

# Highlands Newspaper

FREE Every Thursday

Volume 14, Number 6 Real-Time News, Weather & WebCams: HighlandsInfo.com Thurs., Feb. 9, 2017

## MC budget work begins; priority list formulated

The Budget planning process has officially started, with Macon County Commissioners holding their first budget work session Friday, February 3 at noon. Macon County Manager Derek Roland started the meeting by touting the board's financial contributions

to date, which included a commitment to education and school capital outlay projects, community investments such as restoration of the Robert C. Carpenter Community Building, and service upgrades such as a significant landfill expansion that will add 60 years to the

life of that facility.

While reflecting on the accomplishments to date for the board of commissioners, Roland also asked the board to provide him with recommendations moving forward as to what commissioners would like to see accom-

plished during the 2017-'18 budget year.

Each commissioner took time to outline their priorities and the things they would like to see included in the county's manager's budget proposal, all while being

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## WNC delegates support Trump, but not without question

By Michael Gebelein  
Carolina Public Press

The election of President Donald Trump has given the Republican Party an opportunity it hasn't had in a decade: control over both houses of Congress and the executive branch.

For Western North Carolina's congressional delegation, made up entirely of Republicans, that means a chance to shepherd previously unattainable conservative legislation into law and to roll back some of the hallmark laws signed by former President Barack Obama. The repeal of the Affordable Care Act, also known as Obamacare, is one of the delega-

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The historic Ravenel home "Wolf Ridge."

Photo by John Munger

## Firefighters save historic 'Wolf Ridge'

At 12:43 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 5, Highlands Fire & Rescue was dispatched to Wolf Ridge, the historic Ravenel home on Ravenel Ridge near Sunset Rock.

It is believed a cozy mid-morning fire set in one of the two fireplaces in the living room resulted in a chimney fire that destroyed the roof.

Though not an expert in the field, Fire Chief Ryan Gearhart said he believes the home can be salvaged.

"The roof will have to be replaced and the house sustained heavy smoke and water damage, but the floors are hardwood and could probably be restored."

Three fire departments joined Highlands F&R Sunday – Cashiers, Satolah and Sky Valley. Between 12:43 when the call went out to 6 p.m., 30,000 to 40,000 gallons of water were used to extinguish the blaze. Gearhart said the effects of water can be seen on all four floors from the roof to the basement.

Ray and Diane McPhail and their business partners own the

home which was being used by a partner at the time of the fire.

Insurance investigators as well as clean up crews were on scene Tuesday. The exact cause and the monetary extent of the damage wasn't known by press time.

Gearhart said both chimneys in the home – the original rock chimneys – will have to be inspected before they can be used again.

### Some History

In 1914-'15 Thomas Parker, the stepson of Samuel Prioleau Ravenel who built the first summer home in Highlands, built a large classic Craftsman summer home on Wolf Ridge adjoining Sunset Rock for his two single stepsisters Miss Marguerite and Miss Clare Ravenel.

In the 1960s, after the deaths of Clare and Marguerite, Wolf Ridge, as the house was then called, became the summer home of Margaretta Duane Wood, daughter of their married sister, Elise Ravenel Duane.

– Kim Lewicki & Ran Shaffner

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# • THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

## • MAYOR ON DUTY •

### Off-season projects are a must

Now until May is the best time to do construction projects that may impede traffic, especially since our population is at a low during winter and early spring. Whether it is a town or business project, major construction is best done before the tourist season where restrictions come into play. So, here is an update on two major projects commencing this month that will restrict access to certain roads.

Town crews will be rebuilding the water and electrical systems that serve Wright Square businesses and apartment residents. There will be periods where parts of Helens Barn Avenue, the road behind Wright Square, will be closed.

When Wright Square was built in the 1980s the water and electric lines were placed next to each other in a single trench. Electrical transformers were placed right against the back walls of the buildings. While those placements were standard practices back then, there have been recent problems that require all of the lines and transformers to be relocated, and brought



Mayor Pat Taylor

up to current standards. Failing transformers can catch on fire. Waterlines eventually have leaks so they should not be next to high voltage electrical lines. The project was postponed last season, but now needs to be completed.

