

Highlands Newspaper

FREE Every Thursday

Volume 14, Number 2

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

Thurs., Jan. 12, 2017

- 2016 Year in Review -

The year 2016 was quite a year in Highlands and beyond.

The USPS was busy renovating parks, working with local fire & rescue teams on deaths at area waterfalls and fighting fires.

The town saw new commercial expansion, policy changes

and changes in administration and more.

Here are some highlights.

January

- Highlands Ice Skating Rink officially opened Mon., Jan. 4. The Williams of Old Edwards Hospitality Group donated \$314,841 to-

ward the project.

- Room tax proceeds point to a healthy economy. Highlands area accounts for more than half of the total room occupancy tax collected each year in Macon County.

- A visit to Dry Falls turns deadly when Sean Kasey, 45, of

Villa Rica, GA fell into the icy waters at the base of Dry Falls.

- The first snow of 2016 was Sunday, Jan. 17.

- First Baptist Church is set to expand fellowship hall.

- 4th Street Market planned

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What is there to do in Highlands during the winter? Plenty!



The first snow of 2017 began falling Friday afternoon and dropped about six inches before it ended Saturday morning. Highlanders wasted no time taking advantage of the snowfall – sledding on Monkey Hill, skating at K-H Founders Park, tubing at Scaly Mountain Outdoor Center and to ease sore muscles ... swimming at the Highlands Rec Park pool. – Photos by Jim Lewicki

Governor Cooper tells Washington that NC will seek to expand Medicaid

“Right now, North Carolina tax dollars are going to Washington, where they are being redistributed to states that have expanded Medicaid. To date, 31 states and Washington DC have expanded coverage through Medicaid; in 2016 these states received more than \$70 billion in federal funds. “Why should North Carolinians pay for Medicaid expansion in states like New Jersey, Ohio and Indiana when we don’t even expand it to our own people?”

RALEIGH, NC — Gov. Roy Cooper served notice today that he is seeking federal approval

that would allow the state to cover more uninsured North Carolinians through Medicaid.

Cooper, who has called for broader health care coverage by expanding Medicaid, sent a letter to

the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) in Washington. If CMS approves a change, if local

matching money can be secured, and if state eligibility requirements

• See MEDICAID page 5

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• THE PLATEAU'S POSITION •

• MAYOR ON DUTY •

Dealing with winter weather in Highlands

It's that time of year, heavy snow resulting in opportunities to think and plan. Let me share some thoughts.

First, when there is snow and ice on the roads, the garbage collection schedule has to be adjusted. I am writing this piece mid-Monday morning where the 10-degree temperature is just now beginning to climb. Ice still remains on the smaller, tree shaded roads.

In these icy conditions primary consideration has to be for worker safety and the protection of equipment. On a normal day, crews make hundreds of stops where a worker jumps off the truck to retrieve and dispose of household garbage. If there is ice on the ground, one misstep could result in serious injury, so worker safety is paramount.

Also, operating a quarter of a million dollar garbage truck on icy roads can be a problem. One roll over or slide off could cost thousands of dollars. It is unlikely a damaged garbage truck can be repaired locally. These trucks are complex and specialized, so a repair could take weeks or even months.

Today our large trucks rolled out later than usual as conditions improved. They hit all the large streets that were mostly

ice-free. Our alternative plan was to run our smaller four-wheel drive trucks on the smaller, icy streets. But, all the adjustments take time, and workers inevitably get behind the normal schedule.

One citizen called Town Hall to let us know that his street was so covered in ice that he thought the garbage crew should not even attempt to collect until the ice was gone. What a kind and thoughtful person. In freezing temperatures garbage isn't going to spoil if not picked up on schedule. God bless him for being concerned for the safety of people more than his garbage.

I called WHLC to let folks know the garbage collection would be behind schedule. The radio is a good way of getting information out. I also talked with our new Town Manager, Josh Ward, about the situation. We thought about another way of communicating information fast. His idea is for the town to develop a messaging system on the town website where daily information can be posted. We will work on the idea.

Fortunately, this first snow produced no major power outages. Highlands' crews provide immediate response to power outages.

Customers can call Town Hall at 526-2118 if there is a power failure or waterline rupture, during the normal business hours from 8 am to 4:30 pm. The office staff has radios and dispatches crews immediately.



Mayor Pat Taylor

For outages after hours, please call 911. The emergency operator will dispatch our people who are on call.

Now, I know some folks are reluctant to call 911 for fear of being charged with calling for a non-emergency problem. Loss of power and waterline breaks are emergencies. If someone calls the 911 when it is snowing to ask about the weather, well that's another matter.

Nevertheless, folks can also call the non-emergency number at 526-4131. 911 operators will answer and respond if they are not taking a critical emergency call.

Let me once again thank our public works people who were ready, willing and did go on duty during this winter event.

Do you need help with staying warm this winter?

The Highlands Emergency Council will be accepting applications requesting financial help for the cost of propane gas, fuel oil, and wood. Applications will be accepted on Thurs., January, 12; Fri., January 13; Mon., January 16 and Wed., January 18 from 10 am to 2 pm at the HEC office on Poplar Street (next to Wilson gas). Proof of income is required. No applications will be accepted after these dates. Applications must be filled out in person, no applications will be taken over the phone.

...YEAR IN REVIEW continued from page 1

for old Stop n' Shop parcel.

- A lost hiker on the AT is rescued near Albert Mountain.

- Year two for longer school days at Highlands School OK'd.

February

- Elections Director Kim Bishop pleads guilty to fraud in Federal Court

- Town unrolls Altitude Broadband utility.

- Scouting in America is 105 years old.

