

# Highlands Newspaper

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Thurs., Dec. 15, 2016

## Josh Ward returns to Highlands as Town Manager

Like the saying goes, "Third time is the charm." That just might be the case for Highlands.

Since it changed its hybrid form of government from the Town Administrator-Mayor-

Council form which lasted decades, to the Town Manager-Council form; it has seen two Town Managers go, Jim Fatland and Bob Frye.

However, during the closed session of the Thurs., Dec. 8 Town

Board meeting, commissioners agreed unanimously to hire Josh Ward – Highlands' previous Planning and Zoning Administrator – as its third and next Town Manager.

"The Town Board conducted an extensive search for a new Town Manager," said Mayor Pat Taylor in a prepared statement. "More than 25 applicants were

•See WARD page 3

### • INSIDE •

Mayor on Duty.....	2
Letters.....	2
Obituary .....	3
The Ink Penn.....	6
Events.....	10-11
Shopping Pullout .....	12-13
Police & Fire.....	21
Classifieds.....	22

## MC School board asks county for additional funding

In a joint facilities review committee meeting with the Macon County Board of Commissioners last Wednesday, the Macon County School system asked the county to consider funding \$55,000 in extra expenses regarding the Highlands Gym Roof replacement project and for the two percent teacher supplement which exceeded the amount budgeted this year.

Earlier this year, the Macon County Board of Commissioners approved a \$200,000 increase to the school system's capital outlay budget and earmarked the funds for the Highlands gym roof replacement. The roof had been leaking for more than a decade and had started to cause signifi-

•See FUNDING page 9



Friends Cara Hedden and Cali Smolarsky.

## It Takes a Village

Benefit for Cali Smolarsky is Saturday, Dec. 17 at the Civic Center

By Tracey Hedden

Highlands has become a very well-known town, a place set apart due to its natural beauty, shopping, dining and golfing opportunities. However, something that makes Highlands tru-

ly stand apart is not always seen with the eyes, it is felt with the heart. When one of their own is down this amazing village of Highlanders rallies behind them

•See VILLAGE page 7

## Town Board finally puts commercial garbage issue to rest

*Some customers will see an increase because existing fees will now be applied correctly*

Back in August a shortfall of between \$45,000 and \$50,000 in the Sanitation Fund was discovered with the Fiscal Year '15/'16 audit and the issue has been battled back and forth at Town Board meetings ever since.

The shortfalls were found in three areas: Overtime, Maintenance & Repair ~ Auto and Landfill Tipping Fees.

Overtime has been consecutively under budgeted at approximately \$12,000 annually.

Landfill Tipping Fees have been under budgeted at approximately \$11,000 annually. And the

Maintenance & Repair ~ Auto has been under budgeted by varying amounts due to unknown maintenance issues but an extra \$20,000 allotted to this line would help to decrease overages.

Since the Sanitation Fund is one of the towns four enterprise

funds – water/sewer, electric, broadband and sanitation – technically it has to "support" itself and be in the "black" or else money to pay its bills has to come out of the undesignated fund balance or out of healthy enterprise funds like the electric fund.

In an attempt to cut expenses in the fund and bring it closer to the black, then Town Manager Bob Frye immediately cut Sunday trash pickup routes – but without notice. This was obviously a huge oversight. With this cut, sanitation customers who were being picked up on Sunday became understandably upset.

To soothe tempers, Mayor Pat Taylor held a meeting for customers to discuss issues with himself and Public Works Director Lamar Nix. After the meeting, Taylor said the matter would

•See GARBAGE page 14

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# • THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

## • MAYOR ON DUTY •

### Robotic trucking is in our future

I am an old Baby Boomer who likes to look into the future, albeit my time and involvement in future initiatives may be limited. Some of the things looming ahead can be very concerning for us folks that grew up in the pre-computer, digital media age.



Mayor Pat Taylor

As a member of the Transportation Advisory Committee of the Southwestern Commission, I recently heard a presentation by Charles Edwards. He is the NCDOT Logistics Strategy Director. What does he do? Director Edwards deals with the trucking industry that relies on our roads and highways to move goods and services throughout the state and region. His presentation was very informative, especially as it related to the seven-county region of southwestern North Carolina.

The audience, comprising of county commissioners, mayors and managers, were told by the director that each resident in the area requires about 20 tons of freight each year. That includes food, fuel and material supplies of all kinds. He pointed out that practically everything we consume in this region comes by way of trucks traveling on NC highways. So, with a regional population of 202,000 people that means 202,000

tractor trailer trucks come to the western Carolina region each year. A standard tractor trailer carries about 20 tons of material that each of us annually requires. That tonnage also includes the reverse process of trucking our trash back down the mountain to recycle centers and landfills. The town of Highlands generates on average around 170 tons of garbage that is hauled to the landfill and recycling station each month. There are indirect truck shipments that we collectively consume. For instance, our water and sewer departments truck in and out hundreds of tons of materials essential to their operations.

Mr. Edwards pointed out that as the region grows in population, which is inevitable, the number of trucks will increase proportionally, challenging the transportation system. It costs about eight million dollars per mile to build a new major highway in this mountain terrain. The need to improve existing roads will also increase.

Another pressure on the entire state and nation according to Edwards is the Amazon model, aka "the Internet of things." The old model of warehouses and retail outlets is being challenged by companies like Amazon who are developing their own modes of transportation and delivery directly to customers. This trend will insure a continuous flow of all kinds of trucks on our roads.

One response to this challenge would be to simply impose limited access of trucks to these beautiful and tranquil mountains. The problem is that we are here, and we expect and depend on goods and services. Short of returning to an austere and meager existence, we cannot limit truck access. The challenge will be to develop a better transportation system. Everything we consume on this plateau in pursuit of the "good life" is brought to us by trucks.

Now if we are looking into the future, and I mean the immediate future, automated trucks are on the way. Edwards pointed out several states are already in the process of developing laws and regulations for automated, or semi-automated trucks, that will be traveling on interstates and major highways. Getting these vehicles up to our mountains may be a long way out, but the director pointed out that these automated

## • LETTERS •

### What a town we live in!

Dear Editor,

Today I felt so grateful for life in 'my' Highlands mountain town! There are so many parts of life here that I could name and people I could thank but because I could and did attend these specific events today, I want to express my appreciation for the people that made these events possible.

To the Director of PAC, Mary Adair Trumbly, for bringing the remarkable Saturday Metropolitan Operas & London National Theatre and Sunday Bolshoi Ballet to PAC, to our town – thank you!

To the incredible Highlands Community Christian Chorale & Orchestra Group that sang at the Presbyterian Church under the direction of Dr. Michael Lancaster - spectacular! And to Scott Albee and The Highlands Playhouse, the opportunity to attend movies with popcorn and the works, and all this with year-round performances for those of us who live here year round! Thank you all!

Helen Moore  
Highlands

### No fire should be called 'small'

Dear Editor,

I was dismayed to see the headline in the Highlands Newspaper that a man started two SMALL fires. I'm sorry, during drought conditions and numerous warnings about high fire danger, there is no such thing as "SMALL fires." Any intentional fire in these conditions can result in murder.

Did the young boys who started the fires that burned Gatlinburg and killed people get a headline "Two Young Boys Started SMALL Fires Near Gatlinburg?" Oh, I forgot. They did it because they were bored/mad at their parents?

See article about local "Two SMALL fires"... arsonist was BORED and mad at his wife! Are you kidding? He also committed murder of trees, animals, and endangered the lives of firefighters/others. I personally hope no arsonist nor the Gatlinburg Arsonists get off lightly. Two SMALL Fires, In DEED!

Jan Zehr  
Highlands

### Mind-blowing concert

Dear Editor,

The "Small Dancing Light" Christmas Chorale was AMAZING! POWERFUL! LOVED IT!

Not only a fantastic choir, but an orchestra!

Cynthia Strain  
Highlands

## • WEEKEND WEATHER •



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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.

# • OBITUARY •

## Richard C. (Dick) Rusthoven



Richard C. (Dick) Rusthoven, 76, was called "Home" on December 5, 2016, after a long battle with cancer.

Dick had a successful career in the retail business, which included executive leadership of numerous department stores and discount chains. He and his wife retired to Sarasota, Florida and Highlands, NC.

His love and devotion to his LORD and SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST was his greatest joy! His family and friends surrounded him with love and support throughout his journey. He left a lasting legacy of being thankful for GOD's abundant grace and blessings, finding strength in prayer. He greatly an-

icipated the joy of Eternity.

Dick is survived by his loving wife Lauralyn and the "apples of his eye", his four children: Elizabeth Rusthoven Levine (Mark), Dirk Rusthoven (Halina), Dr. Kyle Rusthoven (Elizabeth), Dr. Chad Rusthoven plus three wonderful grandchildren and an adoring granddog.

