

Highlands Newspaper

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Thurs., Dec. 3, 2015

HUMC poised for replay of zoning B1 cz designation

All indications are that the last steps for acquiring its B1 conditional zoning – the public hearing Thurs., Dec. 10 at the Town Board meeting and the issuance of the Special Use Permit from the Zoning Board of Adjustment

set for Wed., Dec. 16 – will go off without a hitch for the Highlands United Methodist Church.

Why? Because it's all been done before.

At the March 2011 Planning Board meeting, the board con-

sidered expanding HUMC's B1 conditional use zone – something that had been OK'd by the Town Board in concept at its March 2011 meeting.

At the meeting, the Planning Board amended the Special Use

Permit (SUP) obtained by the church for its B1 conditional zoning for the Wellspring property in 2009. The amendment included the recently purchased Lupoli property bordering Spring, Third

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County Landfill to expand by 300%

A year after Macon County Solid Waste Director Chris Stahl told county leaders about a space dilemma at the county landfill, the necessary permits are finally in hand and construction on the first phase of an expansion project can begin.

Last October, Stahl cautioned that if disposal levels continued at the Macon County landfill, the facility had about 25 months left before reaching capacity. Fast-tracking the process and with the commission's support, Stahl began developing plans for the facility which will expand the landfill's lifespan for more than 40 years.

Last year, county commissioners voted to allow Stahl to enter into two purchase agreements for property with Charles Terry and Wendy Dalton of Franklin in the amount of \$800,000 for ap-

•See LANDFILL page 10

Annual parade is a show stopper!



Highlands annual Christmas Parade begins at 11 a Saturday, Dec. 5 on Main Street. It begins just beyond The Falls on Main and ends at 2nd Street. At least 75 entrees are expected. After the parade, Santa and Mrs. Claus will be available for pictures with children in Santa's hut on the front lawn of the First Baptist Church until 4p. Also, after the parade there is a Welcome Winter celebration from 11:30a to 1:30p at the Nature Center where participants will make ornaments and learn how animals survive during the winter months. At 2p there is an old-fashioned hymn-sing at the First Presbyterian Church.

Photo by Cynthia Strain

Highlands citizens win 'Wellness Challenge'

Several community members from Highlands and Franklin recently competed in a wellness challenge, sponsored by Mission WellConnect and the winner was Highlands!

The WorkWell team at Mission Health coordinated the challenge to demonstrate the importance of becoming more fit.

The winning team consisted of Highlands Mayor Pat Taylor, business owner Derek Taylor, MC Commissioner James Tate, Highlands Town Clerk Rebecca Shuler and business owner Thomas Craig. These citizens walked a total of 768 miles over six weeks compared to Franklin's 480 miles.

During this period, the team members wore pedometers that tracked their steps. Derek Taylor contributed more than 300 miles

•See WELLNESS page 19

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• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• MAYOR ON DUTY •

The town's 'wish list'

Last Saturday night Highlands had another wonderful Christmas tree and town lighting. Congratulations to the Chamber of Commerce for coordinating this wonderful event that ushers in the Christmas season.

Highlands is about to enter another season, the town's budget planning season. It will run from January through June. The town staff, manager and board will be developing and prioritizing a list of needs. Unlike a Christmas list, the town list will be checked much more than twice. Just like many Christmas wish lists, everything on the town list will not become a reality, at least for this coming fiscal year. The town board will have to make the final decision of budget priorities before July 1st.

Let me review some of the possible major items that I see being at the top of the budget list. Several items have been moving up in priority for several years.

First, I anticipate substantial funding to implement the new broadband system. I view this funding as an investment in the future. Money used to start up the system will be paid back to the town as the system



Mayor Pat Taylor

becomes self-sustaining.

For several years, the water department has been planning to convert from chlorine gas for treating drinking water to a less dangerous bleach system. There are growing indications that suppliers of chlorine gas are diminishing, so delaying this conversion may not be an option. The new bleach system would cost over \$500,000.

There are also old, inadequate waterlines on the list that will need to be replaced sooner than later. Here again, these projects will cost hundreds of thousands of dollars. Other expensive, but also essential items, will be in the paving of town streets. Like most public works items, paving of town streets is an ongoing maintenance requirement that we simply can't ignore. A schedule list for repaving roads is maintained from year to year.

The town has followed a schedule to replace old cross tie retaining walls that were around the business district. We are now at the end of that list. The only cross tie left is by the Playhouse. I anticipate that wall being replaced this coming year. While the cross tie walls were cheaper to build than the new stone walls, they were "ugly as sin" and had a limited service life.

Another area of funding will be the continued improvements in the recreation department. Two years ago a small tax increase was approved for the purpose of upgrading recreation facilities. One upgrade on the project list is to convert the old stage in the gym into an aerobics classroom and studio. This improvement would also free up space on the lower level that would enhance the workout and weight training area.

Now is the time to contact your town commissioners and mayor if you are aware of items that need to be placed on the budget list. I can't promise everything will be funded, but the first start is to get items on the list.

• LETTERS •

To cell phone users in Highlands

Dear Editor,

If you are like me, I depend greatly on having "Reasonable Cell Phone Service" not only to take care of business issues, but more particularly for staying in touch with my family, doctors and emergency responders. Access to "Reasonable Cell Service" makes us safer and less dependent on a tree knocking down a power or phone line. I can't imagine having to find a payphone in Highlands to call an ambulance!

We have been here for 10 years but in the last year I have noticed a significant reduction in signal strength and reception in the cell service from our provider. We all know that there are areas that just don't get reception and perhaps never will, and I am not expecting that to change much, but I have noticed that in areas where I used to get a good signal before that now it is completely unreliable or unavailable and many other Highland citizens have made the same observation.

I spoke with Mayor Taylor about this and he put me in touch with a very knowledgeable city employee (Matt Shuler) that handles the IT responsibility for the City. Matt said that while the cell phone providers might have had some problems with their equipment (which they don't admit to) one of the issues that could be affecting signal strength is that users are demanding higher and higher Internet speeds for data transmission. He said that in going from 2G to 3G to 4G to get more data transmission there is a negative consequence in that the higher transmission rates do not carry the "penetrating power" that the lower bandwidths have. In other words, the signal is not able to get through foliage or trees as easily as it did before and that the net result is the users have a lot more dropped calls or just can't get cell service where the might have been able to before.

While none of us likes the appearance of cell towers, there is a proposal in front of the City to place a cell tower by the fire station. This is proposed as an 80-foot high

tower. I don't necessarily like a tower there (it probably will be camouflaged and it will be close to the 35 foot high fire station), but I dislike not having an acceptable cell signal much more. Currently there is an antenna on the fire building that is probably close to the height of the proposed cell tower.

Please contact your cell phone providers (They put their money, antennas and attention to the areas where the most calls or complaints come from) and then let the City Board Members know that we need better tower locations for "Reasonable Cell Service" in Highlands particularly so we can get in contact with emergency service providers easily. Please contact both your cell service provider (who will hopefully contract for space on a tower) and Town Board members.

Thanks for your consideration.

Robert Soran
Highlands and Florida

Science, government and what's within

Dear Editor,

I don't know where you find yourself within the overwhelming and endless issues that effect and concern many of us in today's world. The barrage of unending evil of terror, genocide, worldwide enslavement of women and children -- Let alone the future concerns that are daunting and seem to have no end.

Even creation itself seems to be groaning over its own deterioration as we ourselves deteriorate along with it. If our thinking that evolution is the hope of a progressive betterment of man, then evolution has played a cruel joke on humanity. Humanity seems to be developing into a more negative, deviant, hostile, and cruel nature instead of a more hopeful promising nature.

Many are hopeful that all our problems will be solved though governments and political systems or even that science will someday give man some remedy for the problems that plague us. We feel we can trust these systems even though many times they are untrustworthy and used with wrongful intent.

Our faith in governments are viewed with a skeptical eye because of lies, corruption, and selfish interest in money and

• See LETTERS page 3

Highlands Newspaper

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Letter Policy:

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

Highlands Newspaper N.O.A.A. Weather Report For Highlands NC



• OBITUARY •

Ralph William deVille

Ralph William deVille, 84, of Highlands, passed away on Saturday, November 28, 2015.

