

Highlands Newspaper

FREE Every Thursday

Volume 14, Number 49 Real-Time News, Weather & WebCams: HighlandsInfo.com Thurs., Dec. 7, 2017

EMS accepting donations for county's Veterans, homeless and poor

First distribution set for week's end in preparation for inclement weather forecast

This season of giving, a local paramedic is working to collect donations for people in need in

Highlands, Nantahala, and Franklin.

Last winter Blanton's eyes

were opened while volunteering with her church during its Big

•See DONATIONS page 13

County's opioid epidemic discussed at joint meeting

Highlands Mayor Patrick Taylor and Highlands Town Commissioners got a crash course in Macon County's opioid epidemic last week during a joint meeting with the Macon County Board of Commissioners and Franklin Town Council.

The "meeting in a box" is a series of meetings happening all over the state as part of an initiative launched by the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners. Led by employees with the Macon County Department of Public Health, Highlands leaders were briefed on how opioids are impacting Macon County and North Carolina as a whole.

• See OPIOID page 10

King & Queen for the night!



Homecoming Queen and King of Highlands School, seniors Maddie Lloyd and Chandler Stoltzfus. See more photos on page 11.

- Photo by Sayla Roman

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BCBS NC and Mission Health reach agreement

Mission Health is back in BCBS NC's network

DURHAM, N.C. – Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina (Blue Cross NC) and Mission Health have entered into an agreement for Mission Health provider participation in Blue Cross NC networks effective December 15, 2017.

Both parties are pleased to reach agreement on the mutual goal of ensuring that the people of Western North Carolina receive the affordable, quality health care that they need.

"We are firmly committed to ensuring that our customers have access to high-quality, more affordable health care," said Patrick Conway, M.D., President and CEO of Blue Cross NC. "We are glad that Mission Health has partnered with us to achieve this goal."

This new contract, which has been under negotiation since Mission Health's contract termination on October 5th, means that Blue Cross NC customers can resume receiving care at Mission Health facilities and with Mission Health

providers on an in-network basis as of Dec. 15.

Services and provider visits until then will generally be considered out-of-network.

Until Mission Health is officially back in-network on Dec. 15, Blue Cross NC customers can visit bcbsnc.com/findadoctor to locate in-network doctors and hospitals in their area. Blue Cross NC customers in Western NC can also use the following resources:

- To talk to a Blue Cross NC Customer Service Professional in-person, visit the Blue Cross NC retail store in Asheville at 1854 Hendersonville Rd., Suite C.

- Our customers can also go to urgent care facilities for urgent, non-emergency care, and most independent physicians in the area also participate in our network. To find an urgent care or primary care provider near you, go to bcbsnc.com.

• See AGREEMENT page 8

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• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• MAYOR ON DUTY •

Please be patient while we continue to clean up Irma's mess

Public works activities can cause inconvenience and disruption. Chipper noise is coming to the recreation department area. Increased truck traffic around Foreman and US 64 will also occur.

Why? The massive debris pile from Irma in the lower parking lot is being chipped and transported to the county landfill. NCDOT approved a bid and contract late last week giving the contractor clearance to begin work. If all goes well, the debris removal will be finished by the week before Christmas.

Some folks may question if there was another less intrusive way to remove the debris, like incineration. Burning the massive debris pile would generate unbelievable levels of smoke throughout the entire plateau. There have been concerns about an accidental ignition. This massive debris on fire, coupled with plateau winds, could pose a tremendous safety issue possibly to the level of the major forest fires the summer and fall of 2016.

Others might think the town should



Highlands Mayor
Patrick Taylor

request DOT to delay and re-schedule the project for next year. My response is that anytime work crews arrive to do a job here on the plateau, it is always advisable to let them get to it immediately. Telling workers to come back another time could be a big mistake. DOT has a large project schedule. Get off its schedule and it may take a long time to get back on it.

So, I hope folks will be understanding of the chipper and truck noise. That behemoth chipper chews up whole logs and trees. A contractor is renting the machine, so the company wants to finish the job as soon as possible and collect its check.

The Highlands Police Department is working with DOT to make the coming and going of the dump trucks as safe as possible. Signs have been posted but, drivers should be on the alert and cautious around the Recreation Department and the Foreman Road/US 64 intersection.

Hurricane Irma was a bad girl when she blew into North Carolina. Macon County and the state incurred big bills, and Highlands was not spared. We forked out well over \$250,000 in cleanup and electrical costs. When a storm snaps down power poles, our pocketbook takes a big hit. But Irma could have been worse.

On a positive note, the town has made

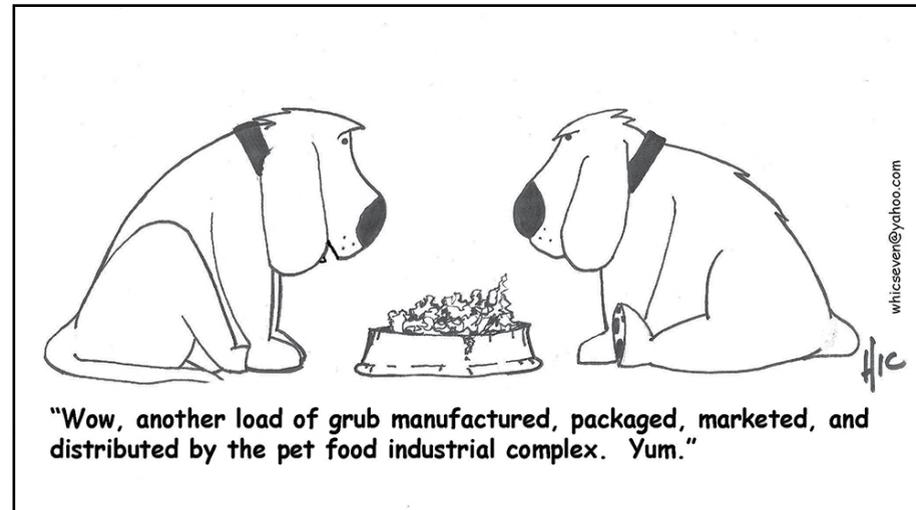
a great recovery. I drove around town this week to places like Satulah Mountain and Wilson Road. If I had not witnessed the storm damage first hand, I would think nothing had happened. Nature has an amazing capacity for fast recovery from natural disasters.