In lieu of flowers, a memorial contribution may be made to: Community Bible Church Mission Fund, 3645 Cashiers Road, Highlands, NC 28741.

BryantGrant Funeral Home is serving the Rusthoven family. Online condolences may be made at [bryantgrantfuneralhome.com](http://bryantgrantfuneralhome.com).

## ...MAYOR continued from page 2

vehicles are potentially more reliable and safe than the current human operated vehicles.

The big questions center not so much with the development of new technology, but how humans will interface with it. These new delivery systems have many

advantages, but they are also potentially very disruptive. They will change the way humans work and even challenge our current notions of what constitutes work. Stay tuned, or rather stay connected. A new chapter in human history, the "bot frontier," is just beginning.

## ...WARD continued from page 1

carefully screened followed by Skype interviews of nine candidates. Four final candidates were interviewed here in Highlands.

After two extensive meetings assessing the finalist's qualifications, the entire board decided Josh Ward would be the best fit to lead the town as Town Manager."

Ward is no stranger to town or county politics. Years ago, prior to coming to Highlands as its code enforcement officer he worked in the planning department for Macon County. In Highlands where he worked for 8 1/2 years, he was its Planning & Development Code Enforcement Officer and then became its Planning & Development Director.

He has a B.S. in Environmental Health from Western Carolina University and is Certified Zoning Official - CZO from the UNC - School of Gov't.



**Josh Ward**  
Highlands Town Manager

"He has 15 years of experience in town and county government," said Mayor Taylor. "He recently had a successful tenure as the Town Manager and Finance Director of Bryson City. Before going to Bryson City, he was a very effective planning administrator for the Town of Highlands for a number of years"

Mayor Taylor said Ward is uniquely qualified to work with the Town Board, staff and the community in his new role as Town Manager. He knows Highlands and Macon County and will be instrumental in building strong

cooperative relationships in the community and region.

Though the role of Town Manager is relatively new to Ward, he said his tenure in Highlands was instrumental in preparing him for his Town Manager role in Bryson

•See WARD page 5

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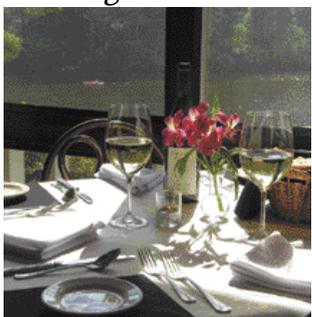
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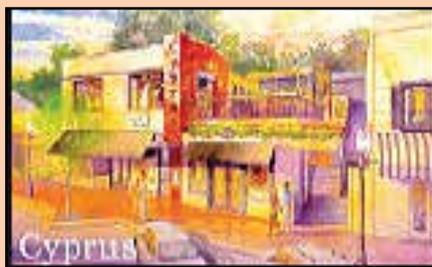
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## ...WARD continued from page 3

City and now, his tenure in Bryson City has been instrumental in preparing him for the Town Manager role in Highlands.

“My experience in Highlands helped me tremendously in Bryson City, due to the high level of service that the Town of Highlands provides and that is expected by its citizens,” said Ward. “And now, my experience as Town Manager in Bryson City has provided me with valuable experience in a number of municipal functions such as, personnel, budgeting and grant implementation. My job in Bryson City was not only Town Manager, but Finance Officer. The Finance Officer is responsible for preparing and implementing the budget for the Town, which I feel will assist me the most in my position as Town Manager in Highlands.”

In addition, with Ward’s planning and development background, the Town Board feels the pressure to find a full-time replacement for Acting Planning Director Randy Feierabend – who left the position the end of October but has returned on a part-time basis – isn’t as crucial.

“What this means is that there is no pressure to rush and fill the planner position,” said Mayor Taylor. “With Randy working part-time and Josh’s background we have that area covered until Josh decides how and when to fill the position.”

Ward said he’s excited to be returning to Highlands as its Town Manager and thankful to the Town Board.

“I am honored to be able to return to Highlands and reconnect with such a great community. I look forward to working again with the top-notch staff that the Town of Highlands has in place and hope to continue to make Highlands a great place to live, work and visit,” he said.

According to the employment contract Ward begins Jan. 1; but he said he will be on the job Jan. 3. His starting salary is \$101,000 with a possible increase after his six-month review to \$103,505. He also gets a \$500 per month automobile allowance in lieu of claiming mileage and the town will pay for all dues, subscriptions and career development opportunities.

“The board and I look forward to working and supporting Ward in operating town government for the benefit of our citizens,” said Mayor Taylor. “He embraces our commitment to making government open and responsive to the people of Highlands.”

– Kim Lewicki

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# • THE INK PENN •

## Christmas at Elizabeth Pointe Lodge

In 2014 for the first time, we left town for Christmas and enjoyed a picture-perfect holiday at Amelia Island. In the past, my husband and I hosted Holiday meals for varying size crowds. The guest list ran the gamut from cousins, aunts, siblings and friends to just my mom and the two of us. After Mom passed away in the Spring that year, we wanted to create a new tradition for just the two of us, one that would make the holiday a little less sad. Our trip fit the bill.

Picture us walking up the front stairs of the Elizabeth Pointe Lodge to a wraparound porch, and sighing, "Ahhh," as the long traffic-filled drive faded from our memories. The lobby was reminiscent of a New England B&B with the added attraction of an expansive ocean view. The Christmas tree in the corner, the inviting sitting area, and the aroma of freshly baked cookies combined to take our breath away.

We had opted for the Christmas package, which meant another treat greeted us when we opened the door to our room. There we found a bottle of champagne chilling alongside a platter of cheese, crackers, and chocolates. We set aside the champagne and snacks for later and drove the short distance to Brett's Waterway Café in Fernandina Beach for a late lunch, where we sat outside in our shirtsleeves and enjoyed the sunshine as we overlooked the marina. After a nap, happy hour in the Lodge, and time in the porch rockers, we were so relaxed that we decided to return to the cheese and champagne in our room and forgo dinner out. It was a lovely start to our Christmas vacation.

Our stay at the Lodge came complete with a daily breakfast buffet, including cooked to order eggs. We enjoyed a leisurely breakfast surrounded by the ocean view and then hit the beach for a walk. That became



Kathy Manos Penn

our morning routine.

The Lodge offered lunch but not dinner, so I relied on the helpful staff to handle our Christmas Eve and Christmas day dinner plans. Our Christmas package came with a gift certificate to David's, so we reserved Christmas night dinner there and a Christmas Eve meal at Joe's 2<sup>nd</sup> Street Bistro. With those plans made, we knew we'd be able to fend for ourselves for the remainder of our meals.

Christmas Day we set out to bicycle through Fort Clinch State Park and the quiet town. Fortified once again with a hearty breakfast, we weren't hungry for a big lunch but did want a snack. Jack & Diane's on Main Street fit the bill with their eclectic menu and a huge selection of craft beers. As the day turned chilly and wet, we ended our afternoon with another nap. Dinner at David's that evening was a festive and delicious wrap-up to our day.

We spent our last full day wandering through the shops that line Main Street in Fernandina Beach, enjoying the historic downtown decked out in Christmas finery. The next morning, we lingered over breakfast wishing we didn't have to leave. Our visit was everything we'd hoped for, and the inclusion of yet another gift certificate in our Christmas package, good toward our next stay at Elizabeth Pointe Lodge, made a return trip seem inevitable. And, you guessed it, that's where we'll be this year.