Starting this past Monday and running through the month, possibly into March, town crews will be doing extensive excavating in the roadway and up to the back entrances of

the Wright Square buildings. The town is saving substantial money and time by having our water, electrical and road crews do the work as opposed contracting it out. The trade-off is that weather conditions may impact the schedule, while ironically it is the best period of the year to minimize traffic problems.

Parts of Pine Street will also be closed this month, and maybe some of March. The Friends of Founders Park will be leading the completion of the last phase of park construction. Part of their effort will be to extend the section of paver bricks on Pine Street all the way down to Pine Alley. While there will be some disruption during this construction phase, the work at the park should be finished well before spring and in time for the return of our seasonal residents and visitors.

Construction of a new sidewalk running parallel to the new road paver section will connect the existing sidewalk from Pine Alley to the sidewalks that run through the

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### Highlands Newspaper

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Locally owned and operated by

Kim & Jim Lewicki

Adobe PDF version at

www.HighlandsInfo.com

265 Oak St., P.O. Box 2703,

Highlands, N.C., 28741

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## • LETTER •

### Bad...really bad. God help us all.

Dear Editor,

It's gotten to the point that I'm hesitant to listen to or read the news. President Trump's most recent series of denigrating tweets and pronouncements are more suited to a petulant four-year-old than the president of the United States. His sophomoric behavior and rants remind me of the late Sen. Joseph McCarthy's witch hunts during the "red scare" of the 1950s.

Trump's erratic behavior, outright falsehoods, and bizarre outbursts have thrown the world into chaos. What we as a country need in our chief executive is leadership, not attacks on anyone who happens to disagree with him. What this world needs is stability not disarray. I'm sure I'm not alone when I say I'm deeply concerned at our president's incredibly thoughtless demeanor. Even the most ardent of Trump supporters have to be wondering what's going on.

The president has revealed what I and the majority of Americans who didn't vote for him feared...that this individual is totally unsuited to the office to which he was elected. The president may have gotten away with his autocratic, bullying tactics as a businessman, but it just doesn't cut it when it comes to being the leader of the free world. Even members of the Republican dominated Congress are finally coming to the reality that this "leader" is seriously flawed. This is not the behavior of a normal person. Bad...really bad. God help us all.

Kurt J. Volker  
Otto, NC

### Let's not undermine our American way of life

Dear Editor,

I am writing to express my concern that in less than a month in office, our new President has managed to take actions that limit the freedom of many people, disrupt families that have worked through legal channels to be reunited, and created chaos and uncertainty for many.

Even after September 11th, the most devastating attack on America, such measures were not enacted.

Our elected President seems to be reacting to an enhanced sense of danger from sources that could be dangerous, but so far have not been on our soil.

I believe that disrespect and demonizing all people from some countries or all people of one religion (Muslims) will not make us safer. It may, instead, inflame resentment, and lead to despair and desire for revenge.

I also believe, as others have said, that if we overreact to fear by limiting our own freedoms, we aid those we oppose who delight in undermining our American way of life.

Carole Light  
Scaly Mountain

## • WEEKEND WEATHER •

FRIDAY FEB 10	SATURDAY FEB 11	SUNDAY FEB 12
50°/24°	63°/45°	68°/51°

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# • OBITUARY •

## Thomas Lee 'Tommy' Adams

Mr. Thomas Lee "Tommy" Adams, 75, of Dillard, Ga formerly of Franklin, NC passed away Saturday, February 4, 2017 at his home.

Mr. Adams was born in Macon County, September 18, 1941, to the late Ed and Hallie Adams. He received a Master's degree in Psychology from Appalachian State University. Tommy retired with more than 30 years of service from the North Carolina Highway Patrol as a Sergeant; worked several years for the U.S. Marshall Service; and he also taught criminal justice at Southwestern Community College, McDowell Technical College, and Mayland Community College.

Tommy loved to fish and work on the Christmas tree farm. He was a member of Higdonville Baptist Church and was a U.S. Navy Veteran.

Survivors include the mother of their children, Jacqueline Harris Adams; a daugh-



ter, Kimberly Adams Williams (Barry) of Swannanoa, NC; a son, Nolan Scott Adams (Gergana) of Marion, NC; three grandchildren, Colton Edward Hayes, Clayton Thomas Hayes, and Victor Braxton Adams.

Tommy was preceded in death by his parents and two brothers, Eddie Adams and Bruce Adams.