- County donates \$50,000 to completion of K-H Founders Park.

- US Cellular tower behind fire station gets green light.

- Lea Dallmann was named "Firefighter of the Year" at annual banquet.

- Community is stunned by dramatic crash on 4th Street where car ends up in tree in front of John Cleaveland Realty.

March

- Questions about Satulah Summit access linger.

- Miranda Dotson wins 4th "Television News" emmy.

- Skateboard Park on Rec Park wish list.

- Community stops resurrection of hydro power plant on Cullasaja River.

- The state of Highlands drinking water explained.

- MC BOE considers future of "spankings."

- USFS begins improvements for area attractions.

April

- Lowering of Mirror Lake causes concern/explained.

- Owners of Park on Main seek conditional zone to erect new hotel in "the Pit"

- Boat retrieved from the depths of Lake Sequoyah comes to rest at HHS Vil-

• See YEAR IN REVIEW page 7

Highlands Newspaper

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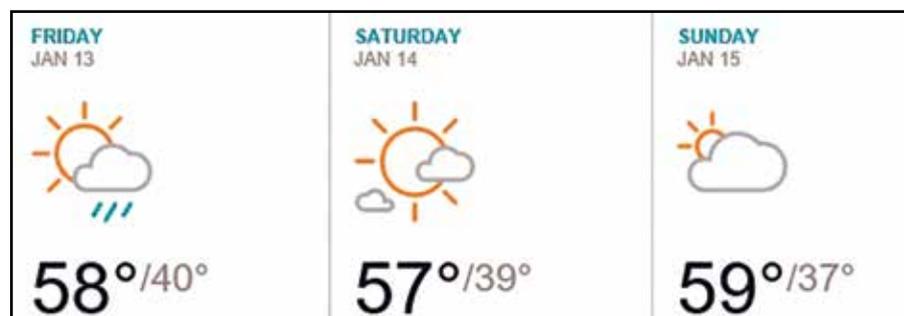
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Getting paid:

Breaking down highest salaries for WNC county employees

**By Michael Gebelein
Carolina Public Press**

People rarely, if ever, get into a career in public service to get rich, according to popular wisdom. As it turns out, some salaries are more generous than others. Salaries of top county employees

Carolina Public Press recently requested records from each of the 19 counties in Western North Carolina to show what top officials make in each county. Comparing these records shows that some county government jobs and elected positions in the region are far more lucrative than others and not every county apportions its resources in a similar fashion.

In 12 of the state's 19 westernmost counties, for instance, the county manager is the highest-paid public official, with salaries ranging from almost \$250,000 per year

in Buncombe County, the largest salary for a single public official in the region, to less than \$55,000 per year for the county manager in Mitchell County.

Carolina Public Press submitted records requests for a summary of the salaries and benefits of the 10 highest paid employees in each county, as well as the compensation packages for elected officials employed by the counties. An analysis of those documents showed large disparities, in some cases, in how counties compensate their employees.

This article focuses on non-elected positions not connected to education. Upcoming articles will look at pay levels for county commissioners, sheriffs and other elected offices, as well as for school officials.

County managers lead the way

The county manager, whom county

commissioners typically hire, is often the highest-profile unelected official in a county's government. The manager, according to North Carolina law, is responsible for preparing the county budget, hiring and firing county employees, supervising the operation of county departments and implementing the rulings passed down by commissioners. Every county in WNC operates under a "county-manager plan."

The manager is the highest-paid public employee in 12 of the 19 WNC counties.

However, in Clay, Graham, Haywood and Madison counties, dentists employed by the county health department are the highest paid employees.

Jackson County's finance director, Cherokee County's attorney and Mitchell County's human resources director are the highest paid employees in those counties.

In Buncombe County, County Manager Wanda Greene receives an annual salary of \$241,791 per year — the highest salary for any public official in the region. Greene be-

came the manager of Buncombe County, the region's most populous, in 1997.

Steve Wyatt, the manager of neighboring Henderson County, holds the second-highest salary for a county manager in the region at \$185,000. Wyatt's compensation package includes a \$7,800 car allowance, a \$700 phone allowance and more than \$70,000 in bonuses.

Burke County Manager Brian Steen receives a \$158,100 per year salary and a \$5,000 per year travel allowance. Haywood County Manager Ira Dove makes almost \$145,000 per year and Jackson County manager Don Adams Jr. makes \$125,010 per year. Macon County's Derek Roland (\$120,000), Rutherford County's Steve Garrison (\$105,806), Transylvania County's Jaime Laughter (\$100,023) and Watauga County's Deron Geouque (\$118,213) round out the county managers in the region making more than \$100,000 per year.

On the lower end of the spectrum,

•See **SALARIES** page 8

• OBITUARIES •

Dorothy 'Dottie' K. Berry

Dorothy K. Berry, "Dottie" to her friends and "TuTu" to her family, passed away peacefully in her sleep on December 28, 2016. Born in Harrisburg, Pa. on December 15, 1922, the only child of George and Esther Kling, Dottie was a child of the Great Depression and a bride in WW II, marrying William H. Berry III (Col. USMCR) in April, 1945 after attending Gettysburg College for several years.



She thoroughly enjoyed her time at her summer home on Buck Creek in Highlands where she spent many springs, summers, falls and Thanksgivings for more than 30 years.