Born in Miami and graduated from Miami High, he received his Master's in Ceramic Engineering from Ohio State University and an MBA from Harvard Business School.

He served in the United States Air Force, and while on leave, he traveled to Japan. It was on this visit that he fell in love with the culture and the art of Japan.

After his parents had established a summer home in Highlands, he decided the mountains would be perfect for his future business and family, and he moved to Highlands in early 1960. He opened the Stone Lantern, a store specializing in Asian art, on July 4th, 1960, marrying Lynn that fall after establishing the business. The store became a fixture of Highlands Main Street, as he traveled the globe almost every winter, going to destinations such as India, the United Kingdom, Lebanon, Turkey, Iran, Holland, Hong Kong, China, Taiwan, Japan, Thailand, and Korea.

For Ralph deVille, the Stone Lantern was more than a business. The store was an ongoing work of art where he found tremendous joy in the arrangement of displays to share beauty found in exquisite craftsmanship, as well as in nature. He loved his customers, writing over 300 postcards each year during his annual pilgrimage to the Far East. His customers were all part of one tremendous, extended family, and for over five decades, he cherished bringing joy to this family on an individual basis. He delighted in finding special treasures that would complement a specific customer's collection of fine art and took great pride in designing custom jewelry for individual customers to be



crafted in Hong Kong and Thailand.

The Stone Lantern hosted Asian Art and Ikebana Festivals for several summers bringing in internationally-renowned talent to share their knowledge of Far Eastern art and the joy of Japanese flower arranging. A devout lover of nature, Mr. deVille created several flower arrangements each day, and there were always over 20 handcrafted arrangements on display throughout the

store with flowers being imported from all over the world.

He served on the Highlands Chamber of Commerce Board, the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital Board, and was a charter member of the Town of Highlands Tree Board that sought to restore and protect downtown flora. He found great joy in making a life, home, and family with his wife Lynn. He lived a philosophy of "follow your heart" and instilled that passion with the greatest of love in his children.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Add Ebrum Deville and Etta Josephine Deville, of Miami, and his brother, Richard Lee Deville, of Coral Gables.

He is survived by his beloved wife of 55 years, Marilyn Swerking deVille, and his brother Philip Ray Deville, of Miami. He is additionally survived by three children, John David deVille, Anne Elise deVille, and Susan Leigh deVille; a son-in-law who was like a son, James Kenneth Rogers; and by three grandchildren, Adam deVille Schiffli, Nadya Elise Rogers, and David William Rogers, all of Macon County.

All services will be private, and the family requests in lieu of flowers that donations be made either to the Town of Highlands Scholarship Fund at PO Box 460, Highlands, NC 28741, or to the Literacy Council of Highlands at PO Box 2320.

of sorts, in that humanity is forever trying it's best to find a way out to resolve its deep concerns for both the present as well as the uncertain future. I've written about these concerns before and I myself have wrestled with the questions of "Why life can be so empty, even in our land of plenty." I have found that Christ is the only one who answers the doubting questions that life over-

• See LETTERS page 5



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...LETTERS continued from page 2

power. But this reflects what we ourselves have become -- selfishness is acceptable as long as the outcome is to our own advantage. Even science is tainted and has questionable objectives and selfish interest. At times it uses questionable data to achieve power and self promotion. Oftentimes just having the word scientific attached to a name denotes unquestionable authority. So it seems we are in a continuous maze

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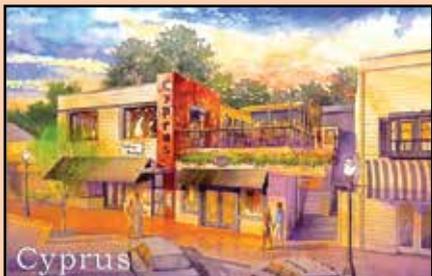
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...LETTERS continued from page 3

whelms us with. But He comes not to bring relief to the external world per se, but to remedy the world within; the deep wrestling and confusion within the heart and soul, the depths of who I am.

This is what I have found and I share this with others so they can reason out their lives as well; this seems a reasonable thing to do, even though some may reject it. It is not my intent to blame others for this dilemma, even though we all take part in this. Because I'm most at fault myself, with my failure to see and understand where people are within the confusion of their own world. I too, had a confused heart toward life and thought God was wishful thinking. I came to a slow but dramatic turn in finding my questions being answered, with reason, purpose, and meaning. This was radically internalized and flows externally as well and gives a trusted foundation that gives "life" where there was once no life or hope.

Deni Shepard
Franklin

Farewell to a dear man

Dear Editor,

Highlands has lost an aristocrat, for I can think of no other word to describe Ralph deVille a man of unfailing courtesy and kindness to all who crossed his path, a man of integrity and genuine modesty. I have known him all of my adult life and never once in all of those years have I seen him be anything less than a gentleman, nor heard anyone speak ill of him, ever. He will be missed by countless numbers of people and he will be missed by me.

Alice Nelson
Highlands

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• BIZ NEWS •

Twigs Realty Group welcomes a new broker



Kirk Howard joined Twigs Realty Group over a year ago as its Manager of Customer Service and has notably done an outstanding job. He took to the real estate field like fish to water, so much so he decided to become a Real Estate Broker. He has hung his NC License with Twigs Realty Group and it could not be more pleased.

"Kirk is an outstanding individual and exemplifies the four corner stones of the Twigs philosophy: Integrity, Hard Work, Outstanding Customer Service and Just Plain Fun," said Broker-in-Charge and Owner Mal Phillips.

Kirk was born in Macon, GA, lived as an adolescent in Huntington, Long Island, NY and spent his teenage years in Savannah, GA where he rediscovered his southern accent.

He received his Bachelor's degree in Journalism from Georgia State and has resided in Highlands for the past 25 years.

"Kirk knows the area, knows the mountains and simply knows everyone! He is loved by anyone who has ever met him," said Phillips. "Please stop by Twigs Realty Group located in the Highlands Plaza, in Highlands or call, 828-487-4377 to congratulate Kirk and discuss your real estate needs."

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Tuesday: Made in-house Italian sausage lasagna and a large house salad.
\$20.95 serves four

Wednesday: Chicken or steak pot pie and a large salad.
\$20.95 serves four

Thursday: Roasted meatloaf with mashed potatoes, gravy and a large salad.
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Friday: Wild caught fried shrimp, baked potatoes, hush puppies & coleslaw.
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Saturday: In-house smoked bbq, coleslaw, apple and bacon-baked beans, and yeast rolls.
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...HUMC continued from page 1

and Church streets. The new .59-acre was combined with the 1.40-acre Wellspring property rezoned B1 conditional from B3 back in September 2009.

Since the property was being combined and expanded, the same terms were applied to the expanded property with a few clarifications then and are expected to stay the same this time.

As per the terms of the original 2009 and 2011 SUP, the use of the property must be church-related and if the use changes the zoning will revert to the old B3 designation.

The development has to leave 30% greenspace and as per the 2011 SUP allow two curb cuts on Spring Street, one curb cut on Third Street and one curb cut on Church Street. Ten-foot side setbacks were required but B1 zero setbacks on the front and back bordering the streets was allowed.

However, a minimum of 20 parking spaces were required instead of the previous 10 in the 2009 SUP so church events requiring parking would be handled on church property and not on Main Street.

The reason the church requested the B1 conditional in the first place was because the original B3 zoning application would have curtailed development of the Faith and Fellowship Hall due to setback and parking requirements. There are no setbacks nor parking requirements in standard

B1 zoning.

By putting "conditions" on the zoning change, the Town Board was able to include parking requirements and the reversion clause.

In 2011, a public hearing was set for the May 4 Town Board meeting. After the hearing, commissioners were going to vote at the next regular Town Board meeting which would have been May 25, but after some discussion commissioners decided to go ahead and vote and the B1 conditional zoning was OK'd with an unanimous vote.

So why is this happening again?

