Citizens ask commissioners to consider taking action on two specific issues

During the Public Comment segment of the Nov. 16 Town Board meeting, two citizens addressed commissioners about two issues not on the agenda: bears and B3 zoning. Cynthia Strain of the B.E.A.R. Taskforce said as everyone knows.

Annual Town Lighting is Saturday, Nov. 25 in K-H Founders Park on Pine Street

The Highlands town crew has decorated the trees and light poles throughout the downtown business district in preparation for the annual Town Lighting the Saturday after Thanksgiving. The festivities are in Kelsey-Hutchinson Park on Pine Street November 25 beginning at 6:30 p.m. Featured is free hot chocolate and cookies and a Christmas carole sing-along as the crowds wait for Santa and his helpers to arrive to light the Christmas Tree. Once Santa officially lights the tree, all the lights in town will go on and then Santa will be visiting with children in the park to hear their Christmas wishes. The ice rink in the park will also be open after the town lighting.

– Photo by Kim Lewicki

Coal ash and more discussed at Town Board mtg.

The Thursday, Nov. 16 Town Board meeting was short but touched on a number of pertinent issues.

MIS/GIS Director Matt Shuler said the town is doing its due diligence concerning the financials of Wide Open Network, the company it is considering to be its broadband partner.

He said vetting is underway and is being performed by an independent financial analyst – ECC – under the direction of Joe Starks.

Shuler said though broadband/ fiber is a big part of the partnership, the town is also interested in the company’s ability to get the town “real time data” through smart metering in the

Rep Corbin reflects on first year in office

After spending a year serving the residents of Western North Carolina in the House of Representatives 120 district, Rep. Kevin Corbin is back home for a few months before returning to the general assembly next January.

Corbin was elected to replace long time Representative Roger West in the House of Representatives in January and finished up the first year of his two-year term last month when the General Assembly ended their last regular session of 2017.

Rep. Corbin said that while his first year in office was a learning curve, the experience was along the lines of what he expected and taught him a lot about politics on the state level.

“My first year was what I expected,” said Corbin. “I knew it was going to be a challenge and

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• See TOWN BOARD page 10

• See CITIZENS page 14

• See CORBIN page 14
The November Town Board Meeting had a brief agenda. The next meeting on December 14 will be finishing up end-of-year business so I anticipate a longer agenda. Let me summarize some ongoing issues that I covered at last Thursday’s meeting.

First, the coal ash recovery costs issues continue. Duke Energy has asked the North Carolina Utilities Commission to collect 5.2 billion dollars from their customers for coal ash remediation. As a wholesale customer the Town of Highlands signed an agreement to abide by the allowance granted by the Utilities Commission.

Our consultant has been lobbying the commission to not grant the full amount that Duke is requesting. We were very hopeful when the Public Staff of the Utilities Commission recently recommended a 50% recovery allowance, or just 2.5 billion. That figure would translate in significantly lower costs for Highlanders.

The CEO of Duke recently countered that if the North Carolina Utilities Commission does not allow the full 5.2 billion, they will file legal action. Duke is prepared to take their case all the way to North Carolina Supreme Court.

Here is the problem. In January the town has to begin passing on the coal ash charges to our customers at a rate based on Duke’s proposed full recovery costs. We were hopeful that the Utilities Commission would disallow a significant portion of the Duke request. If Duke files suit, a final resolution of coal ash fees could be years away. The high costs would stay in effect until a final court decision.

Here is where the town is on broadband. A third-party organization is reviewing the proposal that Wide Open Networks has submitted for a public/private partnership. They are even visiting the town to get a better understanding of how and where the network would be constructed.

The Town Board is waiting for a report from this third party before moving ahead in building the network. The goal is to create a system with minimal or no exposure to taxpayers. This system will be a town investment in the Smart Grid of the future. With this grid the town could do things like monitor our commercial dumpsters to see if they are full, or program our

---

Dear Editor,

The Jackson County, North Carolina Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) wishes to communicate its position regarding the existence of monuments that glorify the cause of the Confederacy, white supremacy, and the soldiers who fought in the Civil War.

While we accept these monuments as a partial representation of the history of

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that era, they embody only one point of view. To tell the whole story, monuments to other historical experiences of that period and today must be created.

All those who fought deserve our respect for the sacrifices they made, whether they volunteered or were drafted, regardless of which side they joined during the Civil War.

Historical monuments in public places, other than in museums, should not include symbols of racial hatred such as Confederate flags, as they represent white supremacy, slavery, racial oppression, and secession from the United States.

A courthouse should be an inherent symbol of justice, applicable to all citizens; therefore it is appropriate to construct additional monuments, statues, and/or plaques at or near the same location as the current Confederate monuments, to provide recognition of all the people of this region and their descendants.

This includes, but is not limited to, those

• who were enslaved, lynched, or otherwise terrorized,
• who were African Americans and fought in every American war,
• who were impoverished because of depressed wages in a slave economy,
• who were women and children that experienced hunger, poverty, and predation without the labor and protection of the men who fought,
• who were white Southerners from Western North Carolina fighting in the Union Army during the Civil War,
• who were abolitionists aiding the Underground Railroad,
• who were activists against Jim Crow laws and fought for civil rights,
• who were displaced by European settlers,
• and who were champions for liberty, justice, equality, and dignity in Western North Carolina.

We seek to correct the inaccurate depictions of regional history that honor only those who promoted white supremacy.

Our community and elected leaders have an obligation to correct these omissions with public monuments honoring the efforts and sacrifices of the previously mentioned groups, thus providing a more complete and accurate portrait of the history and heritage of the people of Western North Carolina.

Lucy Christopher
Cashiers

Let’s do the festival again!

Dear Editor,

I want to congratulate the town of Highlands, the Chamber of Commerce, and each and every sponsor of the Highlands Food and Wine Festival on November 9-12.

What a great event to showcase our town! Our local chefs demonstrated creativity with delicious dishes and chefs from other areas including New Orleans’ chefs, Dickie Brennan and Susan Spicer, gave us their best. The entertainment with New Orleans bands and others were amazing for 4 days and the event on Main Street on Saturday with grilled oysters, the best charcuterie ever-perfectly paired with wines and so many great food vendors along with the bands, JJ Grey and Mofro and Dead 27’s put a smile on faces and had toes stomping! Other talent included Dawes, Future Birds, Love Cannon, Silly Ridge Round Up, and the Preservation Jazz Band!

The Gospel Brunch on Sunday with fabulous food, a Bloody Mary bar, champagne, and music by Liz Vice and the band Joyful from New Orleans filled the place with gospel spirit. The final song, When The Saints Go Marching In, had everyone on their feet and already looking forward to next year’s event.

Pat Allen Realty Group was proud to sponsor 2 of the events and I wish to thank the other sponsors who made this a huge success! This was the second year of planning and marketing by Eleven Events from Greenville and they are amazing! We have already been voted one of the best festivals in the south east!

I hope you all will let the town and Chamber of Commerce know your appreciation and keep the event going. Many attendees from other states came just for this event and I was thrilled with the number of young people who have now fallen in love with Highlands as I did 23 years ago! I must say locals loved it too! Get your tickets early as every event sold out quickly.

Pat Allen
Highlands

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Dear Editor,

I would like to congratulate all who were involved in our recent Highlands Food and Wine Festival for your tremendous accomplishments. This year’s event was so well planned and produced and truly showcased what makes Highlands the unique and special destination that it is. From the spectacular opening night event, The Grand Tasting, to the glorious Gospel Brunch, each event was interesting, exciting and fun to attend.