Dottie is survived by her son, Doug (Marti) Berry of Clearwater and daughters Susan (Brian) Bell of New Port Richey and Barbara (Ed) Brown of St. Petersburg; seven grandchildren, Mindy (Cliff) Hinckley, Bill (Julie) Berry, Brenna (Heath) White, Ben (Allison) Berry, Clayton (Kelly) Bell, Brianne Bell, Cassidy (Brandon) Mann, Reese Brown and McLayne Brown; and nine great grandchildren. Bill, her husband of 55 years predeceased her in 2000. A Celebration of Life will be held at Beach Memorial Chapel, 301 Corey Ave St Pete Beach Sunday, Jan 15, 2017 at 5 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that you consider a donation in memory of Dottie to Johns Hopkins All Children's Hospital in St Petersburg or a charity of your choice.

The family would also like to express its deepest appreciation for the kind and loving care afforded Dottie by the staff and administration of The Villas at Sunset Bay, New Port Richey, during her time there. For condolences visit beachmemorialchapel.com.

•See **OBITUARIES** page 4



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...OBITUARIES from page 3

Jessie Caroline Picklesimer Owens

Jessie Caroline Picklesimer Owens, 95, went home to be with the Lord Sunday, January 8, 2017.

Mrs. Owens was born in Macon County to the late John Wesley and Gertie Rogers Picklesimer. She was married to the late Rev. Harry Owens. Mrs. Jessie enjoyed gardening, canning, fishing, and her chickens. She kept a garden and chickens until she was 93. She was a true pastor's wife and was a "Memaw" to everybody. She was also a faithful member of Macedonia Baptist Church.



Survivors include two daughters, Jewel Wolfrey of Clayton, GA and Juanita Faught (Don) of Woodbridge VA; two sons, Ken Owens (Jane) of Clayton, GA and Harold Owens (Ruth Ann) of Tennesse, GA; ten grandchildren; eighteen great-grandchildren, and one great-great grandchild; a brother, Burt Coolidge Picklesimer.

A funeral service will be held 2 p.m. Saturday, January 14, 2017 at Macedonia Baptist Church with the Rev. Rusty Wolfrey, Rev. Ronnie Owens, and Rev. Clinton Owens officiating. Burial will follow in the church cemetery. The family will receive friends from 12:30-2:00 p.m. prior to the service at the church.

Bryant-Grant Funeral Home and Crematory is serving the Owens family. Online condolences may be left at www.bryantgrant-funeralhome.com.

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...MEDICAID continued from page 1

are changed, then more than a half-million North Carolinians could receive health care beginning in January 2018.

"This is North Carolina common sense," Cooper said. "We can receive between \$3 billion and \$4 billion to pay for care that hospitals and other providers now give away. That will create jobs, bolster our hospitals, could save some rural hospitals and work toward more stable private insurance premiums."

The NC Hospital Association says the state's hospitals provide about \$1 billion in care annually to residents who cannot pay for it. Hospitals would receive a significant

share of additional Medicaid dollars that would come back to the state under Cooper's plan. Cooper believes the contributions can be paid through a combination of savings in existing state expenditures due to the new federal funding and a local matching contribution. Hospitals would contribute a 5% local match that CMS requires. Depending on how many additional residents enroll in the expanded program, the hospitals' contribution could be between \$100 million and \$150 million in the first year.

The Cooper Administration says that a 2013 state law that prohibits the governor from seeking to provide health care for low-income North Carolinians does not apply to this draft plan.

"Right now, North Carolina tax dollars are going to Washington, where they are being redistributed to states that have expanded Medicaid," Cooper said. To date, 31 states and Washington DC have expanded coverage through Medicaid; in 2016 these states received more than \$70 billion in federal funds. "Why should North Carolinians pay for Medicaid expansion in states like New Jersey, Ohio and Indiana when we don't even expand it to our own people?"

The state will accept comments for 10 days on North Carolina's notice of intent to amend its Medicaid plan. The Cooper Administration then will file a State Plan Amendment with CMS.

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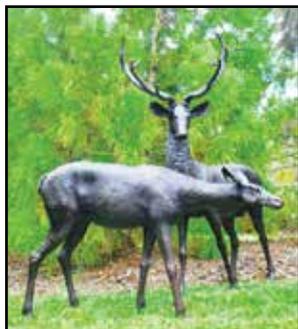


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Mission/fundraiser opportunities

For Bolivia:

The Bolivian Mission is holding its annual fundraiser Pizza night during the NFL conference championship football games from noon to 8pm. Call the Methodist Church at 526-3376 to order. Two toppings \$25. Three or more \$35.

For Haiti:

Toothbrushes are needed for a mission trip to Haiti. Please bring to the Highlands United Methodist Church office before January 23rd.

HEC Fuel Fund

Raffle tickets for hand-made quilt. \$1 for one or 6 for \$5. Pick up tickets at the Highlands Rec Park, the Highlands Emergency Council, Wilson Gas or the First Presbyterian Church. Raffle will take place at the Easter Senior Dinner at the Rec Park in April.



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The Highlands Emergency Council,

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Raffle will take place at the Easter Senior Dinner in April
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Raffle Benefiting The Highlands Emergency Council

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

Ice Rink Schedule:

Thursdays: 1-8pm,

Fridays and Saturdays: 1-10pm,

Sundays: 1-5pm

Mondays 5-8pm (Ice Hockey only).

Admission is \$5, skates included.

Water, coffee and hot chocolate are available for sale.

For more information contact Lester Norris or Maxine Ramey at 828-526-3556.

Highlands Rec Park Pool Schedule:

Lap Swim

Monday-Friday, 7am-10am – 6 lanes and Monday –Thursday, 5pm-6pm – 1 or 2 lanes. Sharing pool with Water Aerobics at 5:15.

Public Swim

Monday-Thursday, 3-5pm & Monday, Tuesday and Thursday, 6pm-8pm, Saturday, 11am-6pm and Sunday, 1pm-5pm.

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Pool available for pool parties Friday, Saturday and Sunday evenings 6pm-8pm.