\*\*\*

*Kathy Manos Penn is a Sandy Springs resident now happily retired from a corporate career in communications. Find her book, "The Ink Penn: Celebrating the Magic in the Everyday," locally at The Molly Grace or on Kathy's website at [www.theinkpenn.com](http://www.theinkpenn.com). Contact her at [inkpenn119@gmail.com](mailto:inkpenn119@gmail.com).*



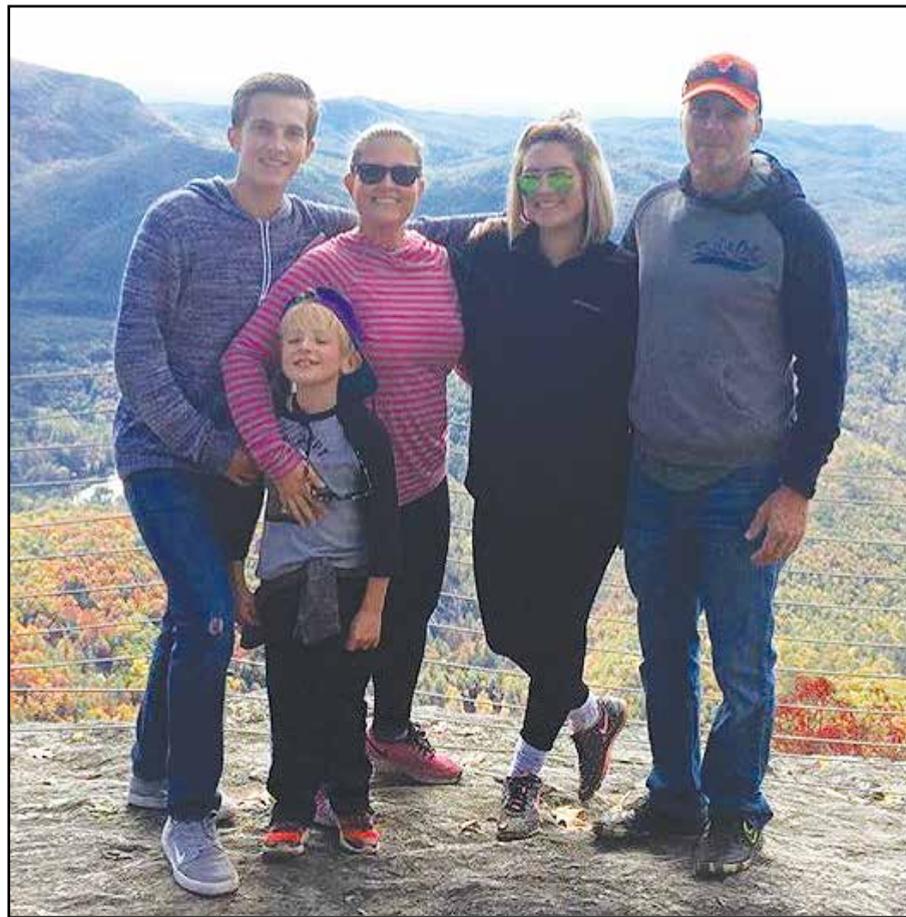
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...VILLAGE continued from page 1



The Smolarsky family. Cali is in the sunglasses.

and helps to shed light on their darkness.

On October 31st, a young Highlander received news of a diagnosis that turned her life upside down. Cali Smolarsky, is 21 and graduated Highlands School in 2013. She is currently working as a member of the banquet team at Old Edwards Inn. She is also less than a year away from obtaining an Associate degree.

The diagnosis is breast cancer, Invasive Ductile Carcinoma stage 3. This is an extremely rare condition for someone her age. Cali has a very long road in her treatment that will result in more biopsies, scans, surgeries, egg harvesting to protect her future fertility, chemo therapy and countless other medical appointments. The financial burden associated with the treatment of this disease is overwhelming, even with insurance paying some of the costs. While all of this does seem daunting, Cali still has a light within her, a determination to battle this disease and win!

Less than a week after the diagnosis was made known to the public, Highlanders were already forming a coalition to help in Cali's fight. It started out with a few teachers at Highlands School and then grew as

partnerships with others touched by Cali's story joined in the fight. Cali's mother, Nikki Smolarsky came up with the slogan, It Takes a Village and then a plan was set to include the whole town in an opportunity to help Cali and her family. When asked how she came up with the slogan, Nikki responded, "We have always said it takes a village to raise a child so it just seemed to fit." After deciding on a slogan, Nikki then worked closely with Cali's best friend, Cara Hedden to design the "It takes a Village" T-shirt.

The "It Takes a Village" team not only wanted to help raise funds for the financial burden associated with this diagnosis but it also aimed to help the Smolarsky family by providing support through prayer, friendship and love. The "village" of Highlands has shown its heart in a great way. It is only fitting that during the Christmas season we are seeing angels emerge. No matter how large or how small your act is in helping Cali, you are an angel. So many angels have stepped forward to lessen the burden. The family is humbled and overwhelmed in a good way at the support that has been given

•See VILLAGE page 13

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| <b>SAT</b>   | <b>IN-HOUSE SMOKED BBQ, COLESLAW, APPLE AND BACON BAKED BEANS, AND YEAST ROLLS</b>                                                                                                                                                                                             | <b>\$21.95</b><br>SERVES 4 |

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**WEEKDAY PIZZA SPECIAL**  
AVAILABLE MONDAY - THURSDAY 4:30 TO CLOSE  
A 16" NEW YORK STYLE PIZZA WITH UP TO 5 TOPPINGS. COMES WITH GARLIC BREAD AND SALAD **\$21.95**



OR  
**BAKED LINGUINI: MEATBALLS, TOMATO SAUCE & CHEESE. COMES WITH GARLIC BREAD AND SALAD \$21.95**

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**BAKED PENNE PASTA: ITALIAN SAUSAGE, ONION, BACON AND MUSHROOMS IN WHITE SAUCE. COMES WITH GARLIC BREAD AND SALAD \$21.95**

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COOKING FOR HIGHLANDS

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Full breakfast made to order every morning until 11:00 am  
Cage-free eggs, waffles, french toast, sausage, ham, homemade biscuits, muffins, croissants. Espresso bar and coffee roasted in-house.

## LUNCH & DINNER

### Grill

Every day from 11:00am - close  
Fresh angus burgers, fresh Natural chicken breasts, fish or chicken tenders, cooked to order, hand-cut fries, salads, homemade soups, daily specials.  
*See our website for more info.*

### Pizza

Every day from 11:00am - close  
Authentic Neapolitan and NY deck oven pizzas made from scratch. Pasta bowls, daily specials and weeknight dinner specials.  
*See our website for more info.*

### Soup & Salad Bar

Mon-Sat 11:00am - close  
Fresh salads, homemade dressings, soups, chili and more.  
\$9.99 each (dine in) or \$9.99 a pound (to go)

### Weekday Lunch Special

Monday - Friday 11am to 2pm  
Pizza, pasta, soup and salad bar  
Continuous fresh pizza from our pizza ovens, pastas, fresh breads from our bakery, plus the entire soup and salad bar... \$9.99 each (dine in) or \$9.99 a pound (to go)

## SUNDAY SOUTHERN BRUNCH BAR

Every Sunday from 11am - 3pm  
Skillet fried chicken, country angus steak, skillet corn, biscuits & preserves, mashed potatoes, veggies, cobbler, plus the entire soup & salad bar.  
\$11.99 (dine in) or \$9.99 a pound (to go)

## PREPARED FOODS

A large selection of take-away items fully prepared, ready to take home including grilled pork loins, homemade mac & cheese, mashed potatoes, herb-rubbed chicken, made-in-house bbq, chicken salad deli salads & much more!

## DINNER TO GO

A different full dinner every night.  
Serves four serving Monday through Saturday from 4:30 until we sell out -  
Call ahead to reserve.

### Monday: choose either:

Four chicken and four cheese enchiladas, refried beans, monterey rice, homemade tortilla chips, salsa, shredded lettuce, tomatoes, sour cream.

Or...

24 buffalo wings or 2 lbs chicken tenders and hand cut fries.  
\$21.95 serves four.

Tuesday: Made in-house Italian sausage lasagna and a large house salad.  
\$21.95 serves four

Wednesday: Chicken or steak pot pie and a large salad.  
\$21.95 serves four

Thursday: Roasted meatloaf with mashed potatoes, gravy and a large salad.  
\$21.95 serves four

Friday: Wild caught fried shrimp, baked potatoes, hush puppies & coleslaw. \$24.95 serves four

Saturday: In-house smoked bbq, coleslaw, apple and bacon-baked beans, and yeast rolls. \$21.95 serves 4

### Weeknight Pizza Special:

Available Monday -Thursday 4:30 to close  
16" NY style pizza with up to 5 toppings.  
Comes with garlic bread & salad \$21.95

or

Baked Linguini: Meatballs, tomato sauce & cheese. Comes with garlic bread and salad \$21.95

or

Baked Penne Pasta: Italian sausage, onion, bacon and mushrooms in white sauce. Comes with garlic bread & salad \$21.95

## WINE MARKET

Browse our *Wine Spectator* award-winning selection of wines w/ the best pricing in town. Run by a friendly & knowledgeable staff. Beer & wine available by the glass while you dine & shop.

## BUTCHER

We sell only 100% Premium Angus Beef, all hand-cut in house, with the best pricing around. See our Butcher ad for this week's prices. Then stop by the take-out case to complete your dinner with twice baked potatoes, salads and more!

## SPECIALTY CHEESES

Dozens of cheeses, tapenades, olives and specialty items to choose from including our made in-house crackers.

## BAKERY

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## ...FUNDING continued from page 1

cant structural damage to the building and posed safety concerns for students. Original estimates on the project predicted the replacement would cost around \$217,000. After the project was bid, and then re-bid to a licensed contractor, the total project price tag was \$248,999.