A funeral service will be held 2 p.m. Thursday, February 9, 2017 in the chapel of Bryant-Grant Funeral Home with Rev. Steve Reeves officiating. Burial will follow in the Mountain Grove Baptist Church Cemetery. The family will receive friends 12:30-2 p.m. Thursday prior to the service at the funeral home.

Online condolences may be left at [bryantgrantfuneralhome.com](http://bryantgrantfuneralhome.com).

Bryant-Grant Funeral Home and Crematory is serving the Adams family.

# • BIRTH •

## Sadie Miles Strahan

Thomas (TJ) and Dr. Lauren Strahan welcomed their first child, Miss Sadie Miles Strahan, born January 20, 2017. She weighed 7 lbs 5oz and is 19" long. Sadie's maternal grandparents are Dr. George and Patricia Companioni. Paternal grandparents are the late Tommy Strahan and Carmen Strahan, Aunt Patce Thornton and Uncle Jimmy Strahan



# • THANKS •

I hope that all residents of Highlands know how blessed we are to have an EMS that is so responsive, professional and kind. They went above and beyond the call of duty to rescue me early Sunday morning after I fell on the unexpected ice. I am grateful to all of them and to nurse Terry at the ER for his swift and kind attention on a morning when the ER was overwhelmed with similar falls.

Judy Michaud

## ...MAYOR continued from page 2

park. This new sidewalk, funded by the town, will be red brick pavers like the sidewalks in the town's business areas. The road pavers and other additions to the park are funded by Friends of the Park.

Speaking of town roads, the winter weather brings forth those terrible potholes. Our road crews will begin filling potholes as

soon as it warms up, and the asphalt plants resume production. The resurfacing of the excavation areas on Helens Barn Avenue will also be completed when weather permits.

I appreciate everyone's understanding as these projects get underway.

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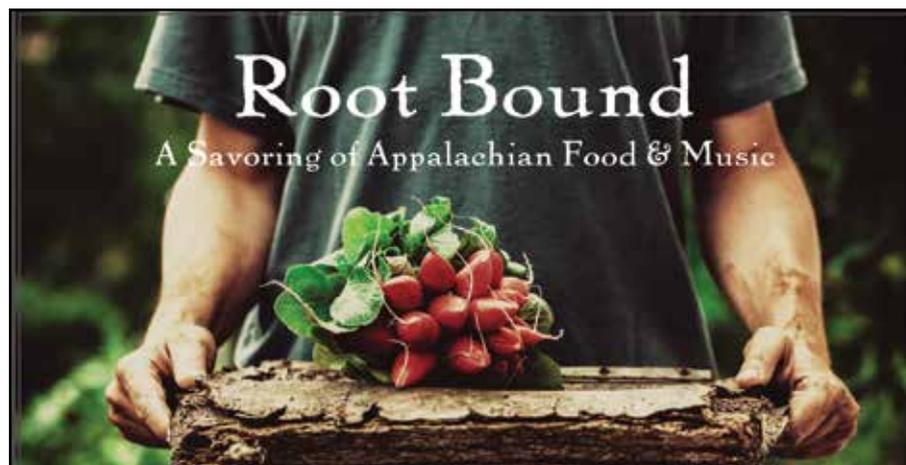
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## ...BUDGET from page 1

mindful of accomplishing things without a tax increase on the budget.

Macon County Commissioner Gary Shields was the first to give his recommendation and noted that it may be time for the board to start thinking of construction of a new high school, an idea that has been discussed over the last few years.

“One idea I felt needed to be addressed by the board is the idea of a new high school,” said Shields. I expressed my concern that as a board we need to discuss in “executive session” some real estate options that the Macon County Board of Education had given to the liaison members and now is the time to update the total board to decide the next step, if any.”

Commissioner Ronnie Beale agreed with Shields and pointed out that Macon County Schools as a whole are experiencing growing pains. Citing South Macon Elementary School, which recently had to add a Kindergarten class and move a smaller class to an office space to accommodate all the students, Beale said that long term planning for the county’s infrastructures as a whole is something that needs immediate attention.