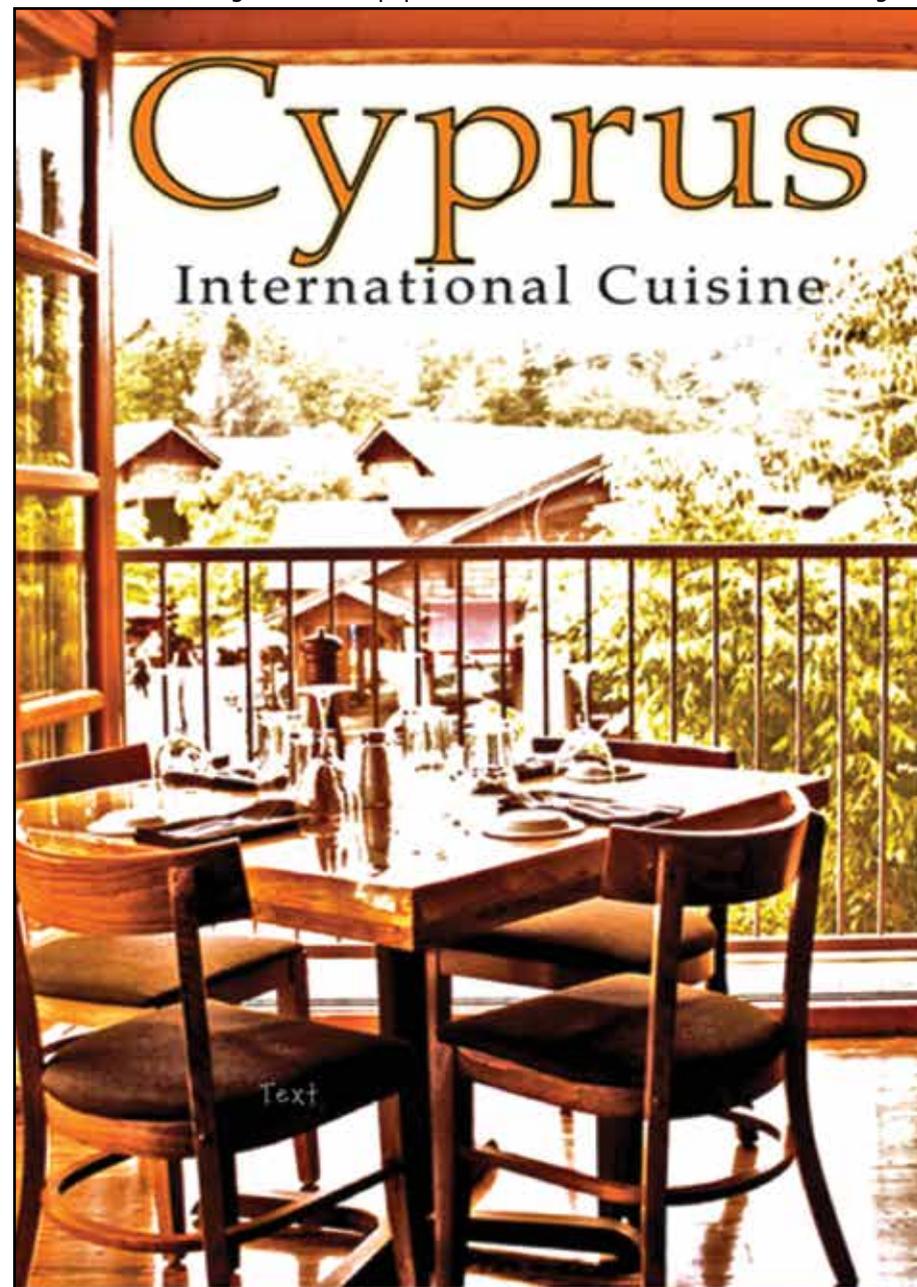
In the town's defense, the town was in flux during the 2011 B1-conditional issuance and according to Town Manager Bob Frye there is no record that the zoning change was properly advertised with signage or with an announcement printed in the newspaper.

Then Town Manager Jim Fatland's friend had been hired as the Interim Town Planner after the town let Planner Joe Cool-ey go.

"We just want to make sure all the I's are dotted and the T's crossed," said Frye.

Last week, plans were re-submitted to the Planning Board which had requested some changes to the exterior of the building facing Spring Street saying the two-story

• See HUMC page 11



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HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS

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7 – 10 am, 6 lanes

AND Monday thru Thursday

5 – 6 pm, 1 or 2 lanes

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aerobics @ 5:15 on

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3 – 5 pm & 6 – 8 pm

Wednesday 3 – 5 pm

Saturday 11 am – 6 pm

Sunday 1 – 5 pm

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Saturday 11:15 – noon

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday

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Ongoing

• Highlands Hurricanes Swim Team is open to all levels of swimmers ages 6-18. To sign up contact Coach Steve Hott at 828-421-2121.

• Anyone interested in taking Adult, Child and Infant First Aid/CPR/AED certification class needs to contact the Highlands Recreation Department and get on the list for the class. You will learn how to respond to first aid, cardiac and breathing emergencies. Upon completion attendees receive certification from the American Red Cross. Please pre register we need a minimum of 6 for the class and a maximum class size of 16. Once we have enough signed up for a class we will schedule the class.

Mon. Thurs., Fri., Sat., Sun.

• Movies at the Playhouse: 2, 5 & 8 p.m. Call 526-2685 for weekly movie.

Mondays

• 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.

• The Humanist Discussion Group meets every Monday morning from 9:30 to 10:30 in the Meeting Room in the back of Hudson Library, All are welcomed

Mon. & Wed.

• Zumba with Mary K. Barbour at the Rec Park from noon to 1p. For more information, call 828.342.2498.

Mon., Wed., Fri.

• Heart Healthy Exercise Class 8:30am-9:30am at the Rec Park.

• Aerobics with Tina Rogers 8-9a.

First Tuesdays

• The monthly family support group for those with family members, friends, or loved ones living with the challenge of mental illness meets the first Tuesday of each month, 7p.m. at Memorial United Methodist Church, 4668 Old Murphy Road, Franklin. This group is sponsored by the local affiliate of NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness). For info call 828 369-7385.

Tuesdays

• FREE Community Table Dinner at the Community Bldg. at 6p.

• The Beyond the Walls Book discussion group meets every Tues-

day at 4 PM at The Ugly Dog Public House. Each week we read a short story and then discuss its insights for our lives and spiritual wisdom.

2nd and 4th Tuesdays

• OccupyWNC meets at the Jackson County Justice Center. For more information, visit www.occupywnc.org or call 828.331.1524

Every 3rd Tuesday

• The Macon County Poultry club in Franklin meets on the third Tuesday of each month 7 pm. Meetings are open to the public and are held at the Cooperative extension office on Thomas Heights rd. For more information call 369-3916.

Tuesday and Thursdays

• Zumba with Connie at the Rec Park 8:15 a.m. \$5.

• Pickle ball is played from 9:30-11a in the gym at the Rec Park.

Wednesdays

• Donation Based Meditation Wednesday nights w Christopher Baxter at 6:30. Getting a little chilly for outside classes :) held at The Wellness Place. 468 Dillard Road Highlands 8285269698

1st Wednesdays

• Family Movies at the Hudson Library at 3:15pm. Call 828-526-3031 for titles.

2nd Wednesdays

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

Thursdays

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

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

• NAMI Support Group for individuals dealing with mental illness: depression, bipolar, schizophrenia, etc. and the family members of individuals dealing with these challenges from 7 – 8:15 pm. Call Donita for more info (828) 526-9510.

2nd Thursdays

• Sapphire Valley Needlepoint Guild meets at the Highlands Rec Park at 10 a.m.

3rd Thursdays

• Kidney Smart Classes in Franklin: Every 3rd Thursday of month, 4:30pm-6pm, Angel Medical Center, Video Conference Room, 3rd Floor, 120 Riverview Street, Contact Majestic 828-369-9474

• Kidney Smart Classes in Sylva: Every 3rd Thursday of month, 7:30am-9am, DaVita Sylva Dialysis Center, 655 Asheville Highway, Contact Sue 828-631-0430

Fridays

• 99ers Bridge at the Rec Park 9a to noon.