We all need to be prepared for possible winter storms. The town bins are filled with road salt and the snow plows are in good

shape. Our reserve funds are available for another weather emergency, although one storm in a year is more than we want to handle. But, it has been almost 25 years since the big blizzard hit Highlands. Some older Highlanders say we may be overdue for another.

Everyone should maintain a home emergency supply stash year-round.

• HIC'S VIEW



"Wow, another load of grub manufactured, packaged, marketed, and distributed by the pet food industrial complex. Yum."

Highlands Newspaper

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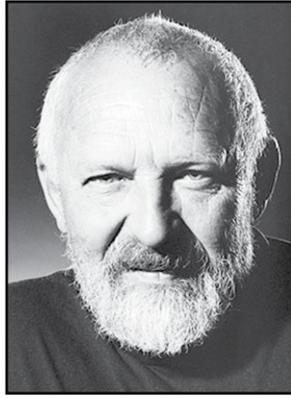
• WEEKEND WEATHER •

	Friday 12/8		Saturday 12/9		Sunday 12/10	
	Daytime	Overnight	Daytime	Overnight	Daytime	Overnight
Temp	37 F	18 F	37 F	16 F	35 F	16 F
RealFeel®	39 F	24 F	29 F	15 F	36 F	11 F
Winds	3 g 5	4 g 6	8 g 15	6 g 12	5 g 7	5 g 7
T-Storms	0%	0%	5%	5%	0%	0%
Rainfall	0	0	0	0	0	0
Snowfall	0.1	0	0	0	0	0

For Real-time Weather and the Extended Forecast, go to • www.highlandsinfo.com and click on Weather

• OBITUARY •

James 'Jim' Howard Fox



James "Jim" Howard Fox, 77, of Highlands, NC and Chiefland, FL passed away on Friday, November 24th surrounded by his family and friends.

Jim was born on December 1, 1939 in Bremen, IN and was the son of the late Howard and Lillian Fox.

Jim was a graduate of John Adams High School in South Bend, IN. He earned a Bachelor of Science in Architecture from the University of Cincinnati and a Masters in Architecture from the University of Oklahoma. He was licensed to practice architecture in several states and was a member of Friends of Kebyar. In addition to his family and friends, he loved organic architecture, Atlanta Braves baseball, Oklahoma Sooners football, Cincinnati Bearcats basketball and the Allman Brothers. He was an Eagle Scout and remained active in Boy Scouts throughout his life.

Jim leaves behind his wife of almost

57 years, Carol Fox, daughters Kristin Karcher, Shawn (Scott) Stiles, and Kerri (James) Moschouris. He leaves behind 13 grandchildren – Kara, Stephen, Bridget, Brendan, Mary Katherine, Ryan, Connor and Gregory Karcher; Emma, Aiden and Joey Stiles; and Vasili and Manoli Moschouris. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his sister, Joyce Lebo. He is survived by two sisters, Joy Dietrich and Janet McKinney of Indiana, and brother, Jerry Fox of Arizona.

As quoted by his daughters – "He was the dad that every child deserves, and the one we were lucky enough to have."

A celebration of Jim's life will be held in the spring.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations can be made to Boy Scout Troop #235 in Franklin, North Carolina. If you would like to leave an online condolence, send it to jfoxmemorial@gmail.com.

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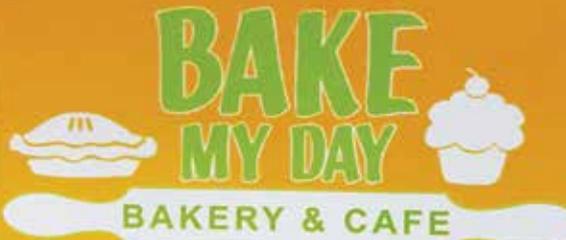
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Losses, but hard fought games

This week middle school basketball played Rabun Gap and Summit. The boys won both games. They beat Rabun Gap 40-32 and beat Summit 49-6.

The girls won one and lost one. They beat Rabun Gap 49-14. Later in the week they lost to Summit 35-21.

Their next home game will be on Wednesday, December 13th. They will play Cullo-
whee Valley, girls starting at 4 pm and boys following.

High school basketball only played Murphy. The JV girls lost 43-22; the Varsity girls lost 59-21; JV boys lost 50-11; and the Varsity boys lost 59-47.

Although the high school was unable to bring home any wins, their first week was a sneak peek of what should be a good season.

Their next home game will be on Tuesday, December 12th. They will play Swain with JV girls starting at 4 pm and other teams following.

Come and support all of our basketball players and cheerleaders this season.



Brent Sleight shooting a layup.