Call the pool at 828-526-1595 if you have any questions concerning the pool.

...YEAR IN REVIEW continued from page 2

lage on Fourth Street.

- Highlands School seniors Colin Weller and Whitney Billingsley crowned king and queen at Junior-Senior Prom.

May

- State senators work to expand access to "overdose drug."
- Mountain Findings to expand to lot next door.

- Colin Weller and Cole Drummond named Highlands School Val and Sal, respectively.

- Highlands School teacher Andrea Chalker named "Fan of the Year."

June

- Town Board considers expanded Highlands Food & Wine Festival.

- Bryson's Corner at Main and 4th opens for business.

- Angie Jenkins celebrates 40 years as First Presbyterian's organist.

- After a year hiatus, Relay for Life returns to Highlands.

- Fundraising begins for WNC's Hospice House.

July

- Macon County Schools yellow school buses to be tracked with GPS.

- 4th of July pile up on NC 28 involves car and pick up truck.

- MC BOE considers free breakfast for all MC students.

- Historian Ran Shaffner discusses whether Will Bartram stood on Satulah Mountain.

- Highlands Hurricanes finish regular season 2-3. Brings home 16 medals.

- Woman is swept over Rainbow Falls. USFS reminds visitors of waterfall dangers.

August

- Christmas festivities officially move to K-H Founders Park.

- MC BOE says "no" to corporal punishment.

- Highlands Town Planner renders his resignation effective the end of October 2016.

- HS gym roof to be replaced to remedy shoddy work.

- US Cellular Tower goes up.

- Highlands School Great Beginnings era ends.

- Suspect in 1977 Florida murder is ar-

rested at his Highlands home.

- Bob Frye steps down as Town Manager.

September

- Superior Court upholds original ruling in Shearl's favor in John Shearl v. Town of Highlands.

- Spending by U.S. visitors to Macon County is up by 3.7%.

- Residential Hall in Montera, Bolivia goes up in honor of the late Mama Joanna.

- Elk sightings all over plateau.

- Highlands Fire and Rescue hike Tallulah Gorge State Park in honor of fallen comrades.

- Alabama pipeline rupture affects gasoline distribution in Highlands.

- Town says good-bye to Mayor/Santa Buck Trott who died Thursday, Sept. 15.

- Highlands School exceeds growth expectations; earns a B on state report card.

October

- Highlands School gets high marks for sportsmanship.

- Families invited to unite in memory of children lost at fireplace memorial in K-H Founders Park.

- Paoletti Restaurant raises \$85,000 for WNC Hospice House and anonymous donor give \$75,000.

- Oak Lane Greenway dedicated to the late John Stowers.

- Zika infection found in MC resident.

- US Charters of Freedom to be displayed in the county.

- Highlands ABC Store disburses \$75,750 to area nonprofits.

- Commissioners agree to pay \$10,000 to fight Duke Power rate increase.

- Expansion of 200 Main points to need.

- Macon County/Highlands in Extreme Drought.

- Search for new Town Planning Director continues.

November

- Cost of Commercial Garbage pickup in town's sights.

- Highlanders pedal to raise \$50,000 for Navy Seal Foundation.

- Macon County goes RED in 2016 election.

• See YEAR IN REVIEW page 10

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Medland named president/CNO of Highlands-Cashiers Hospital

Jacqueline Medland, PhD, RN, will be joining Mission Health on March 1 as President/Chief Nursing Officer (CNO) of Highlands-Cashiers Hospital.

She has enjoyed a career as a health care leader for over 30 years, including positions in direct patient care, advanced practice nursing, nursing management and hospital administration. Based in the Chica-

go-metro area for most of her career, she has served at the University of Chicago Hospitals, Minsdale Hospital, Northwestern Memorial Hospital and most recently, at Presence St. Joseph Medical Center and Presence St. Mary's Hospital as the Chief Nurse Executive.

In addition to her extensive background in hospital operations, she owned and operated a health-

care consulting practice, and served as Clinical Faculty at the University of Illinois, College of Nursing. Throughout her leadership tenure, Medland has demonstrated consistent success in the areas of workforce engagement and clinical program growth.

Medland received her MSN from the University of Illinois, College of Nursing, and her PhD in Organiza-

tion Development from Benedictine University. She is a member of the American Association of Critical Care Nurses, the American Organization of Nurses Executives, the Illinois Organization of Nursing Leaders and Sigma Theta Tau. Her unique leadership and mentorship was recognized by the University of Illinois, College of Nursing with the Sage Award.



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...SALARIES continued from page 3

Mitchell County Manager Charles Vines receives a salary of \$54,446 per year, the lowest for a manager in the region and lower than that county's human resources director, DSS director, finance director and tax assessor. Yancey County Manager Nathan Bennett receives a \$65,586 salary per year and Graham County Manager Mike Edwards receives a salary of \$67,995 per year.

Several counties have assistant county managers who make almost as much as their bosses.

Talmadge Blevins is the Haywood County assistant manager and director of the Haywood Health and Human Services Agency and receives a yearly salary of \$109,240. Henderson County Assistant County Manager Amy Brantley makes \$128,750 per year, in addition to a \$3,900 car allowance, \$772 phone allowance, \$9,000 merit bonus and \$3,553 retention bonus.

McDowell County Assistant County Manager Ronald Harmon makes \$58,902 per year. Transylvania County's assistant manager, David McNeill, makes \$92,199 annually.