Every 3rd Friday

• Senior Dinners are held the third Friday of each month at 12 noon November through April. For any other information contact Lester Norris or Maxine Ramey at 828-526-3556.

Last Fri. of each month

• Community Coffee with Mayor Pat Taylor from 11a to noon at The Hudson Library.

Fridays and Saturdays:

• The Highlands Historical Museum is open every Friday and Saturday from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. **Saturdays**

• At the Rec Park, MMA Fitness Class is being offered Saturdays at 1:30pm with Moses Machida. NHB Pankration, Muay Thai, Boxing and BJJ combined into an hour long fast paced interactive class. The class combines plyometric, strength training, MMA techniques, explosive cardio and self-defense into one class. • At MountainTop Wine Shoppe on Main Street, free wine tasting from 1-3 p.m.

Thurs., Dec. 3

• Rotary Bingo at 6:30 p.m. to benefit "Shop with a Cop."

Fri., & Sat., Dec. 4 & 5

• Crafts & More Extravagan-



Photo by Kim Lewicki

Visit Santa on the Lawn of the First Baptist Church every Saturday until Christmas Eve from 11 a.m. until 4 p.m.

• HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

za will be Friday and Saturday from 9 to 4 at the Whistlestop Mall, Franklin. Holiday crafts, soaps, baked goods, plants, books, jewelry, wood crafts, emergency stoves, pocket stoves for hikers, and more will be for sale. Home-based businesses are included. Raffles, and silent auction. Proceeds benefit The Fathers House building renovation fund. Help rebuild lives and eliminate homelessness. Call 828 369-6180 for information.

Sat., Dec 5

- Highlands Olde Mountain Christmas Parade at 11 a.m. on Main Street.
- Welcome Winter at the Nature Center from 11:30a to 1:30p with hot drinks, snacks and activities for the whole family.
- At First Presbyterian Church Hymn Sing after the parade at 2 p.m.

Sat., Dec. 6

- The Bolshoi Ballet at PAC, Live in HD at 12:45 p.m.
- The High Mountain Squares will host

their "12th Annual Toys for Tots Dance" Sunday from 2 till 5p. Admission is 1 NEW UNWRAPPED TOY which will be pick up by our local Marine Corps Reserve. Jim Duncan of Otto NC will be the caller. Come join us at the Macon County Community Building 1288 Georgia Rd (Hwy 441S) Franklin NC. We

Welcome Winter at the Bio Station after the Parade!



Join the staff of the Highlands Biological Station at the Nature Center to welcome winter with hot drinks, snacks, and fun activities for the family after the Highlands Olde Mountain Christmas Parade on December 5th from 11:30-1:30pm.

The long cold days of winter can be a difficult time of year for many plants and animals; the temperature drops, the wind howls, and food becomes scarce, yet we see the same plants and animals come spring. How do they survive such trying times? Come join us at the Highlands Nature Center for an Open House event to learn how plants and animals survive and thrive during such a tough time of year. Learn about animal winter adaptations and feel the thick furs our local animals develop to stay warm. Decorate a natural ornament for the birds using pinecones and birdseed and see how your "wingspan" measures up to those of various migratory birds. You can even go on a botanical scavenger hunt to see that not all plants are gone for the winter.

We hope to see you there. Please visit our website www.highlandsbiological.org or call the Nature Center at (828) 526-2623 for more details.

dance Western Style Square Dancing, mainstream and plus levels. Everyone is welcome.

Wed., Dec 9

• Highlands Biological Station's Institute for the Environment Fall student research presentations and closing ceremony. Please join us on Wednesday at 2 pm In the Coker Laboratory seminar room at Highlands Biological Station. Free and open to the public. For more information, please call 526-2602.

Thurs., Dec. 10

- The Macon County Cancer Support

Group will meet Thursday at 7 p.m. in the cafeteria of Angel Medical Center, Riverview Street, Franklin. We will be focusing on Lung Cancer since November is recognized as Lung Cancer Awareness Month. Anyone who has been affected by lung cancer is especially invited to attend. There will be free gifts for everyone. Light refreshments will be served.

Sat., Dec. 12

- Breakfast with Santa at the Highlands United Methodist Church at 8:30 a.m. Please call for a reservation to 526-3376.

The Bolshoi Ballet Live in HD at PAC on Sunday



The Highlands Performing Arts Center will present Live in HD the Bolshoi Ballet's production live from Moscow *The Lady of Camellias*. Sunday, December 6th at 12:55pm. Tickets: \$22 Adults, \$20 PAC Members Students: FREE. Tickets available online: highlandspac.org or by calling 828.526.9047.

Live in HD Series

Saturday, December 12 1pm

Jane Eyre

Sunday, December 6 12:55pm

Lady of Camellias

The Nutcracker Sunday, December 20

Adults \$22 -Students \$12 -PAC Members \$20

Adults \$22 PAC Members \$20

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...LANDFILL continued from page 1

proximately 8.4 acres and Donald Burling and Faye Fortune of Florida in the amount of \$730,000 for approximately 14.5 acres. The properties adjoin the county's existing landfill and were purchased using solid waste dollars, not funding allocated by county commissioners.

At the October Macon County Commission meeting, Stahl informed commissioners that construction on the first phase of the project should begin at the beginning of 2016.

"We have received approvals and permits from all of the required regulatory agencies to permit construction of Phase III, Cell 1 of the new landfill," said Stahl. "This cell lies entirely within our already permitted landfill boundary. We are now in the process of pre-qualifying general contractors to bid on construction of the cell. We hope to select a firm and make a recommendation to the Board of Commissioners for its approval at the January meeting."

Macon County Commissioners are scheduled to meet next Tuesday, January 8.

The county's first phase of the current

landfill was opened in 1992 and the second phase, or first expansion was started in 1998. The facility's capacity levels have been a constant debate since 1998, but had been delayed year after year until last year, when the county could no longer wait. Because a cost analysis to ship the county's solid waste to a facility outside of Macon County rather than expanding the landfill proved not to be cost effective, Stahl petitioned commissioners to move forward with an expansion.

Developing phase III of the landfill allows the county to expand into a new cell, adding capacity, but not solving the overall problem just yet. Stahl noted that further state approval is needed before the property purchased for the complete 40-year expansion project can be used.

At the Nov. 16 joint meeting between Franklin, Highlands and the MC Manager Derek Roland said the 300% expansion of the landfill will enable Macon County to be self-sustainable in the disposal of its waste – something many counties struggle with.

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...HUMC continued from page 7

'Tis the Giving Season



The view from Spring Street before changes were made.



The view from Spring Street after changes were made.

vertical planes of the addition lacked relief, shadows and dimension which would soften the look and make it less severe.

They suggested a covered walkway, overhangs from the roof and eyebrows on the windows.

The new plans include roof overhangs to produce shadows on the building, some variations in the walls to reduce the linear look, keystones over the windows and a setback on the exterior wall to alleviate the stark lines of the building and includes an interior walkway.

With the changes incorpo-

rated, a public hearing on the rezoning will be held Dec. 10, then it's on to the Zoning Board for the required Special Use Permit on Dec. 16.

Next, according to Town Manager Frye building permits from the county and a sign-off from the county fire marshal are required before the church can begin building.

Meanwhile, a symbolic ground breaking ceremony will be held after the 10:50 a.m. worship service on Sunday, Dec. 13.

- Kim Lewicki

Boating allowed on the Upper Chattooga through April 30

Boating season runs through April 30 on the Upper Chattooga Wild and Scenic River corridor in the Nantahala National Forest.

Paddling is only allowed on this highly technical section of the river on days after flows reach 350 cfs or greater at the USGS Burrells Ford Gage and only during daylight hours. Daylight hours will be 30 minutes before official sunrise to 30 minutes after official sunset that same day.

All boaters are required to self-register by acquiring a permit which is free. The permits are available at the registration boards located on the trails leading to the river access points.

Boaters putting in in NC must use the designated put-in or takeout locations at: Green Creek, Norton Mill Creek and Bullpen Ridge. Paddling is not allowed on the Chattooga River upstream of Green Creek nor on the Upper Chattooga tributaries.

For access points, rules for boating, safety, and other tips visit Chattooga Wild and Scenic River.

