your house is too drafty and won't keep the heat in or the cold out; or
- (3) If you or your kids need warm blankets or warm clothes,

Then call 828-586-5935 (backup # is 828-506-8827) to request the help you need from neighbors who care.

Don't Wait ... Call Today!!!

Jackson Neighbors in Need/United Christian Ministries

# • INVESTING AT 4,118 FT. •

## Tourists Come and Tourists Go...

As November comes to an end and we settle into winter I reflect back on my years as a real estate broker and changes I have seen in this business as a whole.

When I was broker-in-charge at Harry Norman Realtors for seven years we had a storefront office with flyers of our listings taped on the windows for all to see who walked past – usually while licking an ice cream cone from SweetTreats!

Those days have been replaced by savvy buyers who go online and search properties before contacting us.

When I opened Pat Allen Realty Group and relocated to 295 Dillard Road, I realized that clients want privacy and a conference room where we can meet to develop a relationship. Our expertise of the market then kicks in. Buyers have legitimate questions and concerns and our responsibility as great brokers is to guide them through the entire process assuring a successful closing and sound investment.

There is a long check-list after the offer is submitted and accepted. We work with a home inspector, appraiser, banker (if a mortgage is involved), the closing attorney, utility companies and repairmen if so needed.

Buying or selling a home is an important financial endeavor and we take it seriously.



Pat Allen  
Broker-in-charge  
Cell: 828-200-9179  
Office: 828-526-8784

I had an investor who called last week and had bought several lots – sight unseen at an auction – and asked what price we can put on them.

Unfortunately he bought in an undesirable area that won't yield much profit and it will take a long time to secure buyers. So my advice? Please contact us first before purchasing for our opinion of what you are considering. We will guide you in the right direction. Auctions

are risky to say the least!

This has been a great year for sales in the Highlands and Cashiers areas. I put three properties under contract this week and it is November! Keep looking online and when something piques your interest call us and let's discuss the area, price, condition of the home, and resale value. We are here to help and will use our experience and knowledge to help with your decision and investment.

The brokers at Pat Allen Realty Group wish all of you a great Thanksgiving... there is always so much to be thankful for. May your homes be filled with wonderful aromas, wonderful friends and family, and may love surround you all.

Pat Allen is owner/broker-in-charge of Pat Allen Realty Group and is a Certified Luxury Home Marketing Specialist. Contact her firm at 828-526-8784, visit their website at patallenrealtygroup.com or stop by 295 Dillard Road –across from Highlands Paint and Decorating.

## • BIZ/ORG NEWS •

### Health benefits of YOGA presented to MountainTop Rotary

Ashby Underwood from YOGA Highlands spoke about the benefits and rewards of YOGA which has been around over 2,500 years. Underwood is pictured with Bill Zoellner, current President of Highlands Mountaintop Rotary, receiving a gift for her presentation.



## PIZZA & ITALIAN STREET FOOD AT MOUNTAIN FRESH GROCERY



**NEAPOLITAN PIZZAS**  
AUTHENTIC THIN CRUST PIZZAS WITH FRESH HAND-CUT INGREDIENTS \$11.95

### CHOOSE CLASSICS LIKE:

**RED MARGHERITA:** FRESH MOZZARELLA, CRUSHED TOMATO & FRESH BASIL  
**PANCETTA:** PANCETTA, ROASTED RED PEPPERS, MUSHROOMS, CRUSHED TOMATO & GRANDE MOZZARELLA  
**PROSCIUTTO ARUGULA:** PROSCIUTTO DE PARMA, MUSHROOMS, GARLIC INFUSED EVVO, PECORINO, & FRESH ARUGULA TOSSED WITH EVVO

### OR MODERN INTERPRETATIONS:

**FIG & PIG:** FIGS, PANCETTA, GRANDE MOZZARELLA, CRUSHED TOMATO, GORGONZOLA, TOPPED WITH ARUGULA TOSSED IN EVVO.  
**BBQ CILANTRO CHICKEN:** PULLED CHICKEN, BBQ SAUCE, GRANDE MOZZARELLA, RED & GREEN ONION, FRESH CILANTRO.

...OR BUILD YOUR OWN.