Photo by The Laurel Magazine / thelaurelmagazine.com



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Santa's Schedule

Saturday, Dec. 2nd After Parade
Saturday, Dec. 9th 10:00am - 3:00pm
Saturday, Dec. 16th 10:00am - 3:00pm

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Admission

Photo by Susan Renfro



Highlands Ice Skating Rink
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Hours of Operation

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• THE INK PENN. •

Lord Banjo's celebrity life

Lord Banjo is plumb tuckered out what with all his celebrity appearances. That must be why he's allowing me to compose this update rather than asking me to take dictation. For two weekends running, he's had two book signings on Saturday and then collapsed into a royal heap.

He'll get to rest up after his final 2017 appearance December 9th at Bark Fifth Avenue in Buckhead. He's pretty sure he'll be a hit there since he's a giant compared to the usual customers. If you have a munchkin dog, Bark Fifth Avenue is the place for you with their selection of outfits, carrying bags, collars, beds, toys, and treats. Lord Banjo has had his eye on a lavender tux and is hoping the shop can find one in his size. I draw the line at a carrying bag, though.

Though he's tuckered out, he still manages to roll over for nonstop belly rubs from his fans, and he still gets excited on these crisp mornings when his dad takes him for long walks. At seventy pounds with a thick coat of long black hair, he's delighted with the cooler weather and hoping the temps soon drop even further.

Belly rubs, cold weather, what more could a boy ask for? It turns out there is one thing: legions of adoring children. Yes, Lord Banjo especially likes hugs from kids; perhaps it's their size. He loves it when they throw their arms around his neck and hold tight. I think that's why he was so excited about his book review from LitPick.com, "an organization dedicated to promoting reading and writing among preteens, teens, and young adults by offering these students the opportunity to read books online for free." Students read and review books and receive adult feedback "about their reviews to help improve reading comprehension and writing skills."

As a former English teacher and life-long bookworm, I think the concept is a wonderful way to inspire students to read and write. Lord Banjo agrees with me, so we happily provided free online copies of his book to LitPick. He already knew his story appealed to adult pet parents and animal lovers and was sure it would also enchant readers age 12 and up. Lo and behold, an eleven-year-old reviewed "Lord Banjo the Royal Pooch" and described it as "a great book about a silly dog who shares his full opinion on life," and also recommended it as "perfect for a read aloud to a



Kathy Manos Penn

child between 1st grade and 3rd grade." My boy was only slightly put out at being called silly.

The only problem with this review is I'm afraid it's created a monster. Lord Banjo used to be content with attention from the two little boys next door plus an occasional visit from our landscaper's second-grader, Lily. While her Mom works, Lily sits on the front porch with Banjo sitting snug up against her where she can put her arms around

him.

So, what's the problem? He keeps asking to see more children, and now that he's heard that 1st to 3rd graders will like his book, he's even suggested I befriend elementary school teachers so he can hang out in their classrooms. Before you know it, he'll be asking to visit toy stores and Chuck E. Cheese's.

I'm beginning to worry about his birthday in February. If he asks for a party with a bouncy house and kids, I'll know I'm in serious trouble.

Find Kathy's new book "Lord Banjo the Royal Pooch" and her collection of columns, "The Ink Penn: Celebrating the Magic in the Everyday," locally at The Molly Grace in Highlands and Books Unlimited in Franklin and on Amazon. Contact her at inkpenn119@gmail.com.



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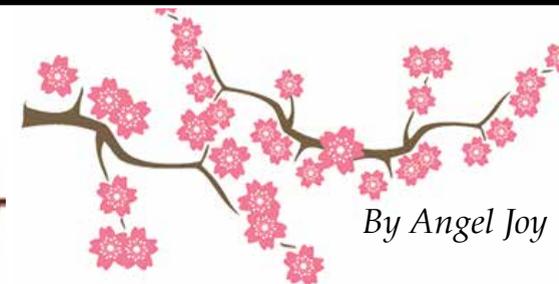


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• BIZ/ORG NEWS •

Rotary's Nov. Students of the Month



At its November 26 meeting the Rotary Club of Highlands honored the November Highlands School Students of the Month. Pictured are Manuel Contreras, high school winner, Lucy De La Cruz, elementary school winner, Stacey Overlin, Highlands School Assistant Principal, Annamaria Silverthorn, middle school winner and Rick Trevathan, Rotary Club of Highlands President.

..AGREEMENT continued from page 1

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HEALTHY LIFESTYLE CONCEPTS

Stay healthy this holiday season

What can you do so that you can survive the Holidays without gaining 20 pounds or catching a cold every time a co-worker or family member coughs or sneezes?

Here is a list of four-simple things you can do to stay healthy through the Holidays and well into the New Year:

1) Stay Hydrated. Holiday alcoholic beverages actually dehydrate your body. Chronic dehydration is often the cause of headaches, joint pain, mood swings, and dry skin, among many other ailments, so be sure to drink plenty of clean, filtered water.

2) Eat More Fresh Greens. Find creative ways to get more green vegetables and fresh herbs into your meals and Holi-



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day recipes, like adding fresh cilantro to a bean burrito, or adding collards, mustard greens, or kale to your favorite soup recipe.

3) Stay Active. Aside from burning calories, numerous studies have shown that exercise stimulates the immune system by increasing the circulation of white blood cells.

4) Slow Down and Enjoy The Season. Whether you are at a Holiday party or sitting down to Christmas dinner, take time to appreciate your family and friends, the décor, and the special foods. Take time to really taste each bite, and to chew your food thoroughly. Slowing down allows us to get more pleasure from smaller portions without gaining weight.