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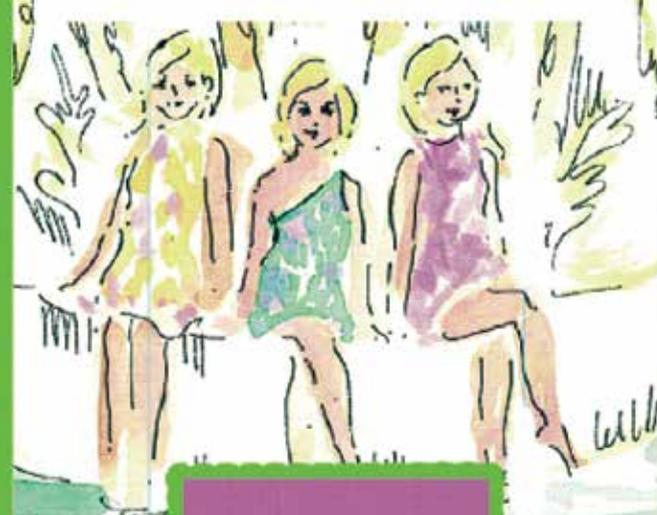
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Highlands Falls Country Club. This lovely 3br/3ba home lives large all on one level with tall ceilings, lots of glass and an expansive deck. \$497,000 MLS#82682



Holt Knob. Just what everyone wants! Walk to town with a great mountain view. 3br/2.5 furnished with a large deck. \$499,000. MLS# 78446



Great 2/1 1/2 bath cabin. A perfect weekend retreat - or enjoy the mountains full time from your huge open air front porch. Rustic wood floors in this open plan with large fireplace. MLS#790163 \$184,500



Charm exudes from this 2013 remodel. 3/2 Main house with fantastic Master Suite plus a studio bedroom cottage with full bath for guests. Very private setting on road with more expensive homes. MLS #82269 \$399,000



This four bedroom/five bath beautiful home is located in the desirable Highlands CC. Home is immaculate and features a fabulous kitchen that opens up into the dining area great for entertaining. MLS # 81619 \$999,999



Amazing waterfalls and bold streams with 700 feet on Buck Creek, with 700 feet on other side of the creek. Borders USFS. Immaculate, exceptionally built home on 5.48 acres with all the bells and whistles. \$995,000 MLS #82444



Rocky Knob - a gated lake community. Exceptional mountain view, 3br/2ba with fireplace, vaulted ceilings, covered and open decks and meticulously maintained. \$385,000. MLS #81329



Wonderful 2/2 condo on the 13th fairway in Highlands Falls CC. Hardwood floors, nine foot ceilings, office & covered deck. MLS #81336 \$245,900.



This 5/5 home was remodeled in 2012. Great master bath. Large covered deck. Light and bright on both levels and in immaculate condition. The lot is lovely and has a walking path around. MLS #79794 \$1,200,000.



Highlands Mountain Club with great mountain view. Spacious 3br/2ba, condo. Pool, tennis, and clubhouse. Furnished. \$249,000 MLS #82270



Highlands Falls Country Club beauty! Exceptional 3br/3.5ba with 3-car garage, listen to the waterfall on the 15th hole, golf course view, wrap-around porches. \$777,000. MLS# 81880



Simply Amazing. This wonderful 5.7+/- acre lot has a fantastic long range view. These long range views stretch all the way to the mountain ranges in Georgia MLS#81103 \$290,000



A lovely 3/3 home on nearly 2 acres in a semi-wooded private setting with two large, stream-fed ponds with young, golden Koi and a beautiful recirculating waterfall. Safe, quiet Wildwood neighborhood only 4.5 miles to Highlands & 5.5 miles to Cashiers. MLS #81836 \$524,000



Little Bearpen in Highlands City limits. Long mountain views from two covered decks, 2br/2ba main level, lower level guest suite w/ family room, 2nd kitchen and hob-by room (could be separate living area). \$695,000. MLS# 81446



Highlands Falls Country Club. Incredible value for a 3br/2ba free-standing, furnished Golf Villa. Lake & #10 green view w/ tree trimming. Stone fireplace, solid surface countertops and vaulted ceilings. \$249,000. MLS# 78712



4/3 home located in the private gated community of Whiteside Estates. Home features beautiful hardwood floors throughout with pine wood walls and brick fireplace. Great deck with a covered area of the master bedroom. MLS #82461 \$347,500



Highlands Falls Country Club condo with 3br/3ba and great golf course view, sunroom, stone fireplace, vaulted ceiling. Just reduced to an amazing \$295,000! MLS# 73808



Highlands Falls Country Club home with 2br/2ba plus a den on main level, wood floors in main living area, vaulted ceilings, eat-in kitchen plus dining room, tile baths. Lower level has a family room with fireplace, full kitchen plus a bedroom and a bonus room (could be separate living area). \$695,000 MLS#80446



Wonderful home in prestigious Wildcat Cliffs CC. Just a two minute golf cart ride to the clubhouse. Fantastic views from the back porch of Whiteside Mountain and Cullasaja Club golf course. MLS#82872 \$375,000



Every space in this 3/3 home was updated. Two tiered deck with views of the mountains the lake and the 5th fairway at Highlands Falls Country Club. The floorplan is perfect for entertaining. In addition, there is a one bedroom guesthouse with a new kitchen. MLS #82523 \$797,000



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• INVESTING AT 4,118 Ft. •

Save the Date

These days, it's not unusual to get a 'save the date' card in the mail to let us know to clear our calendars because something good is coming.

There are dates we need to save, and there are dates we tend to never forget: birthdays (thanks to Facebook once you've friended someone you'll NEVER forget those), there are anniversaries, and other special moments that forever play in our minds like an old 8mm home movie reel.

There are also dates we'd just as soon NOT remember, like the death anniversaries of loved ones, accidents, divorces, crimes that violate our person or possessions, and acts of war or terrorism in our country and abroad.

December 7, 1941, September 11, 2001, November 15, 2015 three dates that are not good dates to remember; we remember them in memoriam, as well as a certain amount of resolve to never allow it to happen again.

In real estate, brokers tend to do the same thing. We send out save the date announcements to let other brokers know of open houses where we offer to feed them, or give them cash prizes or gift cards. Brokers are busy people, and we really want them to check out our listing so they will have it in mind when talking with their clients.

Hey, wouldn't it be fun to throw a big party on the closing day? We could invite all the brokers who cared enough to show the property – sort of like a going away party. Who am I kidding, closing dates are sacred, and it's never over until the closing attorney calls well after the closing to let the sales brokers know that the new deed has been recorded. Any



Jeannie Chambers
Chambers Realty &
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celebrations done beforehand may be considered jinx material -- not that brokers are superstitious.

Brokers have plenty of dates they'd rather forget as well. The date that the due diligence period never reached the end. The date a client cancels a showing after appointments have been set. Any date that includes continuing educa-

tion. We always learn something but it's a day we can never have back. And, yes, dates that former clients decide it's time to sell and move on, or worse, the dates former clients move on without being able to decide the time.

It's not uncommon for clients to become and remain close friends for years, and it's like losing family when they go. We also tend to remember 'the good years' and 'the bad years' of real estate.

In retail, shopkeepers know to 'know your holidays' and other dates of interest. Why? Because that's when the people will be in your shop- hopefully to buy your merchandise.

In real estate -- especially in our mountain resort area -- it's important for brokers to use the same adage.

Highlands used to be a seasonal town that generally opened after Memorial Day and closed after Labor Day, but not anymore. Some say it's a good thing, while others complain that we don't have the down time we used to have.

Macon and Jackson County are within a 2 to 5 hour drive for more than a million people, and yet we hear all the time from people who have just recently heard of Highlands.

Take for example Thanksgiving 2015. Have you ever seen so many people in town in November? Our office had more November vacation rentals than ever

before, and some have already booked for Thanksgiving 2016!

Brokers aren't disciplinarians. No matter how many times you ask, we can't close the gates of Highlands after you buy your

property. We also can't help what happens to the empty lot next to you (with the exception of zoning).