As a former marketing executive, I was fascinated to see a complete change in the demographics of the visitors who came to experience this event. The crowd seemed to skew much younger than I am accustomed to seeing on our Main Street and I met visitors from the Midwest, West and Northeast who had come specifically to attend this event and who plan to return to Highlands because of the beauty and excitement they saw here. This was no accident; indeed it was a result of a careful and well thought out strategy. Some visitors were already looking at real estate in between events and one young couple I met said they wanted to explore having their wedding in Highlands next year! We need this new blood to keep our Highlands economy strong and thriving.

As a local, I was thrilled to have the opportunity to share these events with neighbors and friends and to meet so many interesting people involved in the production of food and wine and who are so dedicated to the preservation of Southern cuisine and culture. High praise should be given to those efforts because without them recipes and unique cultural styles will disappear and be blended into the mainstream. What a loss that would be!

Thank you too to the fabulous entertainers, food purveyors, wine makers and chefs who chose to spend their time with us and who shared their immense talents. We gratefully acknowledge how you made our beautiful mountain home shine in your presence. And another big thanks to our local businesses and restaurants who hosted magnificent wine dinners and who themed their normal offerings to the Highlands Food and Wine Festival. I particularly enjoyed the food themed films at the Playhouse and having the opportunity to enjoy a sumptuous dinner with wine pairings at Half Mile Farm by Old Edwards. Great job everyone!

I gratefully acknowledge that none of this could have happened without the financial participation of our local event sponsors, Pat Allen Realty Group, Satula Mountain Brewing Company, Old Edwards Inn and Spa, Landmark and TJ Bailey’s.

Congratulations Highlands Chamber of Commerce and 11Events for an incredible festival! You made us all so very proud! I can’t wait to see what you “cooking up” for 2018...I’m already taking reservations from friends for my guest rooms!

Linda M Johnson
Highlands
Will you be shopping on November 25, the Saturday after Thanksgiving? If so, why not consider shopping at small local businesses? The Small Business Saturday campaign started by American Express (Amex) in 2010 and still going strong, encourages consumers to support small businesses across the country. In 2011, the Amex idea picked up steam when the United States Senate passed a resolution of support for the day.

By 2012, governors, mayors, and the President were championing the cause across the nation. Amex went a step further in 2014 by helping small business owners promote their businesses with free personalized ads that ran on the internet millions of times, and folks spent approximately $14.3B that Saturday.

The company described the day in 2015 as “one for the books” when 95M people shopped small businesses. The next year broke records again with $15.4B in sales and 112M people shopping. On the “Shop Small” section on its website, Amex provides customizable templates for posters, flyers, emails, and social media so that small businesses can create marketing materials to promote the day.

You’d think that the company might provide this material only for businesses that accept their credit card, but anyone can download them. Accepting the Amex card makes a business eligible for additional free benefits to help in attracting potential customers—options like personalized online banner ads, signage, and a listing on the Shop Small Map.

Are you wondering why we should support our small businesses? Amex has a great answer: “Small businesses play a key role in helping communities thrive. By shopping or dining at your favorite local places throughout the year, you’re showing your support for small businesses and making a positive impact in your community.”

Of course, in Highlands, everyone knows that having long-time thriving small businesses is just one of the elements that goes into creating the vibrant community we love.

Still not convinced? I found additional persuasive information on the350project.net, a website that also promotes supporting small businesses. Here’s the philosophy of The three / 50 Project:

3 – Think about which three independently owned stores you’d miss most if they were gone. Stop in and say hello. Pick up a little something that will make someone smile. Your contribution is what keeps those businesses around.

50 – If just half the employed population spent $50 each month in independently owned stores, their purchases would generate $42.6B in revenue. Imagine the positive impact if ¼ of employed Americans did that.

68 – For every $100 spent in independently owned stores, $68 of it returns to the community through taxes, payroll, and other expenditures. If you spend that in a national chain, only $43 stays here. Spend it online and nothing comes home.

1 – The number of people it takes to start a trend…you.

Like Amex, this website also houses free materials to help small business owners with marketing and promotion. The concept was dreamed up in 2009 by Cinda Baxter in response to the panic that was setting in as the recession was taking hold.

By now, I hope I’ve inspired you to eat and shop “small” on November 25 and beyond. Visit Sports Page, Wild Thyme Gourmet, Sky Pie, Buck’s Coffe Café, Mountain Fresh Grocery and all the other restaurants and eateries on pages four and five of this edition for fortification.

Then head to The Dry Sink, Dutchmans, Spartina, Peak Experience, Wit’s End, Jolie’s, Martha Anne’s, AnnaWear, The Toy Store, Southern Way, Nancy’s Fancy’s, Lulu Bleu, TJ Bailey, Corrificio, McCulleys, The Summer House, and all the other shops listed throughout this issue and on pages 15-17 to shop.

PS. Please join me 12/2 after the parade for a book signing with Lord Banjo at the Molly Grace in Highlands noon – 2 pm and at Books Unlimited in Franklin 6 – 8 pm.
Gratitude is Good for Your Health

Every Thanksgiving we take time to be thankful for all that we have in our lives; our families and friends, our neighbors, and our careers that allow us the means by which we can provide for our families. Thanksgiving is also a time for reflection, an opportunity for us to express our gratitude for not just our possessions, but also for the variety of experiences and lessons, both good and bad, that bring us to a greater understanding of ourselves, each other, and this miraculous world that we live in.

While there are many things that we have absolutely no control over, such as the path of a hurricane or the national debt, life lessons have a way of showing us the ONLY things that we DO have control over: our attitude and our health. With a positive attitude not only can enormous financial and emotional losses be overcome, but it is through a positive attitude that we can learn to finally take responsibility for our health, overcome chronic and debilitating illnesses, and be able to fully enjoy the life we were given.

Often it is a fateful diagnosis or the unexpected passing of a loved one that wakes us up from the complacency of our unconscious choices. When suddenly faced with a shortened life that has become dependent on prescriptions and/or surgery for “lifestyle” conditions such as obesity, diabetes II and heart disease, many people begin to understand that the path to good health is A CHOICE.

It all starts by giving thanks for where you are now. Although you may be struggling with weight gain, allergies, digestive issues or joint pain, thank your body for getting you this far! Often, the human body experiences many years of abuse in the form of too much nutrient-poor foods, too much caffeine and alcohol, and too little sleep before any symptoms begin to show up. The good news is that numerous studies have shown that by intentionally and consciously making food and lifestyle choices that support your physical and emotional needs, you can actually REVERSE symptoms of chronic conditions like heart disease, diabetes II and obesity, as well as immune, hormonal, and digestive disorders. Take time this Thanksgiving to give gratitude for your ability to learn how to take better care of yourself for your body’s amazing ability to heal and renew when given clean water, nutrient-rich foods, sunshine, and exercise.

When we recognize and acknowledge the amazing abilities that we possess as human beings, it becomes easier to care for and nurture our bodies, minds and hearts. While dieting requires you to force yourself to stick to a program through willpower alone, adopting a long-term healthy lifestyle only requires you to understand what your body needs to be healthy - no willpower needed!

This Thanksgiving, I am thankful to have the opportunity to share my knowledge on how you easily can make powerful and lasting changes in your current state of health. Whether you have been struggling with a long term chronic health issue or have recently started experiencing annoying or uncomfortable symptoms, these steps will guide you to greater health and happiness now and for years to come.

1. Stay hydrated by drinking plenty of clean, filtered water. Coffee, tea and soda all weaken your body by removing water and valuable nutrients.

2. Eat healthy fats. Such as organic butter, animal fat from pastured animals, coconut oil, avocados, and raw nuts. Avoid processed hydrogenated fats like nearly all commercial vegetable oils that are high in omega-6 fats, such as canola, soy and corn oils.