Speaking to the needs of the county’s infrastructure, Commissioner Beale informed the board that the county’s detention center was busting at the seams and the county’s cost to house inmates at other facilities because of overcrowding was continuing to rise. With the ability to house 11 female inmates in Macon County, the Macon County

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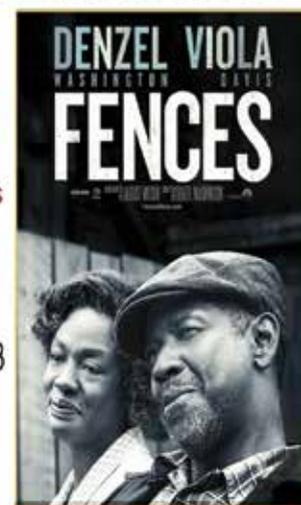
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## ...BUDGET continued from page 4

Sheriff's Office often has to transport inmates to neighboring facilities. The transportation costs associated with the transfers, and the overtime needed is just one of the many costs continuing to increase with the sheriff's office.

Commissioner Karl Gillespie was on board with Shields and Beale's sentiment of looking at the county's overall infrastructure needs and ask the county manager to prioritize the county's capital outlay items while creating a budget based on what is needed to provide the citizens with an acceptable level of service. Gillespie also asked Roland to direct department heads to come to the county with realistic funding requests. Often times, after department heads have received funding from the county, they revisit the board for additional funds for projects or other items. Gillespie, along with Commissioner Paul Higdon asked to see real numbers from the beginning during the budget requests.

Commissioner Higdon presented the board with a list of projects he would like to see happen including relocating the Board of Elections office. Commissioner Higdon has been an advocate for addressing the board of elections office current location in the basement of the courthouse, which

he believes is unsafe. Citing the board of elections predominately female staff, state laws preventing weapons being carried inside the courthouse, and the board of elections office being located next to probation and parole, Higdon has asked the county to attempt to relocate the office for some time. Commissioner Beale noted that if the county's overall infrastructure needs are evaluated, a better plan for moving that office may be possible after determining the use and space elsewhere owned by the county.

Commission Chair Jim Tate agreed with the projects listed by his fellow board members and said that one of the most important things he would like to see is for the county to look at the current debt load in the budget and weigh it against the county's exceptionally high fund balance. Tate noted that he would like to see some debt paid off utilizing the fund balance, if it was financially feasible to do so. Tate has requested additional information on the county debt for the discussion to continue further.

Preliminary budget meetings with department heads begin February 17 through June 20, when they county hopes to approve a final budget.



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...TRUMP continued from page 1

tion's top priorities.

Campaign money could help determine which politicians represent North Carolina on Capitol Hill after the 2016 election.

What remains to be seen is how successful Trump's agenda is in making its way through Congress and whether Republicans will stay united behind his leadership. The president has signed several high-profile executive orders, most notably a travel ban on seven majority-Muslim nations and to begin the process of building more walls on the country's southern border, but Congress has not yet taken a vote on any substantive legislation related to any of Trump's campaign promises.

Carolina Public Press interviewed Rep. Virginia Foxx, R-Banner Elk, and Rep. Patrick McHenry, R-Denver, about their relationship with Trump, their opinion of his first weeks in office and their priorities given the new dynamic in Washington. Rep. Mark Meadows did not respond to emails and phone calls requesting an interview, as of press time. Meadows did, however, give an interview on the same topics to Smoky Mountain News the day before the inauguration, which sheds some light on his thoughts on these issues.

**Obamacare repeal in the works**

Trump started the process of gutting Obamacare shortly after his inauguration, with an executive order that directed some federal agencies to stop enforcing parts of the law. Trump's administration also slashed the amount of advertising the government was paying for to promote enrollment in the program.

Republicans haven't revealed what, if anything, they plan to replace Obamacare with, despite repeated calls to bring a vote to repeal the law to the floor in the coming months. Republicans have been debating whether to quickly repeal the law before a replacement has been finalized and simply delay the effects of the repeal for several years or to wait until a replacement law has been solidified.

**Rep. Patrick McHenry**

An audio recording from a closed-door meeting at a Republican retreat in Philadelphia revealed some legislators' concerns about repealing Obamacare and the effect that action could have on insurance markets.