Macon County Superintendent Dr. Chris Baldwin asked Macon Commissioners Gary Shields and Ronnie Beale, who serve on the joint facilities review committee, to consider providing the school system with an additional \$31,828 to make up the difference in the project.

Dr. Baldwin said that the checks for the roof project have already been written and the project is closed out, but to do so, funds were taken out of the school system's capital outlay budget. The funds in the capital outlay budget had already been strictly designated so without addition funds from the county, the school system may have to re-prioritize the capital outlay needs in the district and eliminate projects.

The roof completion is a monumental improvement for the school system and according to Macon County Schools Auxiliary Service Director Todd Gibbs, has already withstood rain and weather. The roof has a lifetime warranty on materials and a three-year warranty on labor.

In addition to needing additional funds for the Highlands gym roof, the school system also asked commissioners to increase the budgeted amount of the two percent supplement for teachers and teacher assistants.

Earlier this year, the school system asked the county to increase the two percent supplement the county provides to teachers and teacher assistants to \$439,000 from the \$430,621 that had been allocated the last several years.

Macon County Manager Derek Roland kept the school system's supplement amount at \$430,621 because until this year, the school system had not even used the full \$430,621 amount.

The annual supplement is based on the base salary of teacher and teacher assistants. With raises on the state level, the base salary increased and to provide all teacher and teacher assistants with a two percent supplement, the school system would need

\$454,000 this year.

In past years, after providing teachers and teacher assistants with a supplement, the school system had left over dollars that were used to provide principals and assistant principals with a supplement as well.

This year, the school system needs additional funds to make up the difference just to provide teachers and teacher assistants with a supplement. The supplement is provided in December, and according to Dr. Baldwin, the \$23,415.13 was taken out of the district's general fund balance but the school system would like the county to reimburse that cost.

Macon County Commissioner Ronnie Beale noted that county employees only receive a one percent supplement and that asking for additional funds from the county, would be difficult for the county.

Commissioner Beale also asked Dr. Baldwin if he had to choose where he would like to see the funds go, either the supplement or the capital outlay budget and how the school system would best benefit from additional funding. Dr. Baldwin said the funds for capital outlay would be a higher priority.

At the following Board of Commission meeting, Tuesday, Dec. 14, Commissioner Ronnie Beale asked his fellow board members to approve the funds for the capital outlay request for the Highlands gym roof. The board approved the request and voted to allocate dollars for the project out of contingency funds.

Concerning the supplement, commissioners elected to table funding the teacher supplements until next month when the County will do a midyear review of the budget.

However, Commissioner Paul Higdon asked the board to reconsider the two percent supplement all together. He noted that while teacher and teacher assistants are worthy, a different board, more than 10 years ago made the decision to give the supplement and who to give it to and maybe the board should reevaluate it. Commissioner Higdon said that while teacher and teacher assistants are important, they can't teach if the buildings are cold and dirty, so maybe a school district-wide supplement may be a better avenue to pursue.

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

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of London

Saturday  
December 17  
1pm & 7pm



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**DEC 17th**



**Highlands Rec Park**  
Dinner  
4:30-6:30pm  
Auction  
6:30-10:00pm

Please Join Us for a  
*Benefit Dinner and Auction*

**In Honor of Cali Smolarsky**

Saturday, December 17th  
Highlands Rec Park

**Pasta Buffet**  
4:30pm-6:30pm  
Prepared by Old Edwards Inn  
Chefs Chris Huerta and Peter Wood

**\$7/plate**

**Benefit Auction**  
6:30pm-10:00pm

Featuring amazing items donated by local businesses in the Highlands, Cashiers, and Franklin Areas. Items include: Gift certificates to local restaurants, golf packages, room packages in Highlands, Biltmore House Getaway, handmade items, and much much more!

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All proceeds to benefit and support the amazing Smolarsky Family

# • HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

## First Mondays

• Shortoff Baptist Church non-denominational Men's Meeting at 7 pm

## Mondays

• The Food Pantry of Highlands is located behind Highlands United Methodist Church and is open 3:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. Donations may be dropped off in the drop box at the Methodist Church (Monday to Thursday, 8 a.m. – 4 p.m., and Friday, 8 a.m. – 2 p.m.)

• At the Rec Park, High Cardio Zumba Fitness with Certified Instructor Tiffany Austin at 5:25 p.m.

## 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.

## Mon. & Thurs.

• The Joy Program at HUMC from 11:30a to 1:30p. Includes a free lunch and a variety of programs and games. All seniors are welcome. For more information, call Tricia Smith at 828-338-8167.

## Tuesdays

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

• The Humanist Discussion Group meets every Tuesday morning from 10:30-11:30a in the Meeting Room in the back of Hudson Library,

## 2nd and 4th Tuesdays

• OccupyWNC meets at the Jackson County Justice Center. For more information, visit [www.occupywnc.org](http://www.occupywnc.org) or call 828.331.1524

## Third Tuesday

• The Macon County Poultry Club meets in Franklin on the third Tuesday of each month at 7pm. Meetings are open to the

public of all ages. The meetings are held at the NC Cooperative extension office located at 193 Thomas Heights rd. For information call 828-369-3916.

• 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. at First United Methodist Church Out Reach Center on West Main Street beside Bryant's Funnel Home. Call Donita for more info (828) 526-9510.

## 1st Wednesdays

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

## Tuesday and Thursdays

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

• Pickle ball from 11:30a to 1p in the gym at the Rec Park.

## 3rd Wednesdays

• Recently released movies at Hudson Library at 2pm. Call 828-526-3031 for titles.

## Thursdays

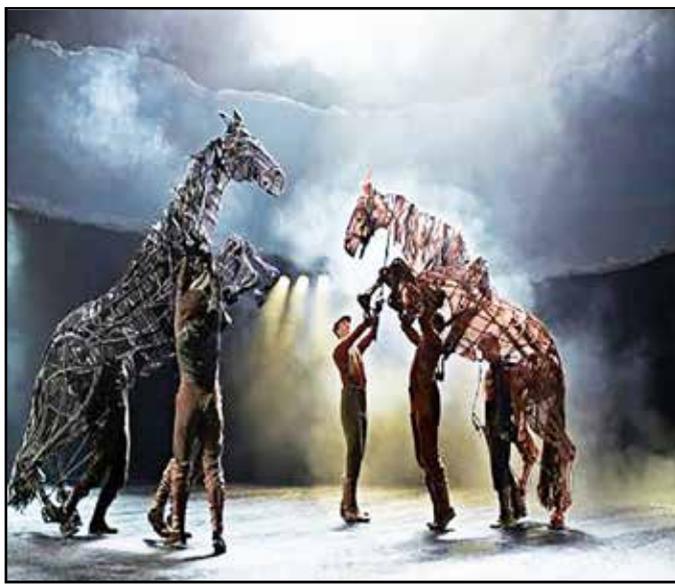
• Storytime with Miss Deanna at Hudson Library 10:40 am. Open to the public.

• Weight Watchers support group meets every Thursday at 5 pm at Christ Church of the Valley. Call Lisa 828-506-3555.

## 2nd Thursdays

• Sapphire Valley Needlepoint Guild meets at the High-

## Live via Satellite the National Theatre of London's 'War Horse'



The Highlands Performing Arts Center will present two screenings of the National Theatre of London's encore performance of War Horse on Saturday, December 17 at 1pm and 7pm. A triumph of theatricality – The Observer. Based on the novel by Michael Morpurgo, War Horse is the powerful story of a young boy called Albert and his beloved horse, Joey, who has been requisitioned to fight for the British in World War I. Caught in enemy crossfire, Joey ends up serving on both sides during the war before landing in No Man's Land, while Albert, not old enough to enlist, embarks on a treacherous mission to find his horse and bring him home. A remarkable tale of courage, loyalty and friendship, War Horse features ground-breaking puppetry work by South Africa's Handspring Puppet Company, which brings breathing and galloping horses to life on stage. Tickets are available online: [highlandspac.org](http://highlandspac.org), at the door or by calling 828.526.9047 Highlands Performing Arts Center, 507 Chestnut Street, Highlands

## HCP Annual Holiday Program is tonight, Dec. 15



Once again the 50-voice Mountain Voices chorus will present songs from their Christmas concert for the Highlands Cashiers Players' annual Holiday Program of music, story, and refreshments. This joyful event happens Thursday evening, December 15, at Highlands Performing Arts Center, 507 Chestnut St. It begins at 7 p.m., is free to all and family-friendly.

"The Loudest Voice," the story to be dramatized by HCP actors, is about Shirley, a young girl chosen to be the narrator of her school's Christmas pageant. Though mother is initially opposed to her participation, she does such a great job that everyone, including Mom, is impressed. Sixth grader Maddie Jolly plays the role of Shirley, Adair Simon narrates, Ken Knight plays the teacher, Michael Lanzilotta, the father, Donna Cochran, the mother, and Sue Feldkamp, the neighbor Mrs. Kornbluh.