3. Be sure to have at least 1 ounce of high quality organic hormone-free protein like egg, poultry, beef, wild game, wild-caught seafood or vegetable protein like beans or nuts at every meal.

4. Consume healthy fats such as organic butter, animal fat from pastured animals, coconut oil, avocados, and raw nuts. Avoid processed hydrogenated fats like nearly all commercial vegetable oils that are high in omega-6 fats, such as canola, soy and corn oils.

5. Include plenty of higher whole carbohydrate foods, like organic leafy greens, broccoli, asparagus, beans, beets, sweet potatoes, squashes, whole grains, etc. Be sure that your cooked rice, pasta or other grains are organic and not processed. Wild rice is a great option.

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...HEALTHY continued from page 8

vegetables still maintain most of their nutrients by cooking them using the waterless method (not boiled or microwaved).

6. Eat plenty of raw organic vegetables like salads, and naturally fermented foods like homemade sauerkraut or organic Greek yogurt.

7. Manage your stress through giving thanks, through spiritual connection, making time to play and enjoy hobbies, and positive relationships with family, friends and co-workers. Be sure to get support when you need it and reduce stress through regular exercise. Try alternating short burst high intensity exercise along with moderate aerobic activity, which is how your body was designed to perform.

8. Be sure to get your vitamin D levels checked by your health care practitioner and determine how much vitamin D3 you should take daily.

9. Limit exposure to toxins of all kinds- from pesticides in foods, additives, artificial colors, household cleaners, and body care products- by replacing with natural and non-toxic products.

10. Get plenty of sleep to allow your body to repair, reset, and recharge.

*Medea Galligan, MS Nutrition, CHHC, AADP has been in private practice for more than 20 years. She specializes in digestive, immune and hormonal issues imbalances and is now accepting new clients. To request a FREE INITIAL CONSULTATION visit www.MedeasHealthyLifestyleConcepts.com or leave a message at 828-989-9144.

Once you try this tart and tangy natural cranberry orange relish you will never go back to canned cranberry sauce or jelly that is loaded with refined sugar and preservatives. Not only is this brightly jeweled relish the perfect compliment to your Thanksgiving turkey, but it is equally delicious on day-after Thanksgiving turkey sandwiches, or served like a chutney along with other foul, pork or beef.

Ingredients:
1 package of fresh cranberries
1 large organic orange
½ cup raw organic sugar, raw honey, real maple syrup or a natural sugar substitute like stevia

Directions:
1. Put cranberries in strainer and wash thoroughly in filtered water
2. Wash the orange thoroughly in filtered water, cut in eight wedges and remove any visible seeds- but don’t peel the orange!
3. Add whole cranberries and orange sections to a food processor or meat grinder.
4. Process until fruit is blended but still chunky.
5. Pour into bowl and stir in sugar or sweetener or your choice a little at a time, tasting as you go.
6. Once you hit the perfect “sweet spot” for you and your family, stir with a large spoon until well blended.
7. Place in decorative serving bowl and chill in refrigerator for at least an hour before serving.

Once you try this tart and tangy natural cranberry orange relish you will never go back to canned cranberry sauce or jelly that is loaded with refined sugar and preservatives. Not only is this brightly jeweled relish the perfect compliment to your Thanksgiving turkey, but it is equally delicious on day-after Thanksgiving turkey sandwiches, or served like a chutney along with other foul, pork or beef.

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7. Place in decorative serving bowl and chill in refrigerator for at least an hour before serving.

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...TOWN BOARD  continued from page 1

electric and water departments.

The estimated cost of building the fiber network is also in the mix.  

**Duke Power & Coal Ash**

Mayor Pat Taylor discussed Duke’s coal ash mediation situation.

The town has to start charging citizens Duke’s coal ash charges January 2018.  

Duke has estimated that it will need $5.2 billion to clean up its coal ash and it wants its customers, not its stockholders, to foot the bill.

It was originally hoped that the NC Utilities Commission would OK just 50% of the request – $2.5 billion – but Duke is charging, and the town must charge its customers, fees based on the $5.2 billion.

“We had hoped this would be resolved in the spring of 2018, but the CEO of Duke expects the NC Utilities Commission to OK Duke’s requested $5.2 billion and even if it doesn’t he said Duke will appeal the utility commission’s ruling and take it all the way to the NC Supreme Court. That means this could go on for several years,” said Taylor.

Meanwhile, Duke customers will be paying Duke’s $5.2 billion coal ash remediation costs far into the future.

**Skateboard park donations accepted**

Commissioners gratefully accepted all donations associated with the construction of the skateboard park at the Rec Park.

According to Recreation Director Lester Norris’s report, the town has received pledges of donations to cover all cost associated with the building of the park and the moving of the playground, installation of a ADA ramp leading from the parking lot to the skate board park and the skate board park itself.

Barring any unforeseen issues he said there will be enough money to add some park benches and a picnic table or two for spectators.

The plan is for Jay Calloway and his crew to start clearing the area and removing stumps where the playground will be moved to this week. The playground moving group is scheduled to come the week of December 11th to actually move the playground.

The American Ramp Company (ARC) will build the skateboard park and once it receives the signed contract it will start making the mobile ramps which should take about 60 days. Those features will be brought to the site, e site preparation will be done, the mobile features will be set and then complete the on site work which will take another 60 days, weather permitting.

Norris said the skateboard park should be finished and ready to skate on by the first of April.

Donations for the skate board park are as follows:

- Art and Angela Williams $212,000
- Swift Foundation $11,000
- Hugh (Beau) Cummins $11,000
- Highlands Rotary Club $1,000
- Gerry and Avery Doubleday $1,000
- Chad and Ashby Garner $500

In-kind:

- Jay Calloway equipment and labor to clear area and build 4-ft retaining wall, backfill and pack for playground installation.
- Mark Roger four loads of boulder for retaining wall.
- David Conner dirt for backfill of retaining wall.

**ABC Store distributions**

Commissioner Amy Patterson suggested that the town no longer allow the ABC Board to disburse its profits to the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital on the grounds that it is no longer a community run hospital.

“The hospital is run by a corporation 60 miles from here.”

So, beginning next year, 2018, the funds previously earmarked for the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital will be split evenly between the Highlands Rec Dept. and the Highlands School Scholarship Fund.

In 2014, the town capped ABC Store profits are disbursed to area nonprofits. Disbursed this year was $43,582.08 to the Town of Highlands general fund; $2,315.84 to the Highlands Police Dept.; $8,479.06 to the Highlands Rec Dept.; $7,655.42 to the Highlands School Scholarship Fund; $7,655.42 to the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital and two mandatory alcohol and rehabilitation disbursements of $1,716.87 to the Highlands United Methodist Church Counseling Subsidiary Fund and $2,575.31 to Counseling & Psychotherapy of Highlands.

We all have so much to be thankful for this Thanksgiving. It is a special time on the Highlands Plateau where family and friends will gather. We are all thankful for those closest to us. We can also be thankful to live in this wonderful, caring community. Efficient government is important, but all our nonprofit organizations, volunteers and engaged citizens really make this a special community.

...MAYOR continued from page 2

Duke has estimated that it will need $5.2 billion to clean up its coal ash and it wants its customers, fees based on the $5.2 billion to be more energy efficient. Highlands could be the “smartest” town in North Carolina with full broadband accessible to residents.

Finally, I have appointed a committee of staff, commissioners and stakeholders to review the issue of dogs in the park and on public property. I anticipate this committee meeting soon and bringing recommendations to the board at our next meeting.
The Highlands Police log entries from Nov. 8. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor or public officials have been used.