**N.Y. DECK OVEN PIZZAS**  
10 INCH \$10.95 / 16 INCH \$19.95

### CHOOSE YOUR SAUCE:

ITALIAN RED TOMATO, ITALIAN WHITE CREAM, PESTO BASIL, OR BARBECUE

### CHOOSE UP TO 5 TOPPINGS:

PEPPERONI, ITALIAN SAUSAGE, GROUND BEEF, HAM, BACON, CHICKEN, CARAMELIZED ONION, FRESH ONION, ROASTED RED PEPPERS, GREEN PEPPERS, BANANA PEPPERS, OLIVES, MUSHROOMS, PINEAPPLE, SPINACH, EGGPLANT, ARTICHOKE, ANCHOVIES, GRANDE MOZZARELLA, GORGONZOLA, PROVOLONE, FETA, AND PARMESAN

**ITALIAN STREET FOOD \$10.95**

LEMON ROSEMARY SAUTÉED CHICKEN, CRISPY CHICKEN FRITTE, ITALIAN SAUSAGE OR MEDITERRANEAN STEAK

ADD YOUR SAUCE: POMODORO, PESTO BASIL, ITALIAN WHITE CREAM, CREAMY PESTO

THEN IT'S ALL SAUTÉED WITH FRESH ANGEL HAIR PASTA, TOPPED WITH PARMAGIANO & SERVED WITH FRESH BAKED PIADINA

**PIZZA AVAILABLE FROM 11AM UNTIL CLOSE EVERY DAY**

**STORE HOURS: 7AM-8PM MON - THURS, FRI & SAT 7AM-9PM, 8AM-6PM SUNDAY**

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## Holy - Days

By Pastor Dan Robinson

### Highlands Central Baptist Church

I hope you will enjoy the holidays. Thanksgiving is next Thursday. Christmas next month. I like to reference these holidays, however, as holy-days. Indeed they are. American history verifies the first. Biblical history the second. And therein lies my burden. I wonder if you have felt the same?

In other words, in an increasingly narcissistic culture it is increasingly rare to find thankful people. If someone believes something is owed to them or that they deserve something, then a thankful heart is missing. I hope you're not like that. I hope you are thankful to a Holy God for giving you life and citizenship in this great country. Our liberty has been costly. It always will be. And it is worth the price. I encourage you to find a quiet place on Thanksgiving and deliberately articulate your thanks to our great God. Will you do that?

Then, a word about Christmas. Some in our culture still celebrate this day as the birth of Jesus Christ. Although the actual birthdate is unknown, the story can be found in Luke 2. This is the account of God becoming a man in the person of His Son, Jesus Christ. He came to live, die and resurrect. He did this to pay the penalty of sin incumbent on the entire human race. Incredible! What wondrous love is this O my soul?

John tells us that God loved us so much that He gave His only Son. So my encouragement to you is to give in Jesus' name this Christmas. Pray over the gifts you purchase and give. Pray over a financial gift to your church and mission agencies. It really is more blessed to give than receive. You'll have a great and constant battle on your hands however. Consumerism, frenetic schedules and "bigger is better" dominate the holiday advertisements. Nonetheless, you can move through those days with a deep seated peace. He is the Prince of Peace. If you don't know Him, He longs for you to meet Him. If you do know Him, He longs for you to know Him more intimately. May you be blessed and encouraged this holiday season. And experience great joy in the One who knows you the best and loves you the most.

## 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

### CHAPEL OF SKY VALLEY

Sky Valley, GA • 706-746-2999

Sundays: 10 a.m.: Worship

Holy Communion 1st Sunday of the month

Wednesdays: 9 a.m. Healing and Prayer w/Holy Communion

### CHRIST ANGLICAN CHURCH

Rector: Jim Murphy, 252-671-4011

464 US Hwy 64 east, Cashiers

Sun.: 9:15a Christian Education at Buck's Coffee Cashiers

Crossroads; 10:30a Faithful, Family Service w/ Music & Communion.

Mon.: Bible Study & Supper at homes - 6 p.m.

### CHRIST CHURCH OF THE VALLEY, CASHIERS

Pastor Steve Kerhoulas • 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

Wednesdays - 7 p.m.

### COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH

www.cbchighlands.com • 526-4685

3645 Cashiers Rd, Highlands, NC

Senior Pastor Gary Hewins

Sun.: 9:30am: Sunday School

10:30am: Middle & High School; 10:45am: Child. Program,

10:45am: Worship Service

Wed.: 5pm Dinner (\$7 adult, \$2 child), 6pm CBC University

### EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE INCARNATION

Rev. Bruce Walker • 526-2968

Sundays: Eucharist Rite I 8a in chapel; Education

and choir rehearsal, 9 am, Holy Eucharist Rite II, (sanctuary), 10:30

Wednesday: 10 a.m., Morning Prayer

Thursdays: Holy Eucharist, (chapel), 10 am

### FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH HIGHLANDS

828-526-4153 • www.fbchighlands.org

Dr. Mark Ford, Pastor

220 Main Street, Highlands NC 28741

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

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

Choir 5 pm

### FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Curtis Fussell & Emily Wilmarth, pastors

526-3175 • fpchighlands.org

Sun.: Worship: 11 a.m.; School: 9:30

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

Wednesdays: Choir: 5:30p

### GOLDMINE BAPTIST CHURCH

(Off Franklin/Highlands Rd) • Rev. Carson Gibson

Sunday School: 10 am, Worship Service: 11 am

Bible Study: 6 pm

### 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

Pastor 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

Sundays: Worship: 11

### HIGHLANDS CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Dan Robinson

670 N. 4th Street (next to the Highlands Civic Center)

Sun.: Morning Worship 10:45 a., Evening Worship, 6:30 p.

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)

### HOLY FAMILY LUTHERAN CHURCH: ELCA

Chaplain Margaret Howell • 2152 Dillard Road • 526-

9741

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

Worship/Communion: 10:30

HEALING SERVICE on the 5th Sunday of the month.

### MACEDONIA BAPTIST CHURCH

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

Pastor Troy Nicholson, (828) 526-8425

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

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

### MOUNTAIN SYNAGOGUE

St. Cyprian's Episcopal Church, Franklin

828-369-9270 or 828-293-5197

### 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

Parish office (Father Francis): 526-2418

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

### SCALY MOUNTAIN BAPTIST CHURCH

Rev. Marty Kilby

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

Wednesdays: Prayer Mtg.: 7 p.m.

### SCALY MOUNTAIN CHURCH OF GOD

290 Buck Knob Road; Pastor Alfred Sizemore • 526-3212

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

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

### SHORTOFF BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Rev. Andy Cloer

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

Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study: 7

### THE CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

1448 Highway 107 South, Office: 743-2359

Rev. Dr. Virginia Monroe

Oct-May: Sunday Services: Rite I, 8a Rite II, 10:30

June-Sept: Sunday Services: Rite I, 8a, Rite II, 9:15 & 11a

Nursery available for Rite II services

Sept 7- Oct 26- Informal Evening Eucharist- 5:30 p.m.

Thursday: Noon Healing Service with Eucharist.

### UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP

85 Sierra Drive • 828-524-6777

Sunday Worship - 11 a.m. Child Care - 10:30a - 12:30p

Religious Education - 11 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

Youth 8th - 12th grade meets 2nd Sundays 5 - 7:30p

### WHITESIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Rev. Sam Forrester/Cashiers

Sunday School: 10 am, Worship Service: 11 am



**Cut N Patch Quilt Shop**  
160 Strawberry Lane  
Highlands, 526-9743

Fabric and quilting supplies. Quilts ready to go. Please call for hours



Large Lap size quilts  
Several to choose from  
Great for snuggling  
When the weather turns cold or displaying on the wall  
Starting at \$175  
This one is Browns, tans and gray

# • BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NEWS •

## Old Edwards Hospitality Group names Jack Austin as GM and Karen Rogers as Assistant General Manager

Old Edwards Hospitality Group announces the appointment of Jack Austin as General Manager. Jack is a proven leader in the hospitality industry with over 15 years in the field. Jack has served as Assistant Rooms Director at Old Edwards Inn and Spa for more than four years. He will fill the GM position as Brian Crook transitions out to return to his home country of England in February 2015.

Old Edwards President, Richard Delany, says, "Admittedly, it is very difficult to say goodbye to not only a great person as Brian Crook, but such a key member of the Highlands community and our Old Edwards family. We brought Brian in over six years ago to help establish a firm foundation for resort operations after the purchase and major renovation by Art and Angela Williams. And now, we are very fortunate to have Jack Austin already on our team and accepting the position of GM. The decision to move Jack Austin into the GM position at Old Edwards was, frankly, one of the easiest staffing decisions I have made in my career. With our foundation now firmly in place, we all look forward to seeing Jack expand his talents, leadership and creativity to help lead Old Edwards Inn and Spa into the next era."