Top employees

Buncombe County's top-tier employees are, for the most part, the highest paid in the region. County health center physician director, Jennifer Mullendore, makes \$195,944 per year. Budget Director Diane Price, Planning Director and Assistant County Manager Jon Creighton and Health and Human Services Director and Assistant County Manager Amanda Stone each make \$173,000 per year. Tax Director Gary Roberts and Finance Director Timothy Flora make \$156,432 per year. All of Buncombe County's 10 highest-paid employees make more than

\$145,000 per year.

In Henderson County, the 10 highest-paid public employees all make more than \$100,000 per year. County Attorney Charles Burrell receives an annual salary of \$152,000 per year and a \$10,575 retention bonus. Assistant County Manager Amy Brantley receives \$128,750 per year, a \$9,000 merit bonus and a \$3,500 retention bonus.

WNC's smallest counties by population, Clay, Graham and Swain, also have some of the lowest salaries in the region. Clay County dentist Ruth Lima (\$117,062) and Graham County dentist Rory Frederick (\$141,356) are the only public employees in those counties making more than \$100,000 per year. Swain County Manager Kevin King receives an annual salary of \$96,294, and also receives a \$5,850 mileage allowance and has \$6,000 worth of insurance paid by the county.

Yancey County, another of WNC's smaller counties, has four law enforcement officers among its 10 highest-paid public employees. Chief Deputy Shane Hilliard (\$54,097 salary per year), Lt. John Robinson (\$50,304), Lt. Ryan Higgins (\$49,008) and Lt. Daniel Hughes (\$49,008) each also have a take-home car, in addition to their annual salaries.

Other counties with law enforcement officers in their list of highest paid employees include Avery County Chief Deputy Troy Cook (\$56,890) and Chief Jailer Trina Cook (\$54,702), McDowell County Chief Deputy Rick Buchanan (\$63,462), Rutherford County chief deputy Jeff Buchanan (\$64,394) and Swain County chief deputy Jason Gardner (\$47,476).

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 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)

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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!

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A different full dinner every night.
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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*

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New Year Home Resolutions

How many of you made New Year's resolutions for 2017? It really doesn't matter if you've already broken them, or if you haven't started yet. It's a fact that goals that are written down are more likely to be attained. Let's talk about goals and resolutions for your house, whether it's for sale, for rent, or simply your nest.

1) Curb appeal: every house has it; Consider your home having a theme song-what would it be? Its theme song could range from 'Favorite Things' from The Sound of Music, or 'Happy' from Despicable Me2. As long as you don't hear 'Du-

eling Banjos' from Deliverance or the instrumental from The Good, The Bad and The Ugly – you should be fine, but do you need a different approach to your home- one that says, Welcome?

2) Kitchens: Take a look at your flatware, dishes, pots and pans and how about that accumulation of plastic ware and grocery bags. Homes for sale should show as much counter space as possible. Minimize the nonperishable items you leave if any. If a prospective buyer or renter plans to cook in your kitchen, it needs to look like they can walk right in and get started.

3) Windows and coverings: Are your

curtains/draperies faded? Still sporting the '80s blouson, or the '70s ruffles? Some of these styles are timeless in certain places, but for the most part-no, they aren't. Are you a purist that wants NO coverings at all? While that's fine, and has a wonderful commercial/contemporary feel, it can leave a room feeling cold and unwelcoming. A designer can help you change a bare window without compromising your sense of style.

4) Bed, bath and kitchen linens: Just how long have you had those towels? Do they still say Welcome to my home? One of the simplest rooms to stage for sale or rent is your bathroom. Fresh looking bath linens and clean fixtures/vanities make a nice statement no matter how old the bathroom.

5) Bedrooms: another big statement, and yes- size matters. When someone walks into your bedroom, the visual size of the room is often dictated on your mattress size and accompanying pieces of furniture. People tend to want spaciousness without hearing an echo. In other words, make sure there's enough room to walk freely, but if the room is large enough for a circus tent, you should divide the room with a grouping of furniture to help with a cozy feel. While we're in the bedroom, if you're selling furnished or renting your home, it helps to have a decent mattress. A mattress is an investment – it's never fun to purchase but it's a necessity that must be done every 8-10 years. Like window coverings, the bed linens should be freshened often – yes, it can be expensive, but it could mean the difference of someone walking in and out, or lingering to imagine their life in your home.

6) Closets: should be bare for rental homes, and sparsely used in homes for sale. Shelves, and floors should be neat with items



Jeannie Chambers
Chambers Realty &
Vacation Rentals

neatly put away in storage boxes – but not every surface used. Prospective users need to feel they have plenty of storage room.

7) Floors and floor coverings: how do yours measure up? Carpeting and room size rugs should be clean, free of stains and loose threads. If they're old wood, they should be mopped and treated with a protective finish, new wood or wood look should be without lumps and bumps and the finish work done correctly.

8) Furnishings: whether you're offering your home furnished or not, what's there is a statement-what it says is up to you.

9) The never ending 'Honey Do' list- Consider hiring out jobs that you're afraid to tackle. Just because your neighbor knows how to re-wire, paint every surface, add a room or porch doesn't mean you have to try to do the same. DIY isn't for everyone, no matter how much you want to or think you should. It could be less expensive in the long run to go ahead and hire that professional.

These are just a few items that you need to consider. Take a good long, hard look at your home with fresh eyes- as if you were walking in for the first time- what do YOU see? Write down some goals and see what happens. It's a new year, a great time for new beginnings and fresh starts.

• Jeannie and Tucker Chambers are owners of Chambers Realty & Vacation Rentals. With the family business over 75 years old, they provide knowledge, services and connect their rental owners and their sellers with the right people to get things done. Their office is at 401 N. Fifth Street, 828-526-3717 or chambers-realty.com

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...YEAR IN REVIEW continued from page 7

- NC Forest Service issues burning ban for 25 WNC counties.
- Cliffside Lake Park one of 14 fires raging in WNC.
- Veterans Memorial gets new home in front of police dept.