Cranberry & Kale Salad

This delicious and colorful salad is a perfect Holiday side dish! It contains kale, a cancer fighting superfood packed with chlorophyll and flavonoids, cranberries which are high in vitamin C, and pine nuts, the edible seed of the pine tree which is higher in protein than any other seed. It also makes a great lunch or dinner – just add grilled chicken, beef or salmon.

Ingredients

2 bunches organic Lacinato (dark green) or curly kale
¼ cup pine nuts
¼ cup dried unsweetened cranberries
3 TBS extra-virgin olive oil
Celtic sea salt to taste

Directions

- 1 Wash, remove veins, chop and steam kale in 2 TBS water until it is bright green and remove from heat, placing in mixing bowl.
2. Heat the pine nuts in a dry stainless steel skillet on med-low, stirring constantly until lightly browned - be careful not to burn them!
3. Remove pine nuts from skillet, allow them to cool for a few minutes, then add to bowl of steamed kale.
4. Add dried cranberries and olive oil, toss, add a few shakes of sea salt, taste, and toss again.
5. Put salad in serving dish and chill for 15-30 mins before serving.



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...OPIOID continued from page 1

"Universal awareness of the opioid abuse issue is compelling elected officials and others to focus their attention toward solving the problem," Macon County Public Health Director Jim Bruckner said to open the meeting. The federal government through the Department of Health and Human Services and the CDC, and State Public Health officials have been trying for several years to raise awareness of the epidemic, too, including campaigns targeting prescribing practices for opioids, drug abuse, overdose prevention and heroin use."

Bruckner said the NCACC and the MCPH wanted to engage local policy leaders in an informed discussion about the issue to best develop a collaborative strategy that enhances prevention, education, and treatment efforts in the county.

According to state statistics, 37,000 opioid prescriptions were written in Macon County in 2016, that equates to 1.1 prescription for every single county resident for an average of 81 pills per person. While there is legislation in place in North Carolina, such as the STOP Act sponsored by Senator Jim Davis, limiting access to prescription opioids is just one step.

"When those addicted to drugs can't access more pills, they turn to other drugs," explained Bruckner. "And you know what is cheaper than opioids and just as easy to access in Macon County? Heroin. And we are seeing more and more of it."

The STOP Act, which stands for the Strengthen Opioid Misuse Prevention Act, seeks to help curb epidemic levels of opioid drug addiction and overdose in North Carolina through several key provisions, including:

- Strengthening oversight and tighten-

ing supervision on opioid prescriptions

- Requiring prescribers and pharmacies to check the prescription database before prescribing opioids to patients
- Instituting a five-day limit on initial prescriptions for acute pain, with exemptions for chronic pain, cancer care, palliative care, hospice care, or medication-assisted treatment for substance use disorders
- Saving lives through increased access to naloxone which can reverse opioid overdose
- Allowing local governments to support needle exchange programs.

The STOP Act was passed unanimously by both chambers of the North Carolina General Assembly.

Bruckner explained that while approved last year, the new law doesn't fully go into effect until 2020, so to date, it's impossible to gauge its effectiveness at this point.

Macon County Commissioner Vice Chair Ronnie Beale noted that in addition to legislation, easier access to treatment options was vital in addressing the drug epidemic.

Beale noted that the night of the meeting, the hospital was full of people waiting for an available treatment facility, all of which are full across the state. With no local options, when Macon County residents need treatment, they have to go to the Eastern part of the state, away from family and support systems, if they are able to get a bed at all.

Beale praised Macon County Sheriff Robert Holland and the Macon County Detention Center for a treatment program being offered to inmates in hopes of breaking the cycle.

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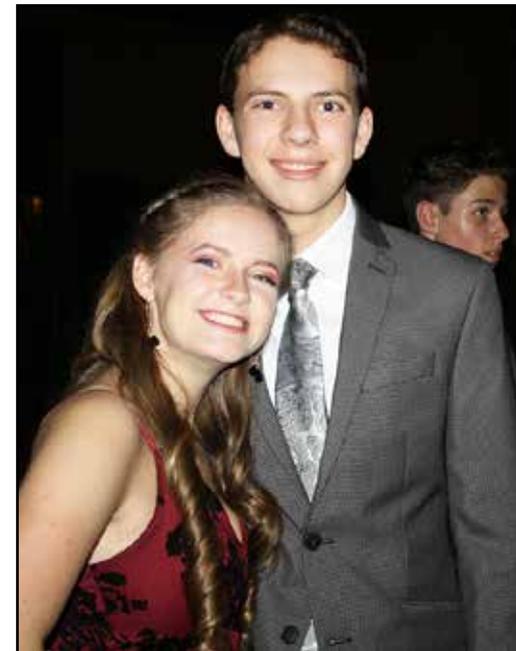
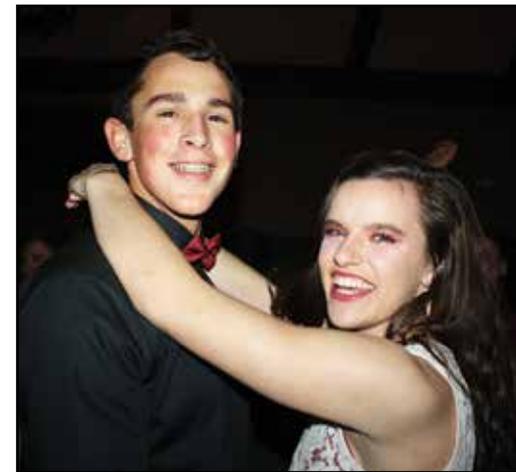
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Showrooms is full of great items!
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Highlands School Homecoming Dance – Dec. 2 at Coleman Hall



Photos by Sunset Yearbook staff

Highlands Olde Mountain Christmas Parade – Sat. Dec. 2



Photos by Jim, Kim and Rachel Lewicki



Olde Mountain Parade



...DONATIONS continued from page 1

Give event. On those days people didn't see her as a paramedic just as a helpful volunteer, she said.