**Nov. 8**
- At 3:30 p.m., officers assisted in a search for a person with dementia who walked away from a home on Morewood Circle in Highlands.

**Nov. 10**
- At 11:35 p.m., officers responded to a one-vehicle accident on NC 28.

**Nov. 11**
- At 5:26 p.m., officers responded to a one-vehicle accident in the Mountain Fresh parking lot on Main Street.
- At 11:15 a.m., Emiliano Hernandez Chavez, 35, of Highlands, was arrested for possession of cocaine, simple physical assault and batter on an unborn child. He was issued a $2,500 secured bond. His trial date is Nov. 21.
- At 11:21 p.m., Michael Trevor Reese, 25, of Highlands, was arrested for driving while his license was revoked and without a current license tag. He was issued a $400 unsecured bond. His trial date is Dec. 5.

**Nov. 14**
- At 8:18 a.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on US 64 west and Naid Terrace.
- At 4:10 p.m., the dept. responded to a vehicle fire on US 64 west and Mirror Lake Road.
- At 8:17 p.m., the dept. provided mutual aid to the Cashiers FD.
- At 12:56 p.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on North Drive.
- At 2:34 p.m., the dept. stood by at Zachary Field for the MAMA helicopter.
- At 4:37 p.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on US 64 west.

**Nov. 20**
- At 8:42 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Happoldt Drive.
Basketball and cheerleading going strong

This week high school girls basketball played Walhalla in a scrimmage. The JV girls lost 19-8. The varsity beat them 45-44 on a last second shot.

The high school boys basketball did not scrimmage Walhalla but are practicing and working hard to get ready for season.

High school basketball will have their first game on Monday, November 27th, in Hayesville. The JV girls will start at 4 pm, followed by JV boys, then Varsity girls, and finally Varsity boys. Their first home game will be on December 1st against Cherokee. The JV girls will again start at 4 and follow the same pattern.

Middle school basketball played Blue Ridge for their first game this week. They girls won 38-29. The boys played right after the girls. They came out and took a 54-11 win over Blue Ridge. Their next game will be on Wednesday, November 29th at home against Rabun Gap. They will start at 4 pm.
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CORBIN continued from page 1

an adjustment, but I was fortunate enough to be able to call on Roger West, some weeks I talked to him daily. He was a great resource.”

More than Democrat versus Republican, Rep. Corbin said during his first year in office he learned that the greatest divide in the General Assembly comes in rural versus urban and is something he wants to work to change.

“I really noticed that it really isn’t about Democrat or Republican,” said Rep. Corbin. “The things that make the headlines may make it seem that ‘The things that make the change.’

Something he wants to work to change is the way rural versus urban counties are represented in the General Assembly.

During his first year in office he learned that the greatest divide was in rural versus urban counties. While there are more rural counties, the populous urban counties have more representatives.

“I represent four counties and 85,000 but in places like Charlotte, the city of Charlotte might have 20 representatives all for that one area,” said Corbin. “Rural counties have a larger footprint in terms of geography, but not in population. It takes me 2.5 hours to drive from one end of my district to the other and for some representatives they can drive across their entire district in seven minutes.”

Rep. Corbin said that he doesn’t think legislation can change that and the difficulties it presents in the general assembly, but rather says raising awareness of the issue to his fellow representatives and working to build corporation in the legislation may help down the road.

One way the urban versus rural divide and corporation in the House was specifically noticed this year was in small schools funding, according to Corbin. Rep. Corbin was instrumental in securing funding for Macon County for both Nantahala and Highlands Schools due to the cost of operating the geographically isolated schools.

“That issue was a very rural issue that didn’t impact other parts of the state, but with corporation and understanding, we were able to pass that legislation and help my district,” said Corbin. “During a visit to Macon County from Speaker of the House Tim Moore, I took him to Murphy by passing Nantahala School and I think having him see that drive first hand, it really helped him and others to understand just want we are dealing with in these rural counties.”

Corbin and the rest of the General Assembly are scheduled to travel back to Raleigh in January for a short session before returning the first of May for the long session. In the meantime, Rep. Corbin will make the drive to Raleigh for committee meetings.

CITIZENS continued from page 1

bears have been a big problem this fall.

“They have been breaking into cars and houses and trash is everywhere. It’s time the town get serious about this,” she said.

She said other communities that have a bear problem in other areas of the country have made a concerted effort through ordinances to curtail actions that attract bears.

“The town needs to be at the helm of this. There are things the town can do like a trash management ordinance,” she said.

She even suggested the town hire someone to coordinate the effort.

Commissioners listened but offered no comment on the request.

Next Realtor Mal Phillips of Twigs Realty Group first commended the board on the job it does and the insight it and past boards have had.

“You have remained consistent in keeping Highlands a sanctuary for all and not fallen prey to development like in other communities such as Asheville and Boone,” he said. “But I would like to present an idea about B3 zoning so those properties can reach their highest and best use.”

Phillips suggested an amendment to B3 zoning stipulations so those properties could perhaps become a site for multi-family housing.

According to the current Unified Development Code, multi-family housing can only be considered on lots that are two acres or greater and there can only be four units per acre. Phillips suggested allowing some form of multi-family housing on properties zoned B3 that don’t fall into the multi-family coded parameters.

“Our employee pool comes from off the mountain because no one can afford to live here,” said Phillips. “Affordable housing would help.”

He went on to say that if employers enforced a drug policy the employee pool now available would be wiped out.

He said there are a number of properties zoned B3 that are languishing; some even need to be torn down.

“No one wants them as they are and the B3 zoning restrictions are blocking the properties highest and best use,” he said.

He asked the commissioners to prepare for the future and to change B3 zoning to allow for some sort of multi-family development.

“This is about smart planning for the future. It would be easier to find employees even if from Franklin, Clayton and Sylva if they had an affordable place to live here. These are people who say they could afford $1,200-$1,400 for a two-bedroom but there just aren’t enough options here. Please look into this,” he said.

Commissioner listened but offered no comment.

Town Planner Andrew Bowen said that the issue would be discussed by the Planning Board during its Land Use deliberation perhaps under the “economy” heading or the “zoning” heading.

~Local Author Book Signings~

With cold weather upon us, don't get caught in your pajamas without a good book!

Meet
Jeannie Chambers
local author of
“Tunnel of Time”
and
Monica Collier
local author of
“Kissing Hollywood”
12-3p
Saturday, November 25

Tunnel of Time

Three sisters get an experience of a lifetime when they enter the Tunnel of Time—A ride in the local fair. Through this phenomenon of time travel the girls experience local and historical places and people. Jeannie Chambers has written a delightful, witty and educational story to be treasured and shared.

Kissing Hollywood

Monica has done it again! Kissing Hollywood is her third novel taking you on an evening and funny adventure through Highlands, Franklin, Biltmore Village, and ends up in Hollywood, CA. Where matters of the heart are concerned, Monica has combined the past, present, and future, for the making of a Hallmark movie in this delightful novel.

Meet Jeannie Chambers
Meet Monica Collier
at THE BOOK NOOK
within The Toy Store
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Kissing Hollywood

Meet Jeannie Chambers
local author of
“Tunnel of Time”
and
Monica Collier
local author of
“Kissing Hollywood”
12-3p
Saturday, November 25

The Toy Store

Meet Jeannie Chambers
local author of
“Tunnel of Time”
and
Monica Collier
local author of
“Kissing Hollywood”
12-3p
Saturday, November 25

Kim Lewicki
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Macon Co. Sheriff Robbie Holland, Highlands Chief of Police Bill Harrell and Rotarian Jodie Cook.