If you enjoy peace and quiet and have empty lots next to you,

you may want to consider buying that adjoining property. Consider it a 'save the date' because it's the best way you get to control what

• See INVESTING page 16

• REAL ESTATE SNAPSHOTS •

Adorable Streamfront Cottage



Hands down, this is the best investment under \$200K in the Highlands area. Just a short drive to town, yet you enjoy all of the beauty of the mountains from the back deck. Nestled amongst a forest of rhododendron, this sweet getaway features lovely waterfall and stream views. 2BR/2BA with a little sleeping loft for children. Open living, kitchen and dining area that flows out to an expansive, open deck. Being sold furnished.

Offered at \$149,000. MLS #77322.

Contact Susie deVile (828) 371-2079.

Fantastic Highway Frontage



Fantastic highway frontage (over 450 feet!). Great way to invest in a Highlands, in-town, commercial property. Zoned B-4. This property is also zoned residential and includes a 5BR/2BA house. Perfect for office space or retail. Adjoins The Bascom Campus.

Offered at \$850,000. MLS #82406.

Contact Susie deVile (828) 371-2079.

Foreman Road's Best Rental



PRICED TO SELL! This adorable cottage was renovated in 2006 and features wood floors; pine paneling; granite counter tops, new appliances, and new cabinets in the kitchen; tile baths; new siding; and metal roof. Enjoy Mill Creek from the covered deck and the convenience of walking to town. Excellent rental history!

Offered at \$338,000. MLS #82583.
Contact Susie deVile (828) 371-2079.

Great Investment Property Close to Town



In-town, pristine gem under a mile from Main St. 3BR/3BA, upstairs master suite. Open living/dining room and granite countered kitchen. Large deck in canopy of trees with outdoor dining. New roof, floors, paint & updates. All furnishings, linens & kitchen items will be conveyed w/the sale. Art & personal items excluded. Lower Level for storage/more living space. Easy living!

Offered at \$349,000. MLS #75156.
Contact Susie deVile (828) 371-2079.



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...INVESTING continued from page 15

goes there.

The investment of ownership in Highlands property is always a good choice. The prices fluctuate according to the economy, but not as severe as in metropolitan areas -- the same areas people are flocking FROM to come TO Highlands.

Vacation rental properties are on the rise, and there seems to be the inclination of travelers trying before buying, so renting a place for a week or month really helps them get a good taste before biting a big chunk and investing.

Some buy in order to rent, while others rent out their home until they can sell.

The real estate market didn't stop af-

ter December 7, 1941, nor did it stop after September 11, 2001, or after the attack on Paris November 13, 2015. If the people here in Highlands on Thanksgiving 2015 are any indication of commerce in 2016, we all better be saving the date -- dates to show and sell real estate, dates to sell merchandise in our stores, dates for dinners at our wonderful restaurants, and dates to sit back and relish the idea of passing the torch of land conservancy and Highlands history to visitors and new property owners. They know they love Highlands as soon as they arrive, and most of them want to understand how to keep it this way for another generation.

• See **INVESTING** page 19

• THE INK PENN •

Christmas Cleaning Frenzy

I know, I know, Thanksgiving is just now over, but Christmas is right around the corner, and I always want things a bit neater around the house before I start decorating. Add the fact that I'm having a small gathering at my house on December 5, and you'll



Kathy Penn

be able to visualize the state of my home.

Boxes of decorations have come out of the closets and up from the basement, and some Christmas items have already been taken to the consignment shop. Those not suitable for consigning will soon be on their way to the thrift shop up the street. You, too, probably have a few items you'd describe as "I like this, but can't seem to find a place for it." I decided to get rid of some of those, but naturally I've ordered a few new items, like a lighted swag for the porch.

I've always loved decorating for Christmas and for most of my adult life have decorated my home to the hilt. When I was a child in New York, we always had a tree and outdoor lights and the occasional decorated windows, but I think that was the extent of our decorating. Remember putting artificial snow on windows? I'm sure I'm dating myself with that memory.

I'm convinced my love of Christmas and my extreme love of decorating came from my other mother, my mother-in-law who enjoys everything Christmas. My boxes are filled with Christmas items she made and gave me over the years: the quilted tree skirt, the crocheted angel tree topper, stockings and aprons, you name it. We've always laughed about her having to have a roaring fire Christmas day, even when it was 75°. Believe it or not, Atlanta temps can range from a chilly zero on up into the 70s. I recall a particularly frigid Christmas morning, back when I was in my twenties, when it was only 5°.

My collection of decorations grew by leaps and bounds when one of my girlfriends started visiting every year

with her children to help decorate my tree. She was a master at making bows, so my home began to fill with bows, garlands, wreathes and more, plus whatever unique holiday knickknack she brought me each year. I now have so many decorations that I just pick and choose what

to put out each December.

I have more ornaments than I can possibly put on one tree, but still I have a hard time resisting new ones. When my mom stopped putting up trees, I inherited her collection of U.S. Capitol Historical Society ornaments and her original glass Woolworth ornaments. All of those go up every year. Then I have a friend who uses ornaments as place settings for our annual holiday gathering, so that's another 50 or so ornaments I've collected through the years. That's why I also have a four-foot artificial tree to go with the big one. Yet here I sit contemplating going to a local Holiday Artist Market, where I'm sure to find something else I can't live without.

First, though, I must get through the cleaning frenzy, which has now extended to the kitchen counters and cabinets. To clear the counters, I must make room in the cabinets. Do I really need the gazillion glass vases that have come my way over the years or all the Glad ware that seems to multiply? I think not. It may even be time to donate at least one set of silverware to the thrift shop. There's no telling where this frenzy could lead, but I do know it will end, at least temporarily, before the first holiday guest arrives.

• Kathy Manos Penn is a columnist for the Dunwoody Crier and is now happily retired from a corporate career in communications and leadership development. Find more of her musings at TheInkPenn.blogspot.com or contact her at kathymanospenn@gmail.com.

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• BIZ/ORG NEWS •

Macon County Community Foundation awards local grants

The board of advisors of the Macon County Community Foundation announces 2015 awards from its community grantmaking fund, according to Regina Lupoli, board president.

This year's nonprofit recipients are:

- Blue Ridge Mountain Dental Clinic - \$1,000 for Hygienist
- Community Care Clinic of Franklin - \$1,500 for Free Clinic
- Fontana Regional Library - \$500 for Reading Rover
- KIDS Place - \$1,000 for general operating support
- Literacy Council of Highlands - \$1,000 for Franklin tutoring
- Macon County Art Association - \$500 for Children's art classes
- Macon TRACS - \$1,000 for Therapy Riding Over Trails
- Prevent Blindness NC - \$1,260 for Macon County Star pupils project
- REACH of Macon County - \$1,530 for Victim Services
- The Bascom - \$500 for Education Initiative
- The Counseling & Psychotherapy Center of Highlands - \$2,500 Mental Health
- The Gordon Center for Children - \$1,000 for Student scholarship fund

Lupoli thanked the community for support of the Macon County Community Foundation. "These grants are important to our community and our collective quality of life," she said. "Critical programs would not be possible without the generosity of many individuals and organizations that have supported Macon County's community fund. We only wish we could have assisted more organizations."

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. During the month of November, all donations will be eligible to be matched and we encourage you to give what you can. This money stays local in Macon County. 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.ncccommunityfoundation.org.

For information on the Macon County Community Foundation and its community fund, contact Sue LeLievre, regional associate, at 828-538-4299; or visit the NCCF website at www.ncccommunityfoundation.org and click on "Affiliates."

The NCCF is the single statewide community foundation serving North Carolina and has made \$101 million in grants since its inception in 1988. With more than \$237 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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Dithering During Advent



By Rector Jim Murphy
Christ Anglican Church

Advent is the season of the Christian Church's liturgical year, wherein we are reminded of the first Advent (coming) of Jesus and also told again of his promised return, the Lord's Second Advent. The bible readings we consider during the 4 weeks of the season are intended to remind us of the surety of God's promise to come back and redeem his people—Messianic Jews and reborn Christians—so as to take us into his nearer presence forever.