Also announced is the promotion of Karen Rogers to Assistant General Manager. Karen moves into this position after six very successful years as Rooms Director. Delany says, "We hand-selected Karen when we first came to Old Edwards based on our association with her in the past. Karen has proven one of the most solid members of our management team, and we are thrilled to have her now step into the position of Assistant GM."

Delany goes on to say, "While we love to welcome new talent into the Old Edwards family, we always seek first to promote from within. We have a

culture of recognition and reward for excellence in service, and we are very fortunate to have such stellar candidates to elevate into

these new positions, allowing other up-and-coming talent within the company to grow and expand their careers with us as well."



Jack Austin



Karen Rogers

## 2nd annual Fall Festival at Eckerd Living Center



The Eckerd Living Center (ELC) at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital (HCH) recently hosted its "2nd Annual" Fall Festival. The festival was attended by local community families seeking a day of laughter and cheer; games, a cake walk, costumes and trick or treating were among the events enjoyed by all. Music was provided by the award winning C-Squares. We hope to have everyone attend the fun filled day of festivities again next year! Pictured left: Elizabeth Cline, resident of Eckerd Living Center.

Look for the Red Roof and the Covered Wagon.

## Shearl Produce



Peaches, blackberries, variety of apples including Honey Crisp, cantaloupe, watermelons, fresh baked bread, fritters, butter, cheese, eggs, squash, corn, beans, okra, jams, jellies, local honey, heirloom tomatoes and more!

Open Mon.-Thurs. 8a to 6p; Fri. & Sat. 8a to 7p  
Sunday 9a till 6 p.m.

Accept Visa, Master Card and EBT/Snap

9830 S. Georgia Hwy. • 828-369-0541

From GA/NC line, go north on 441/GA Rd, 3.1 miles on the right

Advertising in Highlands Newspaper and online at  
[www.highlandsinfo.com](http://www.highlandsinfo.com) WORKS.

For information, call  
828-200-1371 or email:  
[highlandseditor@aol.com](mailto:highlandseditor@aol.com)

**Falling Waters** is a 52 acre community just 2.5 miles

from Main St. Secluded but not remote; peaceful, quiet and private. Mature hardwoods, giant Rhodies, Mountain Laurel and a plethora of wild flowers that take turns showing off thru the seasons. Two waterfalls & several creeks add charm & interest. Paved roads, underground utilities, newer homes built after 2000, no road noise, well maintained, a great place to take a walk!



Two lots sold this winter and a year round home is being built ... New cottage section opening soon!

Welcome...Come Visit.

**GPS Address: 78 Black Bear Trace Highlands, NC 28741**

From Main St., take Hwy. 106 (The Dillard Road) 1.8 miles just past the Glen Falls sign, turn right on Mt. Laurel Dr., go 3 tenths of a mile turn left on Moonlight. The entrance is on the right.

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

Contact (onsite owner) or your broker for plats, prices & a guided tour.

828-508-9952.

# The Highlands Playhouse will be celebrating the 75th anniversary of 'Gone with the Wind' in grand style on December 15.

Gone with the Wind is an epic tale of a woman's life during one of the most tumultuous periods in America's history: From her young, innocent days on a Georgia plantation to the war-torn streets of Atlanta, from her innocence to her understanding and comprehension of life and love. Based on Margaret Mitchell's Pulitzer-winning novel, Gone with the Wind won eight Academy Awards at the

12th annual celebration securing its place in American cinematic history.

The special event kicks off at 4 pm with a book signing and Q &A with notable historian and author Peter Bonner. Peter is the creator of the "Historical and Hysterical" tours in Jonesboro, GA, the site of Tara, where he combines historical stories and anecdotes with upbeat humor that delight and inspire audiences.

The Atlanta Journal Constitution describes Peter as a "walking, talking history lesson." Peter will stay and conduct a lecture at 5:30 that is sure to be a thrilling appetizer to the movie. He has also been gracious enough to bring a collection of antiques from the original set of Tara that will be on display.

The tone for the evening will be set by Bill and Vickie Scholz, who will be welcoming visitors dressed in period costume. The event will be topped off by a special screening of Gone with the Wind at 6pm on our 35 foot movie screen and state-of-the-art sound system.

We will have reserved seating for this event. Be sure to get your tickets in advance so you don't miss out on this special celebration. Tickets are only \$15 per person. Stop by the box office at 362 Oak Street or call 828 526 2695 to reserve your tickets today.