The Mountain Voices will be singing Christmas songs, both sacred and popular, conducted by founder of the group Beverly Barnett of Franklin and accompanied by pianist Aretha Brimmer. This performance is especially poignant for Bev and The Voices as it is the last time Aretha will be with them at the piano. She is moving to her former home in Florida. Not only is this lady a superb pianist in her own right but also an amazingly talented accompanist. And on occasion she dons a Swedish costume and accent and puts on a comedy routine reminiscent of Victor Borge at the piano. A lady of many talents, she will be acutely missed as a dear friend as well.

The Players and co-sponsor, the Highlands Performing Arts Center, urge you to come on out on Thursday evening, December 15, heedless of the wind and weather, to enjoy this celebration of the season.

# • HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS •

lands Rec Park at 10 a.m.

## 3rd Thursdays

• Kidney Smart Classes in Franklin: from 4:30-6pm, Angel Medical Center, Video Conference Room, 3rd Floor, 120 Riverview St. Contact Majestic 828-369-9474

• Kidney Smart Classes in Sylva: from, 7:30am-9am, DaVita Sylva Dialysis Center, 655 Asheville Highway, Contact Sue 828-631-0430

## Friday-Tuesday

• Movies at Highlands Playhouse, 2, 5, 8 p.m. SUNDAYS, 2 & 5 ONLY.

## Fridays

• Open Duplicate Bridge at 1 p.m. Be seated by 12:45 a.m.

## Third Fridays

• The Senior Dinners are held the third Friday of each month at 12 noon through April.

## Saturdays

• At MountainTop Wine Shoppe on Main Street, free wine tastings from 1-3 p.m.

• At The Bascom, Pottery Sale in the barn from 10a to 5p.

• Highlands Marketplace at K-H Park 8a to noon.

• The Bascom Knitters at The Bascom from 10 am until noon downstairs in The Bascom Library.

## Thurs., Dec. 15

• The H-C Players welcome in the Christmas season with its annual Holiday program of music and drama at 7 p.m. in the Performing Arts Center. Refreshments will follow downstairs.

## Sat., Dec. 16

• Join the Highlands Plateau Audubon Society for this important annual activity. The morning begins at the Kelsey-Hutchinson Founders Park in Highlands at 7:30 a.m. Binoculars and expert guidance will be provided. A chili lunch will be provided from 12 noon to 3 pm in the rear meeting room of the Hudson Library in Highlands. Email Brock Hutchins at [brockhutchins@bellsouth.net](mailto:brockhutchins@bellsouth.net) for more information.

• The High Mountain

Squares will host their "Christmas Dance" Friday night at the Macon County Community Building, GA Road (441 South), Franklin NC from 6:15 to 8:45 PM. Ace McGee from Anderson, SC will be the caller. We dance Western Style Square Dancing, main/stream and plus levels. You are in luck, new dancer lessons will begin March 6th 2017, come join us. Everyone is welcome. Visit us on Facebook: High Mountain squares. For information call 828-342-1560, 828-332-0001, 706-746-5426 or [www.highmountainsquares.com](http://www.highmountainsquares.com)

## Sat., Dec. 17

• The Highlands Plateau Gre-

enway will conduct a work day from 9a – noon this Saturday. If you're interested in participating, please email Ran Shaffner at [highlandsgreenway@nctv.com](mailto:highlandsgreenway@nctv.com) or leave a message at 828-482-1451. We'll meet at the large upper parking lot (near the pool entrance) in the Recreation Park at 9a for a brief orientation session, and you'll be furnished with the necessary tools and safety equipment.

• A benefit for the Smolarsky Family at the Highlands Rec Park. Pasta Buffet 4:30-6:30 p.m., Benefit Auction 6:30-10 p.m. Raffle prices. For more informations, call 828-347-0345

## Santa is waiting for you!



Santa is ready to hear wishes in his hut in K-H Founders Park. He will be there on Sat. Dec. 17 from 10a to 3p. It's \$5 per shot.

## Skate through the holidays at the town's ice rink at K-H Park



The Ice Rink at the K-H Founders Park is open Thurs.-Monday. Thurs.: 1-8 p.m., Fri. & Sat. 1-10 p.m., Sun., 1-5 p.m., Monday is Ice Hockey ONLY from 5-8 p.m. The cost is \$5 but includes skates if you don't have them.. Hot chocolate is also available.

## Public invited to participate in Audubon's Annual Christmas Bird Count

December is a count month for Audubon. On Friday, December 16, members and guests of the Highlands Plateau Audubon



Society will conduct its Christmas Bird Count (CBC) which entails counting all the local birds they can find. This highly social event is both enjoyable and relevant to Audubon's mission of environmental and wildlife conservation. Everyone is invited to participate, member or not. You do not have to be an experienced birder to join in. We will gather, rain or shine, at the Kelsey-Hutchinson Founders Park in Highlands at 7:30 a.m. We travel by car to the bird count areas and no hiking is required.

Every winter since 1900 the National Audubon Society has sponsored the Christmas Bird Count. Today, CBCs take place across the U.S., Canada, Latin America, and beyond. The CBC mobilizes over 2400 counting groups including over 60,000 individuals whose counts total upwards of 70 million birds. These yearly bird counts become part of what is one of the largest citizen science databases in the world.

The cumulative bird counts are being used to specify winter bird distributions and the "climate space" in which many of our bird species exist. National Audubon has released "The Audubon Report" focusing on 588 North American bird species and the likely impact of rising temperatures. A shocking 126 North American bird species are projected to lose 50% of their existing

ranges to climate change by 2050; another 188 birds could lose half their current range by 2080. Like the canary in the mine, bird

data from the CBC are being used to foretell our collective future. This individual citizen science initiative is central to this larger ongoing effort.

Last year, a group of 22 counters fanned out in all directions and saw or heard 1139 birds. The species count was 38. These totals were consistent with CBCs in years past given the larger number of observers this year. Some species were present in abundance: 384 Dark-eyed Junco were sighted. Other multiple sightings were made of the American Robin (129), American Crow (112) and Carolina Chickadee (68). Seventy-five Wild Turkey, the bird Benjamin Franklin praised, were seen. Other notable sightings include the American Goldfinch (51), Mallard (46), Northern Cardinal (38), Tufted Titmouse (29) and Song Sparrow (28).

Join the Highlands Plateau Audubon Society for this important annual activity. The morning begins at the Kelsey-Hutchinson Founders Park in Highlands at 7:30 a.m. on December the 16th. Binoculars and expert guidance will be provided. A chili lunch will be provided from 12 noon to 3 pm in the rear meeting room of the Hudson Library in Highlands. Email Brock Hutchins at [brockhutchins@bellsouth.net](mailto:brockhutchins@bellsouth.net) for more information or to join the effort.

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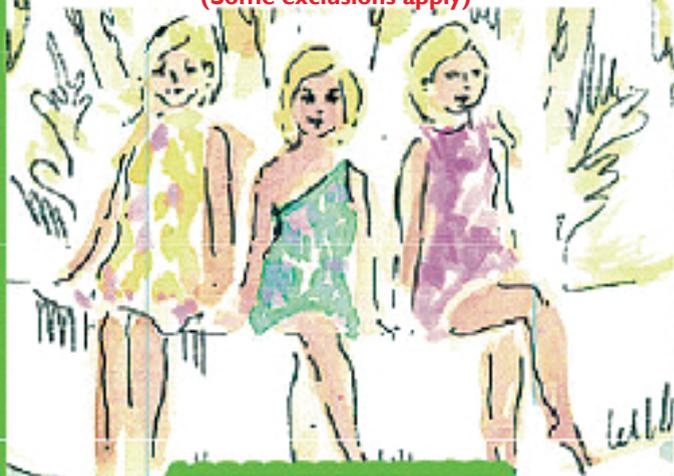
### All Men's Clothing 50%-80% OFF

Through  
Dec. 31, 2016

466 Main Street  
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## Customer Appreciation Sale!

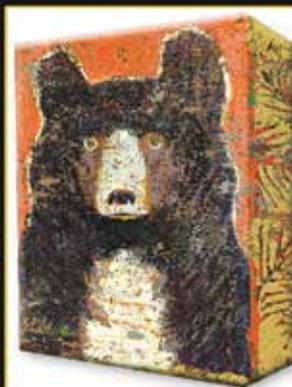
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# Shop Holiday Savings

...VILLAGE continued from page 7



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Old Edwards Inn & Spa



to them in a variety of ways by a multitude of heavenly hosts.