The passages from the OT prophets, the Psalms, the NT, and the Gospels brook no compromise and leave no room for doubt, Jesus will return. You can stake your life upon it! Indeed, whether you know Jesus as God's Son, the Redeemer and Lord, or don't know him as such, your life is staked upon his return.

The looming question for the Church of Jesus Christ worldwide is then this: What are we doing about his adventual return? Are we living in a constant state of preparedness? Are we attending up to the tasks (a.k.a., being obedient to the Word) that the One we call Lord has called us to? Or are we dithering about life, largely ignoring the Great Commission that he has given unto all of his followers? For too many, it's the latter.

Consider these facts: during the past 7 years, while "Climate Change" has been crowned "public enemy number 1," over 7,100,000 children have been murdered in the U. S. in the abortion industry alone. During that same time period, more than 210,000 traffic fatalities have taken place in our country, while we dither about climate change. Over the same 7 years, more than 115,000 deaths have been directly attributed to acts of terrorism, while the hot topic on the progressive campaign trail is climate change. Even this week more than 150 leaders of scores of nations the world over, including our own, have assembled in Paris, at the cost of 100's of millions of dollars, to dither about climate change. What are their plans to address all the verifiable death and carnage?

The fact is that there has been none, as in no deaths, directly attributable to climate change over the 7 year time span mentioned above. Using UN-WHO estimates, based upon no concrete or verifiable data, there may have been somewhere around 53,000 deaths that could be linked to climate change during the past 7 years. As terrible as all of

• See SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING page 19

Proverbs 3:5

PLACES TO WORSHIP

John 3:16

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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

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Holy Communion 1st Sunday of the month

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

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Rector: Jim Murphy, 252-671-4011

464 US Hwy 64 east, Cashiers

9:30a Sunday School; 10:30a Family Service w/ Music

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 a.m.

1st & 3rd Sunday night Service: 7p.m.

Wednesdays - Supper at 6 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: Holy Eucharist (chapel) at 8 a.m.

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

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Sun.: Worship: 8:30a and 11 a.m.; School: 9:30

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

Wednesdays: Choir: 5:30p

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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, 6p.

Wednesday: Bible Study, 6:30p; Prayer Mtg., 7:30p.

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);

7pm Intercessory Prayer Ministry

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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.

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Wednesdays: Prayer Mtg.: 7 p.m.

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WHITESIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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• FIRE REP. •

The Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. log from Nov. 22.

Nov. 23

• At 10:13 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Apple Mountain.

Nov. 24

• At 5:18 p.m., the dept. stood by at the hospital for the MAMA helicopter.

• At 9:34 p.m., the dept. responded to a miscellaneous fire in the Mirror Lake area.

Nov. 25

• At 3:56 p.m., the dept. provided mutual aid to the Cashiers Fire Department.

Nov. 26

• At 7:01 p.m., the dept. responded to a brush fire at a residence on Sunset Trace.

• At 8:21 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Queen Mountain.

Nov. 29

• At 11:18 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Clubhouse Trail.

• At 12:27 p.m., the dept. responded to a brush fire on Many Road.

Nov. 28

• At 8:16 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Falls Drive West.

Nov. 29

• At 1:45 p.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on Wyanoak Road.

Nov. 30

• At 2:16 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Clubhouse Trail.

...SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING continued from page 18

the deaths mentioned above are, including the dubious ones purportedly connected to some sort of climate change inspired event, there is yet more terror to report.

During the last 7 years more than 387,000,000 people have died on earth. That's 387 million folks, more than the entire population of the U.S. who have died worldwide. Of those deaths, using the most generous statistics for percentage of Christians across the globe, it works out to more than 263 million people who have died without knowing Christ. In other words, they died a permanent death, a forever separation from God and saved humanity. That is the real

...WELLNESS continued from page 1



Shown with Rowe is the proud Highlands team, which consisted of Jim Tate, Pat Taylor, Sallie Taylor, Rebecca Shuler, Thomas Craig and Derek Taylor.

for his team. There was a significant change in the Highlands' team structure with Pat Taylor sustaining a knee injury. Instead of disappointing his team, he passed his pedometer to his wife, Sallie.

"About a week into the challenge I unfortunately slipped and fell severing the quadricep tendon in my right leg. After undergoing major knee surgery, I was immobilized for the remainder of the event. Fortunately, my wife Sallie agreed to become a part of the Highlands team since I was totally incapacitated. I am grateful to her, all the participants of both teams and the wonderful staff at Mission Healthcare that put on the Wellness Challenge," said Mayor Taylor.

Tips from the winning team include wearing a pedometer – it

makes you more accountable and parking farther away in parking lots, taking the stairs, etc.

According to Dede Rowe, WellConnect Engagement Specialist, the goal of Mission WellConnect is to provide exemplary worksite wellness services to our community. It provides the personal attention and expertise that offers targeted solutions to help lower healthcare costs and promote a healthy workplace. For more about WorkWell, please call (828) 213-3589.

"A cornerstone of a sustainable healthcare program is to encourage folks to be physically active every day. The Wellness Challenge was a fun way to demonstrate how personal exercise can be a natural part of almost all of our daily routines," said Mayor Taylor.

tragedy of our times, the death of people who will forever be trapped in eternal torment. How can we stand by and let that happen, Church?

A large part of the Advent message of Christ's return is his return to assume the role of Judge. Yes, judgement day is on the way and the Judgement Day is good, Gospel news! When Jesus comes again, this time as judge, his Holy Spirit will present the case for all who have received him, acknowledging the Redeemer as Lord, Savior and God himself. Their acquittal is guaranteed. Sadly, there will be no one to argue on behalf of the billions who

have died without making that acknowledgement. Their guilt will be certain.

The work of the Christian Church, between the two advents, is to share the good, Gospel news of God's unending love, mercy, forgiveness and grace to all who would receive it. As Love itself, our heavenly Father will not force anyone to receive his love. It's up to us to receive it and it's up to us then to share it. Why don't we quit dithering this Advent season about things that are ultimately inconsequential and get on with life, eternal life, on behalf of ourselves and for the sake of others, thus avoiding

...INVESTING continued from page 16

Share your Highlands stories with others, and let's keep those 8mm reels running in our minds. There are lots of memories in the making so save the date.

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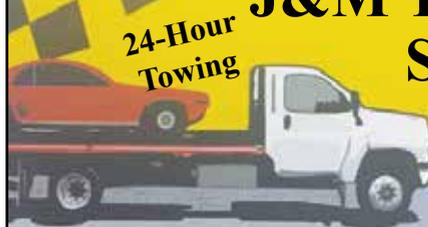
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Is seeking Servers, Hosts, Bartenders and Line Cooks. If Interested, Please call 828-200-1500 or Send a Resume to HighlandsBBQCompany@gmail.com (st. 7/2)

SALES ASSOCIATE FOR HIGH END CLOTHING STORE IN HIGHLANDS, NC full time "with benefits. part time and seasonal. Must be available to work weekends. Retail clothing sales experience preferred. Please call 828-200-0928.(st. 4/30)

MOUNTAIN FRESH GROCERY in Highlands is hiring full-time for:

- Baristas,
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- Pizza departments.