"Usually, I see folks, typically, during some of the worst times in their lives," said Amanda Blanton, a Macon County paramedic. "But on those days, they didn't know me as a paramedic because I wasn't there to serve a medical need. My eyes were opened to how something like a week's worth of groceries could make a huge impact on some lives," she said. "I knew right then, it would be my mission to find a way to help out when the weather turned cold again."

Blanton said people in need in all areas of Macon County now extend beyond just the homeless population.

"There are children, teens, and adults who have some great needs; needs most of us take for granted. These people are at risk of exposure to the cold and to malnutrition due to lack of proper nutrition," she said.

Now this Christmas season, she is asking for monetary donations from those willing to donate – not toys – to help fill specific needs identified in the community.

"While the Highlands area doesn't have a homeless population like we see in Franklin, it does have people who are in need of some kind of help during the winter," said Blanton. "In Highlands, we are specifically working to collect non-perishable food items for

families we have been able to be in contact with," she said.

But truthfully, non-perishable food items are needed in all areas of the county – Highlands, Nantahala and Franklin.

While Blanton's intent started with homeless in the area, after working with other county agencies and resources, she learned of veterans and families throughout the county who could use some help this winter.

"Being a paramedic, I see into people's lives in a different way than the general public," said Blanton. "I get to see the needs that some may not even know existed. No matter someone's circumstances, I feel that sometimes just having someone who shows some compassion can change a person's entire day – especially if they are going through some difficult times in their life."

Needs Identified by Community:

Highlands:

There are people who need non-perishable food items.

Nantahala:

Two females who are XL/LG and 12/14 size pants. These girls need winter coats, blankets, gloves, hats, scarfs, and non-perishable food items. They are both teenagers residing in a "strained" environment.

Two boys that are both size 5/6. They need winter coats, hats, gloves, blankets, and non-perishable food items.

Franklin:

Blanton has a list of veterans who need blankets, thermals, winter coats, and non-perishable food. They are all men and have roofs over their heads, but still have needs which for some includes heat for their homes.

The homeless population which Blanton is in contact with are males; some of which are veterans. They, too, need blankets, winter coats, thermals, reflective vests, hand/foot warmers, hats, gloves, travel pillows, travel size personal care items, bags/backpacks, and non-perishable food items.

Drop off locations for the donations are at the EMS station in Franklin at 125 Hyatt Road (near the old Walmart) and the EMS main office/Veterans services office in Franklin at 104 East Main Street.

To donate in Nantahala or Highlands go to the local EMS station (in Highlands it's on Oak Street) and let the crews know what your donation is for and it will be collected in a timely manner.

Blanton said her goal is to begin giving out the donations by the end of this week due to the forecasted subfreezing temperatures and possible winter weather.

The last donations will be accepted on Friday, December 22 at all locations and will be dispersed in a timely manner.

Boys and Girls Club gets surprise visit from Santa

The Boys and Girls Club of the Plateau got a surprise visit from Santa while at The Bascom

decorating gingerbread houses last week.

The Bascom implements

a series of in-depth programs whose purpose is to provide transformational arts experiences by partnering with agencies that work directly with underserved audiences.

The Bascom subsidizes the cost of tuition and offers financial assistance for adults and children on the Plateau and from surrounding communities.

These programs deliver the message that art experiences are essential to developing the whole person and energizing community life by pulling people of all ages and experience levels together.

For information on how your group can participate in these activities, contact the Outreach Department at wbarclift@thebascom.org, 828.526.4949.





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Smart Year-End Moves for Investors

*"Your big opportunity may
be right where you are now."
~ Napoleon Hill*

Highlands area investors won big this year.

I witnessed deal after deal where smart buyers could see a few miles and years into the future and made a savvy play by getting right in front of where the market is heading. These deals were across all price points and property types, each culminating in a strategic decision that was the nexus of investor preferences and future market demand.

It is tricky business to be able to stand in the present and be able to see what is not quite there as of yet, and then to act accordingly. It requires impeccable market data, a finger tip understanding of subtle shifts in demographics and market trends, as well as a bit of alchemy comprised of longitudinal area history blended with a line of sight on projected regional desires.

No question it also requires courage.

At this time of year, I do an investor huddle with my clients who want to regroup, read year-end tea leaves with me, and set an investment strategy for the coming months. Many hard and soft data points go into the cauldron as each thinks through the course that is the best fit for him or her.

This is something that each and every buyer can do. I suggest you partner with your



Susie deVille
BIC White Oak Realty Group
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or call (828) 526-8118

agent and do a review together now so that you are poised to leap if there are year-end buys that fit for you, or if there are any Q1 2018 investments that present as unique opportunities.

Ask your agent to pull her or his top 5 investment choices for you based upon your price range and desired outcomes. Check for properties that have been on the market for over a year, and see why those properties have not sold. In many cases, the property may simply need some renovating, fresh-

ened interior design/decorating, and/or the tackling of some issue with the property that has caused the general public to pass on the property. Be willing to look at each of the options your agent recommends as I can assure you, there are countless diamonds in the rough. Get real numbers for addressing any and all issues from your go-to contractor and make your offer accordingly. Again, put your dollars and time into where the market is heading and stay away from what I call market voids that only portend to be profitable if you obtain the buy of the century. Every property has a potential fit with a certain buyer, but not all properties are a fit for investors with specific strategies in mind.