In an effort to raise money to help the Smolarsky family with the overwhelming medical costs, travel expenses, and income loss that is associated with this illness, a community based benefit has been scheduled for December 17, 2016 from 4:30 -10 pm at the Highlands Civic Center. A pasta buffet prepared by Old Edwards Inn Chefs Peter Wood and Chris Huerta will be available 4:30-6:30pm at \$7 a plate. The buffet will include your choice of pasta, salad, bread, dessert and a drink.

During the meal a cake walk will also be taking place on the stage in the Rec Park gym. Raffle tickets, "It Takes a Village" t-shirts, bracelets, decals, cane planes, silent auction on cakes and face painting will be available beginning at 4:30 pm. Items that will be raffled are a 1991 Suzuki Samauri-donated by Cali's father Mark Smolarsky, a Nascar style go-cart donated by Henry and Marie Bowie, a Ruger Mark III .22 pistol donated by Reeves Hardware, a 43 inch TV donated by Custom Sound and Security and a \$100 Exxon gas card donated by Farmer's Market.

At 6:30 p.m a live auction will

begin on amazing items donated by local businesses in the Highlands, Cashiers and Franklin areas. Items that will be auctioned include golf packages, local restaurant gift certificates, room packages, handmade quilt and artwork, Biltmore House Get-away, Orion Grill, Husqvarna chain saw and many more great items. All raffle prize winners except the Suzuki will be drawn at 9:30 pm. The Suzuki Samurai raffle winner will be drawn Feb. 3rd at the half-time of the Highlands School Varsity boys' basketball game.

A fund has also been created at First Citizen's Bank so cash/check donations can also be made to directly support the family. Make them out to It Takes a Village/Cali Smolarsky. You may mail your contributions to P.O. Box 45 Highlands, NC 28741.

You may follow Cali's story on the It Takes a Village facebook page. The village is growing daily as Cali's story is touching the hearts of many across the country and also promoting awareness that breast cancer can impact anyone at any age.

**Happy  
Holidays!**

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## ...GARBAGE continued from page 1

be researched and several options would be reviewed to come to a resolution going forward.

Following an audit of the Sanitation Fund – including a look at services and fees – was done it was determined that commercial customers were not being charged the correct amounts for the service they were receiving. The results of the audit were presented to the Board at the October board meeting; but still the board wanted to continue to work on options.

At the Dec. 8 Town Board meeting the issue was finally resolved.

Nix and Town Finance Director Rebecca Shuler met with the Public Works Committee and Mayor Pro Tempore Amy Patterson on two occasions to work on the issue.

After rewriting the fee schedule and incorporating definitions for the size of pickups, a user friendly rate schedule would be adopted.

"This represents a better defined fee schedule," said Acting Town Manager Nix. "It better defines customers who fall in various categories. We audited customers and in several cases we were not charging correctly according to our own existing fee schedule."

Nix said the town would send out notices alerting customers to the change and suggested the first billing cycle with the fees correctly applied go out at the end of January.

Commissioner Donnie Calloway suggested tabling the matter until the new Town Manager was on board so he could look it all over and decide; but Commissioner Eric Pierson and Acting Town Manager as well as the rest of the board said it's just a matter of using the fee schedule in existence by applying it correctly.

Commissioner Pierson, who has been working with staff on the issue, said this doesn't represent a change in the fee schedule; instead it represents a needed change in

its correct application.

"We basically cleaned up what we have. The figures were way out of whack from what we should have been charging for the services we were supplying," he said.

It's all about realigning current billing to reflect the current level of service,

"The rates that will now be applied haven't changed one penny," said Nix. "The only charge that has increased is for the toters; the 6-yard and 8-yard dumpster charge."

Charges for those in the small, medium and large categories will now be billed as follows:

#### Definitions

**Small** ~ 1 to 2 cans or 1 to 2 toters or shared 6yd dumpster with professional or retail business and less than 3 pickups per week for dumpster. Typically non-food related.

**Medium** ~ 3 or more cans or 3 or more toters with 3 or more pickups per week. A dumpster not shared with other businesses typically involves food (retail or restaurant), lodging and convenience stores.

**Large** ~ 1 or more dumpsters not shared. 3 or more toters with pick up 5 or more times per week or greater than 6 pickups per week on any number of cans. Typically involves food retail, restaurants and high volume retail.

Small 1 to 2 pickups \$ 57.25; 3 to 5 pickups \$ 117.25; 6 to 7 pickups \$ 157.25

Medium 1 to 2 pickups \$ 74.50; 3 to 5 pickups \$ 134.50; 6 to 7 pickups \$ 174.50

Large 1 to 2 pickups \$ 109; 3 to 5 pickups \$ 169; 6 to 7 pickups \$ 209.

Though there will likely be some sticker shock at the next billing cycle, in Highlands defense, other service providers only provide service Monday through Friday and the town's commercial rates, in regard to dumpster rentals, are significantly less than other providers.

– Kim Lewicki

H.A.N.D.S.  
and Lakeside Restaurant  
Presents

Highlands Annual

# Christmas Dinner

Highlands Country Club  
11:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.  
Christmas Day, December 25

Charity fundraiser to benefit local nonprofits.

Mouth-watering, traditional Christmas buffet featuring turkey, ham, tenderloin, all the fixin's and magnificent desserts prepared by Highlands finest volunteer staff.

Adults \$45  
Children under 12 \$15  
Kids 5 and under eat free.

Seating by reservation only.  
To reserve, call 828-526-9419



## • TOWN BOARD TIDBITS •

Besides unanimously voting to hire Josh Ward as Town Manager the other Closed Session business at the Thurs., Dec. 8 Town Board meeting involved the Shearl vs. Town of Highlands case.

After battling in court for years, the town learned a few months ago, that the Judge Letts had ruled in John Shearl's favor but the town was waiting for the final word from the judge. So, Thursday night, the board finalized a court settlement agreement in the Shearl case.

"I have signed the agreement which is now in the hands of our attorney," said Mayor Pat Taylor. "The vote was unanimous."

Attorney Coward is meeting with the judge this week and once the judge signs the agreement it will be an official court ruling in the case.

"We will then be happy to give a copy of the agreement to the press, or a copy can be obtained at the Macon County Clerk of Superior Courts office. I will be available to make a statement and answer questions after the judge issues his official ruling," said Mayor Taylor.

## HS Booster Club comes through for 5th Quarter Event for student athletes



A HUGE thank you to the Booster Club for organizing the 5th Quarter Event with Highlands School guests from Dalton, GA last Friday evening. All the athletes played hard and then enjoyed over 200 slices of pizza! Bellies were filled and so were hearts.



Raffle Tickets benefiting HEC Fuel Fund

\$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00

Pick up your tickets at

The Highlands Rec Center,

The Highlands Emergency Council,

Wilson Gas, or

First Presbyterian Church

Raffle will take place at the Easter Senior Dinner in April  
at the Highlands Recreation Center

Raffle Benefiting The Highlands Emergency Council

Vintage hand appliqued quilts given by the Cason Calloway  
family of Highlands and Atlanta.

# HOLIDAY DINNER À LA CARTE

at **MOUNTAIN FRESH GROCERY**

ROASTED TURKEY, 12-14lb	\$49.00
HONEY SPICED HAM	\$49.00
PRIME RIB, COOKED MEDIUM RARE	\$19.95 /LB
<i>(5 POUND MINIMUM)</i>	

### AVAILABLE FROM THE TAKE-OUT SECTION:

CRAB CAKES WITH WHOLE GRAIN MUSTARD SAUCE	\$5.99/each
MASHED POTATOES	\$4.95/LB
STOLLEN BREAD	\$19.95/each
BRAISED ASPARAGUS	\$12/LB
POTATO YEAST ROLLS	\$4.95 for 6
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BEER BRAISED COLLARDS	\$14/quart
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SUNDAY 8AM TO 6PM

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# • BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NEWS •

## Macon County's best kept secret

By Kurt Volkerks

It's perhaps Macon County's best kept secret. You've certainly seen the signs signaling the Smoky Mountain Visitor Cen-

ter and Rest Area along the Georgia Road just south of downtown Franklin.

But when's the last time you actually stopped there and went

inside? Unless you're a tourist, probably rarely or never. You have a surprise waiting for you.

Smoky Mountain Host of North Carolina opened its doors to the public in October 1987. "Our function is to promote travel and tourism in Cherokee, Clay, Graham, Haywood, Jackson, Macon, and Swain Counties, along with the Cherokee Indian Reservation," says an enthusiastic Martha Messer, Manager of Visitor Services and Administrative Support.

Located at 4437 Georgia Road, the Center offers a variety of informative brochures, books, DVDs, CDs, crafts from local artisans, and a host of other gift items from their extensive gift shop collection.