Foxx said the experience of several constituents who saw their health insurance premiums rise and their coverage decrease since the passage of Obamacare informed her opposition to the law and her support

• See TRUMP page 13



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# • SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •

## The first Valentine



By Dr. Curtis Fussell

Co-Pastor, First Presbyterian Church, Highlands

Every February 14, candy, flowers, and cards are exchanged between loved ones, all in the name of a Christian saint, St. Valentine. He was a priest in the early church who was executed, one tradition says, for helping people escape from prison who were jailed for their Christian faith. Then, when he himself was imprisoned, he wrote what is now called the “first” Valentine letter. It wasn’t a love letter, it was a letter of encouragement to a young girl. Still, it was signed “From your Valentine.” The rest is Hallmark cards history.

Another “love” letter was written to us from St. Paul in 1 Corinthians 13. It’s a familiar “letter” -one that is often used in weddings. In part it says, “Love is patient, love is kind. Love does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not rejoice in wrongdoing but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, always trusts, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails.”

It’s a wonderful statement on love. Yet, it holds a secret. The word for “love” in this letter is the Greek word “agape,” which means “divine love.” So it really reads like this: “God’s love is patient, God’s love is kind. God’s love does not envy, God’s love” ... and on it goes describing the magnanimous wonder of God’s love.

However, to highlight this quality of God’s love, substitute your own name in this letter. I did, and realized the difference: “Curtis is patient, Curtis is kind. Curtis does not envy, he does not boast, he is not proud...” Now, to be sure, all of these remarks are almost entirely false in regards to my character! You can ask my wife!

The point here is that when we see the quality of God’s love for us, we come to see that God’s love is the source of our life. Yes, I personally want to be patient, kind, without envy, not boastful... yet, the only way to come close to these goals is to live in and out of the depth of God’s love. It’s a matter of living as one who is loved first by God. The source and quality of the life we live, comes from the love of God.

Yes, patience, kindness and letting go of self-centeredness are goals that we fall short of achieving. Still, we are not hopeless and we cannot give up. We all hunger to love and be loved. We all hunger for a love that stays with us, is patient and kind. A love that keeps no record of wrongs. A love that always protects, hopes and endures. Listen, God loves you with a love like that -and God’s love never fails! Happy Valentines day!

## Proverbs 3:5

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

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

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

Wednesdays:Choir:5:30p

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Wed. Kidsquest 6p.;Worship 7p.

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Sundays:Worship: 11

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

Wednesday: Prayer Service, 6:30 p.

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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

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Wednesdays: Prayer Mtg.: 7 p.m.

### SCALY MOUNTAIN CHURCH OF GOD

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

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

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

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*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)*

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**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.  
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**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*

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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*

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

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# Bazan Honored with Duke Power Citizenship and Service

By Julie Schott

On any random day, you can stroll by the Kelsey-Hutchinson Founders Park (Founders Park) in downtown Highlands and see the impact our newest destination is having. It is clear to see why so many residents and visitors love the park! What the casual visitor may not realize is the hard work that went on behind the scenes to get to where we are today. This winter one of the key players, Nick Bazan, was honored with the Duke Power Citizenship and Service Awards for his effort to make the dream of a community park in downtown Highlands a reality.

The Duke Power Citizenship and Service Award was established over a decade ago to honor citizens for their volunteer leadership. This award recognizes individuals or groups who make a difference in their

communities that positively impacts the lives of others and the honoree is nominated by the Highlands Chamber of Commerce.

Like many such projects of this magnitude, it takes a community coming together to make great things happen and Founders Park is no exception. From the visionaries who gave birth to the idea of a central greenspace in our mountain town to the many, many individuals and organizations who came together to donate their time, talent and treasure, Founders Park has matured into a reality thanks to the many hands and minds who knew it was possible.

Among the hundreds of people who contributed behind the scenes to complete the park, Bazan stands out for pulling the coalition together and helping them stay on track to finish the project that had been started several years earlier.

In 2013, a small group of townspeople came together to finally complete the park. They formed a coalition now known as Friends of Founders Park with Nick at the helm. Under his leadership, the coalition has been able to complete Phase One—the original park where the stage and bathrooms now sit—and they have also gotten a majority of Phase Two finished with only a few features remaining to complete.

Bazan has worked tirelessly for over three years now and under his leadership, so much has been accomplished. Friends of Founders Park member and executive director of Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust, Dr. Gary Wein, says, “Nick is a source of seemingly boundless energy. He has worked hard for the past several years to keep our coalition on track, always with a smile and can-do attitude. He has been a delight to work with

and deserves this honor for his incredible volunteer efforts on this project!”