### About Highlands Playhouse (www.highlandspayhouse.org)

Highlands Playhouse is the oldest theatre in North Carolina. In the summer of 1938, a group of Highlanders presented a play for one performance in the Playhouse building. This production was "Dulcy," a comedy by George S. Kaufman and Marc Connelly. Encouraged by the audience's reception, the group formed the nonprofit Highlands Community Theatre, Inc.

The theatre itself was built in 1931 as an auditorium for the Highlands School. When the present Highlands School was opened in 1952, the Town of Highlands acquired the auditorium building.

Every summer since 1938, with the exception of two years during World War II, there has been a season of plays at the Playhouse. In the fall of 2013 a 35-foot movie screen and state-of-the-art sound system were added to the Playhouse to bring current and classic movies to Highlands residents and visitors.

# Tree of Lights

## This December At Highlands-Cashiers Hospital

Place an ornament on the Hospital Christmas Tree in memory of, or in honor of, a family member or friend with a gift of \$10.00 or more. These bells (in honor of) and stars (in memory of) will display the name of your friend or loved one. Your tax-deductible donation will go toward nursing scholarships offered by Highlands-Cashiers Hospital.

Given in memory or honor of \_\_\_\_\_  
(Circle one)

Given by: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount donated \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Send acknowledgement to: \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

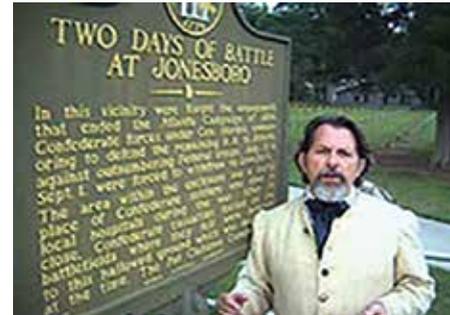
Date: \_\_\_\_\_ A donation in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ has been made by: \_\_\_\_\_

(Name of Donor)

(Address of Donor)

To Highlands-Cashiers Hospital Aux.  
PO Box 190 - Highlands NC 28744

Signature of Hospital Auxiliary member receiving donation \_\_\_\_\_



**Historian Peter Bonner**

## • POLICE & FIRE REPORTS •

**Highlands Police Log entries from Oct. 22. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor or public officials have been used.**

- Oct. 22**
  - At 2:38 p.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident on S. 3rd Street.
- Oct. 25**
  - At 6:45 p.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident on Main Street.
- Oct. 31**
  - At 4:30 p.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident on Horsecove Road.
- Nov. 2**

- At 11 a.m., larceny by an employee was reported at the Farmers Market where products valued at \$245 were taken from the store without being purchased.

- Nov. 4**
  - At noon, officers were called about a pair of glasses left at the Post Office.

- Nov. 6**
  - At 4 p.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident on US 64 east.
  - At 5:05 p.m., officers received a call about a burglary and larceny from a residence on Oak Street where a mountain bike valued at \$1,500 was taken.

## ...POLICE & FIRE continued from page 18

### Nov. 4

• At 11:30 a.m., officers responded to a call of larceny from the Hen House on Main Street where a hat, bracelet and tank top were taken.

### Nov. 7

• At 6 p.m., officers responded to a one-vehicle accident in the parking lot of the Highlands Civic Center.

• At 2:07 p.m., Josie Ann Helen Keener, 21, of Highlands, was arrested for a larceny from the Farmers Market.

• At 6:18 p.m., Gary Michael Passmore, 28, of Franklin, was arrested for Failure to Appear in Court. He was issued a \$6,000 secured bond.

• At 11 a.m., officers were called to Highlands School about non assaultive child neglect.

### Nov. 10

• At 8:30 a.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident in the Farmers Market parking lot.

### Nov. 12

• At 4:51 p.m., Max McKay Thurston, 17, of Franklin, was arrested for Driving without a License after an Impaired Revocation Notice. He was issued a \$1,500 secured bond.

• At 5:16 p.m., a breaking and entering and vandalism to a motor vehicle was reported in the parking lot behind the Lost Hiker on Carolina Way.

### Nov. 13

• At 5:15 p.m., officers responded to a call for service about two people yelling and arguing at a home in Highlands.

### Nov. 16

• At 4:35 p.m., officers responded to a call about shoplifting at Bryson's Food Store where a box of cold medicine was taken.