December

- Partial burning ban lifted for Macon County; Highlands' stays. Lifted two weeks later.
- Highlands School Homecoming

King and Queen are Benj Miller and Emily Crowe.

- Franklin man arrested for starting two of the smaller USFS fires.
- Josh Ward returns to Highlands as Town Manager.
- Community turns out for cancer victim Cali Smolarsky's fundraiser.

To review every issue published from 2003 to 2016 go to www.highlandsinfo.com. Click on News and scroll down.

• **SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING** •

Comparison of Physical and Spiritual Energy



By Rev. Dr. Francis Xavier
Arockiasamy, Ph.D.
Physics, M.Ed., B.Ph.,
B.Th.,
Our Lady of the
Mountains Catholic
Church

Energy plays a vital role in human beings. It is needed for our physical activities. Physics teaches us that energy is a property of objects which can be transferred to other objects or converted into different forms. In Newtonian Physics, there is a universal law of conservation of energy which explains that energy can be neither created nor be destroyed. However it can change from one form of energy to another form of energy.

All living organisms rely on external sources of energy to be able to live, grow and reproduce. We have different energy resources available in the universe. The main source of energy in our planet system is the sun. We get the energy to live from the food system that depends on the sun, as well as from sunlight, itself. The physical energy we obtain from the food, water and air systems allow us to live and grow in our physical life, giving us physical energy.

The human being is basically not only a physical being; he is also a spiritual being in nature. When we reflect on the human creature, all are composed of soul and body. The physical body obeys the law of physics in all our life activities. Concerning the soul, religions teach about a god who rules over our soul. In Christianity, the Holy Bible teaches about the creation, by God, of heaven and earth. We were created by God in the beginning. In the creation story from the book of Genesis we learn that human beings are created in the divine image of God. We are not only the physical body, we also are the spiritual self: physical human nature and divine nature.

In the New Testament of the Bible, we read about dependence on God. (Matthew 7: 25-34). In this passage, Jesus speaks about God's care for both our physical bodies and our spiritual selves. Jesus also speaks about our spiritual nature in Matthew 10:28: "And do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul, be afraid of the one who can destroy both soul and body..."

The Lord makes it clear we need spiritual energy for our soul. God is the source of this energy. We are able to access this by praying, reading Scripture, reflecting on the passages and applying them in our life activities. This kind of spiritual energy enables human beings to manifest divine love and the life force that binds the soul to the physical body. Unlike with physical energy, spiritual energy is unlimited and

• See **SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING** page 13

Proverbs 3:5

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Sunday night services every 2nd & 4th Sunday at 7
Wednesdays: Mid-week prayer meeting: 7 p.m.

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Rector: Jim Murphy, 252-671-4011
464 US Hwy 64 east, Cashiers
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Mon.: Bible Study & Supper at homes - 6 p.m.

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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

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Senior Pastor Gary Hewins
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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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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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Sunday: School 9:45a, Worship 11a & 7p, Bible Study 6p

PLACES TO WORSHIP

John 3:16

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
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HOLY FAMILY LUTHERAN CHURCH: ELCA

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Worship/Communion: 10:30

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

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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

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Sundays: School: 10 a.m.; Worship: 11 a.m.
Wednesdays: Prayer & Bible Study: 6 p.m.

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Rev. Rob Wood
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June-Sept: Sunday Services: Rite I, 8a, Rite II, 9:15 & 11a
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Thursday: Noon Healing Service with Eucharist.

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POLICE & FIRE REPORTS

The Highlands Police log entries from Jan. 2. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor or public officials have been used.

Jan. 2

- At 7:45 p.m., Joshua Warren McDowell, 35 of Highlands was arrested for failure to appear in court. His new trial date is Feb. 15.

Jan. 6

- At 11:20 a.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident in Highlands Plaza.
- At 4:06 p.m., officers responded to a one-vehicle accident on Horse Cove Road.

The Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept. log from Jan. 6.

Jan. 6

- The dept. provided mutual aid on a structure fire in Cashiers.
- The dept. investigated smoke in the vicinity of Old Orchard Road.

Jan. 7

- The dept. responded to a minor motor vehicle accident on NC 28 south.

Jan. 8

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

...SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING continued from page 11

increasing as it transfers and transforms from God to us. It allows mankind to do good things for its fellow human beings and for society.

Physics can explain "how" the universe functions, but only theology (spirituality) can explain "why" the universe should exist. Physics teaches about the physical energy to act, but God gives the spiritual energy to do a good act. Physics deals with matter and clarifies the form of reality. Spirituality deals with the spirit and inspires insight about transcendence or the ultimate reality.

All of us are living in the universe. We all are energy transformers in nature, physically and spiritually, through our activities. Our physical self helps to work for our livelihood. Our spiritual self helps us to regulate our life on doing good things. So Physical Energy and Spiritual Energy are seen as two aspects of the same reality.

ter School, and Jack Sumner, second grader from East Franklin, to compete. Kenter will compete in the 50-Freestyle, 50-Butterfly, 50-Backstroke, and the 50-Breaststroke and hopefully the 200-Free Relay. Sumner will compete in the 50-Breaststroke. The Hurricanes hope to send at least three more swimmers to join Kenter and Sumner in the 200-Freestyle Relay event.