Now offering year-round recreation, families and friends enjoy ice skating and a cozy fire in the historic replica fireplace in colder months and live music, dancing waters and quiet coves for respite during the warmer times of year. Founders Park has quickly become the heart of downtown Highlands.

America has a long and proud tradition of volunteer service and now, more than ever, volunteers are needed to renew their commitment to helping others and creating efforts that bring us closer as a community and a nation. Thank you to Nick Bazan and the countless others who had a vision and came together to make it a reality. When we work together, nothing is impossible.

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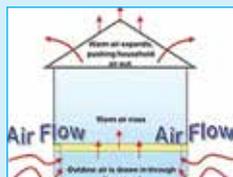
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Friends of Founders Park President, Nick Bazan, is awarded the Duke Power Citizenship and Service Award for his tireless efforts to help the Friends of Founders Park complete Kelsey-Hutchinson Founders Park in downtown Highlands. Here, Nick shares his award with Friends of Founders Park Members (L-R) Caroline Cook for Mountain Garden Club, at large member Julie Schott, Gary Wein for Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust, Bob KIELTYKA and Kay Craig for Highlands Chamber of Commerce, at large member Mary Guy Gunn, at large member/Honoree/Friends of Founders Park President Nick Bazan, newly inducted at large member Carter Davis, Lisa Leatherman of Duke Energy, Sarah Workman for Highlands Biological Station and Bill Edwards for Highlands Historical Society. To learn more about the coalition visit [www.foundersparkhighlands.org](http://www.foundersparkhighlands.org).

## Valentine concert at First Presbyterian

First Presbyterian Church will present a Valentine Concert of Love Songs featuring Stell Huie, Baritone, accompanied by Angie Jenkins at 4pm on Sunday, February 12. Also featured will be renowned trumpeter Larry Black, a member of the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra for 34 years. The concert will take place in the church sanctuary. Come and bring your friends and Valentines! The church is located at the corner of Main and Fifth Streets. Handicapped accessible entrances are located on Church Street and on Fifth Street.





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Renovated 3 bedroom, 2 bath immaculate home in Highlands Falls Country Club. Cathedral ceilings, new carpet, wood flooring, granite counter tops, new appliances, updated baths, fireplace and 2 car garage. \$399,000. MLS #85031



Highlands Mountain Club with great mountain view. Spacious 3br/2ba bath condo. Enjoy the pool, tennis, and clubhouse. Fully furnished at \$229,000. MLS #82270



Close to town 3br/2ba home with some mountain view. Master, living room and kitchen on main are bright and cheery and bring the outside in with a solid wall of glass. Downstairs guest rooms & family room with wood stove. Adjacent lot available. MLS# 82336 \$299,000



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Close to town this 3br/3ba home with decks and porches galore and a hot tub. There are three Master suites and a Summer kitchen on lower porch. \$475,000. MLS #84133



Own a family retreat - in the north Ga mountains, in the city of Sky Valley. Great investment opportunity. This rustic, mountain styled 3 bedroom main home offers wooden floors and beams & large wood-burning stone fireplace. Separate 2 car garage, 2 bedroom guest home. MLS#84770 \$195,000



16-acre estate with stream and view. An adorable 2br/2ba cottage with den. Sit on the deck and enjoy the view and the forest. Walk the many trails on the property to your heart's content. Keep as one tract or subdivide. MLS# 84135 \$299,000



Highlands Falls Country Club 3br/3ba condo with a great fairway view and in great condition. Two master suites, stone fireplace, sunroom and vaulted ceilings. \$295,000. MLS #73808



This fantastic 2br/2.5ba charming cottage in Trillium Links and Lake Club is light and bright and includes 3 outdoor sitting areas. Open floor plan and beautiful wood floors on the main level...lives comfortably. \$242,000. MLS #84503



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## ...TRUMP continued page 6

for its repeal.

"In recent years, citizens from North Carolina — including working families, small business owners and education leaders — have expressed their frustrations and concerns with Obamacare," she said. "... Working with the new Trump administration, Congress is taking the steps necessary to repeal the failed law and provide a pathway to better, more affordable care. We will provide step-by-step solutions that give working families more control and more options."