"Whether you're interested in fishing some of the most pristine waters in the East, exploring our many waterfalls, or hiking to the

top of one of our lush mountains with your family, we'll help you get there," adds Messer.

When you enter the facility, your senses are heightened by the aromas of locally roasted Tribal Grounds coffee that can be purchased by the cup or bag. Add to that the tantalizing scents of pottery candles crafted by a local Cherokee Indian known as "Walking Bear" and you'll want to linger awhile.

"Our gift shop also carries jewelry crafted by local artisans, books, puzzles, wine bottle lamps, and a variety of T-shirts and jackets," Messer says, "and on weekends during the year, we have live entertainment from local musicians, just another example of that down home feeling you experience when you visit."

Each year Smoky Mountain Host publishes their annual Travel Guide in which visitors can chart their personal adventure in any of North Carolina's seven southwestern counties. "We average nearly 80,000 visitors at our center each year and are very pleased with the feedback we've received from our patrons regarding the quality, cost, and variety of items we carry in our gift shop," Messer remarks.

Information on the Visitor Center is also available on various social media including Facebook.com/SmokyMountainHost, Twitter@VisitSmokies, Pinterest.com/VisitSmokies, and YouTube.com/user/SmokyMountainHost.

So whether you're a tourist, a local, or just curious, do yourself a favor and stop by Smoky Mountain Host for a visit with Messer and her staff. Who knows, you may just find that something special for yourself, a friend, or a loved one at Macon County's best kept secret.



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526-5029 or 526-1029

## Highlands School students grades K-8 ring in the holidays with song



Mrs. Dooley's kindergarten class gets ready to perform in the Christmas concert.

Grades K-8 performed before a packed house at the annual Christmas Concert at the school on Thursday, Dec. 8.

Kindergarten-2nd grades performed: "Christmas Bells are Ringing," "Snowflake, Snowflake" and "Let's Build a Gingerbread House."

Grades 3-5 sang "Christmastime is Here" from Charlie Brown's Christmas, "Winter Holiday," a partner song with Jingle Bells and "No School Tomorrow if it Snows."

Middle School students sang "Ding Dong Merrily on High," a 16th century French Carol, "Beautiful December," a contemporary piece and "Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree," the '50's classic.

Students began rehearsing with Highlands School Music Teacher Marcia Franklin around Halloween. Students in K-5 had practice 1-2 times a week and students 6-8 practiced every other school day.

### FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF HIGHLANDS

*Cordially invites you to a Christmas Season filled with  
Meditation, Music, and Candlelight.*



**LESSONS & CAROLS**  
**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2016**

**AT 11:00 A.M.**

*with guest musicians*

*Linda Lancaster, flutist, Emily Scheider, oboist  
and Valerie Whitcup, harpist.*

**CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON**

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18 2016.**

*Immediately following  
the 11:00 a.m. service*

**HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS**

**CHILDREN'S CHOIR CONCERT**

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18 2016 AT 3:30 P.M.**

*Conducted by Les Scott*

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2016**

**CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT &**

**COMMUNION SERVICE**

4:30 p.m. Harp Prelude

Valerie Whitcup, harpist

Candlelight & Communion Service

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

*Homily by Rev. Dr. Curtis Fussell*

471 Main Street, PO Box 548, Highlands, NC 28741

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

e-mail: fpch@frontier.com

Visit us on the web at [www.fpchighlands.org](http://www.fpchighlands.org)

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has come!*

A CANDLELIGHT SERVICE  
CHRISTMAS EVE @ 5 PM

*There will be no Christmas Day services.*

**cbc**  
Community Bible Church

3645 Cashiers Road • Highlands, NC 28741  
828-526-4685 ph • [www.CBChighlands.com](http://www.CBChighlands.com)

Join us as we celebrate the  
birth of our Savior at

## Highlands United Methodist Church

### Christmas Eve Worship Services

**5:00 pm:** Communion/Family-Friendly  
Candlelight Service

**7-8 pm:** Drop-in Communion

**11:00 pm:** Candlelight Service

**Pastor Randy Lucas**  
**Assistant Pastor Jennifer Forrester**

315 Main Street / (828) 526-3376  
highlandsumc@icloud.com

236858

## Seeing Christmas Inside & Out

By Deni Shepard

It's amazing to think that out of all world celebrations, Christmas is known and celebrated worldwide. Every nation on earth takes time out to reflect upon this one day known as Christmas. Even in times of war the fighting can stop for just this single day. This one day, faith seems realized but not totally understood.

We all seem to share and take part in this celebration to some degree whether you believe or disbelieve, or are somewhere in the middle of being unsure, and have questions of uncertainty.

This Christmas celebration is mainly the joy and excitement of being with friends and family and the exchange of toys, gifts and time spent with the ones we love and care for. The excitement of preparation in decorating, baking, buying, all adds momentum to the Christmas season. All the externalizing of this holiday can get a bit overwhelming but it all seems worth all the time, effort

and energy that's put into it. It's the biggest celebration our world shares together as one.

Within the internal quietness of our hearts, Christmas can take a different perspective. We seem to view more closely our relationships of the past and present in hopes that somehow our future relationships grow more complete and meaningful as we grow older. More importantly than this, whether realized or not, there's a tugging, so to speak, within the human soul for the spiritual side that's within each of us. This tug of heart, if it doesn't fade from neglect, has a place which is made by and only for God. As Augustine has stated, "Thou hast formed us for Thyself, and our hearts are restless till they find rest in Thee." Just like Ebenezer Scrooge, Christmas seems to excite the external physical side, but it's true place is felt internally. Christmas seems to draw us into questioning of what it is that makes us grateful in life, what it is inside our hearts that seems incomplete and elusive and in search

of something that seems hard to find. That thing that can only be found within our relationship to the One who relates with each of us in being born, and shared life with us, knows our pain, laughter, disappointment, and the good and bad of life. He did this to the point of suffering death on our behalf, so we can relate with Him, and Him with us.

This is why all the earth sings as one, "Joy to the World a Savior is born." This is the one true gift that came for us, but as in the Christmas story, there was no room in the Inn for Him to be born.

This Christmas may we all make room for Him to begin a new life within each of us. This is the free gift only He can give and it only takes a willing heart to receive it.

Merry Christmas!

## Highlands Rotary learns about wine

Andrea Schmitt, owner of Meritage Restaurant introduced David Cohen, a second generation wine maker who spoke on "Bordeaux Blends around the World."

A Bordeaux Blend red wine is any combination of those grape varieties typically used to make the red wines of Bordeaux. It's equivalent in the United States is Meritage (merit-heritage) a red and white Bordeaux-style wine without infringing on the Bordeaux (France) region's legally protected designation of origin. These blends are known for their powerful structure and deep flavors. With "red-blends" each winery has the opportunity to be creative and experiment with unique tastes.

Grapevine Wine vintners often buy up all of the grapes in certain villages around the world for blending the Bordeauxs, thus helping the economy of the local people. A sampling of the red wines was enjoyed by members of Rotary Club of Highlands after their weekly meeting.

## Advent & Christmas Activities

### AT INCARNATION

**Sunday, December 18 Advent 4**

9:00am Sunday School

10:30am Holy Eucharist Rite I in the Church  
Greening of the Church after the 10:30 service

**Saturday, December 24 Christmas Eve**

5:30pm Family Liturgy Holy Eucharist Rite II in the Church

10:30pm Holy Eucharist Christmas music and carols

11:00pm Holy Eucharist in the Chapel

**Sunday, December 25 Christmas Day**

10:00am Holy Eucharist Rite II in the Chapel

8:00am services will resume in the Spring

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# • SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

## Black Babies Lives Matter

By Pastor Steve Kerhoulas  
Christ Church of the Valley

### Cashiers

My wife and I had the great pleasure of flying to Boston recently to be a part of one of our sons' ordination. We had a couple of hours before the service began so we headed off for a time of window-shopping. I'm glad it's free because everything on Beacon Street costs a lot.

As we were making our way up and down we passed two churches. It was good to see people piling out after the morning service had ended. Nothing thrills a preacher more than seeing a bunch of churchgoers.

What drew my attention was the advertising for "Black Lives Matter." In fact, on one of them was a large flag with the same words, "Black Lives Matter."

After we returned home I thought about those two churches and the signs. Yes, black lives do matter. When I was in college I read something about the need for food in one of the states so I raised money for the NAACP's feed the hungry program.

In seminary I worked in the inner city of Newark, NJ. I served as a house parent, worked in a prison for boys. I saw first hand the deplorable conditions of education, and the dilapidated homes. The inner city is a terrible place in which to live. It was heart wrenching. So I know that black lives matter. They do, and should matter to all of us.