Kenter and Sumner are exceptional swimmers and are expected to do well in their events. Though they were a full year younger than many swimmers in their age group, Kenter finished 1st and Sumner 3rd in the Mountain Swim league (MSL) All star Meet last summer. (2nd place was Highlands Hurricane Swimmer Connor Hughes, who is a year older and has aged up.). Kenter holds 3 MSL records and is expected to set more records this summer. The Highlands Hurricanes is a Highlands Recreation Park Team that practices at the Highlands Recreation Park pool in the evenings during the week and on Saturday mornings. Attendance at all practices is not required. The only requirement to join is that a candidate be able to swim one pool length unassisted.

For further information please call Steve Hott, Head Coach at 828.421.4121 or the Highlands Recreation Park Pool at 828.526.1595.

Crews rescue man lost on USFS land

Macon County EMS and rescue crews located an individual Sunday, Jan. 8, who had apparently spent the night in the forest near Standing Indian Campground.

Macon County 9-1-1 received a call just before 3 p.m. Sunday requesting assistance locating a 44-year-old Danny Thomas who had possibly experienced vehicle problems and was last known to be in the area of US Forest Road 67 on Saturday.

Search crews from West Macon Fire and Rescue, the U.S. Forest and the Macon County Sheriff's Department were able to locate footprints in the vicinity of the subject's last known location and followed them for several hours into the forest until the subject was located around 8:15 p.m. in an area between Albert Mountain and Coweeta Hydrological Laboratory-Southern Research Station in Otto, NC.

Crews from Otto Fire and Rescue accessed the area from the Ball Creek Road area and transported the patient to EMS crews in the area.

Extreme weather conditions including severe cold and heavy snow combined with the location of the patient made extrication very difficult.

EMS crews transported the patient to a waiting air ambulance and he was airlifted to Mission Hospital in Asheville in serious condition around 2 a.m., Monday where he is being treated for cold-weather related injuries.. One rescuer suffered minor injuries. Temperatures early Sunday morning were in the single digits and were around 12 degrees F when rescuers were able to extricate the patient this Monday morning.



Chase Kenter (7) and Jack Sumner (8) will lead a team to Nationals this summer.

Highlands Hurricanes head to the Junior Olympics

The AAU Junior Olympics will be in Detroit, Michigan from July 26 to August 6, 2017 and the Highlands Hurricanes plan to attend. The Hurricanes will send swimmers Chase Kenter, second grader at Summit Char-

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LOST DEC. 29TH on upper Fourth Street area a gold ring with 5 stones in a row. Please call 828-526-8860 or turn into Police Dept. Greatly appreciate your kindness!

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MAYTAG GAS DRYER, \$100.

Office furniture by Cashiers Custom Furniture. 2 desks, bookcase, file cabinet. Call 828-226-2083. (st. 7/28)

KOBALT DIAMOND SHIELD REGULAR TRUCK BED TOOL BOX. Deep low profile full size. 17"x69"x19" fits most full size trucks OBO. Call Frank in Scaly Mountain 828-526-1953. (st. 5/11)

HELP WANTED

GIS AND COMPUTER SUPPORT SPECIALIST – The Town of Highlands invites candidates to apply for the position of GIS and Computer Support Specialist. This employee performs responsible technical work installing and maintaining the Town's geographical information systems (GIS) including computer hardware and software for departments, and gives aid periodically to the IT Dept. Minimum qualifications for the position include graduation from an accredited college or university with an Associate's degree in geographic science, or other field of study related to the position. Salary for the position is negotiable DOE/DOQ. Position will be open until filled. To review the full recruitment posting for the position and download an employment application, visit our website www.highlandsnc.org, or at the Town Hall. The Town of Highlands is an EOE. (1/19)

COMPUTER SUPPORT SPECIALIST – The Town of Highlands invites candidates to apply for the position of Computer Support Specialist. This employee performs responsible technical work installing and maintaining the Town's information technology and communication systems, including computer hardware and software for departments. The salary for the position is negotiable DOE/DOQ. Minimum qualifications for the position include graduation from an accredited college or university with an Associate's degree in information technology, computer science, or other field of study related to the position. Salary for the position is negotiable DOE/DOQ. Position will be open until filled. To review the full recruitment posting for the position and

download an employment application, visit our website www.highlandsnc.org, or at the Town Hall. The Town of Highlands is an EOE. (1/19).

PART TIME CLEANERS needed after hours cleaning banks. Please call Cathy @ 828 772 9831 (st. 12/22).

MOUNTAIN FRESH GROCERY IS HIRING FOR FULL-TIME positions in the Deli. Please come in person to 521 East Main Street in Highlands to apply, or call 828-526-2400.

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)

EXPERIENCED ELECTRICIANS NEEDED. Call 828-526-5147. (st. 11/22)

HAVE OPENINGS FOR WAITSTAFF AND COOK for Clubhouse dining. Also hiring for C.N.A. for Assisted Living. Apply at Chestnut Hill of Highlands, 24 Clubhouse Trail, Highlands NC. (828)526-5251. (12/24)

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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(Note: Messages sent Dec. 3-15 were not received. The email now working)
(st. 12/8)

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ONE BED/ONE BATH, furnished. All utilities paid. Call 828-371-0829. (st. 1/12)

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cial for Rent. (1/26)

1575 SQ FT OF COMMERCIAL SPACE AVAILABLE Jan 5 at The Shops at Kettle Rock. \$950 per month. For inquiries call 828-526-9948. (12/1)

APPROXIMATELY 900 S/F AND RECENTLY UPDATED. Ideal for retail/professional/service. Plenty of parking + excellent visibility for \$1,750/month. Contact Susie deVillie at White Oak Realty Group for details, (828) 371-2079. (st. 7/29)

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GENTLE YOGA WITH JILLIAN JOHNSON Tuesdays 10.30 am, The Wellness Place 468 Dillard Road 828-526-9698. (st. 1/12)

ALL AROUND OFFICE SOLUTIONS – Bookkeeping Services, Payroll Prep, Payroll Tax Prep, Billing Services, Virtual Assistant, Data Base Management, Administrative Services, Research Assistance, Quickbooks Set-up and Training. Call Mary James at 828-421-0002 or email mjames@allaroundofficesolutions.com (st. 1/15)

HIGH COUNTRY PHOTO/KEVIN VINSON: scanning photos, slides & negatives to CD or DVD for easier viewing. Video transfer to DVD. Everything done in house. Leave message at 828-526-5208. (st. 11/17)

MOLD AND MUSTY SMELL IN YOUR HOME? Call for free inspection. 828-743-0900.