• See **INVESTING** page 17

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New Listing

3br/3ba condo in downtown Highlands!! Gated community, high-end finishes, gorgeous master suite w/ access to porch with fireplace. \$895,000 MLS #87224



Only minutes to Main Street, this 3br/3ba home in desirable Mirrormont area has been updated with all the bells and whistles. Gorgeous hard woods and large back decks with both open and enclosed areas for enjoying the cool mountain air. \$565,000 MLS #86293

LOT LISTING

Great investment lot with VIEWS on .55 acres. Close-in to downtown Highlands. 3 bedroom septic in hand. Don't miss the opportunity to build you mountain dream home today. \$29,900 MLS #83654



One level like new home in Blue Valley. Set on 2.51 acres with 3 bedrooms and 2 baths, vaulted ceilings, stacked stone fireplace, and hardwood flooring. Exterior features spacious covered and screened deck overlooking waterfall/pond in yard. \$515,000 MLS #87118



2br/2ba very private Highlands Falls Country Club condo, offered fully furnished. Vaulted ceilings, screened porch and open back deck with views. \$225,000 MLS #85769



Great 3br/2ba sits high above the 13th fairway at Highlands Falls CC. \$525,000 MLS #86238.

LOT LISTING

2 lots in Cullasaja Club at an incredible price. Views of Black Rock and Whiteside Mountain with long range views into SC. Walk to the clubhouse location. \$40,000 each lot, MLS #81514 & #81530



Highlands CC home, 4br/3.5ba on level lot. Bright open floor plan, high-end kitchen, family room with custom bar and pool table on lower level. Great family retreat or full time home. Must see. \$695,000 MLS #87247



2br/2ba updated with vaulted ceilings, hardwood floors and a beautiful sunroom overlooking the wooded back yard. All one level with attached car garage and paved drive makes this a great year-round home. \$298,000 MLS #86978

New Price



One owner and very little use on over 5 subdividable acres makes this home highly sought after. 3br/3.5ba offering complete privacy. Gourmet kitchen, floor to ceiling fireplace in great room, master suite, 2 guest suites and many other high end finishes throughout. \$850,000 MLS #86239



Soaring tongue and groove cathedral ceilings with 2 story stone fireplace. Large 4br/4ba in Trimont Mountain Estates. \$699,000 MLS #86288



3br/3ba Highlands Mountain Club condo. Remodeled top to bottom with granite in kitchen, marble baths, wood floors and more. Move in ready! \$275,000 MLS #86242



Great buy between Highlands and Cashiers just off Norton Road. Open floor plan, large windows and stone fireplace. Updates to kitchen include granite countertops. Upper level has 2 guest rooms and additional living area overlooking the lower level. Open deck is perfect for grilling and relaxing outdoors. \$239,000 MLS #86614



Custom built with 3br/2ba in private gated community just 9 miles to downtown Highlands. Back deck overlooks pond and has winter mountain views. \$250,000 MLS #86605



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• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •**Love, the great principle of Christianity**

Pastor Sam Forrester
Whiteside Presbyterian Church
Cashiers

"For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died" (II Corinthians 5:14).

The founding principle of the gospel is love. Christianity is set in the change of motive by which the believer lives. All mandatory principles are excluded.

The religion of Jesus Christ brings before the mind and heart of its converts certain great and very powerful motives with which it leads captive their understanding. It also effects the will and the affections by calling them all into active service for Christ.

Coercion is never the guiding principle of Christianity, love is.

Love is the great handle, the motivating influence, "Christ's love compels us." Paul shows in II Corinthians 5:14 that love is always the bond that holds our life in the arms of God. Love is the governing principle, as well as, the center of Christ's influence in our lives.

Without the constraining influence of Christ's love in your heart, you will never experience the willingness to live in holiness and be prompt in obeying his commands.

Yes, it is true there are times when conviction of sin and fear of guilt may urge your soul to act, as you seek forgiveness and reconciliation. However, love alone can bring you into the holiness and obedience of a true Christ centered life.

In the New Testament the believer's relationship with God is not that of a slave to a master, but of a child to his father. Galatians 4:6-7 "Because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, Abba Father. So you are no longer a slave, but a son; and since you are a son, God has made you also an heir."

Now that you have, in Christ, a new and spiritual relationship, you must examine your heart and life for a new and spiritual motive. What you find, that is new, is love.

Is this not exactly what Jesus declared in John 14:15 "If you love me, you will obey what I command." The opposite of that would be "He who does not love me, will not keep my commands." So, you can see that it is this love shed abroad in the heart and life by the Holy Spirit that leads to obedience.

It is this idea of love that takes you from working for salvation, to working through the process of salvation. You do not work to gain divine acceptance but you work from the divine acceptance the love of Christ has given you.

Please, I implore you to see, a life of holiness, a life of self-denial, a life of cross-bearing is not a life of drudgery. It is not the life of a slave, but a life of wonderful fellowship, a life of childlike joy. This life comes forth from love

• See **SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING** page 21

Proverbs 3:5**• PLACES TO WORSHIP •****John 3:16****BLUEVALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH**

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

Wednesdays - Supper at 6 p.m.

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www.cbchighlands.com • 526-4685

3645 Cashiers Rd, Highlands, NC • Sr. 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.

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Dr. Mark Ford, Pastor

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Wed.: Men's Bible Study 8:30 am; Prayer Mtg 6:15 pm; Ch. 5p

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Wednesdays: Choir: 6p

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Wednesday: Prayer Service, 6:30 p.