But what ran through my mind was this, "Why don't black babies' lives matter much?" Why doesn't it matter that 500% more black babies are torn apart, or poisoned in the womb than whites? Why doesn't it matter that 80% of abortions performed by Planned Parenthood, are black? If we think black lives matter why isn't Margaret Sanger vilified? Why aren't more of us upset?

When Sanger started Planned Parenthood she wrote to a friend, "We don't want word to go out that we want to exterminate the Negro population and the minister (preacher) is the man who can straighten out that idea if it ever occurs." The minister?

And so I wondered to myself, "How many ministers in Boston give a d\*\*n about the lives of Black babies?" I hope they all do! I asked myself, "Why don't black babies lives matter to Jessie, or Al?"

Hey, why care about any black life when the most defenseless is carved up and their body parts sold by Planned Parenthood? Why don't more people care about black babies? Because, when you think about it, "all lives matter!"

It's crazy what some of us think about after witnessing their son's ordination and walking around Beacon Street.

## 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/Communion

### CHRIST ANGLICAN CHURCH

Rector: Jim Murphy, 252-671-4011

464 US Hwy 64 east, Cashiers

Sun.: 9:30a Sunday School; 10:30a Worship 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: 7 p.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 U.

### EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE INCARNATION

The Rev. Dr. Maurice L. Goldsmith, Interim Rector

526-2968

Sundays: Education and choir rehearsal, 9 am,

Holy Eucharist Rite II, (sanctuary), 10:30, nursery available

Thursdays: Holy Eucharist Rite II.

### 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)

Sunday School: 10 am, Worship Service: 11 am

### GRACE COMMUNITY CHURCH OF CASHIERS

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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 Randy Lucas 526-3376

Sun: School 9:45a.; Worship 9:09, 10:50.; Youth 5:30 p.

Wed: Supper: 5:15; youth & adults activities: 6; Handbell

rehearsal, 6:15; Choir Rehearsal 7. (nursery provided ); 7pm

Intercessory Prayer Ministry

### HOLY FAMILY LUTHERAN CHURCH: ELCA

Chaplain Margaret Howell • 2152 Dillard Road • 526-9741

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

at St. Cyprian's Episcopal Church, Franklin

828-524-9463

### MOUNTAIN BIBLE CHURCH

743-2583 • Independent Bible Church

Sun: 10:30 a.m. at Big Ridge Baptist Church,

4224 Big Ridge Road (4.5 miles from NC 107)

Weds: Bible Study 6:30 p.m.; Youth Group 6 p.m.

### OUR LADY OF THE MOUNTAINS CATHOLIC

#### CHURCH

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 Jerry David Hall • 526-3212

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

### SHORTOFF BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Rev. Andy Cloer

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

Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study: 6 p.m.

### THE CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

1448 Highway 107 South, Office: 743-2359

Rev. Rob Wood

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 6-Oct 25- Informal Evening Eucharist: 5:30 p.m.

Thursday: Noon Healing Service with Eucharist.

### LITTLE CHURCH IN THE WILDWOOD

Beginning Memorial Day weekend

Horse Cove - Kay Ward 743-5009

Old-Fashion hymn-sing Sunday 7-8p.

### UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP

85 Sierra Drive • 828-524-6777

Sunday Worship - 11 a.m.

### WHITESIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Rev. Sam Forrester/Cashiers

Sunday School: 10 am, Worship Service: 11 am

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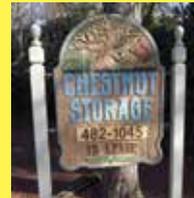
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# • POLICE & FIRE REPORTS •

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

## Dec. 3

• At 6:44 a.m., officers were called to a motel on Main Street where a man, aged 77, had died in his sleep.

## Dec. 6

• At 2:30 p.m., officers were called about a simple physical assault where a woman made a verbal threat to the owner of Bake My Day in Wright Square.

## Dec. 7

• At 11:10 a.m., officers reported to a breaking and entering with larceny from a residence on Oak Lane where numerous household items, including Christmas decorations and tools, and decorative items valued at around \$4,000 were taken.

## The Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. log from Dec. 5.

### Dec. 5

• The dept. responded to a medical alarm at a residence on Talley Lane. The dept. was first-responders.

### Dec. 7

• The dept. responded to a call of smoke in the vicinity of Bowery Road.

• The dept. stood by at the hospital for the MAMA helicopter.

• The dept. responded to a call of smoke on Lower Brushy Face.

• The dept. was first-responders to a medical alarm at a residence on Zachary Road.

## Dec. 8

• The dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Sunset Trace.

## Dec. 9

• The dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Horse Cove Road.

• The dept. responded to a residence on Hospital Drive.

• The dept. stoodby at Zachary Field for the MAMA helicopter.

## Dec. 10

• Twice on the same day the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Happoldt Drive.

• The dept. was first-responders to a residence on Hemlock Farms.

• The dept. was first-responders to a residence on Sky Lake Drive.

• The dept. stoodby at Zachary Field for the MAMA helicopter.

## Dec. 11

• The dept. was first-responders to a residence on Panther Mountain.

• The dept. was first-responders to a residence on Harris Drive.

• The dept. responded to a fire alarm on Church Street.

## Notes:

• Highlands Burning Ban has been rescinded.  
 • The Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. would like to remind residents to use caution when cleaning out fireplaces. Ashes should be placed in metal buckets, watered down and placed away from any structures.



## In Highlands even the birds get Christmas gifts!

This Christmas tree for the birds created by the Incarnation Garden Committee and its ladder helpers.

– Photo by Helen Moore

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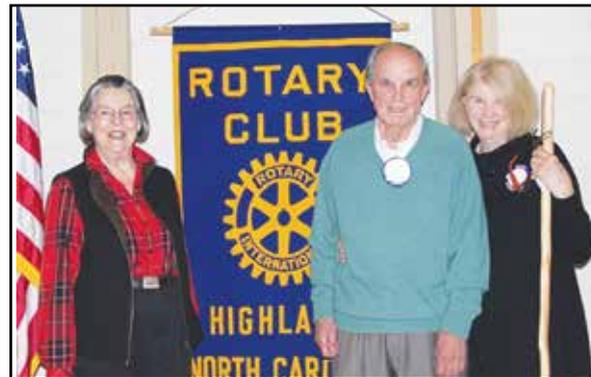


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## • BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NEWS •

### Rotary welcomes descendents of Lawrence Wood Robert Jr.



From left: Birney Robert, daughter of Lawrence Wood (Chip) Robert, Jr., Lawrence Wood (Chip) Robert IV, and Susan Robert (Mrs. L.W. Robert, IV)

The sweeping accomplishments of Lawrence Wood (Chip) Robert Jr. who was known by such titles as “Roosevelt’s right hand man,” “the power broker of Washington,” “Mr. Georgia Tech” and “the South’s Greatest Industrialist” were highlighted in Susan Robert’s presentation at the Rotary Club of Highlands on November 29.

Chip Robert was born in 1887 in Monticello, GA. He often called himself “just a simple southern country boy,” but there was nothing simple about him. He entered Georgia Tech at 16 and earned the highest grade point average of any student. He received 15 athletic letters and captained the football, track, and baseball teams.

After graduating with degrees in civil engineering and experimental engineering he went on to found Robert and Company, architects and engineers in 1917. From then until his death in 1976, Georgia Tech remained a constant in his life. His generous involvements in his alma mater are too numerous to list, but his name and that of Georgia Tech were inseparable.

# • CLASSIFIEDS •

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**PIANIST WANTED FOR SUNDAY SERVICES AT HOLY FAMILY LUTHERAN CHURCH, HIGHLANDS.** One service per week, easy liturgy and 3 hymns, piano only. No choir, so no extra rehearsals. (keyboard available). \$85 per week. Please contact Pastor Margaret Howell at 704-516-7893. Students welcome! (st. 12/1)

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**CHURCH OF THE INCARNATION IN HIGHLANDS** is looking for a Nursery Attendant for the 10:30AM Sunday Service three Sundays a month for approximately 2.5 hours. Experience working with children 0-5years old is required. Please contact the church office by phone 828-526-2968 or email at incarnation@incarnationwnc.org (st. 8/25)

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF HIGHLANDS, NC,** is seeking a part-time director of music, salary DOE. Musical training and experience required. Resumes, including references, may be sent to FBC Highlands, POB 625, Highlands, NC 28741 or emailed to info@fbchighlands.org. 828-526-4153 (st. 8/4)

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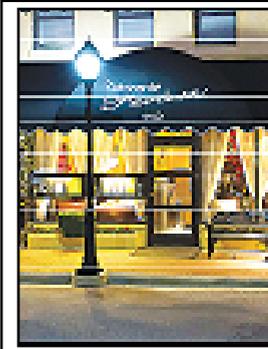
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