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VAC/SHORT-TERM RENTALS

HIGHLANDS VACATION RENTAL DOWNTOWN. 2/2 updated in 2014 with luxury master bath, king bed, marble & SS kitchen. Second floor condo two blocks off Main. Renovated like an Old Edwards Suite! W/D in unit, flat screen T.V., gas fireplace, off street parking. Available weekly \$1,000 plus utilities. Call 828-352-8519. (st. 12/25)

LOTS/LAND FOR SALE

FALLING WATERS – Just two miles from Main St. Well maintained, easy build sites, paved, underground utilities, gated, waterfalls and creeks. Home sites from \$139,000, 828-508-9952 www.highlandsnchomesites.com - FaceBook Falling Waters Highlands From Main St. Take Hwy. 106 W 1.8 miles to Mt. Laurel Dr. turn R, 3/10 mile L on Moonlight, Entrance on R. **REALTORS 7%** (st. 9/3)

LOT. 10 MINUTES FROM DOWNTOWN HIGHLANDS. 2.01 acres with Mountain Ridge and Meadow Views between Bridal Veil Falls, Dry Falls & Cullasaja Falls, Gorge. Lot cleared, driveway and new septic system. Tax Value is \$89,410., Quick Sale at \$49,900. Firm. 828-200-0949. (st. 9/3)

WOODED LOT W/ STREAM FOR SALE – MIRRORMONT AREA. Berit Ln., 1.45 acres, 4-BR septic permit, walk-to-town. Priced to sell. 770-861-4249. (st. 7/23)

ACRE LOT HIGHLANDS, NC Corner Lot Highlands Glen, level with some gentle slopes excavation and foundation expenses would be reasonable, underground power installed. Stream runs year round could be configured to make a small pond, good water sources for well. Space for outbuildings or RV, boat storage. 6 Miles to downtown. \$27,000 possible owner financing 828-507-2066 (st. 7/2)

RESIDENTIAL FOR RENT

EFFICIENCY APARTMENT for rent in Sapphire Valley: Amenities included with in pool and exercise room washer, dryer. \$395. plus utilities 6 month lease (no pets). 828-506-6052. (st. 11/25)

STUDIO APT IN DOWN TOWN SCALY MT on Dillard Rd. \$450 includes all utilities AND \$450 Security Deposit/ No Pets. (828) 526-3610 (st. 11/19)

3/3 OLDER FURNISHED HOME, walk to town. \$1050/month plus utilities. Call 828-526-5558.

2/2 DESIGNER-FURNISHED CABIN ON DILLARD ROAD, 4.5 miles from town. Easy access year round. Lots of windows, Rhodo privacy, firepit, porch & patio. New W/D. No smokers. \$600/month. 615-243-2006.

RESIDENTIAL FOR SALE

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

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Antique mammy bench; vintage 4-wheel farm scale; classic 1963 Thompson oak/mahogany wood boat with 1984 Johnson outboard and tandem trailer; 3-station Whitehall mahogany rowboat with trailer; antique large combination safe; 308 lb. blacksmith anvil circa 1910/huge swage block/sturdy foot-powered hammer; new large-scale train equipment; 4 oak/steel vegetable stands – all in great condition and reasonably priced. Bruce 828-200-0228. (st. 12/3)

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SPRING, \$200; Oil rubbed bronze chandelier, \$125; Large Baker's rack on wheels, \$75; Round painted table, \$150. Call 772-538-2106. (st. 11/23)

1988 JEEP CHEROKEE, 4 wheel drive \$2,500 great condition. 386-212-4181 (st. 11/19)

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0002 or email mjames@allaroundofficesolutions.com (st. 1/15)

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. 10/29)

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TOWN OF HIGHLANDS JOB ANNOUNCEMENT FINANCE DIRECTOR:

The Town of Highlands is accepting applications for the position of Finance Director. This position performs professional and supervisory work in planning, organizing, and executing the accounting functions for the Town of Highlands government, annual budget of approximately 13 million dollars.

The Finance Director is responsible for interpretation of local, state, and federal policies, statutes, and procedures and insures overall compliance, adherence, and accuracy in all financial activities.

Responsibilities include; purchasing, financial reporting, general ledger, funds and grants accounting, cash management and investments, accounts receivables and payables, debt service management, and related tasks. The Finance Director is responsible for the supervision of the finance staff, and work is performed in accordance with established Town finance procedures, local ordinances, and NC laws and General Statutes governing local governmental finance, generally accepted accounting principles, and GAAFR (Governmental Accounting, Auditing, and Financial Reporting). Work is performed under the supervision of the Town Manager.

Minimum requirements for the position include a Bachelor's Degree from an accredited college or university, in accounting, finance, business or public administration; or equivalent experience; and ability to obtain a North Carolina Certified Public Finance Officer Certification. A minimum of 5 years' experience in North Carolina municipal or county government administration, or financial management and accounting.

Preferred special requirements are a Master's degree in accounting or financial management, certified as a Municipal Financial Officer by the North Carolina Local Governmental Finance Officers Association and certified as a Notary Public.

Salary will be commensurate with experience and qualifications. The Town of Highlands provides a competitive benefits package, which includes participation in NC Government Employees Retirement System membership and benefits in health, dental, life, vision, long term disability insurance; optional life and auxiliary coverages; 401K and 457 deferred compensation plans; paid holidays; and annual and sick leave. This is an exempt position. The successful applicant is subject to a criminal background check, a pre-employment drug screening and passing a physical examination.

Applications are available at Town Hall or downloaded from the Town's website at www.highlandsc.org under Employment. Resumes may be submitted in addition to applications. All completed and signed Employment Applications may be submitted in person to Sonja Gibson, HR Director, at the Town Hall, 210 N. Fourth Street, Highlands, NC, by email to sonja.gibson@highlandsc.org, by fax to 828-526-2595 or by U.S. Mail to the attention of Sonja Gibson, HR Director, at PO Box 460, Highlands, NC 28741. This position has a closing date of January 15, 2016, and applications will be reviewed as received. Only candidates selected for an interview will be contacted. The Town of Highlands is an Equal Opportunity/Drug-Free Employer. (1/14/16)

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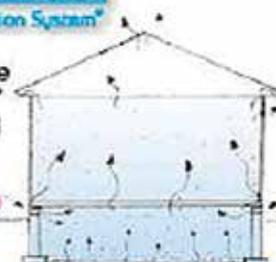


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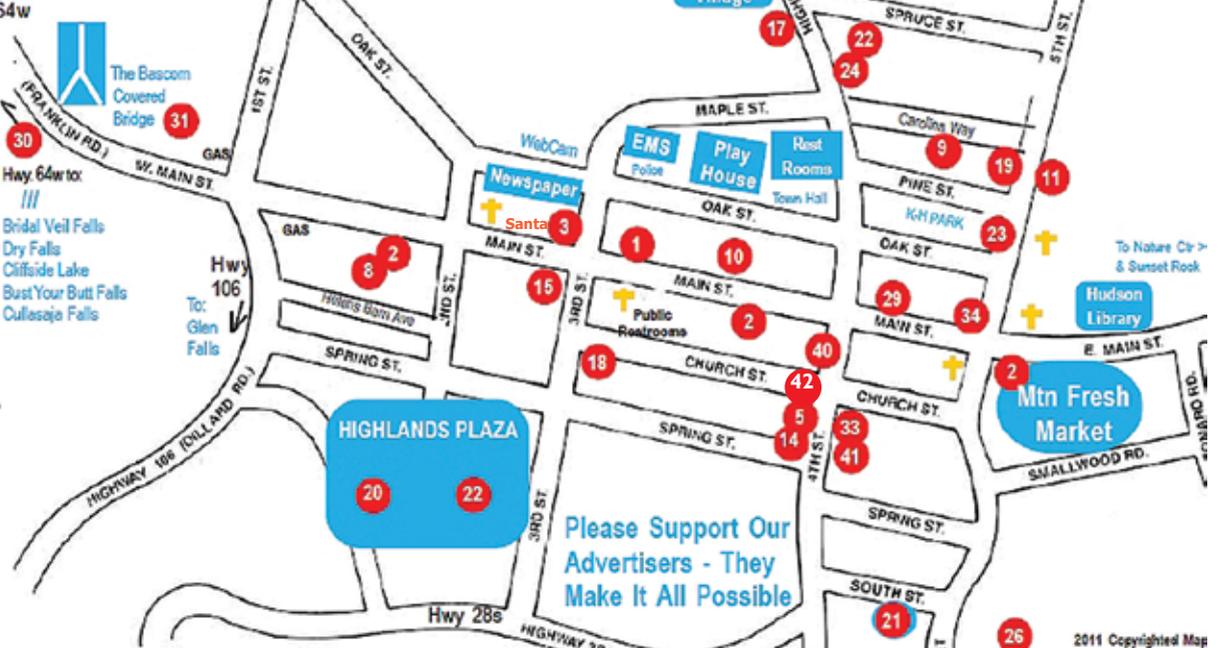
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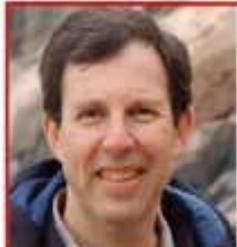


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