On November 7th, the Rotary Club of Highlands opened the meeting with a moment to honor our Veterans with a wonderful club rendition of God Bless America led by Stel Huie.

Our speaker, Sheriff Robbie Holland, was then introduced by club member Jodie Cook. Sheriff Holland spoke passionately about the Shop with A Cop program. Sponsored by the Macon County Sheriff’s Department, this annual event is celebrating its 25th anniversary and now serves more than 400 children in Macon County who are granted a holiday surprise when local law enforcement, emergency personnel and community leaders take them shopping. The generous support from the community allows area youth of all ages the opportunity to have a gift for Christmas which otherwise might not be possible. Each child is given a $100 gift card to Walmart to be spent as they wish with the one stipulation that they buy one gift for someone else. Sheriff Holland thanked the Rotary Club of Highlands for their long support as the largest sponsor of Shop with A Cop and the Highlands Police Department for their important participation in the program.

All about elk at Rotary

Ann Clayton, volunteer at Great Smokey Mountains National Park, was the featured speaker at the meeting of the Rotary Club of Highlands on November 14. She was introduced by Rotary Club member Dennis DeWolf. Ann discussed the reintroduction of elk into the Cataloochee Valley of the park. 52 Elk were introduced into the park in 2001 and 2002 with a resultant present population of approximately 200 today. The elk appear to be in ecological balance with natural predators including the black bear, bobcats, and coyotes.
Highlands Nature Center receives grant from Duke Energy Foundation

The Duke Energy Foundation recently awarded $3,000 to the Highlands Nature Center to support its school outreach program.

Highlands Nature Center currently offers more than 50 different STEM Outreach programs to public, private, and homeschool students in grades preK-12 throughout Macon, Jackson, and other surrounding regional counties. Their programs integrate multiple subject areas and align with the NC science Essential Standards. Such programs supplement existing lessons and curricula by bringing additional resources to the classroom and by providing outdoor, experiential education opportunities for students. Last year, Highlands Nature Center’s Outreach Program served nearly 7000 students through more than 200 programs presented at 49 different schools throughout many regional counties.

Since most of these schools have very limited budgets for programs and field trips, funding from the Duke Energy Foundation will help Highlands Nature Center expand its offerings to more schools, while continuing to provide its wide variety of science outreach programming with minimal or no fees. This permits teachers and students to take advantage of its educational resources without a cost or travel burden, and allows Highlands Nature Center to serve a much greater number and wider range of schools and students. In addition, many western NC schools exist in rather remote locations and can greatly benefit from having a science educator visit the classroom, versus the logistics of traveling with the students to an offsite facility.

Patrick Brannon, Outreach Education Specialist, said “Informal science education extends student learning beyond the classroom through immersive, outdoor, hands-on activities that spark student discovery and reinforce STEM concepts. Such programs inspire and educate youth and can raise student interest, confidence, academic achievement, and desire for science careers. We are extremely grateful to the Duke Energy Foundation for their financial contribution, and for their commitment to STEM education in our local schools.”

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A group of volunteers from Waynesville and Minnesota help to paint the nearly completed Mama Joanna Guest House in Bolivia.

By Dr. John Baumrucker

I recently traveled to Bolivia to assist the group of eye surgeons from Waynesville, NC and Minnesota who also wanted to help paint the nearly completed residential facility known as the Mama Joanna Guest House.

The building is nearly completed aside from the doors, windows and plumbing. The architect and I had a meeting and he predicted that he could be finished in one month if the mission could provide the final $42,000 for a total construction cost of $125,000.

This figure was the projected cost before beginning the project in 2015. The facility consists of eight bedrooms, a large meeting/dining room, a kitchen and laundry room. We had a builder who came from Franklin, NC last April who felt that the foundation alone would have cost $60,000 when he viewed the building without the tile roof if this project had been made in the USA.

The concept is this: One of the boys that is graduating this December will be sent to a hospitality school and will be the manager of this project that will rent the facility to the numerous volunteers that come to Montero, Bolivia every year.

The rent will be the same or less than local hotels and the groups will have total privacy, unlike a normal hotel. The boys in the foster home will gain experience in commerce and caring for others and also become familiar with many business aspects including marketing and hotel management. These experiences should be valuable as the young men go out in to the world and become successful workers in their communities.

In addition to these benefits, the foster home will have a steady stream of income, thus assuring the sustainability of the foster home for many years to come.

To furnish the project, the Rotary clubs of Highlands and Waynesville Sunrise are submitting a Global Grant to Rotary International asking for $38,500. This project has been approved by the local district of Rotary 7670 and will be submitted to the International headquarters in Evanston, Il for final approval with the hope to equip the home in April 2018 and be ready to accept volunteer groups soon thereafter.

Rotary International is a worldwide organization of successful businessmen and women with 1.2 million members, making it the largest service organization in the world. It also has a very large endowment fund from which almost half of the $38,500 will come.

Rotary with partners all over the world, including the Gate’s Foundation, have nearly eradicated polio from the face of the earth. There were only 37 cases so far this year in Nigeria, Pakistan and Afghanistan and the CDC in Atlanta is monitoring the situation, checking the water in those countries for the polio virus. When all test are negative for a year, we will have eliminated the second disease from our planet in the history of the world. Smallpox being the other.

The Bolivian Mission will be asking for donations to put us over the top in this major project for the foster home.

Donations can be made or information obtained by writing to HBM, 209 Hospital Drive Suite 203, Highlands, NC 28741 or by visiting our webpage at highlandsbolivianmission.com.
3bd/3ba with 3 story custom garage and studio apartment. Located in Old Edwards Club and surrounded by colorful gardens, rhododendrons and wildlife. Overlooks a front water feature and natural stream in back. $988,000 MLS #86158

Under Contract

2bd/2ba Highlands Falls CC condo. Vaulted ceilings and stone fireplace and open kitchen. Master suite with deck access. $239,000 MLS #86143

New Listing

Pristine Riverwalk cottage with 3br/3.5ba. Cathedral ceilings, hardwood flooring, floor to ceiling stone fireplace, granite counter tops and Viking appliance package. Offered with all furnishings and completely move-in ready. $890,000 MLS #87082

Under Contract

Luxury mountain spec home. Superb finishes and design throughout this 3bd/3.5ba home in Riverwalk. Gourmet kitchen and main level master is second to none. $950,000 MLS #86212

One level living in this updated 2 bed/2 bath condo just minutes to Main Street. Master suite with private all-weather sunroom. Large deck with mtn views. $215,000 MLS #87208

LOT LISTING

The Park in Cedar Hill is a beautiful 3.21 acre estate lot featuring views of Laurel Knob from the building site, fantastic park like setting w/ great flat areas and multiple spring fed streams. $174,000 MLS #86703

Meticulously maintained home with tremendous mountain views! 3.46 acres for plenty of privacy. Kitchen features granite counter tops, new appliances, cabinets and flooring. $490,000 MLS #86766

Beautiful log cabin located between Highlands and Franklin. This meticulously kept 2bd/2ba would make a great vacation or rental property. $347,000 MLS #85731

LOT LISTING

Old Highlands feel in this 3bd/3.5ba home. Comes with attached 800 sq ft of retail/office space plus 1 bd apartment over 2 car garage. Zones B-4. $647,000 MLS #86107

This timeless home is on the National Registry of Historical Places. Enjoy the 3+ acres of lush native plantings combined with colorful annuals and perennials in several gardens. 3bd/3ba w/ sleeping porch. $800,000 MLS #88193

LOT LISTING

True walk-to-town lot, only 3 blocks over from main street. Gentle terrain with building site and all town utilities. $125,000 MLS #84967