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

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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)

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Rev. Marty Kilby

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Wednesdays: Prayer Mtg.: 7 p.m.

SCALY MOUNTAIN CHURCH OF GOD

290 Buck Knob Road; Pastor Donald G. Bates • 526-3212

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

SHORTOFF BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Rev. Andy Cloer

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

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

COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH OF SKYVALLEY

Sky Valley, GA • 706.746.3144 • 696 Sky Valley Way #447

Pastor Gary Hewins

Worship: Sun. 9 a.m., with Holy Communion the 1st & 3rd Sun.;

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WHITESIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Rev. Sam Forrester/Cashiers

Sunday School: 10 am, Worship Service: 11 am

...INVESTING continued from page 14

Also consider looking at land buys right now. The crystal ball continues to say that new construction in any price point is going to be in high demand. This investment play requires more time and more tolerance for risk, but has a rather appealing upside in terms of plausible return. If you build what the market desires and are mindful of access, area, quality, and design, you can position yourself to sell quickly (or even before you complete the project).

Experts are calling for mortgage rates to rise steadily in 2018, so it may be wise to lock in sooner rather than later on any financing. If you are obtaining a loan, make sure you give yourself plenty of time to exit underwriting before your Due Diligence period expires. Ask your lender for a realistic time window and notify your agent so that you are 100% protected in the contract. Provide the Seller with a pre-approval letter at offer stage to ease his or her concerns with your getting a loan. Complete all paperwork required by the lender immediately and keep your agent informed as to your progress. If everyone is marching in

unison during the loan process, you can skip the stress.

One of my favorite things is to witness a Buyer or Seller win big in the market. There are limitless ways you can achieve your goals if you are clear about what you want to have happen, and if you are open and receptive to guidance from your agent (as well as if you are willing to try innovative approaches to setting and executing on strategy). I predict 2018 is going to a blockbuster year in the market. Do your homework now and get clear on how you want to join in.

• Susie deVille, ME, ABR, SFR, is Owner/Broker-in-Charge of White Oak Realty Group. Her areas of expertise include real estate investments, niche marketing, social media, and strategic property positioning. An expert in entrepreneurship and anthropology, Susie applies her acumen in human behavior toward negotiating and advocating on behalf of her clients. White Oak Realty Group's sales office is located at 125 South Fourth Street in the heart of the retail district in Highlands. For more information, visit WhiteOakRG.com or call (828) 526-8118.

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It's a Holly, Jolly Christmas

HCP actors will read selections appropriate to the season, some humorous, some informative, some touching and inspiring. A 12-voice ensemble from the Mountain Voices chorus will perform selections from their Christmas program.



THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2017

7:00 p.m.—Highlands Performing Arts Center

MONDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2017

7:00 p.m.—Cashiers Public Library

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HIGHLANDS AREA EVENTS

NOTE

• Boys Basketball registration has been extended for Highlands until Friday, December 8th, but must register at the Highlands Recreation Department because online registration is closed

Ongoing

• The pool is now open for public swim 3-6p Mon-Thurs.

• Movies at the Highlands Playhouse: Movies: Fri-Tues, 2, 5 8 p.m.

First Mondays

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

Mondays

• At the Rec Park, High Cardio Zumba Fitness with

Certified Instructor Tiffany Austin at 5:25 p.m.

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 info, call Tricia Smith at 828-338-8167.

Mon., Wed., Fri.

• Heart Healthy Exercise Class Monday, Wednesday and Friday 8:30-9:30am. Contact Janet Avery at 828-200-7508 for more information.

• Aerobics with Tina Rogers 8-9a.

Mon.-Fri.

• Lap Swim Monday-Friday 7am-10am 6 lanes and Monday -Thursday 5pm-

6pm 1 or 2 lanes. Sharing pool with Water Aerobics @ 5:15.

• Water Aerobics Monday-Friday 10:15am-11:15am and Monday-Thursday 5:15pm-6pm (sharing pool with lap swimmers) and Saturday mornings from 11:15-noon.

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,

First Tuesdays

• The monthly family support group for those with family members, friends, or loved ones living with the challenge of mental illness meets at 7 p.m. at Memorial United Methodist Church, 4668 Old Murphy Road, Franklin. For info call 369-7385.

2nd and 4th Tuesdays

• OccupyWNC meets at the 7PM in the Sneak E. Squirrel Community Room (1314 Main St., Sylva. Visit www.occupywnc.org or call 828.331.1524

Third Tuesday

• The Macon County Poultry Club meets at the NC Cooperative extension office located at 193 Thomas Heights Rd., Franklin on the third Tuesday of each month at 7pm. Meetings are open to the public. Call 828-369-3916.

Tuesday and Thurs-

days

• 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.

• Exercise Class with Tina Rogers are held Tuesday and Thursday at 5:15p.m.

Wednesdays

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

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.

• NAMI Support Group for individuals dealing with mental illness 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.

2nd Thursdays

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

3rd Thursdays

HCP's FREE holiday program is Thurs., Dec. 14



Early HCP Christmas program: Father Mike Jones of the Highlands Episcopal Church (center), Virginia Talbot (right), HCP program coordinator, then and now.

If you haven't marked your calendar yet for the Highlands Cashiers Players free annual holiday program of dramatic readings and music, it's coming up soon--on Thursday evening, December 14, 7:00 p.m. at Highlands Performing Arts Center, 507 Chestnut Street.