### U.S. Rep. Virginia Foxx

McHenry, a vocal critic of Obamacare since its passage, said repealing the law would have a "significant impact" on WNC residents.

"The law has driven up healthcare costs for my constituents while leaving them with inferior care and fewer options for insurance," he said.

Meadows told Smoky Mountain News that he's seen four proposals for programs to replace

Obamacare, and that it's his hope that whatever becomes law won't "(pull) the rug out from underneath people who have coverage" through the law.

### Rep. Mark Meadows

"I can tell you that we've been working around the clock on a replacement plan, so I believe in and will firmly fight for a replacement to come alongside a repeal," Meadows said.

### Seeking cooperation

Trump's sweeping executive order banning travel from seven Muslim-majority countries, signed on Friday, led to confusion about what the order actually meant and kicked off protests at airports around the country. The order closes U.S. borders to refugees for 120 days and places a 90-day ban on people from Iran, Iraq, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria and Yemen traveling to the U.S.

The executive order drew tacit support from most congressional Republicans, but McHenry, when asked about the president's execu-

tive orders in general, said closer cooperation between the Trump administration and Congress on large-scale orders like the travel ban could help avoid similar misunderstandings in the future.

"I've been largely supportive of President Trump's executive actions thus far but I do have some concern about the frequent use of unilateral executive actions," he said. "The best way to

advance our shared policy goals is through the legislative process, not executive action that can be undone by future administrations and disregard Congress's role as a co-equal branch of government. I also wish President Trump and his staff would work more closely with Congress as they draft executive actions to avoid confusion like what we saw with the immigration order."

## 'Amadeus' Live via Satellite at PAC, Saturday, Feb. 11



Highlands Performing Arts Center's Live via Satellite Series continues this week with the screening of the National Theatre of London's production of Amadeus, Saturday, February 11 at 1pm.

Music. Power. Jealousy. Lucian Msamati (Luther, Game of Thrones, NT Live: The Comedy of Errors) plays Salieri in Peter Shaffer's iconic play, broadcast live from the National Theatre, and with live orchestral accompaniment by Southbank Sinfonia. Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, a rowdy young prodigy, arrives in Vienna, the music capital of the world — and he's determined to make a splash. Awestruck by his genius, court composer Antonio Salieri has the power to promote his talent or destroy his name. Seized by obsessive jealousy he begins a war with Mozart, with music, and ultimately, with God. After winning multiple Olivier and Tony Awards when it had its premiere at the National Theatre in 1979, Amadeus was adapted into an Academy Award-winning film.

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



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# • POLICE & FIRE REPORTS •

**The Highlands Police log entries from Feb. 5. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor or public officials have been used.**

## Feb. 5

• At 3:38 a.m., officers responded to a one-vehicle accident on US 64 west near Raoul Road.

• At 5 p.m., a domestic disturbance/verbal argument took place in the Police Dept. parking lot between a 30-year-old man and a 23-year-old woman.

## Feb. 6

• At 9:30 p.m., Mary E. Ghegan, 69, of Atlanta, GA, was arrested for DWI when she was stopped on NC 106 near Dusty's

residence on Lake Villas Court. She was taken to the MC Detention Center and issued a \$2,000 unsecured bond. Her trial date is 3/14/17.

**The Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. log from Feb. 4 .**

## Feb. 4

• The dept. responded to a fire alarm at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital.

• The dept. provided mutual aid to the Cashiers FD.

## Feb. 5

• The dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on US 64 east.

• The dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on US 64 east.

• The dept. was first-responders to a

residence on Lake Villas Court.

• The dept. was first-responders to a residence on Clubhouse Trail.

• The dept. responded to a structure fire on Ravenel Ridge.

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

## Feb. 6

• The dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on NC 106.

• The dept. was first-responders to N. 4th Street.

• The dept. was called to investigate smoke on Coleman Circle.

## Feb. 7

• The dept. provided mutual aid to the Satolah FD.

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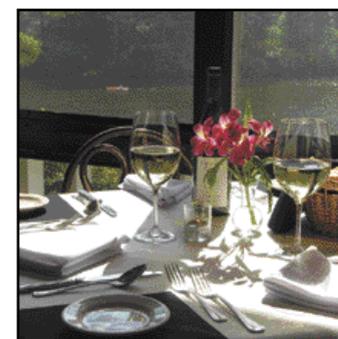
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