Just listed, great home in Chestnut Hill with mountain views. 3br/2ba home with beautiful hardwoods, gas fireplace and vaulted ceilings in the great room. Spacious kitchen with granite countertops and lots of cabinet space. $315,000 MLS #86979

Cullasaja Club with fairway, mountain and lake views from this 3bd/4ba/2hb home. Offers sunroom, home office plus an upper level loft with 2nd office/hobby area and sweet kid’s room. Lower level family room, wine room and billiards room. $1,150,000 MLS #83731

Private location and mountain view in prestigious Cullasaja Club. 4br/4.5ba Lupoli built home is decked out in beautiful stone and high quality finishes. Spacious screened porch with a second fireplace and a lavish master suite. $1,595,000 MLS #85666

Create listing family memories at this 4bd/4ba Trillium Links & Lake Club home. Breathtaking year round lake & mountain views from over 1,200 sq ft of outdoor living spaces. Great rental opportunity with separate entrance to lower level with 2bd/2ba & 2nd kitchen. $895,000 MLS #86779

Highlands Country Club. Expanded and architecturally redesigned in 2002, there is plenty of room for family & friends. This 4bd/4ba home features wrap around decks and mountain views. $850,000 MLS #84686
How can we thank everyone who allow us to make our living and working in Highlands such a joy and delight? There are many charities to which we give, but these donations only help the specific persons needing that service. What is a gift that can benefit everyone equally? That is the question Wood and I pondered this Thanksgiving and found the answer in a new opportunity for everyone in the community: Kanopy.

Highlands Sotheby’s International Realty has made a generous donation to our library system to fund Kanopy, a streaming service that anyone can access by having a library card. We love libraries almost as much as we love real estate, so it is a perfect fit to support our community by partnering with the Fontana Library System which includes Highlands, Franklin, Sylva and Bryson City.

Kanopy is an on-demand streaming video service with an unrivaled collection of over 30,000 films. Now everyone with a library card can watch classic films, indulge in festival indie, world cinema and acclaimed documentaries sourced from award-winning filmmakers globally or learn about every subject imaginable from The Great Courses and PBS.

This is our gift to you: our treasured clients, friends, colleagues and visitors to this precious community we call home. We have you covered across the globe for your real estate marketing and networking and now we have you covered for your entertainment interests across the world as well. We are grateful for all of you, and we wish everyone a blessed and safe Thanksgiving from everyone at Highlands Sotheby’s International Realty.

Jody and Wood Lovell own Highlands Sotheby’s International Realty, the top producing firm in Highlands for the last four years per the Highlands-Cashiers MLS with three locations in Highlands, Cashiers and at the gate of the Cullasaja Club. With 29 brokers, they are ready to serve all of your real estate needs. Call them today at 526-4104 or 526-8300 for a consultation.
This is the ideal mountain getaway! Go fishing off your deck as the soothing sounds of Buck Creek take you to your happy place. Spacious home with wood burning fireplace, vaulted ceilings and eat-in kitchen. Come see this unique property today! $149,000 MLS #85632

Highlands Falls Country Club. Located in an excellent location with easy access to Clubhouse and amenities this 2 bedroom 2 bath Villa has exceptional view of the 6th & 3rd Fairways, Clubhouse lake and mountain view. Recently renovated kitchen & bathrooms. Covered porch & open deck with room in the lower level for expansion and possibility for more bedrooms. Offered at $269,000. MLS #85535

Horse Cove. Wonderful farmhouse on almost 5 acres with wonderful view of Black Rock and Sage Mountains, heart pine floors, real masonry fireplaces, wonderful architectural details and covered porches. Offered at $1,900,000 MLS #86223

Great year round or weekend getaway. This love home sits on a gentle knoll with a nice natural yard and wooded view. Living area has cathedral ceiling, spacious kitchen, split bedroom floor plan and great loft. Huge deck. 2 car garage. Offered at $329,000. MLS #84027

Hawks Nest Village. Located 5 miles from Main Street Highlands, this little hide away rests at a high elevation down a private lane. There are 2 bedrooms and 2 baths with a cathedral ceiling leading up to the second bedroom and bath. The house is light, bright and cozy with a large covered porch/balcony. Hawks Nest Village includes a large camp style, screened in club house with laundry facilities, internet and land line phone service. Asking $79,900 MLS #86463

Waterfront cabin on Big Creek with private dock, a short canoe ride to Lake Sequoyah. Completely remodeled inside and out. 3 bedrooms, 2 baths. Wood floors, walls and ceilings. Granite tile kitchen countertops, stainless steel appliances, plus breakfast bar. Wrap around porch on all sides. Fire pit off back porch/deck. Single car garage on lower level. Basement ready for finishing. Offered at $399,000. MLS #85833

The view will knock you over with 4 building sites with the same view. It has a very nice 2 bedroom modular home on one lot and a rustic cabin. This property joins National Forest with views of GA, SC and NC. Roads are cut to each lot and gates are in place. A deep well and spring and underground power and phone lines are in place. Offered at $595,000. MLS #81838.

1 Bedroom, 2 bath Historic Real Log Cabin with barn on almost 3.5 acres, Exudes charm. Real Stone fireplace, wood floors, tile bath, laundry hook up, great for summer or year round living. Offered at $250,000. MLS #75551

This is what everybody wants when they come to the Mountains! Close to town, in the woods, charming and comfortable 3 bedrooms with fireplace in the master bedroom. MLS #85883. Offered at $365,000.

Tucked away in the rhododendron are three beautifully designed and decorated dwellings. The main house consists of 3 bedrooms and half baths with room for expansion on the terrace level. The carriage house consists of an attached single car carport, large living room with kitchen nook on main level and studio with full private bath upstairs. Both homes contain many custom built-ins, wood floors and tiled baths. Below the main house sits the two-car garage with an unfinished upstairs that would make an excellent office or caretaker quarters. Offered at $599,000. MLS #85361

2 bedroom 2 bath cabin sits right on the lake and ready for your personal taste and updating. Real knotty pine wood paneling with wood burning stone fireplace. Wood floors and updated windows. Great full length covered porch overlooks the water. Great location and waiting on a new Owner! Offered at $495,000. MLS #86021

Tucked away in the darkness of the forest is a wonderful bedroom, 2 bath home nestled in the trees. MLS #86079. Offered at $1,750,000.

2 bedroom floorplan and great loft. Large bedroom on main floor that can be used as master. Large country kitchen has breakfast bar and lots of counter space. Upstairs is master with balcony and a bath and loft Area. Offered at $349,900. MLS #85547

HUGE deck. 2 car garage. Offered at $269,000. MLS #85535

This property joins National Forest with views of GA, SC and NC. Roads are cut to each lot and gates are in place. A deep well and spring and underground power and phone lines are in place. Offered at $595,000. MLS #81838.
The most wonderful time of the year

HIGHLANDS CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH  
Pastor Dan Robinson

For not a few the Most Wonderful Time of the Year is when The Most Wonderful Time of the Year is over. Like soldiers going into battle, those who dread the holidays, grit their teeth, set their jaw and advance with trepidation and anxiety.

On the other hand, there are those who find what I've just said hard to believe.

Nonetheless the statistics about and advice for those suffering from holiday depression remain stubbornly verifiable.

Maybe you're one of the above or know someone who is. If so may I encourage you along several lines?

I've just said hard to believe.

Sounds like an oxymoron doesn't it? Jesus needing help.

A second thing I notice about our Lord's extremely busy life is how He openly and gladly received help.

Yes. He was God. But He was also man. For those very reasons I submit that He faced greater pressure than anyone before or after Him. At stake was not only His physiological equilibrium but indeed God's plan for the salvation of the whole world.