This year the emphasis is on fun—a holly jolly Christmas program. HCP actors will read several humorous Christmas stories and, again this year, will have the pleasure of including music by The Mountain Voices. A special 12-voice ensemble from the chorus will sing a number of songs from the Voices' major Christmas program, presented at the First Baptist Church in Franklin on December 7.

After the Players' December 14 program in Highlands, the audience is invited to share hot cider, cookies and other refreshments with the performers downstairs in the PAC reception room. And all of it is free of charge—it's the Players Christmas gift to the community, co-sponsored by Highlands Performing Arts Center.

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• HIGHLANDS EVENTS •

• 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

1st and 3rd Thursdays

• Indivisible Highlands, a non-partisan activist group meets weekly at the Hudson Library at 5p. For more info call 770-823-0601

Thurs., & Sat.

• Zumba with Mary K. Barbour at the Rec Park from 11a to noon. For more information, call 828.342.2498.

Saturdays

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

• Scrabble at Hudson Library from 1-4 p.m. Bring board if possible. All are welcome. 727-871-8298.

• The Bascom Knitters on the Terrace at The Bascom from 10 am until noon or downstairs in The Bascom Library room.

Through Dec. 10

• At The Bascom, Highlands Bio Station Student Group Exhibition

Through Dec. 12

• At the Bascom, Highlands High School Student Group Exhibition in the Greenway Studios, Downstairs

Thurs., Dec 7

• Highlands School music concert 6-7pm in the old gym. Admission is free.

• Indivisible Highlands, a non-partisan political advocacy group, will host a presentation by Dr. Scott Donaldson, a candidate running for the NC House of Representatives currently held by Mark Meadows r currently held by Mark Meadows 5-7 p.m. at Hudson Library, Main Street Highlands.

Sat., Dec. 9

• Breakfast with Santa Claus at Highlands United Methodist Church Saturday, 9-10am

• Santa Claus at Kelsey-Hutchin-

son Park (after his breakfast) Saturday, 11am-3pm

• Community Christian Chorale Christmas Concert at Episcopal Church of the Incarnation Sat. & Sunday, 4pm

Sunday, Dec. 10

• Highlands Sotheby's International Storefront Exhibit, 4th & Main of Highlands Bio Station Student Group Exhibition, from 3-4pm.

• Community Christian Chorale Christmas Concert at Episcopal Church of the Incarnation Sat. & Sunday, 4p

Mon., Dec. 11

• Smoking Mountain Quilters Guild will hold its last 2017 meeting Monday, with a potluck luncheon and a special program by historical presenter Muriel Pfaff. Ms Pfaff will be in costume as the stylish, and young wife of President Grover Cleveland, who served as the nation's 22nd and 24th presidents.

Tuesday, Dec. 12

• At The Bascom, Reception from 12:30-1pm for the Highlands High School Student Group Exhibition

Dec. 13

• Community Christian Chorale Christmas Concert at Episcopal Church of the Incarnation Sat. & Sunday, 4p

Thurs., Dec. 14

• The Highlands Cashiers Players FREE Holiday Program at 7 p.m. at PAC on Chestnut Street. "Have A Vae aHolly, Jolly Christmas."

Sat., Dec. 16

• Wreaths Across America wreath-laying and celebration at Highlands Cemetery on Memorial Drive at noon.

Dec. 25

• Annual HANDS Christmas Dinner sponsored by Lakeside Restaurant at Highlands Country Club Monday, 11am-5pm.

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The Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. log from Nov. 23 Nov. 23

• At 8:40 p.m., the dept. checked on a possible fire at a residence on Highgate Road.

Nov. 24

• At 5:18 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Sagee Drive.

Nov. 25

• At 9 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Cullasaja Drive.

• At 10:05 a.m., the dept. stood by at Zachary Field for the MAMA helicopter.

Nov. 27

• At 8:46 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Clubhouse Trail.

Nov. 28

• At 2:44 p.m., the dept. responded to a call of smoke in the Flat Mountain Road areas.

• At 7:31 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to ja residence on Dogwood Drive.

Nov. 29

• At 7:29 a.m., the dept. responded to a three-vehicle accident on US 64 east.

Nov. 30

• At 11:32 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Clubhouse Trail.

Dec. 1

• At 8:58 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Overlook Road.

Dec. 4

• At 6:47 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to Tudor Hall Lane.

• At 9:47 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Brushy Face Road.

– NOTE –

Since brush fire season is rapidly approaching, we would strongly encourage all residents to keep the leaves blown away from their houses and any other structures on their properties.

If you are going to burn yard debris, please do so in a safe manner. Keep a hose readily available, but also be mindful of the other residents in your communities.

With cold weather here, we encourage everyone to have your chimneys cleaned and inspected and also to be safe driving as there could be black ice on the roads.

If you have an emergency, please call 911.

– Chief Gearhart

...SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING continued from page 16

grounded in the person of Jesus Christ. It is a life filled with love and appreciation for all Christ has done to bring you into this living and loving relationship with your heavenly Father. This does not mean Christians are perfect in this life but they are learning to live in Christ, who is perfect.

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If you desire a life of purpose and with meaning that brings hope to others, then, that can be found only in the love of Jesus Christ. Open your heart to him this very day. Believe he is the One sent from the Father to do for you what you could never do for yourself. "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved" (Acts 16:31).

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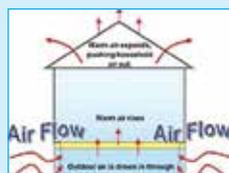
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