### The Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. log entries from Oct. 28.

#### Oct. 28

• At 12:31 p.m., the dept. responded to a call of a fire at a residence on Mirror Lake Road.

• At 1:38 p.m., the dept. responded to a Brush Fire on Crescent Trail.

#### Oct. 29

• At 11:46 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Wisteria Drive.

• At 12:02 p.m., the dept. stood by at the hospital for the MAMA helicopter.

• At 1:09 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to Main Street.

• At 4:49 p.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on Clubhouse Trail.

### Nov. 1

• At 8:54 a.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on NC 106.

• At 8:50 p.m., the dept. responded to a chimney fire at a residence on Sassafrass Gap Rd. There was no damage.

• At 9:11 p.m., the dept. was first-responder to a residence on Clubhouse Trail.

### Nov. 2

• At 11:40 a.m., the dept. provided mutual aid to the Cashiers Fire Dept.

• At 3:18 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Shortoff Road.

### Nov. 4

• At 5:57 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on

Falls Village Court.

• At 7:23 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Falls Village Court.

### Nov. 6

• At 7:21 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on NC 106.

• At 2:51 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Big View Drive.

• At 5:08 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a business on

Church Street.

### Nov. 7

• At 6:08 p.m., the dept. responded to a call of a fire at a residence on Harris Drive.

### Nov. 9

• At 12:08 p.m., the dept. was called to Buck Knob Road at Simon Speed to investigate smoke.

• At 12:11 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Klein Road.

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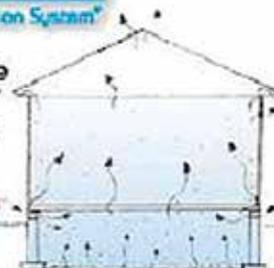
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## Macon County Community Foundation awards local grants

The board of advisors of the Macon County Community Foundation announces the 14 awards from its community grantmaking fund. According to Tom Ritter, board president.

This year's nonprofit recipients include:

- Blue Ridge Free Dental Clinic
- KIDS Place
- Literacy Council of Highlands
- Macon County Art Association
- Macon County Care Network
- Macon County Public Library
- Peggy Crosby Community Service Center
- Prevent Blindness North Carolina
- REACH of Macon County

Ritter thanked the community for support of the Macon County Community Foundation. "These grants are important to our community and our quality of life," he said. "Critical programs would not be possible without the generosity of many individuals and organizations that have supported Macon County's community fund."

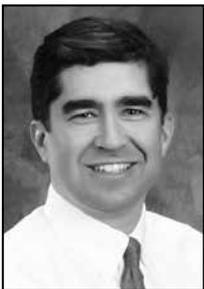
The Macon County Community Foundation is an affiliate of the North Carolina Community Foundation. Tax-deductible contributions can be made to the Macon County Community Fund, which is administered by the NCCF.

Contributions should be made payable to the Macon County Community Fund and mailed to the North Carolina Community Foundation, Landmark Center, 4601 Six Forks Road, Suite 524, Raleigh, NC 27609. Contributions can also be made online at [www.nccommunityfoundation.org](http://www.nccommunityfoundation.org).

For information on the Macon County Community Foundation and its community fund, contact Tom Ritter at [tom@ritterarchitecture.com](mailto:tom@ritterarchitecture.com); or Sue Lelievre, regional associate, at [slelievre@nccommunityfoundation.org](mailto:slelievre@nccommunityfoundation.org); or visit the NCCF website at [www.nccommunityfoundation.org](http://www.nccommunityfoundation.org) and click on "Affiliates."

About the North Carolina Community Foundation.

The NCCF is the single statewide community foundation serving North Carolina and has made \$89 million in grants since its inception in 1988. With more than \$191 million in assets, NCCF sustains 1,200 endowments established to provide long-term support of a broad range of community needs, nonprofit organizations, institutions and scholarships. The NCCF partners with 60 affiliate foundations to provide local resource allocation and community assistance in 67 counties across the state. An important component of NCCF's mission is to ensure that rural philanthropy has a voice at local, regional and national levels.



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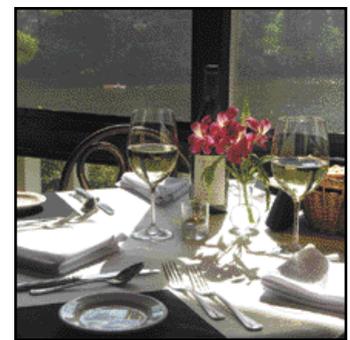
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