'No Man's Land' via Satellite at PAC Sat., Jan. 14

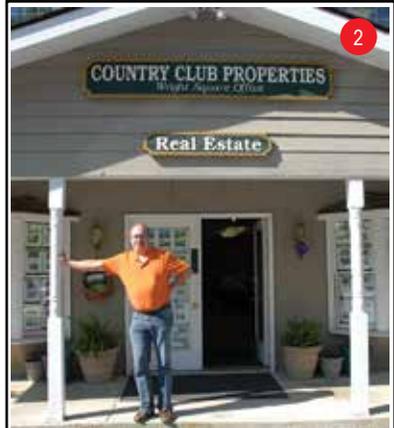


The National Theatre of London will present Live via Satellite the legendary actors Patrick Stewart and Ian McKellen in Harold Pinter's "No Man's Land" on Saturday, Jan. 14 at 1pm at the Highlands Performing Arts Center. Following their hit run on Broadway, Ian McKellen and Patrick Stewart return to the West End stage.

One summer's evening, two ageing writers meet in a Hampstead pub and continue their drinking into the night at Hirst's stately house nearby. As the pair become increasingly inebriated, and their stories increasingly unbelievable, the lively conversation soon turns into a revealing power game, further complicated by the return home of two sinister younger men. Also starring Owen Teale and Damien Molony, don't miss this glorious revival of Pinter's comic classic. The broadcast will be followed by an exclusive Q&A with the cast and director Sean Mathias. This production is rated 15 & up. Tickets are available online: highlandspac.org, at the door or by calling 828.526.9047. Highlands Performing Arts Center, 507 Chestnut Street, Highlands



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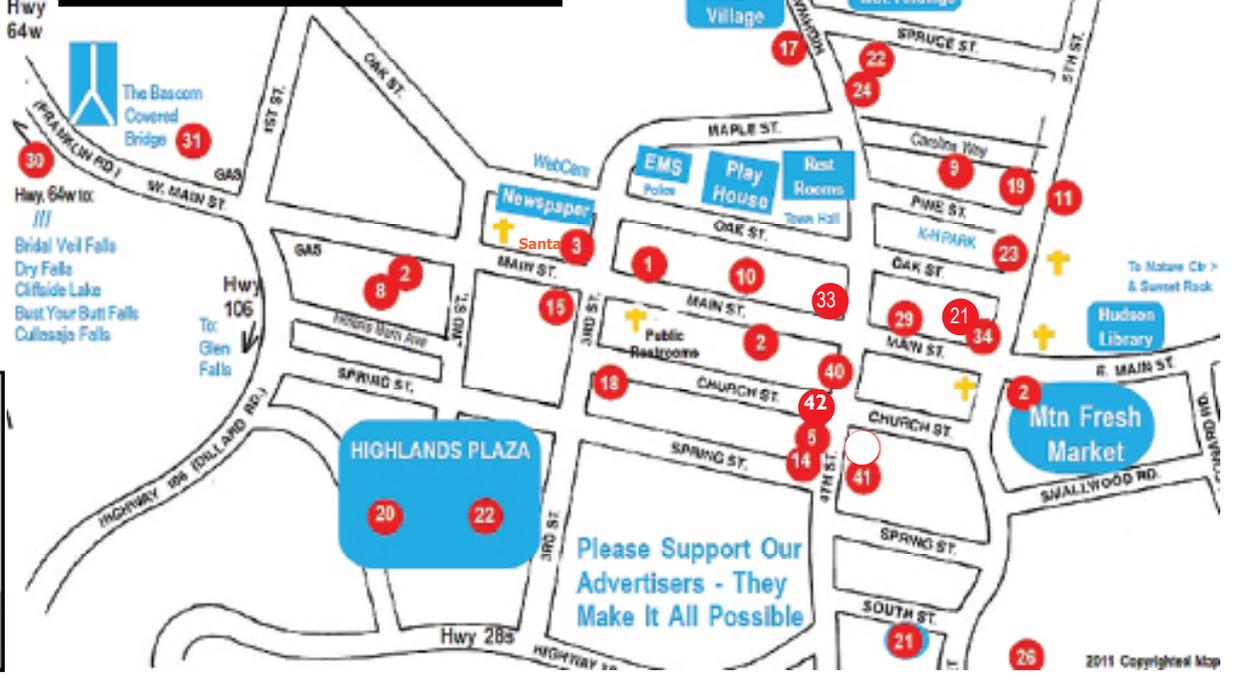
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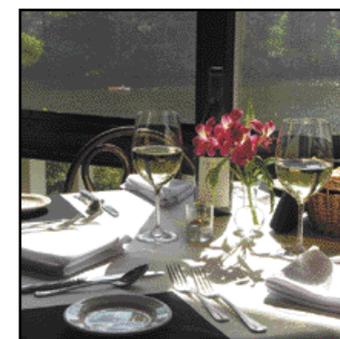
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