We pray. "The peace of Jesus Christ does settle over us when we pray."

The Father that He had finished His work.

There are dozens of things we "must do" during the holidays. Yet there is only one thing we must not leave undone. And that is: Prayer to the Father." As someone has said, "We can do more that pray ... but not until we pray." The peace of Jesus Christ does settle over us when we pray.

A second thing I notice about our Lord's extremely busy life is how He openly and gladly received help. Sounds like an oxymoron doesn't it? Jesus needing help.

All throughout His ministry there were contributors

Proverbs 3:5

• PLACES TO WORSHIP •

Randy Reed, Pastor828-421-9172 • 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.m., Evening Worship, 6:30 p.m.  
Wednesday: Prayer Service, 6:30 p.m.

HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
Pastor Randy Lucas 526-3376

Sun: School 9:45a.; Worship 9:09, 10:50.; Youth 5:30 p.  
Wed: Supper: 5:15; youth; & adults activities: 6; Handbell rehearsal, 6:15; Choir Rehearsal 7, (nursery provided); 7pm  
Intercessory Prayer Ministry

HOLY FAMILY LUTHERAN CHURCH: ELCA  
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LutheranchurchoftheHOLyFamily.yolasite.com  
Sun: School and Adult discussion group 9:30 a.m.; Worship/Communion:10:30

HEALING SERVICE on the 5th Sunday of the month.

MACEDONIA BAPTIST CHURCH  
8 miles south of Highlands on N.C. 28 S in Satolah  
Pastor Zane Talley

Sundays: School: 10 a.m.; Worship: 11, Choir: 6 p.m.  
Wed: Bible Study and Youth Mtg.: 7 p.m.

MOUNTAIN SYNAGOGUE  
at St. Cyprian's Episcopal Church, Franklin • 828-524-2418  
Mass: Sun: 11 a.m.; Sat. at 4 p

SCALY MOUNTAIN BAPTIST CHURCH  
Rev. Marty Kelby

Sundays: School – 10 a.m.; Worship –11 a.m. & 7 p.m.  
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.

COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH OF SKY VALLEY  
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.;  
Tues: Community Supper 5:30 followed by Bible Study.

THE CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD  
1448 Highway 107 South, Office: 743-2359 • Rev. Rob Wood

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

Sept 6-Oct 25-Informal Evening Eucharist-5:30 p.m.  
Thursday: Noon Healing Service with Eucharist.

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP  
85 Sierra Drive, Franklin • uufranklin.org

Sunday Worship - 11 a.m.
...SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING continued from 24

and companions who met His needs.

His pattern is our pattern. In fact, our Lord already has in place helpers to help us. For Paul it was Luke…………… a doctor.

Don’t be ashamed if you need a doctor to help you. Jesus still heals and often it is through the doctors.

Some of the godliest people I know have remained useable by the Lord because of medical professionals.

Finally, I encourage you to remember something. Namely. Jesus still rescues the needy. You don’t have to be strong or stoic.

He is watching over you. You are never out of His sight. He will move heaven and earth to help you. This is why He came. For you dear one. He has done so much for you already. Surely. He will not do less now.

This indeed is reason for Thanksgiving and Christmas. These holidays are really “Holy-Days”

And during these Holy-Days may His peace fill you as never before.

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For information, call 828-200-1371 or email: highlandseditor@aol.com
December 2 musical events at Highlands First Presbyterian Church

Everyone is cordially invited to a Christmas Carol Sing at First Presbyterian Church at 1pm on Saturday, December 2, after the parade. If you enjoy singing familiar Christmas carols, you will definitely want to make this a part of your Christmas tradition.

Then at 4pm, the Asheville Symphony Chamber Chorus will present a Christmas Concert in the church’s sanctuary. The five-part program will include many familiar Christmas classics. The group is directed by Dr. Michael Lancaster, who also serves as Director of Worship/Music at Highlands First Presbyterian Church. Instrumental accompaniment will be provided by harp and oboe.

The church is located at the corner of Main and Fifth Streets. Handicapped accessible entrances are located on Church Street and on Fifth Street.

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 10:30-11:30am 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.occupy-wnc.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 Thursdays
- Zumba with Connie at the Rec Park 8:15 a.m. $5.
- Pickle ball from 11:30a to 1p in the gym at the Rec Park.
- 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.

Wednesday-Saturday
- The Highlands Historic Village is open June-October. It’s free. Visit the Highlands Historical Museum, the Prince Houe, Bug Hill Cottage, Furman Vinson’s Boat, The Old Jail while taking a break in the peaceful setting that commemorates
Highlands’ past.

**Thursdays**
- Storytime with Miss Deanna at Hudson Library 10:40 am. Open to the public.
- Weight Watchers support group meets every Thursday at 5 pm at Christ Church of the Valley. Call Lisa 828-506-3555.
- 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
- Kidney Smart Classes in Franklin: from 4:30-6pm, Angel Medical Center, Vidoe Conference Room, 3rd Floor, 120 Riverview St. Contact Majestic 828-369-9474
- 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.

**First Friday of Every Month**
- Dive-in Movie Night at the Rec Park. PG and PG-13 movies. 6-9 p.m., $7 adult; $5 children under 12. $20 family of 4 ($4 for each additional person) Free popcorn per admission. Bring your own float. Food allowed in designated areas. For movie title call 828-526-1595 or 828-526-3556.

**Fridays & Saturdays**
- Art’s at the Lodge. Live Music 4-8 p.m., Cocktails in Art’s at the Lodge. On Spring Street.
- Farmers Marketplace in K-H Founders Park from 8a-12:30p.
- At The Bascom, Potters 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

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**‘A Mountain Faith Christmas’ Fri., Nov. 24 at PAC at 8 p.m.**

The Highlands Performing Arts Center will present A Mountain Faith Christmas by The Mountain Faith Band in concert the Friday after Thanksgiving at 8pm. Since 2000, The Mountain Faith Band has performed their unique brand of Americana / Bluegrass music to audiences from coast to coast. Averaging 148 concerts per year, the 2015 highlight was performing for over 3,000 military men and women at Al Udeid AFB, Doha Qatar. In 2016 MFB shared the stage with legends Willie Nelson, Charlie Daniels, and Loretta Lynn to name a few. September 16, 2016 brought The Mountain Faith Band to THE GRAND OLE OPRY. MFB has performed the National Anthem for the Atlanta Falcons, Carolina Panthers, Atlanta Braves, SF 49ers, plus halftime shows for The Atlanta Falcons and Carolina Panthers. And played for the Super Bowl 2017.

MFB has four Albums, the latest That Which Matters debuted #1 on Billboard Americana-Roots Charts. MFB has celebrated multiple #1 songs over their career. MFB was nominated Emerging Artist Of The Year 2016 by the IBMA (International Bluegrass Music Association). Summer McMahan (Vocalist for MFB) was the 2015 Momentum Vocalist Of The Year presented by IBMA. With the support of millions, MFB advanced to the 2015 semifinals of America’s Got Talent and has since accumulated over 36,000 FaceBook Friends.

Friday, November 24 at 8pm, the Friday after Thanksgiving. Tickets are available online: highlandspac.org or by calling 828.526.9047. Highlands Performing Arts Center, 507 Chestnut Street, Highlands NC

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**Watch for the famous Mountain Garden Club dancers in the Dec. 2 parade**

2017 marks twenty consecutive years of participation of the dancing Mountain Garden Club ladies in the Highlands Old Mountain Christmas Parade. Their numbers have grown over the years to include an average number of about twenty dancers, but also non-dancing performers who enhance the theme, music car with professional sound engineer (thanks to Hott Acts), banner carriers and they even have their own Emcee! Every year, the garden club members put aside their shovels and potting gloves to learn the choreographed dance routines. The routines are centered around gardening themes and past performances have included ‘Wild Thang’, Rockin’ around the recycled Christmas Tree, and one year, they were dancing show girls with dancing Elvises, who used shovels as guitars.

While learning the dance, managing the costumes, etc. is almost like a theatre production, the Mountain Garden Club looks forward to the event as much as the parade goers, judging all their smiling faces on parade day. A few of their past performances can be seen on YouTube. They would love to see your smiling face on parade day 2017 – Dec.2nd.

The dancing gardeners will stop at the usual locations: #1- the Episcopal Church intersection/Mountain Fresh #2- in front of Highlands Inn, #3- in the proximity of Scudder’s Gallery, #4 Main St. Inn/Reeves intersection, and lastly #5 in front of the Baptist Church.
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..EVENTS continued from page 27

noon or downstairs in The Bascom Library room.

Thurs., Nov. 23
• At The Spa Boutique at 16 Church Street, Le Grande Jewelry Trunk Show 10a to 4p.

Fri-Sun, Nov. 24-26
• At The Spa Boutique at 16 Church Street, Le Grande Jewelry Trunk Show 1-6 p.m.

Fri., Nov. 24 or Sat, Nov. 25
• At The Bascom. Gingerbread House class. 10 a.m. until Noon or 1-3 p.m. Everything needed to decorate the gingerbread house of your dreams! Participants may enter their house in a contest to be judged by popular vote. The winner will receive a Bascom gift certificate. $50 per person All Ages. Register online at www.thebascom.org. For more information call us at 828.526.4949.

Fri., Nov. 24
• At TJ Bailey, Highlands, Town Square. Peter Millar Trunk Show.

Fri., Nov. 24

• A Mountain Faith Christmas at PAC at 8 p.m. Tickets are available online: highlandspac.org or by calling 828.526.9047. Highlands Performing Arts Center, 507 Chestnut Street, Highlands NC.

Sat., Nov. 25
• At Acorns Boutique at 465 Main Street, at book signing by author Margaret Green’s “Life Your Eyes to the Hills” from 2-4 p.m.

• Annual Christmas Tree Lighting and Carols in K-H Founders Park beginning at 6 p.m.

• At The Toy Store/Book Nook, meet Jeannie Chambers local author of “Tunnel of Time” and Monica Collier local author of “Kissing Hollywood” 12-3p. for a book signing.

Fri., Dec. 1
• At Hudson Library, author reading and book signing from 4-5 p.m. with reception. "The Man Who Loved Georgia Tech" by Susan S. Robert.

Sat, Dec. 2
• Annual Christmas Parade on Main Street beginning at 11 a.m.

• Christmas Carol Sing at First Presbyterian Church at 1pm on Saturday after the parade. Then at 4pm, the Asheville Symphony Chamber Chorus will present a Christmas Concert in the church’s sanctuary. Both events are free. The church is located at the corner of Main and Fifth Streets. Handicapped accessible entrances are located on Church Street and on Fifth Street.

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

Dec. 16
• Wreaths Across America wreath-laying and celebration at Highlands Cemetery on Memorial Drive at noon.
WANTED
LOOKING FOR 3-4 BEDROOM HOUSE IN TOWN with pets allowed for long-term lease. Please call 406-660-7026.

HOUSEKEEPER. Only professional persons with terrific references need apply. Please leave message. 828-422-4940. (st. 11/16)

HELP WANTED
MOUNTAIN FRESH GROCERY has full and part-time positions available. Competitive wages in all positions. Please come in person to 521 east Main Street in Highlands to apply or call 828-526-2400.
- Food Server, Cashier and Barista (includes tips)
- Dishwasher
- Positions in the ice cream dept.
- Pizza
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SWEETTREATS Earn great tips in a fun and fast-paced setting. New ownership is looking to fill full and part time positions, kitchen/retail experience preferred. Applications available in store at 115 S 4th St. (st. 8/31)

BEAR MOUNTAIN OUTFITTERS is now hiring a full-time sales associates. Starting at $11/hour depending on experience. Also needed is a full-time manager with experience. Please stop by 302 Main St, Highlands, NC for an appointment or call 828-526-8709. (st. 8/17)

M EQUALS 3 IS HIRING ALL POSITIONS. $7-$12 PER HOUR. Experienced very helpful. See Robby Potts at M=3 Restaurant (formerly Sweettreats) Mountain Brook Center for application. (828) 421-8268. (st. 7/23)

LOCAL BUILDER seeks full-time driver and laborer. Job tasks include driving company truck and performing common labor. Must have a valid driver’s license, references, a clean driving record, and be at least 21 years old. Call 828.526.4532 for more information or e-mail resumes to harrison@lupoliinc.com (st. 7/20)

SKY PIE PIZZA, PASTA & TAP, now hiring all positions. Experience preferred but not required. Please pick up an application at 423 4th Street, (Mountain Brook Center) Highlands or call 402-480-5138 or 828-200-5311. (st. 6/29)

SALES ASSOCIATE FOR HIGH END CLOTHING STORE IN HIGHLANDS, NC, full time, part time and seasonal. Must be available to work weekends. Retail clothing sales experience preferred. Please call 828-200-0928. (st. 5/25)

FURNITURE MAKERS/TRIM CARPENTERS/CABINET INSTALLERS for full-time work in High-end cabinet shop in Highlands, NC. Please send resume to: info@warthconstruction.com. (st. 3/2)

ITEMS FOR SALE
MONITOR HEATER WITH OIL TANK. Oil in it, too. $400. Call Hilda James at 828-526-0190.

FIREWOOD FOR SALE. Seasoned hardwood. Call Matt at 828-482-2214. Please leave message. (st. 10/5)

SERVICES
PET SITTING-Excellent care for your furry friend(s)! Call Highlands Critter Sitter @ 404) 409-8259. Excellent references. (st. 11/16)

HOME MAID CLEANING SERVICE. No time to clean before the holidays? Give us a ring! Specializing in residential homes and vacation rentals. For a free estimate call (828) 371-1702. Check out our website at www.homemaidcleaningservicenc.com/. (11/21)


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RENTALS
ROOM FOR RENT. Scaly Mountain home. $500/month. Pets Negotiable. (610)955-9356. (st. 10/19)

VACATION RENTAL: In-town Highlands 3bd/3ba, walk-to-town condo. Book now! Available fall 2017 & 2018. $2500 week includes maintenance. $3000/mo for 2 month period June 1/3+- acre of flat land in desireable Mirror Lake community within town limits. Year-round residential or vacation rental possibility. Motivated Seller! Call 828-342-1611. (st. 11/9)

LAND FOR SALE $39,000: Gorgeous quite setting half way between Highlands and Franklin. An ample 1.2 acre property was part of an old farmstead. The land includes an old barn, small stream, fruit and ornamental trees and garden plots. Perfect little escape! Call 828 526 6333 for more details (11/2)

ALYXANDRA’S IS RETIRING! Business and/or lease available. Call 828-526-4889 after 5 p.m. (st. 9/28)

3.20 ACRES UNRESTRICTED. Power underground, borders Nat.for. 190 degree views. Lot 12 Quail Haven Road. Otto, NC. Price not firm...open for negotiation. Call 828-342-1611 after 5 p.m. (st. 9/28)

1.21 ACRES FOR SALE BY OWNER - OTTO, NC - $28,000. Lot 12 Quail Haven Road. Otto, NC. Price not firm...open for negotiation. Please email if interested to ddmmarsh15@aol.com or call/text to 239-980-0531. If no answer please leave a message. (st. 7/20)
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